

Architectural heritage site, Suffolk



Systems 'under wraps' for Suffolk architectural heritage site

New technology and heritage architecture don't always mix easily – but a neat solution from Daikin enabled a Suffolk air conditioning installer to get the balance just right.

The challenge for Bury St Edmunds-based Acorn Air Conditioning and Refrigeration arose when an outdated split system serving the offices of a local consultancy firm needed replacing.

The offices are part of a multi-tenanted, repurposed school building, dating from the early 1900s.

Acorn director Hayley Nunn says: "Essential replacement of the system also gave the tenants an opportunity to improve comfort levels by installing additional air conditioning. And at the same time the landlord wanted other parts air conditioned to improve overall marketability of space in the building."

The solution involved low-GWP R32 solutions from Daikin's Split and Sky Air ranges – with bespoke treatment of the outdoor units to make them more appropriate for their nearly 120-year-old surroundings.

There are five single split systems with wall mounted indoor units and one with an under-ceiling cassette. A multi-split system serves two wall mounted units.

Hayley Nunn says: "Installation of the new Daikin systems was relatively straightforward. The real issue was installing them in a way that satisfied modern planning requirements.

"The old outdoor unit had been mounted at head-height in a bin area next to the tenants' entrance at the rear of the building. Installed at a time of less-demanding planning controls, the unit was now clearly at odds with current respect for the architectural heritage.

Year of installation

> 2020

Project requirements

- Air conditioning
- Air curtain
- Air purification
- Control
- Heating
- Hot water
- Refrigeration
- Ventilation

Installed systems

- > Wall-mounted unit
- > Sky Air Alpha outdoor unit
- > Under-ceiling cassette
- > Inverter outdoor unit
- > Multi-series inverter



More importantly, the planners approved.

Daikin DX Product Manager Martin Passingham says: “Our systems are designed to look good in most cases, but we know that some circumstances necessitate special treatment. In addition to our standard colour, we can meet virtually any other coating requirement from an infinite range of colours to printed vinyl wraps as at Bury St Edmunds.”

Code	Description	No of units
FTXM-N	Wall-mounted unit	7
RXM-N	Inverter outdoor unit	5
FUA-A	Under-ceiling cassette	1
RZAG-MV1	Sky Air Alpha outdoor unit	1
3MXM-N	Multi-series inverter	1

“As we were replacing one unit with three, we needed a better location. The nearby wall beneath windows looking out over the bin area was the obvious choice.

“There is parking and a modern office park behind the old school building, so the façade we were working on was regarded as another front. While the new units would be mostly screened by the low wall of the bin area, the planners wanted an even better solution.”

Acorn decided to put Daikin’s wrapping service to the test. The outdoor units – including the four installed elsewhere on the property – have been wrapped in vinyl sheeting printed with a brick pattern closely resembling the old brickwork behind them.



Hayley Nunn says: “Daikin sent us some sample patterns, we chose the best match, placed the order ... and the ‘brick’ units arrived ready for the wall.”