

Natural Environment White Paper – The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature case study

Greening retail – Sustainable stores

In April 2011, Marks & Spencer opened a new 12,400 sq ft *Simply Food* store at Ecclesall Road in Sheffield, identifying it as its greenest ever store in the UK. Constructed on a brownfield site, the store incorporates many sustainable and innovative design and construction features. It is on course to achieve a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) rating of Excellent, and has received a Considerate Constructors Scheme score of 37.5 out of 40, making it one of the most sustainable stores in the UK.



The new store:

- Incorporates materials that have been selected to reduce waste and energy use:
 - 100% of the construction waste has been recycled
 - 100% of the timber used is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified – a UK first
 - All the bricks have been reclaimed
 - Polished concrete floors have removed the need for floor covering.
- Operates sustainably:
 - Its carbon emissions will be 23% lower and energy usage 30% lower than a traditional similarly sized store
 - Water costs will be reduced by up to 40%, compared with a traditional similarly sized store, by using collected rainwater
 - Capturing heat expelled from the store's refrigeration units to help heat the store
 - LED lighting, which is 25% more efficient than standard lighting, is used throughout the store – a first in the UK. Sun pipes bring natural lighting onto the shop floor.
- Creates wildlife habitats:
 - A green roof of living sedum plants and green "living wall" have created wildlife habitats, as well as insulating the store
 - Bird boxes will be fixed around the perimeter wall of the site
 - 62 species of local plants have been planted on or around the store.
- Provides sustainable transport solutions for customers:
 - Electric car charging points are available in the car park
 - LED screens will give customers real time local transport information
 - Trolley and cycle shelters have been made from FSC certified wood and have a sedum roof.

The store has created over 50 new jobs for the area. All employees have been fully trained to understand the store's environmental features and are encouraged to share this information with customers.

Apart from reinforcing its sustainability message to its customers, the store's environmental features are predicted to have a positive social effect on the local community and act as a pathfinder for the wider construction industry.

Defra
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