

News Release

6 June 2025

ADAM Architecture Appointed to Design UK's First Large-Scale 'Climate Positive' Community at Rochford Park

ADAM Architecture, known for its work at the Duchy of Cornwall developments at Nansledan in Cornwall and **Poundbury in Dorset**, has been appointed to master plan Rochford Park – a pioneering 2,000-home development by construction technology company **HEMSPAN®**.



Located on land to the east of **Rochford and Ashingdon in Essex**, Rochford Park is set to become the UK's first large-scale '**climate positive**' **community**, going beyond net zero to actively remove more carbon from the atmosphere than it emits.

Artist's Impression of Rochford Park

ADAM Architecture is the UK's leading practice specialising in classical and traditional architecture and contextual urban design. As well as designing new country houses, and renovating and extending historic buildings, the practice is well known for its masterplanning, new housing developments and mixed-use sites, such as at Poundbury, Dorset, the former Prince of Wales's landmark model for sustainable development, and Nansledan, near Newquay – another Duchy of Cornwall project focused on community, sustainability, and local craftsmanship.

With the government aiming to build 1.5 million homes by the next general election, Nansledan

is a timely example of how quality, sustainable development can be delivered at scale, which Rochford Park will emulate.

Matthew Belcher, CEO of HEMSPAN®, said: "ADAM Architecture is the ideal partner for Rochford Park. Their reputation for creating beautiful, well-integrated communities speaks for itself. Together, we'll deliver a scheme that reflects Rochford's character while raising the bar for sustainable development nationally."



Nansledan, Cornwall

Rochford Park is a bold new vision for Rochford. Designed to **redefine sustainable living**, the development will set new standards for environmental responsibility, support the local economy, and create high-quality, future-proof jobs.

The plans also include a new factory to manufacture HEMSPAN®'s **innovative BIOHAUS® building system**, enabling climate positive homes to be delivered at scale. These homes not only achieve near-zero carbon emissions but also actively remove CO₂ during construction and produce all the energy they need once occupied, significantly reducing energy bills.

Hugh Petter, design director at ADAM Architecture, said: Rochford Park is a great opportunity to make a positive statement – not only in design quality, but also in sustainability, in prioritising community, as well as demonstrating a better way towards the delivery of government's ambitious housing targets. We're focused on a masterplan that responds to the needs of local people, supports economic growth, and builds local supply chains from the outset." "

Matthew Belcher added: "This partnership with **ADAM Architecture**, underpinned by our **BIOHAUS® system**, will lead to a truly outstanding development. It will demonstrate what can be done and help set a far higher standard for future development not just in Essex but across the UK."

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Notes to editors:

The embedded images are attached as JPEGs.

About ADAM Architecture

Hugh Petter is a design director at ADAM Architecture and the co-ordinating architect for Nansledan in Cornwall. ADAM Architecture has also been involved in designing many buildings at Poundbury in Dorset.

ADAM Architecture is a leading international practice specialising in classical and traditional architecture and urbanism from its studios in London and Winchester. Its portfolio includes master planning and development, private homes, public and commercial buildings, and historic and listed buildings. A multigenerational business, ADAM Architecture is run by five design directors, each bringing invaluable expertise and insight to the executive board through their own project work, industry outreach and academic contributions.



Poundbury, Dorset

Focusing on traditional practice, ADAM Architecture ensures new built environments take a holistic approach to development, preserving legacy and sense of place, while increasing comfort and adaptability. Sustainability is at the core of every stage of ADAM Architecture's commercial operation, delivering projects that endure by drawing on the inherently sustainable principles of classical architecture. For further information please see our website:

<https://adamarchitecture.com/>

About Hemspan®

HEMSPAN® is a construction technology business developing bio-based, circular systems to capture and store atmospheric carbon in buildings.

Our BOPAS certified [BIOHAUS® system](#) is setting the benchmark for design and performance in construction technology using bio-based materials to eliminate embodied carbon for new homes and public buildings. Our panellised whole-house system provides a high-performing and versatile super-structure for rapid on-site assembly. For further information please see:

<https://hemspan.com/>.

For more information about ADAM Architecture, please contact richard@playfairwalker.com

For more information about Hemspan® please contact Mark Walker, PavilionPA, 07780 904 474, mark@pavilionPA.co.uk.

