RAF Menwith Hill
Building 1045 Extension and Distribution Substation
Design and Access Statement

1 Introduction

RAF Menwith Hill is located northwest of Harrogate, with the site covering approximately 200 hectares. Development across the site is wide-ranging, comprised of a mix of military structures but no airfield.

The site for development is the existing Building 1045 and distribution sub-station, which is an administrative and communications equipment facility. The existing building is located near the top of a hill and is adjacent to other administrative buildings to the north and a large, multi-tiered car park to the west. The objective of this project is to expand the existing building to the south and to meet the functional demands of the Station in a manner which will create the minimum visual or functional impact on its surroundings. This is to be achieved by making the extension blend in with the existing structure and preventing it from encroaching on the surroundings in a way that would adversely impact upon the existing uses of the area.

2 Use

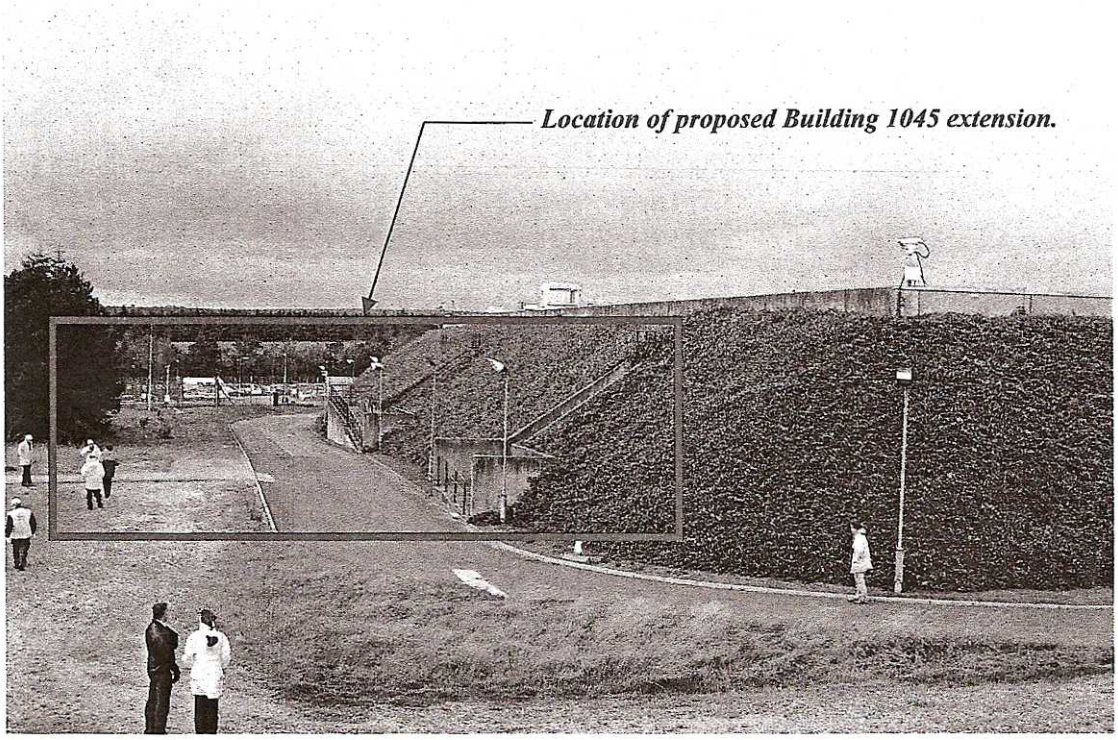
The aim of this project is to expand the facilities within Building 1045 to provide additional equipment capacity for the increased functional requirements of the building's mission on the Station.

3 Capacity

The maximum proposed size of the extension is $130m^2$ with a supplemental equipment building of $52m^2$. The current size of existing Building 1045 is approximately 8,909 m^2.

4 Layout

The proposed extension has been designed such that the current ivy-covered bermed earth surrounding the existing building will continue along the east and south façades so that the extension will closely match the existing facility and provide the same materials and appearance. The only existing feature affected by the extension is a service road that will be relocated further south to maintain the current vehicle access routes.



The general purposed layout of the facility (drawing number A-101) is included with this submission. From this drawing it can be observed that the proposed layout provides direct access, via security vestibules, between the existing building and the building extension in two locations by utilizing two existing doors that will lead straight into the new portion of the facility.

