HMP MANCHESTER

Design and Access Statement including Heritage Statement Proposed Alterations to HMP Manchester, A Wing,1 Southall St, Cheetham Hill, Manchester M60 9AH



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(SB/2002/145/581)

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1.00.00 Heritage Statement

1.01.00 **Introduction**

1.02.00 ***Generally***

1.02.01 The proposal described within this Heritage Statement is for the replacement and addition of external vent grilles to upgrade and replace those serving existing shower areas that require refurbishment to provide acceptable living standards for inmates. The use and facilities will remain the same, just the additional grilles will allow the ventilation to be upgraded and prevent deterioration of finishes and fixtures within the shower areas.

1.03.00 ***Location***

1.03.01 The site forms a large prison complex housing both Category A and B Prisoners. The main prison where the listed buildings are is surrounded by Sherborne Street and Empire Street to the north, Southall Street to the east and south and Great Ducie Street to the West. The surrounding area is density populated with modern buildings of a commercial use, with some hotels, leisure facilities and restaurants. The nearest residential accommodation is circa 400m to the north. The works are proposed initially to A and C Wings. These are two of the six wings spreading from the main central rotunda structure with the gatehouse and reception block to the south. The main structures are formed in red brickwork with stone dressings. The Wing is formed over 4 floors with secured windows with stone cills and chambered lintels. The areas are already in use as showers for prisoners and have a single external extract vent that is inadequately sized to provide adequate extract and with just a single vent, does not allow sufficient air intake. The areas are of a very high use and as such are deteriorating due to inadequate ventilation, and the works proposed will address this. Figure 1 below highlights both A and C Wing and also the location of the proposed works.

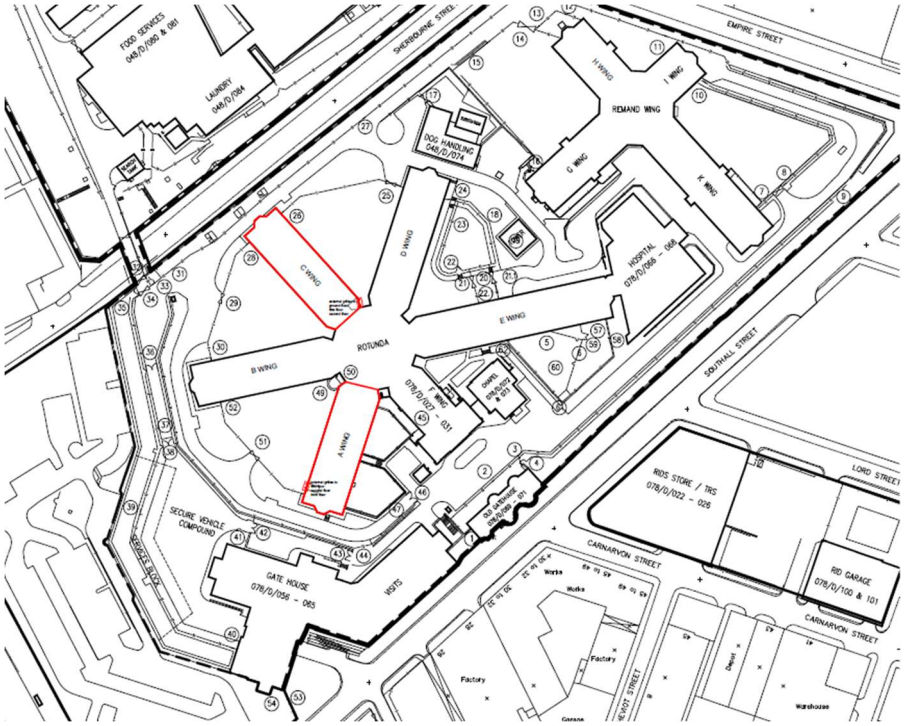


Fig 1. Location Plan

1.04.00 ***Condition***

1.04.01 The wings are in full use and is a fully maintained and managed asset. The site is considered to be in a good condition but deterioration of fixtures and fittings within the showers has resulted released investment to refurbish these areas and improving the ventilation is an integral part of the proposals.

