ABOUT THE WEST DOWNS DEVELOPMENT

Our new learning and teaching building at West Downs will be home to our computer and digital-related degree programmes and business and management courses. The contemporary design by Winchester-based Design Engine Architects features social learning areas and teaching spaces, specialist digital labs, a library, 250-seat auditorium, art gallery, courtyard garden, café and food hall, and shop.

The building represents an important investment in the University’s future. As a successful values-driven higher education institution, we are improving our estate, facilities and learning resources to support excellence and ensure that Winchester continues to be an automatic first choice for undergraduates in the years ahead.

The project also provides an impressive addition to Winchester’s civic buildings and a new gateway into the city on the main route from the south-west, where the building will be visible from Romsey Road.

Construction began in January 2018 and will take approximately two years to complete.

MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACT US

Visit www.winchester.ac.uk/WestDownsDevelopment for information and updates on the development. A timelapse camera is recording construction work as the building goes up: images are updated every 15 minutes from 7am until 6pm Monday to Friday. Visit the development web page to see the latest images. Our thanks to Lithend Estates for hosting the camera on one of their properties.

Visit the University’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/UniofWinchester to watch short films about the development and timelapse videos showing construction progress to date.

To sign up for email updates or if you have questions or comments about the development, email: campusdevelopments@winchester.ac.uk
ABOUT THE WEST DOWNS DEVELOPMENT

Our new learning and teaching building at West Downs will be home to our computer and digital-related degree programmes and business and management courses. The contemporary design by Winchester-based Design Engine Architects features social learning areas and teaching spaces, specialist digital labs, a library, 250-seat auditorium, art gallery, courtyard garden, café and food hall, and shop.

The building represents an important investment in the University's future. As a successful values-driven higher education institution, we are improving our estate, facilities and learning resources to support excellence and ensure that Winchester continues to be an automatic first choice for undergraduates in the years ahead.

The project also provides an impressive addition to Winchester's civic buildings and a new gateway into the city on the main route from the south-west, where the building will be visible from Romsey Road. Construction began in January 2018 and will take approximately two years to complete.

MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACT US

Visit www.winchester.ac.uk/WestDownsDevelopment for information and updates on the development. A timelapse camera is recording construction work as the building goes up: images are updated every 15 minutes from 7am until 6pm Monday to Friday. Visit the development web page to see the latest images. Our thanks to Lithend Estates for hosting the camera on one of their properties.

Visit the University's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/UniofWinchester to watch short films about the development and timelapse videos showing construction progress to date.

To sign up for email updates or if you have questions or comments about the development, email: campusdevelopments@winchester.ac.uk

GREEN FINANCE SECURED FOR WEST DOWNS

In June, we announced that we are the first UK university to secure Green finance for campus development, with a £30m loan from Triodos Bank, Europe’s leading sustainable bank. Triodos Bank is a global pioneer in sustainable banking, using the power of finance to invest in projects that are good for people and the planet. The development at West Downs will be one of the most sustainable education buildings in the UK.

WEST DOWNS DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

In just over nine months after breaking ground, at the end of October we celebrated another key construction milestone for our learning and teaching building with a traditional topping out ceremony. The topping out marks the point at which the building reaches its highest point, marking the end of the main construction phase and the beginning of the finishing works.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Joy Carter CBE DL laid a final section of concrete on the roof to celebrate the achievement. The ceremony was attended by Alan Titchmarsh MBE VMH DL, Chancellor of the University; John Craig, Osborne’s Managing Director of Construction; and several members of the project teams.

Andy Steele, Osborne CEO, said: “Osborne has a track record and ethos of working closely with universities to deliver high-quality facilities that are well-designed and focused on enhancing the student experience. We are delighted to be an integral part of this important landmark for the University.”

“It is incredibly exciting to celebrate the extraordinary progress of the building and the achievement of Osborne’s fantastic construction team,” said Professor Carter.

The topping out ceremony marked a significant milestone in the development of the West Downs building, setting the stage for the final stages of construction and the opening of the building in 2020.
THE ‘DRUM’ AUDITORIUM

Partially sunk into the landscape, the impressive, 250-seat drum-shaped Auditorium at the heart of the West Downs development is the building’s primary lecture space. It also offers an exciting venue for small-scale performance events, such as music recitals. Key features include:

- Vertical steel ‘fins’ clad the exterior and will weather differently over time depending on their orientation, providing subtle variety to the finish.
- A green roof planted with native wildflowers is set to enhance biodiversity on the site and help reduce water run-off from the building.
- At night, the exterior of the building is lit up dramatically by specialist architectural lighting. Slot windows act as ‘light-boxes’ to bring the façade to life in the dark.
- The interior is a simple ‘black box’ space, creating an open and flexible performance area. Raked seating is set in a curve and the front two rows are removable.
- Accessible spaces are available at the front and back of the Auditorium, with spaces for wheelchair users, along with companion seats. A lift provides wheelchair access to the upper tier.
- State-of-the-art acoustics include sound-dispersing timber panels and a retractable acoustic curtain along the rear wall, which improves the acoustic performance for music recitals.
- The space provides an intimate venue for drama and music performances by student groups and local arts organisations, including acoustic ensembles, choirs and string ensembles.
ABOUT THE WEST DOWNS DEVELOPMENT

Our new learning and teaching building at West Downs will be home to our computer and digital-related degree programmes and business and management courses.

The contemporary design by Winchester-based Design Engine Architects features social learning areas and teaching spaces, specialist digital labs, a library, 250-seat auditorium, art gallery, courtyard garden, café and food hall, and shop.

The building represents an important investment in the University’s future. As a successful values-driven higher education institution, we are improving our estate, facilities and learning resources to support excellence and ensure that Winchester continues to be an automatic first choice for undergraduates in the years ahead.

The project also provides an impressive addition to Winchester’s civic buildings and a new gateway into the city on the main route from the south-west, where the building will be visible from Romsey Road.

Construction began in January 2018 and will take approximately two years to complete.

MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACT US

Visit www.winchester.ac.uk/WestDownsDevelopment for information and updates on the development. A timelapse camera is recording construction work as the building goes up: images are updated every 15 minutes from 7am until 6pm Monday to Friday. Visit the development web page to see the latest images. Our thanks to Liphend Estates for hosting the camera on one of their properties.

Visit the University’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/UniofWinchester to watch short films about the development and timelapse videos showing construction progress to date.

To sign up for email updates or if you have questions or comments about the development, email: campusdevelopments@winchester.ac.uk

© University of Winchester November 2018