5 Scale

The current structure is a single-story building and the extension will also be single story. The extended area is to be approximately 39m wide by 34m, as illustrated on drawing A-101. The height of the extension will closely match the existing building to provide a cohesive, flowing façade. The maximum heights specified ensure the extension will not protrude above the existing structure. The maximum stated limits for this extension have been set to ensure access around the site is not impeded.

6 Landscaping

The footprint of the extension encompasses the area currently occupied by adjacent paved and grassed areas. No existing structures, other than existing concrete exit tunnels, will be demolished to allow for the extension. The proposed development will fit within the existing landscaping context; indeed, only new, native trees will be added to the south of the supplemental building to provide a visual barrier from Skipton Road. As mentioned previously, the existing bermed earth surrounding most of existing building 1045 will continue around the south and east façades of the extension; the ground cover used on the existing berms will be matched on the new.

The proposed extension will include the bermed earth covering like the existing facility.

The design of the external pavements will be such that non-slip materials and ramped areas are included where appropriate accessing the entrances/exits. Ramps are currently included in the design for the exits of the building to account for disabled people. The whole design of the facility will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the UK Building Regulations.

Other than the above there are no special landscaping proposals included in this project.

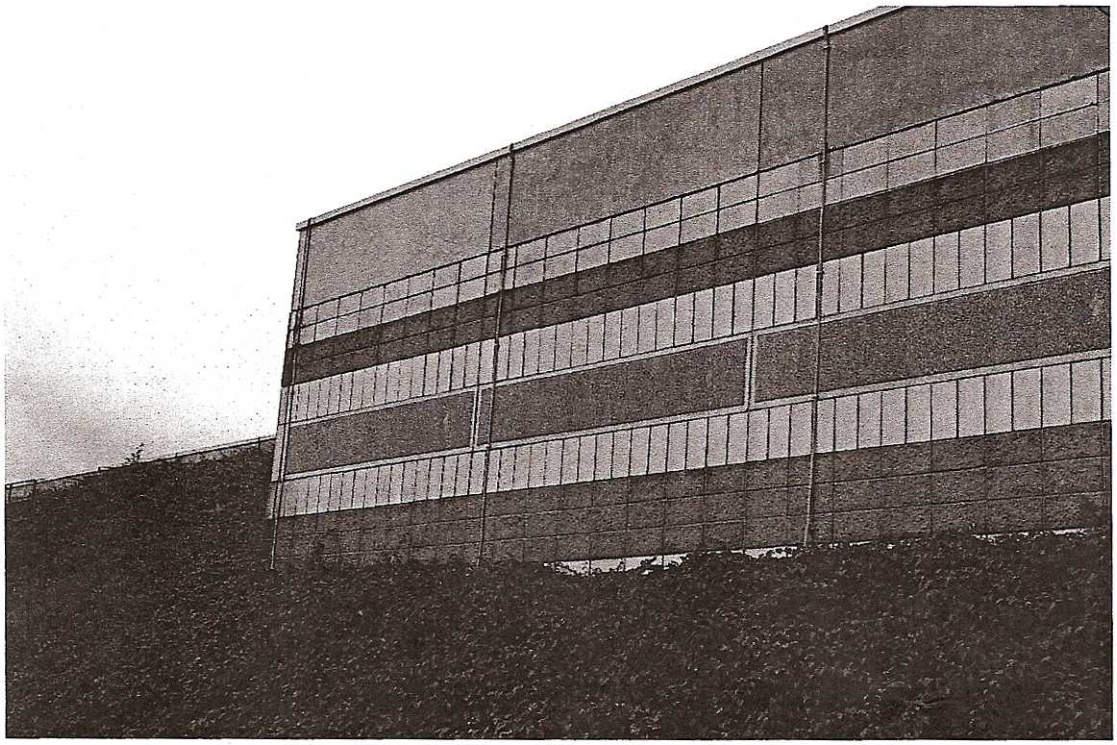
7 Appearance

The proposed extension will be constructed with the aim of integrating with the existing building and surroundings as much as possible by constructing the external façades from materials that are as close a match to the existing materials as possible.

The existing roof and wall lines will also be maintained for the extension. The proposed roof materials are intended to match the existing materials.

The external doors proposed for the extension are to be flush face galvanized sheet steel on an insulated solid core, in a galvanized steel frame. All doors and frames will be painted to match the existing building's doors and frames.

