

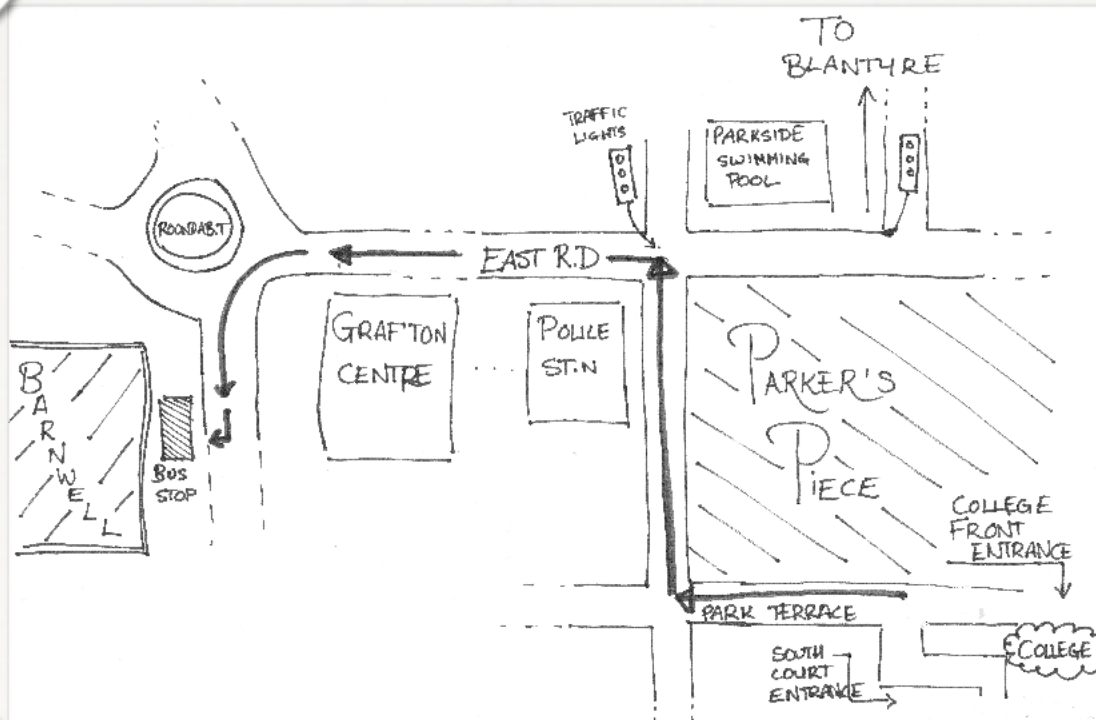
Freshers' Accommodation Info Pack

This pack aims to give you an overview of the accommodation available for you in your second year. It includes directions to external accommodation and descriptions of what it's like to live in each place.

Don't forget to make use of the ECSU Rooms Database:
ecsusouthampton.org.uk/current_students/accommodation

Barnwell Hostel

Location



Barnwell Hostel is situated at 43 Newmarket Road (CB5 8EG for Google Maps) just behind the Grafton Centre and backing on to Midsummer Common. It's about a 10-15 minute walk or a 5-10 minute cycle from college and is ideally situated for boaties, being right next to the river.

Layout

The entrance to Barnwell is via the smaller gate. On entering, you'll see the bike sheds to your right and D staircase in the big grey building to your left. Walking straight ahead and down the steps you'll come out under a covered walkway with a lawn to your left. The door to C staircase is first on your right, B staircase is a little further down and A staircase is straight ahead.

