

FORMER OBSERVER CORPS HEADQUARTERS,
ABBOTTS ROAD, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE

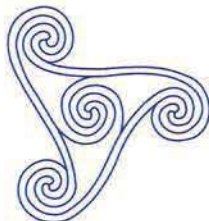
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

National Grid Reference (NGR): SU 4837 3098

Planning Application: 06/03671/LIS

On Behalf of: Croudace Homes Ltd

March 2008



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SUMMARY

In September 2007, a programme of Historic Building Recording was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on The former Royal Observer Corps Headquarters in Winchester. The building was constructed to a design by Flight Lieutenant Tebbit of Flight Command, and is one of 10 built around the country in 1942. There is a central operations centre of two storeys, with three attendant one-storey blocks for accommodation, office space and a canteen. Years of neglect have resulted in some degree of vandalism, and most internal fittings were missing at the time of recording. The building itself is structurally sound, due to its construction from precast concrete piers and panels. The building is due for demolition in advance of redevelopment.

The Royal Observer Corps Headquarters is a good example of a purpose-built building relating to the wartime air defence of Britain, of which few examples survive.

1 INTRODUCTION

Site location

- 1.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 4837 3098, and is located on the north side of Abbots Road and the west side of Worthy Road, approximately one mile north of the centre of Winchester. The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 4200m² (Figure 2).

Planning Background

- 1.2 The proposed development is for the demolition of all buildings on site (Planning Application 06/03671/LIS), followed by the construction of a residential development. This will comprise 14 dwellings and associated parking and access (Planning Application 06/02377/OUT).
- 1.3 The local planning authority is Winchester City Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Tracy Matthews, Historic Environment Officer (Archaeology). Planning permission to undertake the demolition of the listed building and subsequent development has been granted subject to conditions. Consent has been granted subject to a programme of archaeological recording. A brief for this work was prepared by Winchester City Council. Condition 14 states that:

No development or site preparation prior to operations which has any effect on disturbing or altering the level or composition of the land, shall take place within this site until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation to be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological interest of the site is properly safeguarded and recorded.

Condition 15 states that:

No demolition or alteration to structures on the site shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of structures on the site is properly safeguarded and recorded.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 The following methodology was used during the building record, to make a suitable record in terms of the buildings importance and architectural interest. The condition required that a record be made to level 4 standard, as defined in the English Heritage Guidelines (2006).

- A unique site code, WINCM: AY 339 for the project has been used to identify the archive

2.2 The drawn record included the following points:

- The creation of floor plans of the buildings. These establish an accurate archaeological record of the structures, and were drawn at 1:50. Sections that illustrate the vertical relationships within the building have been compiled, with a scale of 1:50 considered the most appropriate. The plans show the form and location of doors, windows, ceiling beams and changes in floor and ceiling levels. Notes of fixtures and fittings were also taken, including three plant rooms to the rear of the building.
- Exterior elevations of the building were made of the Headquarters, using a Reflectorless EDM. This meant an accurate record of the higher parts of the building could be made.
- cross-sections, long-sections and elevational sections illustrating the vertical relationships within the building were made: these illustrate the floor and ceiling heights and the form of roofing materials.
- Measured drawings showing the form of door surrounds have been made, and the construction details of original doors. Ventilation slots in the operations room were also recorded.
- A site plan has been generated, showing the building in its setting, and showing local topography.

- 2.3 The photographic record included the following strategy:
- General view or views of the building in its wider setting.
 - The building's external appearance. The series of oblique views shows all external elevations of the building, and gives an overall impression of its size and shape. Views at right angles to the plane of elevations were also taken where better information could be pictured.
 - The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas were photographed.
 - External or internal detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development or use and which does not show adequately on general photographs. This included plant, ventilation grills and fittings.
 - A medium format camera was used for the principal exterior views, and 35mm black and white and colour film was used for internal views. The photographic record is supplemented by digital images.
- 2.4 The written site record includes the following:
- pro-forma record sheets describing the exterior and interior of the building have been completed.
- 2.5 The text of this report satisfies the requirements of the English Heritage Guidelines (2006) for the written record.
- 2.6 The site archive will comprise all photographs and written and drawn records. It is to be consolidated after completion of the whole project. The archive will be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. On completion of the project the Developer/Landowner will discuss arrangements for the archive to be deposited with the Winchester Museum.
- 2.7 During the on-site recording, a visit was made by surviving members of the ROC who were stationed there during the war and early 1950s. Grateful acknowledgement is made of their input on the function of the building, identification of original materials and memories of their working lives. Members of the ROC present were: Richard Cornelius, Sarah Cornelius, Neville Cullingford, Christine House (war-time member), Tony Maasz, Roy McDowell, Lynda Oliver and John Virgo.
- 2.8 During demolition, the site was visited to make a record of the foundations of the buildings, to understand the method of their construction.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The following background information is drawn from a Desk Based Assessment produced for the site (AOC Archaeology 2007).

Winchester – Historical Background

- 3.2 The site lies outside the limits of both Roman and Saxon Winchester, and there have been few finds to suggest any concentrated settlement was present. However, the route of a Roman Road passes near to, and possibly across the site itself.

- 3.3 The site is located on high ground beyond the city, and this site for the Royal Observer Corps Headquarters was chosen for its height, and its rural character, in order to protect the inhabitants from targeted military strikes. The available Ordnance Survey Maps from 1874 to 1938 show the site had been undeveloped farmland close to Abbots Barton House. The area has become subject to suburban development since the Second World War.

Royal Observer Corps

- 3.4 The Observer Corps was established in 1925, its primary function being to track aircraft movements. Initial detection was visual, and this was supplemented by advances in technology. The purpose of the ROC centre was to receive incoming information in order to plot the course of enemy aircraft and distribute accurate reports to RAF Fighter Command, the Local Authorities, Police and other interested parties. The first purpose-built quarters were established in 1942, the typical design being a two-storey operations room flanked on three sides by prefabricated huts. The plan of the ROC Centre at Knavesmire, York, is a typical layout of the ROC buildings, and is included here.

- 3.5 During the Second World War, the site at Abbots Road became the headquarters of No.3 Group (later No.14) of the Royal Observer Corps. This headquarters in Winchester received reports from over 60 Observation Posts, which reported on the position, direction, height and type of aircraft, in order to co-ordinate the air defence of Britain. It continued in use until 1991, to coordinate defence in the case of nuclear attack. The basic fabric of the building remains intact, although the fixtures and fittings were removed in the 1990s: these are held by the ROC Museums Trust. Some recent damage has occurred due to vandalism. The building was Grade II listed in 1993, and the listing reads thus:

Royal Observer Corps H.Q. 1943. Designed by Flight Lieutenant Tebbit (ARIBA) of Flight Command RAF and considered to be the best remaining example of 10 originally. Comprises brick built (now painted) operations room of two storeys with one storey brick service wing surrounded by three blocks of one storey prefabricated concrete wings with flat felted roofs used as offices, stores and dormitories. Four-pane metal casements. Interior of operations rooms preserved as a Museum at the time of survey.

- 3.6 Two illustrations of the ROC building at Knavesmire show a building of virtually identical layout. The footprint of the building is almost identical: the internal divisions vary very slightly and there were additions made during the 1950s (*Tony Maasz, pers. comm*)

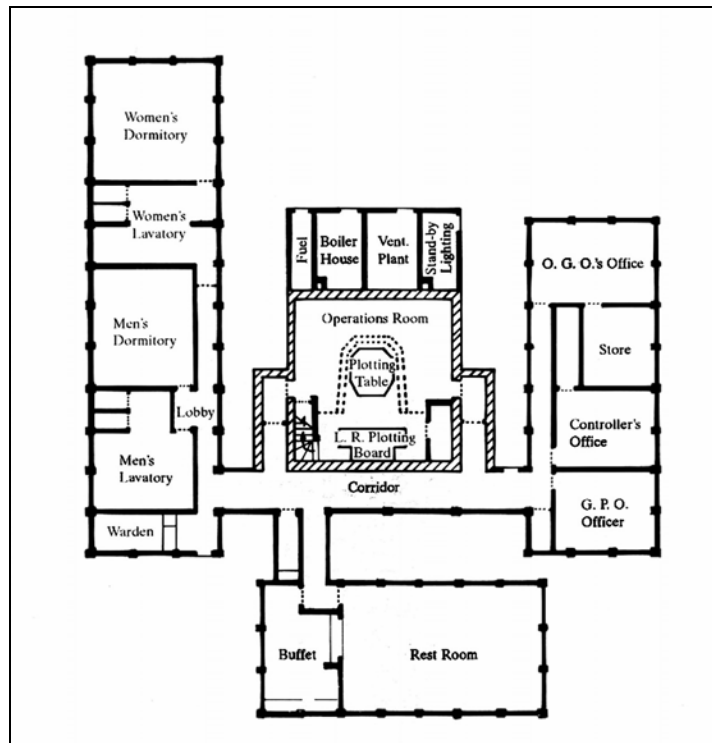


Illustration: the ROC Centre at Knavesmire (taken from Lowry 1996)

