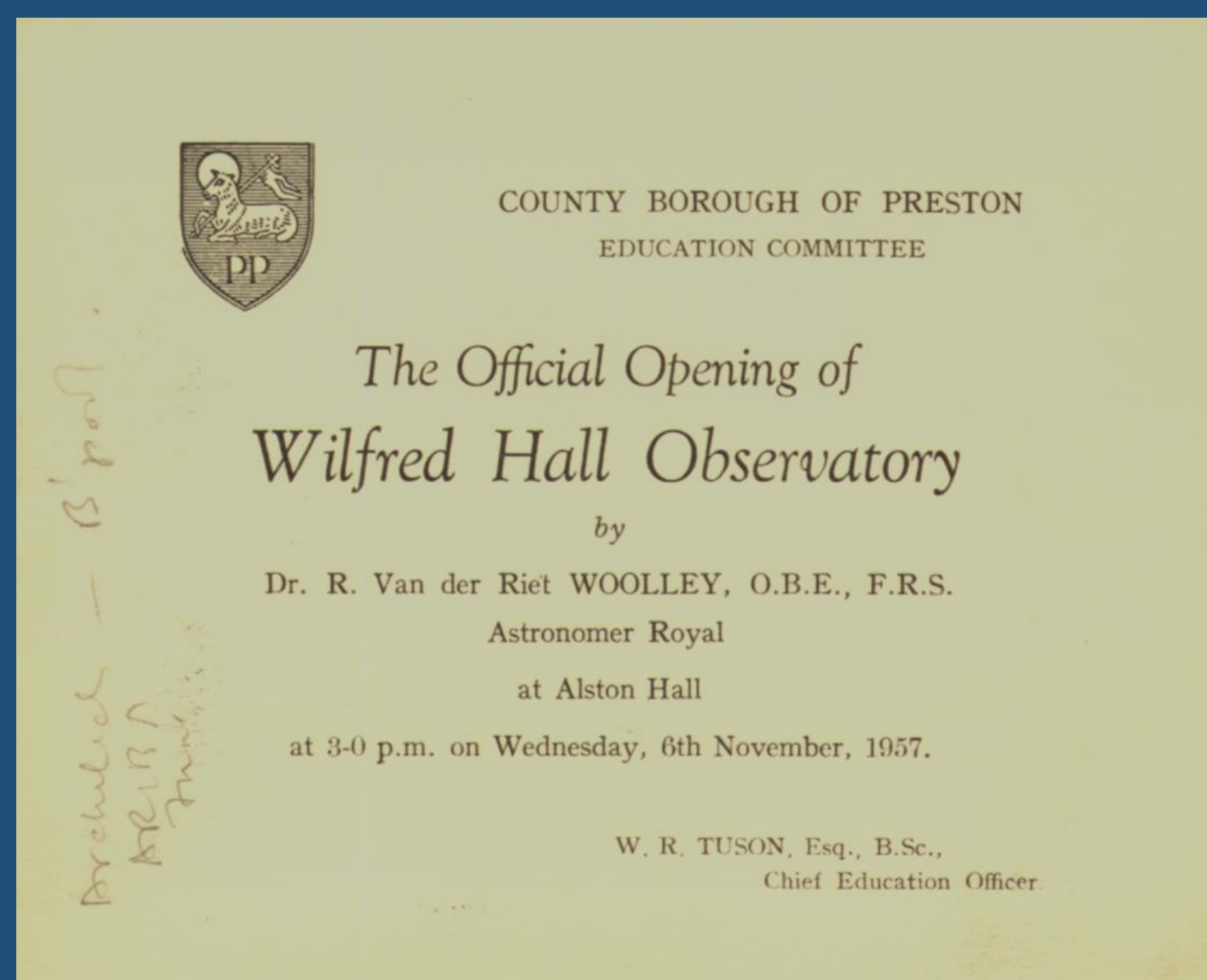


The Opening of the Alston Observatory in 1957

Bob Frost and Derek Ward-Thompson

Jeremiah Horrocks Institute for Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy
University of Central Lancashire



OBSERVATORY OPENING

The observatory at Alston was opened on 6th November 1957, and consisted of the historic Wilfred Hall Telescope, housed in the first dome to be built on the site.

