



Purpose-driven design and consultancy
for our changing environment

Impact Report

2025–26



Useful Simple
Trust

Foreword.

This has been a year of reflection and change, across our industry and within the Useful Simple Trust. As the landscape around us continues to shift, we have been asking ourselves what it means to stay resilient, relevant, and useful, and how we adapt with intent.

At the start of the year, Thomas.Matthews closed its doors after more than 28 years of challenging conventions and driving change in sustainable communication design. We marked that moment with a celebration of a remarkable legacy, while also recognising that endings can create the conditions for new energy, ventures, and forms of impact.

We have also strengthened the governance of our Trustee Board to support the next stage of our development as an Employee Benefit Trust. We are delighted to welcome Estelle Bailey MBE, CEO of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, whose experience brings valuable insight into natural capital, stewardship, and regenerative practice.

This willingness to reshape ourselves is central to our purpose: transforming our industry so that it delivers greater value to society and the planet. Because we have no shareholders, we can reinvest our profits in that purpose – testing new ideas, incubating new ways to make a difference, and sharing what we learn along the way.



JUDITH SYKES,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This year's report reflects our ongoing journey towards becoming a regenerative business and building a new model of design consultancy practice. It is not a claim that we have the answer, but an honest account of work in progress, shaped by our people, cocreated with our clients, and enriched by the many collaborators we work with.

I hope you read it as an invitation, to reflect with us on what is necessary to change our industry, and to imagine what a useful, generous, and regenerative model of business might offer.

Contents.

Acknowledgements

This report reflects the collective effort of many individuals and organisations. We are grateful to all our collaborators, partners, and colleagues whose insights, expertise, and contributions have helped shape this year’s Impact Report. Your perspectives have been invaluable in capturing our journey, sharing lessons learned, and highlighting the ways we can continue to improve together.

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Driving industry transformation with consequential outcomes

Industry Shaping Programmes



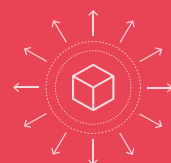
Co-Creating New Methodologies



Replicable and Scalable Demonstration Projects



Collective Learning



Who We Are

Our purpose is to blaze a trail in the regeneration of our built and natural environment to meet the needs of all people and the planet.

For over 25 years, we have worked across complex infrastructure, buildings, and regeneration programmes, applying integrated, design-led thinking to challenges that span policy, delivery, and long-term performance.

Our work is driven by a trailblazing purpose through which we seek to deliver consequential impact. We are deliberately creating a different model of consultancy, where strategic insight, design innovation, and technical excellence are valued for the outcomes they create, not the time they consume.

This year's Impact Report is organised around the four levers we use to influence change:

- Industry shaping programmes,
- Better methods and ways of working,
- Projects that are capable of being replicated at scale, and
- Demonstrations of knowledge and insight.

Organising Ourselves for Impact

We are aware how frequently transformation, design, and collaboration are used without thought to their meaning. We choose our words carefully, and so it is worth examining how these terms apply to our work:

Transformation means changing how our industry works: building a more diverse and inclusive workforce; delivering projects and programmes faster and with fewer resources; and optimising benefits to create genuine value for money while improving outcomes for people and nature.

Design is a creative, iterative, and reflective approach to solving complex problems. We apply it to buildings, infrastructure systems, organisations, and delivery processes. As much effort is spent defining the problem, understanding system context, and stakeholder needs, as on developing options and converging on solutions.

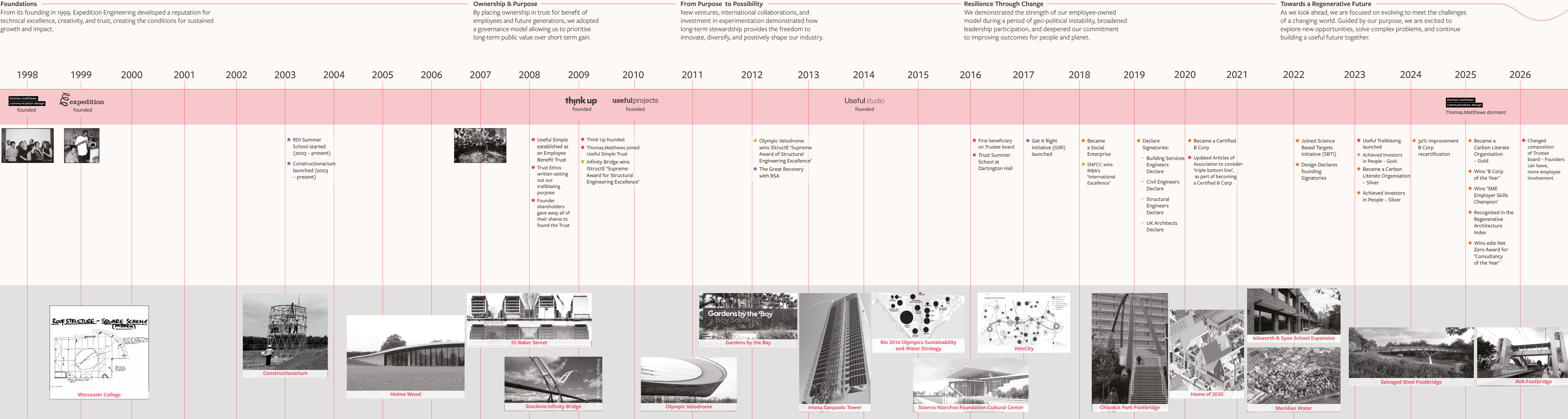
Our most successful collaborations are intense working partnerships: bringing together disciplines and practical experience, spanning multiple organisations, and drawing on our network of industry-leading experts. Equally challenging and rewarding, they create a productive tension as we navigate complex and competing demands. When something emerges that is useful, simple, beautiful, and good, the achievement is deeply gratifying for all.

The Useful Simple Trust brings together award-winning expertise across strategy, engineering, architecture and design through our brands Expedition Engineering, Useful Studio, and Useful Projects.

As a B Corp, Social Enterprise, and Employee Benefit Trust, we are structured to prioritise long-term societal value creation over short-term gain.



Our Timeline



A Regenerative Experiment

The Trust is a continuous experiment. Our purpose shapes what we work on and how we work. We are on a journey to becoming a regenerative business. Not as a badge, but as a commitment to keep learning, adapting, and improving. This means reshaping governance, incentives, and commercial decisions to serve the long-term social and ecological health of the places, people, and systems we influence. Here we share some of the tools we are using to help us.