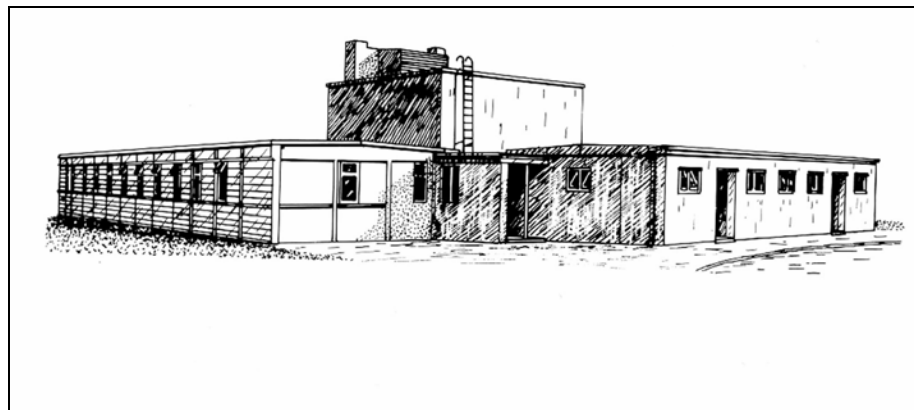


Illustration of the ROC centre at Knavesmire (taken from Lowry 1996)

- 3.13 A second building on the site dated to the Cold War, and was demolished in February-April 2004. Photographs of the building are available at the ROC Museum. Under the Monuments Protection programme, it was assessed by English Heritage, which determined that this was one of only eight surface Cold War Headquarters constructed in England. This building was the operations centre in latter years, the earlier building used for administrative purposes (*Tony Maasz, pers,comm*).

4 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

Setting

- 4.1 The Royal Observer Corps Building is located at the top of a south and east-facing slope, to the north of the city of Winchester. The building is terraced slightly into the hill. This does not so much provide protection as a mostly flat building platform.
- 4.2 The building has a main central brick operations room of two storeys. Plant for ventilation and heating was located on the northwest side of the complex: the plant is largely missing, although elements of the ventilation remain. The complex is oriented southeast-northwest.



Plate 1: The ROC Building

Operations Room, Block A

- 4.3 The principal structure and reason for the building is the central operations block. This is a two-storey brick building which includes single storey rooms for plant to the rear, accessed from the outside. The roof is flat. The outside is painted white and currently disfigured by colourful graffiti. There are few external features: iron grills are present on all walls except the southeast wall, and are small rectangular grills, part of the ventilation system. Two brick flues rise on the northwest side of the block: these are thought to be also related to ventilation.
- 4.4 The foundations are set in a trench excavated to a depth of 1.11m, and the first foundation is a layer of concrete 0.20m deep, onto which were laid 13 courses of brick with an internal cavity filled with concrete. The concrete floor of the operations room was laid at ground level

- 4.5 The operations room can be accessed from either side: sturdy doors provide access from short passages that lie outside the principal structure. The walls of these passages are 0.36m wide, and provide blast protection to the doorways. Each passageway also has a door part way along, adding to protective measures. It has been related that all staff except for the commander entered the room from the southwest door (*ROC staff, pers. comm*).
- 4.6 The internal space is virtually square in plan, measuring 7.32m northeast-southwest and 7.29m northwest-southeast. The walls are 0.39m thick, built of red bricks each 222mm by 108mm by 68mm and bonded with a hard cementitious mortar. The floor is concrete and the roof is flat, formed of rectangular concrete slabs each 1.87m by 0.61m. These concrete slabs are supported by two reinforced concrete beams which span the width of the building. Both are 0.24m wide and 0.29 m thick and have square profiles. This room originally held a large map-table with a map of Hampshire and parts of neighbouring counties. The location of this table is not known, but it is likely to have been constructed in situ, since reports describe it as too large to bring in as a single unit.
- 4.7 The ground floor is 2.17m high, and the first floor is only partial, being balcony on three sides rather than a full floor level. The walls are painted dark blue. In the east corner of the room is a partition which forms a small room with a shelf: this was the teleprinter room. Ventilation apparatus feeds into this room, suggesting hot working conditions. A two-part stairway rises up the south corner of the room, to the first floor balcony.



Plate 2: The Operations Block

- 4.8 The first floor is 3.01m high, and the total internal height is 5.58m. The first floor balcony is supported by horizontal iron girders which sit atop upright iron beams. The beams are 0.17m in width and were manufactured by Dorman Long. The balcony is of lightweight timber construction of boards, now with linoleum on top. Thin upright posts just 0.05m wide hold a series of desk surfaces 0.31m wide at a height of 0.73m. Operatives would observe the tracks

of the aircraft plotted on the map below and advise the various authorities who needed the information. No equipment remained in the balcony area, but four spaces in the desk-surface indicate the location of telephone equipment.

Ventilation

- 4.9 There are three types of fittings that relate to ventilation surviving in the operations block. A main run that is a series of metal plates forming a flue at balcony level, two square openings in the southeast wall, and a series of oval plates that cover grills.
- 4.10 The main ventilation flue begins in the partitioned area of the principal room, enters the principal room, and exits through the northwest wall into one of the plant rooms to the rear. The extracted air is carried in a flue constructed of metal plates riveted to make a flue with a square profile.
- 4.11 In the southeast wall are two identical openings each 0.36m wide. One has no surviving furniture; the other has a wedge-shaped wooden surround that may have held a fan or a grill to provide fresh air. If these work in tandem with the ventilation plant, then these are the air intakes.
- 4.12 Three of the walls have irregularly spaced ventilation points with external grills. These units exist singly or in pairs. At ground floor level there is a double unit in the northeast wall and a single and double unit in the southwest wall. At first floor level there are two single units in the northeast wall, there are two units of two in the northwest wall, one set at high level and there is a single and a twin unit on the southwest wall. Each of these ventilation points has a grill behind, on the outside face of the wall. Internally, the vents have a rectangular metal plate 0.25m by 0.18m set into the brickwork with an oval plate on front, which has a two part tap head threaded to a screw which opens and closes the vent.



Plate 3: ventilation

Plant Rooms

- 4.13 To the rear of the operations block are plant rooms. One is devoted to electricity supply, one to ventilation, one to heating, next to a fourth room which stored fuel. Much plant is missing, although much of the ventilation apparatus survives.

- 4.14 The northernmost room housed the electricity supply. The room is accessed from the northeastern side, where there is also a window, casement with a tiled sill. A brick base showed where equipment once stood: possibly a generator. A pair of low internal brick piers also may have held plant. A pair of fuse boxes survives on one wall: one is likely to be the electricity supply; the other may be for communication. One is painted red and has the legend 'SUPERIOR' and the following information: 100 amps 500 volts Cat No. 204557 204667 and a large On/Off switch. The second fuse box is fitted with nine large white fuses, and is manufactured by 'Simplex': Rd No 716227, and bears the information 15A 500v TP3WAY 30A 250v.
- 4.15 The room for ventilation plant still contained a large amount of the apparatus. A rotary electric motor, with attendant fuse box powered the system. The fuse box is manufactured by Simplex, and has, embossed on the cover, the information JS6 124/ 33, below which is 15A 1st SIMPLEX 600V. The motor powers a fan housed within a not accessible chamber, providing air extraction from the operations room. The outflow of air is fed into the western brick flue. The room is accessed through a door in the northwest wall: there is also a window with a tiled sill.



Plate 4: Ventilation plant

- 4.16 The third plant room contains no plant, just a raised brick and concrete plinth that may have held a boiler or heater. Oil or gas is unlikely to have been used due to the risk of explosion, so coal may have been the fuel. The presence of a fuel store immediately adjacent through a doorway suggests an easily carried non-volatile fuel. The base of the second brick flue is accessible in this room, and a small iron door gives access. The exact nature of the boiler and its method of heat movement is unknown, but cut-off pipes in the operations room and indications of lost radiators in the ancillary blocks suggests hot water was the heating medium. The associated fuel room is narrow, just 1.15m wide.

