

Houlton Secondary School



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Finalist

Project category



Image credits: James Brittain

Houlton School is a 6FE state secondary school and sixth form for the new emerging town of Houlton, just outside Rugby.

With a need to meet the stringent energy requirements for a new school, it has two distinct parts, the sympathetic repurposing of the solid masonry historic Transmitter buildings, and the high-performance new buildings needed to accommodate the rest of the school.

Key info

Project name: Houlton Secondary School

Project location: Rugby, UK

Building completion date: September 2021

Building size (sqm): 12,134

Construction cost (approx.): 39 million

Construction type: Historic building: Masonry and steel frame. New buildings: Steel frame with SFS

Building use: School

Project team

Architect/designer: Van Heyningen and Haward Architects

Client: SUE GP LLP

Contractor: Morgan Sindall

Product manufacturers/suppliers: Duplus, Dotcom, Heritage Project Contracts, Pavatex, MQM, Mansard, Concrete Renovations

Consultants: Etude, Price and Myers, Hoare Lea, Ramboll Acoustics, PlanitLE, OFR, GIA Equation, Cooper 8, Noiseboys, The Heritage Collective

Highlights

The project retained the structures of the Power Hall and Transmission Block, insulating with biobased products and a moisture-open lime plaster to upgrade the historic fabric whilst minimising moisture risks.

By enabling the reuse of the listed structures and envelope, the project substantially reduces overall embodied energy when compared to a new build school, with the estimated carbon footprint for the refurbished buildings being 404.8 KgCO₂eq/m².

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