

Chester Zoo (Amphibious POD - APOD)



We were approached by the NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY who had a requirement for a specific self-contained modular unit. They had a detailed idea of what was needed and had an existing unit which had been manufactured in Australia many years ago, but they were struggling to get quotes from manufacturers. Although the existing unit worked, it was built for purpose and was, essentially, an old converted shipping container. Now they required a new unit, built to a high specification, to house an endangered species of amphibian which was to be housed at Chester Zoo as part of a breeding programme to try and save the species from extinction.

The unit needed two separate rooms which had to recreate the exact living conditions including temperature, humidity and light, all of which had to be fully programmable with independent controls for each room with a temperature range of 5°C-28°C. It also had to be fully waterproof inside with a special drainage system which all drained into a special tank in the power room of the unit, which then had to be treated with a chemical for 24 hours to make it safe before it could be deposited down the sewer (to prevent any tropical diseases being passed on to our indigenous species of amphibians)

Although this was unlike anything else we had built before, we decided it would be a great and worthwhile project and started looking into it. After two months of research we managed to source all the components and came up with a couple of bespoke ideas with regards to the water treatment side, by adapting technology we were currently using with our standard welfare products and put forward a quotation along with a full schematic drawing.

Pleased with our efforts and communication NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY decided to place an order and approximately 12 weeks later the unit was delivered to site.

Approximately 8 months later we made a courtesy call to make sure everything was working fine and that the unit had continued to perform throughout the winter months. They were so pleased with it that they asked us to provide a similar unit. After agreeing some minor specification adaptations to suit the new species the order was placed and in July 2010 the second APOD unit was delivered to site.

They are now talking about demonstrating these units to zoos across the country and recommending us as manufacturers. Funding permitting, they say they may need five of these units in total.

If you have a situation which requires a solution that is a little out of the ordinary then give us a call, we are no ordinary hire company and are always ready to listen.



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