“Shooting towers and speed track”

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The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, Sheetlines, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.
I would be grateful if anyone could help me by identifying some features that I have found on Popular Edition maps. In the bottom right hand corner of sheet 106 Watford of 1920 (above) there are three spots that are annotated *Shooting Tower*, two near Brent Reservoir and one at Perivale. These are in squares G13, H13 and J11; there is also *Shooting Towers* below the words *Golf Course* in square G12. They are also present on the *London (Country Round London)* tourist map of 1921. They are absent from the Third Edition and from the Fifth Edition, so they seem to have had a short existence, perhaps resulting from some military activity during the First World War.

I have not been able to find out what these were, but a clue may be found on the three-inch *London* (NW section) map of 1933 which does not show the towers, but has *Shooting Ground* just north of the Brent Reservoir on the site of one of the towers. Curiously, the Fifth Edition 106 does introduce a new shooting tower two miles west of Barnet, and this is carried forward onto the New Popular 160 at TQ 215970, but it does not survive on the Seventh Series. Can anyone shed any light on these, or perhaps find a photograph of them?
The other question is about the odd features that are found at the site of Farnborough Aerodrome that can be found on Popular Edition 114 Windsor of 1920 (my copy 5000/23) in square J2 (opposite, upper). This consists of a straight Speed Track and a kidney-shaped Flying Track, adjoining the group of buildings that are served by a railway link, and annotated Ryl. Aircraft Establ. This can also be found on the earlier Aldershot District North of 1914, but without annotation or railway connection. But on Fifth (Relief) Edition Aldershot District North of 1932 the whole thing is swept away, and the site reverts to its Third Edition form, except for a railway connection that ends in a piece of rough ground, and a small area entitled Aerodrome. And even that disappears from the New Popular and early Seventh Series, although the rail connection remains. It is not until the last printings of the Seventh Series (my copy B/5) that the full extent of the Royal Aircraft Establishment is revealed (opposite, lower). So what were these tracks, where they for road vehicles or aeroplanes, and if so why did they need tracks for aeroplanes?

Bill Riley found this letter written by OGS Crawford in 1926 tucked inside a copy of Crawford's autobiography Said and Done, published in 1955.