

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCEGOVERNING BOARDProgress with the Electron LaboratoryNote by A. W. MerrisonI Site

At its last meeting the Governing Board authorised negotiations with the Cheshire County Council on two sites namely Wood Park and Mickledale. Both these sites fulfilled all the requirements that the Board had laid down, and in addition the site at Wood Park was already owned by Liverpool University. Unfortunately when we approached the Cheshire County Planning Officer neither of these sites was particularly acceptable to him. Wood Park is in the recently defined West Cheshire Green Belt, and Mickledale is in a well-known local beauty spot controlled, among others, by the National Parks Commission. The Cheshire County Planning Officer suggested a third site near Daresbury, a village situated between Runcorn and Warrington (see accompanying map), which he asked us to look at. He agreed that one of these three places should be the site for the Laboratory, his order of preference being Daresbury, Mickledale, Wood Park. We have since then employed Soil Mechanics Ltd. to investigate the geology of the Daresbury site and have asked the Risley engineering organisation to look at the problem of the foundations of the synchrotron building presented at Daresbury. As a result of this work we can say that Daresbury fulfills all the conditions that the Board laid down for the Electron Laboratory site save one. Although it is big enough to contain the Electron Laboratory and foreseeable developments, such as, for example, storage rings, it will not be large enough for any major new development. The site we can have immediately is, in fact, about 30 acres in extent and probably a further 30 acres can be acquired and are suitable for further development. The overwhelming advantage of the Daresbury site is that we can certainly get into it very quickly, providing the present owners, Imperial Chemical Industries, agree to selling the land. The Cheshire planning authorities would assist us in every way possible to acquire this site and estimate that we could get all the necessary planning authority within 3 months. On the other hand, with both Mickledale and Wood Park there would be at least a year's delay and probably more before we could acquire the site.

The following statements can be made about the Daresbury site.

- (i) The communications to it are excellent. Its general situation is indicated on the accompanying map.
- (ii) Soil Mechanics Ltd., on the basis of their preliminary work at the site state that it will provide a suitable foundation for the synchrotron.
- (iii) The Risley engineering organisation assures us that it will not be an expensive site to develop.



- (iv) The Cheshire County Planning Officer tells us that the land will be as cheap as any we are likely to find in Cheshire.

In these circumstances I ask the Board to authorise the following steps:

1. That the Secretary of the Institute, with the advice of the U.K.A.E.A. should apply to the Runcorn Rural District Council for outline planning permission to develop the Daresbury site.
2. That the Secretary of the Institute should start negotiations for the purchase of the site with the present owners (I.C.I.).

## II Laboratory Buildings

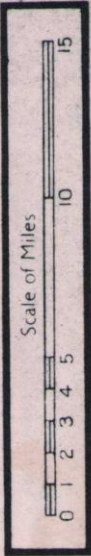
We have had a great deal of assistance from the civil engineering organisation at Risley in the design and laying out of the buildings of the Electron Laboratory. Since nearly half the capital cost of the project is in the buildings we have concentrated particularly on getting out a firm cost estimate as soon as possible.

Negotiations are under way with the Risley organisation to determine the best way they can help us in the future.

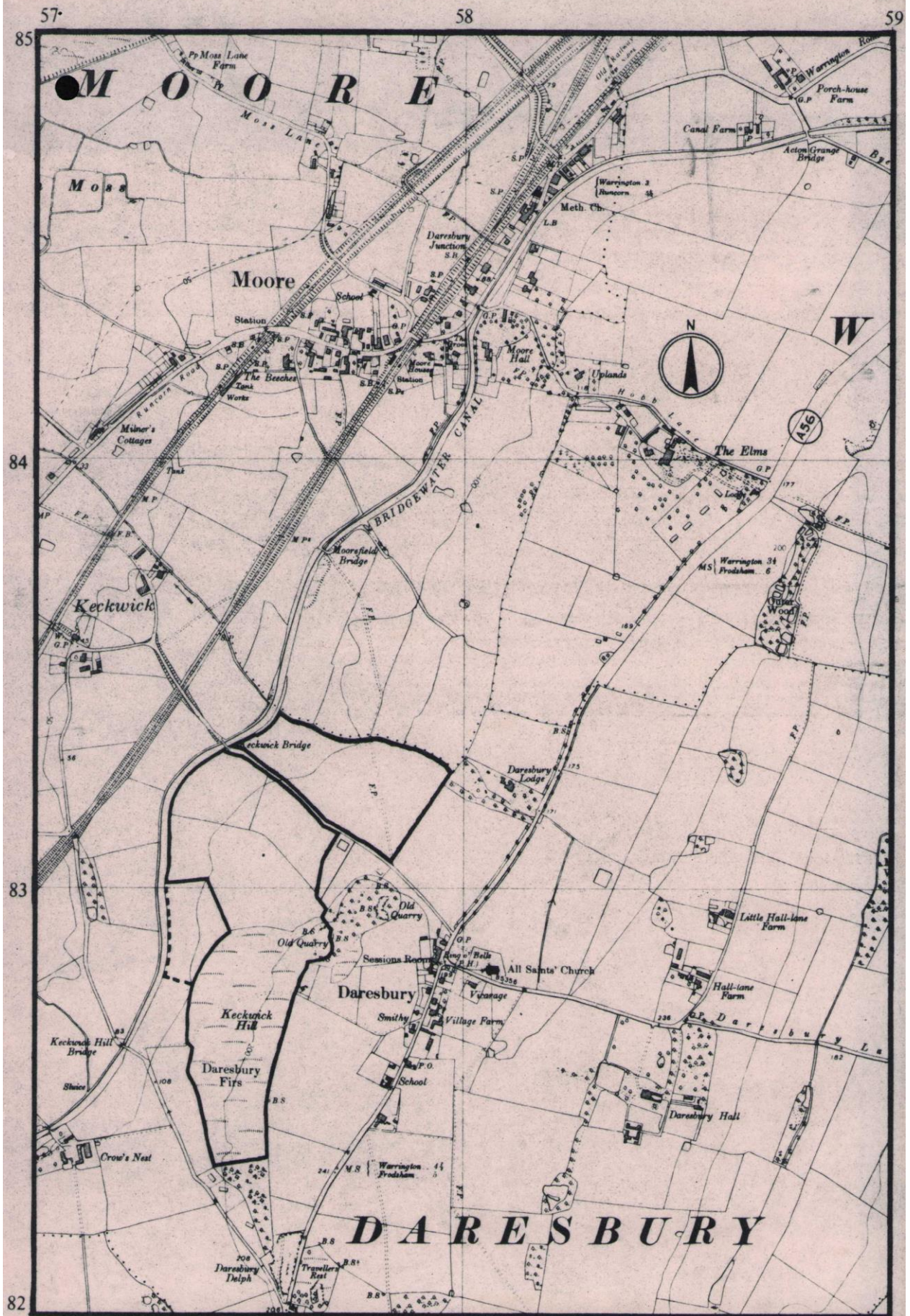
## III Contracts

An informal discussion with the Director of Contracts for the U.K.A.E.A. has led to the suggestion that there should be a local Contracts and Purchasing Office at the Electron Laboratory which would be headed by a Contracts Officer seconded from Risley. This office will have the power, under the authority of the Director of the Electron Laboratory, to place contracts up to £5,000. For contracts for sums above this the Electron Laboratory Contracts Officer would call upon the services of the Risley Contracts Office.









# **DARESBURY SITE**

Scale 1:10,560 or 6 Inches to 1 Mile

