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press release

Flocking to Buy Green

The Scottish Seabird Centre chooses environmentally-sound building materials

The gannets, puffins, fulmars, shags, kittiwakes, razorbills and guillemots which visit the waters off south-east Scotland are not the only ones to benefit from the new Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick. As well as encouraging the conservation and protection of the seabirds, the Centre's careful choice of building materials also makes a contribution to the wider natural environment.

Measures have been taken to limit pesticide use in the construction of the Centre. Conventional timber treatments contain insecticides and/or fungicides which can harm the environment and create health problems. The EcoPlus System windows used in the Centre, manufactured by Green Building Store, are treated with boron, considered the safest and most environmentally-benign of all timber preservatives. In addition, the paints and finishes used on the EcoPlus System are all based on natural plant oils and contain no biocides.

The choice of EcoPlus System timber windows was also part of a conscious effort on the part of the Scottish Seabird Centre to avoid the use of PVC. Greenpeace is currently campaigning for a phase-out of the use of PVC in buildings and elsewhere because of its contribution to the creation of cancer-causing dioxins. Energy-efficiency was also a concern. EcoPlus System windows use I-Plus glazing which offers 30% greater thermal efficiency than ordinary double glazing.

According to Chris Herring, Director of Green Building Store, "The Scottish Seabird Centre offers a fine example of environmentally-conscious building. Its conservation ethos is borne out in its design".

Contact details

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