

# Guildford Fire Station Guildford Surrey



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2013

**Client: Jacobs UK Ltd**  
on behalf of Surrey County  
Council

Issue No: 1  
OA Job No: 5577  
NGR: SU 9965 5081





Client Name: Jacobs UK Ltd on behalf of Surrey County Council  
Document Title: Guildford Fire Station, Guildford, Surrey  
Document Type: Evaluation Report  
Issue/Version Number: 1  
Grid Reference: NGR SU 9965 5081  
OA Job Number: 5577  
Site Code: GUF1 13  
Invoice Code: GUFIEV  
Receiving Museum: tbc

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Vix Hughes Project Officer	Gerry Thacker Project Officer	Edward Biddulph Senior Project Manager	

Document File Location X: Projects/ Guildford fire station/ report  
Graphics File Location  
Illustrated by Conan Parsons and Julia Collins

**Disclaimer:**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2013

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627





## **Guildford Fire Station, Guildford, Surrey**

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Vix Hughes and Gerry Thacker*

*with contributions from John Cotter, Michael Donnelly and Geraldine Crann and  
illustrated by Conan Parsons and Julia Collins*

### **Table of Contents**

<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	5
1.2 Geology and topography.....	5
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	5
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	6
<b>2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology.....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Aims.....	7
2.2 Methodology.....	7
<b>3 Results.....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results.....	9
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	9
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	9
3.4 Trench Descriptions .....	9
3.5 Finds summary.....	10
<b>4 Discussion.....</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	11
4.2 Evaluation objectives and results.....	11
4.3 Interpretation.....	11
<b>Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Appendix B. Finds Reports.....</b>	<b>15</b>
B.1 The flint.....	15
B.2 The copper alloy coin.....	16



---

B.3 The clay pipe.....	16
B.4 The ceramic building material.....	16
<b>Appendix C. Bibliography and References.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Appendix D. Summary of Site Details.....</b>	<b>19</b>



## List of Figures

- Fig. 1            Site location
- Fig. 2            Trench Location Plan showing archaeological features and sections



## **Summary**

*Between the 26th and the 28th February 2013 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land adjoining Guildford Fire Station, Ladymead, Guildford (NGR SU 9965 5081). The work was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd on behalf of Surrey County Council.*

*A total of seven trial trenches were excavated, six measuring 10m by 1.6m and one measuring 5m by 1.6m. The evaluation uncovered a W-E orientated ditch which was potentially present in two trenches, terminating in one. Struck flints of probable Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date were recovered from the fills. A north-south orientated ditch, or former hedgeline was also uncovered, from which no finds were recovered. Ceramic roof tile fragments of late medieval or post medieval date were recovered from subsoil and may indicate that the site was occupied at this time. Other trenches revealed features of recent date including buried services, and a wide shallow cut probably associated with the construction of an adjacent tarmac road.*





## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd, on behalf of Surrey County Council, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjoining Guildford Fire Station, Ladymead, Guildford (NGR SU 9965 5081, Fig.1), as part of a programme of archaeological works ahead of a proposed new fire station building and residential development. The work took place between 26th – 28th February 2013.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation consisted of seven trenches, of which six measured 10m by 1.6m, and one measured 5m by 1.6m (see Fig. 2). The trenches were located to provide an even footprint of the proposed development area, and also to avoid known buried services.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies, and a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed between Jacobs UK Ltd and Surrey County Council (Jacobs 2013).

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is situated on Kempton Park Gravel. The area directly to the north of the site is marked on the British Geological Society (BGS) map as landscaped ground that overlies Alluvium from the River Wey. The south-east area of the study area is on London Clay Formation (BGS 2001).
- 1.2.2 The site is currently occupied by the fire station, and an adjacent grassed area to the west. The ground level slopes north to south from 31.93m OD to 31.41m OD. Of note is a grassed area to the east of the existing fire station. The levels in this area are significantly higher at around 33.30 - 33.70m OD; this is 1.77m higher than the highest ground level in the lower area. This is similar to the heights recorded in the graveyard/rectory area to the south of the fire station, where the ground level is 33.50-33.80m OD.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The information below is summarised from the Heritage Statement for the development (Jacobs 2012).
- 1.3.2 A collection of 65 worked flints have been found in the gardens of numbers 22-26 Ladymead and during the excavations of the foundations of a pedestrian bridge over Ladymead Road to the north of the fire station. The assemblage dates mainly to the Mesolithic period and includes cores, scrapers, blades, saws and waster material. In the wider area excavated sites dating to the Mesolithic period have produced evidence for single or multiple hearth settings, usually in the form of concentrations of burnt flint and/or charcoal.
- 1.3.3 Evidence for activity in the Neolithic period is attested by an arrowhead dating to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age found within the material collected from the vicinity of the fire station, although no specific find spots are recorded.
- 1.3.4 There are no Bronze Age or Iron Age sites within or near the development site. No sites dating to the Romano-British period have been identified. A single Roman coin was found in a flower bed at Guildford Lido to the east of the proposed development (dating to the reign of Constantine the Great c. 317AD). However this was unearthed within imported material and therefore does not indicate Roman activity in the area.



- 1.3.5 No sites dating to the medieval period have been identified within the development site, although evidence for activity during this period is attested in the wider area, including the site of a historic bridge (replaced in 1912-1913) and the Church of St John the Evangelist. The bridge was first referred to in the late medieval period and is identified on the 1806 Ordnance Survey Drawing as 'Woodbridge'. The earliest identifiable architectural elements of the Church of St John the Evangelist are the nave and south chapel arcades that date to the 14th century.
- 1.3.6 The post medieval period is represented in the wider area by both archaeological remains and historic buildings. The earliest historic buildings date to the late 16th century and comprise a possible open-hall type house and a timber-framed house. Both are Grade II Listed Buildings and are located to the south of the development site.
- 1.3.7 The site of the fire station is shown as open fields on the earliest available maps. The fire station is first shown on the 1934 edition of the six-inch Ordnance Survey map, but it does not appear on the 1934 twenty five inch Ordnance Survey map. The building was purpose built and the site appears to have been chosen because of the access onto what was originally known as the Guildford and Goldalming bypass, the current A3, which was constructed in the early 1930s.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The evaluation was commissioned by Adam Brossler and Jon Mullis of Jacobs UK Ltd on behalf of Surrey County Council (SCC). The work was monitored by Tony Howe of SCC. The fieldwork was run by Vix Hughes with the assistance of Matt Fenn and Lee Sparks, and the project was managed for OA by Gerry Thacker.



## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development.
- 2.1.2 To establish the exigency for a mitigation strategy that would allow for the preservation of any archaeological remains in situ or by record.
- 2.1.3 To gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, depth, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to establish the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.
- 2.1.4 To identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains to the extent possible by the methods put forward in this Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 2.1.5 To clarify the date, character and extent of those sites within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 2.1.6 To determine (so far as possible) the stratigraphic sequence and dating of the deposits or features identified.
- 2.1.7 To establish any ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The works involved the excavation of seven trenches with a total area of 117m<sup>2</sup>. The works were specified in the WSI and the trenches were located on a standard grid array to test for the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits.
- 2.2.2 The trenches were all set out by OA according to a location plan provided by Jacobs UK Ltd. The trench co-ordinates were obtained from the CAD drawing provided. However while on site it became apparent that the drawing was not in the correct location in regard to the real-time GPS positions. Therefore the trenches were located by scaling and measuring from the drawing and the real-time GPS co-ordinates were recorded (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.3 The topsoil and subsoil were removed using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Machine excavation was carried out stratigraphically, and in the case of thicker deposits, in spits no more than 0.25m deep.
- 2.2.4 All mechanical excavation was carried out under close archaeological supervision and ceased at either to the top of natural or the top of any significant archaeological level, whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.
- 2.2.5 Spoil visually examined for finds retrieval during excavation, and was also scanned using a metal detector.
- 2.2.6 Upon the exposure of archaeologically significant deposits or features machining ceased and the surface of the exposed archaeological horizon was cleaned where necessary to clarify the extent and character of any archaeological remains. The archaeological curator at SCC was informed by Jacobs UK Ltd, and a site inspection took place (28th February 2013).



- 2.2.7 Any archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. Details regarding the level of excavation and sampling was in accordance with the WSI and agreed with the SCC curator on site.
- 2.2.8 All excavation, recording, analysis and archiving was compatible with the general standards for the preparation of archaeological archives deposited with Guildford Museum.
- 2.2.9 Trenches were numbered 1-7. The context numbers were designated as 100-199 for Trench 1, 200-299 for Trench 2 and continued in this sequence.



### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation are described within Section 4 (below) as a general description of the layers, features and conditions encountered across the site, followed by stratigraphical trench descriptions.
- 3.1.2 Context inventories are tabulated in Appendix A. The trench locations and associated features and sections are shown on Figure 2.

#### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The site was relatively flat and consisted of a grassed open area adjacent to the current fire station, with areas of hard-standing for roads and parking areas. The trenches were placed within the grassed areas including the back gardens of the houses along Ladymead.
- 3.2.2 The work was undertaken in dry conditions, and ground water was not present within any of the trenches. Topsoil was present across the entire area (Contexts 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 and 700) and consisted of a dark grey sandy silt with infrequent inclusions of CBM (ceramic building material), chalk fragments, flints fragments and rounded pebbles.
- 3.2.3 For most of the north and western part of the site (although truncated away within Trench 4) a mid brown sandy subsoil was present (layers 101, 201, 301, 501, 601 and 701). This deposit contained a small number of CBM fragments in the upper portion of the horizon but none at lower levels. The layer thickened towards the western extent of the site. The very soft nature of the deposit had permitted extensive root action to occur and the sediment was thoroughly mixed. There was no clear evidence of the deposit having been laid in association with the early 20th century construction and occupation of the buildings that presently occupy the site. It is assumed that the majority of this deposit is a buried former ploughsoil.
- 3.2.4 The underlying natural deposits manifested as soft mid yellow sands especially towards the eastern part of the site. The sand overlay the mid orange Kempton gravels with frequent flint nodules and fragments. The gravels were seen at the base of the features within the eastern trenches, and were present at the base of the trenches on the western side of the site.

#### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were uncovered within three of the trenches, specifically those on the eastern side of the site. An isolated struck flint, which was not associated with any feature was found at the base of the subsoil towards the western side of the site.

#### 3.4 Trench Descriptions

- 3.4.1 See Fig. 2 for all trench plans and associated sections.

##### *Trench 1*

- 3.4.2 Trench 1 contained a slightly irregular rounded feature (103) which was located at the NW end of the trench, and which was interpreted as a ditch terminus. The feature measured 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep, and had a single fill (104) which was similar in



composition and colour to the overlying subsoil (101). A single struck flint was recovered from the fill (see Appendix B).

- 3.4.3 Feature 103 may have been the terminal end of W-E orientated ditch 203 which was identified within Trench 2 to the west.

#### ***Trench 2***

- 3.4.4 A W-E orientated ditch (203) was present within the NE end of Trench 2. The ditch, which may have terminated as 103 within Trench 1 (above), measured 0.7m wide and 0.32m deep, and contained a single fill (204), which like fill 104 (above) was of similar consistency and colour to the overlying subsoil (201). Five struck flints were recovered from the fill, (see Appendix B), which was fully excavated on request by Tony Howe for the purpose of recovering datable material.

#### ***Trench 3***

- 3.4.5 Towards the western end of the Trench a N-S aligned linear feature (303) was noted to have slightly irregular edges. The feature, which exhibited a 'U' shaped profile was 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep, and had a single root disturbed fill (304) from which no finds were recovered. The fill, as with fills 104 and 204, was similar to the overlying subsoil.

#### ***Trench 4***

- 3.4.6 Trench 4 contained an extensive cut of recent date (402) which was up to 0.2m deep and contained a single mid brown sandy fill which contained pale pinkish grey clay patches (403). The fill, which was sealed by the topsoil (400) contained fragments of modern brick, and may have been related to the construction of the adjacent road.

#### ***Trench 7***

- 3.4.7 Trench 7 did not contain any archaeological features, but a single struck flint (see Appendix B) was recovered during hand cleaning, from the interface between the subsoil (701), and the natural gravels (702).

### **3.5 Finds summary**

- 3.5.1 Struck flints were recovered from contexts 104, 204 and 701. Fragments of clay pipe stem were recovered from contexts 201 and 700, and pieces of roof tile from contexts 100, 201 and 700. A penny (1963) was found within context 700.
- 3.5.2 No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental sampling were noted.



## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches were excavated in reasonable conditions and it is felt that the recorded density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate indication of the evaluation area as a whole.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation enabled the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains to be determined, as far as reasonably practicable. The archaeological remains were found to date to the prehistoric, post-medieval and modern periods.

### 4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The stratigraphy of the site was relatively simple. The natural geology, which sloped slightly downwards from east to west, was truncated by features seen in three of the trenches. The features were sealed by the subsoil (a buried ploughsoil), which became thinner to the east. The subsoil was truncated by modern services and the upper part was slightly disturbed by modern activity, and rooting. At the top of the sequence was topsoil which was present within all trenches.

4.3.2 Struck flint recovered from the features within Trenches 1 and 2 dated from the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods, or else a broad prehistoric date. Artefacts of post-medieval to modern date were recovered from the subsoil and topsoil within Trenches 1, 2 and 7. The flint artefacts found within the NW-SE ditch fills may represent an intact assemblage, but it must be noted that flint is a durable material and may be residual within the ditches. The flints were all retrieved from the lower sections of the ditches, near the underlying natural. The find-spot to the west and the previous known finds indicate that that area does have a significant amount of worked flint. These flints appear to be focused on the upper natural levels and possibly represent a horizon of depositional activity, whether this is natural accumulation or deliberate occupation is unclear.

4.3.3 The recovery of the small, but significant, assemblage of worked flints accorded with the previous findings of flints from the vicinity, as outlined in Section 1.3 above. The presence of the flints and their general good condition indicates that they may not have travelled far from their point of deposition. The possibility that some form of early prehistoric site lies in the evaluation area should be considered. Such sites can be very small and self-contained. The concentration of blade forms does hint at a culturally cohesive group in this locality.

4.3.4 The recovery of ceramic building material, re-identified as roof tile fragments, from the subsoil within Trenches 2 and 7 may indicate that there may have been a late medieval or post medieval building within the vicinity of the site. Alternatively these could be the result of building material being transferred to agricultural areas during the manuring process.



## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NW-SE
Trench contained the single terminal end of a ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of pale yellow sand with patches of orange gravels.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.6
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		10
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Tile	17 <sup>th</sup> – early 18 <sup>th</sup> c
101	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	Flint	?
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Cut	0.9	0.25	Ditch	-	-
104	Fill	0.9	0.25	Fill of 103	Flint	Early prehistoric

Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NE-SW
Trench contained a single W-E orientated ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of pale yellow sand with patches of orange gravels.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.72
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		10
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
201	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	Tile, clay pipe	17 <sup>th</sup> – early 18 <sup>th</sup> c
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Cut	0.7	0.32	Ditch	-	-
204	Fill	0.7	0.32	Fill of 203	Flint	Mesolithic- early Neolithic

Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		WNW-ESE
Trench contained a single broadly N-S orientated ditch or hedgeline. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of pale yellow sand with patches of orange gravels.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.82
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		10
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date





300	Layer	-	0.42	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
303	Cut	0.9	0.2	Ditch	-	-
304	Fill	0.9	0.2	Fill of 303	-	-

Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NNW-SSE
Trench contained large cut of modern date. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of pale yellow sand with patches of orange gravels.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.58
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Length (m)</b>	5
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
402	Cut	3.4	0.2	Modern disturbance	-	-
403	Fill	3.4	0.2	Fill of 402	Brick	20 <sup>th</sup> c

Trench 5						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and made ground overlying subsoil and a natural of pale brown sand and orange flint rich gravels.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.79
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Length (m)</b>	10
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.21	Made ground	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil	-	-
503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology, and containing three service trenches. Consists of topsoil overlying subsoil and a natural of pale brown sand and orange flint rich gravels.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.84
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Length (m)</b>	10
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date



600	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.48	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying subsoil and a natural of pale brown sand and orange flint rich gravels.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.8
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Length (m)</b>	10
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Coin, clay pipe	20 <sup>th</sup> c
701	Layer	-	0.5	Subsoil	Tile, flint	13 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> c
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 The flint

*By Michael Donnelly*

#### **Introduction**

- B.1.1 A very small assemblage of eight struck pieces was recovered from this evaluation. These were nearly all recovered from context 204. Contexts 101, 104, 204 and 701 also yielded flints. Two natural fragments were also present but can be discarded
- B.1.2 The assemblage almost entirely comprises pieces of probable Mesolithic to Neolithic date. Blades are common and the flakes in the assemblage display parallel negative scars and evidence of platform preparation that are more typical in early assemblages.
- B.1.3 Two cores were present but neither were diagnostic. A large tested nodule from context 102 displays weathered chalk cortex while the second core is heavily rolled and may have been moved quite far. It is smaller, related to flake production and could be of any date.
- B.1.4 The blades are quite narrow in character and include a bladelet and a partial crest. These most typify late Mesolithic or early Neolithic material. One larger blade from context 704 could be argued as being more typical of early Mesolithic assemblages, but could simply be an outlier from a predominantly narrow group.
- B.1.5 The single retouched flake is undiagnostic but does display enough technical attributes to suggest an early date is likely, possibly Neolithic.
- B.1.6 The possibility that some form of early prehistoric site lies in the evaluation area should be considered. Such sites can be very small and self-contained. As such, they can be easily missed by evaluation but the concentration of blade forms does hint at a culturally cohesive group in this locality.

Context	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
101	Tested nodule		Test flaking evident from large derived chalk nodule, modern damage	
101	Natural			
104	Flake	Side trimming	Regular parallel scars probably early	Early prehistoric
204	Blade	Inner	Possible broken partial crest	Mesolithic- Early Neolithic
204	Retouched flake	Inner	Fine scaler retouch upper right, slightly waxy surface	Early prehistoric
204	Natural			
204	Crested blade	Single crest	Classic single crested piece	Mesolithic- Early Neolithic
204	Core	Single platform flakes	Undiagnostic piece, heavily rolled	
204	Bladelet	Inner	Snapped narrow blade	Mesolithic-



				Early Neolithic
701	Blade	Inner	Possibly utilised large blade, 75mm by 26mm	Mesolithic- Early Neolithic

## B.2 The copper alloy coin

*by Geraldine Crann*

Context	Description	Date
700	Elizabeth II penny	1963

### **Recommendations**

B.2.1 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

## B.3 The clay pipe

*by John Cotter*

Context	Description	Date
200	1 clay pipe stem, fresh condition	17 <sup>th</sup> /early 18 <sup>th</sup> c
700	1 clay pipe stem, fresh condition	18 <sup>th</sup> c

### **Recommendations**

B.3.1 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

## B.4 The ceramic building material

*by John Cotter*

Context	Description	Date
100	1 fragment peg tile, fresh condition	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> c
202	3 fragments of flat roof tile from 3 separate tiles in a very coarse sandy fabric, all with thick sections. 1 has a bevelled edge and is possibly part of a ridge tile	13 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> c



701	3 flat roof tile fragments including 1 peg tile. All thick sectioned in a coarse orange fabric. 1 is very hard-fired and therefore possibly 15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> c	13 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> c
-----	---	---------------------------------------

### ***Recommendations***

B.4.1 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.



## APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Jacobs, 2012. Guildford Fire Station and Adjoining Land; Heritage Statement.

Jacobs, 2013. Guildford Fire Station and Adjoining Land; Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching.



## APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Guildford Fire Station, Guildford, Surrey

**Site code:** GUFIEV

**Grid reference:** NGR SU 9965 5081

**Type:** Evaluation

**Date and duration:** 26th and the 28th February 2013

**Summary of results:** A total of seven trial trenches were excavated, six measuring 10m by 1.6m and one measuring 5m by 1.6m. The evaluation uncovered a W-E orientated ditch which was potentially present in two trenches, terminating in one. Struck flints of probable Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date were recovered from the fills. A N-S ditch, or former hedgeline was also uncovered, from which no finds were recovered. Other trenches revealed features of recent date including buried services, and a wide shallow cut probably associated with the construction of an adjacent tarmac road.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course.





Client Name: Jacobs UK Limited  
Document Title: Guildford Fire Station, Surrey  
Document Type: Historic Building Investigation and Recording  
Issue Number: 1  
National Grid Reference: SU99698 50812  
OA Job Number: 5577  
Site Code: GUF13  
Invoice Code: GUFIEV  
Prepared by: Matt Fenn  
Position: Archaeologist  
Date: March 2013  
Checked by: Jonathan Gill  
Position: Project Manager  
Date: March 2013  
Approved by: Julian Munby Signed.....  
Position: Head of Buildings Archaeology  
Date: March 2013

Illustrated by

***Disclaimer:***

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned. © Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2013*

Oxford Archaeology  
Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



# GUILDFORD FIRE STATION, SURREY

## HISTORIC BUILDING INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Location and scope of work.....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Methodology .....</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1	Scope of Analysis .....	2
3.2	Fieldwork methods and recording .....	3
<b>4</b>	<b>Archaeological and historical background.....</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1	The Development of the Fire Service in Britain.....	3
4.2	The Fire Service within Guildford.....	4
4.3	Guildford Fire Station.....	4
<b>5</b>	<b>Overall Site Description .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Main Fire Station Building: External Description .....</b>	<b>6</b>
6.1	northern Elevation.....	6
6.2	Eastern Elevation .....	7
6.3	Southern Elevation.....	7
6.4	West elevation.....	8
<b>7</b>	<b>Main Fire Station Building: Internal description.....</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1	Ground Floor.....	9
7.2	First Floor .....	10
<b>8</b>	<b>The Smoke-House .....</b>	<b>12</b>
8.1	External Description .....	12
8.2	Internal Description .....	13
<b>9</b>	<b>Training/Drill Tower .....</b>	<b>13</b>
9.1	External Description .....	13
9.2	Internal Description .....	13
<b>10</b>	<b>Fire Station Store Buildings.....</b>	<b>13</b>
10.1	External Description .....	13
10.2	Internal Description .....	14
<b>11</b>	<b>Conclusion and Interpretation .....</b>	<b>14</b>

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

(continued from evaluation report)

Figure 3: Site plan

Figure 4: Ground floor plan

Figure 5: First floor plan

Figure 6: Elevations 1

Figure 7: Elevations 2

## **LIST OF PLATES**

Plate 1: North elevation of main fire station

Plate 2: North elevation of main fire station

Plate 3: Balcony in north elevation of main building

Plate 4: Stone crest on balcony

Plate 5: Pedestrian entrance at east end of north elevation

Plate 6: Original doors for fire engines in north elevation

Plate 7: General view from north-west

Plate 8: General view of west elevation

Plate 9: North end of west elevation

Plate 10: Gutter detail at north end of west elevation

Plate 11: Door converted to window in west elevation

Plate 12: General view of rear of main building (from SE)

Plate 13: Projection at east end of south elevation

Plate 14: General view of rear (south) of building

Plate 15: East elevation

Plate 16: Detail in east elevation

Plate 17: Training tower

Plate 18: Smoke House from north-west

Plate 19: Front of fire station store building

Plate 20: Rear of fire station store building

Plate 21: Secondary vertically sliding doors for fire engines

Plate 22: Primary horizontally sliding doors for fire engines

Plate 23: Detail of primary door in rear (south) elevation

Plate 24: Radiator in stair well

Plate 25: Primary window in stair well

Plate 26: Base of pole

Plate 27: Swing doors to sliding pole at first floor

Plate 28: First floor room

Plate 29: First floor roof lights

Plate 30: Locker room

Plate 31: Smoke vent in smoke house

Plate 32: Trusses in store buildings

# GUILDFORD FIRE STATION, SURREY

## HISTORIC BUILDING INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

### SUMMARY

*Oxford Archaeology (OA) has carried out a programme of Historic Building Recording at Guildford Fire Station, in Guildford, Surrey prior to the redevelopment of the site. The main recording focussed on the principal fire station building, fronting onto the A25, but the work also included two other structures: a 'smoke-house' to the south-east and a multi-storey training tower to the south. At the time of the recording the buildings remained in their primary function.*

*The main fire station building, which was constructed in c.1937, is a prominent structure with a Neo-Georgian design typical for the inter-war period and although various changes have been made it remains relatively close to its original form. Three of the original doors for the fire engines have been replaced but one survives in-situ and the first floor of one of the rear wings has been added. A number of original features still remain such as windows, doors and the sliding pole. The 'smoke-house' to the south has the appearance of a typical detached mid 20<sup>th</sup> century house, but is almost entirely constructed of concrete, as is the training tower to the west of this. Both are probably additions for training purposes, built in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. This recording work was carried out ahead of demolition of the buildings, before the area is to be incorporated into a new fire station complex.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by Jacobs UK Limited, acting on behalf of Surrey County Council, to undertake a programme of building investigation and recording at the fire station in Guildford, Surrey. It has been specified that a Level II building survey (as defined by English Heritage) be undertaken of the buildings concerned, consisting of the main fire station building, the 'smoke-house' and training tower.
- 1.1.2 The fire station complex is made up of four main buildings; the main fire station building located on the south side of the A25, 'smoke-house' and training tower to the south, and stores to the west. These buildings are the only fire department buildings that are currently in use in the Guildford area. The complex is located on the A25 at Ladymead, just 0.6 miles north from the centre of Guildford (NGR SU 99704 50802). The main structure consists of a principal east-west range with single-storey extensions on the eastern and western extents. The building is part of a large complex, with ancillary buildings to the south and west, mostly post-dating the main building, which are used as stores/training facilities.
- 1.1.3 The fire station is neither statutorily listed nor locally listed but it is an attractive building with a distinctive inter-war character and it enhances this part of Guildford. The 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Society opposed the demolition of the building on the grounds of its architectural interest.
- 1.1.4 A separate archaeological evaluation has also been undertaken by OA on the same site but the current document only relates to the building recording.

## 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The general aim of the investigation has been to create for posterity a record of the fire station prior to its demolition concentrating on its structure, construction, and use. The work particularly concentrated on any fire station features which were lost in the development and a general record of the whole structure was also produced to gain an overall understanding of the building.
- 2.1.2 More specific objectives were:
- To determine the phasing of the structure, to clearly identify which is the oldest part of the structure and what is the sequential phasing of the other areas
  - To record any surviving internal features which relate to the use of the building
  - To photographically record any main features of interest.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 SCOPE OF ANALYSIS

- 3.1.1 The recording of the main fire-station building was undertaken at Level 2 as defined by English Heritage in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2006). The structure was recorded in its current form

and this consisted of three principal methods: a photographic record, a descriptive record to explain the building, and a drawn record which comprised annotating existing plans and elevations. The site visit for the recording was completed on the 28th February 2013 by Matt Fenn and Jon Gill.

- 3.1.2 The English Heritage guidance document states that Level 2 is a '*descriptive record, made in circumstances similar to those of Level 1 but when more information is needed. It may be made of a building which is judged not to require any fuller record or it may serve to gather data for a wider project. Both the exterior and interior will be viewed, described and photographed. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive*'.

## **3.2 FIELDWORK METHODS AND RECORDING**

### **3.2.1 The Drawn Record**

- 3.2.2 Existing elevations and plans were provided by Surrey County Council. These drawings (1:100) were used to add descriptive annotation to indicate construction, structural breaks, evidence relating to the structure's use and other features of historical interest.

### **3.2.3 The Photographic Record**

- 3.2.4 Photographs were taken using 35mm film (black and white prints) and with a digital camera. The images included general shots of structures (external and internal) and specific details. Flash lighting was used to illuminate dark interiors and a scale was used where appropriate. Photographic record sheets were used to indicate the location and direction of each shot and any further detail.

### **3.2.5 The Written Record**

- 3.2.6 Written descriptions of the structures were made as part of the annotated drawings. Additional analytical and descriptive notes were taken as appropriate to complement the other elements of the record.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRE SERVICE IN BRITAIN**

- 4.1.1 Guildford Fire Station was constructed in the late 1930s during an important period for the development of the fire service in Britain when the Fire Brigades Act was passed. This helped to create local authority fire brigades, as opposed to privately run, insurance based fire services, as had been the case for some sixty to seventy years previous.
- 4.1.2 Before the Fire Brigades Act of 1938, fire services were run as private enterprises in response to the Great Fire of London in 1666 to act as property insurance services, but this was soon rolled out and charged as a service in its own right. It was not until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century that this practise was outlawed, mainly due to the fact that fire brigades would not attend any other fire services'



emergency. This saw a large-scale centralisation of the fire services, resulting in regional/local fire stations run by the state, similar to the situation we have today.