Commercial Investment Framework

Our Commercial Principles for a Regenerative Business align our purpose, Ethos, and operational practices. They set out how the executive team navigate the realities of running an organisation, and how profits are reinvested for purpose, in accordance with our status as a Social Enterprise.

We operate on a hierarchy of investment:

- Retention for operational and change programmes,
- Investment in research and charitable work,
- Profit distribution amongst employees, and
- Significant one-off investments.



Ethical Decision Framework

Shifting geo-politics are challenging established positions. Whilst ethics has always framed what we do, with the pace of change and increasing complexity, we have evolved a structured process to help us decide what projects to work on.

Rather than trying to draw absolute boundaries, we review opportunities on a case-by-case basis, focusing on three tests:

1. Our ability to have a positive impact,
2. The likely impact on beneficiaries, and
3. The reputational risks associated with participation.

Where significant ethical considerations arise, we trigger a structured and diverse review panel.

Using a framework to explore issues, we seek counter views and make a recommendation to the Executive Board. Outcomes are shared transparently to support organisational learning, recognising the process can be bumpy and that we are still improving. This governance helps us maintain integrity and focus efforts where a genuine difference can be made. This does not mean we don't engage where ethical issues remain, but we have turned down opportunities where it could not credibly achieve positive impact.

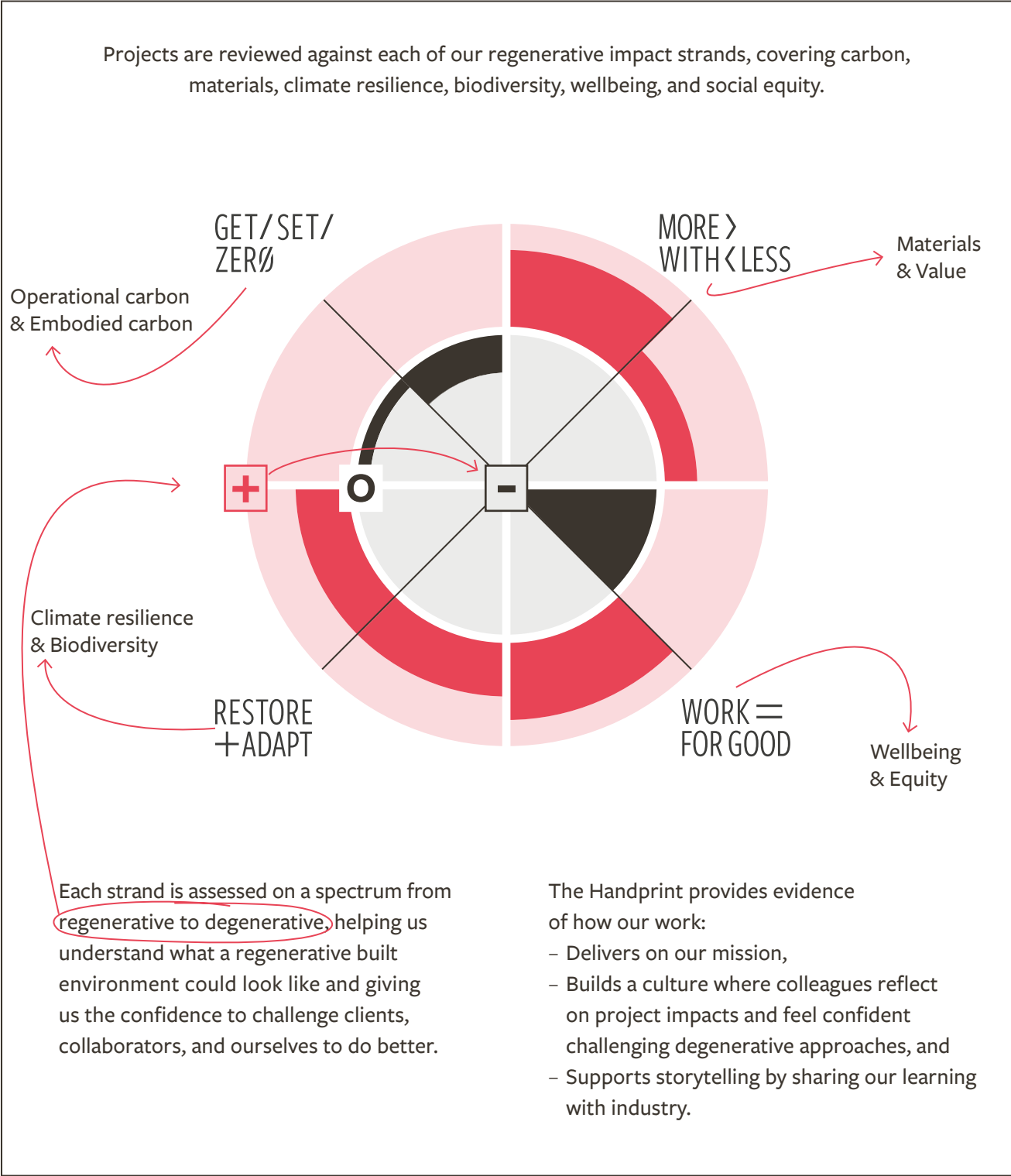
“What we value most is the Trust’s integrity. Their values align closely with ours, creating a genuinely collaborative working relationship.

They are committed to working through challenges openly and constructively, rather than telling us what’s convenient.”

Matt Hensby, Head of Estate in Transition at Sovereign Network Group

Designing Tomorrow, Today

We strengthened our impact reporting over the last year by evolving our Handprint, a tool and process that assesses every project along a regenerative–degenerative spectrum.



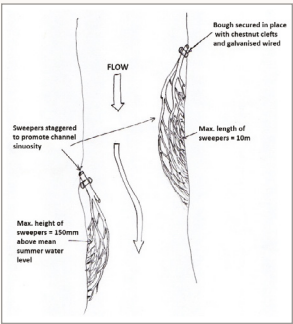
Useful Investments

The second cohort of our Useful Giving (pro bono) and Useful Trailblazing (R&D) programmes continue to support early-stage ideas and innovative impact approaches to inform future projects and industry practice.

Useful Giving

Catalysing Community-Led Chalk-Stream Restoration

We supported the Ver Valley Society by undertaking studies to identify a viable route for a proposed ‘prehistoric’ timber crossing. By reorientating the crossing to connect with adjacent Crown Estate land, we secured support for the scheme and unlocked its delivery, while establishing a partnership with potential for long-term ecological benefit and community-led chalk-stream restoration.

