Bradfield Woods Centre, IP30 0AQ

Bradfield Woods is one of East Anglia’s most important ancient woods with a history extending back over 1,000 years. The new Suffolk Wildlife Trust visitor centre is mostly green-oak framed and built on a simple oak beam foundation with the external walls clad in western red cedar.

The first challenge was to develop a design that would sit comfortably in its woodland setting. The building it replaced was little more than a glorified shed. That was demolished and the new building was sited amongst the trees nearby.

The aim was to make this building as eco-friendly as possible with the following targets:

- Ideally the building would be carbon negative, i.e. there will be more carbon locked up in the fabric of the building than was used to construct it.
- No concrete or gypsum plaster would be used in the construction;
- The timber would be sourced from the nearest locations possible;
- Recycled materials would be used where possible.

In a nutshell, the building would be mostly green-oak framed and built on a simple oak beam foundation – literally just resting on the ground. The external walls are clad in western red cedar and the roof clad in zinc.

It is not a large building, only 13.3m x 8.8m. It will consist of a main multi-purpose room (education, display etc), two disabled WC’s, an office and a covered walk through area with interpretation.

Overview

**Age, Type:** post 2000, Business

**Cost of measures:** £145,000

**Energy usage:**

Electricity – 250 kWh, cost – approx. £40

All the space heating is via a wood burning stove that burns wood grown in Bradfield so no cost other than production.

Key features

- Timber frame construction
- Oak beam foundations
- Climate adapted
- Low embodied energy
- Locally sourced timber
- Natural materials used
- Insulation
- Glazing

If you have any specific questions about this case study, these can be directed to the building owner via the website [www.greensuffolk.org/sgbn](http://www.greensuffolk.org/sgbn)