

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



Key features

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

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.



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

