



Showcase
& Awards
2024

Carlisle Racecourse

Racing Foundation Green Award



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RACING POST



Objectives



1. Identify an area of the racecourse that could be enhanced to improve the carbon footprint of the venue.
2. Work collaboratively with multiple stakeholders to deliver the works.
3. Engage racecourse teams, reward hard work and provide a quiet space for wellbeing and mindfulness.

KPI's:

- Increase biodiversity at the racecourse
- Improve staff and customer well-being
- Promote the use of local produce grown on site therefore reducing carbon footprint.

Delivery



Stage 1 – Develop Plan: Carlisle Racecourse Award Winning Head Chef Alistair Coe developed the project following a visit to a regenerative farm with a colleague. Once an area of the racecourse had been identified the plan was created.

Stage 2 – Engage with local team: Agreed on a date and plan of action, inviting all racecourse staff including Racecourse, Grounds and Catering teams both full time and casual to work together on the project as a team building day.

Stage 3 – Start Project: All plants, shrubs, bug hotels, paints, bark and herbs etc. were purchased ahead of project day.

Stage 4 – Complete Project: On project day the team were allocated roles to complete various tasks and rewarded with a BBQ and rounders at the end. Role included; digging soil, planting herbs, sewing seeds, installing insect hotels & animal shelters, stripping and painting the shed and picnic bench, cutting grass, trimming shrubs etc.

Stage 5 – Review/Enjoy Project: Limited maintenance is required to look after the regenerative garden and produce is being used on our menus. There is also now a quiet area on the racecourse for staff and customers to use that promotes wellbeing and mindfulness.

Results



KPI's:

1. Biodiversity on the racecourse has been improved by planting apple and pear trees, blackberry and raspberry bushes plus mint, sage, thyme, rosemary, wild garlic and lavender. These trees and fruit shrubs were carefully selected by Alistair and Colin to ensure they work together to regenerate themselves aided by bark, herbal lay and the naturally produced mycorrhizal fungi. By installing a bug hotel, hedgehog shelter and bird box we are encouraging wild-life to take refuge in this safe space which will also aid the regeneration of the plants.
2. By encouraging the whole team at Carlisle to be involved in the project it promoted a positive workforce culture whilst providing a safe space for them to use for mindfulness once the project was complete. This in turn has improved the wellbeing of the team and improved their collaborative way of working.
3. Upon completion of the garden project and once produce was able to be harvested the racecourse will be able to use the apples for pies, sauces and crumbles; pears for puree, desserts and salads; herbs in a range of dishes and berries for jams, desserts and afternoon tea therefore reducing our carbon footprint and increasing our sustainability.

Supporting Information

Before



During



After

