

Project Profile :: Public Buildings

New Library, Thame, Oxfordshire

Client: Oxfordshire County Council

Scott White and Hookins' Role:

 Structural Engineering

 Civil Engineering

Under our Framework Agreement with Oxfordshire County Council, the team was responsible for the new Thame Library, a two storey building situated in the centre of the town.

Due to site boundary constraints, balanced foundations supporting the main steel frame elements span the width of the building to form the building's main substructure together with a number of pad footings and strip foundations in locations where the loads and site boundary permit.

The partial first floor accommodation situated at the rear of the building is formed by 300mm deep precast concrete planks spanning the width of the building onto the steel frame with trimmers around the lift shaft as necessary.

The main roof structure is formed by a grillage of steel beams which transfer the load back to the three main steel frames. A steel grillage supports a series of pitched rooflights and ventilation passages which are formed with cut timbers.

There were a number of challenges structurally due very much to its tight town centre location, being surrounded on three sides by old existing buildings and at the front by the public pavement. Much careful consideration had to be given to Health and Safety, access, sequence of operations, crange and retaining support of neighbouring buildings both temporarily and permanently.

