



NATIONAL INNOVATION CENTRE

Newcastle Helix, King's Gate, Newcastle University



- 745 t of fabricated and erected steelwork
- Specialist diagrid construction
- 7.5° wider top to base
- 11 weeks completion time

“Despite its highly complex diagrid design, the fabrication and detailing for the National Innovation Centre was virtually flawless – this eliminated snagging time on-site. An astonishing feat for such an intricate structure.”

- John Brown, Director

Located at the Newcastle Helix site, the National Innovation Centre worth approximately £50m is one of the most complex and unique structures in the entire city.

J & D Pierce were awarded the structural steelwork package for this Grade A, 6-storey building, with Bowmer & Kirkland as its main contractor.

The building has uniquely fabricated ‘Y’ frames with twisted fabricated columns to the perimeter. In order to achieve a clear span office accommodation and reduce the number of internal columns, cellular beams were employed. Within the building, steel packs of metal floor decking and pre-cast stair units were also provided by J & D Pierce.

The National Innovation Centre is part of one of the largest urban regeneration projects in the UK, creating in excess of 4000 jobs, a total of 500,000 sq. ft of office and research facilities, and 450 new housing.

Ultimate Client:
Newcastle University

Main Contractor:
Bowmer + Kirkland

Structural Engineer:
SHED

Architect:
GSS Architecture

Project Manager:
John Brown