

Constructing Excellence in Wales

*Awards Winners 2011*

# Constructing Excellence in Wales Awards 2011



The fifth Constructing Excellence in Wales Awards took place in July at the Holland House Hotel in front of a sell out audience of over 400 guests and was a true celebration of all that is great about our construction industry. Despite the economic gloom and doom and doubts about projects and work streams the whole supply chain demonstrated once again that not only is Wales leading the UK in best practice and collaborative working, we lead the whole country in terms of developing a low carbon construction sector. Throughout the night, the low carbon message came across loud and clear. Whether it was the Passivhaus, Greenhill School or the BREEAM Awards themselves that were also presented that evening, it was clear that Wales has grasped the importance of sustainability. But what struck me was the superb quality of our sector – indeed the judges had a very hard time picking out some winners. Inspiring individuals such as Ian Flower, the achiever of the year, and organisations such as Airbus and Carmarthenshire County Council showed what great leadership can achieve; whilst projects such as the A40 improvements have set a new benchmark for our industry. It was a great night for Wales and proves that we can, working as a team, build ourselves out of recession and create a low carbon infrastructure that helps the economy to grow. But at the CEW Awards everyone is a winner – now let's see if we can go on to be recognised at the CE National Awards as we have in the past few years. Well done to everyone and thank you to our sponsors and all of you for a memorable evening.

**Richard Wilson** Chairman, Constructing Excellence in Wales

## The Judges

The independent judging panel for the awards has been selected from across all sectors of the industry, both public and private. Their wealth of knowledge and experience is matched by the breadth and quality of the projects in Wales. We are delighted to introduce our judging panel to you this evening.

- Tony Crotty** – Director, Green Triangle Management Systems Ltd.
- Derek Downer** – 21st Century Schools Manager
- Mike Edmonds** – Consultant, CEW
- Chris Gray** – Managing Director, C D Gray & Associates Ltd.
- Richard Jenkins** – Director for FMB in Wales
- Stella Saunders** – Cardiff County Council
- Colin King** – Associate Director, BRE
- Colwyn Knight** – Group Innovation Director, Castleoak
- Simon Lander** – Partner, ChandlerKBS
- Sally Sudworth** – Director, Wales Low/Zero Carbon Hub
- Tony Norris** – Partner/Head of Infrastructure and Strategic Projects, Geldards
- Beth Winkley** – Head of WRAP Cymru, Waste & Resource Action Programme
- Rhodri-Gwynn Jones** – Civil Engineering Contractors Association (Wales) Ltd.
- Harry Meese** – Managing Director, CW Electrical and Crimewatch Alarms Ltd.
- Jane Wade** – Operational Manager Property, Vale of Glamorgan Council
- Pierre Wassenaar** – President of the Royal Society of Architects in Wales
- Andrew Wedlake** – Operations Manager for Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd.
- Jim Owen** – Environment & Quality Manager, Willmott Dixon Construction

# Integration & Collaborative Working

Carmarthenshire County Council  
Partnering Framework



Based upon the Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water AMP 3 partnering model, the framework has facilitated £160million construction investment in Carmarthenshire, including renovation of housing stock and the build and refurbishment of schools, leisure centres and theatres. Projects have been delivered on-time, on-cost, and with no disputes. The judges were impressed that strong leadership and commitment from the team had helped overcome initial hurdles and that the project has successfully benefitted a wide range of suppliers as well as the community. It has encouraged the participation of second tier suppliers and SMEs; allowed business planning, IT and H&S training for SMEs as well as providing some excellent structured apprenticeship schemes and education of the supply chain. Whilst the framework began in 2002, it became energized in 2007 and gained real momentum. What impressed the judges most was the team ethos and emphasis on sharing.

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# Leadership and People Development

City & County of Swansea,  
Corporate Building & Property Services



After many years of minimum investment, the City & County of Swansea's Corporate Building & Property Services (CB&PS) is currently undertaking a major programme of staff training and development. This is taking form through a number of initiatives and together they are all aiming to produce a skilled workforce to meet the needs of the 21st century. Part of its "cradle to grave" strategy relates to the specific targeting of its apprentices and pre-apprenticeship strategies aimed at developing the future capacity and skills for the organisation to enable it to meet customer expectations. The judges said that the team leading the project demonstrated real commitment and they were impressed by the decision to go right back to schools to help influence career choices. The judges commented that the actions of CB&PS are helping to catch up with the private sector as well as influence other local authorities and client organisations.