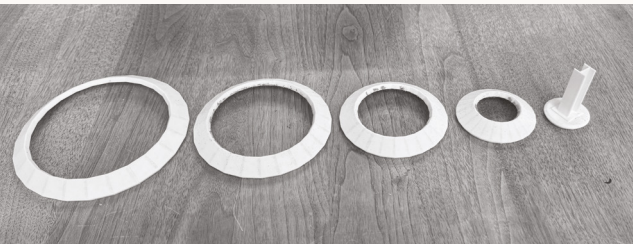


Useful Trailblazing

Innovative Precast Conical Foundations

Our prototype offers a scalable, repeatable way to reduce carbon by using a reinforced thin-shell concrete cone, cutting concrete use by an estimated 70–80% compared with conventional pad foundations. The footing is formed from interlocking precast rings, allowing staged installation and compaction, and could be procured through a simple call-off process similar to ordering precast manhole rings.

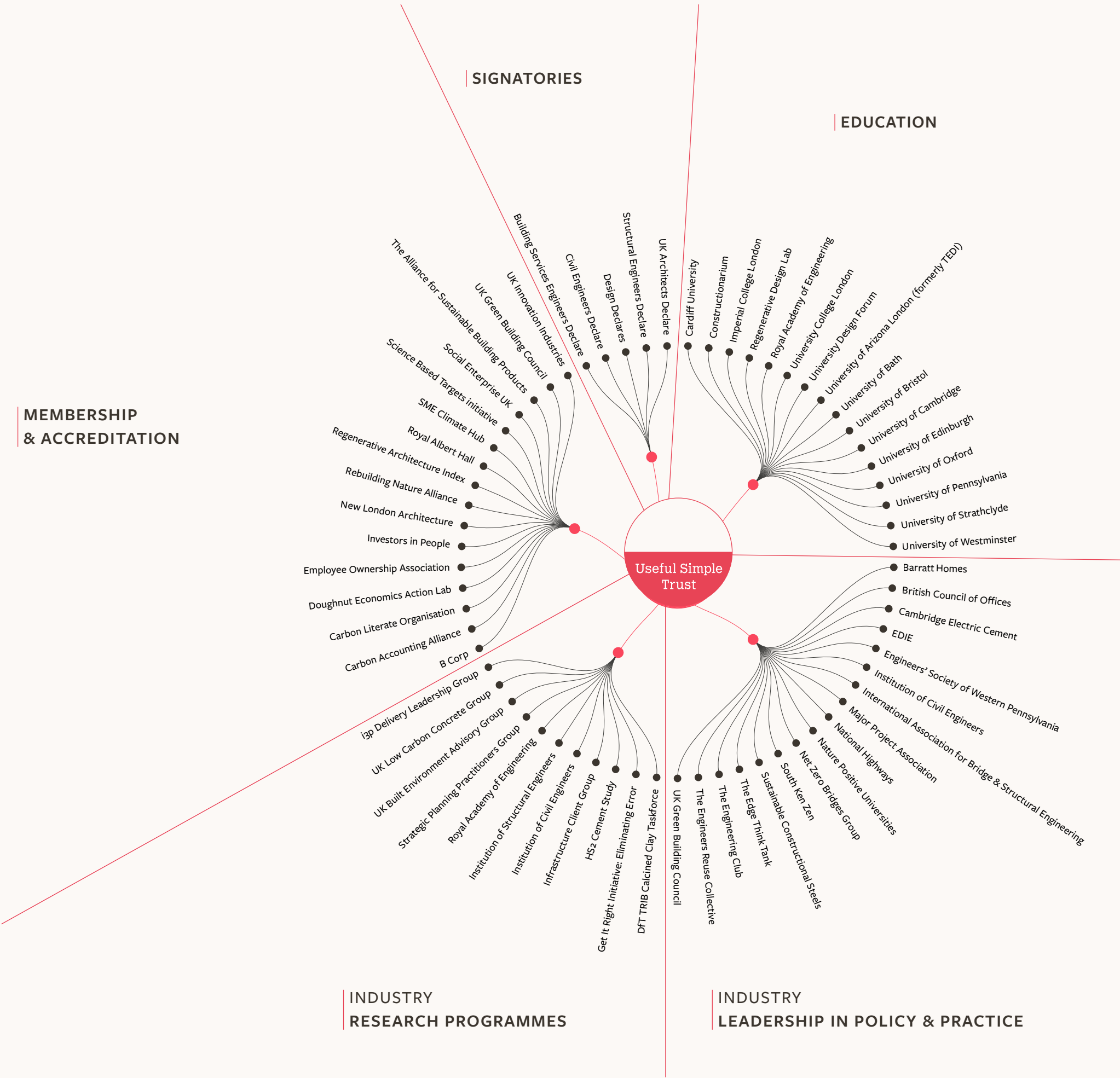
The foundations are intended for use at Eden Project Scotland, where Expedition has delivered the structural engineering design. With initial industry interest already established, the system could be used for temporary or low-rise buildings on weak ground with limited lateral loads, providing a robust, scalable, and lower-impact alternative to traditional foundations.

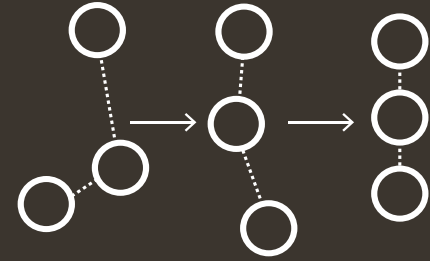


Our Impact Network

The Trust may only be 100 people in size, but we are ambitious about our impact.

A key tool for us is the deep and long-standing partnerships we hold and that, through collaboration, we can drive a collective push for better outcomes – delivering solutions and setting new standards that ripple far beyond the work of our organisation.





Shaping Industry Programmes.

Our collaborative and sector-wide programmes tackle industry challenges with a focus on improving productivity, eliminating waste, accelerating low carbon innovation, and nature-based solutions, and improving diversity. By convening partners across the built environment in multi-year initiatives, we help create new norms and accelerate adoption of R&D outcomes, influencing industry practice.

Progressing Brave Spaces

Any progress made on EDI feels precarious in the context of recent backlash. Across 2025–26, we hosted a series of workshops with representatives across the built environment to explore how we could work together to ensure we continue to progress as an industry.