- 4.1.3 The Fire Brigades Act was centralised still further with the outbreak of the Second World War, and the National Fire Service was introduced in 1941, which was a grouping together of the Auxiliary Fire Service, an air raid fire service made-up of mostly local volunteers, and the local authority fire brigades introduced after the passing of the Fire Brigades Act. This grouping enabled most fire-men and fire-women to still take a crucial role in workshops and manufacturing plants to help the war effort.
- 4.1.4 After the war had finished, the fire service was again re-structured, this time to take out the requirement for volunteers, and once again put in the hands of the local authorities. This time the responsibility was held by the local council, or borough council rather than town councils, enabling an effective and less fragmented service to be put into place unlike previously. The fire service has remained regulated in this way ever since, with small changes and amendments in the last 15 years. One such change has been the Fire and Rescue Services Act passed in 2004, which although did not change the authority and management of the fire service as a whole; put into law the responsibilities of foremen and women, when dealing with fire-fighting and general emergencies.

## 4.2 THE FIRE SERVICE WITHIN GUILDFORD

- 4.2.1 The fire service in Guildford moved to the site in the current study from the original fire station (now known as the Old Fire Station), which was located on North Street, Guildford. This was built around 1872, and is likely to have been the first centralised fire service in the area, and is now a Grade II listed building. The move from such a small premises is likely to have been due to the Fire Brigades Act, and the wider development of the service as more engines and personnel would have been required compared to the small-scale 'privatised' system previously in use.
- 4.2.2 The move to a location on the outskirts of the county town will have had many benefits to the fire service in Guildford. The larger open spaces available in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century will have meant more space to train; a chance to store and maintain more fire engines, and ease of access to the main A25, which is likely to have been in use at least as a turnpike road over the turn of 20<sup>th</sup> century, meant a likely quicker response time to call-outs.

## 4.3 GUILDFORD FIRE STATION

- 4.3.1 The site is known to have been occupied prior to the construction of the fire station in the 1930s. The 1920 map of Guildford shows a earlier structure on site, located slightly to the south-west of the current fire station building and of apparent different layout. This building is also visible on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1897, and this occupation along the roadside is likely to have given rise to the development and construction of the by-pass in the 1920s and 30s. Map evidence from 1895 of Stoke Park also shows buildings in this location, indicating an occupation of the site before the 1890s. The site originally existed as an extension of the woodland to the west of the cemetery that still exists today.



- 4.3.2 An OS map from 1916 shows possible housing along this stretch of the roadside in the period to the south on this particular plot, behind the current site of the fire station. The 1934 6-inch OS shows a structure in the vicinity of Guildford Fire Station but this appears to be slightly to the west and to have been a larger building.
- 4.3.3 The more detailed 25-inch OS map, produced in 1935 shows the plot as empty, focusing on possible occupation to south and the graveyard on the south-east of the plot. It is likely then that the fire station building was built some-time in the mid-to-late 1930s, over the entranceway to the graveyard. The Twentieth Century Society's formal response letter to the planning application states that the fire station building was constructed in 1937 although it is uncertain what this clear date is based on (Henrietta Billings, Senior Caseworker C20th Society to Joanna Bell Planning Officer Guildford Borough Council 20 July 2012).
- 4.3.4 The training tower and 'smoke-house' only first appear on the detailed 1963-65 map, whereas the first OS map the station appears on is 1961. (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html>)
- 4.3.5 It is interesting to note that the 1961 OS map appears to show the main fire station building with an L-shaped plan comprising the main range as well as the rear projection at the west end but not the rear projection at the east end. The 1963-5 map does show both rear projections, as well as a further covered area between the projections, which strongly suggests that the eastern rear project is an early 1960s erection.
- 4.3.6 Current OS maps show quite clearly the current fire station range, with auxiliary buildings; the 'smoke-house' and training tower. It also shows the garages that exist to the south-west and the housing complex that exists to the west of the fire station. These first seem to appear on the OS maps in the early 1960s, with the station structure visible on 1961 OS map of Surrey.
- 4.3.7 In 1985 planning approval was granted for a first floor extension at Guildford Fire Station and for the construction of a two-storey smoke training building (85/P/01567). This first floor extension is almost certainly the rear projection on the western side.
- 4.3.8 In 1995 planning approval was granted for the demolition of a glass canopy and the erection of a new extension to house new fire appliances (95/P/01459). This extension is assumed to be the metal-clad roof to the rear while the glass canopy is presumably the structure shown on the 1963-5 map in a similar location.

## 5 OVERALL SITE DESCRIPTION

- 5.1.1 The main complex of fire station buildings are located on the northern edge of the main town of Guildford, on the southern side of the current A25, which runs east-west through the county town of Surrey
- 5.1.2 All three buildings remain fully intact and they were in use when the recording was undertaken. The main structure within the remit of this study is the fire station main building which fronts onto the current A25. This is a large two storey red-brick building, with a red/brown ceramic tile roof and with a classic



1930s neo-Georgian architectural character. Internally, the building still retains some of the classic fire station architecture and adornments.

- 5.1.3 The other buildings on-site are located to the south, at the rear of the current car park and loading bays. The first of these buildings is known as the 'smoke-house' and is designed as a typical mid 20<sup>th</sup> century detached house. It has the appearance of a brick built, light cement render property, typical of post-war housing estates across Britain. The interior is unfinished, as this is only used for training purposes, and is simply level at the concrete base structure. The building is 'boarded-up' with steel sheeting.
- 5.1.4 Located to the west of the 'smoke-house' is the training tower or 'drill tower'. This is a tall, multi-storey training structure, constructed solely of concrete, with iron railed window openings on each level. The current height of the 'drill-tower' is 17.7m from ground level. This is likely to be of similar construction to the 'smoke-house', being built around the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, possibly 1950s. This structure consists of 6 levels, with storage facilities in the wider rectangular base surrounding the tower.

## 6 MAIN FIRE STATION BUILDING: EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

### 6.1 NORTHERN ELEVATION

- 6.1.1 The frontage to this block has the typical character and design of a mid 20<sup>th</sup> century fire station, with large and evenly sized doorways which open up onto the roadside for access for fire appliances. There are four such doorways: the three to the east have been replaced with modern 'up-and-over' garage-style doors but in the western bay the primary doors remain in-situ. Internally this bay is no longer used to house engines which is why the primary door survived. The original door opens horizontally rather than the vertical modern replacement doors and it is of timber construction with the original iron fixings attached.
- 6.1.2 At the eastern end of the northern elevation is the original pedestrian entrance with primary timber door (five fielded horizontal panels) within a bracketed stone doorcase. Another interesting feature of the main frontage is a modern fire service crest which is located on the western central pillar at ground level.
- 6.1.3 The bays at ground floor are divided by sandstone ashlar Doric pilasters and immediately above this is a simple entablature with cornice and probably primary lettering ('GUILDFORD FIRE STATION'). At first floor the elevation has a sandstone balcony on brackets and to the front there is a carved stone relief crest which is the Guildford Borough Arms ([www.civicheraldry.co.uk/surrey](http://www.civicheraldry.co.uk/surrey)). This depicts the Norman Castle at Guildford with a shield and behind a lion. To each side are woolpacks which represent what was historically the town's principal trade, and to the front is a river (the river Wey).
- 6.1.4 The building still retains what appears to be the nine original sash windows with horns to each sash, squared-headed brick lintels and stone sills. The central

three windows are above the balcony and the very central one is beneath a small pediment.

- 6.1.5 Above the windows there is a stone string course and there are blank brick recessed panels within the parapet corresponding to the nine windows below. At first floor there are rusticated brick quoins.

## 6.2 EASTERN ELEVATION

- 6.2.1 The eastern elevation of the main building divides into two sections: to the northern half is the two-storey end of the main range while the southern half is the side of a single storey subsidiary block. Both sections are constructed from red stretcher bond brick and they share very similar detailing. They also appear to be bonded together and one would assume they were contemporary with each other if it were not for the fact that map evidence suggests this rear projection was constructed in the early 1960s. Also the rusticated quoin at the corner of the main range continues down to the ground, stylistically abutting the rear projection and this suggests (albeit tentatively) that the projection is secondary.

- 6.2.2 The main range has five original white sash window frames, as well as segmented arched brickwork around the outlet for drainage downpipe at roof level. This is replicated for the other drainage downpipe on this elevation creating a symmetrical pattern. This elevation does show two small 'red-brick' built 'housing' blocks at the base, presumably used to encase gas/water mains, and appear later addition to the original building phase. Notable on this façade, is the original chimney structure, exceeding the height of the roof by some margin. Also visible is the stone banding that wraps around most of the first floor of the main building.

- 6.2.3 The lower southern end of the eastern elevation has a flat roof with rebuilt parapet and it does not quite have the same architectural style as the northern section, lacking the segmented arched brickwork for the guttering, as well as sporting more modern 'air-bricks'. Also the wrap-around 'soldier-course' styling at ceiling level for the ground floor only contains a two bricks rather than the three seen on the main fire station building. This elevation does have one interesting vent detail, which is suggestive of the 1930s (although as referred to above map evidence suggests this projection is of 1960s date), close to the bonding of the wing with the two-storey main building.

## 6.3 SOUTHERN ELEVATION

- 6.3.1 The southern elevation is the most altered façade of the main fire station. The older parts of the southern elevation mimic those of the original fabric of the building visible on the eastern, western and Northern elevations, in that it is constructed of red-brick (stretcher bond), showing original white sash style windows, dating to the mid to late 1930s. One of the windows has been replaced; the most westerly of the set of nine on the first floor, possibly due to a breakage at some point, with a PVC window in the same style.

