The background is a deep blue field filled with numerous small, glowing blue dots of varying sizes. Overlaid on this are several thin, bright blue lines that form complex, intersecting circular and elliptical patterns, resembling particle tracks or a network diagram. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and scientific complexity.

RAL/PPD PhD Studentship

Practicalities

RAL Particle Physics PhD Studentships

❖ RAL Particle Physics Dept. offers 6 funded PhD studentships starting in Autumn 2025:

- Project 1: "DUNE: Neutrino Symmetry Violation Through a PRISM" (PPD/Queen Mary College)
- Project 2: "Development of Gallium Nitride devices for High Energy Physics applications" (PPD/Oxford)
- Project 3: "Developing the Next-Generation Dark Matter Experiment: XLZD at the Boulby Underground Laboratory" (PPD/University College)
- Project 4: "Search for Lepton Flavour Violation in Top Quark Events with the ATLAS Experiment & Development of the Global Trigger System for High-Luminosity LHC " (PPD/Royal Holloway)
- Project 5: "Search for NMSSM Higgs bosons & machine learning on FPGAs with CMS " (PPD/Bristol)
- Project 6: "Development of Low-Mass Dark Matter Searches with the DarkSide-20k Experiment" (PPD/Manchester)

❖ Each studentship has partner university, as RAL can't award degrees.

- Student will be blessed with 2 supervisors (RAL + university)!

RAL Particle Physics PhD Studentships

❖ Each PhD is 3.5 years long, with typically:

- First 2 terms based at university for lectures/courses there.
- Then year based at RAL, including additional lectures.
- Then year away at experiment (e.g. CERN in Geneva).
- Then back to RAL to complete research & write up thesis.

❖ For each PhD place, the STFC funding agency issues a [PhD grant](#) to the partner university covering its "home fees" & a stipend for the student's living costs & expenses.

(The cost of this is met either solely by RAL/PPD, or shared between PPD & the university).

- If a candidate must pay the more expensive "overseas fees", and can't pay the difference in fees themselves, the university sometimes finds a solution, such as waiving its right to charge "overseas" fees, if the candidate is particularly impressive.

RAL/PPD PhD Open Day Schedule

Details (maps & Zoom links) in <https://indico.stfc.ac.uk/event/959/overview>

❖ Morning in Conference Room 3 (CR3) in Building R61 [10-12am]:

- Presentations on the 6 PhD projects.

