



Loch Garten RSPB / Nr Aviemore
Public Sector Case Study

Loch Garten RSPB / Nr Aviemore

The Brief

Operation Osprey at Loch Garten is one of the most successful RSPB visitor sites in the country and has traditionally been the flagship Scottish reserve for the RSPB. The existing temporary structure on site was in need of replacement and the brief was to build a new permanent, up-dated and improved visitor centre at the site of the existing temporary buildings, accommodating the osprey viewing area and video presentation area, interpretative display area, gift shop, and store. Due to site constraints and its remoteness, the building will not have the benefit of power, water and normal toilet facilities.

The Solution

Utilising an open plan visitor's space including viewing spaces, retail, and display/interpretation makes the layout easy for visitors to understand. The main element of the building, the roof, is a symbolic interpretation of a birds wings protecting the building below. The materials are

One of the most famous conservation sites in the world!

natural as far as possible, with timber being used where ever possible including locally sourced shingles for the roof. A separate smaller building houses composting toilets that serve the facility while having minimal impact on the fragile habitat.

The Outcome

A new permanent visitor centre which has had minimal impact on the surrounding environment and over the last 8 years has proved to be a huge success. The design concept and use of natural materials, harmonises the building with its surroundings and was awarded a Civic Trust Award for a valuable contribution to the quality and appearance of the environment in 2001



Client Quote : Neil Kellythorn - Head RSBP Buildings Division

Commented that Loch Garten was his favourite RSPB building

Durn, Isla Road
Perth
PH2 7HF
01738 621 121
enquiries@bellingham.co.uk

Manor Street
Forfar, Angus
DD8 1EX
01307 462 516
forfar@bellingham.co.uk

22 Market Brae
Inverness
IV2 2AB
01463 717 799
inverness@bellingham.co.uk

2 Gibraltar Street
Oban, Argyll
PA34 4AY
01631 566 122
oban@bellingham.co.uk