Facilitated by Danna Walker at Built by Us, we explored the status quo and shared our lived experiences. Leadership at board level in organisations was seen as critical to establishing culture and values. The language of inclusion was also unpacked. We heard from Dr Neal Shahore about the need to create brave spaces, not safe spaces, to enable us to have creative and constructive conversations. We placed EDI as key to productivity, with high-performing diverse teams contributing more, delivering robust outcomes, and reducing staff turnover.

The discussion continues, and outcomes will be captured in an industry-facing report later in the year.

Collaborators: Built By Us | ByWater Properties | David Chipperfield Architects | TEDI-London | Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners | PLANIT | JLL | TOCA UK | Sleeping Giant Consulting | University College London | Women in Architecture | SHAPE



EDI WORKSHOP | SEPTEMBER 2025

“The Trust has adopted a distinctive approach that emphasises the cultivation of a culture of learning, openness, and engagement. Taking strategic thinking from the boardroom to practice is key, and this initiative not only positions them as forward-thinking leaders but also as inspiring figures eager to enhance the broader industry.”

Danna Walker, Founder & CEO at Built by Us

Royal Academy of Engineering Inclusive Leadership Programme

Our participation in the Royal Academy of Engineering’s (RAEng) Inclusive Leadership Programme has had a significant influence on the Trust’s culture and approach. Supported by mentorship from leading inclusive design expert Dawn Bonfield MBE, we have developed a practical framework for improving inclusive outcomes in engineering. Presented at the RAEng’s Annual Conference, the framework is now being tested in practice with the intention to strengthen inclusive engineering more widely across the industry.

GIRI Error Reduction in Construction

Over the last decade, avoidable error has been recognised as a major industry challenge. We are helping tackle this at sector level through the development of the Get It Right Initiative (GIRI) Error Reduction Framework and Maturity Model, now being tested with our partners at GRAHAM. Building on this work, we are part of the team developing PAS 4010:2026, a new national standard for maximising productivity in infrastructure design and delivery, including error reduction.

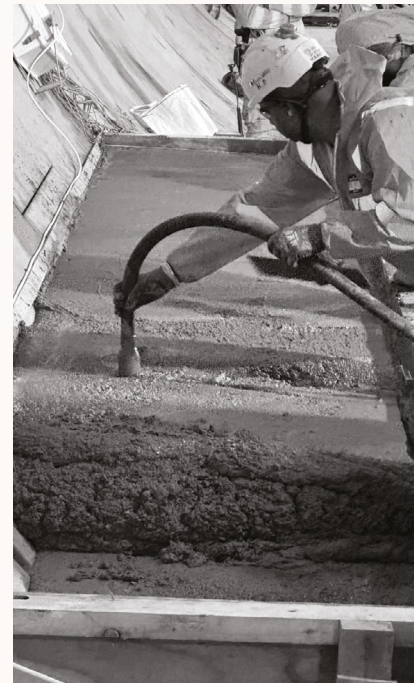
Collaborators: Expedition Engineering | GRAHAM | HS2 | Spencer West | Sizewell C | Mark Hansford

Accelerating the Adoption of Calcined Clay in UK Infrastructure

In collaboration with major industry clients and their supply chain, we are tackling the long-standing supply and demand deadlock affecting low carbon concrete. As ground granulated blast-furnace slag availability cannot grow and Portland cement remains a major source of embodied carbon, the industry urgently needs alternative supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs). Calcined clay – already used internationally and technically proven – offers a scalable, lower carbon solution, but a lack of visible demand has stalled UK investment.

The UK’s first coordinated demand signal for calcined clay has been developed. Through letters of intent from clients, contractors, and developers, we established an aggregated annual demand of 120,000 tonnes – enough to make a UK calciner commercially viable for the first time. This work brought together over 100 stakeholders at the Institution of Civil Engineers to confirm technical feasibility, demonstrate market appetite, and build momentum.

The second phase of work is now being delivered to deepen client commitments and support early adoption, including demonstrator pours on major projects. We continue to convene the sector through a monthly forum, helping align public and private clients around a diversified portfolio of low carbon SCMs. This programme is actively shifting the system conditions needed for large-scale clinker reduction in UK concrete.



©JON KNIGHTS MATERIALS CONSULTING LIMITED

Collaborators: Expedition Engineering | HS2 | National Highways | Infrastructure Client Group | WSP

“Expedition’s deep engineering and construction expertise has been central to accelerating UK adoption of calcined clay. Their insight into the decarbonising concrete landscape, alongside strong sector connections, has been critical in convening industry players to explore pathways for improved resource security, green skills, and carbon reduction.”

Charlotte Hills, Head of Innovation at HS2 Ltd

Collaborative Research

We deepened our long-standing partnership with the Institution of Civil Engineers by co-funding two research reports that push the boundaries of how our industry decarbonises infrastructure and accelerates the shift to a circular economy.

Beyond the Buildings: Decarbonising Infrastructure on Masterplans

This research delivers one of the first comprehensive analyses of the hidden carbon locked into the enabling infrastructure of new housing, with application to estate regeneration and national infrastructure programmes. *Beyond the Buildings: Decarbonising Infrastructure on Masterplans* reveals that smarter early-stage decisions can cut these emissions by up to 42% – a transformative insight as the UK aims to build 1.5 million homes. By exposing four-fold variations in carbon intensity and highlighting the impact of vehicle infrastructure and flood risk sites, the study reshapes best practice for low carbon masterplanning.



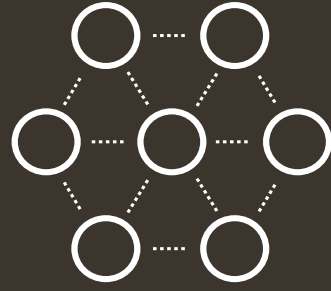
Collaborators: Expedition Engineering | ICE | WSP | A Squared | JTP Studios | Civic Engineers | GLA | Homes England

Steel Reuse in Bridges

This study sets a benchmark for understanding how reclaimed and repurposed steel can be successfully used in bridge design. *Steel Reuse in Bridges* breaks new ground by addressing long-standing regulatory, testing, and procurement barriers, bringing together existing standards, research, and industry knowledge on the certification and fatigue life of reused steel. By defining three practical reuse pathways and evidencing their viability, the research advances circular practice and shifts industry thinking towards lower carbon infrastructure.



Collaborators: Expedition Engineering | Useful Studio | ICE | Format Engineers | Explorations Architecture | Schlaich Bergermann Partner | Victor Buyck Steel Construction | McNealy Brown Ltd | Cleveland Steel and Tubes Limited | National Highways | Kilnbridge | Network Rail | BCSA | SCI | Greater Anglia | Nationale Bruggenbank



Co-Creating New Methodologies.

