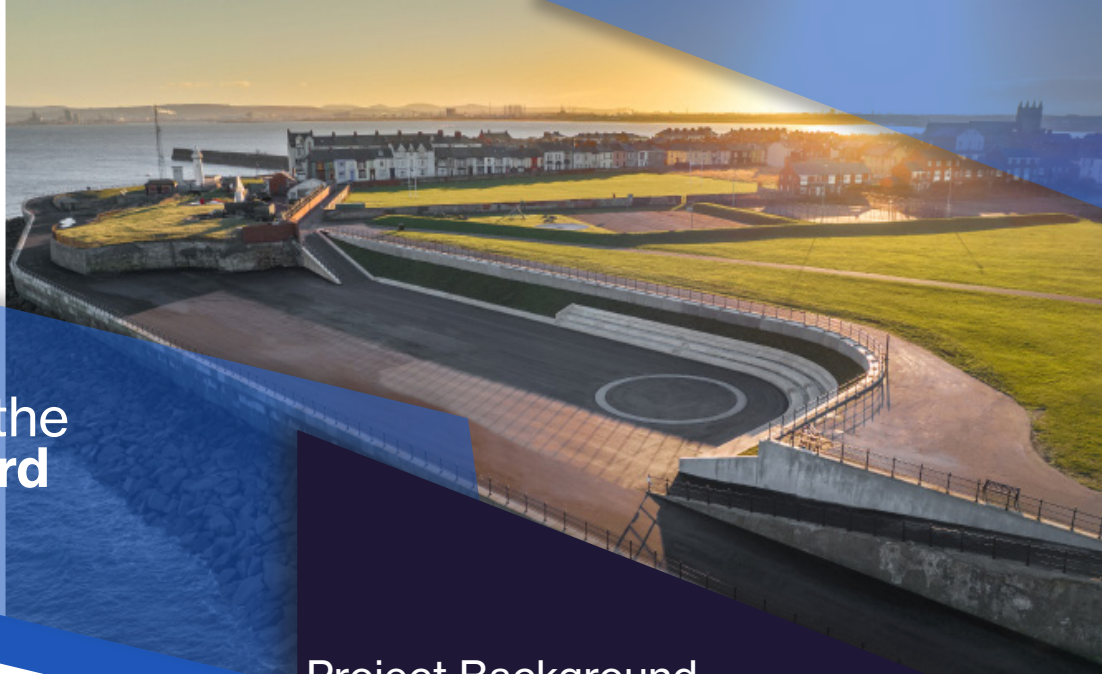


Elephant Rock



**Winner of the
Value Award**



Project Details

Location	The Headland, Hartlepool
Contract value	£900k total budget
Type of work	Demolition, construction & soft landscaping
Construction product	Events space & music venue
Type of Client	Local Authority
Start date	April 2021
End date	October 2021
Area	4200m ²

Benefits

- **Social value delivered**
- **Adaptable venue for small groups or large events**
- **Revenue gained through events space usage**
- **Supply chain collaboration**
- **Jobs created for local community**

Outcomes

Delivered within budget and ahead of time.



Futureproofed site through the installation of utility ductwork to serve the venue and schemes in place for utility provision when needed



Reduction in litter and anti-social behaviour evidences the positive impact on the attitude of the community



Offsite manufacturing and supply chain collaboration enabled a condensed time frame to prevent onsite work over winter when rare birds use the area



The name 'Elephant Rock' retains the site's heritage, paying homage to an elephant shaped rock formation on the foreshore until 1891



Project Background

Since the 19th Century, the Historic Headland in Hartlepool has seen a number of adaptations in the process of stabilising the exposed limestone cliffs, such as the creation of upper and lower promenades, development of the amphitheatre and addition of the band stand. This venue became the heart of the community and was used for over 50 years to host community events.

In the early 21st Century, the site was finally closed to the public due to being structurally unsafe due to deterioration. Hartlepool Borough Council long since held the ambition to bring the site back into use and return it back to the community. In 2019, funding was identified to support these community ambitions. A subsequent feasibility study confirmed that this site could be brought back to life as both a community and larger music venue.

Delivering Value

Hartlepool Borough Council identified the Elephant Rock site as one that required significant investment as part of their commitment to prevent the deterioration of public open spaces. They took the bold approach to invest in this area to return the once much loved asset back to the community by improving the environment, creating a sense of place and restoring this cultural asset.

Hartlepool Borough Council undertook extensive stakeholder consultation to ensure that the desires of all parties was best represented. The community were vociferous in their support for a scheme that was free, safe, open year round, multi-functional, something to be proud of and pleasing on the eye. These responses were ingrained within the design and ultimate delivery of this project.

Where possible, Hartlepool Borough Council ensured that the supply chain is centred as close to the Borough as possible to create jobs in the local area. They were able to employ primarily North East based companies and a vast proportion of the workforce employed were actually residents of the Headland and therefore fully understood the value of this project to stakeholders.

A steering group was established with representatives from the client, designers, finance and external stakeholders. 'Value' was one of the key aims of the Elephant Rock project and was defined in the first meeting with different outcomes depending upon stakeholder group;

- The client required a low maintenance, multi-functional venue which could be marketed to a wide range of customers and generate income from larger events but remain free for the community.
- The community required a safe, attractive space which could be used year round and become a focal point for the community again.

Whilst this project had a tight budget with a large brief, value was driven from the heart as well as the purse and the design team had the unenviable task of marrying the two together. The above two objectives were sense checked throughout to ensure a rounded definition of value was achieved.

The contractor quickly bought into these principles and offered added value where possible. They actively engaged the community throughout the project delivering on social value principles.