

Christchurch City Council

## Heritage Park Little River - Old Railway Station & Toilets PRK 3659 BLDG 002 EQ2 PRK 3659 BLDG 007 EQ2

Detailed Engineering Evaluation Quantitative Assessment Report



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# Heritage Park Little River - Old Railway Station & Toilets Quantitative Assessment Report

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## **Summary**

Heritage Park Little River - Old Railway Station & Toilets PRK 3659 BLDG 002 EQ2 PRK 3659 BLDG 007 EQ2

Detailed Engineering Evaluation Quantitative Report - Summary Final

#### **Background**

This is a summary of the quantitative report for the building structure, and is based on the Detailed Engineering Evaluation Procedure document (draft) issued by the Structural Advisory Group on 19 July 2011 and visual inspections on 8 June and 6 October 2012.

#### **Key Damage Observed**

No earthquake related damage was observed at the time of inspection.

#### **Critical Structural Weaknesses**

No critical structural weaknesses have been identified.

#### **Indicative Building Strength**

The structure has an assessed seismic capacity of 53%NBS and therefore is not classed as an earthquake prone building.

#### **Recommendations**

The building should be strengthened to increase the seismic capacity to at least 67%NBS.

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### 1 Introduction

Opus International Consultants Limited has been engaged by Christchurch City Council to undertake a detailed seismic assessment of the Heritage Park Old Railway Station and Toilets, located at Barclays Rd, Little River following the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence since September 2010.

The purpose of the assessment is to determine if the building is classed as being earthquake prone in accordance with the Building Act 2004.

The seismic assessment and reporting have been undertaken based on the qualitative and quantitative procedures detailed in the Detailed Engineering Evaluation Procedure (DEEP) document (draft) issued by the Structural Engineering Society (SESOC) [3] [4].

### 2 Compliance

This section contains a brief summary of the requirements of the various statutes and authorities that control activities in relation to buildings in Christchurch at present.

#### 2.1 Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA)

CERA was established on 28 March 2011 to take control of the recovery of Christchurch using powers established by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act enacted on 18 April 2011. This act gives the Chief Executive Officer of CERA wide powers in relation to building safety, demolition and repair. Two relevant sections are:

#### Section 38 - Works

This section outlines a process in which the chief executive can give notice that a building is to be demolished and if the owner does not carry out the demolition, the chief executive can commission the demolition and recover the costs from the owner or by placing a charge on the owners' land.

#### **Section 51 – Requiring Structural Survey**

This section enables the chief executive to require a building owner, insurer or mortgagee to carry out a full structural survey before the building is re-occupied.

We understand that CERA require a detailed engineering evaluation to be carried out for all buildings (other than those exempt from the Earthquake Prone Building definition in the Building Act). CERA have adopted the Detailed Engineering Evaluation Procedure (DEEP) document (draft) issued by the Structural Engineering Society (SESOC) on 19 July 2011. This document sets out a methodology for both initial qualitative and detailed quantitative assessments.

It is anticipated that a number of factors, including the following, will determine the extent of evaluation and strengthening level required:

- The importance level and occupancy of the building.
- 2. The placard status and amount of damage.
- 3. The age and structural type of the building.
- 4. Consideration of any critical structural weaknesses.

Christchurch City Council requires any building with a capacity of less than 34% of New Building Standard (including consideration of critical structural weaknesses) to be strengthened to a target of 67% as required under the CCC Earthquake Prone Building Policy.

#### 2.2 Building Act

Several sections of the Building Act are relevant when considering structural requirements:

#### **Section 112 - Alterations**

This section requires that an existing building complies with the relevant sections of the Building Code to at least the extent that it did prior to the alteration. This effectively means that a building cannot be weakened as a result of an alteration (including partial demolition).

The Earthquake Prone Building policy for the territorial authority shall apply as outlined in Section 2.3 of this report.

#### Section 115 - Change of Use

This section requires that the territorial authority is satisfied that the building with a new use complies with the relevant sections of the Building Code 'as near as is reasonably practicable'.

This is typically interpreted by territorial authorities as being 67% of the strength of an equivalent new building or as near as practicable. This is also the minimum level recommended by the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering (NZSEE).

