

# Scott Brownrigg Planning



**The Hub: solar shading and water heaters raised headquarters sustainability rating**

Scott Brownrigg Planning has successfully forged its own identity while remaining a core element of an international design practice. Planners work alongside masterplanning, urban design, architecture and interior design experts as well as offering stand-alone consultancy to Scott Brownrigg's client base and their own external customers.

Formed in 1984, the practice is committed to the long-term development of the planning profession by focusing on three key issues — sustainable development, high-quality design and public engagement. In delivering complex planning permissions and providing strategic advice, its nine staff in London and Guildford aim to make the process simple and straightforward. Explaining client's proposals and collating responses are core skills.

Directors Martyn Stutchbury and Jeff Pyrah have used their planning skills to develop a corporate responsibility policy for the wider firm. This follows two years of work in which Scott Brownrigg secured ISO 14001 certification and set up a sustainability action plan.

Working within a design studio gives the planning team a vital understanding of the design process. But good planning is always at the fore. "We know that unless we get the mix of uses settled early on, individual buildings will never make planning sense," says Stutchbury. "Helping to get better schemes is part of our

ethos, but they will also go through more quickly and be more successful."

The team's 13-year involvement in the Hatfield Business Park in Hertfordshire illustrates its success in maintaining client and local authority relationships, as well as its determination to reach out to local communities. The latest addition is The Hub corporate headquarters, where features such as solar shading, rainwater harvesting, solar water heaters and sustainable drainage systems have secured a BREEAM very good rating.

In five years, the practice has built a portfolio of education and defence clients from scratch and is beginning to specialise in solar farms. Close liaison with stakeholders paved the way for permission for St Bartholomew's School in Newbury within 13 weeks of submission.

At Northwood in west London, it led a multidisciplinary team on a Ministry of Defence campus which matches military requirements with archaeological, ecological, tree protection, transport and residential amenity constraints.

Scott Brownrigg Planning's aim is not just to deliver results but to raise awareness of the planning process and its aims and objectives, as illustrated by staff involvement in RTPI branches, Planning Aid, lectures and briefing notes for clients. "There is a real opportunity to sell what planning is about and reassure people that it works," says Pyrah.

## JUDGES' COMMENTS

"Robust procedures and professional judgement ensure high standards of advice to Scott Brownrigg Planning clients. The team's succinct summary of how they match the award criteria reflects their purposeful approach. They provide a lead to other disciplines in the firm on corporate responsibility. They show innovation in community engagement, considering a range of communities and undertaking education on the planning process. Understanding their strengths, adherence to client requirements, streamlining services and developing new areas of work is their response to current conditions."