

marcon





Welcome to the latest edition of our heritage newsletter, packed with news about our recent contract wins and the completion of numerous high-profile projects across the UK and Ireland.

It has been a period of firsts for Marcon Heritage. We have secured our first project for English Heritage, tasked with completing the interpretation scheme at Whitby Abbey. We have been awarded our first project with Historic Royal Palaces, to complete the interpretive fit-out at Hillsborough Castle. Our team exhibited at the Museums Association Conference for the first time which was in fact the first time the popular conference was held in our home city of Belfast.

Since the previous edition of the newsletter we have been working the full length and breadth of the UK and Ireland, further establishing ourselves as a company that can deliver the highest standard of quality fit-out regardless of location.

Enjoy the read!

Cover Image

The 'Woodland Room' in Killarney House

The new gateway to Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry. Marcon successfully completed the fit-out of the 18 room exhibition, working closely with Edinburgh based interpretive designers Bright.



New 'gateway' to Killarney National Park opens to the public

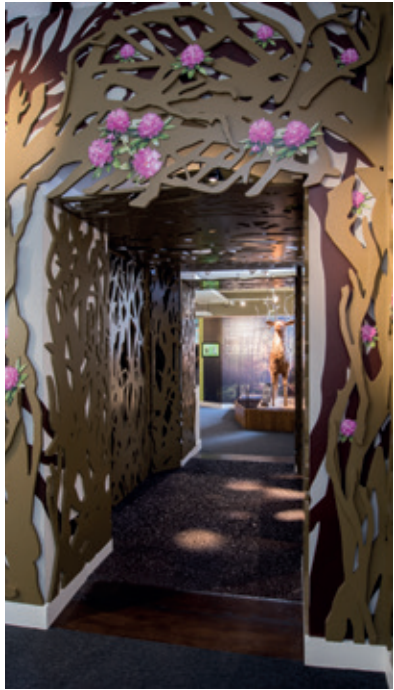
Marcon has been completed the manufacture and installation of a new permanent exhibition at Killarney House, which has become the 'gateway' Visitor Information Centre in Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry.

Interpretive designers Bright were commissioned to produce the interpretation, exhibition, tour, and audio visual content for the Visitors Centre and Exhibition Rooms.

Marcon worked closely with Bright and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Marcon was responsible for the entire exhibition fit-out. This involved the installation and manufacture of the extensive specialist joinery networks throughout the 18-room exhibition, which included specialist metal work and solid surface items.

Marcon's heritage team also coordinated all of the AV hardware installation which had to be integrated into the networks along with the installation of all of the specialist graphics within the exhibition. The fit-out also included the management of specialist paint and decorative finishes throughout the period building.



Marcon awarded prestigious exhibition fit-out at iconic Whitby Abbey

Whitby Abbey is an iconic landmark located on the headland at Whitby in North Yorkshire and is one of the most popular sites in English Heritage's portfolio.

Whitby Abbey is a site of national and international significance and its history is evidenced through the upstanding 13th - century medieval ruins, its buried archaeology and its historical associations.

The historical significance of the site is shared with Whitby's association with many noted artistic and literary figures, from Caedmon to Lewis Carol and Bram Stoker to William Turner. The abbey can be seen from and is directly connected to the town via 199 steps and is a place where myth and legend converge with historical fact and in 1897 provided inspiration for Dracula,

Bram Stoker's famous Gothic horror novel.

Marcon will be responsible for the design development, manufacture, delivery and installation of the exhibition fit out within the visitor centre, including graphics, AV hardware and the coordination of all work-packages. The project also includes all external interpretation package consisting of the installation of plinths and graphics.

This is our first project with Drinkall Dean and we are very much looking forward to turning their creative vision into reality. Their exciting approach to the creation and delivery of site-wide interpretation is to enable visitors to actively learn, explore and discover the site's rich history. This will be achieved through the delivery of compelling narratives that reveal stories

and information about the site and collection finds. The interpretation will be multi-level so that visitors can decide how much information and knowledge they want or need to acquire as part of the visit and it will be delivered through a diverse range of media and means, appropriate for family and intergenerational audiences. The new interpretation scheme will promote a sense of fun, exploration and discovery, where learning together through shared experiences is a key outcome for the project and will positively engage visitors.





Marcon goes ‘Dippy’ after completing its latest project at the Ulster Museum

“It’s not every day that you get to be involved in a touring exhibition of this nature and we were delighted to be able to play a role in bringing this amazing exhibition to life. We have completed projects in national museums in Ireland and the UK, but there was something really special about working with the Ulster Museum on the exhibition that will be home to Dippy for the next four months.”

Martin McErean,
Heritage Contracts Manager, Marcon

Marcon has completed the fit-out of the new Dippy on Tour exhibition at the Ulster Museum, Belfast. It has long been the first sight to greet visitors to London’s Natural History Museum and now visitors to the Ulster Museum are greeted by the iconic Diplodocus dinosaur skeleton.

