

NEWS RELEASE 11 November 2006

Beard lifts crane over Queen's College Quad

Lifting an 18 tonne crane over three-storey 17th Century buildings in the centre of Oxford is what Oxford and Swindon-based construction Company, Beard did on a moonlit evening in early November.

The building work is taking place at Queen's College Quad, a corner block adjacent to the main Queen's College building at the junction of the High Street and Queen's Lane.

As the Evensong bells started ringing at Christ Church, a 250 tonne crane was positioned in the High Street to lift the smaller crane 25m over the three-storey buildings into an enclosed courtyard.

This crane will enable Beard to bring construction materials onto the site extend and refurbish existing buildings, some Grade II listed, to provide additional student accommodation for Queen's College, Oxford.

The Home Bursar of Queen's College, Dr Linda Irving-Bell said: "Queen's College are in the process of totally refurbishing its Queen's Lane Quad, which is an annexe of 55 rooms adjacent to our main college buildings.

"By September 2007 the £2.9m project will be complete and all 55 rooms will be en-suite and we will have extended the building to provide a further 18 rooms.

"It was quite a spectacle to see a very large crane lifting another crane above Queen's College Quad on Sunday evening. As the second crane hung suspended

above the listed buildings, it was good to know that we were in the safe hands of Beard's."

This latest project, is just another development in the college's history. The Queen's College was founded in 1341 by Robert de Eglesfield and is the oldest Oxford University college in the City.

Respecting Queen's College fine architectural legacy was a key element of the brief. To meet the planning regulations in a conservation area, and to provide the additional student accommodation required, designers J Tilbury & Associates, who have been working for the college for the last 18 years, designed a mansard style roof with slate tiles to match the existing buildings. To further compliment the surrounding historical building features they have used stone details around the parapet and a more traditional entrance canopy.

John Tilbury, Partner, J Tilbury & Associates, said: "We have worked with both the college and Beard before. We chose Beard because they have a lot of experience refurbishing historic buildings and they are a well respected local contractor."

Notes for editors

Beard company facts and figures

- Established 1892
- £33m turnover in 2005 (up from £22m in 2004)
- 160 employees
- Engaged in the Construction Best Practice Programme
- Quality assured to BS EN ISO 9001:2000
- SAFE Contractor
- Member of the Considerate Contractor Scheme
- Investor in People
- Chartered Institute of Building training partner
- Mark Beard awarded Oxfordshire Businessman of the Year 2004
- Beacon Company
- Winner of the 2006 Wiltshire Business Training and Development Award

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