

Rugby Model Engineering Society Ltd

Rainsbrook Valley Railway



Heritage Lottery Funded Project
EGM - 2nd November 2025

Background

Inspiration

Scope

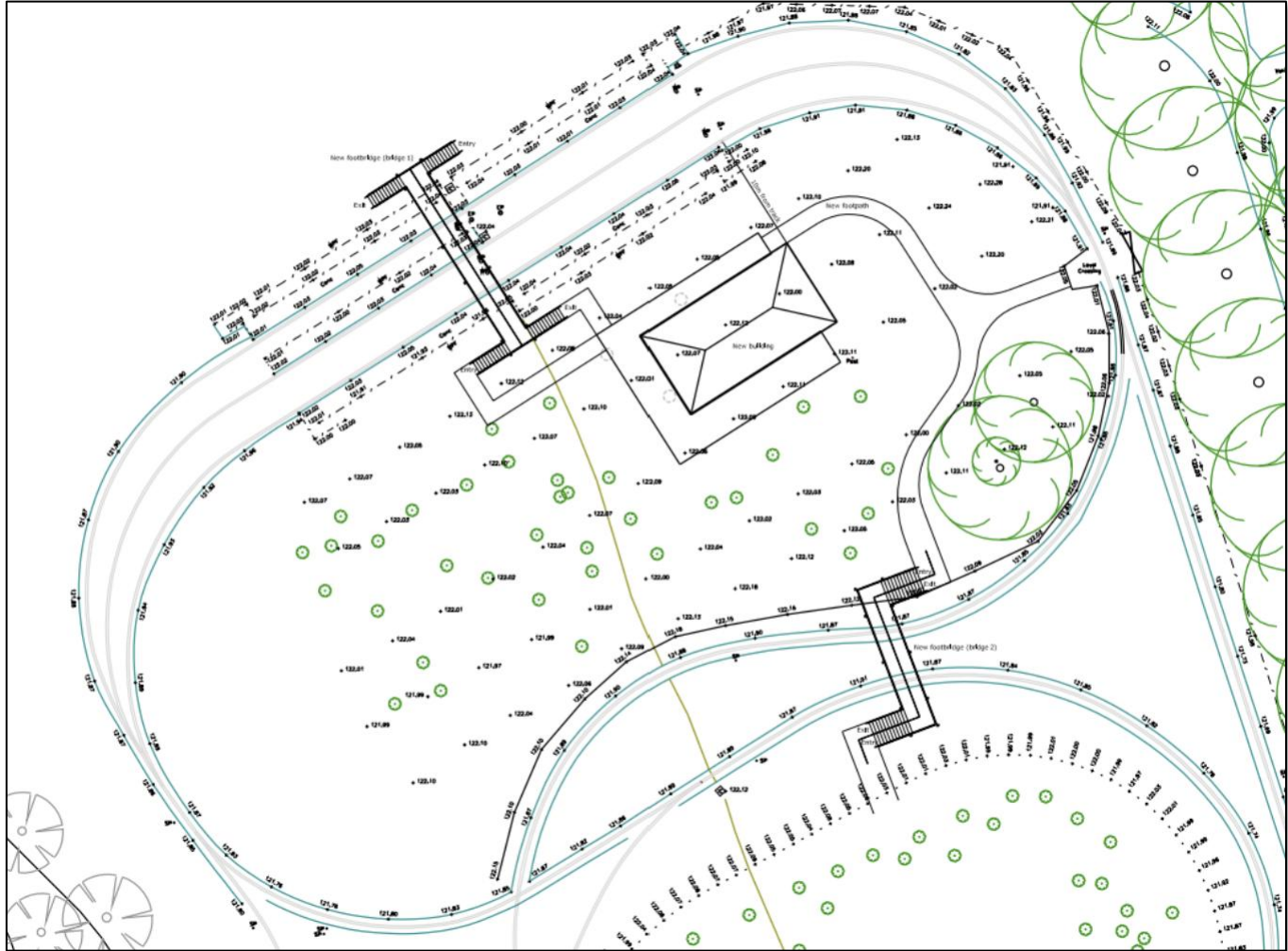
Outline Plan and Visualisations

Aims and Usage

Project partners

Background – *the bridges at the new station*

- The 2014 site expansion plans included two overbridges.
- The bridges are desirable to improve safe access to both the ground level and raised track stations.
- The bridges would also facilitate reduced staffing requirement during public running events.
- Rough estimates indicated the bridges would cost around £20k.



Background – *the Roundhouse Project*

- Proposed by members to facilitate longer term storage of members locos on site.
- To be located in the area behind the engineering workshop/ secure storage area/ woodworking shop.
- Members to fund the project by ‘buying’ a ten-year agreement to store their locomotive in the roundhouse.
- Some members expressed an interest in participating financially but as the project is at an exploratory stage, no confirmed funding is yet in place.
- To kick-start the project a member has offered to pay for an architect to draw up plans for submission to RBC planning department.



Funding opportunity

- Several months ago Club Officers spent some time discussing funding opportunities with the Heritage Lottery Fund at a funding fair in Rugby.
- The discussions primarily focussed on possible funding for the pedestrian bridges at the new station. The HLF funds projects from £10,000 to £250,000. They do not insist on matched funds.
- The HLF said that the bridge project is valid but stressed very strongly the importance of the 'heritage' aspects. In other words, the more it can reference local structures, heritage and history, the more likely it would be approved for funding.
- In the light of this, a heritage referenced engine shed would also be in scope for HLF funding.

