



CASE STUDY: HEALTH

BETWS-Y-COED PRIMARY CARE CENTRE





Facilities

- Reception, waiting areas and child's play area
- Six Consulting, Examination and Treatment Rooms
- Nurses Interview Room and District Nurse Accommodation
- Dispensary
- Meeting Room and Library
- Management and Clerical Support Accommodation
- Staff common room and kitchen

Sustainability Overview

- The scheme was developed within a tight timescale in order to retain the local health service for the residents of Betws-Y-Coed, rather than relocate the service to a district wide out of town location. Keeping the facility in Betws-Y-Coed ensures a source of employment for local people and reduces staff and patient travel distances and associated carbon footprint for the patients visiting the surgery.
 - Locally sourced building materials were specified including the use of traditional welsh materials including stone and slate off-cuts.
 - The building was designed to ensure good levels of natural daylight within the building with the aim of reducing the reliance on artificial lighting.
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Name of Building

Betws-Y-Coed Primary Care Centre

Date Completed

August 2007

Project Cost

£750,000

Building Type

Health

Location

Betws-Y-Coed, Denbighshire

Client

Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust
Dr's Marshall and Mackereth

Main Contractor and Developer

Castlemead Group Ltd.

Building Overview

Located within the visually sensitive Snowdonia National Park, this project involved the design of a new Doctor's Surgery within the village of Betws-Y-Coed in North Wales. The local GP practice had been renting substandard premises with a short term lease which was not compliant with the current Disabled Discrimination Act or Health and Safety Requirements. Alternative accommodation was urgently required in order to retain the much needed local facility.

Ainsley Gommon Architects worked in partnership with Castlemead Developments to appraise the possible development sites within the village, but due to the limited availability of brownfield land and challenging topography of the local landscape, many of the potential sites were not accessible or affordable. The chosen site just outside the settlement boundary in Pentre Du presented a challenge of a small stream running along parallel to the site entrance. The scheme was developed in close consultation with the National Park's Planning Department, and a culvert under the vehicular and pedestrian access was specially designed in accordance with the Environment Agency's guidelines to ensure the development did not restrict the passage of wildlife along the stream.

The layout of the building was carefully considered and the distinctive splayed plan form was designed to allow the building to act as a shield between the adjacent houses and the public access and car park. The building provides two consulting rooms, two treatment rooms, a nurses' treatment room, a dispensary, clerical support accommodation and staff areas. The materiality of the building was carefully considered with traditional Welsh materials of stone, slate and white render were used to allow the building to complement the surrounding environment.

