

millboard®

Live. Life. Outside.

Case Study

COACH, Taunton

Client

Centre for Outdoor Activity &
Community Hub (COACH) charity

Location

French Weir Avenue, Taunton, TA1 1AW

Requirement

An attractive, sustainable facility on the riverbank,
designed for the entire local community.

Design and Installation

Reed Holland Associates/SWH Construction

Millboard products used

Weathered Oak, Embered
Enhanced Grain, Golden Oak



millboard.co.uk

Pushing the boat out for the local community

The Centre for Outdoor Activity and Community Hub (COACH) replaces a former toilet block in Taunton with an attractive, sustainable town centre facility on the banks of the River Tone. The new building is a community and sports facility housing classrooms, workspaces, a café and a boathouse to store canoes and kayaks. Architects Reed Holland Associates faced the immediate challenge of designing on a flood plain and the hurdle of getting the design approved by the Environment Agency and Local Authority.

Reed Holland opted to use driven pile foundations beneath a raised steel frame, elevating the building above ground level. Some parts of the building, such as the boathouse, have been designed to purposely flood when the river's water level rises above normal. For this space, Millboard's Weathered Oak material in Embered was used as cladding – highly suitable given its impressive water-resistant properties. The architects designed the lower-elevation sections of the scheme with a wider board separation, allowing flood water to flow freely in and out of the building when required.

Requirement

An attractive, sustainable facility on the riverbank, designed for the entire local community

Design and Installation

Reed Holland Associates
/SWH Construction

Millboard products used

Weathered Oak, Embered
Enhanced Grain, Golden Oak



Low carbon footprint

Millboard products have been independently and UKAS accredited to the ISO 14064-1 Verified Carbon Footprint Assurance Mark.





A space for all for years to come

The stylish building is nestled between the beautiful backdrop of the River Tone and the wide expanse of the surrounding playing fields. Welcoming passing joggers and dog-walkers as well as watersports enthusiasts, the facility houses a river-facing café and toilet facilities. Internally, COACH's visitors can make full use of the building's smart and practical changing facilities and showers.

The architects chose to clad the main section of the building in Millboard's Enhanced Grain in Golden Oak. This material was chosen for its stunning natural aesthetic and the added benefit of low-maintenance requirements. Millboard decking provides a high-grip surface for ramps, steps and terrace flooring ensuring that COACH is welcoming, functional and accessible to all.

The contemporary design continues inside, with a cosy café on the ground floor and a fully-equipped conference room upstairs for meetings and events.



Intrinsically natural

Capturing the unmistakable beauty of natural timber, without any of the associated drawbacks, Millboard decking fits harmoniously in any natural environment. Not a single tree is used in the manufacturing process, and Polyurethane has an average lifespan of over 50 years.

At Millboard, we are exploring the use of reground filler from our own decking material within the manufacture of new products, to create a complete sustainability loop.



Splinter-free

No wood content means absolutely no splinters – perfect for wood-look benches and tables.



UV and weathering stability

Millboard decking has been tested in all weathers and temperatures.



Low maintenance

Resists stains from food or drinks spills and algae growth.



“

“Creating a partially floodable design was always going to present a challenge, but by using Millboard cladding, we have struck the perfect balance between beautiful form and durable performance in all weathers. We designed this building with sustainability and longevity in mind, and I’m confident that Millboard products will allow the scheme to continue looking fresh for many years to come.”

Jonathan Scanlan

Architect, Reed Holland Associates

millboard®

Live. Life. Outside.

Image credits

© Tim Pestridge 2019

The Millboard Company Ltd
Unit A, Castle Court, Bodmin Road,
Coventry, CV2 5DB