Funding opportunity



- The RMES HLF project team attended an HLF webinar on 5th August when their Investment Principles were explained in detail.
- All four of the HLF Investment Principles have to be addressed
- To improve the chances of a successful funding application it became clear that the scope of the project needed to be widened
- This includes not only the range of heritage structures to be referenced but also the range of partners to be involved in the project
- Project scope now includes the 'Black Path' bridge, the Rugby locomotive sheds and the Rugby Locomotive Testing Station.



Inspiration

Pedestrian bridges to replicate the 'Black Path' bridge that used to cross the railway to the former BTH works at Rugby.



B.T.H. Works, Rugby, showing the steel bridge starting in Wood Street to the factory works. 1930s [The bridge was demolished in 2007 to make way for a newer, wider bridge]

Inspiration

Engine shed design themes to come from the former main line sheds at Rugby.



Inspiration



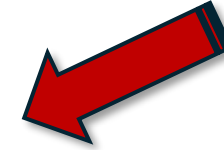
Rugby Locomotive Testing Plant, 1960

Project Scope – addressing the Investment Principles

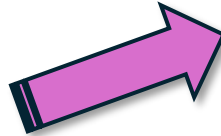
Recreating a key part of Rugby's lost railway heritage



Demonstrating lost industrial processes to all ages at a much-loved local amenity



Developing significant partnerships to facilitate key milestones and long-term viability



Capturing actual sustainability gains through harnessing the original design concept of improving locomotive efficiency



HLF Project - primary development stages

Action	Stage	What	When	By whom	Project Team sign-off	Committee sign-off	Membership sign-off
1	1	Understand HLF investment principles	04/08/2025	Project team	19/08/2025	12/09/2025	
2		Develop project scope that addresses club aspirations and fulfills HLF investment principles	12/08/2025	RT			
3		Develop structural visulisations		RT			
4		Develop testing station aims and usage	13/10/2025	Project team	13/10/2025	24/10/2025	
5		Identify project partners	13/10/2025	Project team	13/10/2025		
6		Create project communication slide deck for EGM	21/10/2025	RT/DC	23/10/2025		
7		Hold EGM - seek membership approval to proceed	02/11/2025	Project team			
8	2	Contact councillors, share vision, seek support, identify council employee contacts		Project team			
9		Approach RBC for combined and extended lease, seek planning application outline approval		Project team			
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Site considerations:

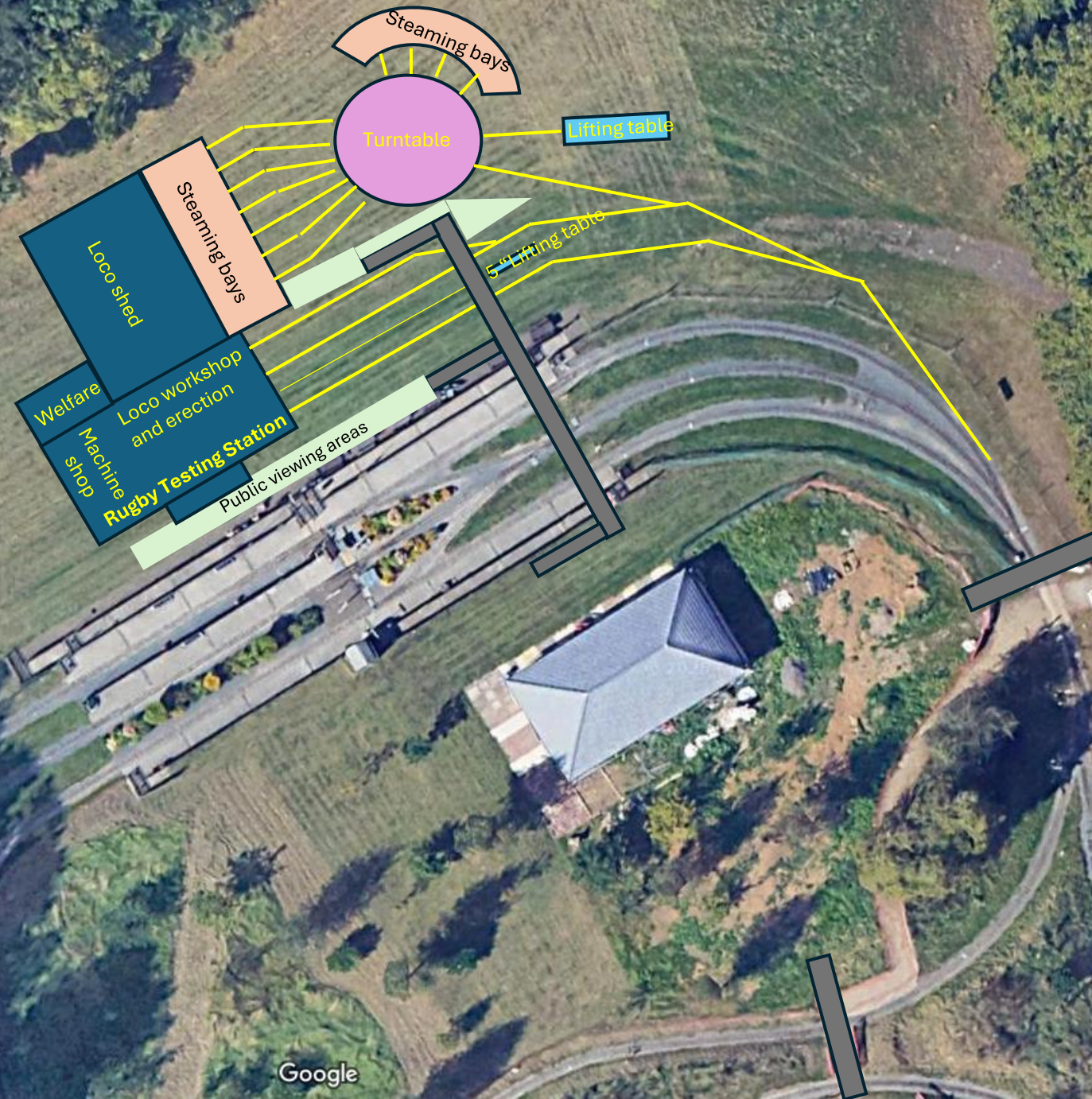
- 'Inclusion, access & participation'
- 'Protecting the environment'
- 2 leases with RBC
 - Main site: 50 years from January 2013
 - Parking field: annual 'grazing lease'

