

University of Reading Framework

Building a gateway for global connectivity

£22.7m

/ Project value

May 2016

/ The build commenced

February 2018

/ The duration

Appointed as one of a select group of contractors to the University of Reading's 'Buildings Works Framework', we are supporting the delivery of its £250 million building programme over the next 15 years. Trusted as the preferred contractor for the £22.7 million first phase construction of the Thames Valley Science Park, we led on the construction of a multi-functional new three-storey Gateway Building, which marks the landmark entrance to the Park. Although not part of the Framework, we also began work, in January 2017, on a cutting-edge £30 million Proton Beam Therapy Centre on behalf of Proton Partners International (PPI) who have leased a plot on the Science Park site.

The Brief

The University of Reading's substantial redevelopment of the Thames Valley Science Park forms a significant part of its efforts to encourage further interaction between business and higher-education.



"We are delighted to appoint GRAHAM who have shown that they have the skills and expertise to deliver this prestigious project"

David Gillham
Director of the Thames Valley Science Park at the University of Reading

“It is great to see such fantastic progress being made on the first phase of the Thames Valley Science Park. We look forward to welcoming our first tenants later this year as our community of innovative, technology-based companies begin to come together”

David Gillham
Director of the Thames Valley Science Park at the University of Reading

The Challenges

The construction of the Gateway Building, the first of four new buildings within the 16-hectare (47-acre) Thames Valley Science Park, marked a significant milestone for the wider development of this ambitious Framework. As such, expectations were high, demanding effective management of the build programme from our on-site team and the completion of the iconic entrance showpiece within an intensive 20-month programme. Similar expediency is required for the new Proton Beam Therapy Centre, which, due to its design, and erection, complexity demands close coordination with direct contractors (Veritas and Pravida Bau) before handover in June 2018.

GRAHAM's added value solution

Providing 70,000 square feet of specialist space for innovation led, and technology based, companies, construction work on the Gateway Building, which is located within the University's Whiteknights campus, began in May 2016 before completion in February 2018. Aesthetically pleasing, the striking building features orange/brown corten steel cladding, which changes slightly in appearance as the elements oxidise the surface. Approximately 20 companies are expected to fill the building, which includes new office and laboratory space over three levels, alongside a cafeteria, and conference rooms. The 20-month project also encompassed the development of the access spur from the Eastern Relief Road as well as significant landscaping and on-site pedestrian and cycle paths. Innovation was a central element of the building's flexible design, providing a mix of laboratory and office space, the size of which can be dictated by the tenants.

Outputs & Benefits

- / **Trusted Partner:** Supporting the delivery of the University's £250 million building programme over the next 15 years
- / **Flexible Design:** Spaces within the building can expand as tenant companies grow, allowing extra flexibility
- / **Blending Innovation and Aesthetics:** Featuring orange/brown corten steel cladding, which changes slightly in appearance as the elements oxidise the surface
- / **Bigger Picture:** The Gateway Building is the first phase of the 800,000 square feet transformation of the Thames Valley Science Park



For more information on how we're delivering lasting impact:

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