

Heelis National Trust Headquarters

Swindon UK

The design objective was to create a very simple and functional landscape based around the themes of regeneration and practicality, providing people with usable and enjoyable spaces.

The scheme is unified through the use of geometric blocks of planting, along with a limited palette of paving materials, fencing benches and lighting. Within this framework, the landscape becomes a sequence of distinct areas associated with each elevation of the new building.

The dominant character of the landscape is derived from the bold, dense planting of birch and other pioneer vegetation that echo the original natural state of the land alongside the nearby rail lines and waste grounds. Hornbeam and oak enclose the northern boundary of the property, and geometric beds of lavender and alliums extend from the building into the outdoor spaces, merging the architecture into the landscape.



Site Area: 1.6 Hectares
Client: The National Trust
Kier Ventures
Architects: Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios
Engineers: Adams Kara Taylor
Collaboration: Max Fordham & Partners;
Terence O'Rourke Environmental Planners
Overall Project Value: £20 million



Top: Geometric bed of alliums
Above: Birch thickets
Left: One-year anniversary celebration - lavender and allium bed