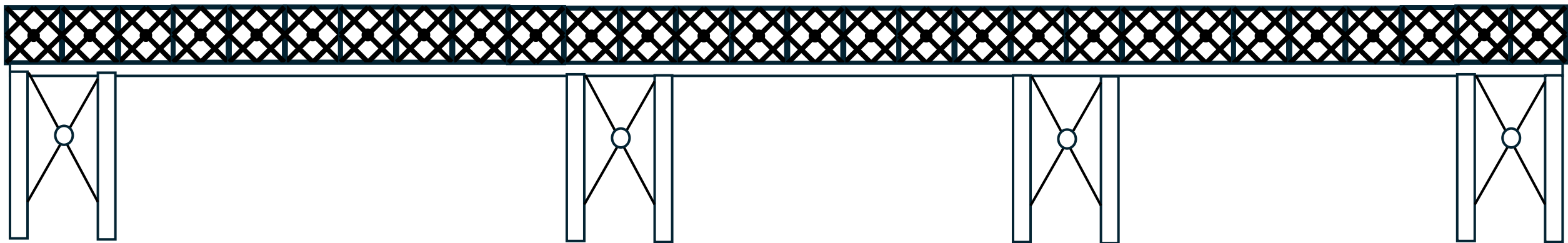
Project only feasible if RBC will rationalise and extend the lease



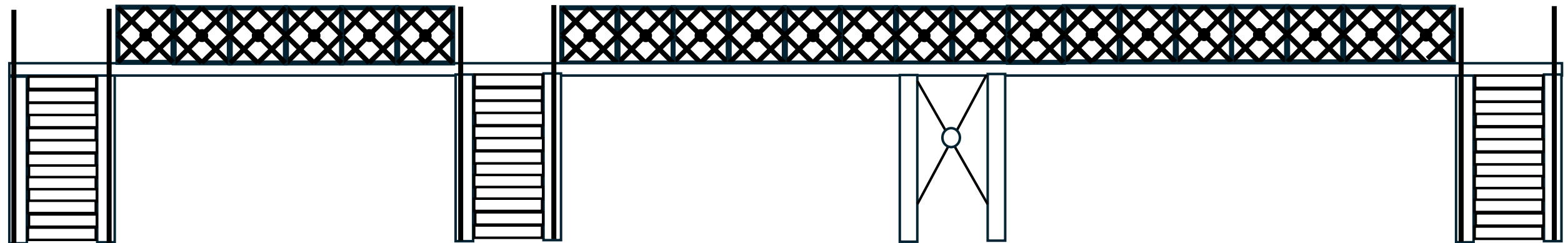
Physical scope:

- ✓ 3 bridges
- ✓ Testing station
- ✓ Loco workshop
- ✓ Machine shop
- ✓ Welfare unit
- ✓ Loco shed and steaming bays
- ✓ Turntable
- ✓ Visiting loco steaming bays
- ✓ Lifting tables
- ✓ Public viewing areas



