

SEGRO – The Heritage Quarter, Farnborough Business Park

Last night saw the formal opening of The Heritage Quarter at Farnborough. This was cited by many as a shining example of how commercial developers can work in tandem with conservation and planning authorities to conserve valuable industrial architecture within major new developments.

SEGRO, formally Slough Estates plc have spent the last six years developing this site on the edge of Farnborough airport. SEGRO are one of the largest property development companies in the UK specialising in the commercial sector, with a portfolio worth more than £6 billion at the end of last year.

Ian Coull, SEGRO CEO was highly complimentary about the support they had received from English Heritage who were anxious to protect a number of key industrial buildings, all closely involved with the development of flight between 1907 to the launch of Concorde. Ian Coull also specifically thanked Rushmoor Borough Council for their considerable assistance and for being one of the very best and most proactive authorities he had ever dealt with.

The following images show a number of the buildings which have been conserved (at a cost of £25 million) as well as the framework for the very early air ship hanger which is intended to eventually form the focal point of the new development. A number of the buildings are Grade I listed.



There are still substantial development works (office and housing) to be completed on brown field areas within the business park. A large number of the new office buildings have yet to be let.

SEGRO's view is that they will complete the development on this outstanding site but have other higher commercial priorities to pursue at present.

Many of the historic buildings have not only been faithfully conserved but are also carefully landscaped to display them to best effect.

The site is well worth a visit if you wish to see how redundant industrial architecture can be conserved and integrated within a new commercial development.

Jonathan Clarke

May 24th 2007.