#### Section 121 - Dangerous Buildings

This section was extended by the Canterbury Earthquake (Building Act) Order 2010, and defines a building as dangerous if:

- 1. In the ordinary course of events (excluding the occurrence of an earthquake), the building is likely to cause injury or death or damage to other property; or
- 2. In the event of fire, injury or death to any persons in the building or on other property is likely because of fire hazard or the occupancy of the building; or
- 3. There is a risk that the building could collapse or otherwise cause injury or death as a result of earthquake shaking that is less than a 'moderate earthquake' (refer to Section 122 below); or

- 4. There is a risk that other property could collapse or otherwise cause injury or death; or
- 5. A territorial authority has not been able to undertake an inspection to determine whether the building is dangerous.

#### Section 122 - Earthquake Prone Buildings

This section defines a building as earthquake prone (EPB) if its ultimate capacity would be exceeded in a 'moderate earthquake' and it would be likely to collapse causing injury or death, or damage to other property.

A moderate earthquake is defined by the building regulations as one that would generate loads 33% of those used to design an equivalent new building.

#### Section 124 - Powers of Territorial Authorities

This section gives the territorial authority the power to require strengthening work within specified timeframes or to close and prevent occupancy to any building defined as dangerous or earthquake prone.

#### Section 131 – Earthquake Prone Building Policy

This section requires the territorial authority to adopt a specific policy for earthquake prone, dangerous and insanitary buildings.

### 2.3 Christchurch City Council Policy

Christchurch City Council adopted their Earthquake Prone, Dangerous and Insanitary Building Policy in 2006. This policy was amended immediately following the Darfield Earthquake on 4 September 2010.

The 2010 amendment includes the following:

- 1. A process for identifying, categorising and prioritising Earthquake Prone Buildings, commencing on 1 July 2012;
- 2. A strengthening target level of 67% of a new building for buildings that are Earthquake Prone;
- 3. A timeframe of 15-30 years for Earthquake Prone Buildings to be strengthened; and,
- 4. Repair works for buildings damaged by earthquakes will be required to comply with the above.

The council has stated their willingness to consider retrofit proposals on a case by case basis, considering the economic impact of such a retrofit.

If strengthening works are undertaken, a building consent will be required. A requirement of the consent will require upgrade of the building to comply 'as near as is reasonably practicable' with:

- The accessibility requirements of the Building Code.
- The fire requirements of the Building Code. This is likely to require a fire report to be submitted with the building consent application.

Where an application for a change of use of a building is made to Council, the building will be required to be strengthened to 67% of New Building Standard or as near as is reasonably practicable.

#### 2.4 Building Code

The Building Code outlines performance standards for buildings and the Building Act requires that all new buildings comply with this code. Compliance Documents published by The Department of Building and Housing can be used to demonstrate compliance with the Building Code.

On 19 May 2011, Compliance Document B1: Structure was amended to include increased seismic design requirements for Canterbury as follows:

- increase in the basic seismic design load for the Canterbury earthquake region (Z factor increased to 0.3 equating to an increase of 36 47% depending on location within the region);
- Increased serviceability requirements.

## 2.5 Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) Code of Ethics

One of the core ethical values of professional engineers in New Zealand is the protection of life and safeguarding of people. The IPENZ Code of Ethics requires that:

Members shall recognise the need to protect life and to safeguard people, and in their engineering activities shall act to address this need.

- 1.1 Giving Priority to the safety and well-being of the community and having regard to this principle in assessing obligations to clients, employers and colleagues.
- 1.2 Ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to minimise the risk of loss of life, injury or suffering which may result from your engineering activities, either directly or indirectly.

All recommendations on building occupancy and access must be made with these fundamental obligations in mind.

### 3 Earthquake Resistance Standards

For this assessment, the building's earthquake resistance is compared with the current New Zealand Building Code requirements for a new building constructed on the site. This is expressed

as a percentage of new building standard (%NBS). The loadings are in accordance with the current earthquake loading standard NZS1170.5 [1].

A generally accepted classification of earthquake risk for existing buildings in terms of %NBS that has been proposed by the NZSEE 2006 [2] is presented in Figure 1 below.

