

Case Study: British Gas at Oxford Business Park

048/Jul14



Photos: Martin Cleveland Photography

Glazing by Kawneer features on a sustainable benchmark building

Curtain walling from Kawneer has helped a new regional headquarters for up to 1,000 British Gas Business staff achieve a BREEAM "Excellent" rating.

Building: British Gas

Location: Oxford

Architect: Frank Shaw Associates

Main Contractor: Kier Construction

Installer: Aluminium Sashes

WWW.KAWNEER.CO.UK

 **KAWNEER**
AN ARCONIC COMPANY

Kawneer helps British Gas power up

Kawneer's AA®110 zone/mullion-drained curtain walling with 65mm sightlines features on the two wings of the £19million state-of-the-art office building on Oxford Business Park, part of the former Austin Rover works at Cowley.

It was specified by architects Frank Shaw Associates, who have specified Kawneer systems on commercial and industrial projects for the past 20 years.

Christopher Pitt commented that: "Kawneer products represent a good balance of performance and cost. The curtain walling was used to form all the glazed part of the external wall.

"Curtain walling was chosen for its simplicity, flexibility and air tightness, and aluminium's sustainability was important in securing BREEAM credits."

Frank Shaw Associates detailed the building to allow a very simple interface with the construction of the external envelope generally. The typical interface detail comprised a DPC dressed into the curtain walling, with a packing piece glazed in and perimeter mastic sealant applied.

They used two curtain walling face cap profiles to allow the transoms to have greater definition than the mullions.

"The glazing was integral to achieving the desired aesthetic." said Christopher Pitt.

As well as the BREEAM "Excellent" rating, the building achieved an EPC rating of A. It comprises the two three-storey wings separated by atria and core, aligned to maximise the effectiveness of both passive solar shading via brise soleil and the LZC (Low or Zero Carbon) equipment (photovoltaic panels and solar hot water).

Built of traditional construction, using an in-situ concrete frame with post-tensioned concrete slabs, it was built on a four-acre site by Kier Construction (Central) for client developer Goodman, with the Kawneer elements installed by Aluminium Sashes.

The 81,000ft² building features formal and informal meeting and conference facilities, an on-site restaurant with dining for around 200 people, training rooms and an innovation centre showcasing new green technology.

British Gas employees moved to the new building from three existing offices on the park while senior personnel also relocated from their current headquarters in Staines, Middlesex.



Please contact our Architectural Services Team if you have a project you would like to discuss: Tel: 01928 502604 / Email: kawneerAST@arconic.com

Kawneer UK Limited, Astmoor Road, Astmoor Industrial Estate, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1QQ
Tel: + 44 (0)1928 502500 Fax: + 44 (0)1928 502501

WWW.KAWNEER.CO.UK