

8733 | Rochdale Children's Moorland Home

Heritage Impact Assessment

NOVEMBER 2018

Buttress

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Heritage Impact Assessment

Prepared for:

Jane Barker, on behalf of Rochdale Children's Moorlands Home
Nam Farm
Wardle
Rochdale
O12 9PN

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Buttress

41 Bengal St.
Manchester
M4 6AF

T 0161 236 3303
F 0161 236 3303
E contact@buttress.net
W www.buttress.net

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1 Introduction

This Heritage Assessment covers Rochdale Children's Moorland Home. It assesses the significance of the building by analysing its historical development and its contribution to the wider cultural heritage of the area. The building has been assessed using the structure established in the Historic England publication *Conservation Principles, Policies & Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2008).

1.1 Purpose & Scope of the Document

This document has been prepared by **Buttress** to provide an assessment of significance and heritage assessment of the Grade II listed Manager's Cottage at Rochdale Children's Moorland Home, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (2018) and Historic England guidance. It will support a Planning and Listed Building Consent application for the refurbishment works outlined below.

1.1.1 Authorship & Acknowledgements

This assessment has been prepared by Sebastian Chambers, Architectural Assistant at **Buttress**, and Jenna Johnston, Senior Heritage Consultant at **Buttress**.

1.1.2 Methodology

This document surveys the heritage, providing an overview of important information, to foster a better understanding of the asset and its context. It does this through analysing the historical development of the building; it's surviving fabric; its wider cultural, aesthetic and social heritage; its local context and its position within a broader heritage context. This is followed by an assessment of significance, based on the information gathered. Significance is assessed in relation to the heritage values outlined by Historic England.

1.1.3 Gaps & Limitations

This report has been written in accordance with information available at the time, and the scale of research is proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset, in line with *Conservation Principles*.

1.2 Summary of Proposed Works

The scheme looks to provide the desired modern living arrangement to facilitate the continuing occupation of the onsite Manager role required to operate the adjoining children's home.

The proposal reorders the plan arrangement by relocating the kitchen and staircase. The main living space is opened to produce an open kitchen-dining arrangement with access to a portioned utility and a ground floor toilet is introduced, adding a service access to the modern garage store. On the first floor, the existing plan is generally retained with the repositioning of bathroom and inclusion of an en suite to the master bedroom.

1.3 Location & Site Description

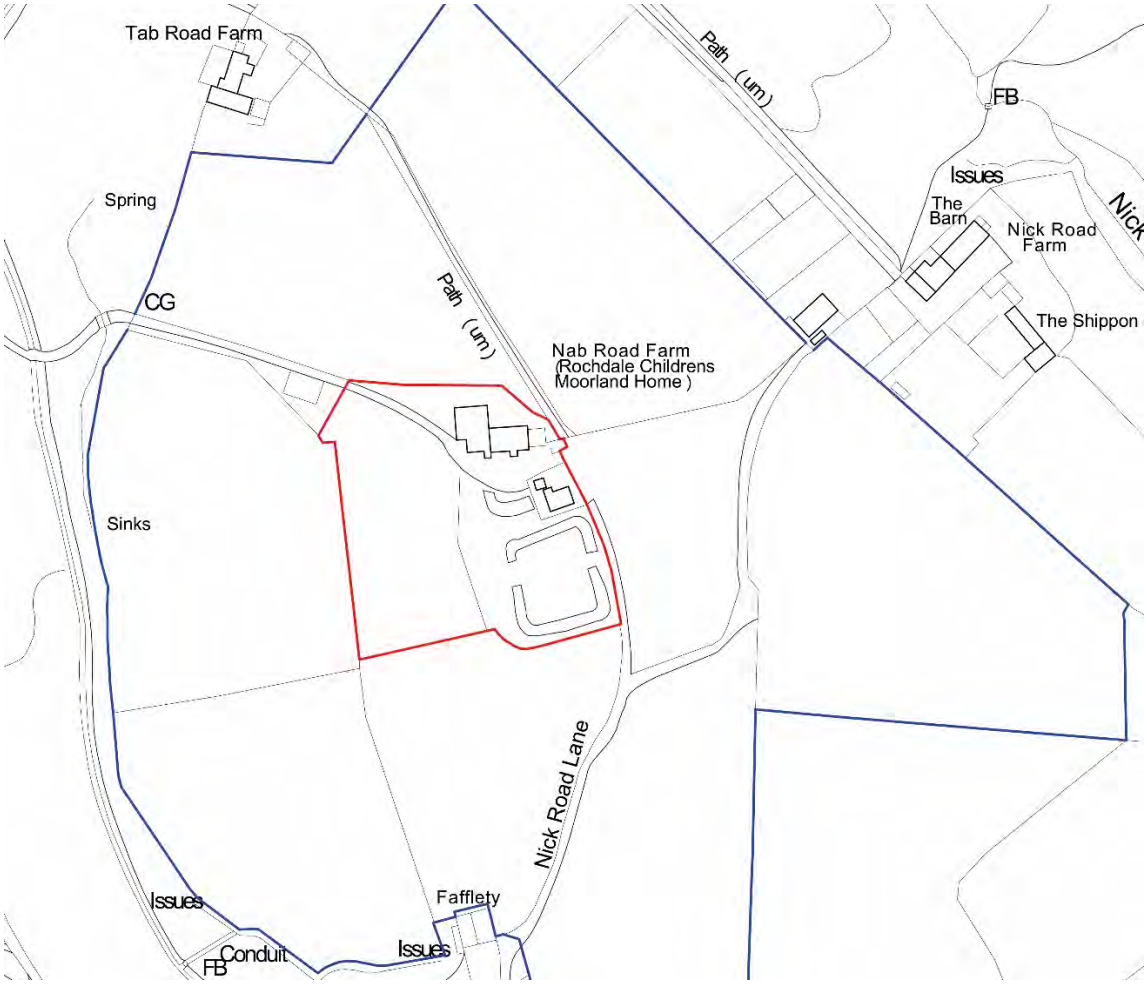


Figure 1 – Drawing, Location Plan

Rochdale Children's Moorland Home is located in amongst remote farmland approximately 1.25 kilometres southeast of Whitworth village, in the Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale. The site is situated on a reasonable incline and the building's exposed south facade stands proud in the landscape. The property was originally a farmhouse and summer residence of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Lye, previously known as Nab Road Farm and retains the typical stone-built appearance and characteristics of the hillside farmhouses of the area.

2 Policy Context

2.1 Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Chapter II, "Authorisation of Works Affecting Listed Buildings" of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 sets out the statutory controls over the planning process for proposed changes to be made. The Act prohibits any works to a listed building, including 'alteration or extension in any manner which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest, unless the works are authorised.'

2.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018

Section 16 of The Department for Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (2018) identifies policies for conserving and enhancing the historic environment. This document has been created with the awareness that 'the level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.' The justification of the development is informed by Paragraph 192 which states, 'in determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- The positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.'

Paragraph 193 of the NPPF states that the more important the asset, the greater weight should be given to the asset's conservation. Harm or loss to significance is also considered relative to the weight of the asset's designation and the nature of the proposed works. For example, substantial harm or loss can be allowed as long as that intervention is 'necessary to achieve substantial public benefit that outweigh the harm.'

Section 12, 'Achieving well-designed places' focuses on achieving good quality design, engagement, and understanding of the context in question.

Paragraph 127 of the NPPF focuses on long-term, quality place-making, appropriate layouts, and landscaping, taking context from local character and history. It encourages a sense of place and appropriate mixed development to enhance the vitality and variety of public spaces.

3 Understanding the Heritage

3.1 Description of the Heritage Asset

3.1.1 Exterior



Figure 2 - Photograph, Manager's Cottage South Facade

The manager's cottage, adjoined to Rochdale Children's Moorland Home, is a three bay, two storeys mid-18th-century farmhouse. A stone lintel dated 1756 sits above the children home's the entrance, however there is no such date stone specifically of the cottage. It is belived the property developed as a series of connected buildings, but construction dates are unknown.

The form of the building suggests it was originally a laithe house, i.e. a house with attached barn, a typical building form in the Lancashire Pennines. In keeping with local materials, the building is built of watershot stone with a stone slate roof. The cottage has a vairity of 1, 2 and 3-light stone mullion windows and a projecting porch.

3.1.2 Interior

Internally the building is a three-bay plan. The internal finishes have been replaced over the years and now consist of painted modern plaster walls. The exposed beams in the central and eastern bays have been boxed out at ground floor to match the boxed out foul pipe of the toilet, located on the first floor.

The exterior walls also appear to have had an impermeable render applied that has gathered at the base, giving the walls an obvious slope, below window sill height.



Figure 3 – Photograph, Central Bay Interior Ceiling



Figure 4 - Photograph, Central Bay Porch Door

The first floor consists of similar finishes to the ground; painted/wallpapered plasterboard. At this level no fireplaces remain, having since been boarded over (central bedroom) or the opening in the chimney having been converted into a storage cupboard (east and west bedrooms). Despite the chimney stack in the east bedroom has been lost externally, it is the most clearly expressed internally, as seen in Figure 5.



Figure 5 - Photograph, East Bedroom



Figure 6 - Photograph, Central Bedroom

In the central bedroom, there is evidence of reconstruction or alteration of the chimney breast. Inside the bedroom, the breast has been boarded over but above the existing ceiling level a contrasting, regular red brick has been used to complete to the roof pitch. This was perhaps carried out in in the reroofing works from 1981 or 1992 when the cottage was reroofed due to leaks. Unfortunately, Rochdale Children's Moorland Home's archived committee records do not provide an itemised list of the work carried out.

The central 3 light window unit on the front (south) façade is divided to allow for the property's only bathroom and WC. Whilst the partition wall has been constructed cleanly with minimal impact externally, the original aesthetic and value of the window has been diluted internally. A notable crack is also present in the bathroom wall and it is suspected some of the floor timbers have failed due to poor conditions and age.



Figure 7 - Photograph, Central Bedroom Chimney Breast above Ceiling Level

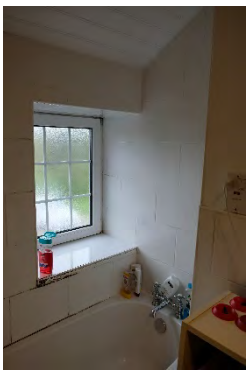


Figure 8 - Photograph, Partition / Mullion Junction

3.2 History & Development

Until the 1990's garage and store extension, the only notable change in the form of the manager's cottage appears to be the removal of a porch-like feature on the rear (north) façade of the building. This can be seen in the difference between Figure 31, revised 1908, and Figure 35, revised 1937. There is evidence of previous openings being present in the façade, notably on the south-east corner of the building, where 2no. stone lintels and infilled brick is evident. From the chairty's archieved committee records, it is known that reroofing works were carried out in 1981 and 1992, and UPVC windows were installed in 1992.

Internally the building has devleopeed over time to provide the domestic standards of the time. It is known that following the purchase of the property in 1903 by Fredrick Lye, significant alterations were undertaken, part of which focused on providing electricity and central heating to the cottage. Images of the original letter from Mr Fred Lye in 1925, when he initially offered his property of Nab Farm to the charity can seen in appendix 8.3.

The children's home also undertook their own improvements in 1937 in order to adapt the 2no. bedroom summer house to the 3no. bedroom Matron's (manager's) cottage. Later alterations have been carried out in 1983, when the bathroom and toilet were installed in the central bay of the cottage on the first floor. It is understood that the ground floor is built up using a asphalt covering which, similar to the impermeable render, is restricting the building's breathability and exasibating damp issues it was presumably installed to limit. It is unknown when these elements were introduced but it is likely to have taken place as part of one of the two more extensive works, circa. 1937 or 1983.

3.3 Local Character & Distinctiveness

The manager's cottage is typical of the the local architecture, being watershot stone with stone slate roof with flat-faced mullions often formed of 2 or 3 lights.

