

Large Format i-SIP System Creates Ashdown Forest Accommodation Block

The large format i-SIP structural insulated panel building system from Innovaré has been used to construct a new accommodation block at the Ashdown Forest Visitors Centre, East Sussex.

Innovaré worked closely with RDJW Architects and Farnrise Construction to design, engineer and manufacture its large format 162mm i-SIP panel in 5.9 x 2.4 metre dimensions, with an additional rigid polyurethane (PUR) insulation cavity board to achieve a U-value of 0.15W/m²K. This provided a building envelope with high thermal performance and exceptional speed of build benefits – an important factor given the challenging construction programme.

The visitors centre remained open during construction of the new accommodation block, presenting significant challenges and potential health and safety risks to both Innovaré and Farnrise. Speed of build offered by the i-SIP building system was a key benefit for this project in order to reduce the impact of the construction activity on the overall operations of the visitors centre.

This project presented several logistical challenges to Innovaré, yet offered the business an opportunity to showcase its i-SIP building system on a project outside of its typical residential developments. Whilst affordable housing projects have been a significant driver for the use of SIPs technology in recent years, the ubiquitous benefits offered by the i-SIP building system make it an attractive alternative to traditional build methods on many different projects.



The Ashdown forest project demonstrated that although the i-SIP system not only works as a standalone building system, but it can also combine well with other construction methods such as glulam beams, steel framework and floor and roof cassettes.

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