2.00.00 **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (TEXT DUPLICATED FROM THE MOJ COMMISSIONED REVIEW IN OCTOBER 2025 PROVIDED BY MESSRS. MOTT MACDONALD)**

2.01.00 ***Wider Context – Prisons in England.*** *As of 2002 when a comprehensive survey of English prisons was conducted by English Heritage, England had 135 prisons in current use with around 70,000 inmates, and a small number of former prisons surviving as houses or museums.19 Between the late 18th century and the early 20th century, two main systems of imprisonment prevailed – the associated and separate systems. Both systems sought to prevent communication between prisoners, and to mitigate the contamination of first offenders by habitual criminals. The associate system, also called the congregate system, saw prisoners occupying individual sleeping cells at night, but labouring together in common workrooms during the day. The associated system was practised in most English prisons during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.20 In the separate system, inmates left their cells only for religious worship and exercise, but total separation continued in both the chapel and the airing yards. The separate system was introduced into several reformed prisons of the late 18th century, most notable at Petworth House of Correction and Gloucester Penitentiary. This system was not maintained, however, as overcrowding in prisons necessitated the sharing of cells. The separate system was later reintroduced to England from the United States in the mid-19th century. Its implementation transformed local prisons in the decades following 1840 and it was made compulsory in 1865, shortly before the construction of HMP Strangeways in 1866-68, which operated within the separate system.21 In the late 18th or early 19th century there were also two types of radial designs in prison architecture. The first and generally smaller type had wings attached to a central hub, and although superficially similar to plans of the great Victorian radial prisons, they were very different as the corridors in the wings were not open from floor to ceiling. At Salford New Bailey (Greater Manchester), the prison which opened in 1790 and which HMP Strangeways later replaced, four short wings extended from a central core, which contained offices and the keeper's accommodation. Nine county and five borough gaols and houses of correction were rebuilt using a radial plan between 1842 and 1865, along with a further three county and two borough prisons completed between 1865 and 1877.22 The prisons were generally located on a greenfield site at the edge of a town, as was the case with HMP Strangeways, the main building of which was constructed using a large radial plan design.*

19 Allan Brodie, Jane Croom & James O Davies (2002) English Prisons: An architectural History, English Heritage, p. 1.
20 Ibid, p. 2.
21 Ibid.
22 Ibid, p. 98.

2.02.00 ***Alfred Waterhouse – Designer of Strangeways Prison.*** *Alfred Waterhouse (19 July 1830 – 22 August 1905) was an English architect and the designer of Strangeways Prison. Waterhouse was particularly associated with Gothic Revival architecture, though he designed using other architectural styles as well. Waterhouse is perhaps best known for his designs for Manchester Town Hall and the Natural History Museum in London. He designed other town halls and the Manchester Assize Courts buildings (bombed during the Second World War). Waterhouse also designed several hospitals, most notably the Royal Infirmary Liverpool and University College Hospital London. He was very active in designing buildings for universities, including both Oxford and Cambridge and also what became Liverpool, Manchester, and Leeds universities.23 Waterhouse frequently used brick in his building designs, often combining different colours, or with other materials such as terracotta and stone. This is evident in his design of the Grade II listed Gatehouse and the Grade II listed Tower, which rely on brick for their construction and stone for their decoration. In his Manchester Assize Courts, he used different coloured stones externally to decorate it. His interiors ranged from the most elaborate at Eaton Hall, for Britain's wealthiest man at the time, to the stark appearance of Strangeways Prison. Waterhouse began his architectural studies in 1848 under Richard Lane in Manchester. In May 1853 he set out to tour Europe with school friend Thomas Hodgkin, who noted Waterhouse's deep interest in Gothic art and the work of John Ruskin.24 On his return to Britain in 1854 Waterhouse set up his own architectural practice based in Cross Street Chambers, Manchester. He continued to practice in Manchester for 11 years, before moving his practice to London in 1865.25 During his period in Manchester Waterhouse's most important commissions were for the Assize Courts and Strangeways Prison. The competition to design the new Manchester Assize Courts was launched in 1859. It received 107 entries, by many leading architects. The building, constructed 1859-65 (now demolished), not only showed his ability to plan a complicated building on a large scale, but also marked Waterhouse as a champion of the Gothic cause. John Ruskin, writing to his father in 1863, stated that: [he had] 'a nice day in Manchester […] the Assize Courts are much beyond everything yet done in England on my principles. The hall is one of the finest things I have ever seen: even the painted glass is good […] It is vast and full of sculpture and veryimpressive'.26. Waterhouse became a fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1861 and was president from 1888 to 1891. He was awarded a rappel to the grand prix for architecture at the Paris Exhibition of 1867, and in 1878 he received the Royal Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects.27*

