

Client: Balfour Beatty | Description: Case study | Website: [www.balfourbeatty.com](http://www.balfourbeatty.com)

---

### SUNDERLAND AQUATIC AND WELLNESS CENTRE

The Sunderland Aquatic Centre, built by Balfour Beatty Construction Northern, is one of the most accessible and environmentally-friendly swimming pools in the UK.

Opened in April 2008, it was awarded Best Access Community Project by Sunderland City Council, in a ceremony recognising innovative construction projects in the region. The judges highlighted the professionalism of the Balfour Beatty team and the high quality of work delivered.

The £20m centre has also been selected as a potential training camp for the 2012 Olympics by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG).

#### With community in mind

Located next to the city's Stadium of Light, the Aquatic Centre has a state-of-the-art, 50m Olympic-sized swimming pool and 25m diving pool.

It was designed with the local community in mind from the start and is suitable for all ages and abilities. The pool provides facilities for local schools and has the latest accessibility features for disabled users.

The Centre will act as a regional hub for performance swimming, diving, synchronised swimming and water polo. It will also attract high profile national and regional competitions to Sunderland.

#### Sustainable technologies

The Aquatic Centre has the only 50m pool in the UK to achieve the highest accreditation for the BREEAM (British Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) environmental standard.

The standard is awarded to buildings that have taken into account their environmental impact in terms of design during construction and long-term use.

The building is formed around 11 large timber beams, sourced from sustainable forests in Austria.

A super-insulated roof and combined heat and power (CHP) unit are designed to minimise energy use, waste and heating costs.

Every drop of rainwater that falls onto the Centre's roof is recycled. It is collected and filtered for use in the pool, a first for the UK.

[\\* back to top](#)

[Read other case studies about environment](#)

#### On a visit to the Centre, Lord Sebastian Coe commented:

"I think the Aquatic Centre is fantastic, it is sensational. To have that critical mass of coaching, physiology, rehabilitation, to have a world-class swimming pool next to a world-class football stadium, with the ambition of developing a sport city around them - it's the way the world should go. I am very excited by what I have seen."

