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NI/GP/61/20

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Review of building plans at the Rutherford Laboratory

by T. G. Pickavance

1. A considerable number of building proposals have been or will be submitted to the Committee in the early part of this year, and it seems appropriate to present a brief general review. The plan attached to paper NI/GP/61/23 shows the positions of the buildings mentioned.

2. The site and general layout

The area of the heavy laboratory is now being levelled. This will open up easy access to the area further south which is at present beyond our boundary, but is close to the centre of activity on Nimrod. Discussions are going on with the AERE about the transfer of a further piece of land in that area.

A large part of the area south-west of the Nimrod experimental area will be occupied by the spoil dump after it has been shaped to harmonise with the landscape according to the plan prepared by the consulting landscape architect. A scheme for doing this work will be submitted shortly.

A general scheme for roads and car parking areas is to be submitted at this meeting.

The fencing of the site is being completed as quickly as possible, particularly because substantial quantities of copper have been stolen during recent months.

3. Nimrod

The original (Phase I) buildings are virtually complete. The R1 extension and link building should be finished this year. One minor extension (to the south) and one major extension (to the north-east) of R2 have been approved by the Committee but are not yet started. Approval for an additional small extension of the control room is requested at this meeting.

In addition to the main Nimrod experimental area (R6) and the bubble chamber extensions, there are proposals for additional experimental space, details of which are given in papers for this meeting: the first is to roof over the area of hard standing west of the main experimental area; the second is to develop the parasitic area. Both of these proposals are on a comparatively small scale. A scheme for one or more additional main experimental areas will probably be brought forward in a few years' time, as has always been expected.

4. The Proton Linear Accelerator

Construction of the additional buildings for the PLA including small radiochemical laboratories, has now started. Further extension of the PLA machine and its buildings, though expected in due course, is not committed at this stage.

5. General Laboratory Space

The main present areas of laboratory space apart from the PLA area (R12) which is self-contained in this respect, are in R1, R8 and R2 with some in R20 and in temporary buildings. The completion of the R1 extension and the heavy laboratory will provide the main approved addition.

As university users of Nimrod move in to the laboratories in R1 and R2 additional laboratory space will be required, and some of this may be provided by extension of the heavy laboratory to the south.

After the completion of the R1 extension, the buildings north of road 1 and road 4 will be almost entirely used by the proton linear accelerator group, the main exceptions being the temporary buildings R13 in the N.W. corner of the site, occupied by the Resident Engineer's staff of the construction group, and a portion of the R12 buildings occupied by the section of AERE electronics division which is on our site so as to work closely with us.

6. Computers

The "Orion" computer for the laboratory will be in the east end of the R1 extension.

If the scheme for a large "Atlas" computer goes ahead, this will be a very distinct project with no direct functional link with Nimrod. It could be sited within the present area of the Rutherford Laboratory, but the most probable site at present is just north of Fermi Avenue on land at present belonging to the AEA.

7. Office Space

Office space requirements for the staff numbers hitherto accepted for 1962/3 should be met by the buildings at present approved including the proposed office building alongside the heavy laboratory. Requirements are almost certain to increase owing to increased staff requirements both in 1962/3 and thereafter and to the conversion of existing offices into laboratories. The present intention is to provide for the first of such increases by extending the office building alongside the heavy laboratory.

8. Workshops, ancillary buildings and services

R9 is the main workshop: a suitable mess room (included in the original approval) has just been completed and brought into use. There is a smaller workshop in R12 for the PLA and there will be another in R2 for Nimrod.

The Ancillary Maintenance building (R18) has recently been started.

A proposal for a garage (marked 23 on the plan) will be submitted shortly.

A proposal for a storage building submitted at this meeting.

A proposal for a centralised water cooling system is also submitted at this meeting.

The central stores will be on the lowest floor of the R1 link building. The existing store in R12 will be continued as a local store, and an additional local stores will be required later.

9. Restaurant and Lecture Room

The Restaurant (marked 22 on the plan) is due to be started in June 1961 and finished in July 1962.

The lecture hall (the building of hexagonal plan adjoining the restaurant) is now being planned in detail, and a request for approval will be submitted shortly. In accordance with the Board's decision it will only be large enough for the needs of the Laboratory, not for large conferences.

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