Accommodation

There are three residential staircases. A staircase is the largest, with 20 rooms of varying grades, including 6 of the best second year rooms in college. The staircase contains five toilets, three bathtubs and five showers, although two of the latter are in the same room. It also has six gyp rooms, equipped with the usual microwave/combi-oven. C staircase is similarly laid out, but a lot smaller, with only nine rooms, two gyp rooms, two toilets, one shower and one bath. D staircase has ten rooms, with two toilets, one shower and one bath. There is only one gyp room for the three floors, but it is fairly large and has a portable hob as well as the combi-oven. The warden lives on D staircase in an apartment at the bottom, but tends to keep himself to himself and is generally really nice. All of the staircases are sociably laid out, with several rooms along a corridor as in South Court. The rooms tend to be fairly good – Barnwell does have some of the worst rooms that college offers, but even these are better than what you might be offered in average halls and most of them are pretty nice. The scarcity of showers on C and D staircases can be annoying at times, but there's rarely a queue and it's nice to have the option of a bath. Bedders don't come into the rooms but do keep the rest of the place clean and will empty your bin if you leave it outside your door.



General Facilities

B staircase contains the kitchen: one of the best things about living at Barnwell. It has eight hobs, two ovens, a microwave and two fridges, as well as loads of storage space for pots and pans. It's pretty big, and there's loads of workspace so it's great for sociable cooking. The common room next door has a TV with DVD and VCR. The hallway contains the washing machine and tumble dryer; with forty people trying to use them it can sometimes be difficult to find a time when they're free, but easier for arts students who are at home during the day! The only option for internet is the somewhat temperamental wireless, with one or two routers on each staircase. It's fast when it works and the Computing Office are always happy to help out when it doesn't. It's apparently more reliable than last year, so hopefully it will keep on improving!