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# SME Award

Holbrook Timber Frame Ltd



Taking on a demanding, innovative concept, Holbrook was challenged by United Welsh Housing Association and Bere Architects to design, manufacture and produce a building fabric capable of delivering the standard of insulation and airtightness to comply with the very demanding standards of Passivhaus and Code Level 6. It was clear to the judges that Holbrook is a cutting edge business, keen to push the boundaries in construction. This was shown in the way the directors worked closely with Bere and BRE Wales, visited Austria and Germany to learn about Passivhaus, and then applied the current best practice. Holbrook collaborated prior to manufacture and then right through the project. The result was that the Larch House achieved one of the lowest air tightness figures in the UK to date. The approach of Holbrook throughout embraced innovative design and manufacturing techniques with a strong emphasis on health and safety and collaboration.

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# Innovation

The UK's First Zero Carbon Passivhaus



As a Passivhaus, the Larch House is the first zero carbon (code 6), low cost, certified Passivhaus in the UK. It was built as prototype social housing on the brown field site of the disused, former steelworks at Ebbw Vale. It encompasses a design standard that seeks to eliminate as far as possible, the need for space heating and cooling by reducing heat loss to a minimum. This is in line with Welsh Government targets and is vital if the industry is to build houses that reduce household energy bills and protect people from fuel poverty. The judges recognised that it is a radical new concept and that sustainability is built into the design as well as the build process itself. The judges observed that lessons from the scheme will go far beyond just the housing sector and that the wider implications of the concept are enormous. The results from the Passivhaus now need to be tracked, updated and then monitored once the house is being lived in.

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# Low/Zero Carbon

Greenhill Primary School



Insulated walls, floors and roof, a rainwater recycling system, four wind turbines and the largest array of solar PV panels on a school anywhere in the UK. These are just some of the outstanding features of Greenhill School, the rebuild by Caerphilly County Borough Council that demonstrates the council's commitment to sustainability and to using the feed in tariff. With its turbines and great use of solar technology producing electricity for the school, a Combined Heat and Power unit providing hot water and generating electricity, Greenhill is expected to be the most energy self sufficient school in the UK. The judges noted that it is carbon negative, has a BREEAM excellent score, but also represents good value for money and the project went through a good handover and is operating well.

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# Achievers Award

Ian Flower



The winner of this award is selected from individuals that have made a difference to Welsh construction and the world that we live in. This year, one senior professional shone through because of his work in challenging environments: Ian Flower.

Despite a demanding job as Regional Director of Mott MacDonald, on returning from a church organised trip to Africa, Ian established an infrastructure to enable young engineers to get involved with schemes in Gambia and Uganda. This was the beginning of EFOD (Engineers for Overseas Development) that, under his guidance, helped graduates raise funds, plan projects and arrange scheme logistics.

Over the past ten years groups of graduates have gone to Africa helping with the construction of anything from hospital incinerators, water supplies and an orphanage. There is real momentum with significant numbers of Welsh graduates involved: great for the communities of Gambia and Uganda and valuable experience for young civil engineers in the Welsh built environment. That is why, Ian Flower, recently retired from Mott MacDonald, is the winner of the Constructing Excellence in Wales Achiever Award for 2011.

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# Waste Minimisation

Church Village Bypass



The judges were very impressed with the entire Church Village Bypass project and said it exemplifies what can be achieved on a major project in respect of waste reduction, incorporation of recycled product and use of waste resources to provide unique engineering solutions. In particular the re-use of the tyres which had previously been landfilled on the route of the new bypass is a perfect example of how an imaginative and innovative engineering team, working in collaboration with their client, were able to turn a substantial tonnage of waste into a usable engineering material. By this action alone Costain achieved a significant reduction in the potential carbon footprint of the project, coupled with a significant cost saving by avoiding landfill and the cost of importing virgin materials. The project is already part of Constructing Excellence in Wales' Demonstration Programme and is held up as an example of best practice in the construction sector.

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# Client of the Year

Airbus Operations Ltd



The North Factory Project at Airbus Operations' Broughton site is vast in its scale and technically challenging. The 52,000m<sup>2</sup> wing assembly facility will create the next generation of aircraft and will play a pivotal role in the development of the UK's aviation industry. At its peak some 300 people have been involved with the scheme employed via 15 supply chain partners, made up from a significant number of local companies. The need to minimise waste on site; meet technical design and engineering challenges and overall, deliver what is a core project for Airbus and the UK aviation industry demanded strong leadership. The judges said this was very apparent, along with a vision and clear strategy. The overall management of the process was very impressive, demonstrating a holistic approach that was difficult to improve upon. The personal commitment to build the team came over clearly; the 'no blame' culture the project team aspired to was genuine not just lip service and it was clear to the judges that the entire workforce supported this approach.

