

Morrell Student Halls, Oxford

Fast facts:

Project: Oxford Brookes University, Morrell Halls

Sector: Education

Client: GSS Architecture

Value: £8million

Completed: 2009



Overview

The Morrell Student Halls of Residence, located on Marston Road, comprises of a total of 10 blocks of student accommodation divided into flats and communal living facilities for 554 students at Oxford Brookes University. Originally built in the 1970's the first phase of the re-development of the site included the demolition of 2 of the original blocks and its replacement with two 'new state of the art' residences providing a total of 160 study bedrooms for both post graduates and under graduates .

Waldeck provided civil and structural engineering design services on the £8m project. The sloping site had complex geotechnical issues including a ground water springs. This, combined with environmental aspects of the site and the original piled substructures which were to remain, dictated that detailed study of the exact location of the new piled foundations and ground beams was required. The superstructures to the development included traditional load bearing elements designed to compliment the existing student residences surrounding the new halls. The project was completed in 2009.

Waldeck Innovation

The innovative foundation solution was developed to challenge the complex geotechnical issues on the site (including a natural ground spring), together with considering the sequencing of the new works and the substructures of the original development. The phasing of the works was a major consideration in the development of the design philosophy for the sub-structures and Sustainable drainage to minimize risk to existing structures but also minimize cost and programme risk to the builders.