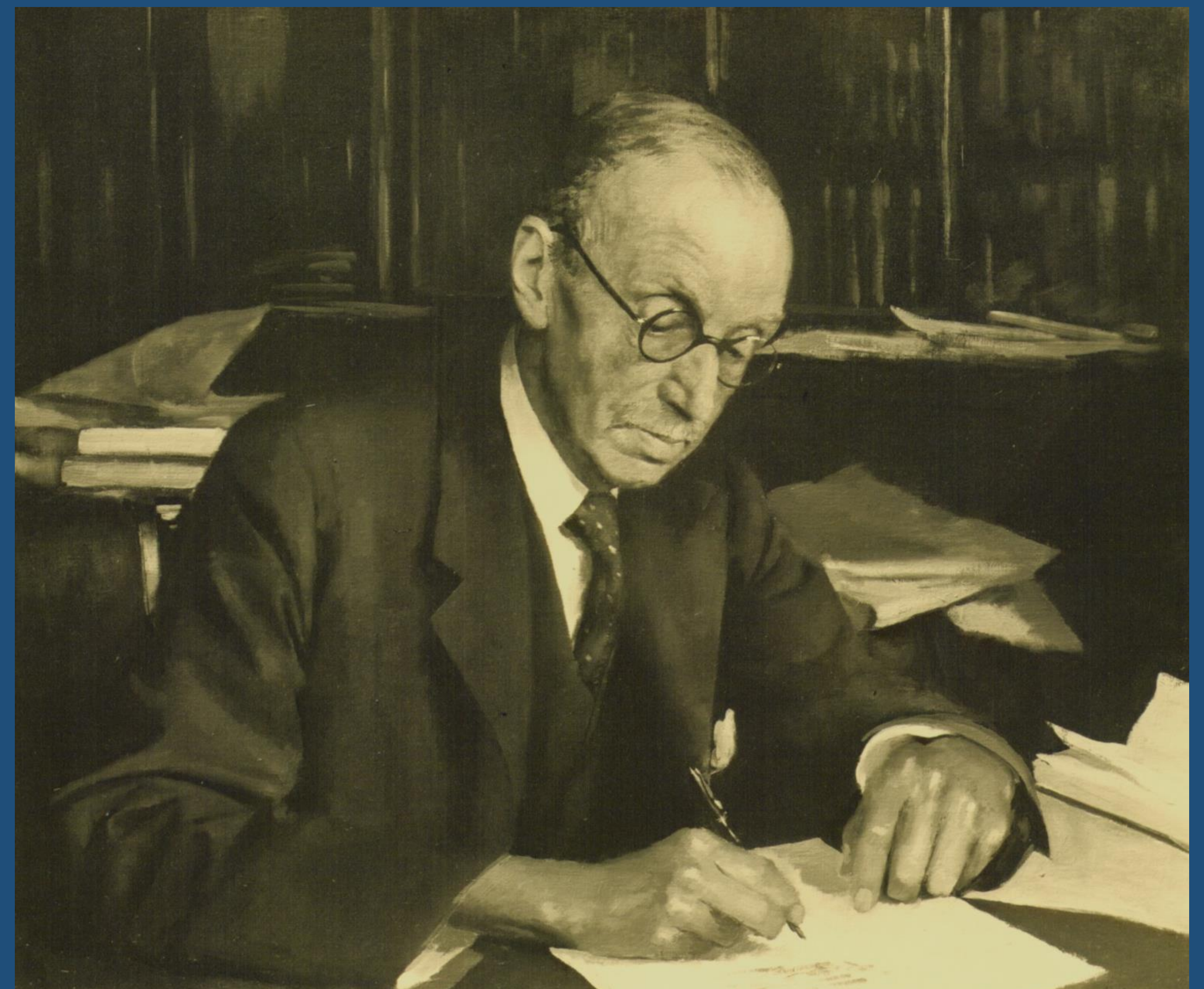


Figure 1: A picture of Wilfred Hall, whose telescope was bequeathed to the Royal Astronomical Society, and given to Vinicio Barocas, the first Observatory Director in Preston after World War II. He had the vision to see that an observatory was needed away from the growing problem of the street lights of Preston. He selected the site at Alston. *Image credit: Bob Frost.*