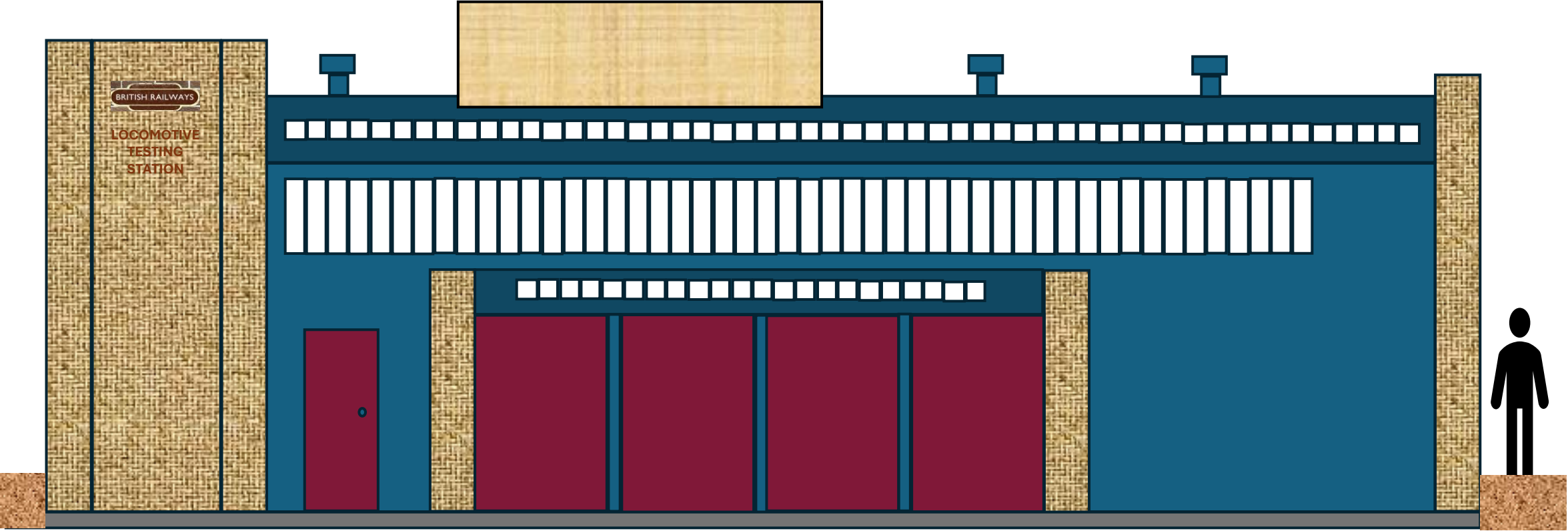


‘Black path’ bridge – north east elevation

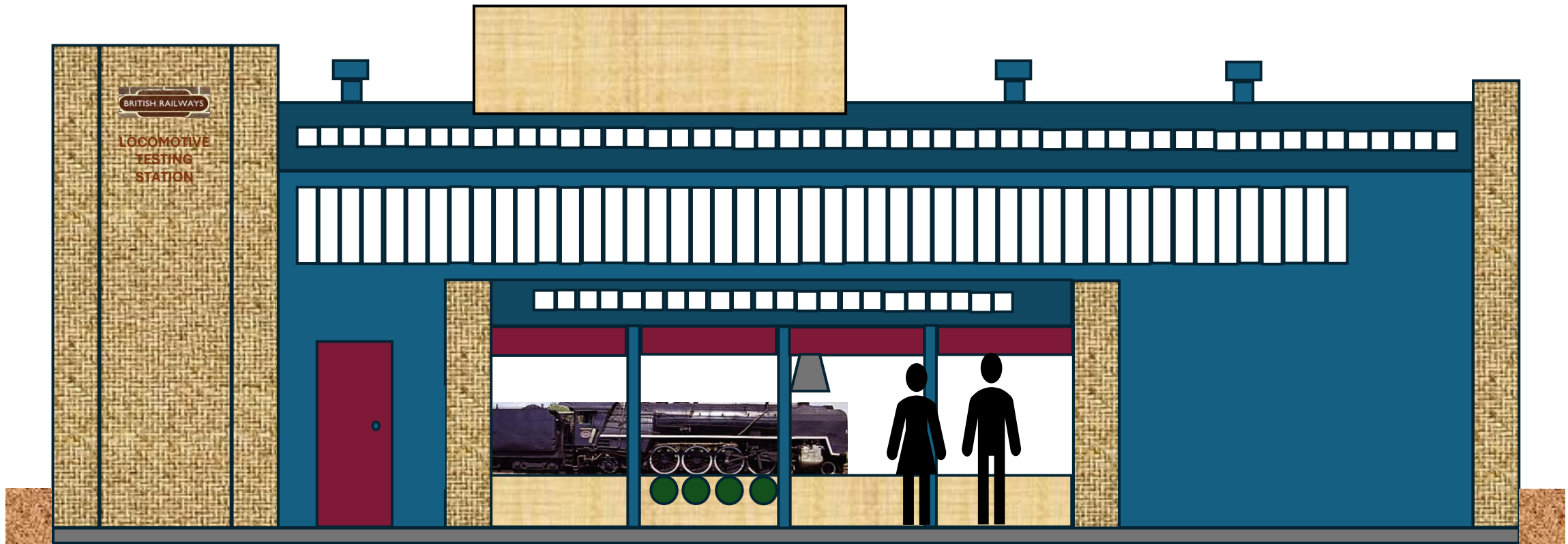


‘Black path’ bridge – south west elevation

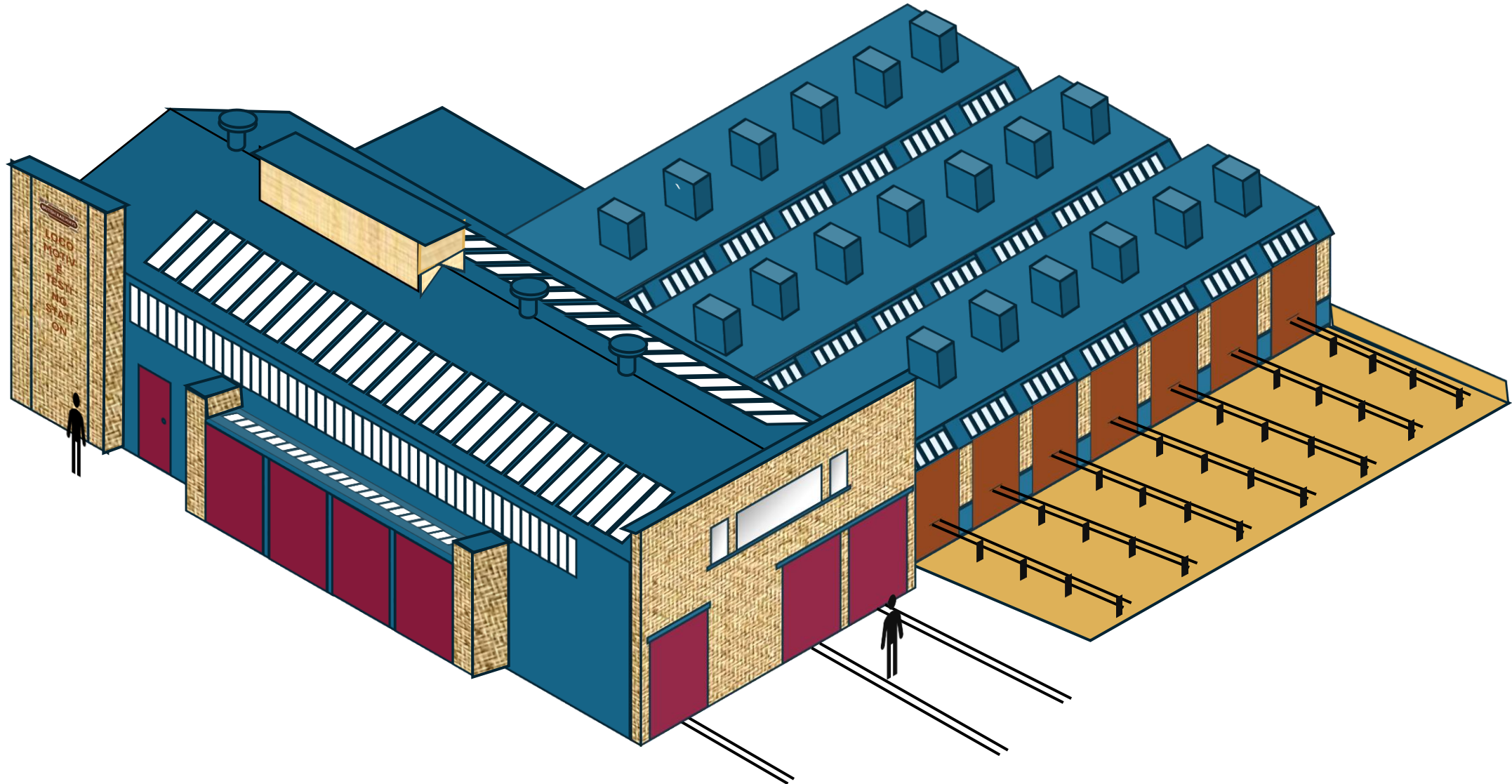
