

Recycling redundant rail assets

[Being a caring neighbour] – a social performance case study

The project

A track team looking to dispose of redundant railway sleepers and a community school in need of building materials came together to transform the school's memorial garden.

Allun Edge, Maintenance Protection Coordinator, worked with The Meadow's Sports College, a specialist school in Sandwell catering for those with learning difficulties, to set the project in motion. As a result, Network Rail's redundant sleepers were used as part of a new wall for climbing plants within the school's memorial garden. Thirty Network Rail employees also used their volunteer leave to build a raised path towards the garden site, an area which had previously been inaccessible to wheelchair users.



The garden is now frequently used, allowing disabled children access to flower-beds and table areas, and the opportunity to remember their fellow pupils who have passed away.

The key benefits delivered

Benefit to society: The school was able to make use of the redundant rail assets to support the development and learning environment of their students. Areas once inaccessible were made accessible.

Benefit to the business: Network Rail was able to recycle the redundant sleepers and build a positive relationship with the local school.

Lessons learned

- Consider how redundant assets may be disposed of. Could a local community group or school make use of it to develop their environment? Communication between the community and Network Rail teams is a great way to make the best and most sustainable use of our materials. Contact the Redundant Assets team for advice.
- Connecting with communities establishes positive relationships that can work to increase the public's understanding of the railway and railway safety.

Who to contact for more information

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