Ancillary Blocks, Blocks B to D

- 4.17 The ancillary blocks are located around the Operations Block, and are each single storey buildings connected to the Operations Block by covered passages. Entrance to the complex is through the Accommodation Block (Block B). All of the ancillary blocks are formed of precast reinforced concrete beams, posts and panels, with regular mass-produced metal casement windows and simple wooden door frames with little moulding. The foundations for these blocks are brick; the foundations laid in trenches, and formed of 0.10m depth of concrete with five courses of brick above. These foundations are 0.30m wide, the internal wall cavity filled with reinforced concrete. A concrete slab was then laid across the foundations, to which all standing members are attached.
- 4.18 The sides and end walls are supported by principal reinforced concrete posts each 0.20m square. Each post is cast with grooves in the sides in which concrete panels that form the walls sit. The principal posts are set at intervals of 1.84m, and each holds one end of principal roof beams that span the width of the building. The posts include integral corbels at the top with a round profile, and this is an unnecessary decorative addition since the principal beams lie directly atop the posts. The roof beams are wider in the centre, helping to form a shallow pitch to the roof. The roof beams also contain two pairs of square holes each 0.05m across. These are not necessary to the form; these are most likely lifting points for chains to help in construction. That the principal concrete members are reinforced is clear through visible iron rods where the concrete is failing, particularly at the upper ends of the posts
- 4.19 Between the posts, the walls are formed of thin concrete panels 0.24m wide, 0.12m thick and varying in length: either 1.74m or 0.95m, dependent on whether the precast section contained a window. The end walls are different: one post at either end and two further posts each 1.82m from the corners, and only 1.70m between. Therefore larger concrete panels are required.
- 4.20 The bases of the blocks are formed of concrete, with a finish dependent on the function of the rooms formed. Thus, this accommodation block that includes washing facilities has tiled floors in the bathroom and lavatory areas, whereas the office rooms in Block D have carpet over linoleum.
- 4.21 The roofs are slightly pitched, the pitch formed by the profile of the principal roof beams. Between the beams, the roof is composed of concrete slabs each 0.37m wide and 1.84m long. The slabs are covered with roofing felt and grey grit. Between the slabs, the join is sealed with pitch. The unsatisfactory nature of the material is shown by a personal communication from the ROC that the pitch would drip in hot weather. Lightweight ceiling panels which obscure the underside of the roof are present, and this may be an attempt to protect staff from the drips. The walls are typically 2.23m high from floor to ceiling beam.
- 4.22 Internal partitions in the blocks are constructed of small breeze blocks: small blocks that measure 0.31m by 0.22m and 0.08m deep. These have a pinkish red hue and have been painted white, as have all internal walls.

- 4.23 The windows of the block are set in wooden frames and are metal casements. Each casement is split into four horizontal windows. Rarely, the upper window opens as a separate unit, but the majority are single units that hinge on the left and open outwards.

Accommodation Block B

- 4.24 The Accommodation Block is located to the southwest of the Operations Block, and is 22.22m long and 5.78m wide. This block is formed of thirteen principal structural frames and is the largest of the ancillary buildings. Entrance to the whole complex is through a door in a small brick addition on the southeast side. A guard was stationed at this door during the Second World War and the Cold War. The door itself had been broken from its hinges at the time of recording: it was formed of four panes within a frame with two parallel frieze rails and a lock rail. This door is thought to be an original fitting.
- 4.25 The first room in the building was devoted to security, and has a concrete floor. The entrance opens into this room, and there is a single window in the front (southeastern) wall. Leading northwest from this room is a corridor on the northeastern side of the block, giving access to the gentlemen's lavatories the men's dormitory, the women's lavatories and dormitory. Two steps also lead down northeastwards to a corridor that runs along the edge of the Operations Block, providing access to the offices in Block D and the canteen in Block C.
- 4.26 The gentlemen's lavatories survive as two basins and one lavatory. The lavatory bowl was manufactured by Albion, with a high level cistern, the sinks by Twyford's. The room is lit by three windows in the southwest wall. The curtain rail above the window is in two sections, to allow overlap, and the curtain has a floral pattern, blue and yellow. The floor of the room is tiled with red ceramic tiles each 0.306m (twelve inches) square. The room spans three structural sections.
- 4.27 The men's dormitory has no fittings original to its construction. There was evidence of radiators, but electric wall-mounted heaters have been located where the radiators were previously. The room spans three structural sections.
- 4.28 The Women's lavatories have a tiled floor and contain two basins manufactured by Royal Doulton and two lavatories with the phrase 'New Selecta'. The internal partitions are formed of the lightweight small breeze blocks. Two sets of coat hooks are present within the room, on the entrance wall. They are two-prong hooks, with a flaring curve. These will be retained by representatives of the ROC Museum. A direct view of the women's facilities from the corridor is not possible due to an extra partition wall. The facilities are lit by two windows and the room spans two structural sections.
- 4.29 The room at the rear of the block was originally the women's dormitory, and contained no fittings of note, although the curtain rails are likely to be original. This room is lit by windows on both sides, since it spans the width of the building. It is lit by six windows and spans three sections. A personal

communication from members of the ROC indicates that these dormitories were used for regular sleeping during the Second World War.

- 4.30 There are two doors in the northeastern wall of the building, leading to a pair of store rooms. These have been formed by roofing the space between the Accommodation Block and the Operations Block. There are no fittings in these two rooms that illustrate their function, nor the function of the building as a whole. It is known that the complex became little more than an attendant structure when the new building was built in the Cold War period, so these rooms were most likely used for storing materials, for instance uniforms or stationery.

4.31



Plate 5: Exterior of accommodation block

Canteen Block, Block C

- 4.32 Block C is formed of eight structural frames, and is 12.51m long and 5.78m wide. Internally, there are just two rooms, a canteen and a kitchen. The canteen contains no obvious original fittings, although the carpet may be early. Five windows light the southeast side of the room, and only one the northwest side: four other windows were blocked in the 1950s. The room is entered from the southwest. Also at the southwest end is the kitchen area.
- 4.33 The kitchen is accessed through a short section of corridor and a door. There are few fittings that can be proved to be original to the building, but it seems likely that larger elements are. The most obvious and sturdy feature is a large wooden serving counter 0.07m thick that is highly polished and appears set into the walls.
- 4.34 A kitchen sink and washing board unit is also present in the kitchen area, but this appears to date to the 1970s. It is made of veneer over chipboard. In the end wall: the southwestern wall, is a small ventilation fan with ten blades set at high level. This is operated by wind power.

- 4.35 The space between the canteen and the Operations Block has been roofed over to form an office. This is not an original feature of the Second World War layout, but was added in the 1950s. It was used as the Group Commandant's office, Tony Maasz, who was GC 14 Group when the ROC stood down in 1991, and who visited the site during this programme of recording. The office was formed by adding a ceiling above the level of the roof of the canteen, supported by wooden posts, and the upper portion glazed. The walls were covered with plasterboard and the whole interior painted white. The windows of the canteen on their northwestern side were thus blocked.



Plate 6: Canteen

Office Block, Block D

- 4.36 The office Block is located to the northeast of the main Operations Block, and consists of a corridor and six rooms. It is accessed down a flight six stairs, the stairs necessitated by the natural contours of the site. The Block measures 14.58m by 5.78m, and is formed by nine structural frames.
- 4.37 The corridor that accesses the rooms of the Block runs almost the whole length of the southwest wall. At its southeastern end is a small cupboard containing over 100 hooks for keys. One wall had keys for all the rooms at the Headquarters. A second wall contains keys to other military posts in the vicinity. The third wall has unlabelled hooks. There are 28 labels for military posts, and these are numbered 10-52, in groups of 3 or 4. These represent the 28 Cold War Monitoring Posts and their clusters: reported by Tony Maasz, Group Commandant and member of the ROC from 1948 to 1991. The locations are as follows:

10. Devizes	11. Bratton	12. Chippenham	
15. Gt Bedwyn	16. Avebury		
20. Streatley	21. Shiplake	22. Bradfield	
25. Broadchalke	26. Wylve	27. Amesbury	28. Alderbury

30. Newbury 31. Hurstbourne Tarrant 32. Grately
35. Stratfield Turgis 36. Kingsworthy 37. Overton
40. Fordingbridge 41. Christchurch 42. Witchampton
45. Botley 46. Stonepoint 47. Lyndhurst 48. Stockbridge
50. Freshwater 51. Newport 52. Niton

- 4.38 Two plain, virtually square offices occupy the southeastern half of the building. Both lit by two windows, one was the Deputy Group Commandant's office, the other the Group Staff Officer's office. There was little evidence of function: the structural evidence is identical to the other blocks, and their use is taken from knowledge from surviving members of the ROC. The more central of the two rooms has a door leading off it to a small store room.
- 4.39 The rear end of the block contains a room that spans the width of the building, with two windows in each side wall. It was the Admin Office with a clerk and typist. It is in good condition, and contains a whiteboard with a list of incoming and outgoing staff. The last writing refers to the closure of the Headquarters in 1992 and is slightly sarcastic: Staff in, none. Staff out, 278.
- 4.40 Southeast of this room is the sixth room in this block, known as the Typing Room, and therefore used by secretaries and administration staff. There is a large plate glass window in the northeastern wall that is clearly a replacement and allows a better quantity of light into the room than previously.