Rugby Testing Station – proposed south elevation



Rugby Testing Station – proposed south elevation



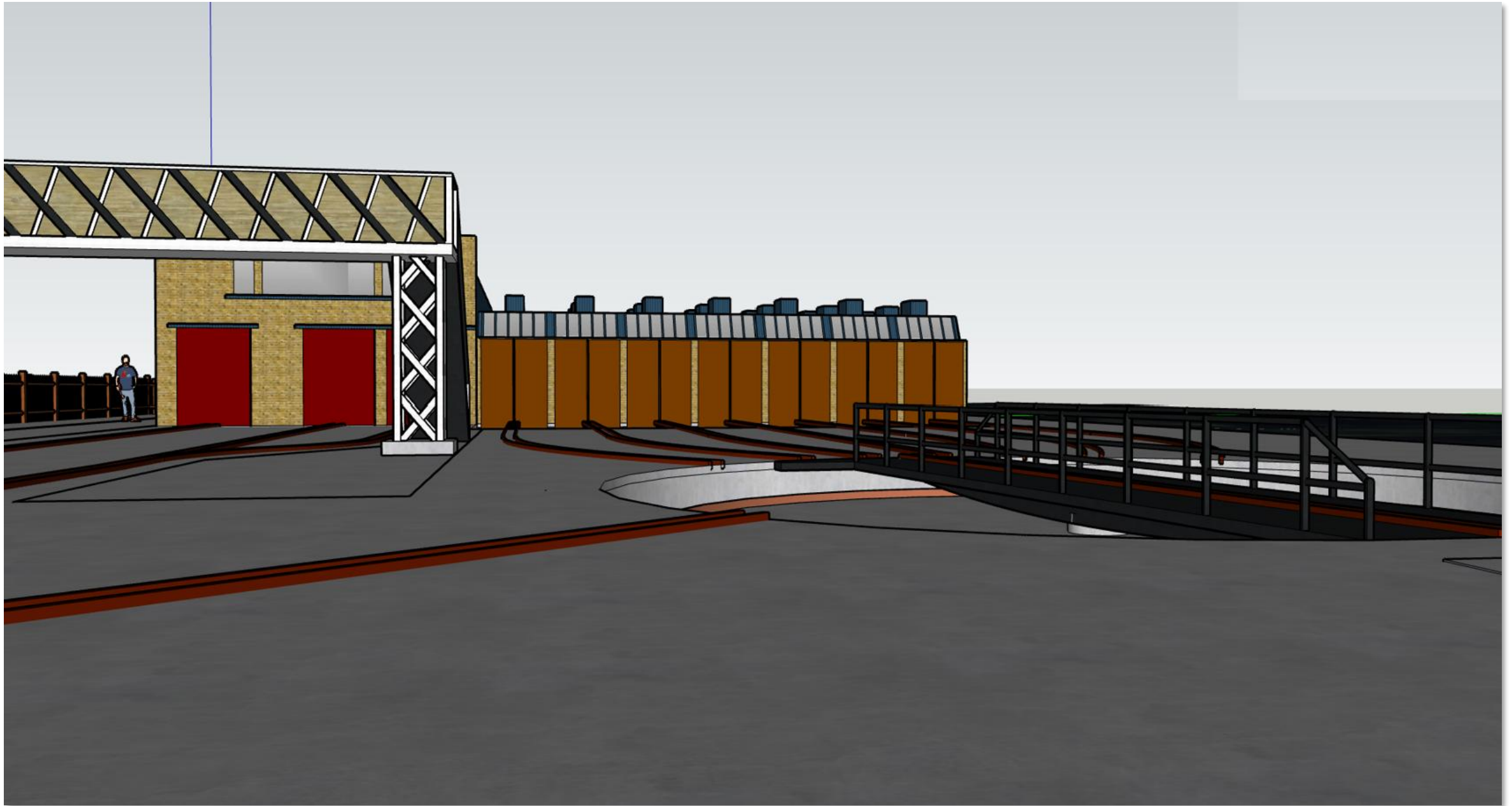
Rugby Testing Station and Engine Shed – proposed south east view