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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Project of the Year

## A40 Trunk Road Penblewin to Slebech Park Scheme



The A40 improvement scheme between Penblewin to Slebech Park has set new highway engineering standards in Wales, producing economically viable and innovative solutions to challenging engineering and environmental issues. The 4.6Km project includes four bridges, three underpasses, a 170m long retaining wall and fourteen culverts. The '2+1' carriageway, the first of its kind in Wales, illustrated the approach of the project team and the judges noted that it had been thought through and implemented well. The team ethos was very strong and shone through in the approach to bio diversity, dealing with environmental issues such as water treatment ponds and wild mammal resistant fencing. It was clear to the judges that Costain explained the benefits of the scheme to the community and at each stage of the scheme were committed to sharing the lessons learned amongst the industry and the supply chain.

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# BREEAM®

## Summary

The BREEAM Awards Wales 2011 recognise and reward the highest scoring buildings in Wales under BREEAM. The winning buildings have all been independently assessed and certified – and as such represent genuine examples of sustainability and are some of the best examples of sustainable design and construction across Wales. Over 200,000 buildings are now certified under BREEAM, which is now 21-years old and that has helped to create value in the built environment through better performance, encouraging continuous improvement, helping to reduce costs and generate income.

*There are seven winning developments in Wales in 2011.*



### **BREEAM Offices: Monmouthshire Housing Association**

The housing association office is located in Mamhilad Technology Park and incorporates a sophisticated system of natural ventilation and a rainwater harvesting tank. An ecologist was appointed at an early stage to promote the overall biodiversity value of the site. Local products and contractors were sourced and over 80% of the material used was Green Guide A-rated.



### **BREEAM Higher Education: Aberystwyth University – IBERS Penglais**

The Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) building at Aberystwyth includes laboratories, seminar space and a cafe/social area over two stories and is designed around shallow building depths to maximise the benefits of solar gain with appropriate shading and natural ventilation.



### **BREEAM Health: Loudoun Square, Cardiff**

This healthcare facility is part of larger regeneration development to the Butetown area of Cardiff and its high BREEAM rating was a result of measures including a biomass boiler, rainwater harvesting, and excellent transport facilities and reducing the levels of waste.



### **BREEAM Courts: Port Talbot Justice Centre.**

There is no “green bling” proposed on this building, as the careful design of the building itself regulates its environment through measures including a super insulated and air tight façade, and enhanced day lighting to reduce reliance on artificial lighting.



### **BREEAM Education – Coleg Menai Energy and Fabrication Centre, Bangor**

The centre provides excellent training facilities for students. Collectively the building's low energy measures have led to a 24% reduction in the building's CO2 emissions.



### **BREEAM Prisons – BREEAM Prisons: Houseblock 1, HMP Parc, Bridgend.**

Sustainability was at the heart of the design for the new 10,500m<sup>2</sup> house block built as part of a £47m expansion of the prison, with particular features including natural ventilation and good daylight, 14% reduction in the building's CO2 emissions, low water-use sanitary fittings and rainwater recycling.



### **BREEAM Bespoke: Works 2/'Y Ffwrnes', Llanelli.**

Key features of the development that have helped achieve its high BREEAM rating include extensive community consultation, proactive on-site management to ensure reduced energy and water consumption, and maximum use of A and A+ rated Green Guide to Specification materials.

# Sponsors



## Leadbitter Group

Founded forty years ago and with a £400m turnover, Leadbitter Group operates throughout Central, Eastern, Southern and South West England and South Wales in both the construction and affordable housing markets. Leadbitter employees are proud that the company supports community activities and are excited by the prospect of constructing schools, hospitals and local facilities used by families and friends. The company's expertise across all building sectors, combined with its leadership in the areas of corporate social responsibility, community engagement and environmental preservation, makes the Leadbitter Group a construction partner of choice.



## Welsh Government

The Welsh Government is the devolved government of Wales accountable to the National Assembly of Wales. It is responsible for most of the day-to-day issues for example health, education, local government, economic development and planning. A key objective is to support the growth and development of a strong economy for businesses, people and communities in Wales, placing sustainable development as a central organising principle. Its vision for economic renewal is of a Welsh economy built upon the strengths and skills of its people and natural environment; recognised at home and abroad as confident, creative and ambitious; a great place to live and work.



