



MUSEUM & HERITAGE



It has been a few months since the last edition of our heritage newsletter and during this time we have completed a number of high profile schemes. We have also been busy securing new projects right across the UK and Ireland.

In this edition of our newsletter we profile the openings of an eagerly anticipated restoration project in Belfast and the UK's first Landscape Discovery Centre in Northumberland. We have been busy in Scotland too working with the team at Dean Castle to help create a new exhibition.

We have also picked up a major exhibition fit-out in Killarney within the new visitor centre at the world renowned Killarney National Park and a brand new museum fit-out at Britain's most famous Second World War fighter station.

This year we will be exhibiting at the Museums Association Conference which is being held in Belfast on 8th and 9th November. If you are planning to attend please come over and meet our team.

Enjoy the read!

Front Cover Image

Marcon has completed the fit-out of The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre in Northumberland.



Marcon Hands Over Belfast's 'Hottest' New Visitor Attraction

Marcon has handed over its latest heritage project – the newly restored Tropical Ravine in Belfast. The unique building, which is the only one of its kind in Europe, nestles in the heart of the Botanic Gardens and is home to many tropical and native plants.

The ravine has now been restored to its former glory, with a modern 21st century twist which will see it become one of Belfast's most popular visitor attractions. The listed building, which dates back to 1887, has had many of its original Victorian features reinstated and preserved.

Working closely with Belfast City Council and interpretive designers Houghton Kneale Design, Marcon's heritage team added the finishing touches to the £3.8million restoration project. Marcon was responsible for the interpretive fit-out within the building consisting of the

manufacture and installation of specialist networks, manufactured from powder coated metalwork and treated timber graphic panels. Marcon also integrated the audio visual hardware and software into the physical and digital interactives within the building and have incorporated graphic panels within the external plinths and specialist stonework.

Martin McErlean, Heritage Contracts Manager, Marcon said: "This is a unique project in every sense of the word and it is wonderful to have played a key role in bringing the Tropical Ravine back to life. The new exhibition contains many interesting physical interactive elements for visitors of all ages – viewing periscopes, smell boxes, a climate zone globe, sliding magnifying glasses, audio posts and digital touch screens to name but a few."

"The main challenge that we faced from a fit-out perspective was the procurement of materials that will withstand being in a hot and humid, tropical environment. We have managed to achieve this and are very pleased with the quality of the project."

Martin McErlean, Heritage Contracts Manager



Marcon Completes Fit-Out of The Sill

Marcon has successfully carried out the fit-out of The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre in Northumberland. The Sill is an architecturally stunning building that aims to transform how people of all ages understand and explore landscapes, history, culture and heritage.

It is a unique visitor attraction which enables the Northumberland National Park and surrounding Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to be opened up to even more people, including children, families, older people, disabled people and those who are less confident exploring natural places.

A key part of the experience at The Sill is the exhibition and interpretation areas which engage audiences in a conversation about our shared landscapes.

Edinburgh based interpretive designers Bright employed Marcon to help turn the vision for the centre into reality.

Marcon fitted out a series of designated spaces within the building namely the welcome lobby, visitor information, temporary exhibition and the main interpretive exhibition. Each of these spaces hosts a range of audio visual displays, graphics and interactive programmes.

Marcon's specialist joinery workshop played a significant role in the successful completion of the project. The company's skilled craftsmen manufactured and installed all of the bespoke items which included; fitted furniture, interactive plinths, exhibition display structures, retail displays and feature wall panelling.



Marcon Lands Prestigious Museum Project at Biggin Hill

Marcon has been awarded the fit-out of the new Biggin Hill Memorial Museum in London. The museum will tell the history of Britain's most famous fighter station, in particular its role during the Second World War. The project will also provide a sustainable future for the Grade II listed St. George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance.

Working with leading interpretive designers Redman Design, London Borough of Bromley and the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum team, Marcon will fit-out the museum creating a brand new visitor attraction at Biggin Hill. The museum's focus will be on storytelling and using appropriate media, objects and resources to bring the content to life. The experience will be supported with archival photography, film footage and sound with some specially commissioned films.

The procurement and management of all the elements of the project; showcases, audio visual hardware, graphics and interactive exhibits will be the sole responsibility of Marcon. What sets the company apart is its in-house specialist joinery workshop which will manufacture the feature networks, furniture and solid surface items within the new museum.

Mark O'Connor, Director, Marcon comments "We are very much looking forward to working with the entire project team on this special museum project. This is a very exciting scheme and when complete will be a world class museum for local people and international visitors alike. Securing this project in London is another important milestone in our continued strategic growth within the heritage sector.

