



PRESS RELEASE

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Princess Anne to open new science building at the British Geological Survey, Nottingham

The largest wooden-framed open plan office building in the UK will be opened by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on 25th June 2009 at the British Geological Survey (BGS) in Keyworth, Nottingham.

Providing 3000m² of open-plan accommodation, the William Smith Building (WSB) is the newest addition to the British Geological Survey (BGS) headquarters in Nottingham.



William Smith Building, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham

The WSB was built to the highest environmental standards within two-years and under the £7m budget. It incorporates cedar and terracotta cladding, sheep's wool insulation, under-floor heating and an atrium covered with the same plastic panels used in the Eden project domes, Cornwall, UK.

The project started in December 2007 and the offices were occupied by BGS staff in May 2009. The William Smith Building will be opened by the Princess Royal on the 25th June 2009.



The Princess Royal first visited the site on the 23rd June 1970 when she officially opened the now closed Mary Ward College (a teacher training college) which occupied the site before it was taken over by the BGS in 1976.

George Bowick, the BGS site manager responsible for the project, said:

“The William Smith Building has been built to meet the BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) excellent rating. This will be the first large-scale open plan office in the UK to use a timber frame along with a Termodeck under-floor heating system. We expect it to be widely acknowledged for its pioneering design.”

The William Smith Building uses the following innovative materials and systems:

- Cedar cladding – this is durable, resistant to weathering and provides excellent thermal insulation.
- Terracotta rain screen cladding – provides excellent acoustic and thermal insulation; with low maintenance requirements.
- Termodeck heating and cooling system – uses air flowing through hollow structural slabs to maintain ideal room temperature.
- Sheep’s wool insulation – is a natural breathable fibre made from renewable sources that helps to keep buildings warm in the winter and cool in the summer.
- ETFE (Ethylene Tetra Fluoro Ethylene) – a lightweight yet strong plastic that was designed for the space programme as an alternative to glass.

Ends



For further details or to arrange media interviews please contact:

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Notes for Editors

VNR (Video News Release) B-roll cut-aways of the William Smith Building are available on request.

More information on the WSB can be found on the BGS website here:

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/contacts/sites/keyworth/WS_Building.html

Visit the following websites for more information on:

- BREEAM building standards: <http://www.breeam.org/>
- Pick Everard (project architect): <http://www.pickeverard.co.uk/>
- Sol construction (project builder): <http://www.sol-construct.co.uk/>

The British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS), a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users. The BGS maintains and develops the nation's understanding of its geology to improve policy making, enhance national wealth and reduce risk. It also collaborates with the national and international scientific community in carrying out research in strategic areas, including energy and natural resources, our vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and our general knowledge of the Earth system. More about the BGS can be found at www.bgs.ac.uk.