Across our strategic consultancy work, we partner with clients, organisations, and specialists to develop new methodologies that shift practice. Examples include improving how community benefits are secured, managing risk across national estates, value for money assurance, and strengthening social value in place-based investment. These help unlock projects, resulting in faster delivery programmes and leaner designs with stakeholder and community support.

Making Regional Investment Count: Social Value for North Wales

Cwmni Egino was established by the Welsh Government in 2021 to explore socio-economic growth opportunities linked to new nuclear development in North Wales, with a particular focus on the former nuclear power station site at Trawsfynydd.

Working alongside local partner Ynys Resources, we developed a Social Value Framework that set out clear ambitions and measurable outcomes across economy, people, and place. It also established practical initiatives, delivery mechanisms, and reporting approaches to help turn ambition into action.

Understanding and respecting local culture and identity was key to the Framework's success. To further its grounding in local context, a resident artist was commissioned to develop the publication's visual identity, capturing the distinctive character of North Wales.

In 2024, when Trawsfynydd was excluded from the UK Government's Small Modular Reactor technology competition, Cwmni Egino's role shifted to a broader regional facilitator focused on social value and economic resilience. We co-developed follow-on projects, including research into outward migration, SME supply chain upskilling, and practical guidance for delivering social value across the region.

Although Cwmni Egino has since been dissolved, this Framework will continue to influence future investment projects.

Collaborators: Useful Projects | Cwmni Egino | Ynys Resources Ltd

“As our purpose, delivery model, and the wider policy landscape evolved, Useful Projects demonstrated agility and adaptability, providing technical advice that helped us continue to deliver our mission. Their commitment to collaboration, social impact, and sustainability was evident not just in what they advised, but in how they worked, supporting learning, reflection, and more inclusive outcomes.”

Elliw Williams, Head of Stakeholder Engagement & Communications at Cwmni Egino

National research examining structural vulnerabilities in English school buildings constructed between 1941 and 1990 underpins this strategic engineering consultancy, assessing both existing and emerging threats to building integrity to guide investment priorities as set out in the recent 10-year Education Estate Strategy. By combining engineering judgement with advanced AI, the work introduces an innovative methodology for informing the way structural risk is managed across large and complex estates.

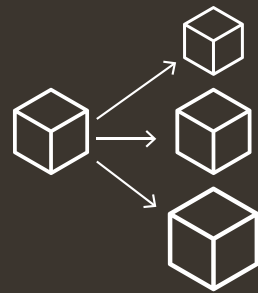
million m² of gross internal area. This project aims to deliver practical outcomes that strengthen the sustainable and resilient management of this estate as part of a long-term transformation and stewardship plan.

Collaborators: Expedition Engineering | Department for Education |
PwC | Arcadis | University College London



Rob Read, Head of Building Safety at the Department for Education

Collaborators: Useful Projects | Lincolnshire County Council



Replicable & Scalable Demonstrators.

We develop scalable solutions to pressing industry needs, including low carbon housing, water and energy security, infrastructure accessibility, ageing asset repair, and construction skills. We prioritise replicable methods – standardised where appropriate, bespoke where essential. Each project focuses on practical deployment and evidenced pathways to adoption, recognising that not every approach succeeds, but each generates valuable learning.



| KNUTSFORD | CHESHIRE

Scaling Low Carbon Development: Knutsford Housing Innovation

The Crown Estate's 3.2ha masterplan at Knutsford demonstrates how to deliver low-cost homes within sustainable communities. Our analysis revealed an 'invisible' layer of development (including earthworks, utilities, access, and surface water) that locks in embodied carbon and cost long before buildings are designed.

Applying a resource-efficient lens required us to challenge defaults. A commitment to avoid exporting excavated material meant rethinking levels and structures so all cut and fill stayed on site, with knock-on implications that were resolved collaboratively across disciplines. With nature and water at the core, Knutsford is seeking Building with Nature certification, prioritising above ground stormwater attenuation and biodiversity. Where underground storage was unavoidable due to ground conditions, lower carbon

products such as Hydrorock were specified in place of conventional plastic crates.

The key learning is strategic, focusing on how 'where we build can overshadow how we build'. Flood risk, ground conditions, and landscaping design have carbon and resilience implications that no amount of product substitution can offset. Demonstrators like Knutsford surface those choices early, providing a replicable pathway for other masterplans to meet needs while shrinking the embodied and operational footprints of the enabling works that make neighbourhoods possible.

Collaborators: Expedition Engineering | Useful Projects |
The Crown Estate | igloo Regeneration | Tate + Co | Planit |
SLR | Calford Seaden | CEC (LLFA) | Deloitte

Faster, Safer, Repeatable: AVA Stowmarket

The first fully operational AVA Footbridge and Lift System has been delivered for Greater Anglia, following a 2024 prototype as part of an Innovate UK and Network Rail initiative. AVA was designed to accelerate accessibility improvements across the rail network with minimal disruption.

The design prioritises longevity and low maintenance: uncoated lean duplex stainless steel requires no painting, only occasional cleaning, while precision-manufactured modules bolt together with minimal welding. The result is a kit of parts built up of five principal components. The two stair cores, a main span, and two lift towers are preassembled offsite, and can be

installed in a single weekend possession. This cuts contract-to-handover time by 50% compared to traditional construction, enabling faster and safer step-free access at lower cost.

At Stowmarket, the bridge was adapted to a narrow configuration and complemented the historic station buildings, demonstrating that standardisation and design sensitivity can go hand-in-hand, bringing more stations into the accessible network, sooner.

Collaborators: Expedition Engineering | Greater Anglia | Network Rail | Hawkins\Brown | Walker Construction | McNealy Brown | ARX



| AVA FOOTBRIDGE

“AVA is an adaptable, pre-manufactured footbridge system that has been designed from the ground up to reduce cost and installation time. Everything you can see and touch is a hard-working element. There is no waste here, and this drive for efficiency has led to a product that not only performs well but looks the part.”

Andrew Davies, Partner & Infrastructure Lead at Hawkins\Brown

“The team’s proactive approach and understanding of the strategic bigger picture through to delivery is refreshing. We trust them to input, challenge ideas, and lead on topics. We really appreciated having them on the team on such a complex and exciting project.”

