



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **What's up here then?**

Sometimes there is never a ladder big enough for the job. That's what Jamie Wadsworth, Contracts Manager for Thomas Homes, thought when he wanted to do a stone profiling exercise on the top of the Water Tower at Limes Park. Enter Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service to the rescue!

The 200ft Water Tower is a landmark seen from all approaches to Basingstoke and is part of the Thomas Homes' development site at the old Park Prewett hospital, now Limes Park. Planning applications are in to develop this unique building into apartments (with a lift!) but in readiness to start work, Thomas Homes need to know exactly what state the stonework is in, up at the top.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service had already approached Thomas Homes about the possibility of using the tower for training exercises, who were happy to help. It was a good opportunity to utilise their aerial platform and refresh training for officers, as it is equipment used for only the tallest structures, and thankfully not required every day.

Commenting on the exercise, Basingstoke firefighter Sean Ratcliffe said: "This provided a great opportunity for us to discuss access points, risk assessments, and more specific issues surrounding the type of training taking place. The station's Aerial Ladder Platform enables us to deal with incidents at height or those with difficult access. The Water Tower has provided an excellent operational training facility for us and we are pleased to be working in partnership with Thomas Homes."

"The view from the top of the tower is truly amazing," added Jamie Wadsworth, Contracts Manager for Thomas Homes at Limes Park. "I needed to study the stonework at the top of the tower and this is the best way to do it. The Fire Service were extremely helpful and seemed to enjoy the exercise. I managed to do my job in one morning instead of waiting about three days for scaffolding. I hope they will come back to do some more training - before the Tower is occupied, of course!"

**ENDS**  
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