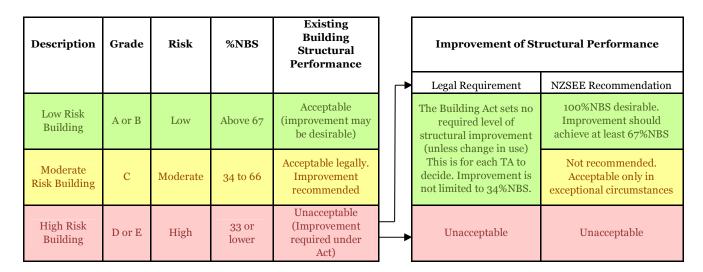


Figure 1: NZSEE Risk Classifications Extracted from table 2.2 of the NZSEE 2006 AISPBE Guidelines

Table 1 below compares the percentage NBS to the relative risk of the building failing in a seismic event with a 10% risk of exceedance in 50 years (i.e. 0.2% in the next year).

Table 1: %NBS compared to relative risk of failure

Percentage of New Building Standard (%NBS)	Relative Risk (Approximate)
>100	<1 time
80-100	1-2 times
67-80	2-5 times
33-67	5-10 times
20-33	10-25 times
<20	>25 times

#### 3.1 Minimum and Recommended Standards

Based on governing policy and recent observations, Opus makes the following general recommendations:

#### 3.1.1 Occupancy

The Canterbury Earthquake Order¹ in Council 16 September 2010, modified the meaning of "dangerous building" to include buildings that were identified as being EPB's. As a result of this, we would expect such a building would be issued with a Section 124 notice, by the Territorial Authority, or CERA acting on their behalf, once they are made aware of our assessment. Based on information received from CERA to date and from the DBH guidance document dated 12 June 2012 [6], this notice is likely to prohibit occupancy of the building (or parts thereof), until its seismic capacity is improved to the point that it is no longer considered an EPB.

#### 3.1.2 Cordoning

Where there is an overhead falling hazard, or potential collapse hazard of the building, the areas of concern should be cordoned off in accordance with current CERA/territorial authority guidelines.

#### 3.1.3 Strengthening

Industry guidelines (NZSEE 2006 [2]) strongly recommend that every effort be made to achieve improvement to at least 67%NBS. A strengthening solution to anything less than 67%NBS would not provide an adequate reduction to the level of risk.

It should be noted that full compliance with the current building code requires building strength of 100%NBS.

#### 3.1.4 Our Ethical Obligation

In accordance with the IPENZ code of ethics, we have a duty of care to the public. This obligation requires us to identify and inform CERA of potentially dangerous buildings; this would include earthquake prone buildings.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This Order only applies to buildings within the Christchurch City, Selwyn District and Waimakariri District Councils authority

### 4 Background Information

#### 4.1 Building Description

The Old Railway Station and Toilets comprise a single, one-storey, timber framed building approximately 26.6m long and 12m wide. The building is of pre-1978 construction. The timber trussed roof is clad with corrugated steel sheeting. All original walls are timber stud with mixed timber board and softboard lining internally and weatherboards externally. The building sits on a concrete slab and foundations.

There is a self-supporting concrete room at one end of the building which appears to have no significant integration with the rest of the structure. It is expected that this room will not affect the seismic response of the main timber structure, and thus it has not been evaluated as contributing to the seismic capacity of the building.

#### 4.2 Survey

#### 4.2.1 Post 22 February 2011 Rapid Assessment

No rapid assessment post-earthquake placard was in place at the time of our inspection.

#### 4.2.2 Further Inspections

Inspections by Opus were undertaken on June 8 and October 6 2012, to measure and ascertain the structural systems as well as document any damage that may have occurred.

### 4.3 Original Documentation

No copies of the drawings or design calculations have been obtained for this building. Our measure up sketches and observations, recorded when the site visits were undertaken, have been exclusively used to confirm the structural systems, to investigate potential critical structural weaknesses (CSW) wherever possible, and identify details which required particular attention.

### 5 Structural Damage

No structural damage has been observed during the two visual inspections undertaken following the 22 February earthquake.

### 5.1 Surrounding Buildings

There are no surrounding buildings immediately adjacent to the Old Railway Station and Toilets building that pose a risk to the building.

No damage to surrounded buildings was observed.

### 5.2 Residual Displacements

No residual displacement of the building was observed.

#### 5.3 Foundations

Liquefaction was not evident at the site and no foundation displacement was observed.

#### 5.4 Primary Gravity Structure

The timber trussed roof is supported by lightweight timber stud framing and timber posts. These wall and post loads then transfer into the concrete slab and footings

#### 6 Detailed Seismic Assessment

The detailed seismic assessment has been based on the NZSEE 2006 [2] guidelines for the "Assessment and Improvement of the Structural Performance of Buildings in Earthquakes" together with the "Guidance on Detailed Engineering Evaluation of Earthquake Affected Non-residential Buildings in Canterbury, Part 2 Evaluation Procedure" [3] draft document prepared by the Engineering Advisory Group on 19 July 2011, and the SESOC guidelines "Practice Note – Design of Conventional Structural Systems Following Canterbury Earthquakes" [5] issued on 21 December 2011.

