



Freemen's Common, University of Leicester

This scheme - which took three years to complete - is a combination of state-of-the-art new build and careful refurbishment of historic facilities.

The result has helped secure the University of Leicester's position as a leading education provider whilst upholding its heritage.

The project included the design and creation of:

- Seven high-rise accommodation blocks, providing 1,164 student rooms. The off-site modular construction techniques used provide high thermal mass and low U-values, making them highly energy efficient.
- A 555-space multi-storey car park - with a striking metallic finish and 28 electric vehicle charge points.
- A 9,000 m² teaching and learning centre - including a 600-seat lecture theatre - which achieved a BREEAM 'Very Good' standard.
- Indoor and outdoor social space at Freeman's Kitchen & Bar.

In addition, Grade II Listed Freeman's Common Cottages have been respectfully restored, with a new glass-walled reception and seating area added.

Collaborative expertise

Freeman's Common Village LLP was formed as a special purpose vehicle by the university, Equans and investors Equitix to design, build, fund, manage and operate the project for the University of Leicester.

Equans has also accepted a 50-year, £50m hard facilities management contract for the new facilities and taken up an equity stake in the campus alongside funding partner Equitix.



Low carbon throughout

Sustainability has been central to the project, with a range of renewable and energy-saving technologies incorporated.

Photovoltaic solar panels and highly-efficient centralised combined heat and power keep the buildings running efficiently.

Students can control their energy use through individual panels - with an emphasis on reducing their carbon footprint. LED lighting has been used throughout.



Key Features

Partners: Equitix and University of Leicester

Start: September 2019

Completion: September 2022

Value: £200m including a £50m, 50-year hard facilities management contract

- ▶ Created 1,164 new accommodation units, 9000m² teaching and learning centre, and multi-storey car park
- ▶ Grade II Listed cottages renovated
- ▶ Four construction apprentices completed training through the project
- ▶ Around 1.4 million hours of manual labour spent on-site
- ▶ Subcontractors recruited from within 40 miles of the campus
- ▶ Shortlisted in the 'Collaboration' category of the Student Accommodation Awards 2022
- ▶ Varied build techniques for a transformed sky-scape
- ▶ Low carbon solutions throughout

Winner of **Large Residential Scheme of the Year** and **Large Non-Residential Scheme of the Year** at the 2023 **ProCon Leicestershire Awards**