Jemma Hall, Associate at LDA Design

Water First, Place First: Castle Park

The complex, layered landscape at Castle Park features steep banks above the Floating Harbour, archaeology beneath the surface, mature trees, and fragmented access. As the Water Strategy Lead, we put regenerative water systems at the heart of placemaking – choosing solutions that collectively improve ecology, accessibility, and water circularity.

Shifting from high-energy water features toward nature-based infrastructure is better suited to the site’s character and regenerative design aspirations. Replacing water jets with a nature pond near St Peter’s Church creates:

- Natural habitats,
- A calmer visitor experience,
- Functional water storage, and
- Harvesting of rainwater for the Physics Gardens, returning surplus to the harbour.

Further explorations are underway to address ongoing drainage issues, including moorings, floating habitats, and seating pontoons so movement and water management are designed with sensitivity to the site’s unique heritage. Emphasising visible hydrology, biodiversity uplift, and year-round usability acknowledges that nature is a public health asset as well as an environmental imperative.

By treating water as part of the project’s organising logic rather than a constraint, Castle Park reframes maintenance burdens, unlocks inclusive access routes, and elevates everyday wellbeing. This is a replicable approach showcasing how the healthiest and simplest to deliver urban interventions are those that work with natural processes and not against them.

Collaborators: Expedition Engineering | Bristol City Council | LDA Design | Play:Disrupt | Shared Assets | Purcell | Norman Rourke Pryme | Vida | Wessex Archaeology | Greengage | City ID | Disability Inc | Treeworks | Entran | Distinctive Communications | Fenton Holloway | Bricks for Public Art | Michael Grubb Studio

A Machine for Learning: College on the Coast

College on the Coast (CotC) addresses a critical gap in further education provision within a rural area where access to training and learning opportunities is limited by travel times and a lack of local facilities. Developed in partnership with Suffolk New College and connected to the Sizewell C apprenticeship pipeline in Leiston, CotC will accommodate 150 full-time students and support up to 1,500 apprentices each year. By providing education and training close to home, it helps address the construction skills shortage while creating a valuable community asset in an area with limited civic infrastructure.

Through collaboration between client, design team, contractor, and industry partners, CotC was conceived as a machine for learning, where the building becomes a teaching tool. Environmental systems are made visible: greywater capture and storage are expressed externally, passive design strategies and heat recovery chimneys are integrated into the architecture, and material choices demonstrate circular economy principles as part of the curriculum.

The primary structure is formed from reclaimed steel sourced through Cleveland Steel, enabled by Expedition bespoke digital tool linking live inventories directly to the project's 3D model. Rather than designing around new materials, the process was reversed, requiring the entire project team to collaborate around available reclaimed resources. This demonstrates how material reuse can be delivered at scale while maintaining quality, performance, and programme certainty.

CotC illustrates how major infrastructure investment can deliver lasting social value by aligning education, employment, skills development, and community benefit. As a public-facing educational facility, it sets a benchmark for low carbon, resource-conscious design while helping to develop the skilled workforce needed to support the future of the construction industry.

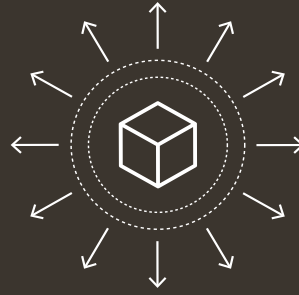
Collaborators: Useful Studio | Expedition Engineering | Useful Projects | Sizewell C Ltd | Quod | LDA Design | KMC | WorksSeven | Socotec | PT Projects | Haydens Arboricultural Surveyors | Anderson Acoustics | AECOM | SWECO | AtkinsRealis

“The new campus will demonstrate environmental leadership through the use of salvaged steel, material circularity, rainwater harvesting systems, and landscape enhancement alongside exemplar learning and training, showing what big infrastructure can achieve when it is done right.”

Damian Leydon, Site Delivery Director at Sizewell C Ltd



©HAYES DAVIDSON STUDIO



Collective Learning.

Building capability for the future is central to creating a resilient, regenerative built environment. From primary schools to universities and professional development, we invest in learning initiatives that build capability, curiosity, and confidence – educating ourselves, sharing knowledge, and supporting future practitioners to shape regenerative and inclusive outcomes.

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is an essential capability for the Trust workforce, strengthening analytical rigour, creativity, and communication while supporting better decision making in complex environments. Across two cohorts from July 2024 to September 2025, staff completed 1,196 hours of dedicated critical thinking training, equipping them with a practical toolkit to navigate uncertainty and enhance our collective impact. Covering themes such as ecosystem intelligence, working with living cycles, and using AI to extend capabilities, the programme challenged participants to step away from day-to-day tasks and move through a series of metaphorical ‘rooms’. These provided an interactive framework for approaching complexity with curiosity and confidence.

Collaborators: Constructivist

Holistic, Creative Thinking

We contributed to the creation of the Institution of Structural Engineers’ first-ever Student Challenge, launched in 2025. Working with a small group of industry and academic members, we helped shape a challenge that encourages students to consider the long-term wellbeing of people and the planet through their university group projects. To celebrate the diversity and depth of holistic, creative thinking prizes will be awarded across a variety of categories, supporting the next generation to embed inclusive, sustainable design principles from the start of their careers.

Collaborators:

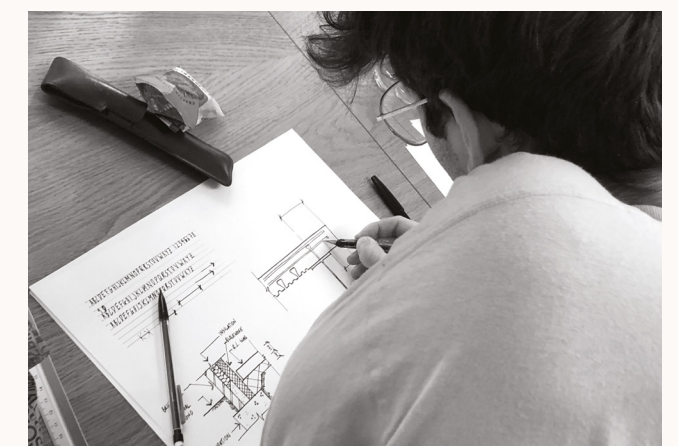
Expedition Engineering | Institution of Structural Engineers



