

Impact Story – Southeast Scotland

'The Dock @ Coalie Park' Community Skate-Spot Project is an initiative to transform a neglected area on the Water of Leith, into a community hub by introducing a skate-spot, mosaic & community area. The construction of this project ran in-conjunction with a 'training-for-work' programme, providing the opportunity for young people to gain experience, skills, and certifications to pursue careers in the industry.

The project was developed by the Water of Leith Conservation Trust out the back of community consultations, led and managed by The Edinburgh Wheels Project CIC, and contracted to Odyssey Skateparks Ltd. As principal contractor for City of Edinburgh Council's Leith Connections Active Travel project, Balfour Beatty have worked closely with the Coalie Park team to get the project off the ground. Our support has ranged from professional advice and space for practical training, to toolbox talks, introductions to some of our key industry partners, and working with our supply chain to secure a huge amount of plant and material support for the project – equating more than **£14,791.76**.

The project has been a huge success, with all the participants involved in the intensive CSCS training week securing employment by the half-way mark of the project (the team even had to put a call out for more volunteer support!), and the Coalie Park area now has a new skate-spot and community hub.

"Working with Eliza [Balfour Beatty] has been nothing short of transformative for the Edinburgh Wheels Project at Coalie Park. From the earliest conversations, Eliza brought an energy and clarity of purpose that inspired confidence and kept us focused, even when things got tough. Her support went far beyond the expected. She didn't just cheer from the sidelines, she opened doors. Whether it was connecting us with essential suppliers, introducing us to key partners, or simply offering encouragement at exactly the right moments, Eliza was instrumental in helping us bring this project to life. The skatepark and community hub will become a thriving environment on the banks of the Water of Leith as a direct result of her commitment to meaningful social impact. We're proud to have had her in our corner and grateful for her belief in what we were trying to achieve." - Colin Gilchrist, Edinburgh Wheels.



At a glance...

- Over £14,791.76 in benefit-in-kind donations from Balfour Beatty and supply chain partners
- Over 40hrs of professional volunteering
- 12 CSCS green cards gained, with all individuals now in fulltime or contract employment
- £9,000.00 secured through SCAPE Scotland Reinvest Fund

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Project Name: 'The Dock @ Coalie Park' Community Skate-Spot Project

Purpose: Transform a neglected area along the Water of Leith into a vibrant community hub

Features: Includes a skate-spot, mosaic installation, and community area

Training Component:

Delivered alongside a "training-for-work" programme; Provided young people with skills, experience, and industry certifications

Project Partners:

Developed by Water of Leith Conservation Trust; led and managed by The Edinburgh Wheels Project CIC; Construction by Odyssey Skateparks Ltd; Supported by Balfour Beatty (principal contractor for Leith Connections Active Travel project)

Balfour Beatty Contributions:

Professional advice and training space; Toolbox talks and industry partner introductions; plant and material support valued at over £13,345.12

Project Outcomes:

All CSCS training participants secured employment mid-project; Additional volunteers were needed due to high engagement; Area now features a fully realized skate-spot and community hub

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