2.03.00 ***HMP Strangeways -*** *HM Prison Manchester is a Category A and B men's prison in Manchester, operated by His Majesty's Prison Service. The establishment is still commonly referred to as Strangeways, which was its former official name, until the establishment was rebuilt following a major riot in 1990. HMP Manchester is a local prison, holding prisoners remanded into custody from courts*

23 Colin Cunningham & Prudence Waterhouse (1992) Alfred Waterhouse 1830–1905 Biography of a Practice,
Oxford University Press, p. 7.
24 Ibid, p. 11.
25 Ibid, p. 19.
26 John Murray (1987) The Dilemma of Style: Architectural Ideas from the Picturesque to the Post-Modern, J.
Mordaunt Crook, p. 81.
27 Cunningham & Waterhouse, p. 148.

in the Manchester area and Category A prisoners, or those held under maximum security conditions. The name Strangeways is derived from the area in which it is located. Strangeways was recorded in 1322 as Strangwas, from the Anglo-Saxon Strang and gewœsc, meaning '[a place by] a stream with a strong current'. The area has since been recorded as Stranways (1323), Strangways (1326), Strangewayes (1546), Strangwyshe (1551), and Strang ways (1577).28 Until the 19th century, Strangways was a rural village, with Strangeways Hall, Park and Gardens. As a consequence of the success in the competition for the new court building, architect Alfred Waterhouse was given the commission in December 1861 to design the new Strangeways Prison. This was immediately behind the Assize Courts. Construction of the Grade II listed prison was completed in 1869, replacing the New Bailey Prison in Salford, which closed in 1868. The prison cost £170,000 (equivalent to £20,037,482 in 2023) and originally had a capacity of 1,000 inmates. Waterhouse adopted the radial plan of HM Prison Pentonville and showed his plans to its designed Joshua Jebb for approval. The plan consists of six wings, three storeys high, opening off a twelve-sided central hall. Although the main prison is in a simplified Gothic style, there are some Romanesque details. The Grade II listed entrance at the Gatehouse is in the French Chateau style, with banded stone and brickwork. There was also a Governor's house and boundary walls. The building's 71m-tall, Grade II listed Tower, which is often mistaken for a watchtower, quickly became a local landmark. The prison's walls are reputedly 4.9m thick, adding to the building's security. The interiors were easily the starkest designed by Waterhouse, devoid of all but the most basic of decoration. The prison was built by the company owned by Mrs Bramall; heating and ventilation was by G. N. Haden; tiles by J. Grundy of Woolfscraft; window glass was provided by R.B. Edmundson; chimneypieces by W. Wilson; iron work by R. Jones and F.A. Skidmore; fittings for the gas lighting by Hart, Son, Peard & Co. The clerk of works was Henry Littler.29 The building possesses an element of the separate system due to its radial plan form of a star or a snowflake, with two blocks housing 10 wings that emanate from a central core where the Tower is located. The prison comprises two radial blocks branding from the central core with a total of 10 wings (A to F in one block, and G, H, I, and K in the second.) The jail was constructed on the grounds of the former Strangeways Park and Gardens. The prison was open to male and female prisoners until 1963 when the facility became male-only, and in 1980, it began to accept remand prisoners. As of 2005, the prison held more than 1,200 inmates. Between 1 April and 25 April 1990, riots took place at the prison. Following the riots the prison was rebuilt and renamed Her Majesty's Prison, Manchester, with rebuilding completed in 1994. A Google Earth image from 2000 shows the site as it was rebuilt following the riots in the 1990s and shows the detail of buildings within the north of the site after this area was developed during the 20th century (see a full Historic Map Regression in Appendix A). It also shows the south-west extent of the site, where the Assize Courts and Police Court previously stood, as redeveloped by this time. The image shows some of the historic listed buildings as having survived the riots, including the Gatehouse, the Main Prison Block and its radial plan form, the Tower to the east of the Main Prison Block, and the cruciform Former Boys Prison Block at the north-east extent of the site.

