

Form

The built elements are composed as a collection of forms taking cues from the traditional pitched barns of local historical farmsteads providing moments of shelter; spaces to gather and opportunities for interpretation; combined with areas of play and community interaction. The buildings are arranged on a grid enclosing three sides of the new central courtyard space. This space represents a hub where key routes converge and people come together at both the beginning and end of their journeys, reminiscent of the cycle of agricultural activity within a farmstead.

Where key movement has been identified through the site these routes carve through and around the building form, consequently creating points of shelter where openings and doorways are located. A key gateway is formed between the new accommodation building and shop for pedestrian movement from the car park to the central courtyard. The openings between buildings continue to align with key views from the car park towards the courtyard, from courtyard to Angel Inn & Entrance to the Eledir Trail beyond, and from the central courtyard south towards open countryside.

Sgwd Gwladys' north east facade will be revealed through the removal of the existing agricultural barns, creating a direct relationship with the proposed site and embedding this existing structure into the scheme as part of the new public realm. An existing opening in this elevation is to be restored enabling this establishment to over-flow out into the development area with external seating.



View of the proposals from the car park, showing the accommodation block to the left, with shop to the right and welfare adjacent to Sgwd Gladys.

Key routes have been carved through the site and buildings to create a legible site which encourages the safe flow of pedestrians around the site and towards the Eledir Trail.

Appearance: Materials + Details

A contextual link

The project must balance a variety of important design aspirations. Central to the scheme is its ability to sit peacefully within its environment, acting as a focus of activity without wishing to be loud and incongruous. There is a clear ambition to create a sense of place that announces the new public realm as a destination, with the building providing a welcome and openness to visitors and community alike. There is also a sense that it must be recognisable, in a largely domestic rural context, as something different – a building of elevated status as a landmark public building serving the local community – and bridging the immediate context of edge of village and open countryside.

A lush backdrop of dense and mature hedgerows and trees frame the setting of the visitor centre and car park along the river bank. An introduction to the vast swathes of wooded landscape and water valleys of the waterfall trails.

Timber is a key resource in this landscape and as a building material sequesters carbon, helping to improve the carbon footprint of built interventions. Whilst offering some contrast to the existing built environment, the palette will reflect the natural elements of the environment employing timber of different treatments - smooth, crisp, light natural timber, larch hopefully taken from local resources to the areas in touching distance, with roughsawn and dark treated timber above.

A palette of natural, warm, lightweight and sustainable materials is therefore proposed where visitors directly interact with the buildings, in combination with references to the hardwearing agricultural context.



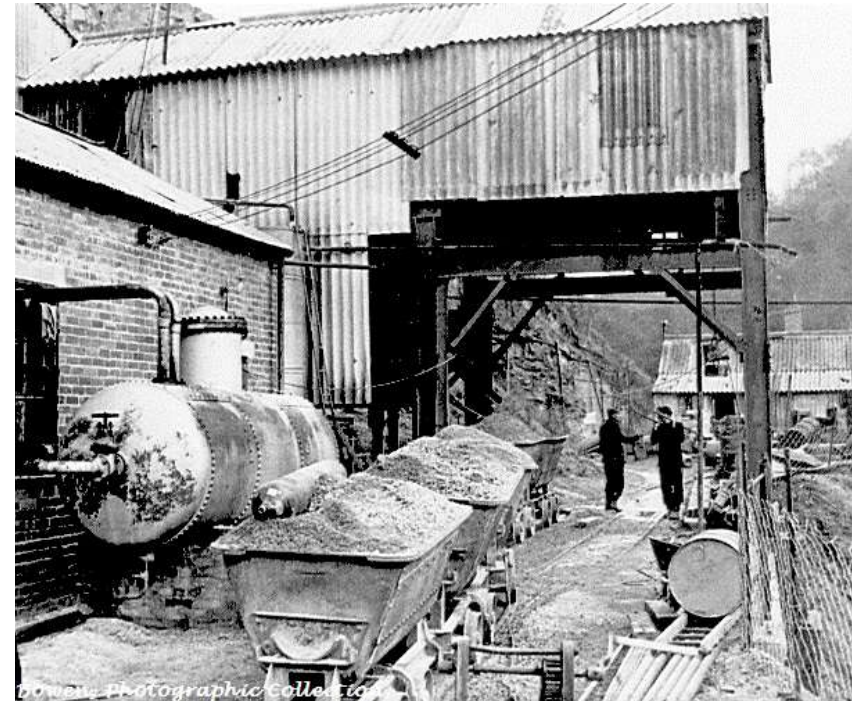
Local landscape and modern interpretations of agricultural forms using timber construction and cladding

