

Proposed Training Centre

Land at Parkway, Pen y Fan Industrial Estate, Croespenmaen

Planning, Design and Access Statement | July 2026

Architects and Town Planners

RIBA

RTPI Chartered Town Planners

Architects Registration Board

1. Introduction

1.1 This statement has been prepared on behalf of the Applicant, **Rob Morris Groundworks Ltd**, to support a full planning application for the construction of a new Construction Training Centre, car parking, access arrangements, and associated works on land at Parkway, Pen y Fan Industrial Estate, Croespenmaen, Oakdale.

1.2 The statement should be read in conjunction with the following supporting documents and technical reports:

- Proposed Site Location & Block Plans
- Proposed Floor Plans & Elevations
- Contextual Site Sections & Levels Plan
- Preliminary Ecological Assessment
- Green Infrastructure Statement
- Landscape Specification and Management Plan
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment
- Contaminated Land Investigation
- Operational Training Plan

1.3 The site lies within the established Pen y Fan Industrial Estate in Croespenmaen, Oakdale. The surrounding townscape is defined by a variety of commercial and industrial premises, reflecting the well-established employment character of the area.

1.4 The wider setting is predominantly industrial and commercial in nature, containing a mix of manufacturing, distribution, and construction-related facilities. The site represents a prominent parcel of vacant, allocated employment land within the estate.

1.5 The site benefits from excellent road links to the surrounding region via the main arterial network of Parkway, which connects directly to the A467, providing efficient access to the wider South Wales region and the M4 corridor.

1.6 The applicant, Rob Morris Groundworks Ltd, is an established business already operating successfully within Pen y Fan Industrial Estate. The company has a proven track record as a leading provider of groundworks apprenticeships and practical construction skills training in South Wales.

1.7 The business previously operated from rented premises at Wimborne Road, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 3DH, where it had been established for more than 10 years. However, at the beginning of June 2025, the applicants were given only three months' notice to vacate the site, as the landlord intended to redevelop the premises. The limited notice period placed the business under significant pressure to identify and secure suitable alternative premises within a short timeframe.

1.8 At the time, the business employed 12 full-time members of staff and supported approximately 40 apprentices. Given the limited notice period, the need to secure alternative premises quickly and the financial difficulties being experienced by Braces, the applicants agreed to a quick sale of the existing land and the acquisition of the Pen-y-Fan site. Importantly, the Pen-y-Fan site was allocated for employment development within the adopted LDP and therefore provided an appropriate opportunity to secure a suitable long-term location for the business.

1.9 The relocation has enabled the business to continue operating, safeguard the existing 12 full-time jobs and support approximately 40 apprenticeship positions, whilst securing the future of the business at a site identified for employment purposes through the development plan.reason for the relocation was that the applicants were given three months' notice at the beginning of June 2025 to vacate their rented premises at Wimborne Road, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 3DH. The business had been operating from the site for more than 10 years, but the landlord intended to redevelop the premises.

1.10 This statement explains the concept and principles of the development in relation to accessibility, character, community safety, environmental sustainability, and movement, and assesses the proposal against the relevant Planning Policy framework.

1.11 The statement demonstrates that the proposal accords with relevant National and Local Planning Policy and other material planning policy considerations.

2. Planning History

2.1 The site benefits from the following planning history;

Application Ref	Description	Decision
2/11971	Extension to Industrial Premises, Provision of Additional Parking Facilities and Associated Landfill.	Approved
2/04349	New production units, site works, car parking and ancillary buildings.	Approved
2/07162	Application relates to the detonator storage building and the Detonator Transfer Store (D.T.S.) which require special use classification.	Approved
2/07395	The construction of a detonator store building which requires special use classification.	Approved
SPA/25/0082	Pre-application enquiry Construct new training centre at: Parkway, Pen-y-fan Industrial Estate, Pen-y-fan.	
SPA/26/0024	Pre-application enquiry Construct new training centre at: Parkway, Pen-y-fan Industrial Estate, Pen-y-fan	

3. National & Local Policy

3.1 **Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12)** was revised and restructured in February 2024. Its primary objective is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. PPW and the National Development Framework (published as **Future Wales – the National Plan 2040**) set out how the planning system at a national, regional and local level can assist in delivering these requirements through Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and Local Development Plans (LDPs).