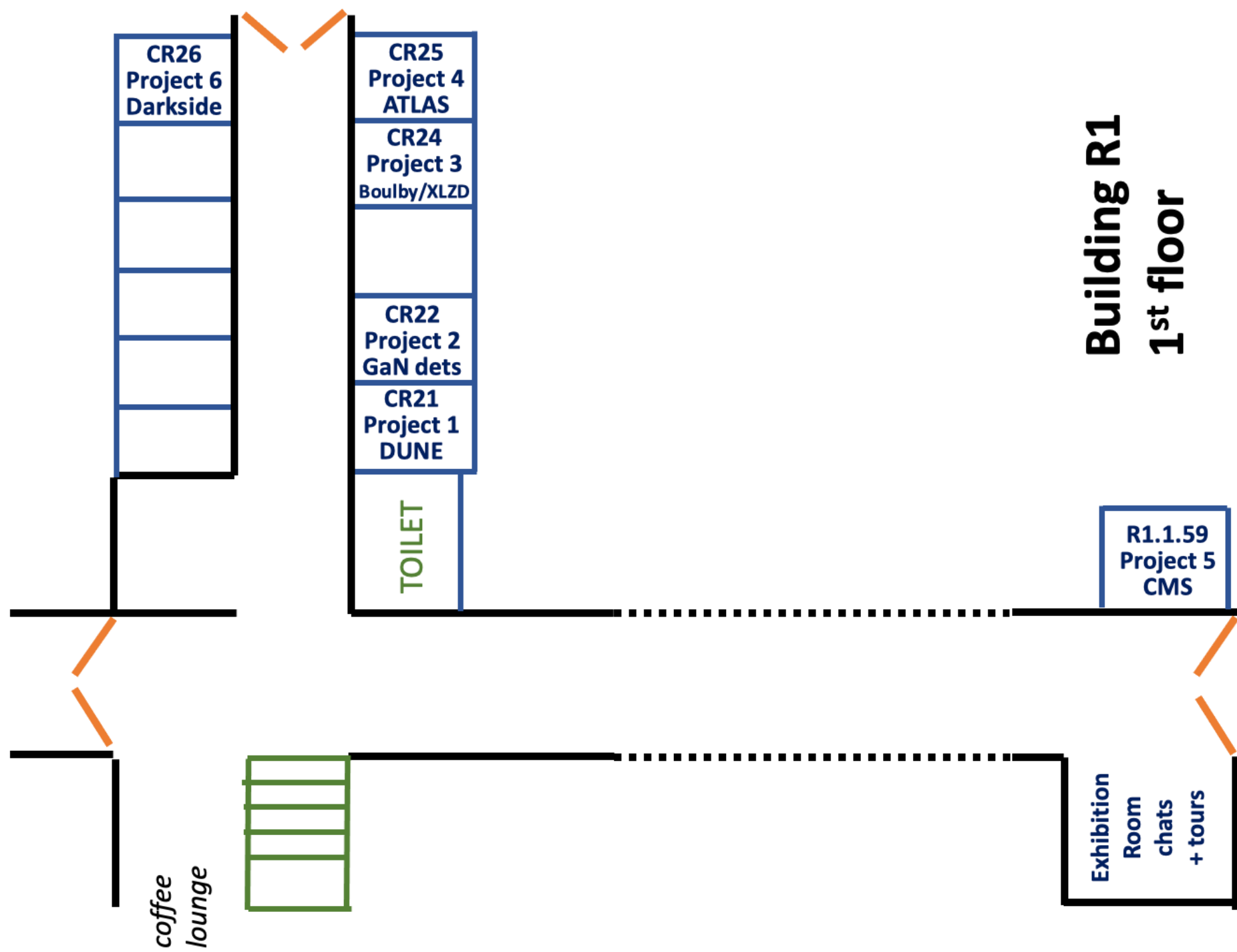
❖ Lunch in Conference Room 3 [12-1pm]:

- Sign up for afternoon tours of ATLAS + Darkside-20k clean room.
- Sign up sheet for taxis at the end of the day.

❖ Afternoon in PPD (R1 1st floor) [1-4pm]: Individual chats with supervisors in 6 small rooms.

- Each chat is 28 mins long + 2 mins transition time.
- 50% of time for you to ask questions to supervisors. 50% for them to get to know you.
- In free slots, go to PPD Exhibition Room to join Clean Room tour or to chat informally to current students/staff, or relax in Coffee Lounge.

❖ 4:05 + 4:35pm taxis to Didcot train station (if you request it during lunch break)



Schedule of afternoon chats (for students at RAL)

❖ The afternoon chats between students & project supervisors is linked here.

CHAT SCHEDULE

❖ We've booked you chats for your 2 favourite projects (from your application form).

- For very popular projects (e.g. ATLAS & CMS), we couldn't always do this.
- If a 3rd project interests you, let me know during lunch, and we'll do our best to accommodate you. Easiest for GaN & Boulby.

❖ If a 3rd project catches your interest, we'll have additional chats via ZOOM in the days following the Open Day. You can each sign up for one of these chats as explained in <https://indico.stfc.ac.uk/event/1242/> .

Schedule of chats (remote students)

- ❖ Except in exceptional cases, there will be no ZOOM chats this afternoon.
- ❖ Instead, we'll have additional chats via ZOOM in the days following the Open Day. You can each sign up for 2 of these chats as explained in <https://indico.stfc.ac.uk/event/1242/> .

After the Open Day & Chats

- ❖ All students list of all the PhD projects for which they wish to be considered, in decreasing order of preference in the **survey** that is linked from indico.
 - e.g. 3, 6, 2, 1, 5, 4.
- ❖ The supervisors of each project indicate which students they'd like to invite to formal interview.
- ❖ We assign of students to individual projects.
 - Student submits formal application to partner university (if not already done).
 - Formal interview of student with project supervisors (perhaps as part of university interviews)
 - Successful students will receive an offer from one (and only one) RAL/PPD PhD project.
- ❖ Students claim their travel expenses by submitting this [form](#) to PAPPDDIRECTOR@stfc.ac.uk , together with a single photo of all their receipts.