

Meadowbank Sports Centre

One of the 'biggest investments' in Scottish sport

£47m

/ Project value

September 2018

/ The project commenced

Autumn 2020

/ Scheduled completion

Supporting “physical activity, sport, health and wellbeing in Edinburgh for generations to come”, Meadowbank Sports Centre is a flagship 15,000m² leisure facility. Designed to meet the “current and future needs of the local community, the people of Edinburgh and beyond”, the new centre replaced the original iconic Meadowbank complex, which played host to the Commonwealth Games in 1970 and 1986. Beginning in mid-January 2019, the visionary £47m project involved the demolition of the existing 50-year-old building and the construction of a new sporting centre of excellence, which is on track to open its doors in autumn 2020. Described as “one of the biggest investments in sport taking place in Scotland”, Meadowbank’s new facilities will include an athletics hall, dedicated gymnastic and martial arts halls, squash courts, multi-use sports halls, a gym and fitness studios. Externally, it will feature an athletics track with a dedicated, purpose-built space for throws, and two all-weather 3G pitches.

The brief

The redevelopment of Meadowbank is a major council led regeneration scheme. Regarded as a strategic place-making project, we were appointed to complete the design works, and construct the new sports centre including all of the associated external works. The provision of FFE (furniture, fixtures and fittings) to the new facility, and the maintenance of soft landscaping were additional aspects of the brief.



“This is one of the biggest investments in sport taking place in Scotland. Visiting the site and seeing the progress first-hand was really encouraging, and over the next year we’ll see even more progress take place as our construction partner GRAHAM work to deliver this first-class facility.”

Councillor Adam McVey

“Edinburgh’s new Meadowbank will be one of the country’s top community sports centres when it opens and feature some of the most state-of-the-art fitness facilities in Britain. The huge physical, mental and social benefits this project will bring to generations of local people simply can’t be overestimated. I’m excited to see GRAHAM on site and at work on Edinburgh’s flagship new venue.”

Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan
Edinburgh’s Vice Culture and Communities Convener

The challenges

To facilitate the development of the new sports centre, we were required to remove some trees from the site. Much of the wood was subsequently recycled. Notably, some of it was used to create furniture, fittings and toys for local community groups. The council also hosted a consultation exercise, seeking suggestions from the public for ideas to repurpose the wood as items of furniture or external features. Significantly, more trees have been planted on the wider site than were removed.

The solution

Modern, accessible, and inclusive for all abilities, the Meadowbank Sports Centre is a first-class facility for “future generations to access and enjoy”. Designed by Holmes Miller Architects, the plans for the new complex were agreed with input from user groups and professional sporting bodies. Throughout the 15,000m² sports centre spaces are flooded with natural light to provide bright, welcoming and versatile halls, where a real variety of sports and activities can take place. Interestingly, it is much higher than the old facility and utilises space more effectively. From the outset, Carbon Futures were commissioned to review and optimise the energy strategy, and to review alternative low and zero carbon generating technologies. By implementing a robust energy modelling process, substantial savings, both in terms of initial capital spend and in-use energy costs, were achieved. Another benefit of the optimisation exercise was the improvement of the predicted EPC rating from an E to a B rating. Additionally, as part of the contract, we launched a “Benefit in Kind” fund of £40,000 to support local projects through time, materials and expertise, alongside a work apprenticeship programme and the creation of local jobs.

Outputs & Benefits

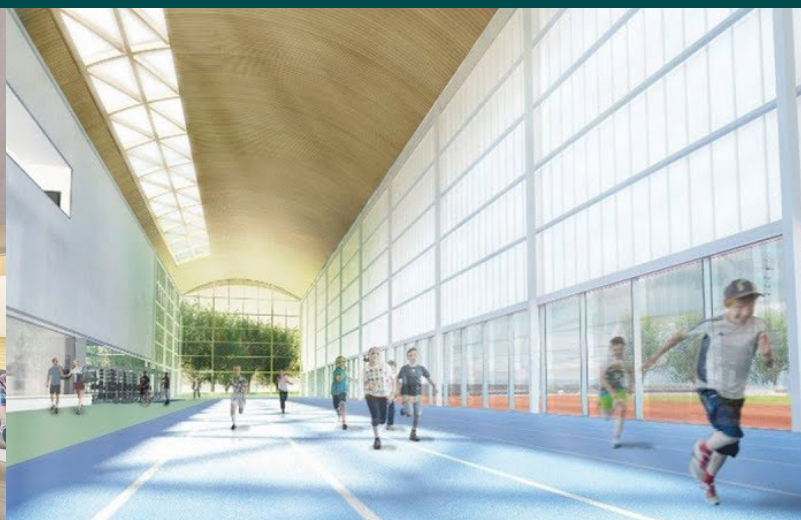
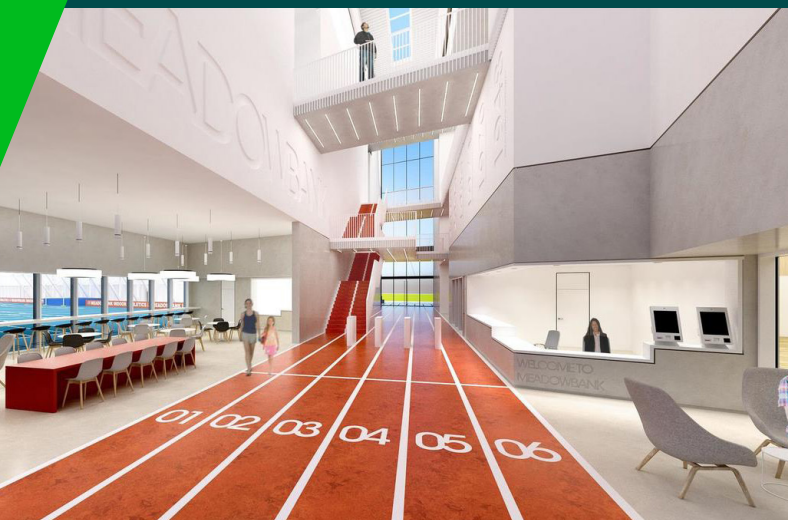
Carbon Futures: Carbon Futures were commissioned to review and optimise the energy strategy, and to review alternative low and zero carbon generating technologies

Tree planting: More trees have been planted on the wider site than were removed

Legacy: Meadowbank has been an important part of Scotland’s world-class sporting system for many years and this new development aims to build on that legacy

Inclusivity: From aspiring athletes to the local community, the redevelopment of Meadowbank will provide more opportunities for people to take part in sport at every level

Delivering lasting impact: We launched a “Benefit in Kind” fund of £40,000 to support local projects through time, materials and expertise, alongside a work apprenticeship programme and the creation of local jobs



For more information on how we’re delivering lasting impact:

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