Plate 7: Corridor, Office Block

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The materials that have been used to form the Royal Observer Corps Headquarters are largely preformed for construction of these buildings. The design by Flight Lieutenant Tebbit of Fighter Command meant that all ROC observation buildings were of the same design, and used the same materials that could be mass-produced rapidly, and erected as quickly as it took the concrete to set. Of the forty wartime ROC groups, eleven had these prefabricated buildings.
- 5.2 The principal Operations Block uses strong, regular materials, such as bricks of a regular size bonded with a hard mortar to provide a strong structure that could withstand nearby blast damage. The entrance doors to the main chamber are protected by short side passages, reducing the chance of damage further. The plant associated with the building, including fuel and air is kept separate from the operations room. This is potentially dangerous equipment which must have been considered of a nature to be prone to damage. The steel beams that support the structure are supplied by Dorman Long, based in Middlesbrough, and a major manufacturer and fabricator of steel components. Their speciality for strong structures such as the Tyne Bridge meant they were ideal for supplying beams for the Operations Block.
- 5.3 The site appears to have been developed as a whole, since the ancillary structures are all built of identical materials, and the buildings conform to the plan of the ROC building at Knavesmire.
- 5.4 The site's presence on a hill to the north of Winchester gives both a tactical and practical advantage. The site, on a hill means that radio signals from field transmitters can be easily received: it is the field operatives who call in with information and the results are analysed at the Headquarters, in conjunction with the county map and other reports. Locating the ROC in the centre of Hampshire also places it central to the county, and makes it easily accessible from outlying districts as well as from London.
- 5.5 The arrangement of the ancillary blocks is very practical in terms of the need of the staff. The principal requirements of life are food and health, and the canteen is the nearest area to the Operations Room, closely followed by the accommodation areas. This site includes a rarity among military stations: the men's and women's dormitories are located in the same building: if not scandalous, then most uncommon in a Second World War military base.
- 5.6 The entrance to the building is at the front of the accommodation block, and access to the Operations Block is very close. The natural movement of people and personal communications from ex-ROC staff shows that the majority of movement was from the entrance to the Operations Room, occasional visits to the canteen and facilities through the same, westerly door, and leaving again from the door they entered. This suggests that visits to the offices and perhaps, the Officers' offices were limited to senior personnel and necessary administration staff. Day-to-day ROC staff in their shifts, of which there were four, appear to have concentrated on their work.

- 5.7 Four members of the ROC Association have given their personal memories of service at the ROC 'Centre'. These are fully given as Appendix A. A summary of their experiences reveals the day-to-day operations. The focus of the centre during WWII and the Cold War was the Operations Room, where reports on aircraft location from outlying Observation Posts and nuclear reports from Monitoring Posts were analysed. The Monitoring Posts were 28 in number, and each group of three or four were known as 'Clusters'. On the ground floor of the Ops Room was a Main Table, where the information from the reports was plotted. Each plotter had open telephone lines to the cluster of Monitoring Posts. An overview of the information was formed by Observers on the first floor balcony, and all was recorded, for passing to civil or air defence units

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- Winchester City Council (2007a) *Brief for a Programme of Historic Building Recording*

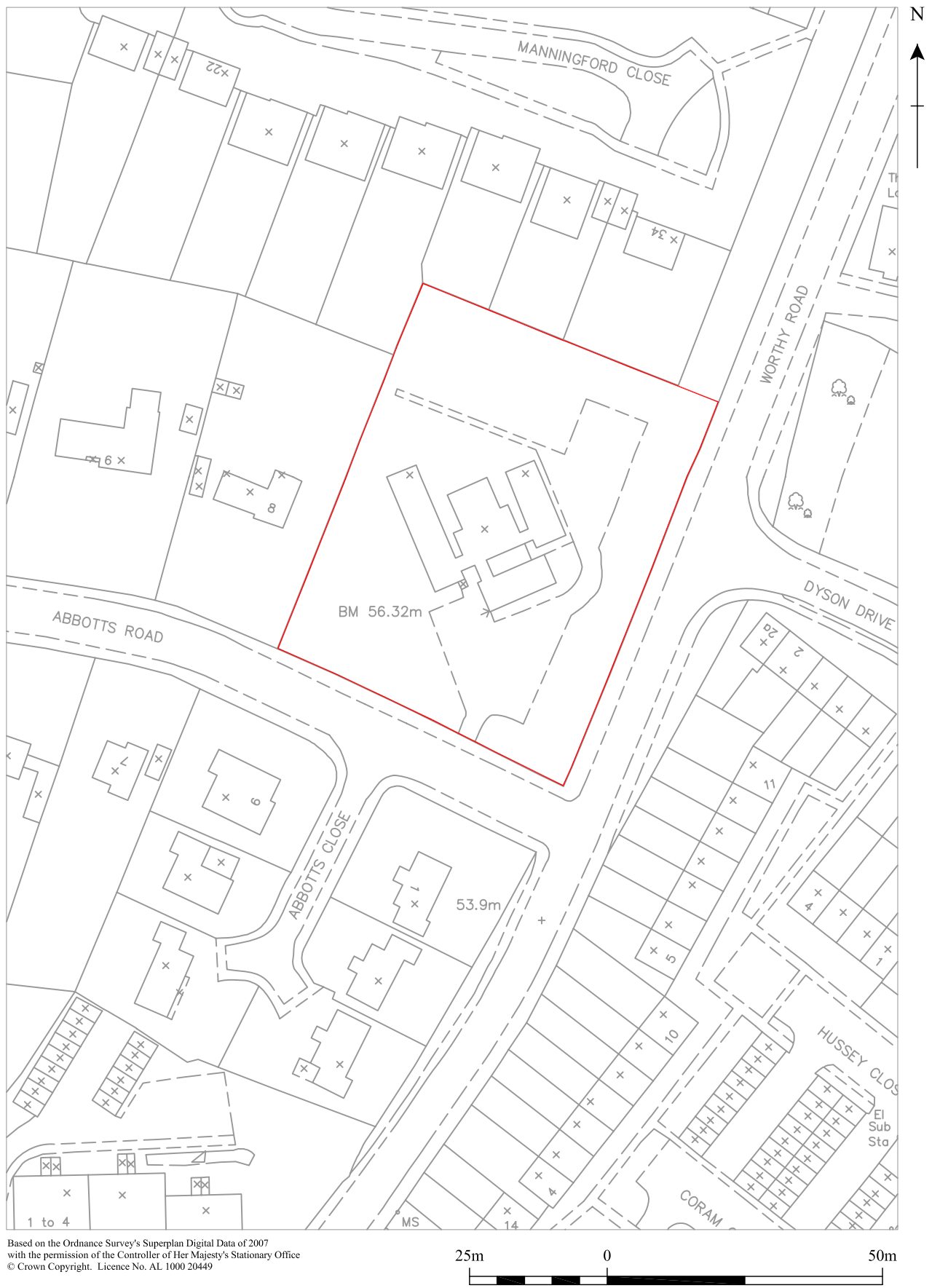


Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2001 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 1000 16114

500m 0 2 km

1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Ordnance Survey's Superplan Digital Data of 2007 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 1000 20449

