



Sulwath Centre RSPB / Mersehead
Public Sector Case Study

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The Brief

Following the production of our feasibility study carried out on the existing group of buildings at Mersehead, which looked at various options to improve the existing facilities, it was decided to convert Mersehead Farmhouse into a new visitor and education centre with volunteer accommodation. Reducing the energy consumption and the new centres carbon footprint was paramount through the use of alternative biomass fuel sources and solar collection.

The Solution

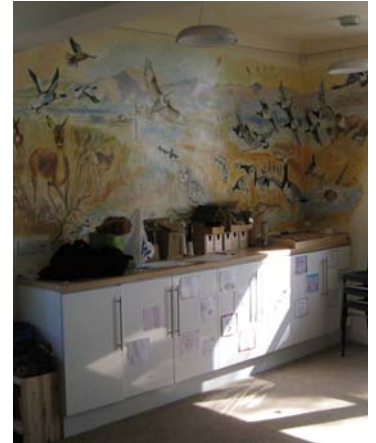
The existing farmhouse was split horizontally into the new visitor and education centre on the ground floor and volunteer accommodation on the first floor. This allowed the required fire separation to be installed at first floor level within the floor construction minimising the intrusion into the existing structure. More recent insertions and extensions were removed to restore the

£320,000 project delivered on time and within budget

appearance of the original farmhouse with new office accommodation extended into the adjoining steading. A wood pellet boiler was installed reducing the centres carbon footprint by at least 75% and solar water heating panels installed to reduce the demand on the boiler.

The Outcome

The Sulwath Centre has been a great success, delivered on time and within budget. Local and national schools are taking advantage of the excellent education facilities provided, with great feedback from employees and visitors alike. By rationalising the existing building and replacing poor additions we have been able to convert the existing farmhouse to a modern education and visitors centre while maintaining and improving the original character of the farmhouse.



Client Comments:

"The staff at Bell Ingram Design were an integral part of the team on the Sulwath Centre project. Their creativity, professionalism and enthusiasm made a substantial contribution to the success of the building, which is now delivering quality environmental lifelong learning on the Solway"