

Best Small Commercial Project

Harlech Visitor Centre

Prosiect Masnachol Bach Gorau

Canolfan Ymwelwyr Castell Harlech

R. L. Davies & Son Ltd



This project comprises the change of use of an existing hotel, into a building which includes a reception area for the adjacent Harlech Castle, a shop, a café/restaurant, and self catering apartments. By being a World Heritage site, lengthy consultations had to be made with the Welsh Government and UNESCO. Contact was made by Cadw at an early stage to discuss design proposals with the local Building Control Team. It became evident from the outset that "Green Issues" and environmental targets formed an important part of the client's criteria. The old stone built building had to achieve BREEAM standards, not only in construction terms, but in operational use as well. Some of the items introduced to the project to achieve BREEAM were a Air Source Heat Pump, Photovoltaic Panels, a Green Roof for the extension which included the café, LED lighting throughout, and attenuation tanks for the rainfall. Trees were also planted in nearby forests, to offset the estimated energy use of the luminaires over the next twenty years. The positive constructive approach by the main contractor was refreshing, working on an old building adjacent to a historic monument. The contractor and Building Control worked closely with Cadw, especially when archaeological investigatory work unearthed human remains which affected the construction work on site. The general standard of work on the new extension, and the careful construction work on the existing building was of the highest order. Cement pointing had to be removed and replaced with authentic and appropriately applied lime based mortars and plaster to ensure that the traditional walls were allowed to "breathe" once again. All timber sash windows removed, repaired and re-fitted. Cadw commented that on this project, and by adopting a "best practice" approach, they had experienced an unprecedented level of team work, problem solving communication and innovation throughout the project – which delivered an excellent building to sit alongside a World Heritage Building.

Mae'r prosiect yma yn cynnwys newid defnydd gwesty presennol i fod yn adeilad sy'n cynnwys ardal dderbynfa i Gastell Harlech sydd gerllaw, siop, caff/bwyty a fflatiau hunan-ddarpar. Gan fod y safle yn un Treftadaeth y Byd bu'n rhaid mynd drwy ymgynghoriadau maith gyda Llywodraeth Cymru a UNESCO. Cysylltodd Cadw gyda ni yn fuan i drafod y cynigion dylunio gyda'r Tîm Rheolaeth Adeiladu Lleol. Daeth yn amlwg o'r dechrau fod 'Materion Gwyrdd' a thargedau amgylcheddol yn rhan bwysig o feini prawf y cleient. Roedd angen i'r hen adeilad garreg gyrraedd safonau BREEAM, nid yn unig o ran adeiladu ond hefyd o ran defnydd gweithredol. Rhai o'r eitemau a gyflwynwyd i'r prosiect i gyrraedd safonau BREEAM oedd Pwmp Gwres Ffynhonnell Aer, Panel Ffotofoltaiig, To Gwyrdd i'r estyniad oedd yn cynnwys caff, goleuadau LED a thanciau gwanhau i'r glaw. Yn ogystal, plannwyd coed mewn coedwigoedd cyfagos i unioni'r ynni goleuol a amcangyfrifir a ddefnyddir yn ystod yr ugain mlynedd nesaf. Roedd y dull adeiladol a chadarnhaol a ddefnyddiodd y prif contractwr yn galondid, gweithio ar hen adeilad ger heneb hanesyddol. Gweithiodd y contractwr a Rheolaeth Adeiladu yn agos gyda Cadw, yn enwedig pan ddaeth gwaith archeolegol ymchwilol ar draws gweddillion dynol a effeithiodd ar y gwaith adeiladu ar y safle. Roedd safon cyffredinol y gwaith ar yr estyniad newydd a'r gwaith adeiladu gofalus ar yr adeilad presennol o'r safon uchaf. Roedd yn rhaid tynnu gwaith pwyntio a wnaed gyda sment gan roi morter a phlastr calch dilys priodol yn ei le i sicrhau bod y walliau traddodiadol yn gallu 'anadlu' unwaith yn rhagor. Tynnwyd, adnewyddwyd ac ail-osodwyd yr holl ffenestri codi pren. Cafwyd sylwadau Cadw ar y prosiect oedd yn datgan - drwy fabwysiadu dull 'arfer gorau' cafwyd lefel heb ei hail o waith tîm, datrys problemau, cyfathrebu a blaengaredd drwy gydol y prosiect ac ar y diwedd cafwyd adeilad ardderchog i eistedd ger Adeilad Treftadaeth y Byd.