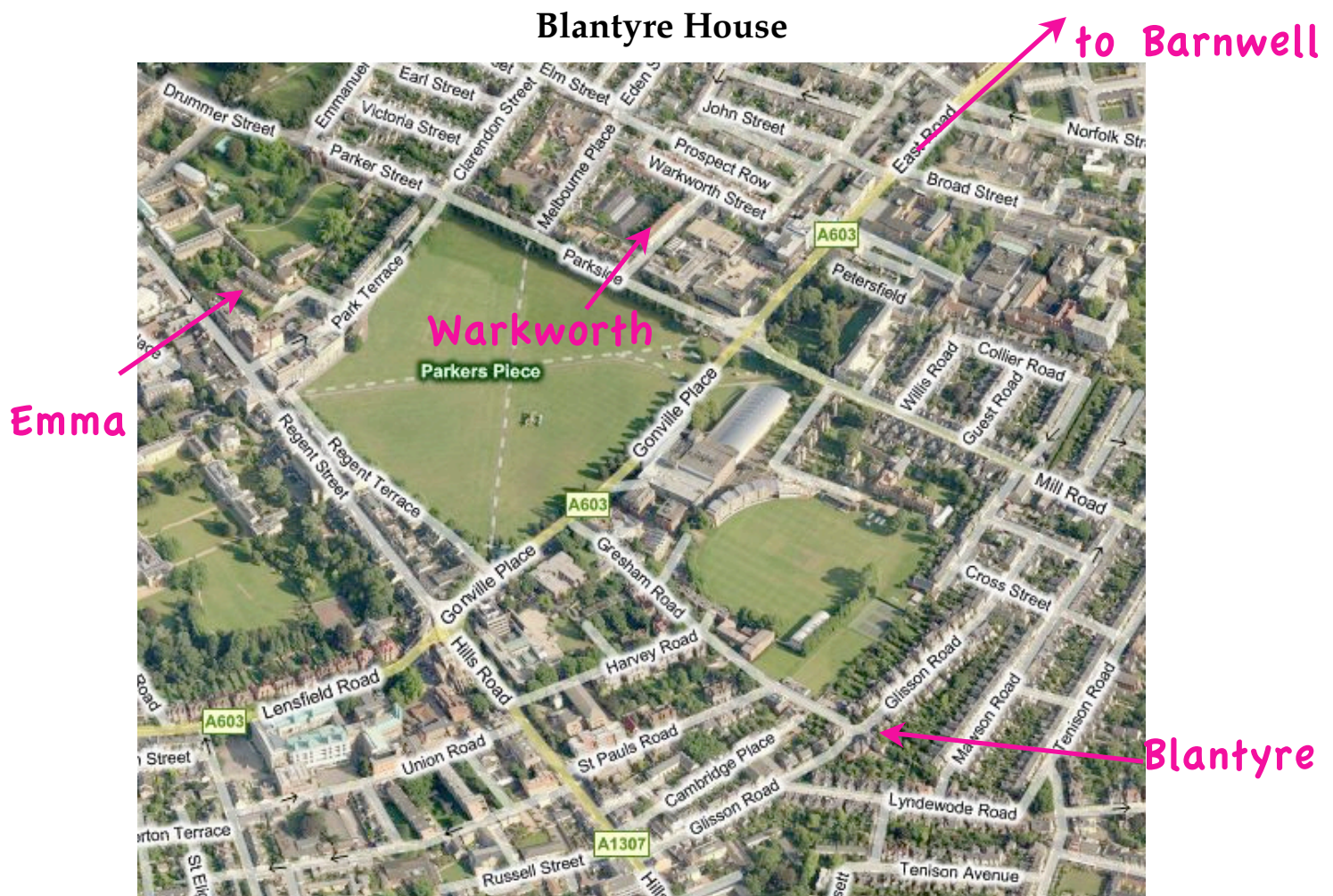
Pros

- Really sociable layout and great sense of community
- Best cooking facilities in college
- It's out of college, so there's a bit more freedom
- Really close to the Grafton Centre, the big Tesco and a Tesco Express
- Next to the river – great for boaties!

Cons

- Being out of college means that you miss small luxuries – hall, the vending machine, the laundry and bedders hoovering your room.
- You're much further away from all the faculties so getting to lectures can be more problematic if you're prone to oversleeping!
- Not enough showers in all the staircases
- Dodgy internet.