- 6.3.2 This elevation also shows brick styling applied to the lower area of the first floor, 'soldier-coursing' comprising of three bricks. Visible along this façade are two segmented arched brickwork patches for guttering pipework at first floor level.



- 6.3.3 At ground level, an original fire door can be seen that leads to the rear. This fire door is one of two in the main building that still support the original iron fittings, again likely to date to the mid 1930s.
- 6.3.4 The southern elevation shows multiple modern extensions. They are constructed of a concrete block foundation with modern steel/metal sheeting roof, tied into the original fabric of the building. The walls are also fabricated from this metallic sheeting, based on top of a brick plinth as a foundation. This modern construction has allowed for two extra engine bays to be created at the rear of the main building, with the most easterly having a fire-door attached. These are likely to date to late part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (probably 1995, suggested by a planning application of this date).
- 6.3.5 Also visible on the original first floor of this elevation is the stone banding that wraps around the majority of the first floor of the main building.

#### **6.4 WEST ELEVATION**

- 6.4.1 The western elevation is two storied for its full extent and is constructed in red-brick stretcher bond with the same styling as seen on the southern and eastern elevations.
- 6.4.2 In the end of the main range there is a single, high sash window (upvc replacement), projecting chimney stack, downpipe with segmented arch detail, stone string course and full height rusticated brick quoins.
- 6.4.3 At the ground floor level, there are five tall (2.5m in height) sash windows all within the rear projection. The central of the five windows has been blocked up beneath and must have previously been a doorway. Other detailing of this window is also slightly different to the other windows in this range.
- 6.4.4 The first floor of this rear range is a secondary extension and must relate to the planning approval granted in 1985 (see above).
- 6.4.5 At ground level the projection is bonded to the main building to the North, but the first floor is not bonded and it is constructed from slightly different brickwork. The guttering used is also of a much more modern date. This section does however incorporate what appears to be an older (1930s?) window.
- 6.4.6 The roof of this extension is hipped and not behind a parapet and it incorporates three roof lights.
- 6.4.7 Toward to the northern end of the western elevation, the west chimney is visible, designed in the same architectural style as the one on the eastern elevation. This is likely to also be an original part of the fabric of the building.
- 6.4.8 Another minor feature of interest is a pair of truncated iron stubs within the end of the main range and these may relate to a possible former access barrier or gate.



## 7 MAIN FIRE STATION BUILDING: INTERNAL DESCRIPTION

### 7.1 GROUND FLOOR

#### 7.1.1 *General arrangement*

7.1.2 The ground floor comprises the main open-plan area for the fire appliances with offices and ancillary rooms to the east and south and modern appliance bays to the south.

#### 7.1.3 *Watch Room*

7.1.4 The main pedestrian entrance from the northern frontage leads into the Watch Room which has been largely renovated in the modern era. The original door still exists with its timber framework visible on the interior. The room does have original gas pipework and radiators, from the initial building's construction, as well as an original ground floor sash window.

7.1.5 The rest of the room has been updated in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, including polystyrene panelling on the ceiling, and cabling and desks to facilitate the use of the room as the main fire station communications hub.

#### 7.1.6 *Office*

7.1.7 Behind the Watchroom is an office with original ceiling height (c18-20ft), as well as an original sash window. Alongside the window frame, on the northern wall exists a possible original wooden panelled cupboard, which is now used for storage. Much like the 'watch-room', the office has been turned into a modern office for use by fire personnel.

#### 7.1.8 *Rear Offices*

7.1.9 To the south of the watch-room and office, are a set of three rooms; an office, a WC and 'lean-to', of which the WC and office are of similar preservation as the office to the north. There is a plastered finish to the interior walls with modern polystyrene panelling on the ceiling. Original window features remain and they suggest that this area was part of the initial 1930s built block (conflicting with map evidence).

7.1.10 The 'lean-to' that connects these two rooms to the main building to the north is of a more modern construction, with brick foundation butting up against the original fabric of the building, and making use of a modern timber and metal clad roof. This is probably part of a late 20<sup>th</sup> century renovation of this area of the building

#### 7.1.11 *Appliance Bays*

7.1.12 The main 'appliance bay' room within the original building consists of four bays for fire engines to be housed. The western-most of these bays has been turned into a gym for use by the fire officers. This area is partitioned off with use of temporary office walling, with gym equipment located within this area. At the north end of this gym area, the original fire door is visible, on which original metal fixings can be seen (c.1937).

7.1.13 The floor throughout the appliance bays is made up of red/brown quarry tiles, with white paint marking the location for engines to be stored. These tiles are likely to be original.



- 7.1.14 In front of the three bays in use are three modern hydraulic fire doors, which open vertically. These are manufactured out of a red plastic material with a clear perspex used for windows instead of glass.
- 7.1.15 To the rear of the two eastern appliance bays, two original fire doors can be seen; one which is still in use with original fixings, and one to the west where only the wooden frame remains. This opens out into an extension appliance bay which is fabricated out of concrete blocks for the foundation and metal sheet cladding. This itself has a red hydraulic, plastic fire door to the south to enclose the structure.
- 7.1.16 Internally, the main appliance room has a lot of original fire station features, such as the 'sliding pole' which is located to the rear of the appliance bays. Also visible in this vicinity is the possibly original fire bell, which is still in use alongside a more modern version.
- 7.1.17 *Kit Room/Cleaning and Store***
- 7.1.18 To the rear of the building to the west is the current kit room. This is used to store foremen's kit, and benches and hooks are located around the edge of the room, with additional wooden benching located down the centre of the room.
- 7.1.19 Original door-frames do still exist in this room, to the corridor to the north and to the 'cleaning room' to the south, although this now does not house a door.
- 7.1.20 Original sash windows are visible through this room, with two on opposite elevations, east and west.
- 7.1.21 Through the doorway to the south is the cleaning room and store. These both have original sash windows, and the original brickwork is visible, although painted. It is now used a store and cleaning area, with washing machine, with associated additional pipework, and cleaning facilities such as sink, water heater/boiler.
- 7.1.22 *Corridor/Stairwell to First Floor***
- 7.1.23 The corridor behind the main appliance bay area has a couple of notable original features. At ground floor level, the corridor has an original sash window to the western elevation. Around this window, original gas pipework is visible to a block radiator, and the tiling around this area is most likely to be original, and is in the same style as the floor tiles seen in the appliance bays earlier. This is certainly an original part of the main building.
- 7.1.24 On the stairwell to the first floor, there is a mid-level landing, which again shows off an original style window. Also underneath this window, is original wooden panelling which encases gas pipework. There is a hatch to which the pipework can be accessed and the original brickwork can be seen behind. This represents the upper limit of the original build from the late 1930s.

## **7.2 FIRST FLOOR**

### **7.2.1 *Locker Room***

- 7.2.2 This is the sole use of the first floor extension to the main building (c.1985). The brickwork has been boarded over and plastered unlike the majority of the

rooms on the ground floor. Any of the fabric that would be visible is mostly covered by the extensive use of wooden lockers around the edge of the room and through the centre. Also visible within the room are three skylights in the roof space, and a re-used window which is of the same style as the originals used elsewhere in the building.

### **7.2.3 Recreation Room**

7.2.4 This is one of the largest rooms within the entire building, and faces out from the north and western sides of the first floor. This is currently in use as a large games room/mess room for the firemen when they are not 'on-call', with recreational equipment such as a pool table and a darts board among others. There is also a temporary structure bar in the north-eastern corner of the room.

7.2.5 There are some notable architectural/structural pieces in this room, with four original windows to the front elevation visible, and original radiators/gas pipework also still in use. There is a metre high wooden panelling which is attached to three sides of the interior wall, as well as a timber cupboard, possibly original 1930s design, in the north-western corner of the room.

7.2.6 The ceiling has been reduced to accommodate modern lighting, as has happened in many rooms within the building, with a polystyrene tiles again in use.

7.2.7 The bar area is of timber construction and obscures part of the most easterly window in the room. This is likely to be very late 20<sup>th</sup> century addition to the building.

### **7.2.8 Dormitory**

7.2.9 Large rectangular room that is now used as a dormitory for the firemen. The one window on the southern wall is a modern double-glazed Upvc unit, but the room does have a skylight in the centre of the roof space.

### **7.2.10 Small Bedroom**

7.2.11 This is one of the smallest rooms within the building, and is used a single bedroom. One original 1930s window survives on the southern face, as does the original gas pipework and radiator. The room does have an air-brick in the top-left corner of the south wall which appears to be slightly later, probably mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century design, as is the wardrobe.

### **7.2.12 Upper Level Hallway**

7.2.13 This large, long hallways is an original part of the 1930s fire station structure. It leads from the dormitory through the central block of the main building. This hallways still contains a large amount of original and interesting features. Most notable is the classic 'sliding-pole' through double red swing doors to the south, which leads to a metal platform in front of the pole itself. This is likely to be part of the original 1930s fabric of the building, see plate 12

7.2.14 At the east end of the hallway, there is a set of double hatch-doors on the ceiling that lead presumably to a loft space for storage. The exact original purpose of these doors are unknown, and therefore so is the date, although it is likely they are original to the building, c.1937.

7.2.15 The hallway also has along its course, an original radiator with associated pipework, along the southern wall of the hallway.



### **7.2.16 Conference Room**

7.2.17 This large square room, located next to the recreation room is currently used as a conference and meeting room, with large amounts of communications equipment on the walls, with chairs and desks spread through the room. This is key to the operational ability of the fire station. It has, however, covered most of the original features, apart from the windows, of which there are two on the northern wall of the building.

### **7.2.18 Mess Room**

7.2.19 Large square room, used as a dining room/mess room for the firemen. It has a hatch which has been knocked through from the kitchen to the east. This appears to have been a doorway originally, subsequently knocked through.

