

# Trentham Gardens

## Visitor Centre & Retail Units

Plus Design and Build has constructed a visitor centre and 21 retail units at the newly revitalised Trentham Gardens, near Stoke On Trent.

### The Client

Trentham Gardens is undergoing a £100m regeneration programme aimed at creating a unique visitor destination of national significance. The gardens were originally designed by Lancelot Brown in 1759 and amongst the attractions offered are walks and trails around 400 acres of woodland and lake, restored Italianate Gardens, a Monkey Forest, garden centre and shopping village. Trentham Gardens, is owned and operated by St. Modwen Properties PLC.

### The Brief

The client required a new visitor centre and a number of retail units sited at the main entrance to the Gardens. They had to be laid out in a village arrangement with one main street linking all and to blend in with the woodland setting.

The visitor centre would house graphic displays, a ticket office and toilet block and generally acquaint arriving visitors of the attractions available. It had to make an immediate impact on all who have to pass through it to access the grounds.

The 21 retail units, which make up the first phase of the development, would be housed in 7 buildings, each of a slightly different design but all constructed from similar materials.

Leading specialists in the manufacture of timber buildings were invited to submit proposals and that submitted by Plus Design and Build (PDB) was accepted, not only on its competitive price but also in recognition that the Bakewell based company had great experience in designing similar buildings for environmentally sensitive areas.

### The Specification

All the buildings are based on original concepts prepared by architects Peter Hing & Jones, but PDB design team were asked to complete the technical detailing to ensure that the new buildings would meet stringent planning constraints imposed by Staffordshire County Council.



Retail units laid out in a 'village' arrangement.



The open vaulted roof of the visitors centre.

The visitor centre combines environmentally friendly architecture with stylish practicality. It is an eight sided, cone shaped timber building with an overhanging roof, supported by three timber columns.

The building is constructed with timber frame panels externally clad in horizontal tongue and grooved Siberian larch, derived from sustainable forests. Slow growing, close-grained larch is very durable and requires no further treatment. It ages naturally over time, taking on a patina of its own.

The window and door frames are of douglas fir laminated to Siberian larch to match the cladding. To contrast, the roof has tiles made from western red cedar shingles.

Internally, the visitor centre has a dramatic open vaulted roof using glulam beams, purlins, posts and trusses where appropriate. Glazed lantern roof panels provide high levels of natural light at all times of the day.

Manufactured from the same materials, the retail units are of a more conventional 'chalet' type design incorporating large windows and glazed doors to the elevation facing the street. The internal walls were lined with plasterboard ready to accept the shop fittings selected by each retailer.





Visitor centre viewed from the bridge into the Gardens.

All buildings are wheelchair friendly having wide access doors, modified WCs etc.

#### Client Benefits

Already very successful, work is shortly to commence on a second phase of the development to provide more retail units.

Client: St. Modwen Properties PLC  
Location: Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire



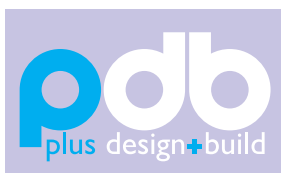
Retail units.



An example of one of the retail units.



Front elevation of one of the retail units.



Plus Design and Build Limited  
Riverside Business Park Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1GS  
01629 816770 admin@plusdesignbuild.co.uk  
[www.plusdesignbuild.co.uk](http://www.plusdesignbuild.co.uk)