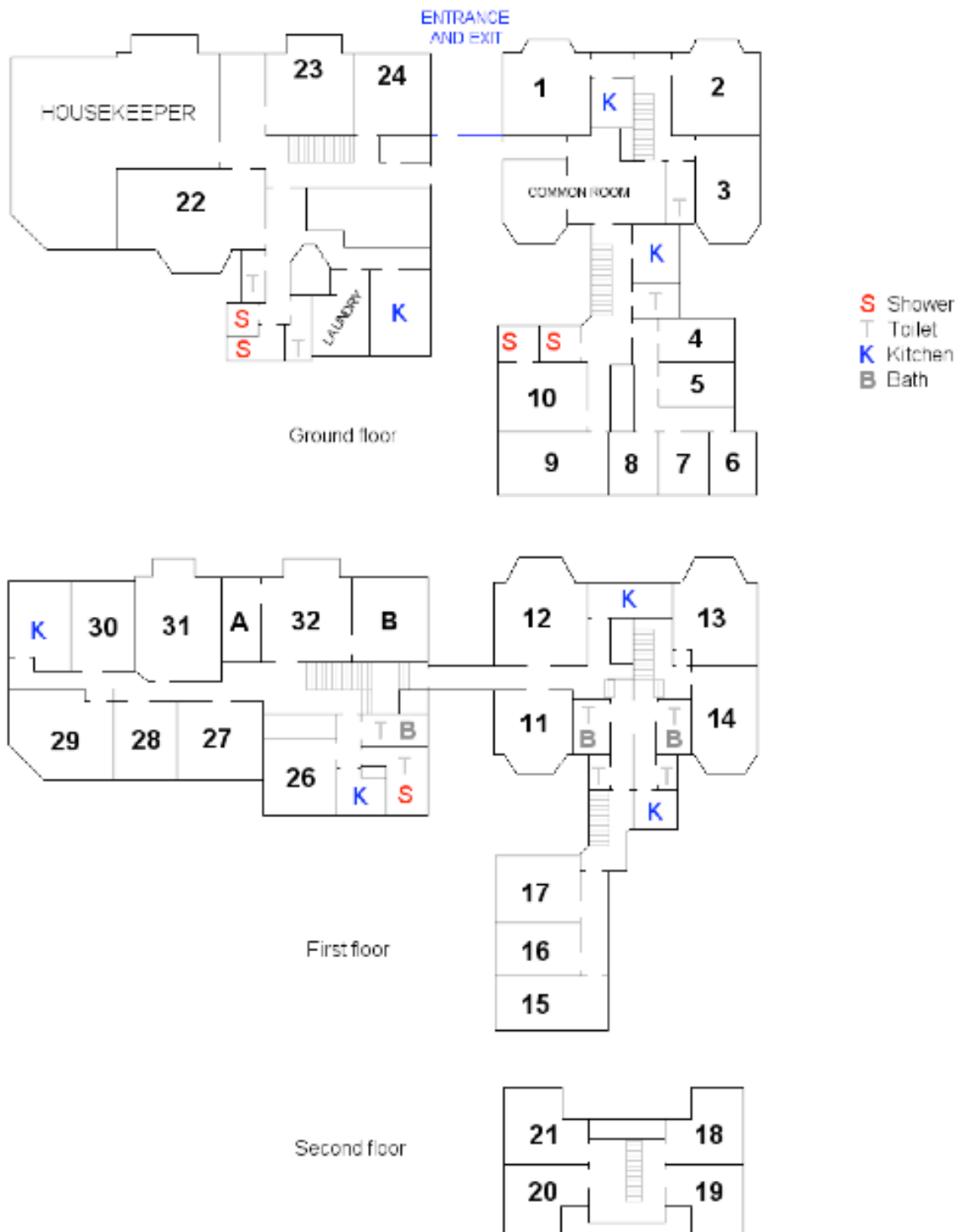
Location

Blantyre House is at 24-28 Glisson Road (CB1 2HF), facing Gresham Road (that's the one with the university gym on it). If you walk up Gresham Road from Parker's Piece, you'll see Blantyre at the end of the road.

Layout

Blantyre is made up of three houses. The left-hand side is two semi-detached houses that have been knocked together to make one big house. The other side is just one big detached house. They're joined together by a tunnel on the first floor, meaning you don't even notice it's two houses! You enter by the blue garage-style doors between the two houses (with the tunnel above you).





Accommodation

The rooms vary quite a bit, but all of them are fine - even the grade ones. Rooms 1, 2 and 3 are great and all of a reasonable size. They're right next to the common room and have a kitchen between the three of them. Upstairs, 11, 12, 13 and 14 are also all a good size, especially 12 and 13 (although they do overlook the street). 15, 16 and 17 are quite small, but have basins to balance it out. In the newer extension downstairs, room 9 has its own doors out into the garden - but is a bit cold. Room 10 has an en-suite, so is quite a high grade for its size. Rooms 4-8 are quite small (2/3 of a South Court room, perhaps) but do all have sinks. Some overlook the garden; others just look at the fence. The



attic (rooms 18-21) are all reasonably sized, but have sloping ceilings and can get a big dinghy unless you bring an extra lamp. They're not bad by any means, though!

The other side of the house is decorated a bit more nicely, and the rooms tend to be a bit larger as well. Rooms 23 and 24 look out onto the road, so can be a bit noisy. 23, however, is a nice size and has a lovely marble fireplace. Room 22 is *very* large - and arguably the biggest outside of College. Rumour has it you can fit an eight-piece dining table in there. It has a large bay window and a marble fireplace, but is grade 7. Upstairs, the rooms are all roughly similar, but 28 is considerably smaller. Room 32 is a set for two people, and room 29 is pretty big and has a nice view of the garden.

General Facilities

On the left-hand side of the house, you have a big kitchen (by room 30) with two hobs, a combi oven and microwave oven. Downstairs there are two showers, two toilets and the laundry room (as well as a slightly redundant kitchen - it contains two microwaves and nothing else!). There are 7 kitchens scattered around Blantyre, meaning there's ample space for cooking. There are also lots and lots of bathrooms (5 showers, 3 baths), but there are more showers on the left-hand side.