28 Eilert Ekwall (1922) The Place-names of Lancashire, The University Press, p. 33
29 Cunningham & Waterhouse, pp. 35-36, 216

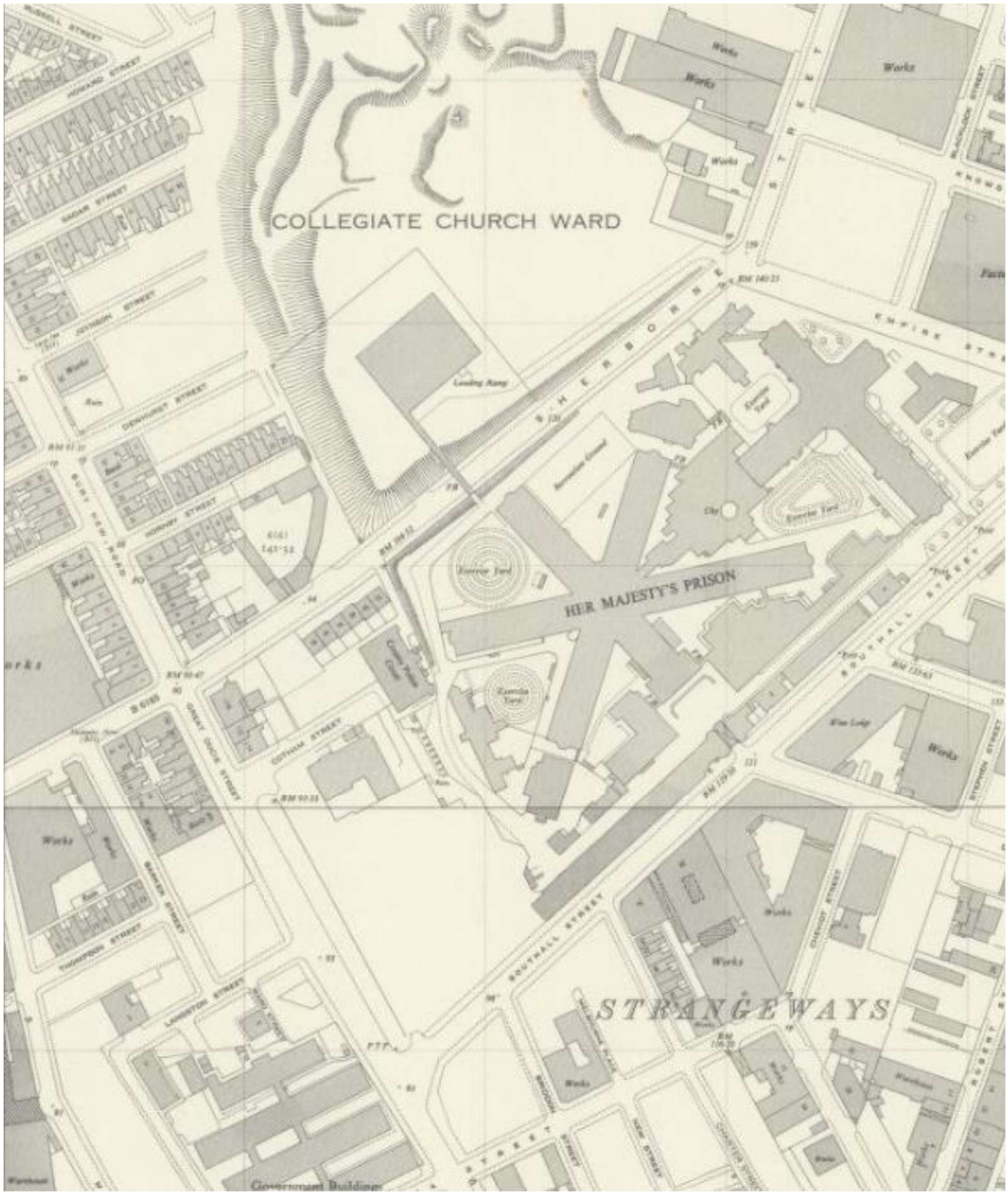


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Map SJ8399 – B, revised 1950 to 1958 and published 1959. The OS maps from the 1950s are the first to show details of building footprints within secure areas of HMP Strangeways, due to security reasons.

