



Description of the estate

The National Archives occupies a Crown freehold site of 13 acres situated to the south of the Thames. The original building, referred to as Q1, opened in 1977. The floor area is 33,440 square metres. The extension, referred to as Q2, opened in 1995. The floor area is 31,750 square metres.

The site has a pocket park, which is available for public use between the hours of dawn and dusk. There is one fountain pond, an upper lake and a balancing pond. The site also has both public and staff parking. There are 126 public spaces, located immediately on the left within the site boundary, plus 2 disabled spaces. There are an additional 4 disabled spaces located to the rear of the buildings. A motorcycle parking area is situated within the public car park, and a bicycle shed is sited behind the blast wall nearest the Q1 loading bay.

The original building was designed by John Cecil Clavering, and won the Richmond Society Award of 1977. Dermot O'Reilly designed the extension.

Description of the accommodation

The space comprises office space, public areas, specialist storage and laboratories. The areas of each is as follows:

Repository/Storage	28,741 square metres
Basement and common areas	20,809 square metres
Specialist/Laboratories	7,038 square metres
Office space	8,602 square metres

The public reading rooms, shop and restaurant are located in Q1. Conference facilities are located in Q2.

Description of the services

The two buildings are served by separate air conditioning systems. Q1 has 3 chillers with water cooled condenser circuits and 2 cooling towers. Legionella tests are conducted monthly on the cooling towers. Q2 has two chillers for repository cooling, each with four compressors. The system is glycol cooled. Office cooling is by one chiller, with two compressors. This is air cooled.

The temperature and humidity within the building is monitored via a Building Monitoring System. The humidity within the repositories is maintained at 50 degrees + or – 5 degrees. Temperature within the repositories is 16 degrees.

Other interesting facts

The stained glass and the roundel in the foyer were designed by Anne Smythe, and are an original design. The design represents Kew Gardens, Water and Words, illustrating the flow of knowledge. The slate used here and in various places around the walkways on site is made from the Welsh slate shelving used in the repositories of the original Public Record Office in Chancery Lane.

The main entrance gateways and the railings on the left leading towards the buildings, were designed by Alan Evans. The design of the uprights by the balancing pond and on the main gateway is based on 'tallysticks', which in bygone days were used for counting.

The wildlife on site is ever increasing. There is a resident heron and currently two swans, which were released here by the Swan Sanctuary in Egham. There is a variety of visiting water fowl, including several varieties of duck and even a Kingfisher.