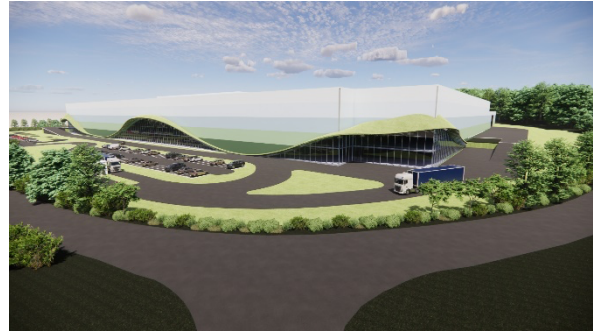
News Release

Date: 2nd June 2025

Rochford chosen for 'CLIMATE POSITIVE' housing factory

HEMSPAN® has selected Rochford as the first of three UK locations for a new housing manufacturing facility each capable of producing 2,000 homes annually.

The new factory represents a major investment in the Rochford area, creating approximately 350 direct jobs and an estimated 175 indirect roles in the local supply chain. HEMSPAN® will work in partnership with local schools and colleges to provide skills training opportunities for younger generations in the community.



At the heart of this initiative is HEMSPAN®'s innovative BIOHAUS® building system which enables 'climate positive' homes to be delivered at scale. These homes not only achieve net-zero carbon emissions but go further, removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere upon completion. Once occupied, they generate all the energy they require, significantly reducing household energy bills.

BIOHAUS® is an offsite manufactured MMC (Modern Methods of Construction Category 2) building system with components made in the factory, shipped to site and then erected. It is a whole-house bio-based panel system, using hemp as the main material.



Matthew Belcher, HEMSPAN® founder and CEO, said: "This factory will deliver economies of scale through volume and vertical integration, allowing us to produce high-performance, climate-positive homes at a cost comparable to conventional construction."

The initial outlet for the new factory will be nearby Rochford Park, a proposed 2,000-home 'forest' development. This landmark scheme is set to become the first large-scale 'climate positive' community in the UK.

Belcher continued: "Rochford was selected for the first facility due to the availability of local materials, skilled labour and proximity to Baltic Wharf.

"The factory and Rochford Park are both significant investments and will certainly impact positively on the local economy and help set a new standard for sustainable development in the UK."

A planning application for the factory and Rochford Park is being prepared and will be submitted later this year.

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News Release: 25 October 2024

Rochford could become sustainable development hub

A site north of Ashingdon, near Rochford in Essex, is being considered as the location for a new revolutionary factory to produce innovative 'climate positive' housing.

HEMSPAN®, a Cambridge-based construction technology business, has identified three areas in the UK for its new 1,000-home per year manufacturing facility: Cambridgeshire, the South West and Rochford in Essex.



HEMSPAN® has developed its ground-breaking BIOHAUS® building system which enables 'climate positive' homes to be delivered at scale. These homes will go beyond achieving net-zero carbon emissions, removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at completion, and provide all the energy required in operation.



“This will be a significant investment and the first of its kind in the UK, helping set a new standard for sustainable development”, said Matthew Belcher, HEMSPAN® founder and CEO. “Wherever we locate, the factory will create around 350 direct jobs and then some 175 indirect jobs in the supply chain”.

BIOHAUS® is an offsite building system with components made in the factory, shipped to site and then erected. It is a whole house bio-based panel system, using hemp as the main material.

Belcher continued: “This innovative factory is a significant inward investment. It will not only make Rochford a centre of excellence for sustainable development, but the impact of the investment on the local economy will be immense: it will provide employment for local people and will offer valuable skills and apprenticeship opportunities for young people from the local area”.



HEMSPAN® will be working with local schools and colleges to provide skills training opportunities for younger generations. The factory will require a combination of semi-skilled and skilled employees most of which will come from the local area.

Rochford is one of the locations being considered by HEMSPAN® due to local materials being available and nearby Baltic Wharf, Wallasea Island, for import and export.

“Our chosen location would have to include the potential for significant local catalyst housing development,” continued Belcher, “Economies of scale will be achieved with volume which will mean higher performing sustainable homes will cost no more to build than conventional homes do today.”

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