

Hanningfield Reservoir Visitor Centre



The success of this project benefitted from the collaborative approach taken to meet rigorous time and cost restraints. The new visitor centre was constructed on an ecologically and environmentally sensitive site, located within natural woodland adjacent to the edge of a reservoir.

Construction involved working on a restricted site with limited access whilst protecting the environment. Foundations comprised of bored piles, reinforced concrete ground beams and a pre-cast concrete floor. The building was designed with steel framing and structural timber elements, a clay pan tile roof covering, soft red brickwork, organically treated softwood weather boarding and high performance glazed units.

Accommodation comprises of education rooms, an exhibition area and shop, offices, kitchen and toilet facilities; with additional accommodation and storage areas to the 1st floor. **Externally**, the project features a wildlife observation pond, woodland paths and car parking, a workshop and compound.

Sustainability played a primary role during the design and construction of the project. The centre boasts: a highly insulated building fabric, solar shading of windows, low energy lighting, wood fuelled water and heating systems (utilizing the Nature Reserves wood supply), dry composting WC facilities, grey and foul water disposal to treatment and reed bed outfalls and rainwater harvesting.

Client

Essex Wildlife Trust

Architect

D Merchant

Structural Engineers

P G Rorsler

Mechanical and Electrical Design

T J Evers Ltd

Contract Details

JCT Specification and Drawings negotiated to a fixed cost sum

Value: £660,000 **Period:** 36 weeks