The aim is to provide a seamless join between the existing structure and the new development.



On the exterior façades that are exposed to view, the proposed extension and the supplemental equipment building will be clad with materials similar to those on the exposed existing Building 1045 as well as other newly-constructed buildings on the base.

8 Access

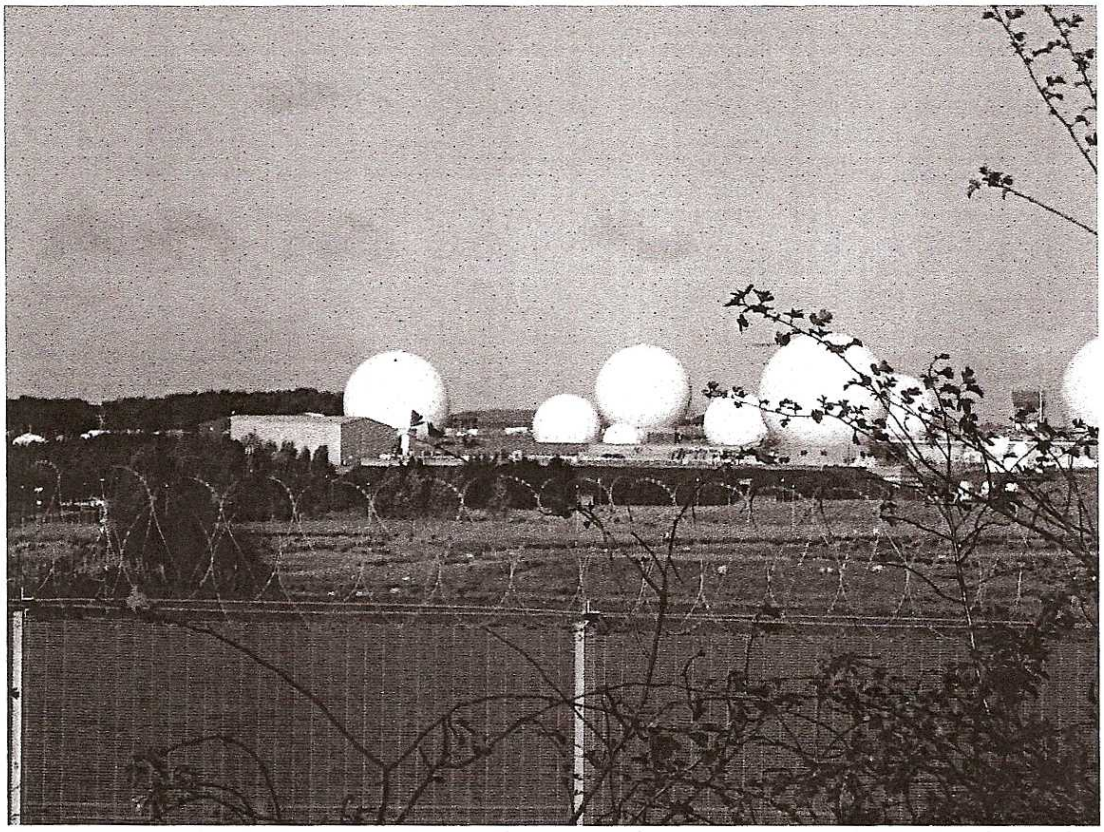
The access to the site will be unchanged from what is currently in existence. The main entrance to the building will remain in its current location and is not affected by the extension. Additionally, all existing fire exits will be maintained as denoted on drawing A-101.

The pedestrian movements around the building will be unaffected, if only lengthened, as the construction will develop the paved and grassed area currently south of Building 1045 and will not remove or overlap onto any footpaths.

Due to the nature of the extension's spaces, no new corridors are required. Since the extension has direct access to the existing facility, access to all services and facilities for disabled people will be maintained. The detailed design will fully comply with the requirements defined within the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and UK Building Regulations, whichever contains the most stringent requirements.

9 Conclusions

From the various criteria detailed above, the proposed works will not create a significant impact to the local community of Menwith Hill or to those who work within the immediate vicinity of the site itself. The proposals maintain all features of the existing Building 1045 and remain in context with those immediately adjacent, while creating a computer rack storage space as necessitated by the Station.



When completed, the proposed Building 1045 extension will blend into the surrounding countryside as well as the current one does now.