

# Recycling Waiting Shelters and Eco-Stations

ACoRP  
New life for local lines

13

## An ACoRP Briefing Sheet

### A Case Study - Lostock Hall

Lancashire County Council spends considerable sums of money on improving public transport facilities including railway stations. With growing environmental awareness and concern about Climate Change a fresh look has been taken at how station projects are developed. The impetus for this 'new' thinking was a report prepared by Transport Regeneration called quite simply 'Eco Stations' and published in November 2006.

### What are Eco Stations?

The report sets out a simple definition of an Eco Station saying they are "based on the enhancement of railway stations as a focal point of sustainable development within the local community and to demonstrate low environmental impact design, construction and use. In short, fulfilling a sustainable community role, while also meeting passenger and operational requirements of a railway station". This is in itself quite a challenge given the regulated nature of railways in the UK.



### Accrington Eco Station

Out of the report came the Accrington Eco Station project. This is a partnership project led by Lancashire County Council along with the East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership (ELCRP), Network Rail and Northern Rail and part funded through SusStations an Interreg IVB project.

The project is being taken forward in three phases. Phase 1 saw the refurbishment of the platforms and the station passenger foot bridge. Two new passenger waiting shelters formed part of this package and we will come back to them again very soon. Phase 2 (see picture 2) has concentrated on the construction of the new Eco Station comprising a staffed booking office & community resource centre, car & cycle park and disabled ramps. Phase 3 will see the demolition of the existing station booking office (see picture 1).

*Left - Picture 1: Welcome to Accrington. The former station booking office and waiting room*

*Below - Picture 2: The new Eco Station on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Practical completion has just been awarded to the contractor and waiting for Northern Rail to move in.*

### BREEAM

The design process for the whole Accrington Eco Station project has been driven by the aspiration to achieve an excellent BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) rating. To achieve this, the design team have extensively used the 'Green Guide to Specification' produced by BRE to inform the design choices for the new Eco Station.



## Passenger waiting shelters

An aspect of the BREEAM assessment is how waste is managed on site. In taking forward the refurbishment of the platforms two new shelters were provided replacing existing but inadequate shelters. The design team considered what the options were for the redundant shelters and quickly came to the view that the structures were still sound and could be refurbished for use elsewhere.

Where could the shelters be relocated to, who would refurbish them and how would this be funded? So let's look at each of these points in turn:

## Location

This was quite easy as the ELCRP already had an aspiration to replace the rendered brick shelters at Lostock Hall station on the East Lancashire Line. Here was a way to achieve that aspiration. The original shelters were subject to frequent vandalism and other anti social activity making them very unpleasant for passengers to use. The view in picture 3 of the shelters makes them look quite good!! However, passengers found them unwelcoming and at times the smell was a bit high!!! So the view was quickly reached that the shelters from Accrington would be relocated to Lostock Hall. Northern Rail agreed and the relevant consents were then applied for and achieved.

---

*Right - Picture 4: the shelters being powder coated by RWS at their works in South Wales*

## Refurbishment

The two shelters at Accrington were originally supplied by Macemain so the design team approached the company to see if they would quote for their refurbishment. To the project team's surprise Macemain declined this, instead quoting for the provision of two new shelters! However, Rail Waiting Structures (RWS) were prepared to quote for their refurbishment. The company is based in Llandow in the Vale of Glamorgan. So the shelters were collected and taken to the company's works in Wales where they were stripped and fully refurbished. Picture 4 shows the shelters being powder coated at their plant. As pictures 5 and 6 demonstrate the shelters look as good as new (in fact you might say better than when they were new!).



## FROM THIS ...

*Picture 3: The original rendered brick build shelters at Lostock Hall station*

## ... TO THIS

Right - Picture 5: This shows the refurbished 3 bay shelter now located on the Colne platform at Lostock Hall.

Below - Picture 6: This shows the refurbished 2 bay shelter now located on the Preston platform at Lostock Hall.



## Contact Details

Richard Watts (*Rail Officer*)  
Lancashire County Council,  
PO Box 78, County Hall,  
Fishergate Hill, Preston PR1 8XJ  
Tel: 01772 534582 or 07887 83 1126  
E: [richard.watts@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.watts@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Funding

The cost of refurbishing the shelters and the associated work at Lostock Hall for example dismantling the existing shelters and recycling the brick, modifications to the fencing, new signage etc came to £32,000 of which £11,352 was for the refurbishment of the two shelters. This sum includes the collection of the shelters from Accrington and their installation at Lostock Hall. The cost has been met through the Community Rail Development Fund, Lancashire County Council's LTP and the SusStations Interreg IVB project.

## Conclusion

The recycling of the shelters developed through the Accrington Eco Station project and the requirement to achieve an Excellent BREEAM rating. However, in future projects consideration will now be given to how redundant structures and waste materials are recycled.

Lostock Hall now has two refurbished shelters that provide an enhanced facility and it is pleasing to see passengers actually sitting in them while waiting for their train.

---

## © Association of Community Rail Partnerships

Rail & River Centre,  
Canal Side,  
Slaithwaite Civic Hall,  
New Street,  
Slaithwaite,  
Huddersfield HD7 5AB

---

Text by Richard Watts