3.2 Section 2 seeks to achieve the creation of sustainable places and improve the well-being of communities.

3.3 Section 3 promotes good design as fundamental to creating sustainable places where people want to live, work and socialise.

3.4 The objectives of good design can be summarised into 5 key aspects illustrated on the attached figure.

3.5 Design is not just about the architecture of a building but the relationship between all elements of the natural and built environment and between people and places. Meeting the objectives of good design should be the aim of all those involved in the development process and applied to all development proposals, at all scales.

3.6 With regard to environmental sustainability, PPW states 'Good design promotes environmental sustainability and contributes to the achievement of the well-being goals. Developments should seek to maximise energy efficiency and the efficient use of other resources (including land), maximise sustainable movement, minimise the use of non-renewable resources, encourage decarbonisation and prevent the generation of waste and pollution.' Wherever possible, PPW encourages the use of brownfield sites in preference to greenfield sites where it is suitable for development.

3.7 Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 12: Design, sets out the Welsh Government's detailed advice on how to achieve good design in all development at every scale throughout Wales



3.8 The guidance sets out the Assembly's objectives for good design, namely:

- Access – ensuring ease of access for all.
- Character – sustaining or enhancing local character. Promoting legible development. Promoting a successful relationship between public and private space. Promoting quality, choice and variety. Promoting innovative design.
- Community safety – ensuring attractive, safe public spaces. Security through natural surveillance.
- Environmental sustainability – achieving efficient use and protection of natural resources. Enhancing biodiversity. Designing for change.
- Movement – promoting sustainable means of travel.

Technical Advice Notes

3.9 PPW is supported by a series of more detailed Technical Advice Notes (TANs), of which the following are of relevance:

- TAN 11: Noise
- TAN 12: Design

- TAN 23: Economic Development

Local Planning Policy

3.10 The current Development Plan is the adopted Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP) (November 2010). Policies relevant to the application proposal include:

Strategic Policies

- SP2 – Development Strategy;
- SP4 – Settlement Strategy;
- SP5 – Settlement Boundaries;
- SP6 – Place Making;
- SP16 – Managing Employment Growth; and
- SP21 – Parking Standards.

Countywide Policies

- CW1 – Sustainable Transport, Accessibility and Social Inclusion;
- CW2 – Amenity;
- CW3 – Design Considerations – Highways;
- CW4 – Natural Heritage Protection;
- CW5 – Protection of the Water Environment;
- CW6 – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerow Protection;
- CW13 – Use Class Restrictions – Business and Industry; and
- CW15 – General Locational Constraints.

Area Specific Policy

- EM2.10 – Pen y Fan Primary Employment Site.

3.11 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG's) are material considerations to be taken into account when determining a planning proposal. The following SPGs are considered relevant to the proposal:

- LDP4 – Trees and Development;
- LDP5 – Car Parking Standards; and
- LDP6 – Building Better Places to Live.

Note: Surface water drainage will be managed separately via the statutory SuDS Approval Body (SAB) process.

4. Pre-Application Consultation

4.1 The proposed development has been the subject of two formal pre-application enquiries with Caerphilly County Borough Council (references SPA/25/0082 and SPA/26/0024). The purpose of this engagement was to establish the acceptability of the principle of development and to obtain detailed design and technical feedback prior to the submission of a planning application.

4.2 Through the pre-application process, the Council confirmed that the proposed Construction Training Centre could be supported in principle as an ancillary employment use, recognising its functional relationship with the Applicant's established construction business and its contribution to skills development and workforce training within the construction industry.

