RBS Headquarters, Gogarburn, Edinburgh

SuDS used

- *Wetlands*
- *Swales*
- *Permeable paving*

Benefits

- *Flood storage capacity*
- *Blue-green network connectivity*
- *Water quality improvement*
- *Amenity provision*
- *Aesthetic appeal*

1. Location

Royal Bank of Scotland Headquarters, Gogarburn, Edinburgh EH12 9SB

55.9340° N, 3.3340° W

2. Description

Series of large wetlands and swales with some permeable paving serving a wide campus of this commerce park.

The Gogarburn campus is within 1 km of Edinburgh airport and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requested that no large areas of standing water were used, which would increase the bird-strike risk to the airport. The initial design of attenuation ponds was converted to wetlands which were acceptable to the CAA since no standing water would be visible to birds from the air. A large basin, in the form of an informal amphitheatre cut into an area of banking was used to increase the flood storage capacity during times of high flows. Swales were also planted up to form linear wetlands which in turn offered good connectivity as a green network throughout the campus.

3. Main SuDS components used

Wetlands, swales, permeable paving.

4. How it works

Large roofs and car parking areas with some service yards all drain to the Gogar Burn as it meanders through the site.

5. Maintenance and operation

There is a good amount of maintenance carried out across the campus to give the headquarters the aesthetic appeal it requires for the location. This would be done in any case, but for the area of wetland, this is kept largely to the margins and the main bodies of the wetlands are generally left to nature. Die-back in winter is accepted and explained in information boards that staff can read during the many lunch-time walks.

6. Benefits and achievements

This is a very appealing area befitting a major bank headquarters. Water quality and flood risk are managed accordingly with all SuDS seen to be functioning as designed.

7. Lessons learnt

The CAA constraints meant a re-think at the initial design stages, but has led to a very successful and alternative means of delivering SuDS with the use of ponds.

The proximity of Edinburgh Airport has meant that no open areas of water are allowed, but this was achieved in the first year with the use of netting to let wetlands establish and during the second and third years these were gradually removed to let the tall reeds, generally *Phragmites australis* and *Typha latapholia* take form. Thick healthy reed growth remains evident, but does not take from the functionality and appearance of the network.

8. Project details

This network has been in place for over 15 years.