Case Study

Community Campus, Galashiels

SDS futureproofs redeveloped education campus against flood risk

SDS Systems
SDS GEOlight® Tanks;
SDS Weholite Manholes.

Client
Advance Construction Scotland.

End Customer
Scottish Borders Council;
Hub South East.

Project
Galashiels Academy & Community Campus.

Purpose
To increase the educational and learning opportunities for pupils and all generations within the local, diverse community and to improve business links and skills development through the school.

Brief to SDS
To deliver a surface water attenuation system.

Timing
The main works commenced in 2023 with completion of the Campus due in summer 2025 in order that the school can open by the end of 2025.

Project Background Information
Developing and improving the education infrastructure within the Scottish Borders has been a major focus for Scottish Borders Council in recent years. The new, multi-purpose campus at Galashiels, located approx. 36 miles south of Edinburgh, will meet the educational and recreational needs of the wider community, by replacing outdated school premises with a world class, environmentally sustainable teaching facility. Catering for up to 1,000 pupils the campus will also provide sporting, leisure, health and community support services, all from a single location.

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The new Campus will be built largely within the existing school boundary and a portion of the town's Scott Park. In addition to indoor swimming and hydrotherapy pools and numerous sports hall facilities the extensively redeveloped grounds will include full size 2G hockey, 3G rugby and football, and grass football, pitches, alongside covered tennis courts and a 100 metre running track.

Redesigned landscaping and a children's play area, along with improved car parking, will provide public access to more of the park's green spaces and established woodland.

The £55million[1] project is being delivered by Scottish Borders Council's development partner, Hub South East Scotland, with Morrison Construction as the appointed contractor, JM Architects the lead consultant behind the design, and atelier ten as environmental consultant.

Project Objectives

To ensure the school is future-proofed against extensions to academic, community and specialist services use, potential for increases in school pupil attendance, and more intense and frequent, longer lasting rainfall events associated with global warming and climate change.

Project Requirements

To ensure that, despite its location on sloping ground and in a medium risk flood zone that is associated with an adjacent watercourse, the site's hard and soft landscaping should be able to accommodate more extreme rainfall events without risk of flooding. These areas include footpaths, car parking, bus and coach drop-off and pick-up areas, cycle paths and stores, as well as sports pitches along with the newly introduced, additional green areas.

SDS Product Features

Twin SDS GEOlight® geocellular attenuation tanks, with a combined capacity of 525m^3, together with Weholite HDPE manholes, have been installed.

Issues Overcome

Four potential locations in the town were examined before settling on utilising the pre-existing school site, and five possible layouts considered, with a view to minimising any impact on the green spaces of Scott Park.

In addition to the heavily wooded areas in and around the proposed site, a number of trees of significant landscape value and in close proximity to the construction zone required preservation and protection during construction works. Indeed, large areas of the existing park were required to remain accessible to the public during the construction period.

The new facility was prepared for and constructed whilst the existing school and swimming pool remained operational, ensuring delivery of the school curriculum could continue and thereby avoiding any significant disruption to pupils' education.

The installation of the new drainage facilities was also required to accommodate diversions to other underground services and utilities supply.

Results

A new headwall into the river has been constructed to accommodate the additional surface water discharge.

[1] Original budget figure.

Chris McCulloch, Business Development Manager, SDS, said: *"Advance Construction has sourced its surface water management systems from SDS for a number of years. For this project our customer was able to rely on SDS to design and install a scheme that responded to the complexities of the site's location and restricted access, whilst ensuring there was no disruption to the ongoing schooling still taking place in the existing buildings."*

Images kindly supplied by JM Architects.

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