3.3.1 Local Context & Current Use

Previously known as Nab Road farm, the property was the summer home of local notable residents Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Lye. Ever since being donated to Rochdale Children's Moorland Home in 1925, the cottage building has been the residence of the required onsite matron/manager, supporting the efforts/operations and maintaining the local institution for the last 94 years. The current committee for the charity remark that, for the past few decades no manager has chosen to stay in post beyond 6 years or so. Whilst it is understood that is down to the life span of sustaining a demanding role on site all hours of the day, every day of the week, the standard of the accomadation provided has been raised as an issue by past and potential future managers.

4 Assessment of Significance

4.1 Introduction

The significance considerations for the Bleak House are informed by the conservation values outlined by Historic England in *Conservation Principles, Policies, and Guidance for Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2008). Each value will be assessed to a level of significance; the scale has been based upon the British Standard for assessing the value and expanded upon. This scale is outlined below:

Exceptional	*Exceptional historic interest that is intact and clearly legible. Making an important contribution to the wider significance and understanding of the heritage.*
High	*High historic interest that is intact and clearly legible. Making an important contribution to the wider significance and understanding of the heritage.*
Medium	*Less special historic interest, altered, with a less important contribution to the wider significance and understanding of the heritage.*
Low	*Lost or very little special historical interest, significantly altered or largely obscured.*
Neutral	*Historically unimportant but having a negligible impact on the heritage.*
Intrusive	*Historically unimportant with a harmful impact on the heritage.*

It is acknowledged, however, that the significance of a place is understood in more intangible terms, and with a broad holistic understanding.

4.2 Evidential

There is potential for further information about the site to be yielded, particularly through the exercise of dating mortar samples, for example, to give a more precise date for the House's construction. Although there is a date stone marking 1756 on a stone lintel to the entrance to the children's home, it is believed the property developed from barn-like buildings being altered over time and this may only mark that particular development and not include the manager's cottage.

Evidential Significance: **Low**

4.3 Historical

4.3.1 Illustrative

The Manager's Cottage appears to have had two uses; firstly, as a barn-like building, then being converted into residential use. It is presumed that Fredick Lye converted the building when he purchased the property for his summer home. For the last 94 years, the Lye's donation of the property, it has been the private residence of the live-in matron/manager of the children's home. The property as a whole has clear phases of additional changes and development. The cottage specifically shows fewer alterations, but changes are evident, demonstrating the changing needs of the domestic property.

Illustrative Significance: **Low**

4.3.2 Associative



Figure 9 - Photograph, Frederick Lye

The Nab Road Farm property is notably associated with Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Lye, prominent local figures that shaped the surrounding area with their generous donations of land for public recreation use, purchased using their privately earned wealth. They donated the entire property in 1925 for use in connection with the Rochdale Children's Moorland Home institution.

Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Lye's association with and support for Rochdale Children's Moorland Home continued long after the donation of the property. Evidenced by Fredrick Lye's involvement with the charity's committee as honorary president and generous donations over the years. Including a single sum of £1000 to support modernisation and alterations 1936, to be carried out across the property.

Fred Lye purchased the farm, or Nabb Road as it is referred to, in 1903 for £250. This included the farmhosue and barn, and some cottages in the lower field called Fafflety Cottages. He later purchased Tab Road Farm in 1912, for £270. Tab Road Farm is located immediately beind Nabb Road Farm and the entire estate was gifted in 1926.

They are also known for donating another of their properties, Lenny Barn Farm, to the local council for use as playing fields for school children.

Associative Significance: **Low**

4.4 Aesthetic



Figure 10 - Photograph, South Facade Porch

The principal aesthetic value of the property is the front (south) façade, of which a significant proportion of is the Manager's Cottage.

The principal façade of the cottage itself is well proportioned but lacking notable details. Elements such as the stone mullioned windows and chimney stack add interest to the property, however, these are common features in the area and the values are negatively affected somewhat by the unsympathetic windows which are currently installed. The existing windows are bulky, thick-framed, UPVC units which were installed in 1992.

Figure 11 shows a historical drawing, featured in the Rochdale observer in 1959, shows the cottage with the east chimney stack on show externally, which has since been lost at an unknown date since publication. The drawing also shows the window arrangement prior to their replacement, as this is matched in Figure 12, a historical photograph of the cottage however it's capture date is unknown. A mixture of window types are clearly visible, it is assumed the mixed aethestic came to be through the simple replacement of induvial frames at different times, however none of these are matched by the current athestetic.

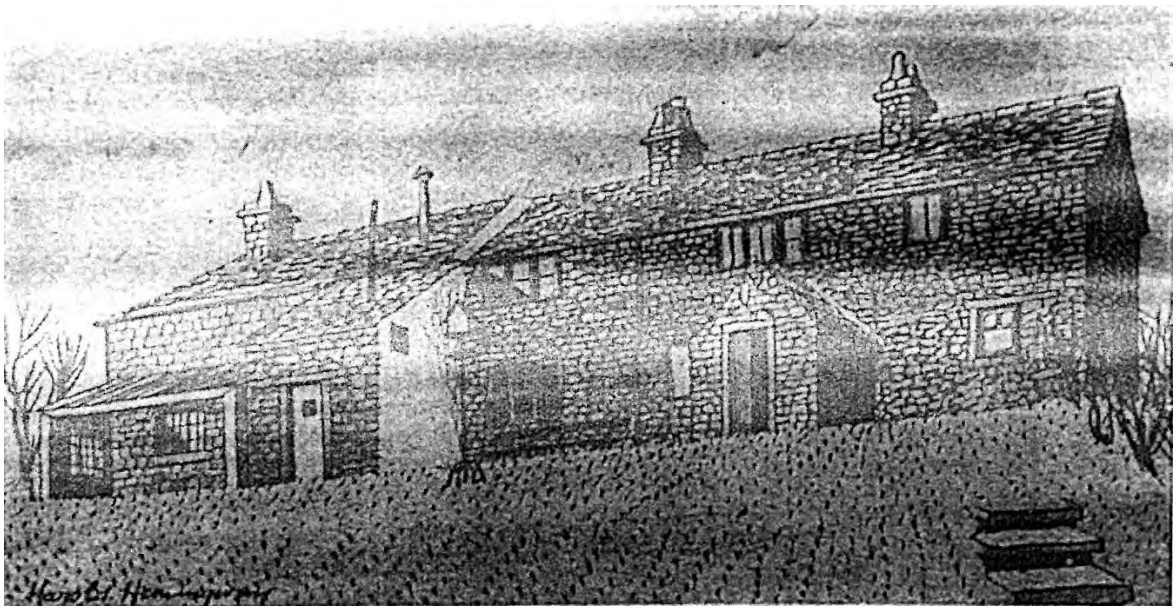


Figure 11 - Drawing, 1959 Rochdale Observer



Figure 12 - Historical Photograph, South Facade - Date Unconfirmed

The east façade is mostly obscured by the single storey, garage, and store extension completed in 1993. The remaining wall on show is a blank gable end to the building, contributing little to the aesthetic significance. A large stone lintel and clean brick joints below suggest there was an opening present at one time, however, the history of this is unclear and evidence is obscured internally.



Figure 13 - Photograph, 1993 Garage Extension

Although there are a number of stone mullioned, window openings on the rear (north) façade, they do not follow the size, proportions or placement of those on the front (south) façade. A number of different patches of repointing are also visible, carried out at various levels of workmanship quality as well as the use of cement mortar and impermeable render, all of which negatively impact the aesthetic value of the building.



Figure 14 - Photograph, Rear (North) Facade

Aesthetic Significance: **Medium**

4.5 Communal

Due to its remote location, it is not looked over by local residents, and there is no passing traffic. As such the buildings themselves are not well known. However, Rochdale Children's Moorland Home, is known as a local institution that has been a part of the local community since 1894 and was regularly reported on in local newspapers since its establishment.

As a private residence, the Manager's Cottage is not a well-known part of the children's home in physical form, however, past and current managers/matrons are known to be a vital part of the charity. As well as ensuring the property continues to run on a day to day basis through upkeep and support to the visiting children, they often take on large roles in fundraising the necessary money that keeps the home open. As such, it is believed that it is the long-standing use and connection with the Rochdale Children's Moorland Home as a local institution which gives the cottage a notable significance.

Communal Significance: **High**

4.6 Statement of Significance

Overall and based upon information available at the time of writing, the Manager's Cottage at Rochdale Children's Moorland Home (Nab Road Farm), is of some significance. Whilst this is reflected in the property's Grade II listing, a significant proportion of value the building holds comes from its use to support the charity.

5 Impact on Heritage Significance

5.1 Fabric Removal

Full resolution drawings of proposed fabric removal can be found in drawings 8733 (01) 002, (02) 002 and (03) 002.

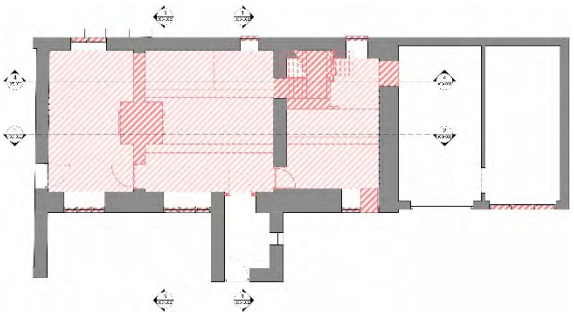


Figure 15 - Drawing, Ground Floor Proposed Removals

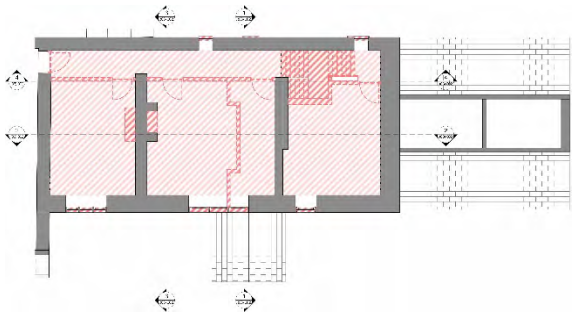


Figure 16 - Drawing, First Floor Proposed Removals



Figure 17 - Drawing, Sections Showing Proposed Removals

The fabric removals focus on two main aims, opening up the ground floor, and removing non-original alterations to the property.

The scheme proposes the removal of the western internally dividing wall and chimney breast at ground floor level, and relocates the stairs along the eastern internal dividing wall and chimney. The stair is considered of low significance, as it is unlikely to be in the original location and looks to be a lightweight addition as part of the refurbishment works. The removal of the masonry wall at ground floor is considered of medium significance. Therefore expression of the wall will be retained, visible along both external walls and as a downstand from the ceiling.

With the removal of the wall and position of the new staircase, the existing first floor would be compromised and require rebuilding into the new structural elements. It is understood from some of the existing defects that a number of floor timbers are no longer stable and not fit for reuse, however the existing 'exposed' timbers (currently boxed out), will be uncovered and reinstated as much as practically possible.

The eastern bay window infill also looks to be removed in order to reinstate the original two-light stone mullioned window. This infill fabric is considered of low significance, being an infill and the reinstament of the original window form is considered beneficial.



Figure 18 - Photograph, South Facade East Bay Window Infill

The scheme also includes a new doorway opening into the garage at ground floor level. Whilst this requires removal of presumed original fabric, the area is already obscured within the 1990's garage extension, and it allows for a practical means to access the property's maintenance store and the introduction of a ground floor WC.

On the first floor, it is proposed that the chimney breast in the western room is to be removed to above head height, in order to make the required bedroom accommodation viable. Considered low/medium significant fabric, the breast above head height will be retained, supported from the existing wall and will be clearly visible within the room. The existing chimney does not have a fireplace, having been replaced with a small cupboard prior to the memory of current staff.

Removal of partition walls on the first floor are considered of neutral significance. The removal of the bathroom partition that bisects the central window on the front façade is considered beneficial to the asset, removal of this division will allow the appreciation of the 3-light window internally.

The opening to the pitch and removal of the suspended first floor ceiling is considered neutral/beneficial to the asset as it reinstates the original internal form of the farmhouse/barn whilst removing non-oringal fabric.