Blantyre has a housekeeper. She's called Liz and lives in her own self-contained flat with her family (see room labelled 'housekeeper'). For that reason, you can't do anything too crazy in the rooms right next to her. She's very nice, however, and tends to keep herself to herself. She's in charge of the two bedders in Blantyre and is the person to go to if something isn't working in the house.

Blantyre's common room is really nice. It's used by everyone in the house for just sitting around and watching TV (we have regular TV and a DVD player), as well as eating - there's a fold-out table for this.

Pros

- Really sociable place to live
- Big, well-decorated and well-lit rooms
- An almost silly amount of kitchens and lots of baths and toilets
- Large common room
- Out of College, very much in the 'real' side of Cambridge
- Close to the station, Co-Op, cinema and Mill Road

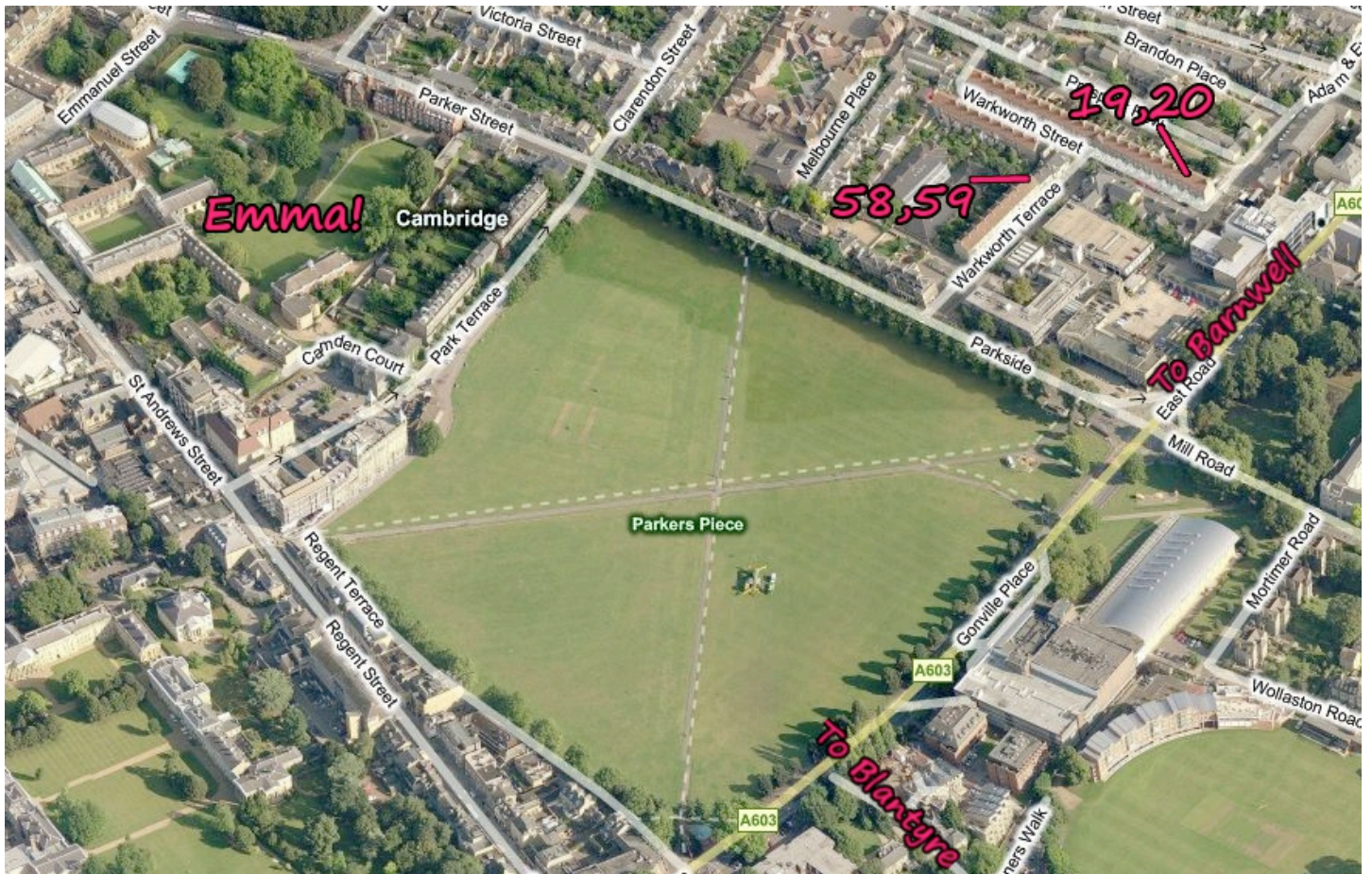
Cons

- Only four showers
- Housekeeper lives in house so must be considerate with noise, but problems tend to be sorted out quicker.
- The hobs are just stand-alone hotplates, so aren't amazing
- No proper ovens (but there are microwave combi-ovens)
- About 7 minute walk from College, or a few mins by bike.
- 25 minute walk from Sidgwick



Warkworth

Location



The Warkworth houses are on Warkworth Street and Warkworth Terrace. College owns 58 and 59 Warkworth Terrace and 19 and 20 Warkworth Street (plus some other grad houses). They're a short 3-8min walk to College and about the same to cycle. It's also ideally situated being approximately 10 minutes away from Barnwell and Blantyre and the Grafton Centre. All the houses are in close proximity to the Police Station and Fire Station but you get used to the sound of the infrequent siren.

Layout

All the houses have about 7 or 8 rooms with one kitchen, one or two toilets and one shower in each. There is also a basement passage that connects 58 Warkworth Terrace to 59 and similarly for 19 and 20 Warkworth Street that is invaluable especially if you have friends living in the other house. 19 and 20 have a large shared back (gravel-based) garden with access on to the road behind which makes using your bikes and packing/unpacking at the start/end of term much easier, 58 and 59 also have storage space for bikes. The kitchens generally have 1 or 2 microwaves, one of which is usually a combi-oven. Some of the kitchens are nicely sized, easily seating 4-6 people whereas some others have a more corridor-esque charm.

Accommodation