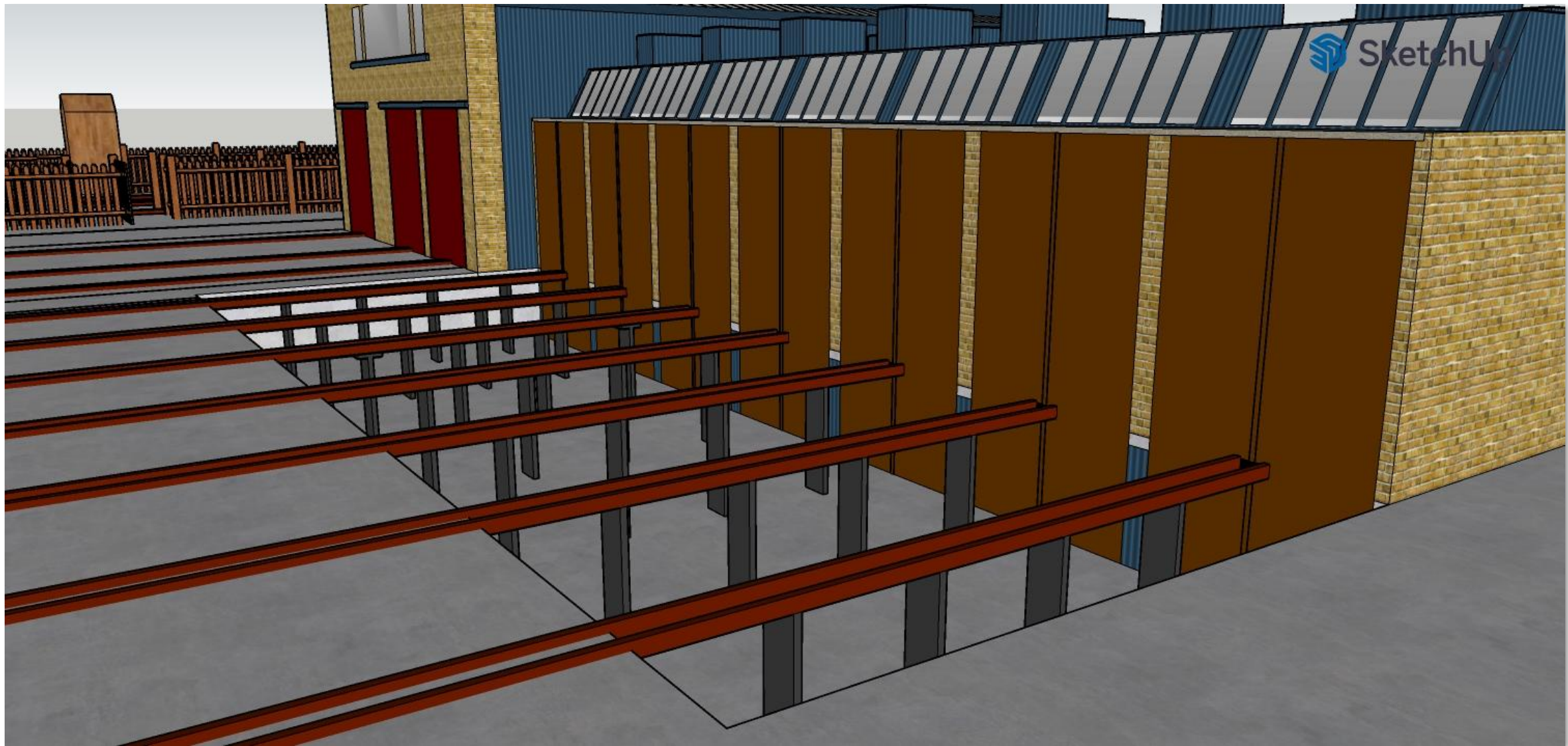


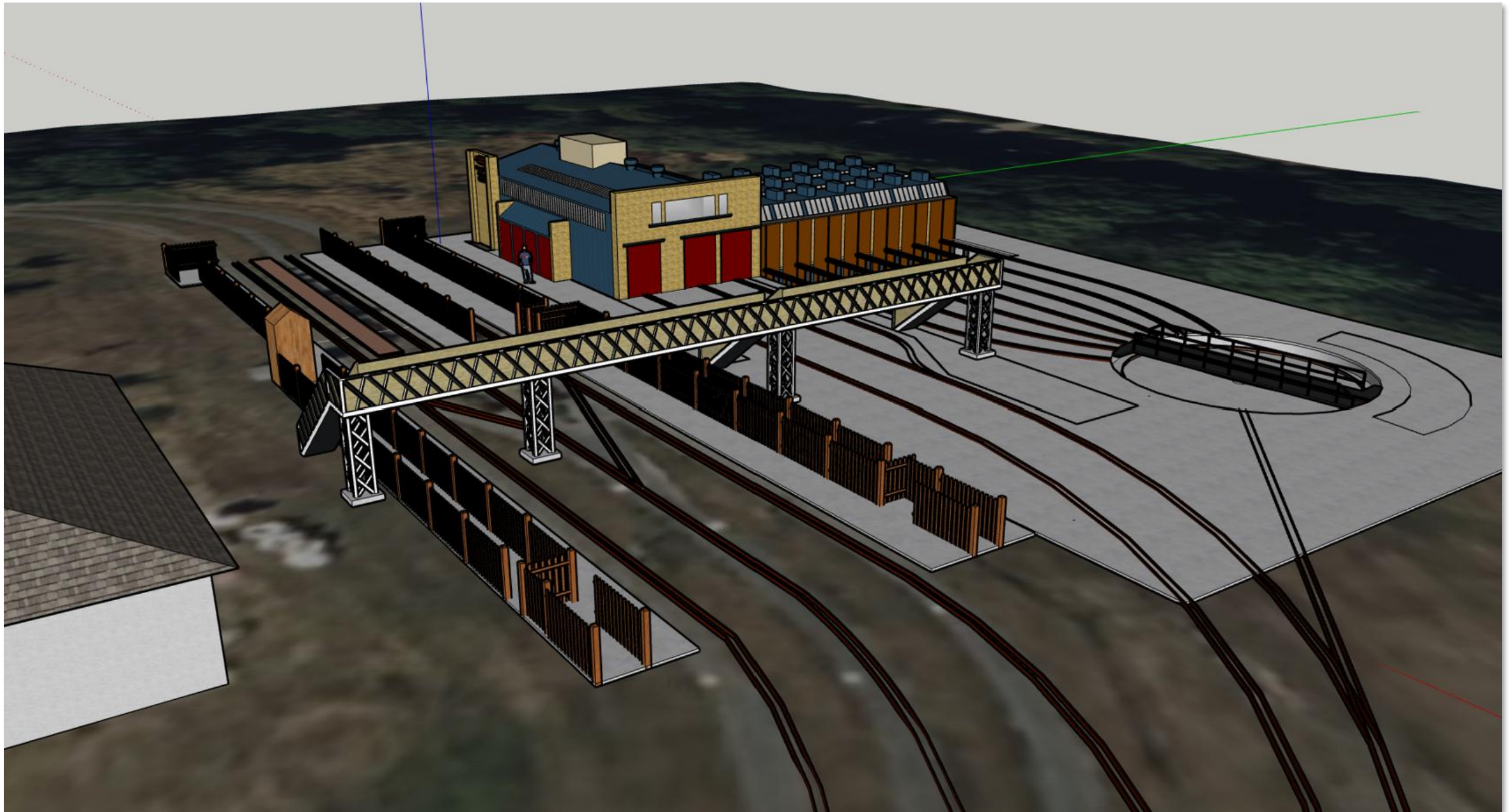








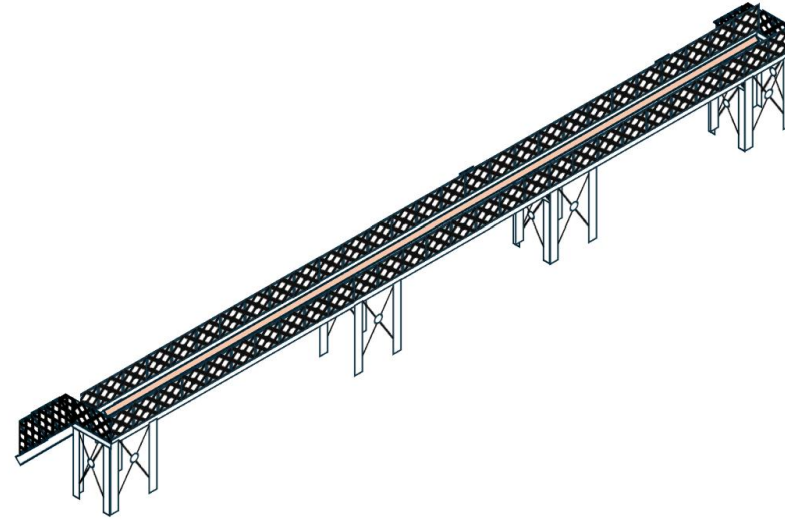




Bridges and engine shed – Aims

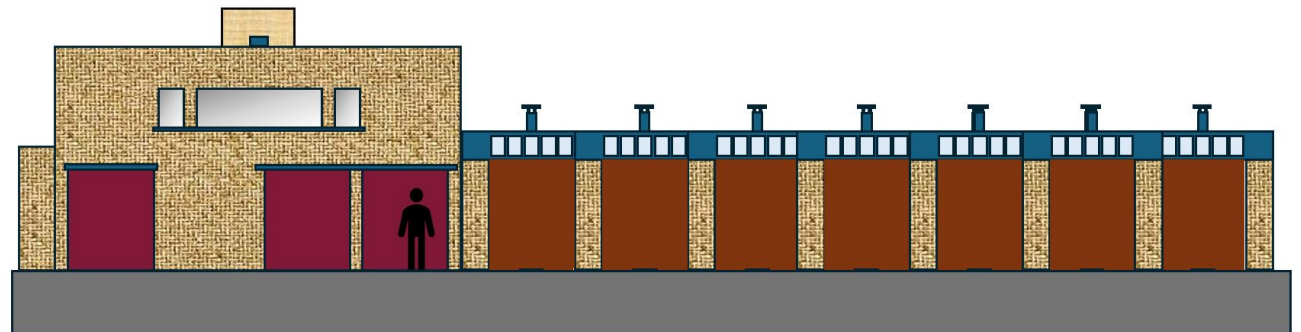
Bridges

- Enable safe access to the ground level and raised track stations and picnic area
- Enable safe access to the steaming bay and testing station viewing areas
- Reduce staffing requirement for manning crossings



Engine Shed

- Provide secure storage for members locos and club locos
- Designed to allow for preparation and steaming-up under cover



Rugby Locomotive Testing Station – Aims



- To recreate an historic part of Rugby's and the nation's lost railway heritage
- To create a centre of excellence for sustained model locomotive performance improvement.
- To lower the carbon footprint of model steam locomotives through the use of alternative fuels and lubricants
- To boost club membership to a sustainable level and increase visitor numbers



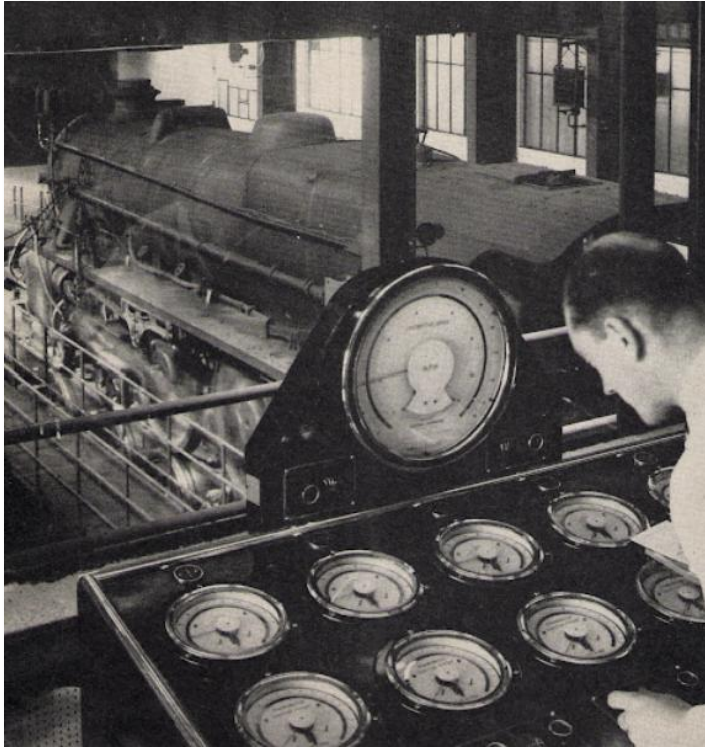
Rugby Locomotive Testing Station – Aims



- To engage with educational institutes to share the facilities historic context and its relevance in the modern world
- To promote locally the unique model engineering facility to attract new members