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

1:1000

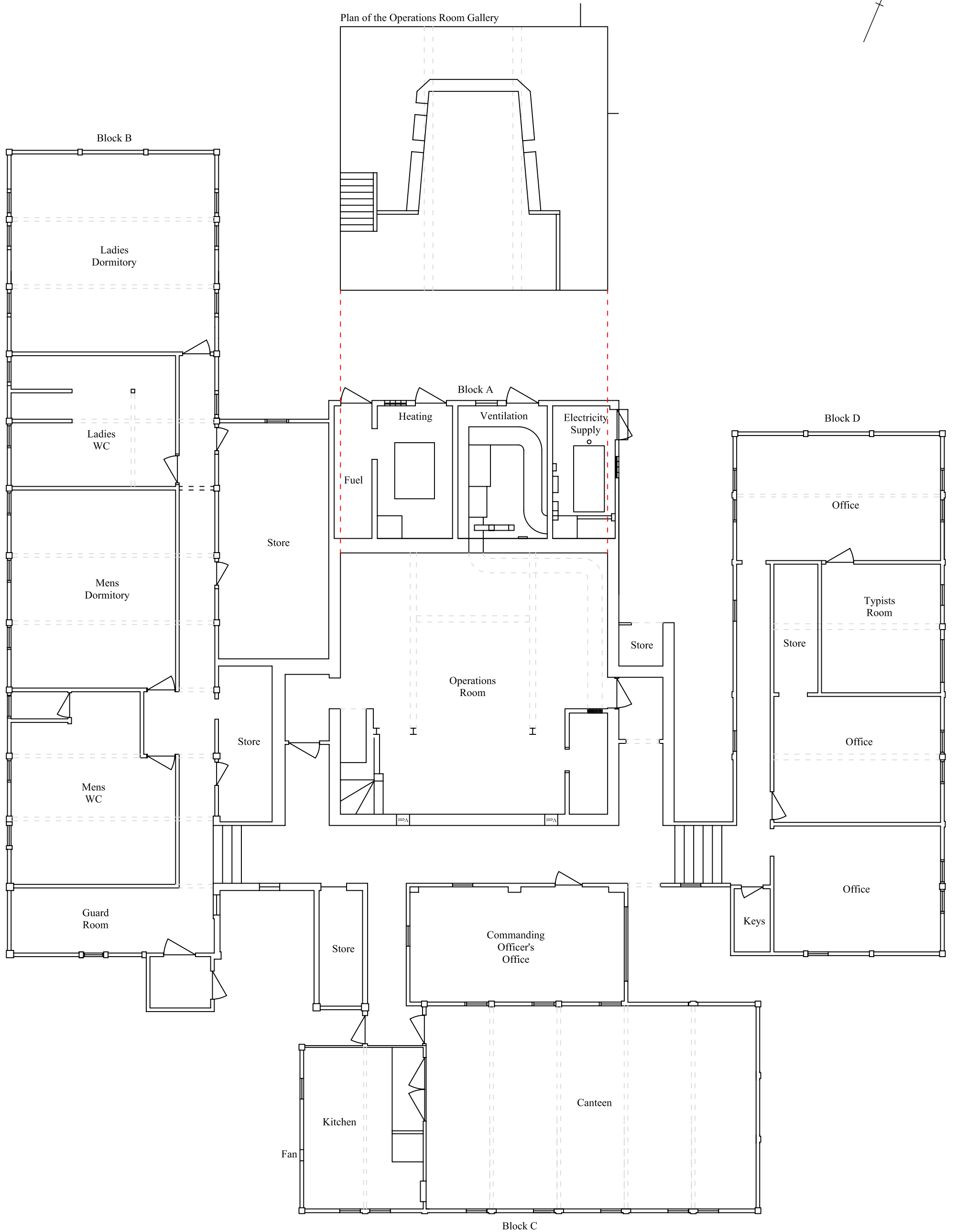
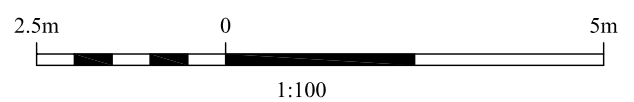


Figure 3: Plan of the Former Royal Observer Corp Building



APPENDIX A: ORAL HISTORIES AND PERSONAL MEMORIES OF THE ROC, WINCHESTER.

1 N A CULLINGFORD 1956-1992

Overview

- 1.1 My involvement with the building reflects the stages of my ROC career. This commenced with using the building as a member of a Centre Crew (until the Crews became based in the 'Cold War' protected Control Building built alongside). From then onwards, the old Operations Centre was only used by Crews studying for the Master Test, as a 'quiet area'. In 1967 I transferred as Leading Observer (Post Instructor), together with Chief Observer Tony Dowland, to Kingsworthy Post (which had no Crew). My use of the building therefore ceased for training but continued with 'non service' use by '14 Club', '14 Aviation Group' and the ROC Museum. From 1968 when I became C/Obs on 14/F2 Kingsworthy and 1984 when I became Obs/Off (Group Officer) for the Isle of Wight Posts, I made regular lunch time visits for discussions with the whole time staff, and to make collections and Deliveries on behalf of my posts.

Crew Training Meetings

- 1.2 Of the 4 Crews that met on different evenings, I joined, in November 1956, the Recruits Crew which met on a Wednesday evening. This was commanded by Observer Officer (Obs/Off) Ruby Walker assisted by her husband Obs/Lt Claude Walker ROCLO (ROC Liaison Officer to the RAF at Box) and her NCOs. The task of this Crew was to provide trained Observers for the other Crews, but when the time came for the 1956/7 entry to be split up, there was great reluctance on the part of the Observers, so the Crew was allowed to stay together to become Crew 3.
- 1.3 The main focus for each training meeting was around the Main Table where the Crew members gathered for announcements, before moving off to their positions in the Operations Room and the other rooms for their training. The various plotting and telling positions were made 'live' within the building and the various skills were learned and practised. In preparation for the annual Master Tests, each small group of Observers with its mentor would study in any vacant room in the building.

Operational Exercises

- 1.4 All this year-round training took place so that the Observers manning the Operations Room could perform their original task of presenting a quick and accurate 'real-time' picture of all aircraft movements and happenings within the Group area. Live Exercises took place either in an evening or at a weekend, when the whole network of Posts and Centres would be manned. Round the Main Table sat the plotters, each connected by open line to the 4 (or so) Posts in 'their' Cluster. The (near) vertical Long Range Board (LRB) was manned by an Observer for each adjacent Group position; these LRB plotters received plots over a uni-directional line which meant that they could not speak to the teller.

- 1.5 I remember one Exercise as LRB plotter, at around 3am, when the teller was going so quickly that I couldn't get the plots on the LRB in time. I had therefore to resort to writing them down, as there was not even time to ask the Post Controller to have the telling rate slowed down! This was noticed and frowned upon but at least it had the effect of the Teller being asked to slow down!
- 1.6 My main memory of those Exercises was the incredible din and the pall of cigarette smoke and the single minded intensity of the whole operation. Apart from Duty Controller and senior officers, everyone (some 25-30 people) had a telephone or 'head and breast set' so it is not surprising that the noise was so great. Even when taking a rest in the canteen, if the bell rang it was a signal that help was needed in the Ops Room, then one had to return to duty.
- 1.7 I progressed to Floor Supervisor (as a leading Observer) where I was responsible for ensuring that the plotters (Main Table and Long Range Board) had all the plagues and plotting equipment that they needed.
- 1.8 Later as the aircraft reporting role diminished and the nuclear role increased, the same communications system and Main Table and LRB were used to display fallout and nuclear attack information for telling to adjacent groups and customers. Triangulation (of nuclear bomb information) was performed in the northwest corner (downstairs) of the Ops Room where the aircraft plaque storage had been. Once the protected control was built next door, all operational use of the Operations Room ceased and the sole use of the building was as an administrative HQ of Winchester Group ROC with extensive equipment and uniform stores. It had to support 67 Posts, 4 Crews and some 800 Observers before the 1968 cutbacks

Events

- 1.9 It was on a Crew evening while waiting in the porch to be let in the building that I learnt of the assassination of President Kennedy.
- 1.10 I recall one snowy evening after riding/ pushing my bicycle from Stoke Charity to find that the Crew officer and I were the only ones to turn up that evening.
- 1.11 The Officer from nearby Clusters would hold his/ her NCOs meetings in the conference room while all Officers' Meetings were held there. Additionally, any local Post that had no winter training venue could hold its weekly training meetings in the conference room if there was no other meeting taking place.

14 Club

- 1.12 This was the social club of the Group, organising dances, parties in the conference room (originally canteen) but as the room was not then insulated, the heat from the large tortoise stove standing out in the room, produced a lot of condensation. This made the linoleum floor very slippery and this combined with the (very) loud (rock) music made for memorable dances there! The building with its long corridors was ideal for performing the conga and

various party games! The visits and Treasure hunts all started and ended from this building.

14 Aviation Group

- 1.13 As the aircraft reporting role of the ROC declined, the very great interest in aircraft within the Group was focussed on '14 Aviation Group' run by enthusiast and whole-time Officer, Ron Gage. It ran for many years in the evenings and met in the conference room where outside speakers, slide shows, quizzes were enjoyed by 'full houses' of 'observers' from all over the group. Competition was very keen in aircraft recognition, and a team from RAF Odiham would sometimes come down and give us a good challenge. Each evening ended in tea and biscuits before the often long journeys home.

