

Engineering & Maintenance

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The Engineering and Maintenance Unit within SCRI has a wide ranging remit regarding site services and facilities.

The unit consists of fifteen engineering/technical posts along with six ancillary posts covering site security, stores and administration.

The unit has a reputation for providing quality work and this has resulted in its role evolving into not only one of dealing with maintenance and repairs but also managing and carrying out refurbishment projects.

During 2003 projects undertaken included complete refurbishment of three laboratories and eight offices plus upgrading of our Human Resources and Reception areas. These projects were carried out mainly by our in-house staff who provided the electrical, heating, plumbing, data/telephony cabling, painting and joinery work. Where external contractors were required for other disciplines these resources were procured and thereafter managed by the unit.

Upgrades or extensions were also made to the Institutes automatic fire detection, voice evacuation and data/telephony cabling systems.

High efficiency condensing boilers were installed in each of the main laboratory buildings as the first step in phasing out dependency on the central steam boiler plant.

Laboratory Equipment Services form a major part of the work of the unit. Although as much as possible of this is carried out in-house the ever increasing sophistication of major pieces of equipment requires the services of external engineers. Again these resources are managed within the unit which also negotiates service contract costs and conditions.

With good quality craft and engineering skills becoming increasingly difficult to find the importance of carrying out sizeable projects using the skills base available within the unit have become ever more critical.

The unit liaises with the scientific staff to assess their requirements and thereafter effectively plans and manages the project through to completion.

The site is continuously becoming more sophisticated in terms of the systems required to ensure it operates effectively and safely.

The systems on site managed and maintained by the unit include those for automatic fire detection, intruder alarm, closed circuit television, telephone exchange, door access, heating controls (including computerised glasshouse controls) and data networking throughout the site.

The unit must also, through its farm workshop section, provide a repair and maintenance service to the Institute's estate unit in order to keep its large fleet of farm vehicles and machinery in good order.



SCRI Reception