



## Press release

**Title** Chris Skidmore MP opens Landsec's first net zero office  
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### **Chris Skidmore MP opens Landsec's first net zero office**

Landsec's landmark net zero carbon commercial office development, The Forge, SE1 was opened today by the Chair of the Net Zero Review, Rt Hon Chris Skidmore MP. The Forge is part of Landsec's one million sq ft green office cluster in Southwark and is the first building in its Southwark pipeline to open.

The Forge is the UK's first commercial development to have been designed in line with the UK Green Building Council's definition of a net zero building, and the first office to be built using the highly sustainable platform approach to design for manufacture and assembly (P-DfMA).

The project has been awarded funding from Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, for its innovative design and ground-breaking construction techniques, which has contributed to a circa. 36% reduction to date in embodied carbon from the initial design stage.

Located behind the Tate Modern in the heart of Bankside, The Forge provides 140,000 sq ft of office space across two buildings, Bronze and Phosphor, which are positioned around an open public courtyard. Sustainability and wellness have been embedded throughout the space which will achieve WELL Gold Core certification, NABERS UK 5 Stars and BREEAM Excellent.

**Oliver Knight**, Head of Workplace at Landsec said: "Sustainable office space is in high demand as businesses are increasingly focused on meeting their ESG targets. The Forge, along with the wider green office cluster we're bringing forward in Southwark, is primed to capitalise on this emerging requirement."

"The Forge is a landmark space with the potential to transform the way the industry approaches sustainable construction. The techniques we've used have allowed us to deliver a truly net-zero space which doesn't compromise on design, amenities or location."

**Rt Hon Chris Skidmore MP**, Chair of the Net Zero Review said: "The Independent Review of Net Zero acknowledged that improving operational energy and reducing embodied carbon in commercial buildings can bring competitive advantages to UK businesses. The approach taken at The Forge shows what can be achieved when sustainability is embedded into the design and operation of a space."

"Transitioning to a net-zero economy will require innovation, collaboration, and a willingness to take risks. By pioneering different approaches and taking learnings from other industries, Landsec has been able to create new construction techniques that can be applied across the entire industry."



Starting with the development of Bankside 123 over a decade ago, Landsec has a long history in Southwark and is now investing further in the borough. Landsec's pipeline in Southwark includes a cluster of green offices: The Forge, Timber Square, Liberty of Southwark, and Red Lion Court, which recently achieved planning permission.

The Forge was designed by architects Piercy & Co and Bryden Wood. Construction was led by a joint venture between Mace and Sir Robert McAlpine and the leasing agents are CBRE and Union Street Partners.

**Ends**

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## **Notes to editor**

### **Platform approach**

The platform approach takes lessons from the manufacturing industry and applies them to construction, resulting in a standardised 'kit of parts' from which a building is assembled, while retaining creativity in the overall design.

The Forge is a landmark development for Landsec and the industry and the scale and ambition of the project make it a catalyst for change in office construction. The project was backed by the Government with funding from Innovate UK and will provide important learnings for the future of the construction and the real estate industry.

The P-DfMA process also creates more high skilled jobs and improves productivity within the manufacturing sector, a major driver of the UK economy.

### **The Forge, SE1**

The Forge boasts an array of indoor and outdoor spaces to meet the wellbeing needs of today's workforce, including public realm, four terraces and a cycle ramp from the building's entrance down to 230 cycle spaces, showers and storage. Another feature is almost 300m<sup>2</sup> of green roof promoting local biodiversity. The Forge is targeting WELL Gold certification, meaning customers can be reassured that wellbeing is as much of a priority as sustainability.

Inspired by its industrial past as a bronze foundry, The Forge is located in the heart of Bankside, close to cultural hotspots including The Globe, Tate Modern and Borough Market, as well as three key transport hubs, Waterloo, London Bridge and Blackfriars.



South of The River Thames, The Forge is also surrounded by one of the city's best food and drink scenes including Flat Iron Square and Vinegar Yard, as well as independent restaurants and bars for business lunches and out of work socialising.

The Bronze building is completed to a Cat A Blank Canvas finish, offering space from 6,500 sq ft up to 91,000 sq ft which is ready for customers to personalise and transform to suit their individual brand and needs.

### **About Landsec**

At Landsec, we build and invest in buildings, spaces and partnerships to create sustainable places, connect communities and realise potential. We are one of the largest real estate companies in Europe, with a portfolio of retail, leisure, workspace and residential hubs. Landsec is shaping a better future by leading our industry on environmental and social sustainability while delivering value for our shareholders, great experiences for our guests and positive change for our communities.

Find out more at [landsec.com](https://landsec.com)

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