

The New Visitor Centre - Welney

When the late Sir Peter Scott founded the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust in 1946, part of his ambition was 'bringing people and wildlife together for the benefit of both.'

This award winning, environmentally friendly visitor centre, alongside the Hundred Foot River at Welney, with panoramic views across the Fenland countryside, must surely epitomise his intentions.

Designed by architects Allies & Morrison and constructed by Kier Eastern, the timber clad building offers outstanding features for visitors including galleries and educational facilities together with a cafe, shop and ancillary areas.

The scheme included a new pedestrian bridge from the Centre to the Observatory, crossing the road and waterways and giving access to 1000 acres of wetlands.

Services within the new Centre, installed by Gowing and Hunt Limited, continue the environmentally friendly aspect. Underfloor heating has been installed within the main areas of the building.

The hot water for heating and hot water is provided by a ground source heat pump with backup provided by traditional boilers. The heat pump provides low temperature heat for the underfloor heating systems from 16 boreholes drilled to a depth of 75 metres.

Rainwater is stored and provides the water for the flushing of toilets.

Natural ventilation is provided by opening windows and rooflights.

Sanitary ware and associated above ground drainage were also installed to complete a 'Mechanical and Plumbing' package.