4.3 The pre-application process has positively informed the evolution of the scheme. The submitted proposals incorporate amendments to the site layout, vehicular access, parking arrangement, landscape strategy, architectural detailing, boundary treatments and supporting technical information in response to comments from planning officers and specialist consultees. The Council also acknowledged the quality of the proposed architectural approach and its potential to make a positive contribution to the character of Pen y Fan Industrial Estate.

4.4 The accompanying planning application therefore represents the outcome of an iterative design process, demonstrating how the scheme has evolved to address technical and design considerations whilst maintaining the operational requirements of the proposed Training Centre.

5. Proposal and Policy Justification

Principle of Development

5.1 This planning application seeks full planning permission for the construction of a purpose-built regional Construction Training Centre, car parking, access arrangements, and associated external training areas on land at Parkway, Pen y Fan Industrial Estate.

5.2 The application site comprises a vacant parcel of land, allocated in the LDP for employment uses under Policy EM2.10. The proposals seek to secure the productive, long-term use of this allocated parcel through a high-quality scheme tailored specifically to regional skills delivery.

Design Evolution

5.3 The scheme is designed to operate as a regional Centre of Excellence, delivering apprenticeships, vocational learning, plant operator training, and continuing professional development for the construction sector.

5.4 The principle of establishing a training facility on this site is supported by the outcomes of pre-application enquiries **SPA/25/0082** and **SPA/26/0024**. The Council confirmed that while a training facility does not fall strictly within traditional B-class uses, its direct operational link to Rob Morris Groundworks Ltd establishes it as an appropriate ancillary employment use consistent with Policy CW13.

5.5 The layout and detailed design have evolved significantly in response to formal officer feedback during the pre-application process. Key amendments include repositioning the main vehicular access southwards along Parkway to protect existing mature trees, refining site levels, enhancing boundary landscaping, and modernizing building elevations.

5.6 CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) forecasts identify a critical, ongoing requirement for skilled construction personnel across Wales. The proposal directly responds to this demand by establishing purpose-designed learning environments and practical outdoor training zones.

Accommodation Breakdown:

Floor	Accommodation Included	Area (GIA approx.)
Ground Floor	Reception, café, welfare facilities, theory training rooms, health & safety teaching areas, R&D space, indoor practical training zones	~480 m²
First Floor	IT teaching rooms / classrooms, administrative offices, meeting rooms, staff accommodation	~478 m²
Total	**Two-storey regional facility**	**~958 m²**

Key components of the proposals include:

- A high-quality contemporary two-storey building forming a prominent visual enhancement along Parkway.
- 70 dedicated vehicle parking spaces, including accessible parking bays and secure cycle storage.
- Dedicated external practical training hardstandings, excavation practice zones, and bio-retention drainage features.
- A comprehensive landscape framework incorporating native planting and earth modelling to soften operational zones and enhance green infrastructure.
- Barrier-free, fully inclusive internal and external circulation routes ensuring equal accessibility for all users.

Planning Assessment / Key Planning Considerations

5.7 The principal issues for the Local Planning Authority in determining this planning application are considered to be:

- Principle of development and alignment with employment site allocations.
- Design, architectural quality, and visual impact on the industrial estate townscape.
- Highways, access, parking, and active travel provision.
- Environmental sustainability, landscape, ecology, and trees.
- Ground conditions and contaminated land considerations.

5.8 The proposals have been carefully developed to respond positively to each of these considerations and are demonstrably policy-compliant.

Principle of Development & Employment Land Allocation

5.9 The site lies within an allocated Primary Employment Site (LDP Policy EM2.10). In accordance with pre-application feedback and LDP Policy CW13, the proposed Construction Training Centre functions as an essential ancillary facility directly supporting the Applicant's existing, established groundworks business. The scheme brings an allocated employment site into active use while delivering significant economic investment in line with Strategic Policies SP2 and SP16.

