

The Greenhouse Landscape Fact Sheet

Art features

There is an abundance of art features in the grounds of The Greenhouse. We have tried to give every day features such as the cycle rack at the back of the building and the fencing surrounding the lake an artistic feel. The artwork at The Greenhouse was created by Graham Hopper with Design input from the local community. There is also a sea serpent with its stone tale sitting on the banks of the lake and its willow head resting on the island in the middle

Greenhouse lake

The Lake area in the ground of The Greenhouse is for wildlife which is naturally filled by rainwater that drains from the roof of The Greenhouse and surface water that leaches through the paving stones. The lake was planted with all native flora at a planting day with Groundwork staff and The Greenhouse's tenants in May 2006. Now the lake is fully established with flora and fauna it has been used for outdoor education sessions with local school. The area also has two run off pools which water filters into once the lake reaches capacity, one of these areas is planted up as a reed bed and acts as a filtration system before water drains into the wet woodland.

Biodiversity

The grounds of The Greenhouse have been designed to promote biodiversity. All of the planting at the site is native and compliments the area's natural vegetation as much as possible. As the grounds have matured, they have become an ideal habitat for a range of wildlife. The Greenhouse boasts pond, wetland and woodland habitats, with a range of new planting that forms an extension to the existing woodland. Amongst the species at The Greenhouse you can see ash, hawthorne, common reed mace, common water soldier and a range of wildflowers forming a meadow area around the building. There are also protected species such as the great crested newt living in the wetland.



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Dry stone walling and willow weaving

Dry stone walling and willow weaving surround the greenhouse site, these materials were chosen as they form a more natural and attractive perimeter than a normal brick or concrete wall. The dry stone wall and willow walls were constructed by the Groundwork Green Team and the willow wall forms a living barrier along the back of the site.

Cycle path

The Greenhouse is in close proximity to both the local and national cycle network and there is a cycle rack at the back of the building for those who wish to ride their bike to work.

Training

The majority of the soft landscaping and some of the hard landscaping was undertaken as training for intermediate labour Market employees, who were previously unemployed. Willow weaving, planting and other tasks were used to help trainees gain new and transferable skills. The site and the building will continue to provide training and employment opportunities, particularly in the field of catering, business management and grounds maintenance.

Greencroft Woodland

Greencroft Woodland is a Site of Specific Scientific Interest that sits adjacent to The Greenhouse and is owned by Groundwork North East, who manage to maintain its biodiversity and recreational potential. It has become an outdoor classroom and enhances the services that The Greenhouse can offer. The Woodland is one of the few wet woodlands left in Derwentside. Greencroft Wood is a 65 acre site made up of an abundance of flora and fauna which include birch, oak, bilberry and heather.

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a place to grow

