Architects Design Statement

Tesco Express
London Road, Hinckley

The Tesco Express proposed for Hinckley is intended to be a flagship store for the retailer in many significant ways. The primary message that this particular store has to send out highlights Tesco's growing responsibility towards the environment. In only a matter of months Tesco have committed to reducing their energy consumption and carbon footprint in an attempt to drastically reduce the effects of greenhouse gases to our planet. High-level statements from their chief executive, delivered to the stock-market, reinforce this genuine commitment for betterment.

The design of the Hinckley store addresses a number of environmental issues – a highly insulated building fabric, under-floor heating utilising heat recovery systems, sensor controlled lighting supplemented by natural day-lighting, natural ventilation and so on. The building is intended to promote a sustainable solution with the design deliberately shouting 'green' to all. The visual aspects of the building with its timber structural frame and probably more so the use of timber cladding to all four elevations reinforces this theme. The temptation for some maybe to mimic historical precedents and dilute the concept falling into the trap of pastiche architecture but Tesco is keen to exploit form and function to create a purposeful building. The large roof overhangs and projecting canopies are intended to offer shade and shelter to shoppers while minimising the effects of our variable climate. The timber has been carefully selected for its weathering properties. Siberian larch is a very durable and long lasting timber. Procured from FSC accredited sources, the larch will ultimately fade to a natural grey which will complement to metal roofing solution. It is not intended to have any preservative treatment with toxins placed on to the wood.

The carbon footprint of the store envelope / construction achieves an all time high for Tesco. Despite the shipping of the timber from Europe the lifetime analysis illustrates a level of performance way in excess of traditional brick and block cladding. The fabric has been carefully selected to provide a true sustainable alternative to the accepted norms and assist in producing a wall make-up 100% better than that dictated by current legislation. The embodied energy in creating bricks and blocks precludes there use in this construction pure and simply because our thermal and performance levels are way in excess of the current standards. By pioneering and using materials in a clever, innovative way

to create an architecture which is readily identified and offers a friendly face for patrons can we deliver a truly sustainable future.