The rooms are mostly of a good size. In the basement there is normally either 1 large room, 1 larger kitchen and 1 toilet or 2 smaller rooms, 1 small kitchen and a toilet/shower. All the other floors have 2 rooms each. The walls aren't particularly thick and the front door can make a large slam if you live close to it. Rooms above the basement are generally bright with a large window overlooking the street or garden. Most of the rooms are grade decent grade 3s with fridges, sinks but sometimes not large amounts of storage space but the bedders let you store stuff in your room outside of term. The shared kitchen between the house helps to create a good atmosphere between the residents.



General Facilities

Each house contains its own kitchen, shower and usually 2 toilets. The kitchens generally have 2 combi-ovens and sometimes hotplates and fridges as well as plenty of cupboard space for your pots, pans and ingredients. There are no other communal spaces besides the kitchens. There's no laundry facility but you're close enough to college to use the free laundry there as well as quick access to the bar, hall and library. The Internet is usually fine and fast but can sometimes throw a tantrum but a quick on-off of the router usually fixes it.

Pros

- Close to college, Blantyre, Barnwell, Tesco AND the Grafton as well as there being at least 3 pubs
- Nice sized rooms with good kitchen facilities
- Out of college so gives more freedom
- Close enough to college to still enjoy easy access to the laundry, hall, bar and library
- Closest to the centre of town and the outside properties

Cons

- Being outside of college means there's no bedder to Hoover your room but they will empty your bin if you leave it outside your door and clean the communal areas
- Hot-plates aren't amazing, no ovens
- Temperamental internet
- Occasional sirens



East Court

East Court is tucked away at the back right of college. Go through the little passageway helpfully signposted as 'East Court' next to the Hostel at the back of the paddock. Once inside it is quite strange: mainly doors and stairs, and all but one of the doors to get back out are loudly alarmed. There are enough showers and toilets that there is rarely any crush, and the gyp rooms are well equipped with hobs, kettles and microwaves. The rooms themselves vary from Grade 1 to 5. However, most are quite low grades. These rooms are actually quite big, but may not have sinks or are on the darker side of the building or slightly underground. Variably heating radiators can be a luxury after the eccentricity of South Court heating. East Court is a good option if you are lower down the ballot and want to live in College rather than Barnwell or Blantyre.

