

MATERIALS TESTING 2008

Date: July 2008
 Location: Eden Project, Cornwall, UK
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 Partners: The Eden Project
 Donors: Time donated by ASF team
 Project type: Live Project

PROBLEM ADDRESSED



Since the decline of tin mining, china clay extraction, fishing and agriculture in Cornwall, the area is recognised as one of the poorest in the UK. It is one of four UK areas that qualify for poverty-related grants from the EU. To begin to address some of the issues around lack of employment in the area, ASF in partnership with the Eden Project are developing a small piece of land, ideally located adjacent to the Alchemy Building and opposite Eden's Waste Neutral Centre which will act as an ongoing laboratory for training and experimentation, and will become a show place of innovation of products and construction technologies derived from waste.



GOAL ACHIEVED

The ASF-UK team made its first mark on the site as part of an ongoing research and design programme. The three poles which are tensioned to the ground are a reminder of what is to hopefully come in the near future.



METHODOLOGY OF WORK

A group of volunteers braved the Cornish weather on the weekend of the 5th/6th July 2008 to make the first intervention on site. The Waste Neutral Team had set aside some of the more common waste materials from the Eden Project. A raised deck is one of the key elements for the overall design of the site, so pallets, tyres and catering sized plastic tubs were configured in different ways and tested, trying to use the inherent properties of the materials to achieve the most suitable product.

A sail had been saved from landfill and as basic shelter is a key element of the design for the site. The team experimented with the different ways of raising the sail to create shade from the sun and/or protection from the rain. The team successfully raised the sail in the pouring rain and howling wind (with still a few smiles to spare). The poles and tensioning cables remain on site to allow a quick re-installation for the next workshop.



FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

The decking was left on site to observe how it weathered the Cornish climate. The sail is with the waste neutral team and easy to hoist. The site is ripe for development, we now need to find some funding to make this happen.