‘Dippy’ the Diplodocus has taken residence in the Ulster Museum as part of a road trip across the UK, as he ventures out of London for the first time since 1905.

Marcon managed the fit-out of the exhibition, manufacturing the networks and coordinating the installation of the display cases, AV and interactives throughout the space. Marcon’s in-house joinery workshop was utilised to manufacture the many items within the exhibition. A specialist team from the Natural History Museum installed the Diplodocus skeleton.

Dippy will be visiting eight different venues on a mission to inspire five million natural history adventures, encouraging families to explore nature on their doorstep. Since his unveiling in the Natural History Museum in 1905, Dippy the Diplodocus became a star, and has featured in newspaper cartoons, news reports and even played starring roles in film and television.

Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure is brought about by the Natural History Museum in partnership with the Garfield Weston Foundation, and supported by Dell EMC and Williams & Hill.

More details can be found at
www.nmni.com/dippy



Martin McErean, Heritage Contracts Manager, Marcon and Andrew McDowell, Audience Development & Engagement Manager for National Museums NI. Photos © National Museums NI

A Castle ‘fit’ for royalty

Marcon has been appointed by Historic Royal Palaces to fabricate and install significant interpretative projects at Hillsborough Castle & Gardens. The Castle is the official residence of the monarch and Secretary of State in Northern Ireland and is currently undergoing a major re-presentation project.

Historic Royal Palaces are investing over £20m into an ambitious programme of capital projects and associated activities that will open the site to the widest possible audience; conserve and re-present the heritage; explore its stories and engage communities and learners.

Marcon has been tasked with the producing and installing internal and external interpretive schemes. External elements involve the manufacture and installation of a

new Summer House which will allow visitors to explore the history of the Gardens. It will be fully interactive with graphics, displays and pull-out drawers. A new interactive Family Garden Cart will also be manufactured in Marcon's specialist joinery workshop for display within the gardens. Interpretative elements to enhance the historic Ice House will be installed.

Internally the team will complete the fit-out of the Downshire Gallery within the re-presented Castle and also the interpretive elements within the new Visitor Facilities. As part of these projects, Marcon will be responsible for the manufacture and installation of all set work joinery, a time line display, graphic installation and completion of the feature wall in the Downshire Gallery – undoubtedly the jewel in the crown of the renovated Castle.

The project is due to complete in April 2019.

Historic Royal Palaces is an independent charity that looks after the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, the Banqueting House, Kensington Palace, Kew Palace and Hillsborough Castle.

The project has received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and significant support from Mark Pigott KBE, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Clore Duffield Foundation, The Foyle Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation and other generous benefactors.



HRH Prince of Wales opens The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre.

Northumberland National Park Authority welcomed The Prince of Wales on a special visit to commemorate the official opening of The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre on Hadrian's Wall.

His Royal Highness was given a guided tour of the award-winning visitor centre. The Sill is the UK's first dedicated National Landscape Discovery Centre and the result of a pioneering partnership between Northumberland National Park Authority, YHA (England and Wales), and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through a £7.8 million grant made possible by National Lottery players.

Named after the nearby Great Whin Sill, one of the UK's most significant geological features, the Centre provides a gateway to inspire and enable people of all ages

to understand and explore the iconic landscapes, history, culture and heritage of Northumberland.

To mark his visit, The Prince of Wales unveiled a special commemorative stone on the Centre's Whin Sill grassland roof and took time to enjoy the iconic view of the Hadrian's Wall UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Working closely with Edinburgh based designers Bright, Marcon played a key role fitting 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.

The Sill represents the single largest investment ever made in a UK national park. In May this year, the building received a RIBA North East Award from the Royal Institute of British Architects for architectural excellence. It has also been nominated in the Construction Industry Research and Information Association's (CIRIA) Biodiversity Awards.





Tropical Ravine named Project of the Year at annual awards

A south Belfast building project which has transformed an overgrown corner of Botanic Gardens into a new and exciting visitor attraction has been named Project of the Year at RICS Awards 2018, Northern Ireland.

The Tropical Ravine, a unique and nationally significant Victorian building, housing a noteworthy collection of tropical plants, reopened to the public in April following a £3.8m upgrade.

Working closely with Belfast City Council and interpretive designers Houghton Kneale Design, Marcon's heritage team added the finishing touches to the scheme.

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.

Judges of the prestigious RICS Awards said the project had scored very highly when inspected and had been unanimously supported as Project of the Year. The Tropical Ravine also won the Building

Conservation category of the awards.

The Tropical Ravine was deemed "a model of best practice" by the judging panel who praised the work of the team which nurtured it through dramatic change, enhancing its use while consistently respecting its historic fabric. The project has transformed a previously neglected overgrown corner of Botanic Gardens into a visitor attraction with an amazing story to be absorbed at leisure.





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