Removal of a small number of roof slates inorder to install 3no. rooflights and a maximum of 3no. lead roof vents is considered low impact. It is unknown if these are the original stone slates or if they were replaced during reburbishment works however, the benefits of increasing the natural light and ventilation of the property without breaking through the original external masonary walls is seen as preferable.

Other removals look to remove previous alterations such as the thick-framed UPVC windows, asphalt floor, impermeable render, and patched repointing, these removals are considered beneficial as at present they are intrusive to the asset. Whilst it is unknown what construction lies beneath the asphalt floor, it is intended to be replaced with limecrete slab with underflooring heating.

It is noted that if the appropriate funding can be achieved, the chairtiy aims to replace the UPVC windows across entire the property with double glazed timber framed windows. This is considered as beneficial, as it will tie together the buildings and further remove unsympathic alterations across the site.

5.1.1 Alternative Demolition and Alterations Investigation



Figure 19 - Sketch, Investigated Alternative Stair Location – Ground Floor

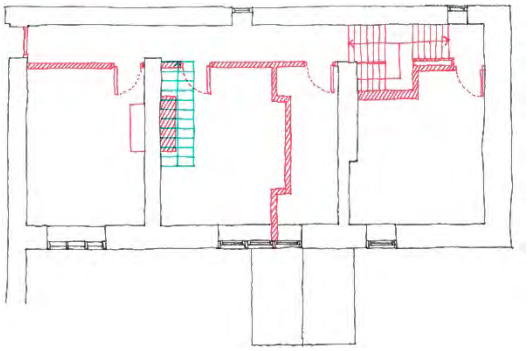


Figure 20 - Sketch, Investigated Alternative Stair Location – First Floor

Figure 19 and Figure 20 show the effects of flipping the proposed layout so that the eastern internal wall is removed at ground floor instead of the western wall. Whilst this has the potential to retain the fireplace in the east bay, it is still required to be removed to above head height on the first floor to meet the living accommodation requirements. The relocation of the stairs to along the retained west wall also requires the removal of the larger, central bay chimney entirely. This level of alteration is

considered more invasive than removing both breasts at ground floor, and retaining the external stack becomes more difficult, without substantial support work.

Removal of the eastern internal wall would also leave only the first-floor masonry partition evidencing the historical chimney that was once present, as the eastern chimney stack, shown in Figure 11, has already been removed.

Other stair locations and have been considered, however, an approved modern configuration produces a less coordinated layout internally, including reversing the first floor layout. This introduces undesirable bathroom positions along the front façade. Whilst the rear façade is marked with various service outlets and offers a level of practical privacy for the residents, the front is relatively unmarked and is open to the car park and play areas in front.

5.2 New Works

Full resolution drawings of the existing and proposed can be found in drawings:

- 8733 (01) 001, (02) 001 and (03) 001 – As Existing drawings
- 8733 (04) 001, (05) 001 and (06) 001 – As Proposed drawings

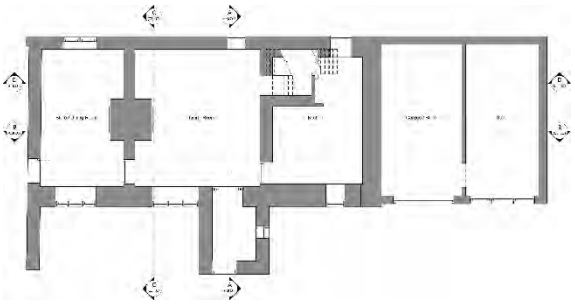


Figure 21 - Drawing, Existing Ground Floor Plan

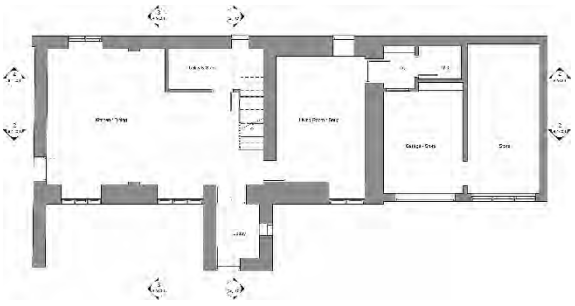


Figure 22 - Drawing, Proposed Ground Floor Plan

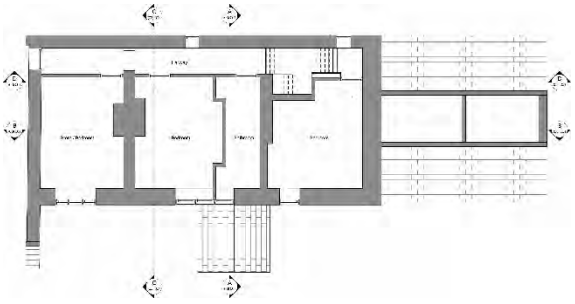


Figure 23 - Drawing, Existing First Floor Plan

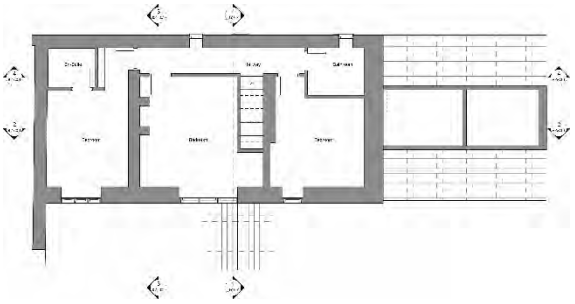


Figure 24 - Drawing, Proposed First Floor Plan

The aim and requirement of the proposed works are to create a modern, open living arrangement that will attract future managers, ensuring its continued viability to support the children's home.

To achieve this the proposed scheme opens the ground floor into an open kitchen/dining arrangement with utility and store tucked against the rear wall and under the relocated staircase. The new, simplified stair will improve accessibility and it's relocation allows for the full depth of the eastern bay's plan to be reinstated. The infilled window at the front of this bay will be removed, reinstating the two-light window, providing a significant amount of additional light to the space.

With the removal of the wall and position of the new staircase, the existing first floor would be compromised and require rebuilding. As the current floor offers a very low and limiting ceiling height on the ground floor, the opportunity will be taken to rebuild the floor at circa. 180mm higher, giving a more practical and viable, albeit still low, clearance height. The existing 'exposed' timbers (currently boxed out), will be uncovered and reinstated as much as practically possible.

At the first floor, the layout has been coordinated to ensure service outlets are located on the rear façade and do not require to run below across the property below the ceiling level, as the current 'boxed out' foul drainage does. The plan form has therefore positioned the bathroom and master ensuite on along the rear elevation and reduced the amount of corridor space by closing off the

unused entrance into the home at this level. The hallway partition walls are believed to be modern partitions and therefore are not of heritage value, making no contribution to the historic significance of the building.

The eastern bay currently suffers from a noticeable lack of natural daylight, therefore rooflights are to be introduced into the proposed bedroom and bathroom on the rear of the property. Another rooflight has been included in the en suite to allow natural light in without removal of original wall fabric. All rooflight are to be installed so that they do not protrude above the plane of the existing roof. The introduction of a maximum of 3no. lead roof vents is also included to accommodate a new ventailition system inorder to combat the existing damp issues. These improvements to the internal environment of the building are considered beneficial although the removal of fabric is of some impact. However, committee meeting notes from 1992 state that the roof was replaced due to numerous leaks and therefore this is not considered wholly historic fabric.

5.3 Scale & Massing

The property is not altered in scale or massing externally, therefore this is considered of no impact.

5.4 Materials

The material palette for the proposed development is limited as there are few external changes. The replacement windows will be painted timber framed units and all rooflights will be of conservation rooflight design.

Internally, materials and finishes have been designed for simple, a long term attractive and traditional aesthetic, and functionality. Walls and ceilings will have a plain plaster. Joinery and new internal doors are to be clearly finished, providing a warm contrast to the plain walls.



Figure 25 - Colour, Conservation Rooflight



Figure 26 - Material, White Painted Timber

Figure 27 - Material, White Plaster



Figure 28 - Material, Plain Timber

6 Justification Statement

According to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2018), the proposed new works are of less than substantial harm to the heritage asset. The most significant harm in the proposed works is the removal of the western internal dividing wall. Harm has been mitigated by the replacement of the unsympathetic UPVC windows, reinstatement of the truncated central first floor window, and improvement works to the external fabric through repointing and removal of impervious finishes which are detrimental to the asset. Proposed new materials will be appropriate and sympathetic to the existing building, giving a timeless aesthetic whilst being of their time and not seeking to create a pastiche of the building that already exists.

The primary changes to the ground floor are to enable the continued viability of the property to support the children's home into the future by offering an attractive, modern functioning home, whilst in the role, for the 24 hour on-site manager.

The proposed works will help Rochdale Children's Moorland Home continue to deliver the important support and experiences to young people of the area, and improve the staff's standard of living, meeting the needs of the owner/occupiers for many years to come.

6.1 Future Recommendations

1. Ensure that all materials are of appropriate quality and colour within the context of the historic building.

7 Bibliography & Sources

1. Rochdale Children's Moorland Home, 2018, P1000256, photograph, viewed February 2019, <https://www.rochdalechildrensmoorlandhome.org/wp-content/uploads/layerslider/About-us-Slider/P1000256.jpg>.
2. Hemingway, H. and Rochdale Observer, 1959. 'A recent drawing by Mr. Harold Hemingway of the Moorland Home as it is to-day'. Rochdale Observer.
3. Rochdale Children's Moorland Home, 1925 – 2015, Rochdale Children's Moorland Home Committee Meeting Minutes.
4. Remembering Cutgate, 2013, Frederick Lye, viewed February 2019, <https://www.facebook.com/379542515465260/photos/a.435500253202819.1073741826.379542515465260/442962272456617/>

8 Appendices

8.1 Listing Description

Name: THE ROCHDALE CHILDRENS MOORLAND HOME
List Entry Number: 1203856

Location: THE ROCHDALE CHILDRENS MOORLAND HOME, NAB ROAD
The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.
District: Rochdale
District Type: Metropolitan Authority
Parish: Non Civil Parish
National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II
Date first listed: 29-Jun-1966
Date of most recent amendment: 12-Feb-1985

Legacy System Information
The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.
Legacy System number: 358981
Legacy System: LBS

List entry Description
Summary of Building
Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.
Reasons for Designation
Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.
History
Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.
Details
SD 81 NE WARDLE NAB ROAD

3/150

29.6.1966 The Rochdale Childrens Moorland Home (formerley listed under - II Nick Road Lane)

Farmhouse and attached buildings, now children's home. 1756 on stone lintel. Watershot stone with stone slate roof. 3-unit 2-storey farmhouse with porch to central unit. The attached buildings to the left have an outshut porch to the front and a wing and extensive C20 addition to the rear. By the presence of a cart entry, now a door, it would appear that these were farm buildings, maybe a barn. Farmhouse has various 1, 2 and 3-light flat-faced mullion windows and a projecting porch. The 3-bay building to the left has a central cart entry with 4-piece square-cut jambs and dated lintel; the projecting porch in bay 3 seems to have been added as does a lean-to which has a 3-light chamfered mullion window. The gable has a 3-light chamfered mullion window with hoodmould at first floor level.