7.2.20 The room also has two original windows to the north wall side of the room, to a full 2m length.

7.2.21 The room has been modernised to cope with needs of the firemen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with television and games console.

### **7.2.22 Kitchen**

7.2.23 Large rectangular room heavily updated in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century for use as a modern kitchen area for servicemen. The room still has original windows, and wooden 'built-in' cupboards on it's southern end

### **7.2.24 Shower/Wash-Room/WC Rooms**

7.2.25 There are a number of wash-rooms and shower rooms on the southern end of the first floor, of which all have been heavily modernised, with tiling in most areas and modern sinks/taps. The original fabric of the building is not visible, but heavy, red specialised fire doors are notable on access to the rooms.

## **8 THE SMOKE-HOUSE**

### **8.1 EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION**

8.1.1 This building is typical of post-war detached and semi-detached housing in Britain. It has been built to mimic the British home for training purposes and it appears to have been constructed in 1985 (suggested by planning application of that date) although it may have replaced a previous structure. The two storey building has been finished with a modern cream coloured render, and topped with a ceramic tiled roof. Notable additions to this form are the smoke fans located centrally in the roof space, for clearing smoke after training, and metal shuttering on the windows, so that the building can be used for training in complete darkness.

8.1.2 There are three windows on the ground floor and two on the first floor, all built within the original construction phase, with timber framing and metal shuttering. The same is true of the doorways, four in all, which have wooden frames and wooden panelling effect on the doors.

8.1.3 Other notable points are various 'smoke-holes' located around the base of the first floor level. This may well be for smoke extraction after training drills, see plate 14.





## 8.2 INTERNAL DESCRIPTION

- 8.2.1 The interior of this building has been unfinished, confirming that it was never used for occupation, left as concrete block construction.
- 8.2.2 The ground floor is split into four main rooms, with various pieces of furniture located around the rooms to give the impression of what may be in a home to make the training more realistic. The same can be said of the first floor, where an open landing leads into a large, probable bedroom, to the rear.
- 8.2.3 One notable design of this building is the smoke vent/fans located in the roof space. These are visible from the interior and give a good impression of the utilitarian nature of the building.

## 9 TRAINING/DRILL TOWER

### 9.1 EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

- 9.1.1 The training tower is a purpose-built concrete hollow tower for training fire-fighters at height. It consists of five stories with timber frame windows with a steel wire mesh used instead of glass. It has a large rectangular base to support the thin, tall tower block. It is likely to have been built in the mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 9.1.2 There are a number of access doors, on the east, west and south faces of the building, of which are either timber or metal construction.

### 9.2 INTERNAL DESCRIPTION

- 9.2.1 The rectangular base of the tower is primarily used as storage, with open-plan rooms off to the east and west, with access to the tower steps through the central part of the base block.
- 9.2.2 The only access to the upper levels is via a cast iron, fixed access ladder to the first storey. This leads to a platform and the next access ladder is on the opposite side of the tower; this alternating continues to the top of the building. There are no obvious architectural design features of note within this structure, apart perhaps from the cast iron access ladders used.

## 10 FIRE STATION STORE BUILDINGS

### 10.1 EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

- 10.1.1 To the west of the training tower and smoke-house is a set of four store/warehouses. The three original stores were built in the same phase, and are contemporary to the main fire station building. The block has the same chimney stack styling, as well as the soldier brick coursing across the top of the ground level. This 1930s block also has similar guttering style to that of the main fire station building.
- 10.1.2 Two of the three stores have large vertical automatic doors which open to the interior. The furthest west of the stores has original timber doors with metal fixings.



- 10.1.3 One later addition exists butts the eastern edge, brick built with a metal clad roof, likely to be of late 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The brickwork is also of different origin and date.
- 10.1.4 To the rear, the building has eight windows facing south, one attached to the modern extension in the east.

## 10.2 INTERNAL DESCRIPTION

- 10.2.1 The only unit accessible was the furthest west, with original wooden double doors. This opens out into a large open-plan storage space, with a partitioned toward the rear creating a second room. This was also used as a storage space.
- 10.2.2 The only original fabric of the building still visible is the roof space, which has timber rafters attached to a steel roof frame. The steel trusses have a typical form for the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century simply constructed using a right-angled section members bolted together with connecting plates at junctions. The trusses support one softwood purlin to each slope and common rafters above this.

## 11 CONCLUSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 11.1.1 Although it is unlisted Guildford Fire Station is a building complex of local architectural interest and it has a character which has enhanced this area on the northern edge of the town. First built in or around 1937, it has been redeveloped and modernised over the decades, with a later 20th century first floor addition to the rear, as well as more recent modernisation of the interior, such as the modern automatic fire doors to the front of the property to keep in line with the modern requirement of the fire service. The other buildings within the complex have less architectural value but they provide evidence of the different operations of a fire station. The ‘smoke house’ to the rear is likely to be of 1980s construction, possibly along with the training tower adjacent to the west. The fire station stores to the west of the main complex appear to be contemporary with the main building, likely to be late 1930s construction, with a single-storey later addition to the east.
- 11.1.2 The Guildford Fire Station is of historical interest given it's relationship with similar civic buildings of the period that still exist within the county town. Alongside the Guildford Technical College, built in 1939, and the Guildford Lido, in 1933, this building represents a good example neo-Georgian civic architecture, likely to have been constructed in 1937 (info from the formal response of the 20th Century Society to the application).
- 11.1.3 The structure is also relevant to the historical development of Guildford as a whole, with the change in location of the fire service marking the municipal expansion of the county town in the inter-war period.
- 11.1.4 The building has also become a prominent landmark within the area as well as the community, with the fire department holding many open days for the local community, showcasing the abilities of the modern fire service as well as the importance of home fire safety.
- 11.1.5 The station building will also hold a sense of importance to people personally, as through the various open days, and having been part of the community since



the 1930s, many people from the local area will have visited it, or at least been aware of the building and it's architecture for some time.

- 11.1.6 As noted by the Twentieth Century Society and by third parties within the consultation meetings prior to any works, this 1930s building is one of certain architectural design that is important to record prior to demolition, as fewer examples survives through the pace of modern development. This work gives an excellent opportunity to preserve the record and detail of the building, and create an archive for more people to have the opportunity to learn from it's construction and use over the c.75 years period.
- 11.1.7 The complex as a whole is worthy of historical record, as even the later training facilities to the south of the main building give an interesting insight into the day-to-day life and training of fire fighters. The 'smoke-house' and training tower are interesting features as they show the facilities available and training techniques used by the servicemen and women.
- 11.1.8 As the building is likely to be superseded by a fire station and training facility of modern design, it is important to record the classic fire station architecture that will be lost by the development. For example, the original sliding pole is an image with which most people will associate with fire stations, however they are no longer used in modern developments, so making a photographic record is important to chronicle the changes made through modern developments and technology. Other such features include the original fire doors at ground level, and the main fire bell; all features that will be lost once redevelopment takes place.

Oxford Archaeology  
March 2013



## APPENDIX 1: BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

### Unpublished references

[WWW.Wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html>

### Cartographic References

*1870 Ordnance Survey 25 inch:1 mile map*

*1896 Ordnance Survey 25 inch:1 mile map*

*1916 Ordnance Survey 25 inch:1 mile map*

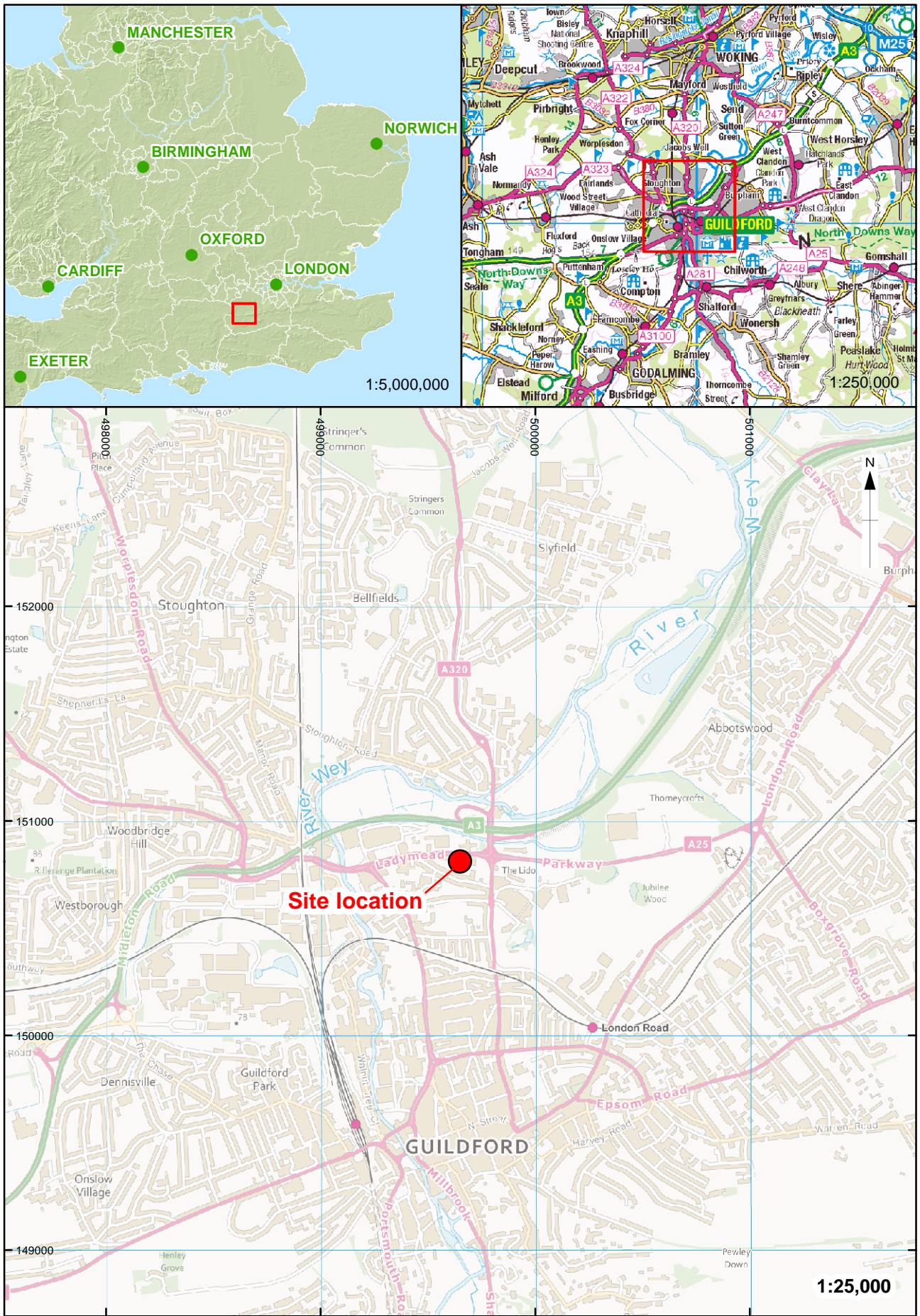
*1920 Ordnance Survey 6 inch:1 mile map*