Officers' Mess Dinners

- 1.14 These were formal affairs with outside caterers bringing in all the table dressing and the food and waitresses. The tables usually arranged in a large 'U' (with the two legs along 'N' and 'S' walls and the base along the 'E' wall) with table cloths on the Corps colours and the Mess silver on display. Pre-prandial drinks were taken in the Commandant's room (the room with the skylights) before the officers in their Mess Kit (No5 Mess Dress or No1 interim Mess Dress) moved into Dinner. These were colourful, enjoyable and entertaining affairs in the full tradition of RAF Mess Dinners

Competitions

- 1.15 The conference room was the venue for the closely fought Salmon Twiss Aircraft Recognition Trophy competitions where teams from many of the 67 Posts from all over Hampshire and the surrounding counties. Lacking proper ventilation and having a very low ceiling these blacked-out events were very hot affairs!

The Museum

- 1.16 Started in 1974 as a table-top collection of historical items for visiting VIPs and dignitaries it quickly outgrew its place in the former men's dormitory. It then moved into the then disused Operations Room which was restored over many months by a team of volunteers. Eventually there were calls for this collection of artefacts which was becoming rather neglected to be removed or turned into a proper Museum. I came onto the scene at this time and getting together a team of volunteers (including some original team members) and with a grant from Hampshire County Council and a considerable building programme we opened in 1987 what had become the national Museum of the ROC.
- 1.17 We moved out in March 1992, leaving behind, with the full approval of the new owner of the site, the Main Plotting Table and all the displays and large items of equipment. These items have since been destroyed without consultation with members of the Museum.

Final Parade

- 1.18 On 30 September 1991 a large parade was held on the car park outside the 'Cold War' control building, three members of the group dressed in the period

uniform of the time: an Elizabethan beacon lighter, a WWII Observer and a modern W/Obs. They appeared on the roof of the building overlooking the parade to the appropriate fanfare and the ROC Ensign was lowered for the last time. A somewhat muted party finished off the evening and for most of the assembly this was the last time they stepped into the building which had been the focus for so many for so long.

Ghost

- 1.19 There were stories of ghostly footsteps being heard along the corridor past the conference room. A group Commandant not known for being nervous left the building hastily one night after hearing someone pass his office in the locked and otherwise deserted building. On two occasions while working alone in the Museum on the balcony, I heard someone enter the room downstairs but there was no-one there.

2 GROUP COMMANDANT TONY MAASZ, 1948-1991

- 2.1 Exactly 16 years ago today, 10,000 spare-time volunteers of the Royal Observer Corps stood down, their job having been declared redundant following the fall of the Berlin Wall, the advent of perestroika, glasnost, and the unfreezing of the Cold War. A few volunteers soldiered on for four years in small NBC cells assisting the armed forces, and the full-time civil servants remained for a while at the various headquarters to count the sheets of typing paper before consigning them to the bin.
- 2.2 From its inception in 1925 the Corps remained unique among defence forces, not only of this country, but abroad. Here was a force of volunteers which were not formally part of the armed services, yet they were in the front line of defence both in World War II and in the subsequent so-called Cold War. Fighter Command could not operate without them in 1940, and in later years both civilian and military authorities depended upon them for information in the event of a nuclear attack. Fellow members of NATO could not believe that the United Kingdom's response when a nuclear strike threatened rested upon a volunteer force turning up for full-time duty. But our friends across the Channel would have been proved wrong. We would have been there, because we had volunteered to do so.
- 2.3 It wasn't only the spare-timers that worked in the evenings and weekends. Running an ROC group of 400 volunteers and 28 Monitoring Posts spread across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and into the outskirts of four other counties needed a considerable amount of time and organisation, both administratively and operationally, and at Group HQ there were three full-time civil servants, two of them in ROC uniform. They were the only full-time staff in the Group. No less dedicated than their spare-time colleagues, they dealt with the day-to-day demands of the system and the myriad of problems which arise in service life. "The farmer has ploughed the field and we cannot get a vehicle to the monitoring post", or "I'm going to camp this weekend and I've lost my beret". Unlike the spare-time volunteers, their livelihood was at stake when the axe fell on the ROC.

- 2.4 Each member of the ROC was part of a team. Each had a specific job in peace as in war, and you knew that others depended on you, just as you depended on them to do your job. As you progressed up the organisation your responsibilities changes and the teams got bigger, but the enthusiasm and dedication remained. The ROC trained in the evenings after a hard day's work, at weekends, and often gave up a week's holiday to go to annual Camp. They turned out in all weathers, day and night, sometimes walking miles to get to their place of duty. They put up with bureaucratic restrictions, mountains of paperwork and petty rules, but never lost their sense of humour. Observers came from all walks of life, yet accepted the discipline needed to make the team an efficient unit. Senior RAF Officers were sometimes taken aback to be addressed as 'mate' or to be harangued about the delay in providing black socks, but they took it all in good part, and the socks were soon on their way.
- 2.5 So what did members of the corps get out of the organisation we belonged to? In the first place it was something entirely different from our day job. Whether we were bricklayers or bankers, secretaries or school teachers, we put on the ROC uniform after work and assumed a new role. We accepted new responsibilities and gained in self confidence. We learned how to teach and instruct, how to prepare lessons on intangible subjects like radiation, and on the inner workings of the petrol-electric generator. Most of all, we learned to work with a variety of people towards a common goal. We found new friends and new interests, shared pleasure in achievements and sympathy in disappointments. Without realising it, the skills and abilities acquired in the Corps were useful to us in our day jobs and everyday life.
- 2.6 Fortunately, when stand-down came in September 1991 the Royal Observer Corps Association had been in existence for five years, and the fact that it is still thriving throughout the UK today is a tribute to the comradeship which existed when we were in uniform. The Association has also enabled the wives, husbands and partners of members to share something of our world instead of having to accept the inconvenience and loneliness of loved ones absent on ROC duty for so much of their spare time. It is sad to see historic buildings disappear, but the binds formed during our service remain just as strong, and long may they endure.

3 BSM Cornelius (Mrs). 1955-1982
(Brenda Sarah May Newman (nee) Freemantle)

- 3.1 Our motto is "Forewarned is Forearmed" and our badge is an Elizabethan Beacon Lighter in the days of the Spanish Armada.
- 3.2 On the 16th November 1955 I was enrolled into the ROC to serve in the Operations Room at "Centre" No.14 Group, Winchester. My rank was Woman Observer and I was issued with a Royal Air Force blue uniform (very itchy material – nicknamed Hairy Mary). In 1959 I was promoted to the rank on Leading Woman Observer as a Floor Supervisor and in 1960 was again promoted to position of Chief Woman Observer which was as Assistant Duty

Controller. In May 1966 I was appointed as an “Observer officer” (equivalent to Flying officer in the RAF) in the position of “Spare-time Duty Controller” in No.14 Group, Winchester and was in charge of Crew 3 with up to 30 members. There were at that time 4 crews who met on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings for training, and periodic weekends for training exercises.

- 3.3 In 1955, as an Observer, I was a “Plotter” of aircraft tracks on the Main Plotting Table – this being in the World war II Operations Room - this Table was a map covering No.14 Group area of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, parts of Dorset, Wiltshire and Berkshire and also parts of our adjoining Groups of Bristol, Oxford and Horsham for hand-over of information. As plotters, we sat around the table wearing very cumbersome “head and breast” sets and we were plugged in to a telephone landline link with a “Cluster” of posts. The “Posts” were dotted around the countryside roughly 10-15 miles apart and the Cluster would consist of 3 or 4 Posts; each manned by 2 or 3 Post Observers who would report information on bearing, direction, height and type of aircraft. They would also report whether they could see the aircraft or a “heard” plot if it was not visible. We plotted the information on “metal plaques” and then had counters in various colours – which corresponded to the colours on the large clock. This was an indication of when the plots were to be removed from the table.
- 3.4 There was also a display called a “Long Range Board” which was a vertical display, with Plotters at the sides and on the top (standing on a platform) leaning over to plot (a very awkward place to work). All the information on our Group Table was then recorded by an Observer sitting at a position on the balcony on the first floor of the Ops. room. There was also another person passing information to the RAF. We worked with the RAF and also had a ROC Liaison officer in the “Centre”. During my time as a Chief Woman Observer I was seconded to an RAF station in Wiltshire – where I attended several exercises (my title then was Air Defence Operations Centre teller).
- 3.5 In the late 60s the Corps was given an extra role of Detecting and Reporting Nuclear Fall-out in the event of a nuclear attack on this country. The aircraft recognition and reporting continued alongside the nuclear role until the late 60s/ early 70s when the aircraft reporting role was dropped.
- 3.6 A new Nuclear Protected Building (since demolished) was erected and opened in 1971, adjacent to the WWII building, which was then used for Administration Offices and the old Centre was turned into a museum. All the above-ground posts were repositioned and put underground and equipped with nuclear reporting instruments.
- 3.7 I continued to serve as a Duty Controller in the Group Control – as it was then called – until I resigned in 1982. I was awarded the ROC Long Service Medal for 12 years service and a clasp to the medal at 24 years, which I still wear proudly at Remembrance services.