Listing NGR: ST8698353443

8.2 Historic Maps

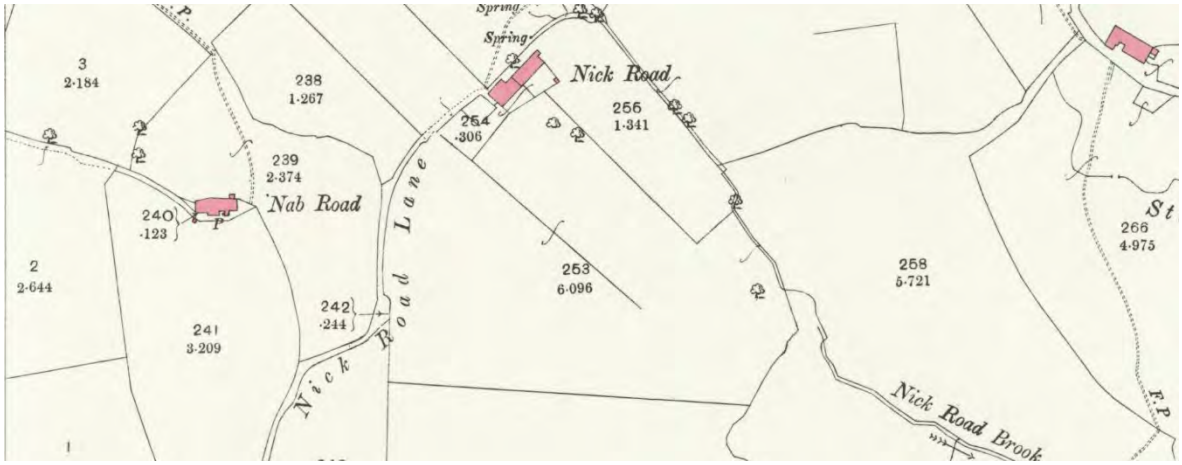


Figure 29 - Map, Lancashire LXXXI.9 - Surveyed 1890 - Published 1893 © National Library of Scotland

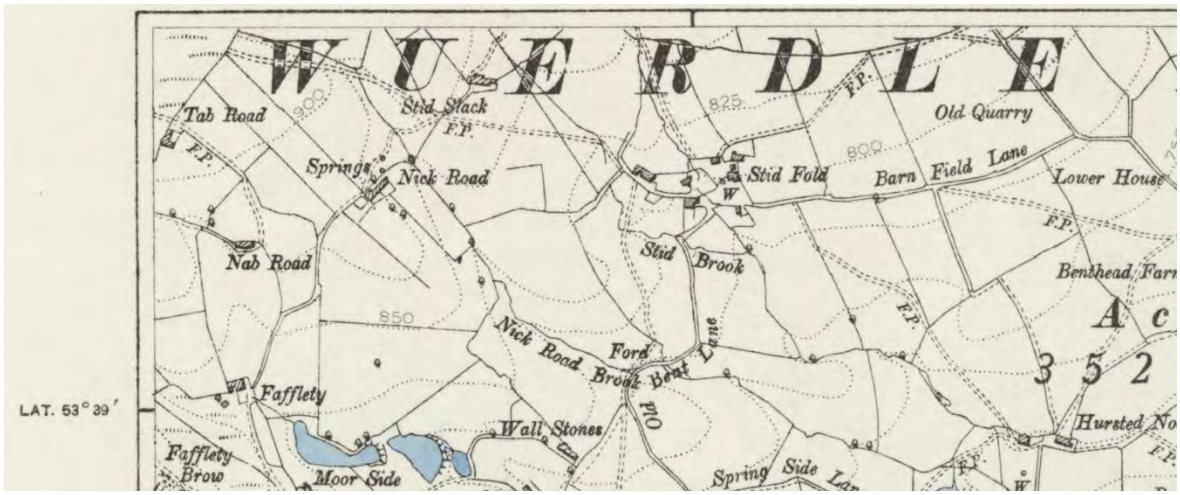


Figure 30 - Map, Lancashire LXXXI.SW - Surveyed 1890 - Published 1894 © National Library of Scotland



Figure 31 - Map, Lancashire LXXXI.9 - Revised 1908 - Published 1910 © National Library of Scotland

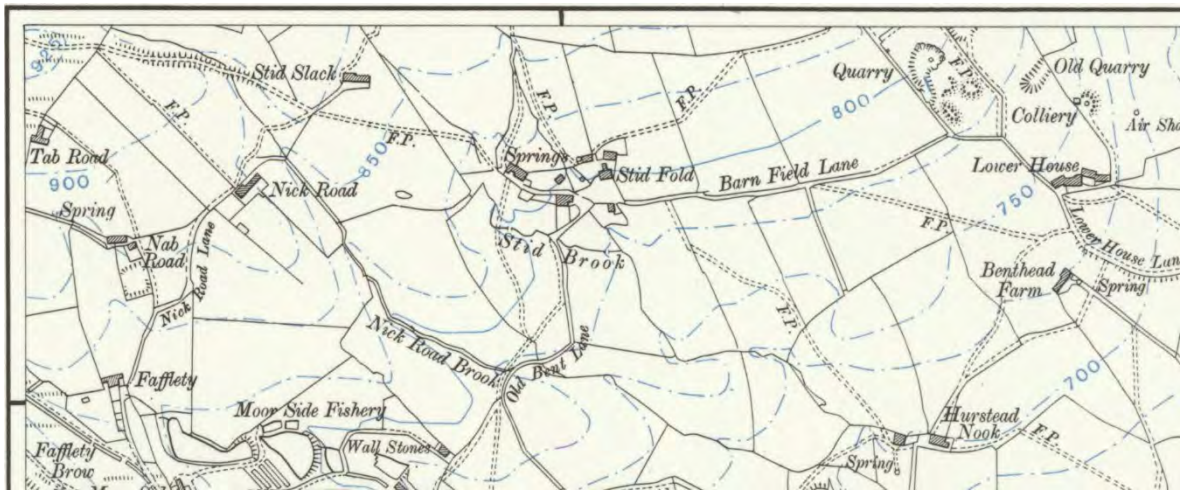


Figure 32 - Map, Lancashire LXXXI.SW - Revised 1907-1908 - Published 1911 © National Library of Scotland

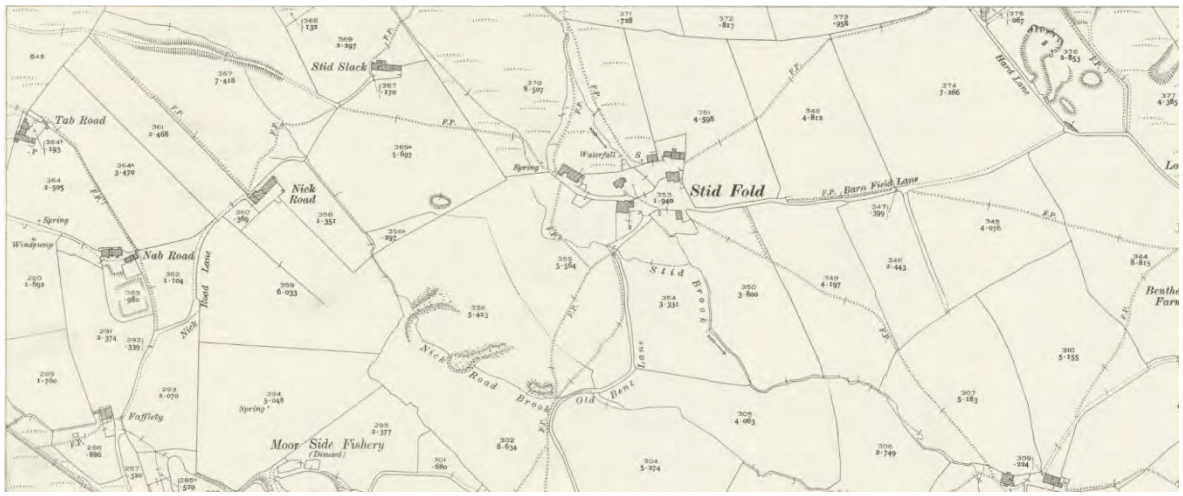


Figure 33 - Map, Lancashire LXXXI.9 - Revised 1928 - Published 1930 © National Library of Scotland

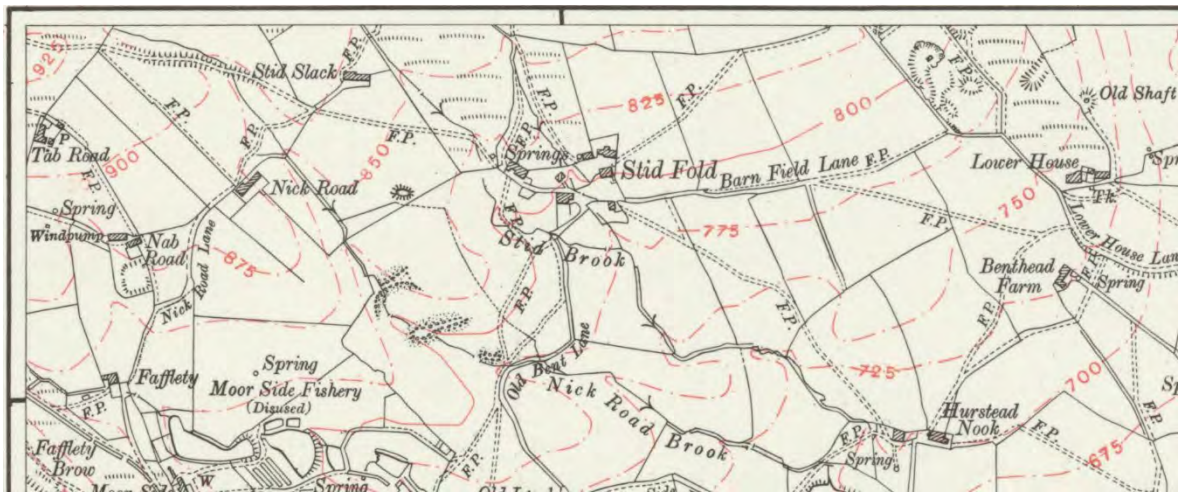


Figure 34 - Map, Lancashire LXXXI.SW - Revised 1928 - Published 1932 © National Library of Scotland



Figure 35 - Map, Lancashire LXXXI.9 - Revised 1937 - Published 1940 © National Library of Scotland

