

# CASE STUDY

THE GROWING SCHOOLS GARDEN

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

School Grounds Sector

## Sidestrand Hall School, Norfolk

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## Why we got involved

We have been involved in growing vegetables, creating grounds and creating wildlife habitats for the students to enjoy, learn and gain practical skills from. There have been case studies written by Learning through Landscapes, Barclays New Futures with CS V and the latest one April 2007 Schools Etc Continyou. We have also been involved with Chris Beardshaw and the BBC who completed a documentary on the school for the Heaven and Earth Show in the run up to Chelsea 2004. When Learning through Landscapes approached us we felt that we had the time and ability to let the children become involved.

## What we made for the garden, to represent the Natural Environment

We have created three, prefabricated, giant spiders from rhododendron wood. This is a pest and is normally burned so ecologically it is a real find. We also made a spider's web, and flies for the web. (See the Film in the Stumpery and Evolutionary Path garden zone.)

To represent other facets of outdoor learning we also made cushions for gabions, and mosaic floor and wall plaques, both on the themes of the Woolly Elephant of West Runton (a local woolly-mammoth fossil) and Poppyland, the

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fictitious name given to Sidestrand village by Victorian journalist Clement Scott.

## What we learned

Sidestrand Hall School has a roll of 100 children aged 8 to 16 with a range of complex needs covering learning, behaviour, autism, speech and communication. Many of the students cannot follow a normal curriculum and therefore to be outside and to gain skills in design, art and horticulture is excellent. Many go on to college to complete horticulture. It really does raise their self-esteem and gives them a sense of pride, and if we can build on that and show them what they can achieve, then it gives them the boost they need to be able to go on to further education and develop their practical skills even further.

## Photo gallery



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## Quotes

*'When I first came here the grounds were rough. Now we have a set of grounds that are interesting and we have helped do it.'*

*'I have helped to make something that is being seen by lots of people and will be seen by lots of other children'.*

## Contact details

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