3.8 Although the ROC was officially disbanded in 1992, our Group formed “The Royal Observers Corps Association” and any ex-members of the Corps are eligible to join. The Association is run by a Committee of retired members, who organise social events, and put on displays from the museum to “show the flag” to the public. Many people have never heard of the Royal observer Corps and are intrigued to learn what went on down “the holes in the ground”.

4 Richard Cornelius 1955-1991

Service in the Royal Observer Corps as a Spare-time Officer, in particular the association with Winchester Group Headquarters (commonly known as the “Centre” during the war, and post-war years)

4.1 Richard Robert Cornelius, joined the ROC in April 1955 in Devon and started as a Spare-time Post Observer.

4.2 At that time, and, until 1968 when there was a reorganisation, there were many posts situated about 10-15 miles apart throughout the country. These posts were on high ground and sometimes had observations posts mounted on stilts and were manned by 2 to 3 observers, who recognised, plotted and reported the movement of aircraft. All reports went back by telephone landline to the Centre, where the information was displayed on a Main Table, by other Observers who were members of a Crew. These Centres were normally central to the area they covered and the areas spread across the country and there were something like 23 centres - Group Headquarters. In the Centres were Full-time Officers, Senior Officers and each Crew had a Duty Controller or Crew Officer in charge.

4.3 The posts were controlled by a Group Officer, who was in charge of 2 Clusters of 3 posts. Each Cluster of 3 posts was linked by telephone landline, with one line going back to Centre.

4.4 My part in the ROC has been quite extensive in various other Groups and only a small time in Winchester Group. I moved to London in 1962 and joined Watford Group, where I was made up to an Officer and became Group officer for 8 posts. At the reorganisation, Watford was closed and I transferred to Horsham group. After a 9 year stay again as Group officer, I had a short stay with Oxford Group before transferring to Winchester Group. Here I again became a Group Officer in charge of 6 posts, until in October 1980 I was asked to change my duties and became a Crew Officer taking over No.2 Crew, Winchester.

4.5 During the 60s and 70s the Corps changed its role from Aircraft reporting to the Nuclear reporting during the “Cold War”. Although we kept our ability to recognise aircraft, the role was lost when all our posts went underground and were equipped with the nuclear reporting technical equipment.

4.6 Although Group officers and Crew Officers did much the same sort of job, the information obtained and the customers it was passed on to changed radically.

The Centre now became the Group Control and was in a new building of concrete for protection against radiation.

- 4.7 I did not serve in the old GHQ during the war or post-war, but many Crew Officers and Group Officers like me did. The old building lost its role in the aircraft reporting days and that part of it which was the “Centre” became our Museum. The other part of the building was still in use until the Corps was disbanded in 1992, as the administration centre for Winchester Group, where the full-time Officers and their staff worked. The Group Commandant’s office was also in their and a useful recreation room with kitchen. These facilities were used a lot for meetings and social functions. I know the building well. As well as helping in running some of the social events, I helped run an Aircraft Club called 14 Aviation group. We also had many Officers’ Dinners there and the occasional summer bar-b-que.
- 4.8 It is a shame the old building must go. It has many memories and lots of stories to tell, including the ghostly ones!

APPENDIX B: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS.



Plate 8: P439 1945 12 W/Obs in short sleeve order with W/Obs/Off EAM Lane in No.1 Dress Uniform



Plate 9: P507 1945 Group of Observers in Uniform tunics

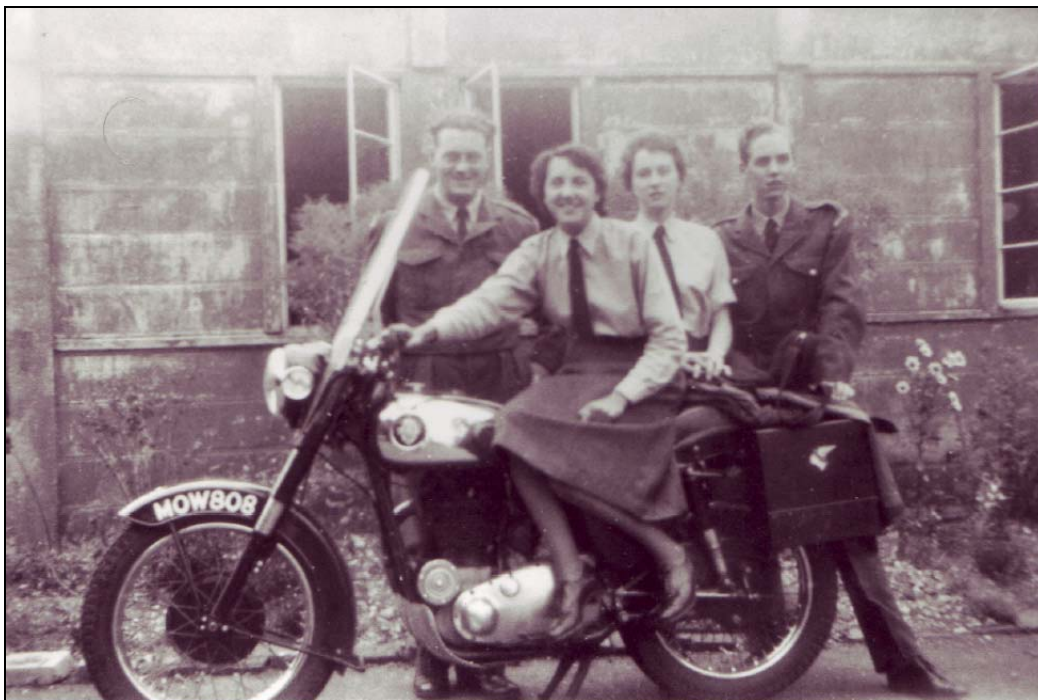


Plate 10: P1082 1945? L-R Gordon Thornhill, Jill Dangerfield, ? , Trevor Morgan. The Motorcycle is G. Thornhill's



Plate 11: P2067 1951-53 No.2 crew L to R: ? ,Barbara Burnell, Anne Booth, Pauline Booth, Frank Sawyer (standing), Daphne Charlesworth, ? , Brenda Shrimpton, ? , Ruby Walker, Stan Jewell, Elsie Tipping, Les Tipping.

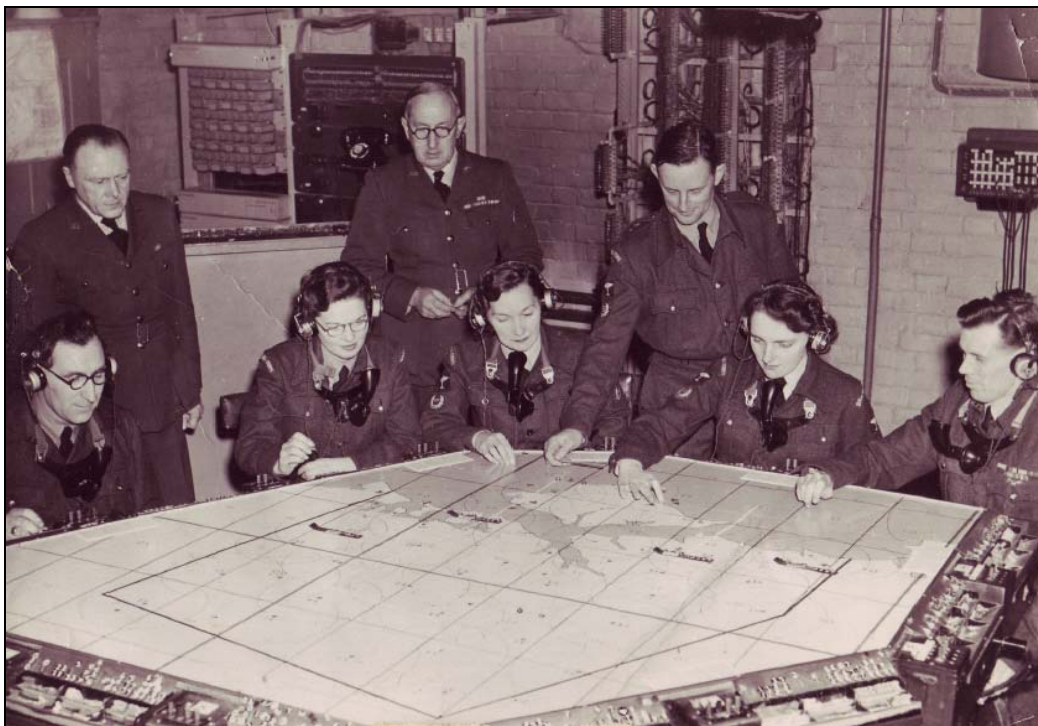


Plate 12: P2073, 1953? Main Table Aircraft Plotting. Plotters L to R: Dave Alford, Tommy Kemp, Ruby Walker, ?, Dave Abbott. Standing L to R: Claud Walker, Arthur Vear, Ted Waygood



