

Tilbury Douglas completes transformation of Garden Mills into a cutting-edge training facility for Bradford College

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Tilbury Douglas, a leading UK-based building, infrastructure, engineering, and fit-out company, has successfully handed over the refurbished Garden Mills, now a state-of-the-art digital, science, and allied health training facility for Bradford College.

The project, obtained through the Procure Partnerships Framework, involved the transformation of the former mill into a dynamic learning environment. The five-storey, 2,915m² building now boasts six digital IT labs, an ophthalmic dispensing suite, a clinical suite, a prep room, consulting and testing booths, and a collaboration area, as well as various academic teaching spaces.

These fit-for-purpose facilities have been designed to meet the specific teaching needs of each department, while improving the building's accessibility, fabric condition, and energy performance.

In addition to its educational impact, the project has delivered significant social value, with a return on investment of nearly £2 million. Tilbury Douglas ensured that 75% of orders were placed locally and contributed to the community through partnerships with Together Women charity and several local schools, including Dixons Sixth Form Academy and Beckfoot Oakbank School.

Paul Ellenor, Divisional Director – Yorkshire and North East at Tilbury Douglas, commented: “The transformation of Garden Mills reflects our commitment to creating sustainable, purpose-built spaces that benefit not only the immediate stakeholders but also the wider community. We’re proud of the social value generated through our partnerships and outreach efforts.”

Phil Shaw, Managing Director – Building North at Tilbury Douglas, added: “This project is an excellent example of how Tilbury Douglas delivers on complex refurbishments, preserving historical integrity while meeting modern educational demands. The collaboration with Bradford College has been exceptional, and we’re thrilled to see the positive impact this facility will have on future generations.”

Christopher Malish, Vice Principal Finance & Corporate Services at Bradford College, said: “Seeing Garden Mills return to life has been extremely rewarding. This new facility will enhance the student experience, create more graduate opportunities, and counter regional skills shortages in STEM-related sectors.”

Garden Mills is the first of several major projects on the college campus, setting the stage for further developments aimed at enhancing educational opportunities in the region.