*1934 Ordnance Survey 6 inch:1 mile map*

*1935 Ordnance Survey 25 inch:1 mile map*

*1961 Ordnance Survey 6 inch:1 mile map*

*1963-65 Ordnance Survey 25 inch:1 mile map*



\\Samba-1\invoice codes a thru h\G\_invoice codes\GUFIEV\GUFIEV\_fig01.mxd\Hamah.Kennedy\26/03/2013

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012

Figure 1: Site location

# LADYMEAD



499580  
150840

499680  
150840

\\Server6\invoice codes a thru h\G\_invoice codes\GUFIE\PDFs\CDP\14.03.2013

31  
499580  
150760

499680  
150760

All OS data reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. 100019613, Surrey County Council, 2011.

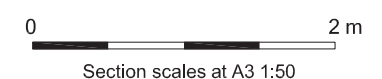
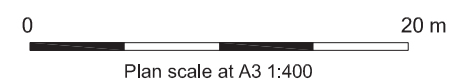
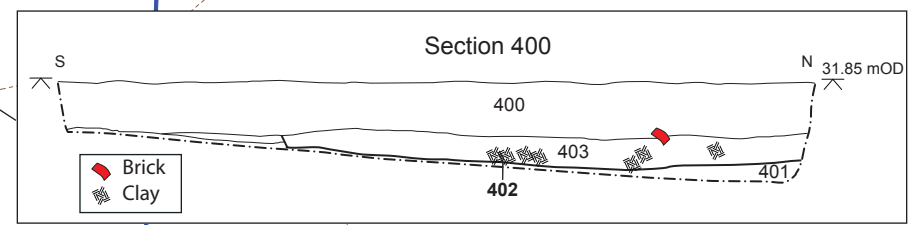
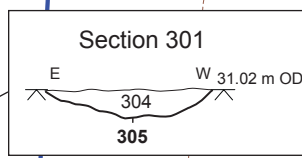
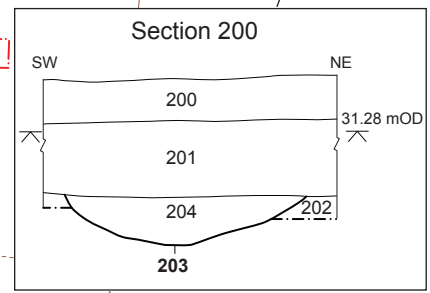
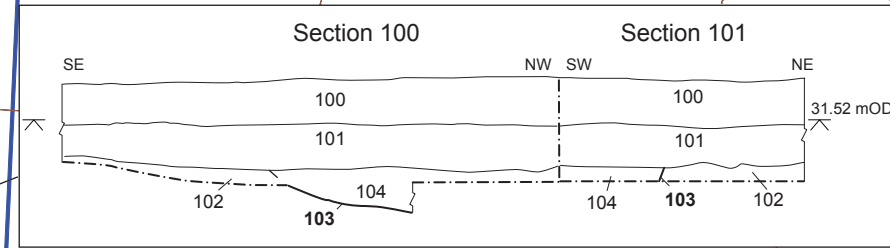


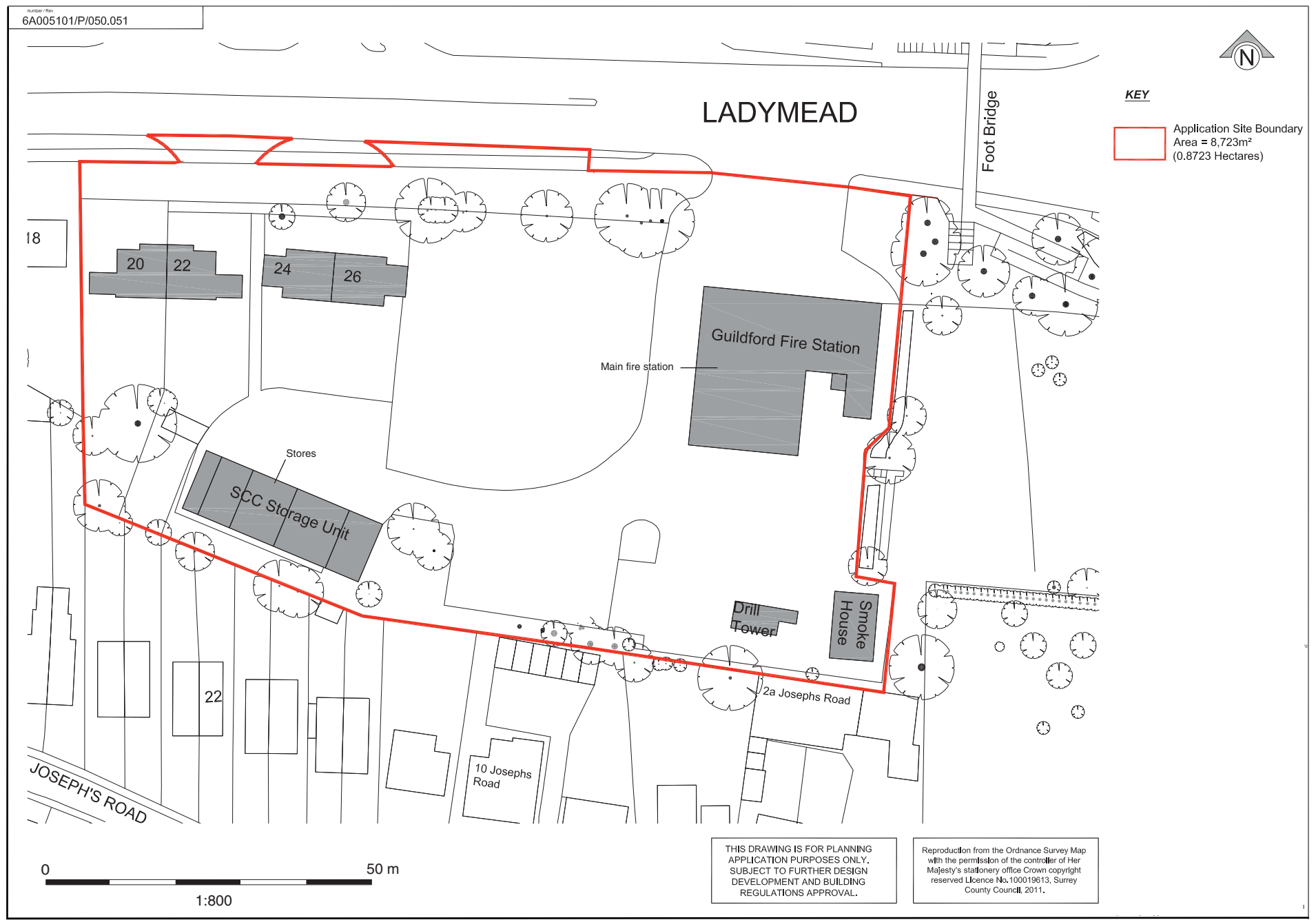
Figure 2 - Trench location plan showing archaeological features and sections

CHECKED BY:

Number/Rev  
6A005101/P/050.051



**KEY**  
Application Site Boundary  
Area = 8,723m<sup>2</sup>  
(0.8723 Hectares)



THIS DRAWING IS FOR PLANNING APPLICATION PURPOSES ONLY. SUBJECT TO FURTHER DESIGN DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING REGULATIONS APPROVAL.

Reproduction from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's stationery office Crown copyright reserved Licence No.100019613, Surrey County Council, 2011.

