

The Super Nursery

The most technically challenging aspect was drainage. The nursery is located here not by coincidence. In close proximity lies one of London's biggest lost rivers – The Westbourne – which was dammed in 1728 to create the Serpentine. This river lies directly on top of London Clay, and on either side of the rivers shallow valley, the clay is overlain by sands and gravels.

Hyde Park, London

Client. The Royal Parks

Duration. 36 weeks

Valuation. £1.2m



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Project Overview

The nursery is located here to extract rainwater which percolates the sands and gravels – which in effect is a shallow aquifer – and, under this project, increase the availability of this water to provide up-to 100,000 litres of water the new nursery uses on a daily basis.

Historically the water was drawn up from a chamber located in the old basement, and stored in above ground tanks. The new arrangement was to relocate this well and construct a new 7metre deep abstraction chamber in the

South-East of the site, connected to an adjacent 6m deep chamber discharging excess well water east to the Tyburn Brook using flap valves to prevent reverse flow conditions, connect a myriad of deep historic pipework lying close to the bottom of the sand and gravel aquifer, and place 3 new interconnecting tanks underground, each 2metres in diameter and 17metres long, with a combined capacity of 126,000 litres. Water collects in the well and is pumped back into the underground tanks, which in turn is then pumped into the over-ground system.

