



case study

environmental sustainability



Objective One is
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The Objective One Partnership
for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

TRELISSICK LANDING STAGE

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the project

The National Trust invested in a new pontoon to increase the number of environmentally friendly visits and transport links to the garden. The ferry landing enables visitors to travel from Falmouth, Truro and St Mawes using services provided by many of the existing ferry operators, prior to entering as Trust members or paying visitors.

Objective One invested £80,894 from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) towards a total project cost of £404,470.

At the 2006 British Urban Regeneration Association's awards the project won 'Highly Commended' in the Transport and Travel category because of the involvement of local communities and local operators and because of the overall environmental sustainability of the project.

measures of environmental sustainability adopted

To promote the prudent use of natural resources

Sustainable transport: In 1995 the National Trust AGM passed a motion that 20% of their visitors should travel to their attractions by public transport which provided the impetus to develop the landing stage. A partnership was set up with the Fal River Links project, local water taxi and ferry companies, the Truronian Bus service and Cornwall County Council. This ensured bus, water and rail links were created for customers using the landing stage to access Trelissick Gardens. Links have also been made with cruise ships arriving at Falmouth and with coach operators.

Local sourcing: The National Trust felt it was important to bolt the project onto existing transport services and used local providers. A local company was used for the fabrication of the stage and the pile driving. Timber from the estate was used to create the reception building and larch poles and local granite and cedar shingles were used.

Waste management: The decking is constructed from plasdeck, a product made from recycled plastic bottles.



The soil and stone removed from the bank were kept and reused at the gardens.

Water: A percussion tap, controlling the amount of water used, is provided as the landing stage's water point.

Energy: The navigational lighting on the stage is solar powered.

To protect and improve the environment

English Nature (now part of Natural England) and the Fal Marine Conservation Group were consulted to ensure that the area's fauna and flora were protected. Surveys were carried out to ascertain the most environmentally sensitive way to link the pontoon to the landscape: piling was used as it was found to have the least impact on habitat. The woodland path from the pontoon to the gardens was designed to avoid rare oaks and other important trees found in this ancient woodland. The Trust encouraged the contractor to work appropriately within an environmentally sensitive site and created a plan of works so contractors knew what to protect. The Trust also monitored the quality of the work, and provided training and skills to make sure materials were used in a historically sympathetic way.

To increase awareness of residents, businesses and visitors of the value and importance of the environment

The Trust's handbook, regional visitor guide and local media for the gardens all emphasise the opportunities for visitors to arrive at the destination without using their cars.



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benefits of environmental sustainability

Part of Trelissick Garden's unique attraction is its position sitting on the river Fal. The new landing stage helps deliver a more enjoyable visit as the journey to the site is pleasurable too. Introducing this environmentally sustainable transport option has provided local water transport companies with increased customer numbers and a new route to offer.

The recycled material used for the decking is very suitable for the marine environment because it doesn't degrade in water and its colour is sympathetic to the environment in which it sits. It also provides a non slip surface where it is most needed.

Ensuring materials were used in a historically correct way mean the visual impact of the landing stage is reduced, important in this SSSI and Special Area of Conservation and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and is in keeping with its surrounds e.g. stone has been laid vertically rather than horizontally as is traditional locally. Using local materials and traditional building methods also ensures that the works are in the style and standards of the rest of the estate buildings.

Taking on a project in an environmentally sensitive area was a challenge. But having got advice from the statutory agencies and addressed issues of habitat protection the project can now demonstrate that it can be done if handled thoughtfully and carefully.

It will be easier to find contractors which understand the National Trust's requirements and standards for working in an historic and protected landscape having built capacity in the sector by investing skills and knowledge in the contractors working on this project.

Using solar power to fuel the lighting at the pontoon solved the problem (and expense) of having to get an electricity supply to the site which would have been difficult. It also reduces running costs.

Reusing materials onsite meant money was saved on transporting and disposing of what would otherwise have been waste materials.

The project has opened up the National Trust to work with more partners and projects locally e.g. it led to their involvement in the Fal River Festival.

In summary the economic benefits created through the adoption of environmental sustainability measures include cost savings, increased customers for local water transport operators, and a more appealing visitor experience which has added value.

lessons learnt

Chris Curtis, Trelissick Property Manager of Trelissick Gardens says: *"The National Trust is a conservation charity committed to increasing environmentally friendly tourism and the Trelissick landing stage provides a green travel option for our visitors. Some visitors, who would traditionally travel to the garden by car, will choose to come here by ferry, thereby significantly reducing congestion and pollution. The introduction of the landing stage will also help to sustain local jobs and add to a great day out at one of Cornwall's most beautiful gardens."*

"The landing stage has provided visitors with such a different way to arrive at the gardens. They can appreciate the beautiful views of the valley, and getting there becomes part of the whole visit."

"Using the recycled materials for the decking worked very well. This project shows that it is not only possible but advantageous to do so."

Andy Brigden, Truro Harbour Master said: *"This new facility demonstrates how sustainable transport can be shown to work. We now have a number of different routes around the estuary taking passengers to and from Truro, St. Mawes, Falmouth, Flushing and Mylor Yacht Harbour."*

Carleen Kelemen, Director of the Objective One Programme said: *"The pontoon really has a positive impact on improving the tourist experience, increasing and sustaining the local economy whilst having minimum impact on the environment. It's about building a bridge to Cornwall's sustainable development in the 21st century. Objective One is proud to invest in a project that encompasses all of these qualities. It contributes not only to the character of Trelissick but also to the unique experience of Cornwall."*

For more information about how you can incorporate environmental sustainability into your project please contact the Objective One Partnership Office on 01872 241379 or email objectiveone@cornwall.gov.uk.