Figure 3: Site plan (taken from planning application document)

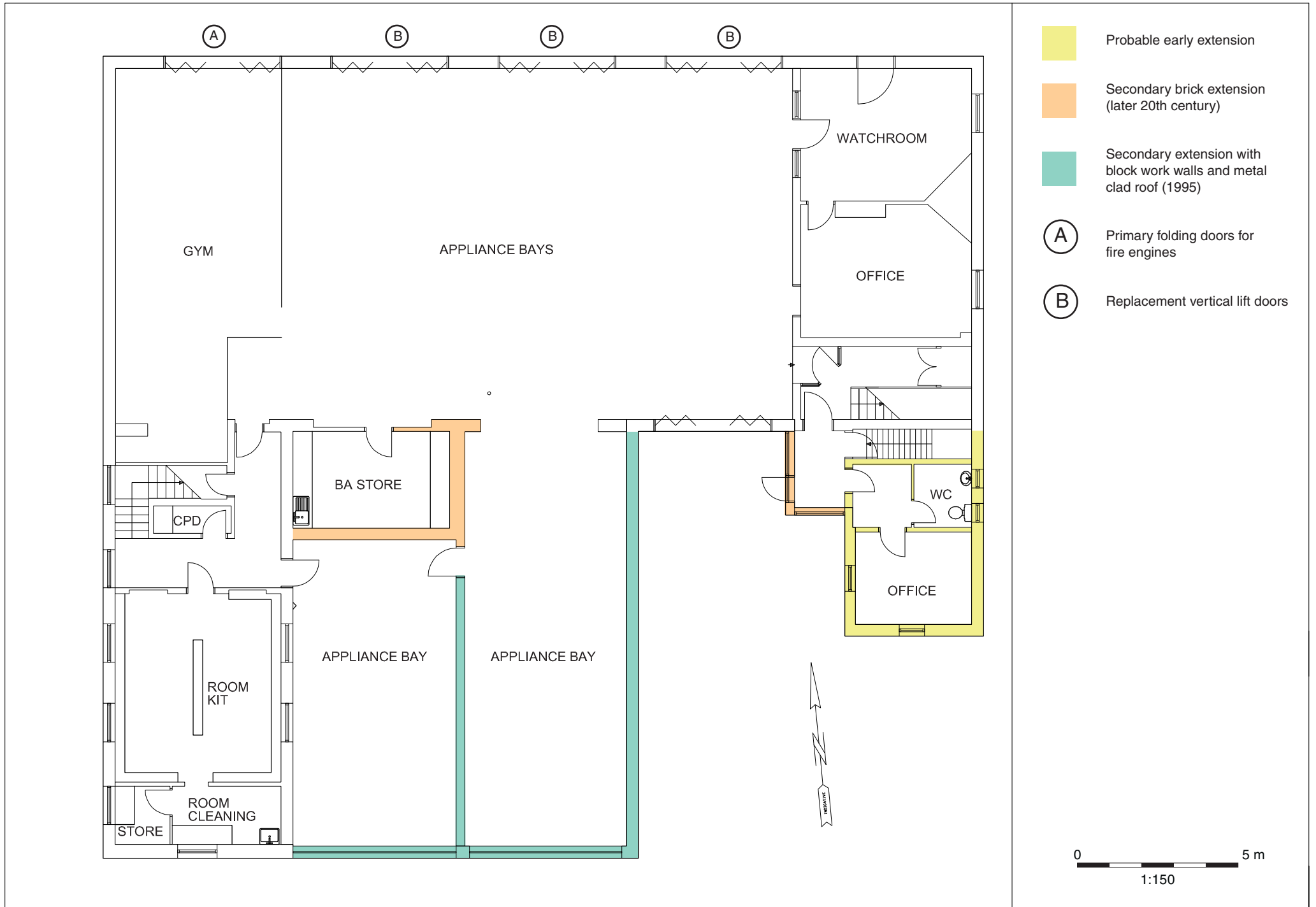


Figure 4: Ground floor plan (taken from a survey by Sterling Surveys and included in planning application documents)



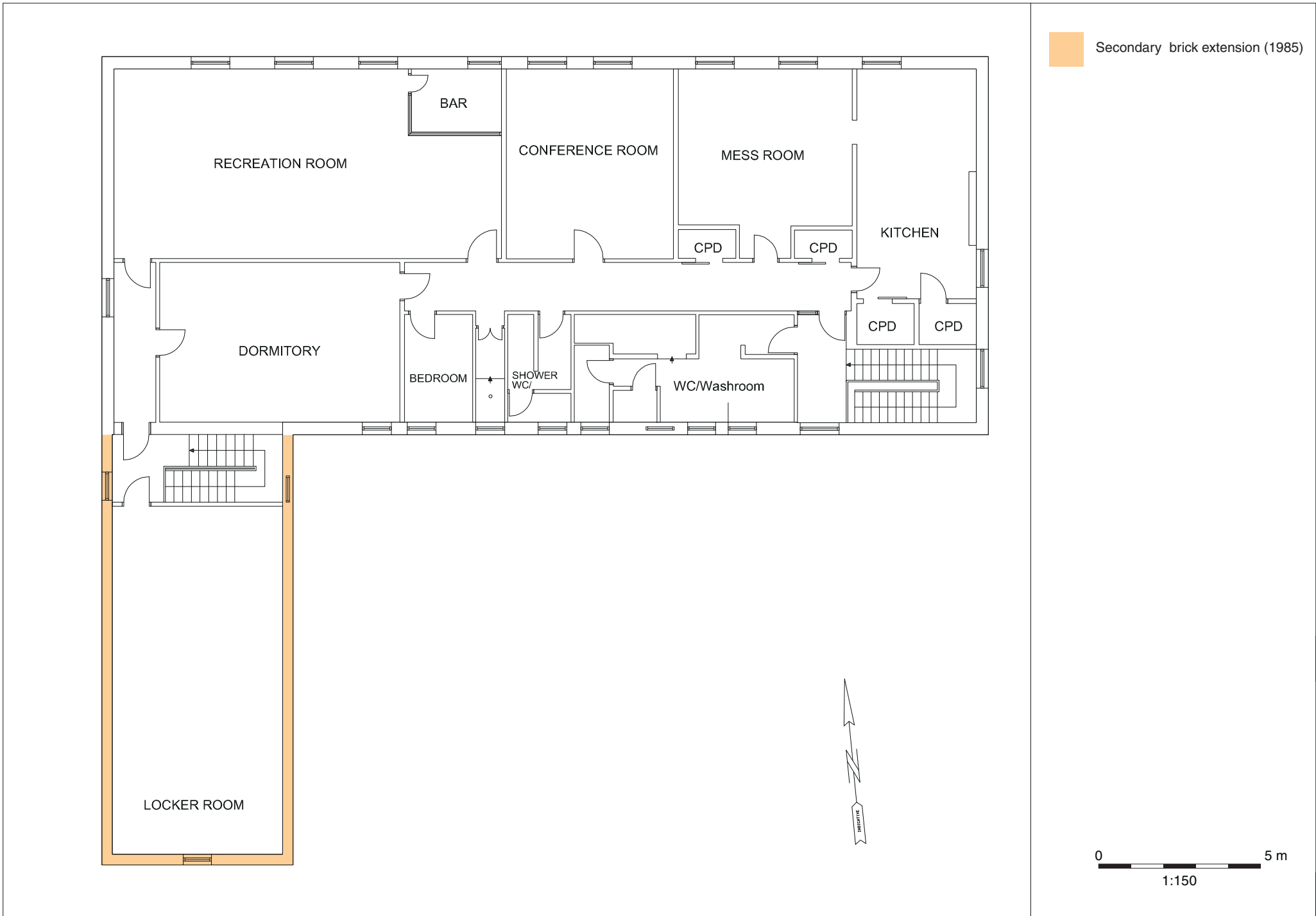


Figure 5: First floor plan (taken from a survey by Sterling Surveys and included in the planning application document)



Figure 6: Elevation 1 (taken from Sterling Surveys in planning application document)



Figure 7: Elevations 2 (taken from a survey by Sterling Surveys and included in planning application document)



Plate 1: North elevation of main fire station



Plate 2: North elevation of main fire station



Plate 3: Balcony in north elevation of main building



Plate 4: Stone crest on balcony



Plate 5: Pedestrian entrance at east end of north elevation



Plate 6: Original doors for fire engines in north elevation



Plate 7: General view from north-west



Plate 8: General view of west elevation



Plate 9: North end of west elevation



Plate 10: Gutter detail at north end of west elevation



Plate 11: Door converted to window in west elevation



Plate 12: General view of rear of main building (from SE)



Plate 13: Projection at east end of south elevation



Plate 14: General view of rear (south) of building



Plate 15: East elevation



Plate 16: Detail in east elevation



Plate 17: Training tower



Plate 18: Smoke House from north-west



Plate 19: Front of fire station store building



Plate 20: Rear of fire station store building





Plate 21: Secondary vertically sliding doors for fire engines



Plate 22: Primary horizontally sliding doors for fire engines

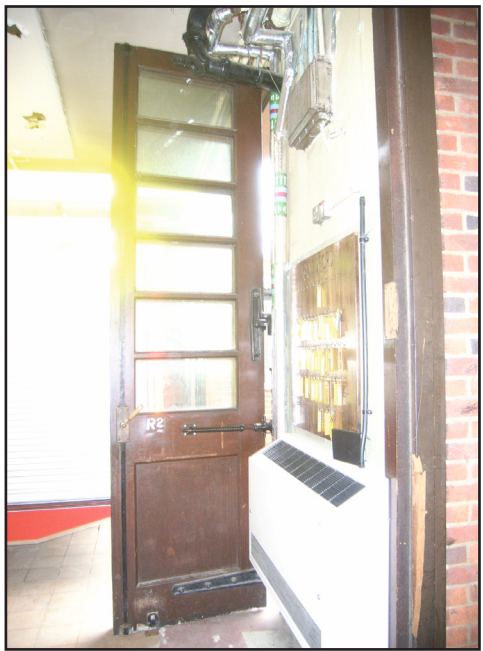


Plate 23: Detail of primary door in rear (south) elevation



Plate 24: Radiator in stair well



Plate 25: Primary window in stair well



Plate 26: Base of pole



Plate 27: Swing doors to sliding pole at first floor



Plate 28: First floor room



Plate 29: First floor roof lights



Plate 30: Locker room



Plate 31: Smoke vent in smoke house



Plate 32: Trusses in store buildings





**Head Office/Registered Office/  
OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599  
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*