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Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre

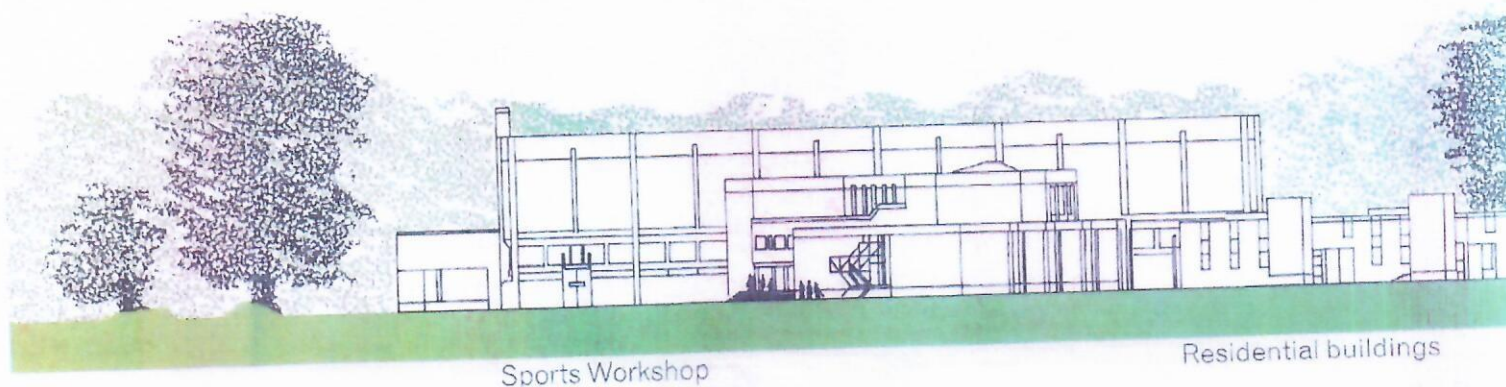


Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre

The Abbey Bisham Abbey, in its attractive setting on the banks of the Thames near Marlow, dates back to the XII century. A former foundation of the Knights Templar, it was largely rebuilt in the Tudor Period as a private dwelling. Since 1946 it has been administered as a National Sports Centre – the first of its kind – but retains its exceptional charm and character. The Sports Council now runs six national sports centres at Bisham, Lilleshall and Crystal Palace, the National Sailing Centre at Cowes, Plas y Brenin National Mountaineering Centre in North Wales, and the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre near Nottingham. All have the same basic purpose – to provide first-class sports facilities together with residential accommodation at a moderate cost. This is in line with the Council's aims of raising the standard of performance in sport and encouraging more people to take part.

The Centre now At present the Centre offers excellent outdoor facilities for lawn tennis and netball (five floodlit Tennisquick courts), hockey (grass and Dri-pla pitches), Association and Rugby football. The river is ideal for learning to sail and canoe, and there is a 9-hole par 3 golf course. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium specially fitted for weight-lifting and weight training, and lecture rooms with projectors and video-tape. The Abbey can accommodate about 50 residents, mostly in rooms for two or four which have recently been completely modernised. Residents dine in the Great Hall, and common rooms, changing rooms, a licensed bar and small shop complete the amenities. The Centre is available for training on a resident or non-resident basis by national, regional, county, club, youth and school teams; for the training of coaches, leaders and officials; and for beginners or school groups in all the events for which it caters and including such activities as archery, fencing, dancing and keep fit.

The future June 1974 saw the start of the Sports Council's extensive development scheme for Bisham, the most striking feature of which will be the sports workshop, providing sophisticated indoor training and tactical play facilities for major team and court games. Further details are given overleaf. New hostels specially tailored to team requirements will bring the Centre's residential complement up to 85 (numbers within the Abbey will be reduced to provide better accommodation for resident Centre staff). The whole project is due for completion in the Autumn of 1976.



The New Development

The Sports Workshop The new buildings lie to the south east of the Abbey and will include a sports workshop with adjoining ancillary accommodation and five linked residential buildings. The existing driveway will be extended to a central parking area for 70 cars sited beneath the workshop, with a paved and planted concourse fronting the new building and providing a pedestrian route to the Abbey. The facing brickwork has been chosen to harmonise in colour and texture with the surrounding buildings.