#### 6.1 Quantitative Assessment Methodology

The method of assessment is an evaluation using a seismic loads derived from an equivalent static analysis. Seismic loads are distributed to bracing walls through roof diaphragm action and from there transferred through walls and into the footings.

The seismic capacity of the load resisting system has been assessed based on an engineering evaluation considering the age and form of construction. The ratio of the capacity to load gives the %NBS.

### **6.2** Limitations and Assumptions in Results

The observed level of damage suffered by the building was deemed low enough to not affect the capacity. Therefore the analysis and assessment of the building was based on it being in an undamaged state. There may have been damage to the building that was unable to be observed that could cause the capacity of the building to be reduced; therefore the current capacity of the building may be lower than that stated.

The results have been reported as a %NBS and the stated value is that obtained from our analysis and assessment. Despite the use of best national and international practice in this analysis and assessment, this value contains uncertainty due to the many assumptions and simplifications which are made during the assessment. These include:

- a. Simplifications made in the analysis, including boundary conditions such as foundation fixity.
- b. Assessments of material strengths based on limited drawings, specifications and site inspections
- c. The normal variation in material properties which change from batch to batch.
- d. Approximations made in the assessment of the capacity of each element, especially when considering the post-yield behaviour.

#### 6.3 Assessment

A summary of the structural performance of the building is shown in the following table. Note that the values given represent the worst performing elements in the building, as these effectively define the building's capacity. Other elements within the building may have significantly greater capacity when compared with the governing.

**Table 2: Summary of Seismic Performance** 

Structural Element/System	Failure Mode, or description of limiting criteria based on displacement capacity of critical element.	% NBS based on calculated capacity
Bracing walls - across	In-plane wall bracing	53%
Bracing walls - along	In-plane wall bracing	>100%
Timber verandah columns	Bending	>100%

The Old Railway Station and Toilets building has a calculated seismic capacity of 53%NBS and is therefore classified as a moderate risk building in accordance with NZSEE guidelines.

## **7 Summary of Geotechnical Appraisal**

Due to a lack of observed ground damage, no specific geotechnical assessment has been undertaken. The seismic site parameter used for the structural analysis was Soil Class Type C, based on geotechnical advice from Opus.

### 8 Conclusions

The structure has an assessed seismic capacity of 53%NBS and therefore is not classed as an earthquake prone building.

### 9 Recommendations

The building should be strengthened to achieve a seismic capacity of at least 67%NBS.

### 10 Limitations

(a) This report is based on an inspection of the structures with a focus on the damage sustained from the 22 February 2011 Canterbury Earthquake and aftershocks only. Some non-structural damage is mentioned but this is not intended to be a comprehensive list of non-structural items.

- (b) Our professional services are performed using a degree of care and skill normally exercised, under similar circumstances, by reputable consultants practicing in this field at the time.
- (c) This report is prepared for the CCC to assist with assessing remedial works required for council buildings and facilities. It is not intended for any other party or purpose.

#### 11 References

- [1] NZS 1170.5: 2004, Structural design actions, Part 5 Earthquake actions, Standards New Zealand.
- [2] NZSEE (2006), Assessment and improvement of the structural performance of buildings in earthquakes, New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering.
- [3] Engineering Advisory Group, Guidance on Detailed Engineering Evaluation of Earthquake Affected Non-residential Buildings in Canterbury, Part 2 Evaluation Procedure, Draft Prepared by the Engineering Advisory Group, Revision 5, 19 July 2011.
- [4] Engineering Advisory Group, Guidance on Detailed Engineering Evaluation of Nonresidential buildings, Part 3 Technical Guidance, Draft Prepared by the Engineering Advisory Group, 13 December 2011.
- [5] SESOC (2011), Practice Note Design of Conventional Structural Systems Following Canterbury Earthquakes, Structural Engineering Society of New Zealand, 21 December 2011.
- [6] DBH (2012), Guidance for engineers assessing the seismic performance of non-residential and multi-unit residential buildings in greater Christchurch, Department of Building and Housing, June 2012.