An Historic Link:

The rich history of industry in the immediate vicinity of the site generates many opportunities to explore connections, both literal and more subtle, to present these stories in both the integrated interpretation and in the language, details and materials of the proposed buildings. The imagery of this industrial infrastructure with exposed framed structures, sinusoidal metal sheets, steel and timber present a ramshackle, raw and temporary built environment, quickly erected and just as quickly abandoned. But handled with a bit more care the same materials can be used to create beautiful, crafted buildings, reminiscent of the industrial landscape and fitting for its more recent semi-agricultural use.

The collection of buildings framing the courtyard respect a consistent language of materials and placement, driven by this agricultural aesthetic. Roof finishes of corrugated metal also wrap the outer facade of the central shop define a threshold between courtyard and the wider site. The red metal offers a break in massing from the darker sinusoidal, reflecting the warmer tones of the autumnal landscape and reminiscent of traditional lime wash longhouses.

The industrial cladding provides a hardwearing and protective exterior in combination with dark treated timber boards. Where key routes carve through the buildings into the interior of the courtyard a lighter timber cladding is used at ground floor level, to provide a warmer and more tactile aesthetic to welcome and guide visitors into the heart of the site. Interpretation and information panels will be integrated into the external finishes. Treated timber is utilised on the welfare block, with cladding mirrored on the adjacent external plant and bike store, offering a softer backdrop to the play area and natural landscape.



Historic references showing traditional agricultural materials in use, contrasted with modern precedents elevating the material use

MATERIAL PALETTE

1. Black Colour Coated Metal Cladding - sinusoidal profile for external wall and roofing
2. Red Colour Coated Metal Cladding - sinusoidal profile for external wall and roofing
3. Untreated Vertical Timber Cladding - natural larch or Western Red Cedar in wide and narrow format
4. Treated Vertical Timber Cladding - painted larch or western red cedar in wide and narrow format
5. Woodwool board - exposed finish to underside of vaulted ceiling within main shop space
6. Textured Black Brick - to substructure masonry
7. Softwood Timber - for offsite manufactured structural timber frame



LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY

The landscape strategy connects and enhances the Elidir Trail entrance with the new visitor facilities and car park to provide legibility and coherence, sustain the most important aspects of the landscape character and wildlife corridors, whilst also reducing vehicle impacts on the Pontneathvaughan Road (B4242).

The landscape strategy helps to define 2 clear zones:

- The courtyard within the proposed development centre, which acts as a family-focused hub and is centred on a new play park and seating with a more structured mix of hard and soft landscaping directing a clear route through the site;
- The wildflower meadow, which provides a natural buffer between the village edge and proposed development and car park, it marks a point of arrival in the village and offers a bio-diverse landscape with meandering pathways, opportunities to pause, play and reflect which can be enjoyed by visitors to the site and local residents.

The landscape proposal provides defined connections leading to Pontneathvaughan Road through the two zones, directing visitors from the car and coach parking areas, through to the central courtyard hub and via the natural landscaping through to the village centre and entrance to the waterfall trail.

In addition, the existing area of public hardscape to the north of Pontneathvaughan Road will be reduced, re-introducing areas of soft landscaping to support bio-diversity and improve the aesthetic appeal at the entrance to the village.

A number of cycle parking stands will be provided within the space to promote sustainable travel as detailed on the landscape drawings accompanying this set of information.

Generally the landscape will provide:

- Additional outdoor seating
- Safe pedestrian routes from parking areas to the centre
- Clear signage to guide visitor behaviour
- Integrated interpretation and way-finding



Initial sketch proposal and design development with precedent study