

Fieldhead Hospital South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust

Wakefield, West Yorkshire

Interserve Construction Ltd & South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Community engagement

Project overview

A £1.5M refurbishment project at a hospital in Wakefield. The site is located on the edge of an urban area adjacent to woodland. With 6 members of staff on site.

A total area of approximately 2000m² was turned into a woodland walk for the hospital Staff, patients and visitors. The change in design to include a woodland walk actually reduced costs for the hospital.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

There was little biodiversity on site. The area was previously used for Water storage tanks which were no longer in use and there were only shrubs growing in the area.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

This work was not required for planning, BREEAM assessment or mitigation of biodiversity impacts. It was a collaborative work to improve the biodiversity of



Photo: Fieldhead woodland walk

the area and provide a calm quiet place for patients, staff and visitors whilst also reducing costs to the Trust. A project giving equal value to the three pillars of sustainability.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

During a value engineering exercise with Interserve and the Trust, it was proposed that rather than export

excavated material from site, it could be used to create a woodland walk on a disused area of the site.

The Trust suggested how the area could be used and agreed that this would be a benefit to the hospital. This would save money for the trust and could be done during the construction period whilst the excavators were on site.

The Interserve site team shaped the area which was then planted and maintained by the trust's estate gardeners.

This was a collaborative work, between Interserve and the trust and was not required for planning or included in the original design of the project.

This could be done on any site, where there is a disused area that can be landscaped and excavated material that can be used for landscaping.

Interserve's involvement was mainly in planning and delivery of the shaped landscape, the hospital trust has been responsible for the planting, access and further use of the area.

It is hoped that over time the area will become more ecologically valuable and we intend to do an ecological survey in the near future to assess the improvement.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

The area can now be used by the hospital staff, patients and visitors.



Photo: Hedgehog house

To further improve the line-side for insects, three large 'insect walls' were installed adjacent to the railway (in April 2015).

These walls which were made up by members of the maintenance team, comprise a range of drilled wood and other mediums which should provide nesting and over-wintering sites for insects. These have been installed on south facing parapet walls.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The motivation was to create an area that would benefit the hospital community, deliver savings to the Trust and provide a habitat for various species and therefore increase biodiversity.