

Sector: Residential

Robertson businesses: Robertson North East England, Robertson Engineering Services

Client: Gilltown Ltd

Value: £8.7m

Contract dates: October 2015—June 2016

Location: Newcastle upon Tyne



Roman House, Clavering Place, Newcastle

Best-in-class student accommodation with Roman roots

The student accommodation at Clavering Place in Newcastle was designed to be ‘best in class’ with large rooms in a mix of self-contained studio units and en-suite bedrooms in cluster flats. This project, undertaken in the centre of Newcastle, comprises a 5-7 storey student accommodation block with 210 cluster flats and studio flats, located on the corner of Clavering Place and Forth Street, behind Newcastle Central Station.

Raising the bar in design

The scheme has been designed by Newcastle-based Intersect Architects to be ‘best in class’ in terms of accommodation in the city.

The high specification of the development was aimed at postgraduates, international students and returning students. Internally the living accommodation provides spacious, contemporary facilities that raise the bar in terms of visual design while also being practical.

The larger-than-average rooms are part of a mix of self-contained studios, one-bed apartments and en-suite bedrooms within cluster flats. The amenity space includes a large communal lounge, study room, cinema room and gym.

City centre construction

With the city centre location, the site access was extremely limited and all materials and deliveries had to be carefully coordinated.

We constructed a lightweight steel frame, built from a suspended first-floor concrete deck supported on a podium structural steel frame.

Our works also included the extension of all necessary services into the boundary of the site, including gas, water, drainage, data and telecoms, installed by Robertson Engineering Services.

We installed mechanical and electrical services including hot and cold water, gas service, ventilation, lighting, heating, fire detection, intruder alarms and access control.

The build was modular by nature and to ensure everything ran on time with the overall construction programme, the M&E project team developed a detailed, room-by-room programme and engaged with all trades and subcontractors.

Integrating Roman history into the design

The building elevations are a combination of facing brickwork and aluminium cladding panels, which incorporate a large Roman soldier feature. Earlier archaeological exploration on the site had discovered what was believed to be the main road to the Roman fort of Pons Aelius, and two stone coffins, thought to be the burial plot of a high-status family. The building was subsequently named Roman House.



“We worked this scheme out together and we have delivered it together. It’s first class, absolutely top dollar. I have to say, I have been in this industry a long time and the relationship with Robertson has been the best I have ever been through, by far.”

Paul Gillespie,
Managing Director, Gilltown