Jemma Johnson-Davey, Director, Biggin Hill Memorial Museum adds "With Marcon's help, we will be opening our doors to the public in November this year, 100 years after the end of the First World War and on the centenary year of the founding of the RAF. The museum will celebrate and share people's first hand experiences of wartime Biggin Hill offering our visitors a truly unique and personal account"

Bryn Redman, Partner, Redman concludes; "We're very pleased to be working with Marcon again and are confident they will bring to this important project the skill and expertise required to realise our vision for Biggin Hill Memorial Museum"





Kings of the Castle!

Marcon was appointed by East Ayrshire Council to carry out the interpretive fit-out works at the Visitor Centre and Rural Life Centre at Dean Castle Country Park in Kilmarnock. Marcon put the finishing touches to the redevelopment project which has delivered enhanced facilities for visitors to the park.

Dean Castle is one of Ayrshire's best preserved castles and was the stronghold of the Boyds, Lords of Kilmarnock, for over 400 years. Their connections with Robert the Bruce made them one of the most powerful families in Scotland. Steeped in history, with world class

collections and regularly changing exhibitions, Dean Castle and its estate was gifted to the people of Kilmarnock in the 1970's by Lord Howard de Walden and has been enjoyed by millions of visitors since.

Marcon completed the exhibition fit-out works within the new Centre for Rural Life and the existing Visitor Centre which has been redeveloped into a Centre for Educational Excellence and a Visitor Orientation Hub. Marcon's heritage team was responsible for the manufacture and installation of all specialist joinery, setworks, AV hardware, graphics and interactives.

Marcon worked closely with g2 Design who specialise in the interpretive design of visitor centres.



Marcon Deployed to Fit-Out US Rangers Museum

Marcon's heritage team worked closely with interpretive designers Tandem to modernise the United States Rangers Museum at Boneybefore, Carrickfergus.

The unique facility first opened in 1994 following a 50th anniversary event when visiting US Rangers veterans generously gave their photographs and memorabilia to create a permanent exhibition.

The museum is dedicated to the men who joined the first battalions of the elite American Army unit, formed at Sunnyslants Camp in Carrickfergus in June 1942.

Marcon was responsible for the manufacture and installation of specialist joinery, plinths, fitted furniture, graphics, touch screen interactives and display cases that house the many artefacts within the museum.

The US Rangers – which is part of the US Special Forces today – was set up as a 'Commando style' unit drawn solely from volunteers and was nicknamed 'Darby's Rangers' after their dynamic leader Lieutenant Colonel William Darby.

They trained in extreme conditions and went on to fight in some of the deadliest battles in Europe and became one of World War II's most courageous and decorated units. It remains the only US military unit ever founded on foreign soil.



Titanic Hotel Sets Sail in Belfast

The former Harland & Wolff's Drawing Offices have been restored to their former glory and transformed into a stunning boutique hotel.

Marcon manufactured the bespoke joinery and corian displays to house the artefacts, cases, plaques and feature bas-reliefs.

The Grade B+ listed building was the home of one of the world's greatest shipbuilders and it stands as a reminder of Belfast's maritime heritage.

The hotel boasts unparalleled 360 views of the Quarter, with the Harland and Wolff cranes to the east and the Titanic Belfast and the slipways to the west.

Marcon worked with leading designers Tandem to complete the interpretive fit-out of the themed hotel.

The interpretation is interwoven throughout the hotel's interior design scheme, where subtle and surprising encounters with the past have been designed to enhance the guest experience.

Marcon Secures New Exhibition Fit-Out in Killarney

Marcon has been awarded the manufacture and installation of a new permanent exhibition at Killarney House, which will become a 'gateway' Visitor Information Centre in Killarney National Park, Co Kerry.

The house, once the home of the Kenmare family and more recently that of the wealthy Irish-American McShain family, is a few minutes' walk from the centre of Killarney. The house is located at the Golden Gates entrance to the National Park and when finished will contain an 18 room interpretative exhibition, management offices and furnished period rooms.

Along with the restoration of the house, a 35 acre ornamental garden has undergone an extensive programme to return it to its former glory.

Interpretive designers Bright 3D have been commissioned to produce the interpretation, exhibition, tour, and audio visual content for the Visitors Centre and Exhibition Rooms. Marcon will work closely with Bright 3D and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Marcon will be responsible for the joinery, metalwork, specialist paint and decorative finishes, audio visual hardware and graphics.

The new Visitor Information Centre and Exhibition Rooms will open to the public in the summer.

Interpretive Designers Bright 3D have been commissioned to produce interpretation, exhibition, tour, and audio visual content for the Visitors Centre and Exhibition Rooms at Killarney House.

Work is to be based on the Interpretation planning and message mapping documents prepared by Bright 3D.





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