## CLAW

CLAW, the Consortium of Local Authorities in Wales, has an important role as the leading Welsh local government forum for the management of property assets in the public sector. With close links to the Welsh Government and the Wales Audit Office the main purpose of the organisation is to assist authorities with sharing best practice, training and development needs, and the development of common standards. CLAW welcomes the opportunity to sponsor the CEW Awards for 2011 and looks forward to continued and strengthened links with CEW for the future. [www.claw.gov.uk](http://www.claw.gov.uk)



## BRE Wales

BRE Wales was set up in August 2005 with the objective of facilitating sustainability and innovation in the built environment. BRE is ideally placed to provide an extensive range of value added consultancy services and best practice guidance on the delivery of low carbon buildings. BRE are world leading experts on Passivhaus, low energy refurbishment, renewable energy, the Code for Sustainable Homes, BREEAM and energy modelling. These services will help the sector meet the challenges of providing sustainable, affordable, quality buildings that people enjoy living and working in.



## Working Well Together

The Working Well Together (WWT) Campaign is an industry led initiative which helps support micro and small businesses improve their health and safety performance. The campaign attracts members from across the industry spectrum and includes representatives from major contractors, training organisations, councils and suppliers. They do this by offering free information and advice at Safety and Health Awareness Days and Designer Awareness Days which include the opportunity to see the latest equipment and services available.



## Value Wales

The Welsh Government established its Value Wales arm as a catalyst for change across the public sector, to help organisations achieve real and sustainable improvements and realise value for money opportunities. The Welsh Government has set out its commitments to sustainability and Value Wales undertakes to incorporate delivery of these commitments through its work with the public sector. For some time Welsh Government has been at the forefront of developing Sustainable Procurement across the Welsh public sector and more recently has focused onto Construction as an integral part of its agenda and this is reflected throughout the work of Value Wales.



## South East Wales Club

The SE Wales Club is a vibrant club providing a stimulus for the sharing of ideas and best practice across the region as well as building important links with the other Clubs and industry groups. The Club has an important role in reaching out not just to the industry itself, but to the communities affected by the developments. It organises events to share best practice amongst members, to educate school children and local people and plays a central role in creating a sustainable future for the industry in SE Wales.



## Green Compass Scheme

The Green Compass Scheme has been developed after extensive work and consultation by Constructing Excellence in Wales in developing PAS 402:2009. It recognises the construction industry's increasing awareness of the sustainability agenda and its need for reliable recycling data which can only be provided by waste management companies. It is intended that the Green Compass Scheme will be recognised as the leading methodology for independent inspection against PAS 402. With monies from the Welsh European Funding Office, Constructing Excellence in Wales has supported nearly 70 Welsh companies through the process of reporting and inspection. By the end of 2011 the Green Compass Scheme will boast a membership of close to 100 waste companies.



## Hugh James

Hugh James is a top 100 UK law firm and a leading Welsh practice, delivering a comprehensive range of legal services across the UK from offices in Cardiff and London. This highly innovative firm creates competitive advantage through a blend of quality advice, excellence in client service, and bespoke technical systems. The firm's highly-regarded construction, energy & projects team, recognised as one of the top 20 construction legal teams in the UK, advises the public and private sectors on every aspect of construction and engineering projects, including the energy sector.

# Help for Heroes



## CEW members and supporters generously raised £3,200 for Help for Heroes at the awards dinner.

Help for Heroes was founded in October 2007 out of a desire to help wounded Servicemen and women.

"It's about the 'blokes', our men and women of the Armed Forces. It's about Derek, a rugby player who has lost both his legs, it's about Carl whose jaw is wired up so he has been drinking through a straw. It's about Richard who was handed a mobile phone as he lay on the stretcher so he could say goodbye to his wife. It's about Ben, it's about Steven and Andy and Mark, it's about them all. They are just blokes but they are our blokes; they are our heroes. We want to help our heroes."

**ADEILADU  
ARBENIGRWYDD  
YNG NGHYMRU**



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2nd Floor East / 2il Lawr  
Longcross Court / Cwrt Longcross,  
47 Newport Road / 47 Heol Casnewydd  
Cardiff / Caerdydd CF24 0AD

T 02920 493322  
F 02920 493233

[www.cewales.org.uk](http://www.cewales.org.uk)

