

In pictures

NEW BASE FOR FOREST SCHOOL CAMPS CHARITY



Mole Architects and Invisible Studio have completed a £1.2 million low-carbon, low-energy base for educational charity Forest School Camps (FSC) at Haddenham in the Cambridgeshire Fens.

The 745m² timber-framed, multipurpose storage and training building – known as The Big Roof – replaces three dilapidated barns the organisation has worked in for the past 40 years. FSC was started by former pupils from the Forest School in the New

Forest in 1947 before the charity bought the current site in 1978. FSC volunteers run summer camps and shorter weekend breaks for children aged between six and 17. The new building provides space for storing camp equipment, repairing tents, cooking, eating and teaching under one roof.

The 'no-nonsense' wooden structure is clad entirely in black corrugated fibre cement, with translucent fibreglass for doors and rooflights. The building has

15m-span timber trusses and features a central 7m-high tent bay called 'the lantern', with louvres for ventilation, which is used for hanging tents to dry.

Alice Hamlin, associate at Mole Architects, said the design process had been 'collaborative and rewarding, with detailed input from volunteers'. She said: 'The resulting building is basic but generous, making working weekends for volunteers more of a pleasure and less of a chore.' RW