Source: National Library of Scotland 2025

2.04.00 Listing Details of the Building where the works are proposed.

2.04.01 **List Entry Name: Main Prison Block of HMP Manchester**
Heritage Category: Listed Building
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1254636
Date first listed: 03-Oct-1974
Statutory Address 1: MAIN PRISON BLOCK OF HMP MANCHESTER, SOUTHALL STREET
Main Prison Block of HMP Manchester

(Formerly listed as: Main Prison Block of Strangeways Gaol)

Prison. 1866-68, by Alfred Waterhouse. Red brick with stone dressings. Six wings radiating from central concourse: a short entrance wing facing the gatehouse and 5 cell-block wings.
Romanesque style. The hexagonal concourse has a clerestory of round-headed windows with pilasters, a corbel table to the eaves and a pointed roof. The 2-storey entrance wing (including 1st floor chapel) has a slightly projecting gabled bay in the centre with pilasters, an arcaded range of 5 windows and central arched entrance, and a perron over all. The five 4-storeyed cell wings have ranges of barred windows with stone sills and cambered stone lintels, and a canted bay at the gable end of each, enclosing the staircase.

Listing NGR: SJ 83751 99585

2.05.00 Other Listed Buildings at the Site:

2.05.01 **List Entry Name: Gatehouse of HMP Manchester**
Heritage Category: Listed Building
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1254670
Date first listed: 03-Oct-1974
Statutory Address 1: GATEHOUSE OF HMP MANCHESTER, SOUTHALL STREET
Gatehouse of HMP Manchester

(Formerly Listed as: Gatehouse of Strangeways Gaol)

Gatehouse of gaol. 1866-8, by Alfred Waterhouse. Red brick with sandstone dressings and steeply-pitched slate roofs. Irregular plan. French Gothic style. Three storeys and 3 bays plus 2-storey 3-bay wing to left. The principal element, consisting of a central entrance archway flanked by semi-octagonal turrets, has battered sandstone rubble plinths to the turrets, plain stone bands and a 1st floor string-course, emphatically bracketed eaves, octagonal-conical roofs to the turrets, and 2 tall chimneys on the central ridge. The 2-storey centre has a large round-headed arch moulded in 3 orders, with massive double doors and a plain fanlight, and a round-headed niche at 1st floor containing the Royal Arms, flanked by single-light windows; the 3-storey turrets have single-light windows diminishing in the height, with iron bar grilles to all floors of the right-hand turret and ground floor of the left turret. Two storey wing to left, in matching style, including bay window to left and gabled porch to right.

Listing NGR: SJ8380099527

2.05.02 **List Entry Name: The Tower of Hmp Manchester Heritage Category: Listed Building**
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1254672
Date first listed: 03-Oct-1974
Statutory Address 1: THE TOWER OF HMP MANCHESTER, SOUTHALL STREET
The Tower of HMP Manchester
(Formerly listed as: The Tower of Strangeways Gaol)

Extraction tower for the heating and ventilation system.1866-68, by Alfred Waterhouse. Red brick with sandstone dressings. Octagonal plan. Minaret style, approx. 234 feet high, with an arched recess in each side, a perimeter gallery with brick balustraded parapet on stone corbels, and a domed

cupola with louvred openings in the sides and cast-iron cresting to the roof. A very prominent landmark in this area of the city.