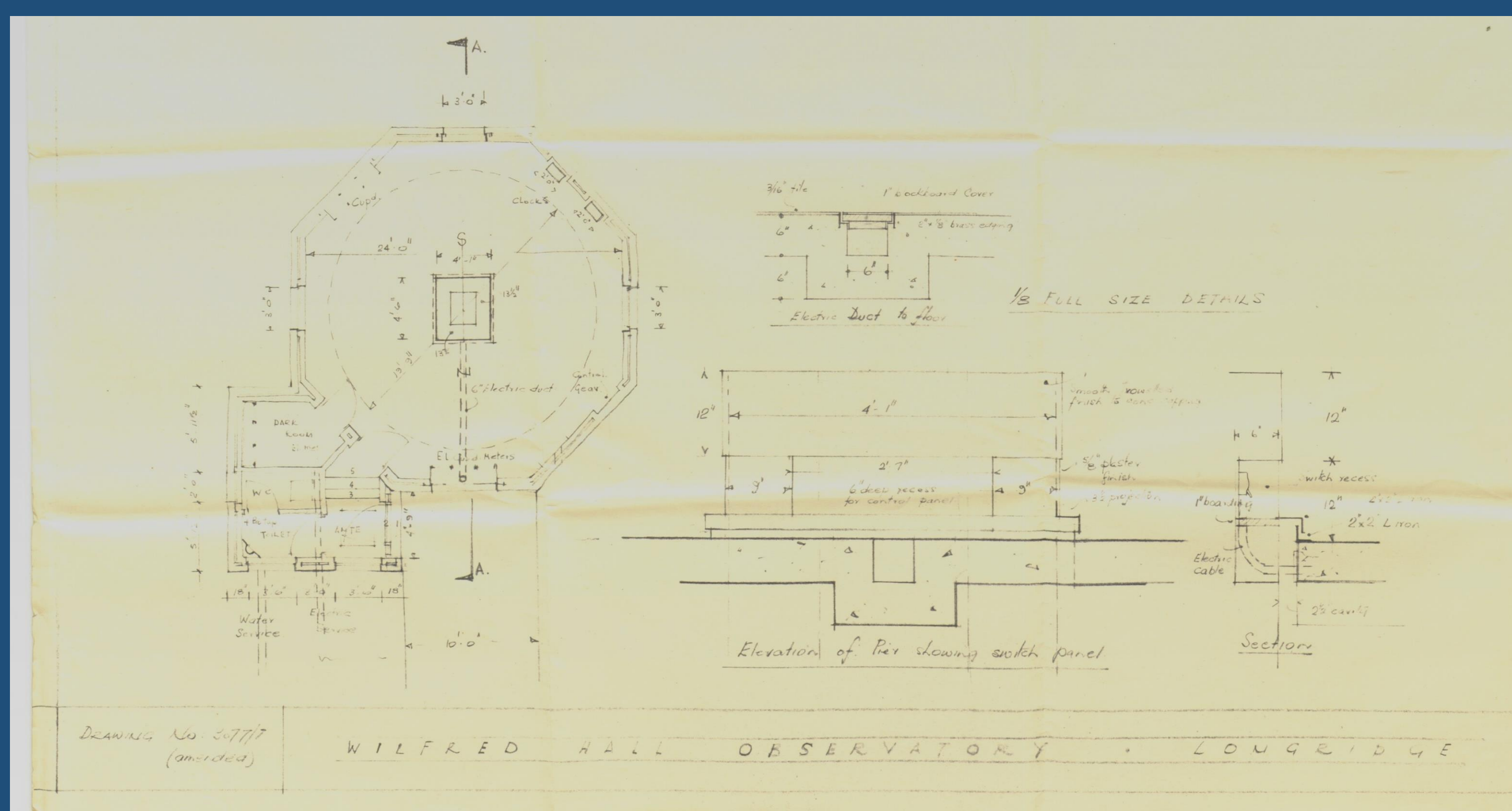


Figure 2: Plan view of the telescope dome building. The cost of relocating the Wilfred Hall Telescope was considerably greater than the amount bequeathed for the relocation. *Image credit: Bob Frost.*

