

Indigenous Materials

Local styles and traditions of building tend to reflect the history of settlement development in the area, from traditional Welsh farmsteads (with their longhouses and traditional stone barns), characteristic terraces of stone and slate houses associated mainly with the growth of the coal industry in the valleys, and extensive housing estates to accommodate workers in the steel and petro-chemical industries of the 20th Century.

Indigenous materials are naturally and commonly found within the locality of the site. These give the area an identity and familiarity to both its visitors and residents. Identifying these and incorporating them into the proposal in innovative ways will give the interventions a strong sense of place.

Resources

The Vale of Neath demonstrates a history of extracting and using local resources and materials. Manufacturing and the development of supply chains to meet the material demands of society are age old traditions that have the potential to be enhanced and in some cases rediscovered. This should be considered as part of the development process of the project.



View from the cellars of Gnoll House