Listing NGR: SJ 83801 99624

2.05.03 **Heritage Category: Listed Building**
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1254635
Date first listed: 03-Oct-1974
List Entry Name: Former Boys Prison Block of Hmp Manchester
Statutory Address 1: FORMER BOYS PRISON BLOCK OF HMP MANCHESTER, SOUTHALL STREET

Formerly women's prison. 1866-68, by Alfred Waterhouse. Red brick with stone dressings and late roof. Cruciform plan with wings radiating from an octagonal concourse. The concourse has a clerestory with a 3-light stone mullioned window in each side, a corbel table to the eaves, a tourelle at each corner, and a pointed roof. The 4-storeyed wings have ranges of cell windows with stone sills and cambered stone heads.

Listing NGR: SJ 83845 99668

2.06.00 ***Building Setting***

2.06.01 It's proposed that there will be no change in the scale and size of the existing building with the only works being the addition of additional air intake vents and enlarging existing openings to increase extract ventilation.

3.00.00 Details of the Proposal

3.01.00 The proposals are to:

3.01.01 A Wing - Refer to JYM Drawings ref:
2002/145/P001 – A Wing Alterations Existing Partial Floor Plans and Elevation.
2002/145/P002 – A Wing Alterations Proposed Partial Floor Plans and Elevations.

- *Remove the existing modern circular vent grills adjacent to each window to the shower areas on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors.*
- *The apertures left after removing the vent grille are circa 200mm in diameter. This diameter is not adequate to provide suitable ventilation and it is therefore proposed to enlarge the apertures by stich drilling to increase the aperture size to 250 x 250mm (square).*
- *Form complete new 250 x 250mm apertures through existing brickwork by stich drilling to provide new extract ventilation.*
- *To each of the pairs of apertures per shower, supply and fit new secure grilles, as detailed. It will be proposed to powder coat the new grilles to match those to be removed. There are no other grilles on this elevation to match. The grille type is primarily dictated by both the security rating required for installation to prisoner areas, and the size by the ventilation rates. As such little change other than the colour can be offered.*

3.01.02 C Wing - Refer to JYM Drawings ref:
2002/145/P003 – C Wing Alterations Existing Partial Floor Plans and Elevation.
2002/145/P004 – C Wing Alterations Proposed Partial Floor Plans and Elevations.

- *Remove the existing modern circular vent grills adjacent to each window to the shower areas on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors.*
- *Infill the redundant apertures in red clay reclaimed facing brickwork to match the existing in age and type. Bricks to be laid in a lime mortar to suit the original construction. Note, the existing apertures cannot be re-used as they are too low within the rooms and will clash with refurbishment layout and requirements.*
- *Adjacent each (bricked up) window form complete new 250 x 250mm apertures through existing brickwork by stich drilling to provide new extract ventilation.*
- *To each of the pairs of apertures per shower, supply and fit new secure grilles, as detailed. It will be proposed to powder coat the new grilles to match those to be removed. There are no other grilles on this elevation to match. The grille type is primarily dictated by both the security rating required for installation to prisoner areas, and the size by the ventilation rates. As such little change other than the colour can be offered.*

3.02.00 The proposals are presented on drawings ref:

3.02.01
- *JYM Drawing ref* 2002/145/P001 – A Wing Alterations Existing Partial Floor Plans and Elevation.
- *JYM Drawing ref* 2002/145/P002 – A Wing Alterations Proposed Partial Floor Plans and Elevations.
- *JYM Drawing ref* 2002/145/P003 – C Wing Alterations Existing Partial Floor Plans and Elevation.
- *JYM Drawing ref* 2002/145/P004 – C Wing Alterations Proposed Partial Floor Plans and Elevations.
- *JYM Drawing ref 2002/145/P005 – Site Plan*

4.00.00 Justification Of The Proposals

4.01.00 The works are required to provide safe and decent living accommodation for the prisoners. The lack of adequate ventilation to the areas has been highlighted as a major contributor in the deterioration of the existing showers and increasing the air flow is needed to provide adequate air changes.

5.00.00 *Impact upon the Premises*

5.01.00 It is considered that the proposal would produce a minor impact on the external appearance of the building as existing grilles are in similar locations and these would be either be replaced, or where renewed, would be coloured to match those that were there before.



Photo 1 – A Wing – Existing View



Photos 2 – A Wing Existing Vent Grilles



Photos 3 – C Wing Existing View



Photo 4 – C Wing Existing Grilles