



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund



# Hill End



The new double glazing on one of Hill End's dormitories.

**SME BUSINESS SECTOR:**

Hill End are a multi-use site, providing a diverse range of outdoor activities and facilities to schools and organised groups.

**PROJECT COST:**

£ 15,372

**GRANT:**

£ 3,843

“This project has meant that we can do more of the Outdoor Learning that we were set up to do.”  
**DAVID MILLIN**  
Hill End

## The Project

Hill End has been offering unique outdoor learning experiences since the 1920s. They are a multi-use site, providing a diverse range of outdoor activities and facilities to schools and organised groups. These include quality outdoor educational sessions for all ages, self-catering residential buildings, meeting and classroom spaces, camping, teacher and adult training, volunteering opportunities and family events. In 2020 they celebrate 100 years of outdoor education. Their vision is to build on the rich heritage of the centre by providing a unique space and opportunities for high-quality and inspirational outdoor learning to a diverse range of young people.

The site consists of 24 buildings ranging from offices to training and event rooms, residential dormitories and shower blocks. They contacted Ox Futures and the Low Carbon Hub to investigate how much energy they were using and how best they could reduce wastage and improve the experience of their customers at the same time.

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## Where to start?

The energy audit recommended a host of measures that Hill End could install to reduce their energy bills, make their workspace more comfortable and reduce their carbon emissions. Some were zero or very low cost. OxFutures helped the organisation make decisions on what to prioritise and here are some of the measures Hill End decided to go ahead with.

*"The energy audit was thorough and professional making some very common-sense recommendations. We immediately implemented the simpler actions and applied for funding to tackle some of the bigger options (OxFutures & Trust for Oxfordshire Environment TOE2)."*

*- David Millin, Hill End*

## Windows

The windows in a number of the buildings at Hill End were single glazed and so it was determined that by installing double or secondary glazing there could be quite a change made to the heat loss and temperature maintained in the rooms. Double glazing improves the insulation in the building and reduces energy used for heating as well as helping maintain the indoor temperature for longer.

As a number of the buildings have limited winter use or are wooden buildings with a limited life span on a large scale it was determined that this recommendation was for buildings that will be well heated and used in colder months. One of the dormitory buildings has since replaced the previous draughty units with double glazing. Hill End has seen a saving in their energy bills with a consequent reduction in our carbon footprint, whilst extending our residential season into the winter.

*"This project has meant that we can do more of the Outdoor Learning that we were set up to do."*

*- David Millin, Hill End*

## Other recommendations

There was a range of other recommendations made for Hill End, a number at low or zero cost such as: match heating times to building occupancy, improve hot water heating times, and document energy management procedures (this was estimated to save Hill End a minimum of £147 a year). At the other end of the spectrum, some of the more expensive measures would have been to consider, such as adding solar PV panels or underfloor heating.

## Future aims

Hill End is always looking at ways to make their business operate more efficiently and with the energy audit they received they will have the knowledge to incrementally implement more efficiency measures as and when they are able.

*"We are very grateful to OxFutures and the Low Carbon Hub and hope that we can work together on more projects recommended in our energy audit."*

*- David Millin, Hill End*

Give the OxFutures team a call today on **01865 246009**, or visit [www.oxfutures.org](http://www.oxfutures.org) to see how you can save money and energy with a free energy audit and grant funding.