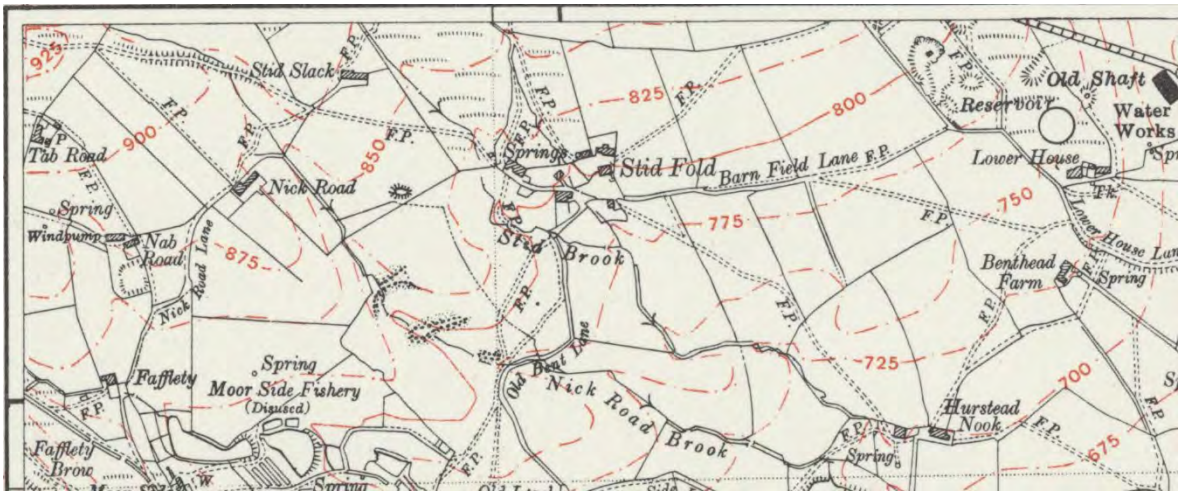
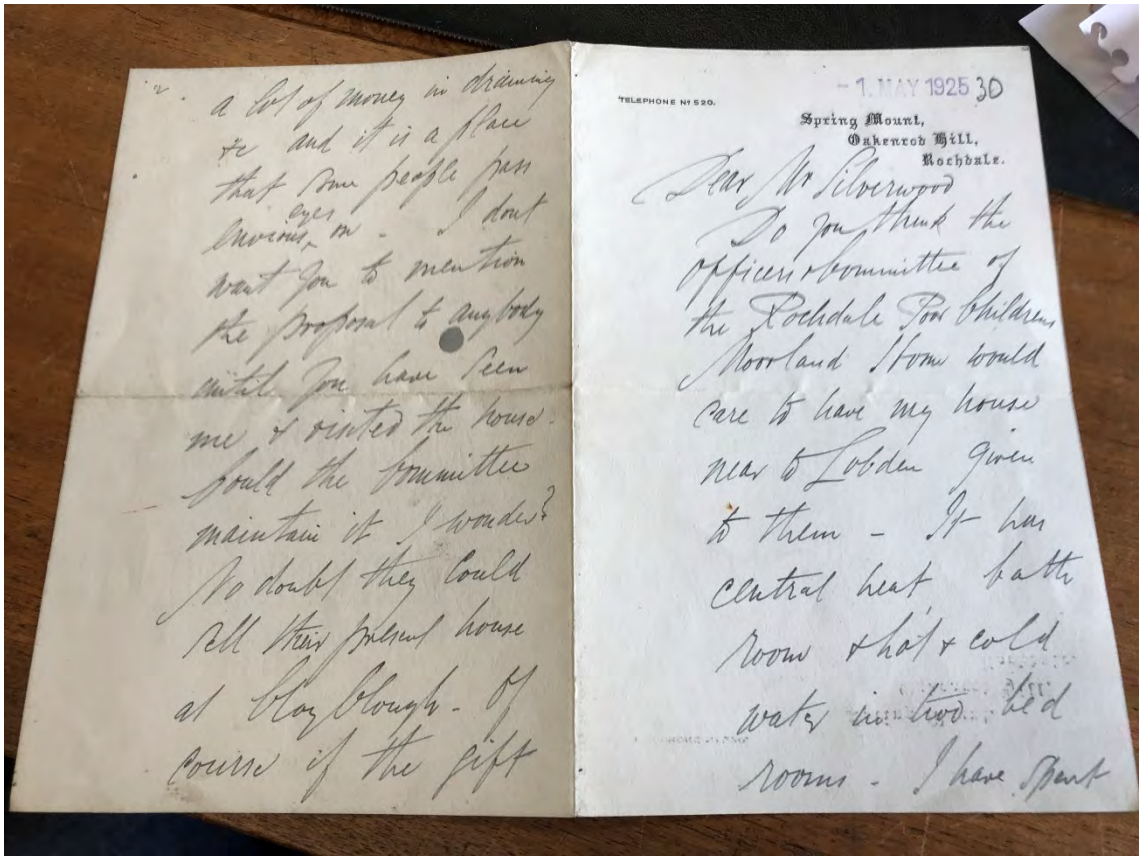


Figure 36 - Map, Lancashire LXXXI.SW - Revised 1938-1939 - Published 1947 © National Library of Scotland

8.3 Letter from Mr Fredrick Lye in 1925 – Offering Nab Farm to the Charity



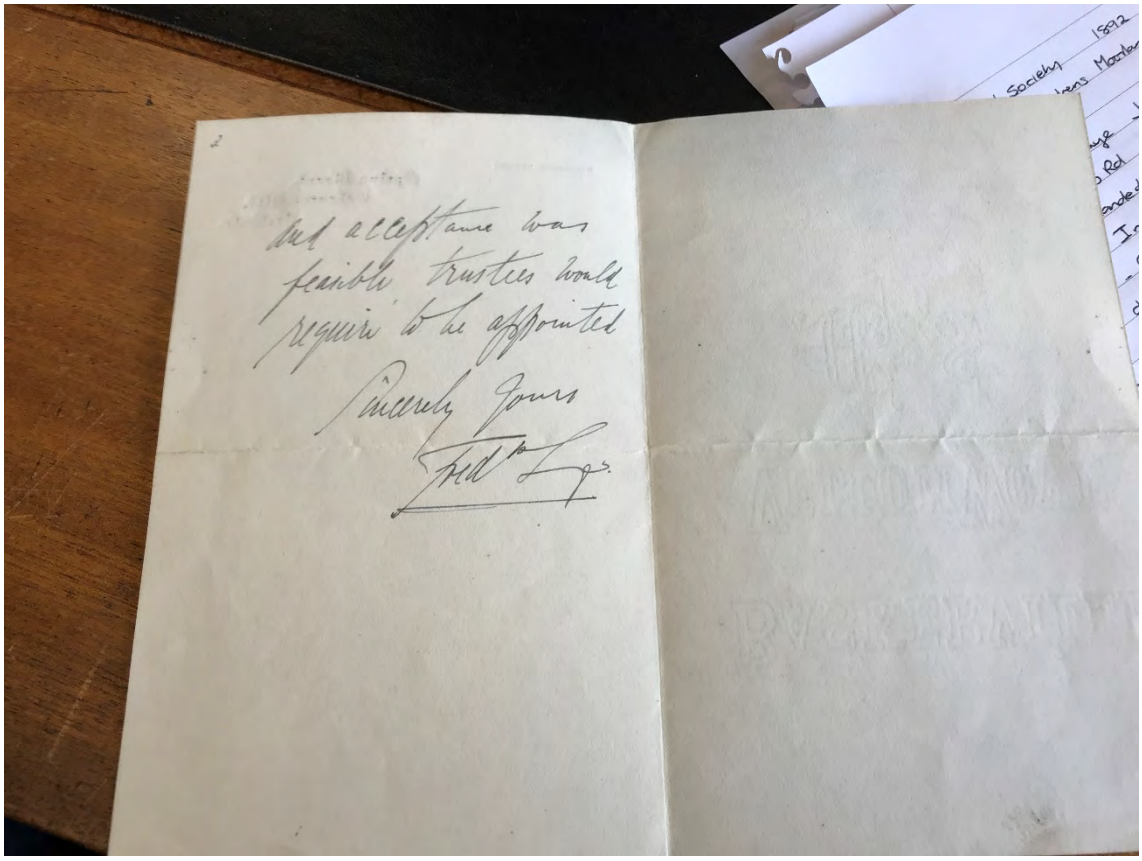
a lot of money in draining it and it is a place that some people pass every morning. I don't want you to mention the proposal to anybody until you have seen me & visited the house. Could the committee maintain it I wonder? No doubt they could let their present house at Todmorden. Of course if the gift

TELEPHONE Nº 520.

1 MAY 1925 30

Spring Mount,
Oakenrod Hill,
Rochdale.

Dear Mr Silverwood
Do you think the officers committee of the Rochdale Poor Children Moorland Home would care to have my house near Todden given to them - It has central heat bath room & hot & cold water in bed rooms - I have Sent

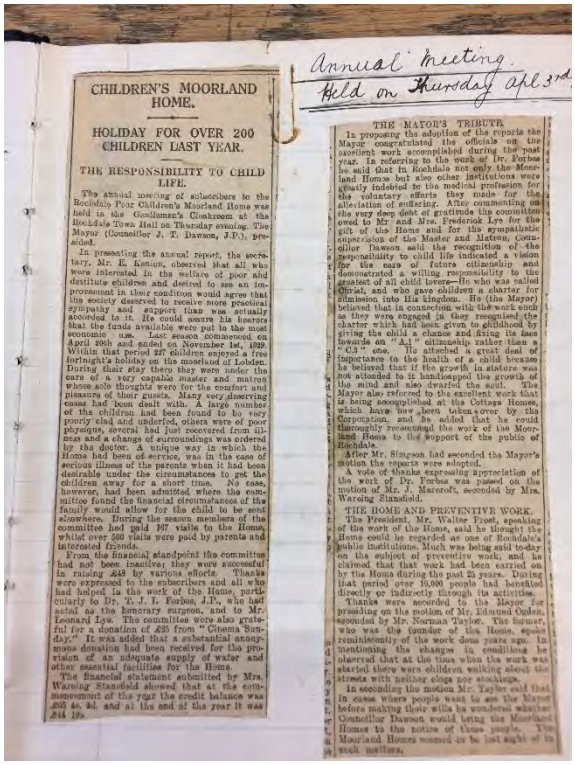


had acceptance was feasible trustees would require to be appointed

Sincerely Yours

Fred Lye

8.4 Extracts from Rochdale Children's Moorland Home Committee Meeting Notes



Annual Meeting
Held on Thursday April 3rd

CHILDREN'S MOORLAND HOME.

HOLIDAY FOR OVER 200 CHILDREN LAST YEAR.

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILD LIFE.

The annual meeting of subscribers to the Rochdale Poor Children's Moorland Home was held in the Gentlemen's Cloakroom at the Rochdale Town Hall on Thursday evening. The Mayor (Councillor A. T. Dawson, J.P.), presided.

In presenting the annual report, the secretary, Mr. E. Ashton, observed that all who were interested in the welfare of poor and destitute children and desired to see an improvement in their condition would agree that the society deserved to receive more practical sympathy and support than was actually accorded to it. He could assure his hearers that the funds available were put to the most economic use. Last season commenced on April 20th and ended on November 1st, 1909. Within that period 227 children enjoyed a free fortnight's holiday on the moorland of Lobden. During their stay there they were under the care of a very capable master and matron whose sole thought were for the comfort and pleasure of their guests. Many very deserving cases had been dealt with. A large number of the children had been found to be very poorly clad and undefed, others were of poor physique, several had just recovered from illness and a change of surroundings was ordered by the doctor. A unique way in which the Home had been of service, was in the case of serious illness of the parents when it had been desirable under the circumstances to get the children away for a short time. No case, however, had been admitted where the committee found the financial circumstances of the family would allow for the child to be sent elsewhere. During the season members of the committee had paid 197 visits to the Home, whilst over 500 visits were paid by parents and interested friends.

From the financial standpoint the committee had not been inactive; they were successful in raising £53 by various efforts. Thanks were expressed to the subscribers and all who had helped in the work of the Home, particularly to Dr. T. J. L. Forbes, J.P., who had acted as the honorary surgeon, and to Mr. Leonard Lye. The committee were also grateful for a donation of £25 from "Cinema Sunday." It was added that a substantial anonymous donation had been received for the provision of an adequate supply of water and other essential facilities for the Home.

The financial statement submitted by Mrs. Warsing Stansfield showed that at the commencement of the year the credit balance was £66 4s. 4d. and at the end of the year it was £14 19s.

THE MAYOR'S TRIBUTE.

In proposing the adoption of the reports the Mayor congratulated the officials on the splendid work accomplished during the past year. In referring to the work of Dr. Forbes he said that in Rochdale not only the Moorland Homes but also other institutions were greatly indebted to the medical profession for the voluntary efforts they made for the alleviation of suffering. After commenting on the very deep debt of gratitude the committee owed to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Lye for the gift of the Home and for the sympathetic supervision of the Master and Matron, Councillor Dawson said the recognition of the responsibility to child life indicated a vision for the care of future citizenship and demonstrated a willing responsibility to the greatest of all child lovers—He who was called Christ, and who gave children a charter for admission into His kingdom. He (the Mayor) believed that in connection with the work such as they were engaged in they recognised the charter which had been given to childhood by giving the child a chance and fitting its face towards an "A1" citizenship rather than a "C3" one. He attached a great deal of importance to the health of a child because he believed that if the growth in stature was not attended to it handicapped the growth of the mind and also dwarfed the soul. The Mayor also referred to the excellent work that is being accomplished at the Cottage Homes, which have now been taken over by the Corporation, and he added that he could thoroughly recommend the work of the Moorland Home to the support of the public of Rochdale.

After Mr. Simpson had seconded the Mayor's motion the reports were adopted.