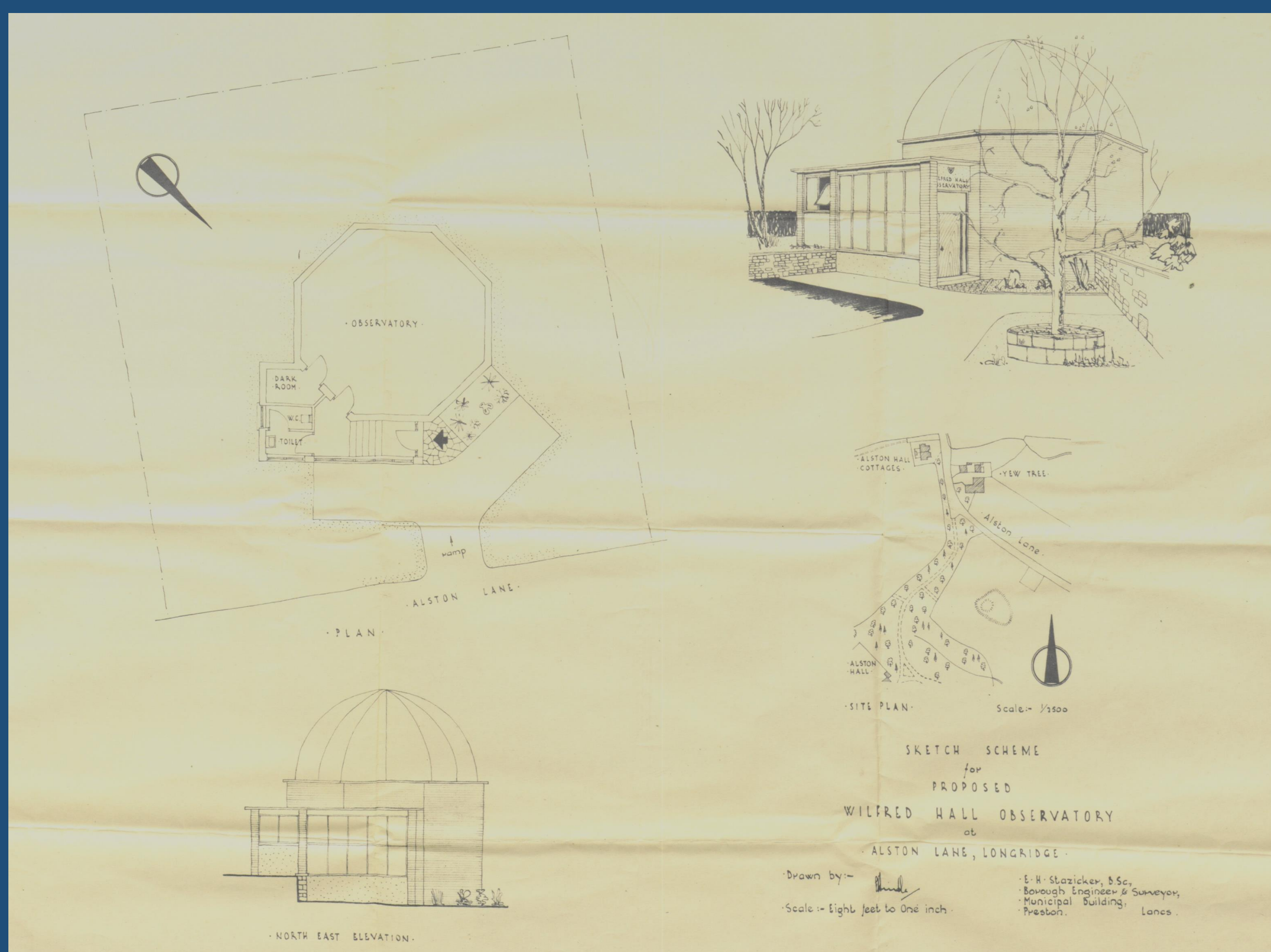


Figure 3: Both plan and elevation views of the WHT building and dome. Landscaping was included in the plans. *Image credit: Bob Frost.*

TELESCOPE BUILDING

There was clearly a need for a new Observatory building to house the WHT. This was designed, and various plans are shown here.