Location

Massive plus side to East Court is the fact that it is in college, at the back next to hostel under a little archway. You will never stop being glad you picked it for this reason! Additionally there is a bike shed just outside it and it's right next to the laundry- very convenient. However the noise from the road is a big negative, especially on the ground and basement floors. Although the windows are double glazed (in that there are 2 sets of windows) the noise from the roadside rooms means that when both windows are open you can't really hold a conversation in the room or on the phone and even with both closed the buses make a lot of noise as well as shaking the glass. Some people get used to this or don't find it a problem. The 2 ground level rooms (where the problem is worst) have windows just outside the room as well so you can use this as an alternative cooling method to minimize the noise in the summer.

Layout

It's basically made up of 3 houses converted into one building on the inside. It's quite small and cosy with a lot of doors and is often described as a "warren" on account of it being quite hard to navigate. Try to choose this with a group of friends because it is nice to make the most of living in a house while still living in college. When you read on, there might appear to be a lot of negatives to East Court. Technically, there are a few. Don't let this fool you! The location and sociable kitchens make this an amazing place to live and great value!

Accommodation

The room standards in East Court are fairly variable. The 3 basement rooms run quite a high risk of getting damp but if you get stuck with one and there is a problem college will normally sort it out. That said, they are very spacious and actually really nice rooms. Sunlight isn't too much of an issue as all the rooms on that side lack natural light anyway. If you get a room facing into college on the other hand they are very nice and sunny and warm! The other rooms are all graded quite low due to lack of sink (in most but not all), which isn't a problem at all, you will get used to this straight away, but that makes them very good value for money. They are often grade 1 or 2 but very big and well kept and generally really nice. Another issue is wardrobes, quite a few rooms either lack or only have very small wardrobes and instead have a rail or chest of drawers. This may or may not be an issue for you but will get used to it very quickly as well! The heating is controlled at the radiator so that means there aren't any major issues with rooms being too hot or cold, and unlike North Court, the heating rarely breaks down! Within the house, it should be noted that it's also relatively quiet, obviously this is dependent on who lives there but as it is so warren-like you tend to not bump into people as much as you would think.

General Facilities

Kitchens: There are 3 kitchens in East Court. 2 of which have hobs but no ovens. It's still a nice improvement from having nothing in 1st year though! Although the kitchens are small, the 2 downstairs ones tend to be very sociable and can fit a surprising number of people in for dinner. Also they get a lot of sunlight during the day and so is a nice place to sit and work. And they face into college so you can see who is coming and going!



Areas for socialising: There aren't any sitting rooms or anything and the corridors are quite narrow or are at the top of steep stairs so don't really lend themselves to being a place to sit. People will come and visit a lot though because it's in college and often will come round pre or post lectures / hall / bar extension / a night out due to its convenient location.

Bathrooms: There are a lot of bathrooms in East Court and they are kept nice and clean by Marion the bedder and there is never really a problem with queuing for showers.

Pros

- Great location in college
- Kitchens have some cooking facilities
- There are some places you can sit in a group
- Good value for money
- Nice interior- clean and better than Barnwell

Cons

- Traffic noise
- Lack of wardrobe space
- Not many rooms with sinks
- Some rooms are a bit small

North Court

You could also live in North Court! But you probably don't need a description of that.

Any questions? Get in touch! buildingsandservices@ecsu.org.uk

- ECSU

Updated by the 2011 Exec from the 2010 version edited by Jaimie Oldham with huge help from Poppy Gould (East Court), William Woodhead (Warkworth) and Alison Underwood. This guide was originally compiled by the 2010 ECSU Exec, with notable help from Zoë Plant (she's to thank for the Barnwell bit!), Ben Spurgen and Richard Chew.