| CRITICAL THINKING TRAINING



| KING’S CROSS LEARNING WORKSHOP ©JAY BAKER



| INTERNAL SKETCHING WORKSHOP

Climate Awareness with Climate Ed

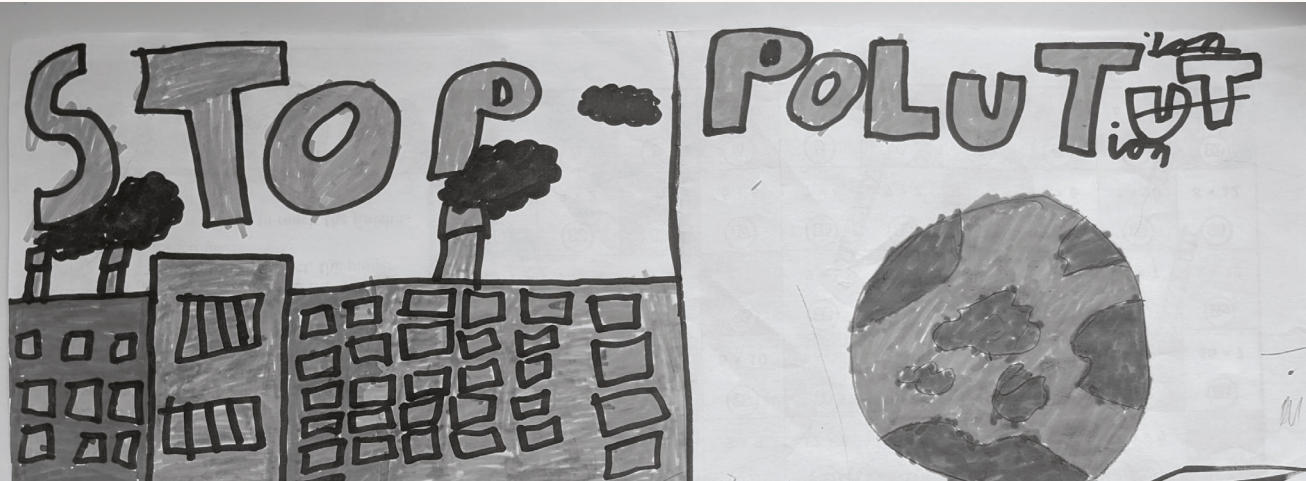
Since partnering with Climate Ed in 2024, our teams have volunteered 20 classroom hours to deliver interactive climate change workshops to four London primary schools, reaching children aged 9–11. The programme supports pupils to develop a clear understanding of the science behind climate change, while exploring practical ways individuals and communities can reduce their carbon footprint. Through hands-on activities and discussion, children are encouraged to see themselves as active agents of change, building confidence, climate literacy, and a sense of empowerment to take meaningful climate action. By supporting these sessions, we are helping equip the next generation with the knowledge and agency needed to respond to the climate emergency.



CLIMATE ED 2025

I really liked the workshop and now I have started to walk ~~more~~ ^{instead} of using cars.

I liked the Workshop because it will help me protect the planet.



CLIMATE ED 2025

TEDI-London

We provided hands-on mentoring and exposure to professional practice for an undergraduate Design Engineering student from ASU London (formerly TEDI). During a five-month placement in 2025, the student developed a research project on green bridges, supported by informal, on-the-job tutorials from one of our structural engineers. The placement offered valuable real-world experience while supporting longer-term mentoring and knowledge-sharing within our team.



CONSTRUCTIONARIUM 2025

Constructionarium

Since its inception in 2003, Constructionarium has grown from a pilot site in West London to the bespoke 19-acre training facility in Norfolk. In the last 23 years, over 14,000 undergraduates have attended from across a broad range of university partnerships with industry professionals and contractors.

Co-founded by Expedition, the annual programme exposes students to existing construction methods and the practicalities of turning designs into reality. It has allowed a whole generation of young engineers to be better equipped for a career in engineering and higher standards of technical drawings and safety.

Collaborators: Expedition Engineering | Mace | Morrisroe | LSY Engineering Consultants Ltd

“We can see Constructionarium evolving as we move from degenerative to sustainable to regenerative construction. One of its virtues is to make the physicality of engineering tangible. As knowledge evolves, that means not just can it span structurally, but can it do it with the least impact on the planet.”

Chris Wise, Senior Director at Expedition Engineering and Co-Founder of Constructionarium

Our Year _____ at a Glance.

60%

increase in funding to Useful Giving & Useful Trailblazing
(from last year)

3,577

total learning hours

£3,500

donated to Maggie's and The Wildlife Trusts, charities aligned with our regenerative mission

1,612 hours

pro bono and voluntary work

38,000

miles commuted by bicycle

Our median gender gap has progressed to

8.2%

18 months

completion of the Royal Academy of Engineering's

Inclusive Leadership Programme

132 hours

volunteering with High Trees Community Development Trust

28 industry awards shortlisted

Key Industry Wins

- ‘B Corp of the Year’ – British Business Awards
- ‘SME Employee Skills Champion of the Year’ – Enginuity Skills Awards
- ‘Consultancy of the Year’ – edie Net Zero Awards
- ‘Pro Tem Awards’ – Brent Cross Town Visitor Pavilion, Civic Trust Awards
- ‘Environmental Sustainability Award’ – Sport England – Every Move, Sport Industry Awards
- ‘Best Use of Publicly-Owned Land and/or Property in Placemaking’ – Bow Goods Yard, The Planning Awards
- ‘Neighbourhoods & Areas’ – Canning Town & Cody Road, NLA Awards
- ‘Retail & Hospitality’ – The Emory, NLA Awards
- ‘Workplace’ – WWF-UK’s Living Planet Centre, Architecture Today Awards
- ‘Carbon Reduction Award’ – UK Sport Accelerator Programme, British Association for Sustainable Sport Awards
- ‘Technical Achievement Award’ – Ed McCann, Project Production Institute
- ‘Team of the Year’ – Decarbonisation Technology Accelerator Team, Defra Group Project Delivery Profession Awards
- ‘Building’s Good Employer of the Year’ Highly Commended – Building Awards

Our recognition at the 2025 British Business Awards reflects our commitment to profit with purpose. In 2024, we recertified as a B Corp with a score of 123.3, exceeding our 2027 target two years early. As an early adopter, we continue to raise standards, aligning with new impact-led performance requirements in advance of our next recertification in 2027.

Celebrating Legacy & Culture

On 11 October 2025, we honoured the memory of our dear friend and colleague with the launch of the Simon Bradbury Award. In its inaugural year, the Award recognises those within the Trust who exemplify Simon’s positive spirit and uplifting values. Among eight inspiring nominees, Naz Senoglu, our Office Coordinator & Business Assistant, was selected for her unwavering commitment to collaboration, compassion, and creating a welcoming environment.



