

The Paddock Information Collection – The most comprehensive source of information about Paddock

Recollections of Dollis Hill (Rowland Carson)

I worked at Dollis Hill from February 1964 to March 1976. We were definitely still working there in 1976, in one of the last groups to vacate the site. I have images of the setup for the final experiment I conducted at DH, which my image log shows were taken between 23 & 29 Feb 1976.

I was never based in the Paddock Block but at one stage had friends and colleagues who did work there, so I occasionally went there to see them. Also, I seem to recall that the Record Club used a room (maybe 1 floor below ground?) in the Paddock Block for their lunchtime lending sessions. They were a very particular lot - before you were allowed to borrow any records, you had to take your stylus along so that they could look at it under a microscope and make sure it was not in a condition that would damage any of the discs!

The lower floors of the Paddock were reached by stairwells which were separated from each other by some distance - I was told this was to prevent a lucky bomb strike going right down to the bottom floors. Only 2 floors below ground were accessible in my time. I seem to recall being shown a closed-off doorway to the stairwell to the floors further down, but it was blocked in a fairly permanent fashion. Can't remember now if it was a steel door welded shut or a bricked-up doorway - I just remember thinking that nobody's going through there in a hurry. I was told by more than one person that the lower floors were now all flooded and that was why they had been taken out of use - they couldn't be bothered to run the pumps continuously to keep it all dry. I believe there was a spring at the top of the hill and that was what kept the pond full. I was also told that because of the relatively unstable ground, the main research block was actually built floating on a massive raft of concrete about 8 feet thick.

More information from *The Paddock Information Collection* is available at www.bunkers.org.uk/paddock.htm

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