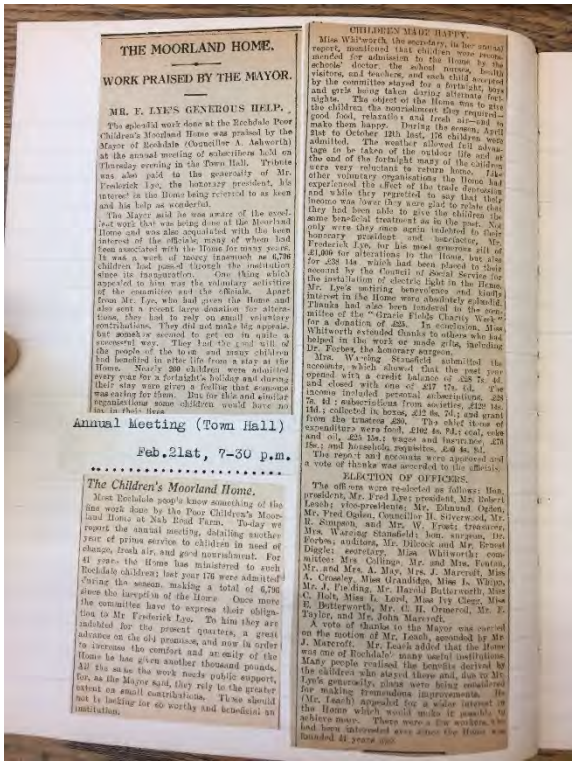
A vote of thanks expressing appreciation of the work of Dr. Forbes was passed on the motion of Mr. J. Marcroft, seconded by Mrs. Warsing Stansfield.

THE HOME AND PREVENTIVE WORK.

The President, Mr. Walter Frost, speaking of the work of the Home, said he thought the Home could be regarded as one of Rochdale's public institutions. Much was being said to-day on the subject of preventive work, and he claimed that that work had been carried on by the Home during the past 21 years. During that period over 10,000 people had benefited directly or indirectly through its activities.

Thanks were accorded to the Mayor for presiding on the motion of Mr. Edmund Ogden, seconded by Mr. Norman Taylor. The former, who was the founder of the Home, spoke reminiscently of the work done years ago. In mentioning the changes in conditions he observed that at the time when the work was started there were children walking about the streets with neither clogs nor stockings.

In seconding the motion Mr. Taylor said that in cases where people went to see the Mayor before making their wills he wondered whether Councillor Dawson would bring the Moorland Homes to the notice of those people. The Moorland Homes seemed to be lost sight of in such matters.



THE MOORLAND HOME.

WORK PRAISED BY THE MAYOR.

MR. F. LYE'S GENEROUS HELP.

The splendid work done at the Rochdale Poor Children's Moorland Home was praised by the Mayor of Rochdale (Councillor A. Ashworth) at the annual meeting of subscribers held on Thursday evening in the Town Hall. Tribute was also paid to the generosity of Mr. Frederick Lye, the honorary president, his interest in the Home being referred to as keen and his help as wonderful.

The Mayor said he was aware of the excellent work that was being done at the Moorland Home, and was also acquainted with the keen interest of the officials, many of whom had been associated with the Home for many years. It was a work of mercy inasmuch as 6,796 children had passed through the institution since its inauguration. One thing which appealed to him was the voluntary activities of the committee and the officials. Apart from Mr. Lye, who had given the Home and also sent a recent large donation for alterations, they had to rely on small voluntary contributions. They did not make big appeals, but somehow seemed to get on in quite a successful way. They had the good will of the people of the town and many children had benefited in after life from a stay at the Home. Nearly 200 children were admitted every year for a fortnight's holiday and during their stay were given a feeling that someone was caring for them. But for this and similar organisations some children would have no joy in their lives.

CHILDREN MADE HAPPY.

Miss Whitworth the secretary, in her annual report, mentioned that children were recommended for admission to the Home by the schools' doctor, the school nurses, health visitors, and teachers, and each child accepted by the committee stayed for a fortnight; boys and girls being taken during alternate fortnights. The object of the Home was to give the children the nourishment they required—good food, relaxation and fresh air—and to make them happy. During the season, April 21st to October 12th, last, 196 children were admitted. The weather allowed full advantage to be taken of the outdoor life and at the end of the fortnight many of the children were very reluctant to return home. Like other voluntary organisations the Home had experienced the effect of the trade depression and while they regretted to say that their income was lower they were glad to relate that they had been able to give the children the same beneficial treatment as in the past. Not only were they once again indebted to their honorary president and instructor, Mr. Frederick Lye, for his most generous gift of £1,000 for alterations to the Home, but also for £58 8s. 8d., which had been placed to their account by the Council of Social Service for the installation of electric light in the Home. Mr. Lye's untiring benevolence and kindly interest in the Home were absolutely splendid. Thanks had also been tendered to the committee of the "Gracie Fields Charity Week" for a donation of £25. In conclusion, Miss Whitworth extended thanks to others who had helped in the work or made gifts, including Mrs. Waring Stansfield submitted the accounts, which showed that the past year opened with a credit balance of £38 7s. 4d. and closed with one of £17 19s. 6d. The income included personal subscriptions, £28 7s. 6d.; subscriptions from societies, £129 16s. 10d.; collected in boxes, £12 9s. 5d.; and grant from the trustees £30. The chief items of expenditure were food, £102 4s. 8d.; coal, coke and oil, £25 15s.; wages and insurance, £70 18s.; and household requisites, £9 4s. 8d.

The report and accounts were approved and a vote of thanks was accorded to the officials.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The officers were re-elected as follows: Hon. president, Mr. Fred Lye; president, Mrs. Robert Leach; vice-presidents, Mr. Edmund Ogden, Mr. Fred Ogden, Councillor R. Silvercord, Mr. R. Simpson, and Mr. W. Frost; treasurer, Mrs. Warsing Stansfield; hon. surgeon, Dr. Forbes; auditors, Mr. Dilcock and Mr. Ernest Diggle; secretary, Miss Whitworth; committee: Mrs. Collings, Mr. and Mrs. Fenton, Mr. and Mrs. A. May, Mrs. J. Marcroft, Miss A. Crossley, Miss Grandidge, Miss L. Wilson, Mr. J. Fielding, Mr. Harold Butterworth, Miss C. Holt, Miss L. Lord, Miss Ivy Clegg, Miss E. Butterworth, Mr. C. H. Ormerod, Mr. E. Taylor, and Mr. John Marcroft.

A vote of thanks to the Mayor was carried on the motion of Mr. Leach, seconded by Mr. J. Marcroft. Mr. Leach added that the Home was one of Rochdale's many useful institutions. Many people realised the benefits derived by the children who stayed there and, due to Mr. Lye's generosity, plans were being considered for making tremendous improvements. He (Mr. Leach) appealed for a wider interest in the Home which would make it possible to achieve many. There were a few workers who had been interested ever since the Home was founded 21 years ago.



ROCHDALE OBSERVER. 30TH MAY, 1925

MR. AND MRS. F. LYE.

ANOTHER HANDSOME GIFT.

HOUSE AND FARM AS MOORLAND HOME FOR CHILDREN.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Lye, who less than a year ago presented Lenny Barn Farm, Spotland, to the town as playing fields for school children, have now made another handsome gift for the benefit of children of Rochdale and district.

They have offered their summer home, Nab Road Farm, at the foot of Lobden, together with the adjoining farm, Tab Road Farm, comprising about 14½ acres, to the committee of the Rochdale Poor Children's Moorland Home for use in connection with the work of that institution. The committee have very gratefully accepted the gift. The land is free, and is to be conveyed without reservation or restriction.

For some time past the committee of the Home have been on the look-out for increased accommodation to meet the growing demands on the institution. Mr. and Mrs. Lye, who have long taken a kindly and practical interest in the work and have been among its most generous supporters, have evidently learned of the need for more commodious quarters.



THE MOORLAND HOME.

WORK PRAISED BY THE MAYOR.

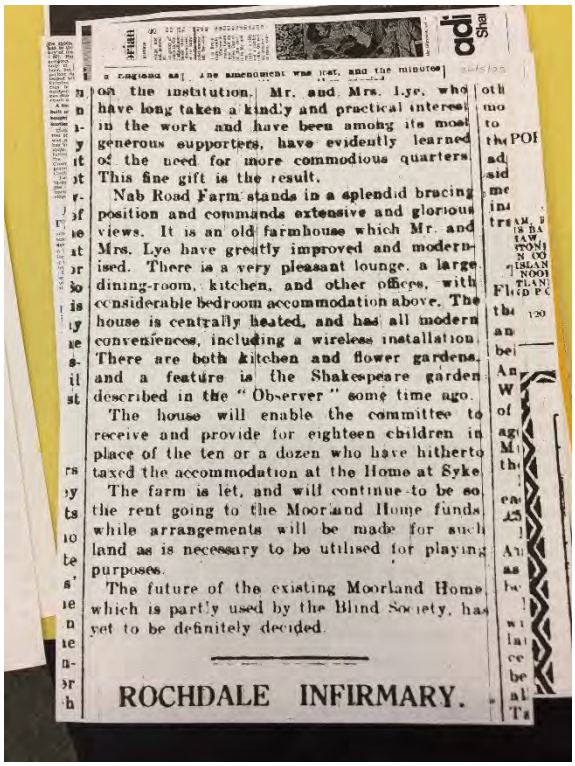
MR. F. LYE'S GENEROUS HELP.

The splendid work done at the Rochdale Poor Children's Moorland Home was praised by the Mayor of Rochdale (Councillor A. Ashworth) at the annual meeting of subscribers held on Thursday evening in the Town Hall. Tribute was also paid to the generosity of Mr. Frederick Lye, the honorary president, his interest in the Home being referred to as keen and his help as wonderful.

The Mayor said he was aware of the excellent work that was being done at the Moorland Home, and was also acquainted with the keen interest of the officials, many of whom had been associated with the Home for many years. It was a work of mercy inasmuch as 6,796 children had passed through the institution since its inauguration. One thing which appealed to him was the voluntary activities of the committee and the officials. Apart from Mr. Lye, who had given the Home and also sent a recent large donation for alterations, they had to rely on small voluntary contributions. They did not make big appeals, but somehow seemed to get on in quite a successful way. They had the good will of the people of the town and many children had benefited in after life from a stay at the Home. Nearly 200 children were admitted every year for a fortnight's holiday and during their stay were given a feeling that someone was caring for them. But for this and similar organisations some children would have no joy in their lives.

CHILDREN MADE HAPPY.

Miss Whitworth the secretary, in her annual report, mentioned that children were recommended for admission to the Home by the schools' doctor, the school nurses, health visitors, and teachers, and each child accepted by the committee stayed for a fortnight



on the institution. Mr. and Mrs. Lye, who have long taken a kindly and practical interest in the work and have been among its most generous supporters, have evidently learned of the need for more commodious quarters. This fine gift is the result.

Nab Road Farm stands in a splendid bracing position and commands extensive and glorious views. It is an old farmhouse which Mr. and Mrs. Lye have greatly improved and modernised. There is a very pleasant lounge, a large dining-room, kitchen, and other offices, with considerable bedroom accommodation above. The house is centrally heated, and has all modern conveniences, including a wireless installation. There are both kitchen and flower gardens, and a feature is the Shakespeare garden described in the "Observer" some time ago.

The house will enable the committee to receive and provide for eighteen children in place of the ten or a dozen who have hitherto taxed the accommodation at the Home at Syke.

The farm is let, and will continue to be so, the rent going to the Moorland Home funds, while arrangements will be made for such land as is necessary to be utilised for playing purposes.

The future of the existing Moorland Home, which is partly used by the Blind Society, has yet to be definitely decided.

ROCHDALE INFIRMARY.



the people of the town and many children had benefited in after life from a stay at the Home. Nearly 200 children were admitted every year for a fortnight's holiday and during their stay were given a feeling that someone was caring for them. But for this and similar organisations some children would have no joy in their lives.