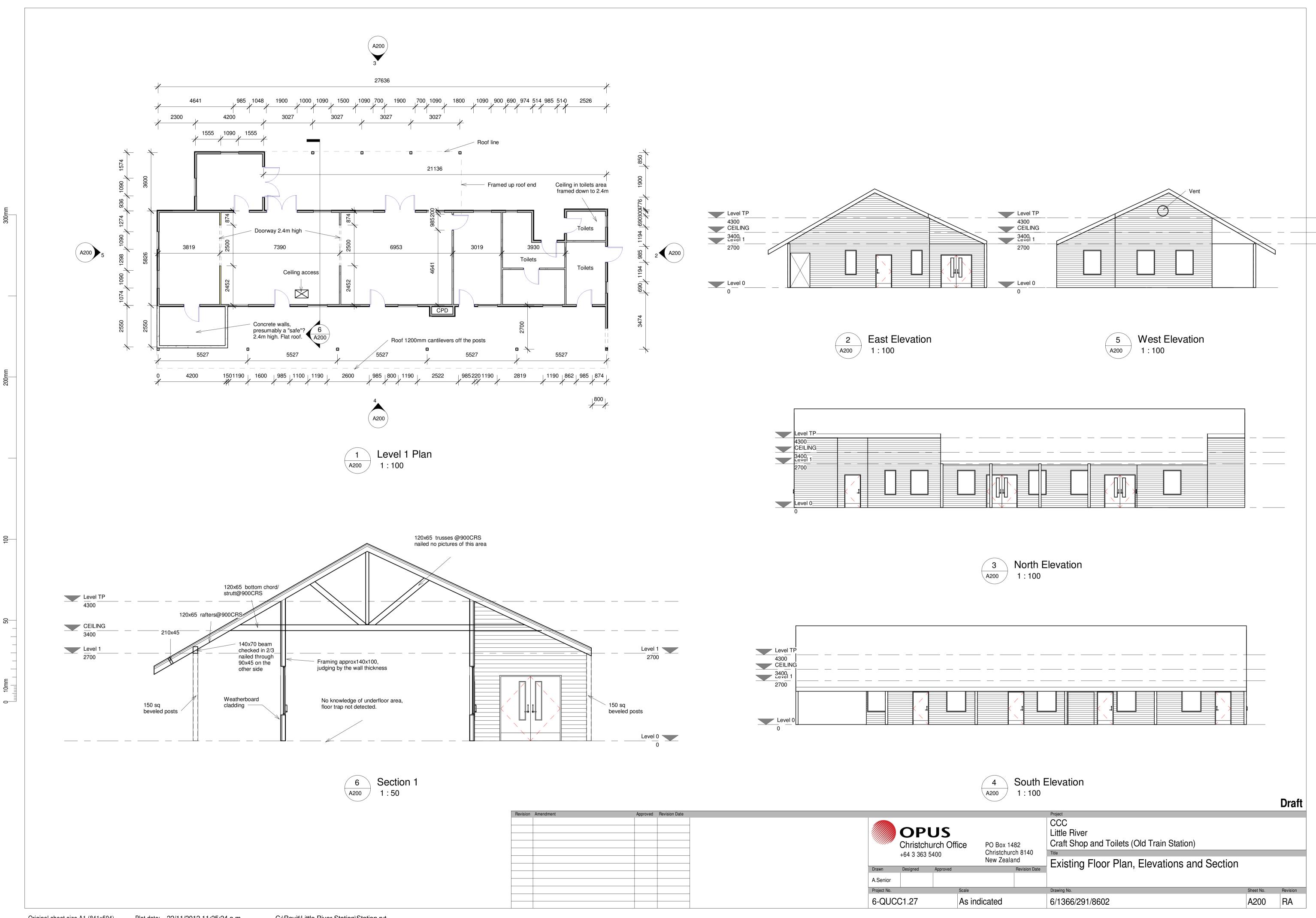
## **Appendix 1 - Photographs**

General Photos				
1.	North end of building			
2.	East side of building, Northern end			
3.	East side of building, Southern end			

East side entrance 4. CRAFT STATION East side of 5. building LITTLE RIVER West side platform 6.

Free-standing concrete room, west side

## **Appendix 2 –Sketch Plans**



## **Appendix 3 – CERA DEE Spreadsheet**

53% ##### %NBS from IEP below

53%

Assessed %NBS before:

Assessed %NBS after:

Across



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