

Project Profile: Public Buildings



Structural/Civil Engineering

### The Old Fire Station, Oxford

**Whilst retaining as much structure as possible, SWH worked closely with the project’s architects to deliver the clients’ aspirations for the old fire station and corn exchange buildings, near Oxford city centre.**

**Client**  
Oxfordshire City Council

**Architect**  
FCB Studios

This project involved the refurbishment of an existing art gallery, auditorium and nightclub into a theatre, café’ and art spaces for the homeless charity, Crisis. The building comprised of the Old Corn Exchange and Old Fire Station, in the centre of Oxford.

Our approach was to retain as much structure as possible whilst working with the architects to deliver the clients’ aspirations. We were able to obtain original record drawings, which helped to ensure we retained similar load paths, throughout the building – a sustainable approach.

Through the introduction of two areas of green roof over existing hard standing areas, we have been able to demonstrate a reduction in surface water flow from the site through attenuation on the roof. A good example of our proactive approach occurred during excavation for new footings, when unknown structures and foundations were found in the ground. We attended site and worked with the contractor to develop alternative details to achieve a satisfactory solution.

SWH created 3D visual images to enable us to effectively share structural information and assist the whole project team. These demonstrate our close working relationship with the architect.