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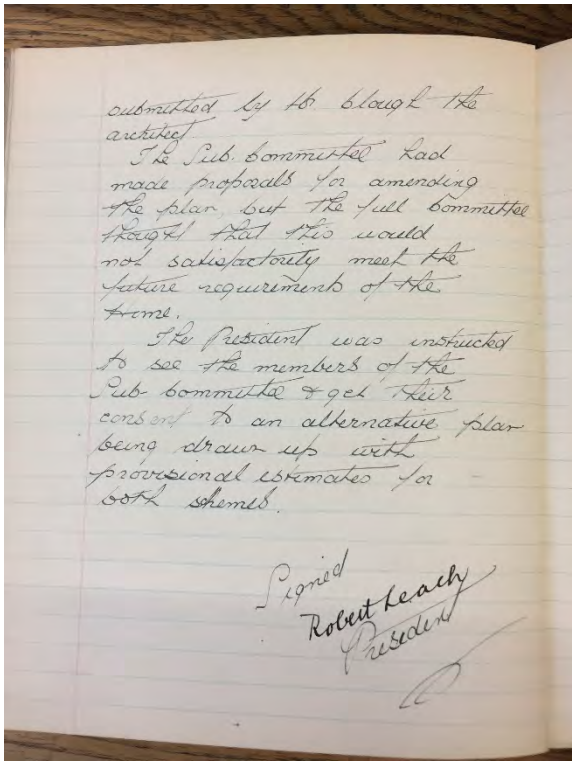
Miss Whitworth the secretary, in her annual report, mentioned that children were recommended for admission to the Home by the schools' doctor, the school nurses, health visitors, and teachers, and each child accepted by the committee stayed for a fortnight, boys and girls being taken during alternate fortnights. The object of the Home was to give the children the nourishment they required—good food, relaxation and fresh air—and to make them happy. During the season, April 21st to October 12th last, 176 children were admitted. The weather allowed full advantage to be taken of the outdoor life and at the end of the fortnight many of the children were very reluctant to return home. Like other voluntary organisations the Home had experienced the effect of the trade depression and while they regretted to say that their income was lower they were glad to relate that they had been able to give the children the same beneficial treatment as in the past. Not only were they once again indebted to their honorary president and benefactor, Mr. Frederick Lye, for his most generous gift of £1,000 for alterations to the Home, but also for £38 11s which had been placed to their account by the Council of Social Service for the installation of electric light in the Home. Mr. Lye's untiring benevolence and kindly interest in the Home were absolutely splendid. Thanks had also been tendered to the committee of the "Gracie Fields Charity Week" for a donation of £25. In conclusion, Miss Whitworth extended thanks to others who had helped in the work or made gifts, including Dr. Forbes, the honorary surgeon.

Mrs. Wareing Stansfield submitted the accounts, which showed that the past year opened with a credit balance of £28 7s. 4d. and closed with one of £17 17s. 6d. The income included personal subscriptions, £28 7s. 4d.; subscriptions from societies, £129 11s. 11d.; collected in boxes, £12 6s. 7d.; and grant from the trustees £30. The chief items of expenditure were food, £102 4s. 8d.; coal, coke and oil, £25 15s.; wages and insurance, £76 18s.; and household requisites, £30 4s. 9d.

The report and accounts were approved and a vote of thanks was accorded to the officials.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

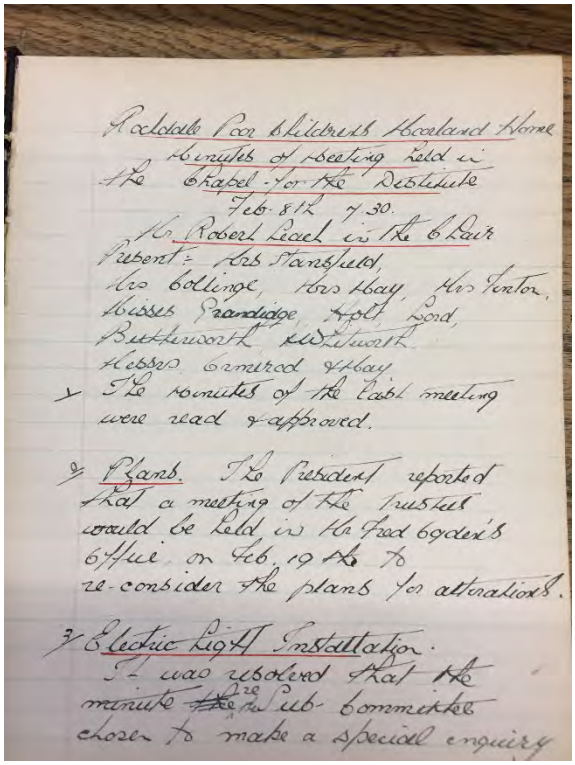


submitted by Mr. Clough the architect.

The Sub-Committee had made proposals for amending the plan, but the full Committee thought that this would not satisfactorily meet the future requirements of the Home.

The President was instructed to see the members of the Sub-Committee & get their consent to an alternative plan being drawn up with provisional estimates for both schemes.

Signed
Robert Leach
President

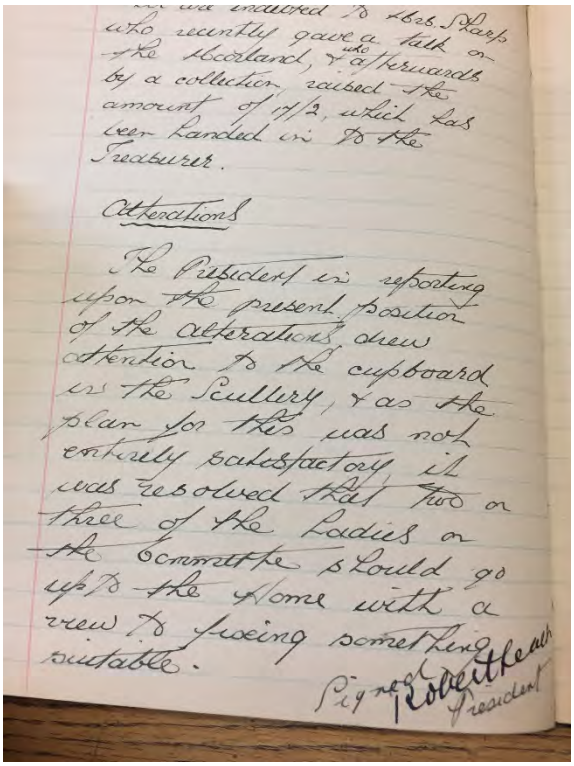


Rochdale Poor Childrens Moorland Home
Minutes of Meeting held in the Chapel for the Destitute
Feb. 8th 7.30.
Mr. Robert Leach in the Chair
Present:- Mrs Stansfield,
Mrs Collinge, Mrs Hay, Mrs Tinton,
Misses Grandidge, Holt, Lord,
Butterworth & Whitworth
Messrs Ormerod & Hay

1/ The Minutes of the last meeting were read & approved.

2/ Plans. The President reported that a meeting of the trustees would be held in Mr Fred Ogden's Office on Feb. 19th to re-consider the plans for alterations.

3/ Electric Light Installation.
It was resolved that the minute ~~the~~ re Sub-Committee chosen to make a special enquiry

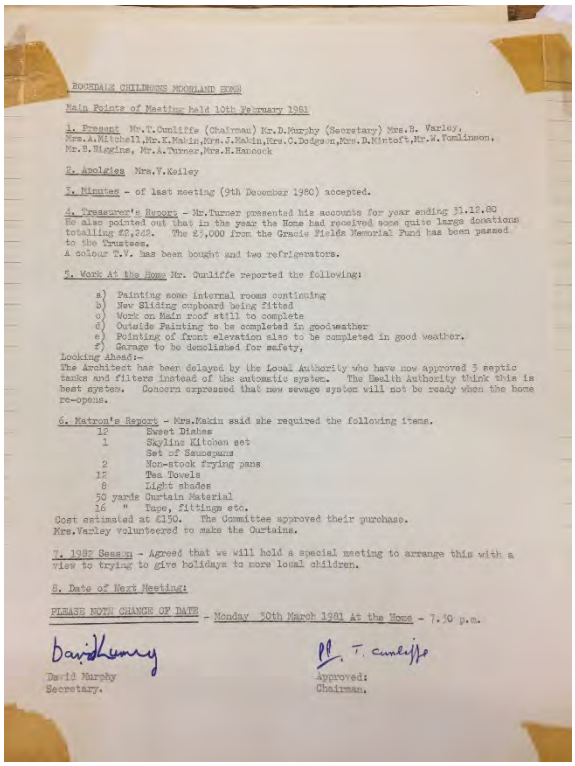


who recently gave a talk on the Moorland, afterwards by a collection raised the amount of £7/2, which has been handed in to the Treasurer.

Alterations

The President is reporting upon the present position of the alterations, drew attention to the cupboard in the Scullery, as the plan for this was not entirely satisfactory it was resolved that two or three of the Ladies on the Committee should go up to the Home with a view to fixing something suitable.

Sig. Robert Hall President



ROCHDALE CHILDROUS MOORLAND HOME

Main Points of Meeting held 10th February 1981

1. Present Mr.T.Cunliffe (Chairman) Mr.D.Murphy (Secretary) Mrs.B. Varley, Mrs.A.Mitchell,Mr.K.Makin,Mrs.J.Makin,Mrs.C.Dodgson,Mrs.D.Mintoft,Mr.W.Tomlinson, Mr.B.Higgins, Mr.A.Turner,Mrs.H.Hancock

2. Apologies Mrs.V.Keiley

3. Minutes - of last meeting (9th December 1980) accepted.

4. Treasurer's Report - Mr.Turner presented his accounts for year ending 31.12.80 He also pointed out that in the year the Home had received some quite large donations totalling £2,245. The £1,000 from the Gracie Fields Memorial Fund has been passed to the Trustees.
A colour T.V. has been bought and two refrigerators.

5. Work At the Home Mr. Cunliffe reported the following:

a) Painting some internal rooms continuing
b) New Sliding cupboard being fitted
c) Work on Main roof still to complete
d) Outside Painting to be completed in goodweather
e) Pointing of front elevation also to be completed in good weather.
f) Garage to be demolished for safety,

Looking Ahead:
The Architect has been delayed by the Local Authority who have now approved 3 septic tanks and filters instead of the automatic system. The Health Authority think this is best system. Concern expressed that new sewage system will not be ready when the home re-opens.

6. Matron's Report - Mrs.Makin said she required the following items.

12	Sweet Dishes
1	Skyline Kitchen set
	Set of Saucepans
2	Non-stock frying pans
12	Tea Towels
8	Light shades
50 yards	Curtain Material
16 "	Tape, fittings etc.

Cost estimated at £150. The Committee approved their purchase.
Mrs.Varley volunteered to make the Curtains.

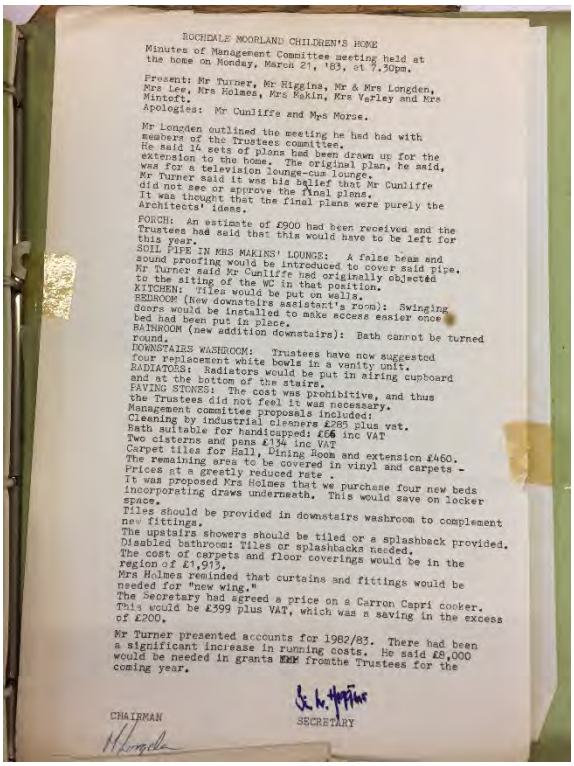
7. 1982 Season - Agreed that we will hold a special meeting to arrange this with a view to trying to give holidays to more local children.

8. Date of Next Meeting:

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE - Monday 30th March 1981 At the Home - 7.30 p.m.