- To promote to the wider UK model engineering societies, the opportunities the facility could provide them.
- To offer testing of visiting locomotives for a fee, dependant on the type of testing.



Rugby Locomotive Testing Station – Aims



- To make the testing facilities available to model engineering companies on a fee per day basis
- To teach steam locomotive firing and driving skills on the dynamometer in a safe controlled environment
- To offer steam locomotive driving experience and tuition on a simulation of the RMES track and other miniature railway tracks



Rugby Locomotive Testing Station – Usage

- Demonstrating the facilities capabilities during public running events, club organised or sponsored events and organised educational visits
- Testing in the facility of :-
 - Club locomotives to improve their efficiency
 - Members locomotives to help facilitate improvements in performance
 - Visiting locomotives, to assess current performance and provide options for improvements
 - New fuels and systems to lower emissions
- Testing undertaken by commercial model engineering companies
- Teaching steam locomotive firing and driving skills in a safe controlled environment
- Steam locomotive driving experience on a simulation of the RMES track and other miniature railway tracks



Project partners – supporting success

- **Financial support** – Heritage Lottery Fund: *Project finance*
- **Facilitation support** – Rugby Borough Council: *Legal, planning, heritage, amenity, inclusion, accessibility*
- **Members support** – active members: *Project management, engineering expertise, technical skills, labour (conception, design, construction and operational phases)*
- **Technical support** – dynamometer and software supplier, model engineering associations, model engineering contractor: *Dynamometer/ simulator (design, construction and operational phases)*
- **Practical support** – building material suppliers and contractors: *Physical construction*
- **Professional support** – architect, structural engineer, quantity surveyor: *Structural designs and plans, construction supervision and control*
- **Expert support** – historians: *Archive research, historical interpretation*
- **Communication support** – teachers, creative writers: *Verbal and written telling of the lost industrial structures, facilities, artifacts and processes*

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Liberal Democrat
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QUESTIONS ?