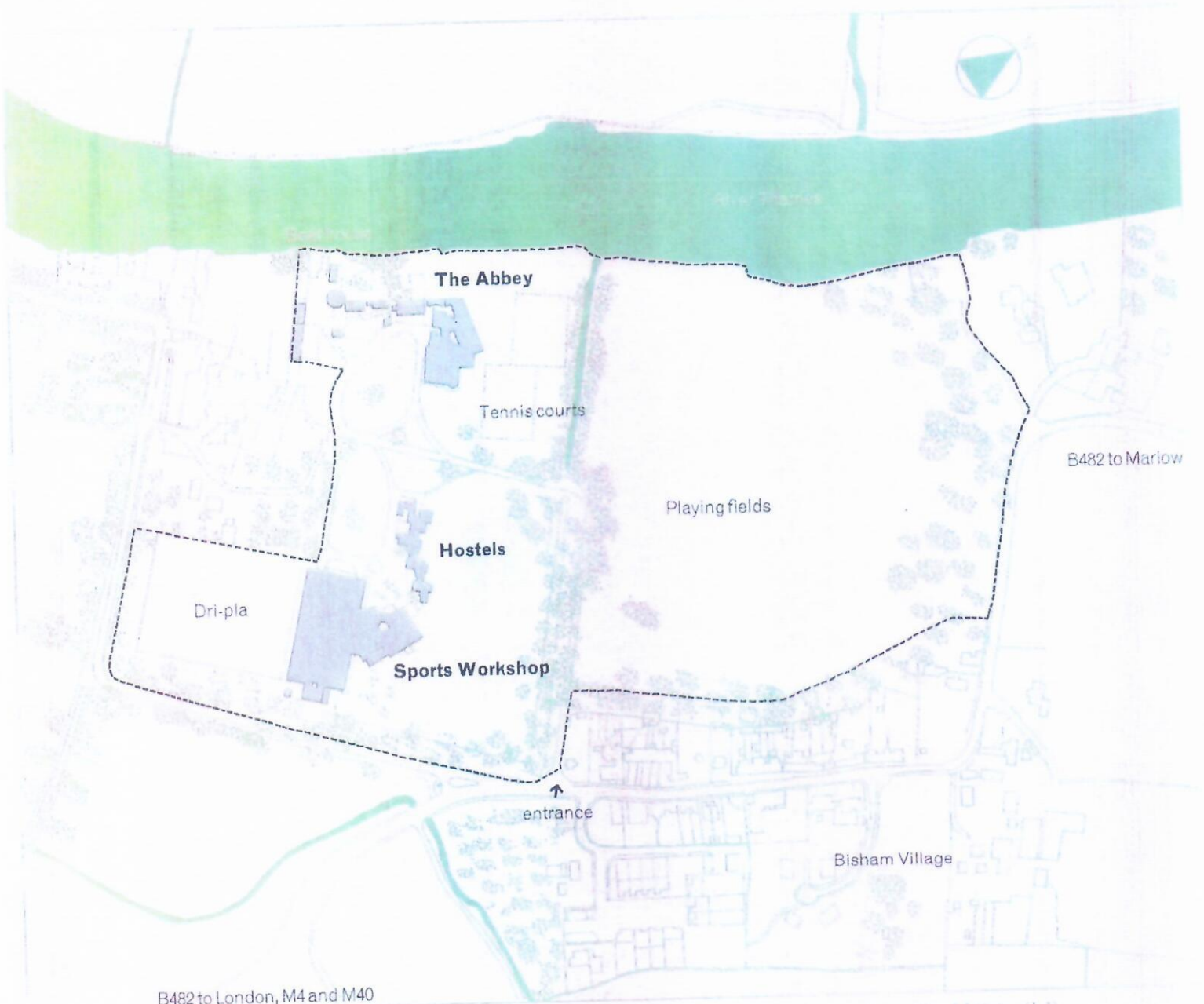
The Sports Workshop has been designed as a 72 metre x 37 metre x 9.5 metre high hall for indoor training and coaching in Association football, Rugby football, hockey and lawn tennis. Other activities such as cricket, badminton, volleyball, basketball and netball will be possible in the workshop. Artificial turf carpet will cover the floor and line the walls to a height of 3 metres, providing a resilient rebound surface. A coaching gallery, seating 100 people, will be located on the long side of the hall, flanked by platforms for audio-visual equipment. Filming can take place from the platforms or from a mobile camera on the workshop floor. A console-mounted screen will play back film from a position in front of the gallery. Storage for goal posts, nets, etc will be provided at the end of the workshop and beneath the gallery. The hall will be entirely artificially lit and ventilated to give controlled environmental conditions irrespective of the outside climate. Several different lighting programmes can be selected to suit individual sports and to enable the hall to be lit in three separate zones. Air conditioning will enable the hall temperature to be maintained at 13° centigrade (55° fahrenheit).

Ancillary accommodation will be provided in a three-storey structure adjoining the workshop. The ground floor contains the entrance to the complex; a practice hall; four squash courts and a weight-lifting hall which will be the headquarters of the British Amateur Weight-lifters' Association. The first floor provides access to the sports workshop via an assembly area. Other accommodation includes an injury treatment room and a caretaker's flat.