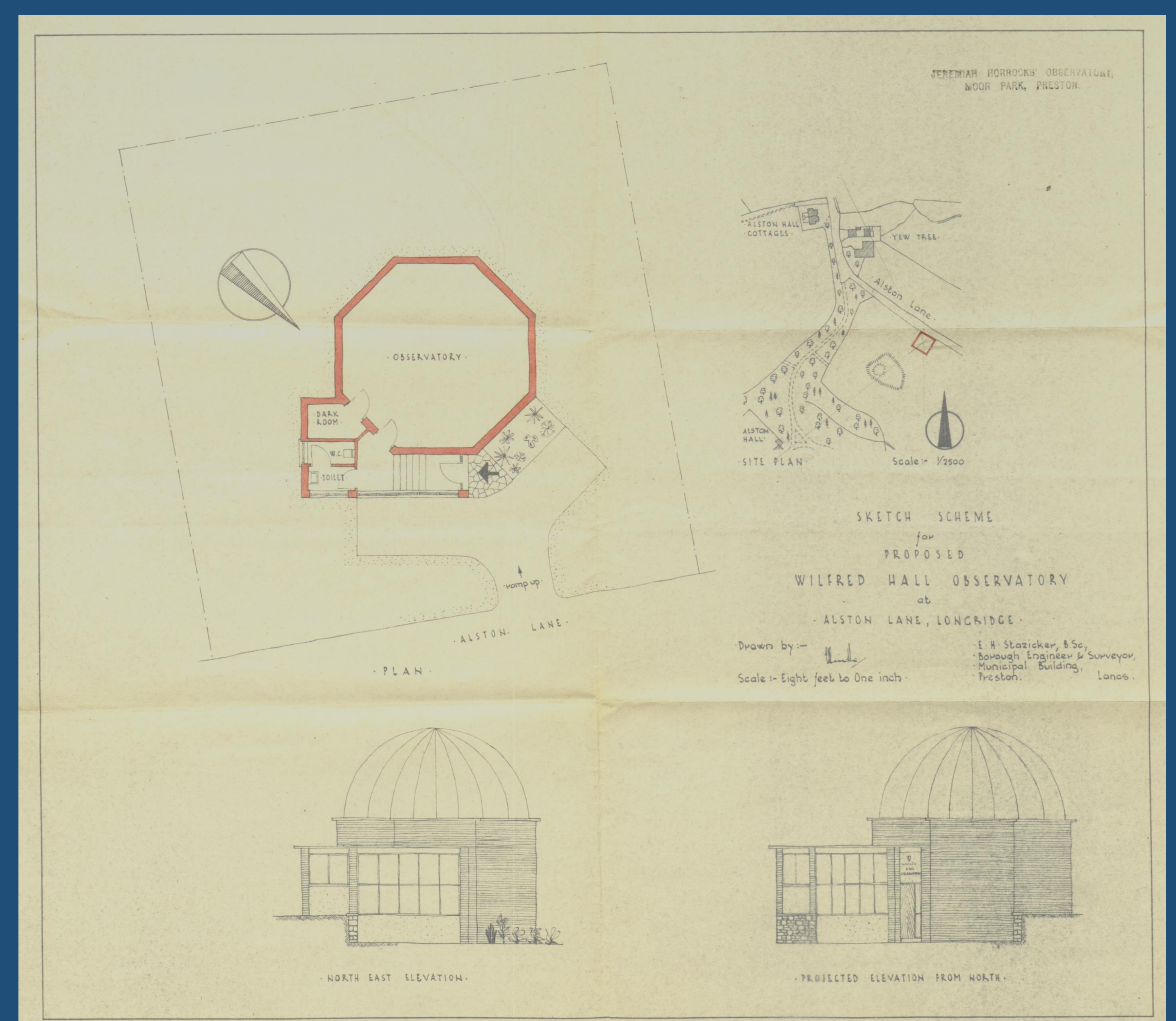


Figure 4: The plans for the WHT building. Planning permission specified that local Longridge stone must be used to face the building, to ensure it blended in with its surroundings. *Image credit: Bob Frost.*