Plate 13: P31, 1953, Aircraft plotting on Long Range Board



Plate 14: P559, 1963; Crew in canteen, incl. RJ Matcham, Elsie Jeffrey and Marie Fourt



Plate 15: P1034. 1963. Exterior of protected control. Includes doorway and radio mast



Plate 16: P185 1978 In the tape centre



Plate 17: P175 1978 K.Goulding at the Log Chart Section



Plate 18: P316, 1978, Operations Centre in anti-nuclear flash colours



Plate 19: P676, Badge in museum doorway, designed by Obs M. Merritt

The pictures, identities and titles are provided by ROC Museum

Appendix C: Photographic Register

Image	Description	View	Digital	Colour	BW
Block A					
043	Ventilation plant	SE	√	S1.15,16,17	S1.15,16,17
044	Ventilation plant block a	SE	√	=	=
045	Ventilation plant	SE	√	=	=
046	Boiler room	SE	√	S1.19	S1.19
047	Fuel room	SE	√		
048	Corridor stairs	SW	√		
049	Corridor stairs	NE	√		
050	Entrance to operations room	NW	√		
051	Operations	SW	√	S3.3-5, 7-9	S3.3-5, 7-9
052	Operations	NW	√		
053	Operations	W	√		
054	Operations	NW	√		
055	Operations	N	√		
056	Operations	N	√		
057	Operations	NE	√		
058	Operations	NE	√		
059	Operations	NE	√		
060	Vent	NE	√		
061	Vent	NE	√		
062	Shelves	SE	√		
063	Operations	SW	√		
064	Upper level	SE	√		
065	Upper level	SE	√		
066	Balcony	NW	√	S3.2, S2.15-17, 19	S3.2, S2.15-17, 19
067	Balcony	NW	√		
068	Vent	NE	√		
069	Balcony	SE	√		
070	Balcony	S	√		
071	Operations	SW	√		
072	Operations	SW	√		
073	Operations	SE	√		
074	Upper level	NW	√		
075	Vent	NE	√		
076	Vent	NW	√		
077	Vent	NW	√		
078	Vent	NW	√		
079	Vent	NE	√		
080	Vent	SW	√		
081	Floor	NW	√		
082	Balcony	E	√		
083	Pipes	W	√		
084	Balcony	NW	√		
085	Balcony	E	√		
086	Balcony	SE	√		
087	Lights	SE	√		

Image	Description	View	Digital	Colour	BW
Block B					
001	Front door	SE	√		
002	Security	SW	√		

Image	Description	View	Digital	Colour	BW
003	Corridor	NW	√	S2.8	S2.8
004	Gents WC	SE	√		
005	Gents WC	W	√	S2.2,5,7	S2.2,5,7
006	Gents WC	SW	√		
007	Gents accom	W	√	S2.3-4	S2.3-4
008	Gents accom	SW	√		
009	Corridor	SE	√	S2. 5.7	S2. 5.7
010	Ladies WC	NW	√		
011	Ladies WC	SE	√		
012	Ladies WC	SW	√		
013	Ladies accom	N	√		
014	Ladies accom	SW	√		
015	Pillar detail	SE	√		
016	New room	N	√		
017	Store	NW	√		
018	Ladies WC hooks	NW	√		
019	Ladies WC hooks	NW	√		

Image	Description	View	Digital	Colour	BW
Block C					
020	Doors to block C	SE	√	S2.13	S2.13
021	Servery	N	√	S2.10,11	S2.10,11
022	Fan in kitchen	SW	√	S2.9	S2.9
023	Kitchen	SE	√	S2.13	S2.13
024	Canteen	NE	√	S2.10,11	S2.10,11
025	Tony Maasz office	NE	√	S2.9	S2.9
026	Block C	E	√	S2.13	S2.13

Image	Description	View	Digital	Colour	BW
Block D					
027	Key room detail	E	√		
028	Key room hooks	NE	√		
029	Key room	SE	√		
030	1 st office	NE	√		
031	1 st office ceiling detail	W	√		
032	Internal partition	NW	√		
033	2 nd office beam detail	N	√		
034	2 nd office	N	√		
035	Corridor	NW	√		
036	Window	S	√		
037	3 rd office	NW	√		
038	Typing room	E	√		
039	Typing	N	√		
040	3 rd office window	SW	√		
041	3 rd office	SW	√		
042	Corridor	SE	√		

Image	Description	View	Digital	Colour	BW
External					
088	View of the site from the entrance	N	√	S1.2-4	S1.2-4
089	View of the site from the entrance	N	√		
090	Blocks b and c (block a in the back ground)	NE	√		
091	Block b (block a in the back ground)	N	√		

FORMER OBSERVER CORPS HEADQUARTERS, ABBOTTS ROAD, WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE:
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

092	Block b (block a in the back ground)	NE	√	S1.14	S1.14
093	Block b (block a in the back ground)	E	√		
094	Block b (block a in the back ground)	E	√		
095	Block b (block a in the back ground)	E	√		
096	Block b (block a in the back ground)	SE	√	S1.13	S1.13
097	Block b (block a in the back ground)	SE	√		
098	Block b (block a in the back ground)	E	√		
099	Block d and part of block a	SE	√		
100	Block a and part of block d	SE	√		
101	Block d and blocks a and b in the background	S	√	S1.10-11	S1.10-11
102	Block d and blocks a and b in the background	S	√		
103	Block d and block a in the background	S	√		
104	Block d and block a in the background	S	√		
105	Block c and d (block a in the background)	SW	√	S1. 7, 9	S1. 7, 9
106	Block c and d (block a in the background)	SW	√		
107	Block c	SW	√	S1. 5, 8	S1. 5, 8
108	Block c	W	√		
109	Block c	NE	√		
110		NW	√		
111	Block b and a in the background	NE	√		
112	Block d	SE	√		
113	Block d	SE	√		
114	Block b	SW	√		
115	Block b	SW	√		
116	Block d and blocks a and b in the background	SW	√		
117	Block d Offices	SW	√		
118	Block c Canteen	NW	√		

Appendix D: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-38883

Project details

Project name	ROC Headquarters, Winchester
Short description of the project	A programme of Historic Building Recording was undertaken on the former Royal Observer Corps Headquarters in Winchester. The building was constructed to a design by Flight Lieutenant Tebbit of Flight Command, and is one of 10 built around the country in 1942. There is a central operations centre of two storeys, with three attendant one-storey blocks for accommodation, office space and a canteen. The Royal Observer Corps Headquarters is a good example of a purpose-built building relating to the wartime air defence of Britain, of which few examples survive.
Project dates	Start: 17-09-2008 End: 16-12-2008
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	WINCM: AY 339 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS SITE GROUP HEADQUARTERS Modern
Methods & techniques	'Measured Survey', 'Photographic Survey', 'Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER KINGS WORTHY Former Royal Observer Corps Headquarters
Postcode	SO23
Study area	4200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 4837 3098 51.0755714640 -1.309478162430 51 04 32 N 001 18 34 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	Winchester City Council
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager	Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor	Les Capon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Winchester Museum

Digital Archive ID	WINCM: AY 339
Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Digital Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer
Paper Archive recipient	Winchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	WINCM: AY 339
Paper Media available	'Drawing','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Survey','Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	held at AOC until transfer

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Former Observer Corps Headquarters, Abbots Road, Winchester. A Historic Building Record
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Capon, L.
Date	2008
Place of issue or publication	AOC Archaeology
Description	A4, 38 pages includes 3 illustrations and 19 plates

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