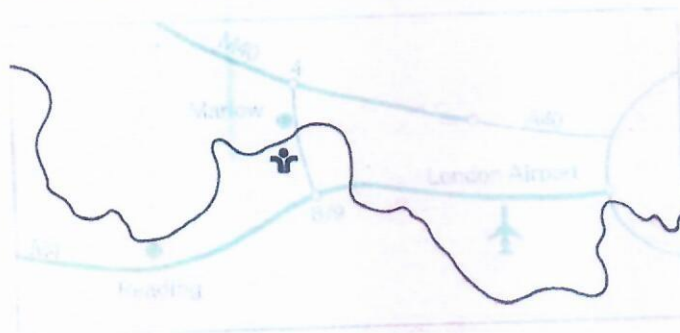
The second floor is a bar and lounge area with a paved terrace overlooking the playing fields and surrounding woodlands. The lounge can be divided to provide a separate reception suite with direct access to the coaching gallery.

Residential accommodation The residential accommodation will consist of four hostel buildings for 52 students in double and single rooms. Each hostel contains a small social area. The third hostel is linked to a dining room and to a group of five bedrooms ensuite with bathrooms. This accommodation has been designed to make it possible for visiting teams and officials to live in a self-contained unit with their own catering facilities. A house for the Centre's Deputy Director, planned around a courtyard, completes the residential group.

Rice/Roberts Architects



The Centre is four miles from the M4 (exit 359) and five miles from the M40 (exit 4).
It can be reached by car from London in under an hour.



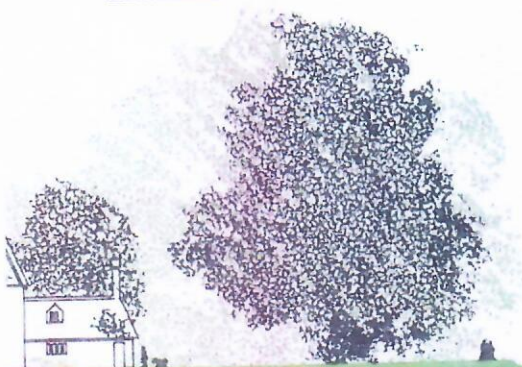
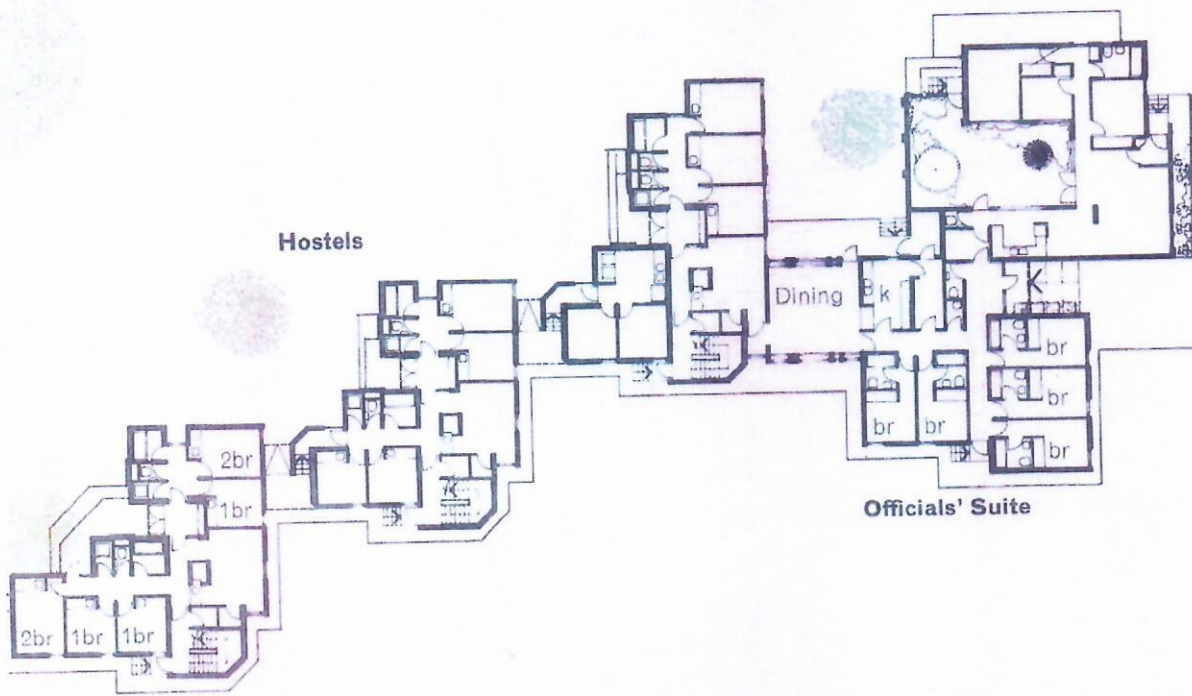


Deputy Director's house

Hostels

Dining

Officials' Suite



River Thames