David Murphy
Secretary.

T. Cunliffe
Approved:
Chairman.



ROCHDALE MOORLAND CHILDREN'S HOME
Minutes of Management Committee meeting held at the home on Monday, March 21, '83, at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr Turner, Mr Higgins, Mr & Mrs Longden, Mrs Lee, Mrs Holmes, Mrs Makin, Mrs Varley and Mrs Mintoft.
Apologies: Mr Cunliffe and Mrs Morse.

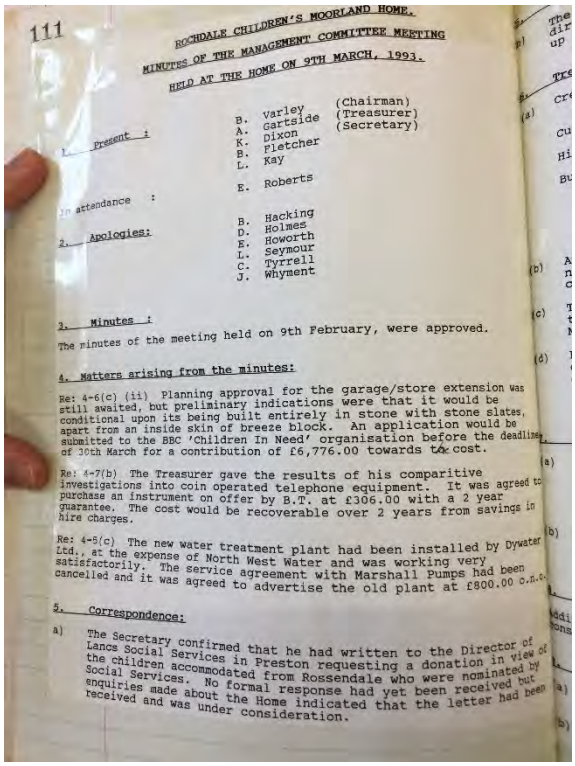
Mr Longden outlined the meeting he had had with members of the Trustees committee.
He said 14 sets of plans had been drawn up for the extension to the home. The original plan, he said, was for a television lounge-cum lounge.
Mr Turner said it was his belief that Mr Cunliffe did not see or approve the final plans.
It was thought that the final plans were purely the Architects' ideas.

PORCH: An estimate of £900 had been received and the Trustees had said that this would have to be left for this year.
SOIL PIPE IN MRS MAKINS' LOUNGE: A false beam and sound proofing would be introduced to cover said pipe. Mr Turner said Mr Cunliffe had originally objected to the siting of the WC in that position.
KITCHEN: Tiles would be put on walls.
BEDROOM (New downstairs assistant's room): Swinging doors would be installed to make access easier once bed had been put in place.
BATHROOM (new addition downstairs): Bath cannot be turned round.
DOWNSTAIRS WASHEROOM: Trustees have now suggested four replacement white bowls in a vanity unit.
RADIATORS: Radiators would be put in airing cupboard and at the bottom of the stairs.
PAVING STONES: The cost was prohibitive, and thus the Trustees did not feel it was necessary.
Management committee proposals included:
Cleaning by industrial cleaners £285 plus vat.
Bath suitable for handicapped: £66 inc VAT
Two cisterns and pans £134 inc VAT
Carpet tiles for Hall, Dining Room and extension £460.
The remaining area to be covered in vinyl and carpets - Prices at a greatly reduced rate .
It was proposed Mrs Holmes that we purchase four new beds incorporating draws underneath. This would save on locker space.
Tiles should be provided in downstairs washroom to complement new fittings.
The upstairs showers should be tiled or a splashback provided.
Disabled bathroom: Tiles or splashbacks needed.
The cost of carpets and floor coverings would be in the region of £1,913.
Mrs Holmes reminded that curtains and fittings would be needed for "new wing."
The Secretary had agreed a price on a Carron Capri cooker. This would be £399 plus VAT, which was a saving in the excess of £200.

Mr Turner presented accounts for 1982/83. There had been a significant increase in running costs. He said £8,000 would be needed in grants ~~from~~ from the Trustees for the coming year.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



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ROCHDALE CHILDREN'S MOORLAND HOME.
MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE HOME ON 9TH MARCH, 1993.

1. Present :
B. Varley (Chairman)
A. Cartside (Treasurer)
K. Dixon (Secretary)
B. Fletcher
L. Kay
E. Roberts

In attendance :

2. Apologies:
B. Hacking
D. Holmes
E. Howorth
L. Seymour
C. Tyrrell
J. Whyment

3. Minutes :
The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February, were approved.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

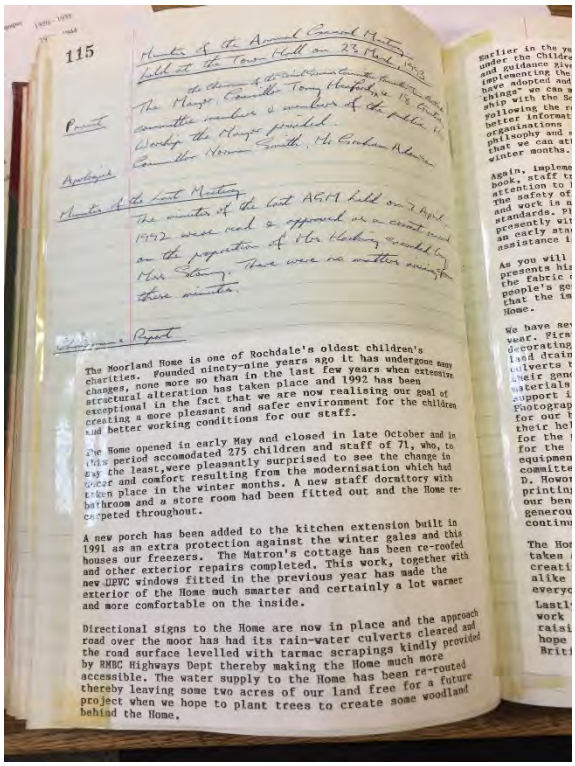
Re: 4-6(c) (ii) Planning approval for the garage/store extension was still awaited, but preliminary indications were that it would be conditional upon its being built entirely in stone with stone slates, apart from an inside skin of breeze block. An application would be submitted to the BBC 'Children In Need' organisation before the deadline of 30th March for a contribution of £6,776.00 towards the cost.

Re: 4-7(b) The Treasurer gave the results of his comparitive investigations into coin operated telephone equipment. It was agreed to purchase an instrument on offer by B.T. at £306.00 with a 2 year guarantee. The cost would be recoverable over 2 years from savings in hire charges.

Re: 4-5(c) The new water treatment plant had been installed by Dywater Ltd., at the expense of North West Water and was working very satisfactorily. The service agreement with Marshall Pumps had been cancelled and it was agreed to advertise the old plant at £800.00 o.n.o.

5. Correspondence:

a) The Secretary confirmed that he had written to the Director of Lancs Social Services in Preston requesting a donation in view of the children accommodated from Rossendale who were nominated by Social Services. No formal response had yet been received but enquiries made about the Home indicated that the letter had been received and was under consideration.



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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Town Hall on 23 March 1993

Present

Apologies

Minutes of the Last Meeting

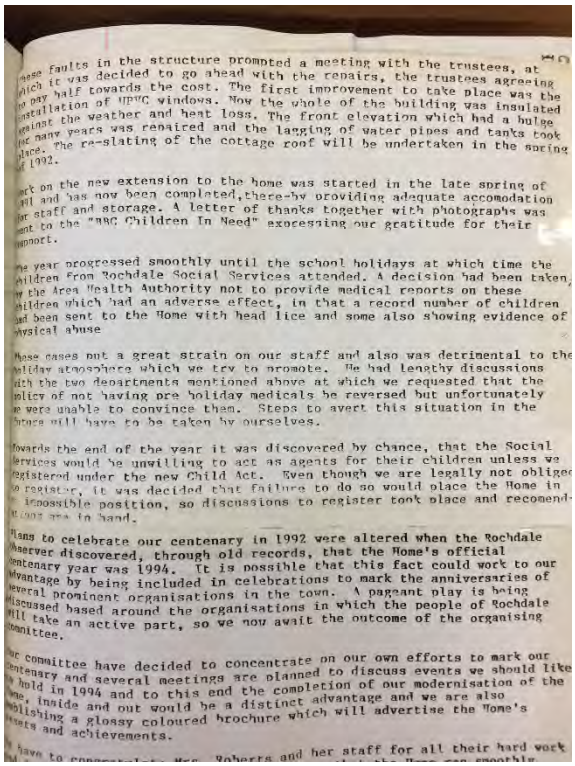
Chairman's Report

The Moorland Home is one of Rochdale's oldest children's charities. Founded ninety-nine years ago it has undergone many changes, none more so than in the last few years when extensive structural alteration has taken place and 1992 has been exceptional in the fact that we are now realising our goal of creating a more pleasant and safer environment for the children and better working conditions for our staff.

The Home opened in early May and closed in late October and in this period accomodated 275 children and staff of 71, who, to say the least, were pleasantly surprised to see the change in decor and comfort resulting from the modernisation which had taken place in the winter months. A new staff dormitory with bathroom and a store room had been fitted out and the Home re-carpeted throughout.

A new porch has been added to the kitchen extension built in 1991 as an extra protection against the winter gales and this houses our freezers. The Matron's cottage has been re-roofed and other exterior repairs completed. This work, together with new UPVC windows fitted in the previous year has made the exterior of the Home much smarter and certainly a lot warmer and more comfortable on the inside.

Directional signs to the Home are now in place and the approach road over the moor has had its rain-water culverts cleared and the road surface levelled with tarmac scrapings kindly provided by RMBC Highways Dept thereby making the Home much more accessible. The water supply to the Home has been re-routed thereby leaving some two acres of our land free for a future project when we hope to plant trees to create some woodland behind the Home.



these faults in the structure prompted a meeting with the trustees, at which it was decided to go ahead with the repairs, the trustees agreeing to pay half towards the cost. The first improvement to take place was the installation of UPVC windows. Now the whole of the building was insulated against the weather and heat loss. The front elevation which had a bulge for many years was repaired and the lagging of water pipes and tanks took place. The re-slating of the cottage roof will be undertaken in the spring of 1992.

Work on the new extension to the home was started in the late spring of 1991 and has now been completed, thereby providing adequate accomodation for staff and storage. A letter of thanks together with photographs was sent to the "BBC Children In Need" expressing our gratitude for their support.

The year progressed smoothly until the school holidays at which time the children from Rochdale Social Services attended. A decision had been taken by the Area Health Authority not to provide medical reports on these children which had an adverse effect, in that a record number of children had been sent to the Home with head lice and some also showing evidence of physical abuse

These cases put a great strain on our staff and also was detrimental to the holiday atmosphere which we try to promote. We had lengthy discussions with the two departments mentioned above at which we requested that the policy of not having pre holiday medicals be reversed but unfortunately we were unable to convince them. Steps to avert this situation in the future will have to be taken by ourselves.

Towards the end of the year it was discovered by chance, that the Social Services would be unwilling to act as agents for their children unless we registered under the new Child Act. Even though we are legally not obliged to register, it was decided that failure to do so would place the Home in an impossible position, so discussions to register took place and recommendations are to hand.

Plans to celebrate our centenary in 1992 were altered when the Rochdale Observer discovered, through old records, that the Home's official centenary year was 1994. It is possible that this fact could work to our advantage by being included in celebrations to mark the anniversaries of several prominent organisations in the town. A pageant play is being discussed based around the organisations in which the people of Rochdale will take an active part, so we now await the outcome of the organising committee.

Our committee have decided to concentrate on our own efforts to mark our centenary and several meetings are planned to discuss events we should like to hold in 1994 and to this end the completion of our modernisation of the Home, inside and out would be a distinct advantage and we are also publishing a glossy coloured brochure which will advertise the Home's events and achievements.

We have to congratulate Mrs. Roberts and her staff for all their hard work