

# R105 Equipment Assembly & Testing

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxfordshire



## Iconic Building Supporting Research

**Set within an area of outstanding natural beauty & overlooked from the ancient Ridgeway the new building sets a number of significant challenges to the design team.**

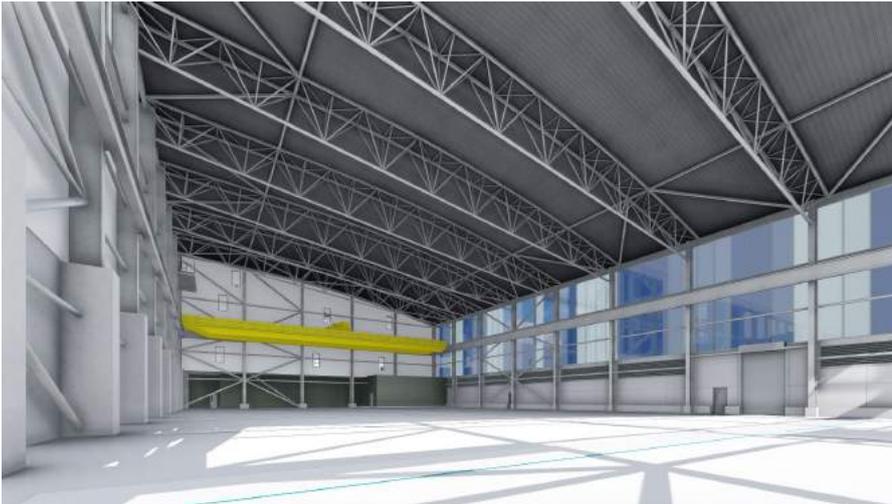
The client brief required a building for two different functions, namely Test & Handling, which provide integral support to the adjoining research complex. The Test building accommodates the creation & testing of new scientific equipment whilst Handling provides facilities for decommissioning components & completed experiments.

Our solution delivers an integrated building set below a unifying roof structure whose gentle curved form complements the rolling landscape. The visual impact of the building on its surroundings is deliberately & significantly reduced by setting it into the adjoining earth mound & stepping the floor slab to reduce its apparent height.

The building delivers 70 x 35m of flexible clear-span usable floor space for each facility, both served by full overhead crane coverage. Vehicular service access is provided to each end of both facilities, whilst 4 storeys of offices for 80 people sit over the Test facility to the NE elevation.

## Project Details

- Scope**  
 6,430sqm building providing linkedbut independent facilities also incorporating offices, plant, storage, service yards and parking
- Role**  
 Architect, Lead Consultant
- Client**  
 STFC, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
- Contractor**  
 Willmott Dixon
- Contract**  
 Scape Framework
- Value**  
 £22m
- Dates**  
 Estimated completion March 2018



## Key Aspects

- Designed to achieve BREEAM 'Very Good'
- Stepped floor plate & sunk into mound to reduce visual impact
- 70 x 35m clear spans to Test & Handling facilities for maximum flexibility
- Full overhead gantry crane coverage
- Natural lighting through translucent cladding, clerestory & roof glazing
- Designed and delivered in BIM Level 2



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