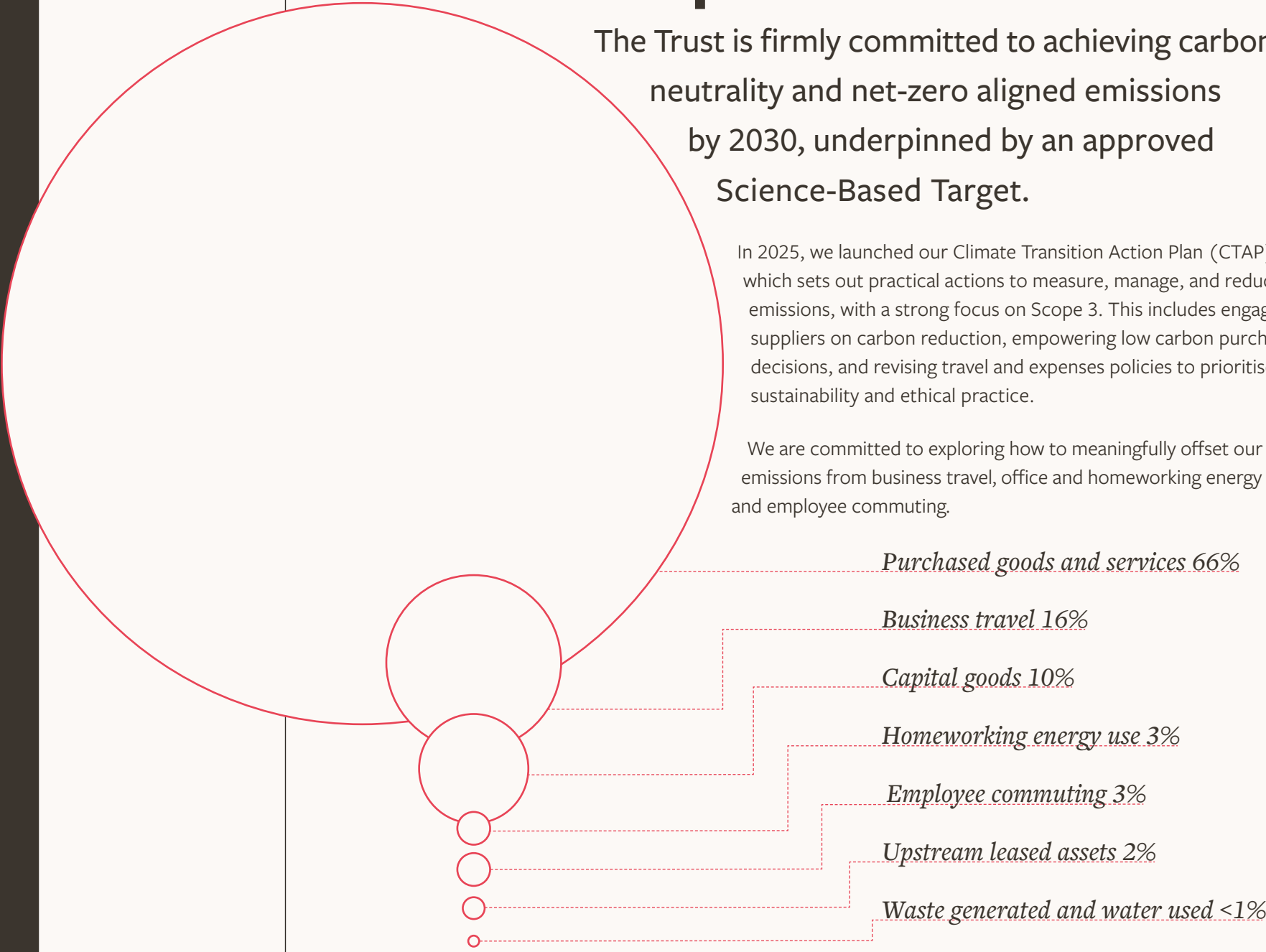
NAZ SENOGLU,
OFFICE COORDINATOR
& BUSINESS ASSISTANT

Our Carbon Footprint.

The Trust is firmly committed to achieving carbon neutrality and net-zero aligned emissions by 2030, underpinned by an approved Science-Based Target.

In 2025, we launched our Climate Transition Action Plan (CTAP), which sets out practical actions to measure, manage, and reduce our emissions, with a strong focus on Scope 3. This includes engaging key suppliers on carbon reduction, empowering low carbon purchasing decisions, and revising travel and expenses policies to prioritise sustainability and ethical practice.

We are committed to exploring how to meaningfully offset our residual emissions from business travel, office and homeworking energy use, and employee commuting.



As the Trust does not own or control building energy systems or vehicles, Scope 1 and 2 emissions are nil, with energy use from our London office accounted for under Scope 3 (upstream leased assets).

For FY24/25, our total Scope 1–3 emissions were 350 tCO₂e (3.7 tCO₂e per FTE), driven primarily by purchased goods and services, capital goods and business travel.

Key Industry Appointments.

This year, the Trust has welcomed and celebrated colleagues whose experience and expertise help us continue learning and improving how we embed regenerative practices across the built environment. This collective expertise supports our ongoing journey to deliver thoughtful, integrated solutions while learning from and collaborating with partners across the industry.



Sophie Thomas receives OBE for Services to Sustainable Design

As Senior Director of the Trust and Director of Circular Design at Useful Projects, Sophie has spent nearly three decades exploring circular design and how design choices connect to environmental outcomes. Her work has influenced industry practice and supported the development of new approaches, and she continues to share insights that help others navigate complex sustainability challenges.



Ed McCann announced as Fellow of the RAEng

This recognition highlights Ed's ongoing commitment to engineering practice and collaboration, supporting learning and innovation across projects and the wider sector. He joins our Senior Directors Judith Sykes and Chris Wise in the Academy's Fellowship, representing the nation's best engineering leaders across all disciplines.



Will Arnold appointed as Head of Sustainable Materials

Will's appointment brings a focused materials perspective across the Trust. With over 15 years' experience in structural engineering and sustainability leadership, Will integrates materials intelligence into design and delivery, supporting low carbon, efficient, and commercially viable solutions, while influencing industry policy and standards.

“The reality is that a future which tackles the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, resource constraints, and enables all people to live good, decent lives, is not the default trajectory humanity is on.

We invite collaboration with those who want to improve how things are done and turn hope for the future into reality.”

Emma Crichton, Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Useful Simple Trust

Get in Touch

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