



Environmental Planning and Ecology

Project

New Park, New Forest Proposed Development of Interpretation Centre

Client

New Forest Agricultural Show Society

Background

Background: The Landmark Practice was appointed by the New Forest Agricultural Show Society (NFASS) in March 2006 to the team commissioned to redevelop the New Park estate as an interpretation centre. The site, in the heart of the New Forest National Park, hosts the annual New Forest Show and is set within the highly sensitive New Forest National Park, Special Protection Area and historic landscape.

The proposed development requires a new access road into the New Park Farm site, change of use of a redundant mill building and ancillary structures to offices and development of a major new education and interpretation centre, all set within landscape zones designed to illustrate New Forest biodiversity. The development will be supported by a landscape and ecological management plan for the entire site.

Description

Landmark undertook habitat and species surveys to inform the emerging development scheme, to ensure avoidance of adverse impacts of development on valued ecological features and to enhance of local biodiversity. We advised on the design and elements of soft landscape works in exhibition and wildlife buffer zones and on incorporation of biodiversity features in the built environment and site infrastructure (such as bat habitat, new ponds and road culverts for safe movement of mobile species). We also prepared guidelines for interpretation and educational use of the habitat zones and exhibition areas.

Client benefits

Delivery of a robust application scheme to establish a major education resource, including outdoor habitat zones to illustrate New Forest ecosystems and dedicated on-site interpretation. Landmark ecologists and environmental planners are fully integrated within the project team of architects, landscape architects, drainage and highway engineers to deliver a high quality prestigious development that will promote environmental education services within an historic and ecologically sensitive landscape setting.