Design, Scale, and Townscape Response

5.10 In accordance with LDP Policy SP6 and TAN 12, the proposed two-storey building introduces a modern architectural profile using high-quality cladding materials and generous glazing. This contemporary design enhances the character and appearance of the local streetscape compared to the standard, utilitarian units typical of the surrounding estate.

5.11 The architectural approach adopts a contemporary industrial design that reflects the established commercial character of Pen y Fan Industrial Estate whilst providing a distinctive identity for the Training Centre. A restrained palette of durable, high-quality materials together with generous areas of glazing has been selected to create an attractive and functional building that responds positively to Planning Policy Wales and Policy SP6.

5.12 The application is supported by detailed cross-sections through the site, which clearly illustrate how the proposed development and associated groundworks integrate with the built form and topography of the adjoining sites to the north and south.

5.13 The site levels have been carefully designed to integrate with, and accommodate, the requirements of the proposed sustainable drainage system (SuDS).

5.14 The accompanying computer-generated images further demonstrate the visual relationship of the proposal with its surroundings and address the Council's previous concerns regarding visual impact when viewed from Manmoel Road and Parkway Road.

5.15 The scale and footprint (~958 m² GIA) sit comfortably within the 1.38 hectare site, ensuring built structures are well integrated with surrounding land levels, boundary treatments, and practical training spaces.

Highways, Access, and Sustainable Travel

5.16 Following officer feedback, vehicular access off Parkway has been repositioned southwards to optimize junction safety and protect existing trees.

5.17 The site includes dedicated electric vehicle (EV) charging points, supporting compliance with Welsh Government targets for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

5.18 In accordance with LDP Policies CW1, CW3, and SP21, the scheme delivers 70 parking spaces (including accessible spaces) alongside secure cycle storage. Active travel linkages are supported to encourage sustainable modes of travel wherever feasible within the industrial estate setting.

Ecology, Trees, and Environmental Sustainability

5.19 The application is accompanied by a **Preliminary Ecological Assessment**, **Green Infrastructure Statement**, and **Arboricultural Impact Assessment**.

5.20 Retained trees along boundaries are fully safeguarded in accordance with SPG LDP4. New structural planting and bio-retention sustainable drainage features deliver a net

gain in local biodiversity and strengthen the site's green infrastructure, fully satisfying LDP Policies CW4, CW5, and CW6.

5.21 Ground conditions have been comprehensively evaluated via a **Contaminated Land Investigation**, confirming the site's suitability for the proposed commercial / educational use.

5.22 This application is accompanied by a **comprehensive Landscape Specification and Management plan**, and accompanying **Proposed Soft Landscaping** plans.

5.23 The Preliminary Ecological Assessment concludes:

*'This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has identified that the Site is of overall low ecological value**,** comprising predominantly disturbed and modified habitats within an established industrial landscape. No statutory designated sites are present within the Site, and no Important Ecological Features of more than local value have been identified that would be subject to likely significant effects because of the proposed development.*

The assessment has confirmed that the majority of habitats within the Site will be retained, with only small-scale clearance of mixed scrub/ scattered trees and modified grassland required to facilitate revised access arrangements to the north-east. These habitats are somewhat fragmented with the wider landscape and their removal is not anticipated to result in significant adverse effects on protected or notable species.
On this basis, no further protected species surveys, mitigation or licensing are required, and a full Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) is not considered necessary.'

5.24 The Green Infrastructure statement concludes:

*'The primary GI loss is the 15 no. trees that have been removed from within the site. This loss has been compensated **with 96 proposed new trees (in surplus to the 3:1 ratio required by PPW12).***

The loss of scrub in the north east corner has been compensated with a 7-metre-wide understorey plantation that runs the length of the southern and western boundaries and a 3-metre-wide buffer that runs the length of the northern boundary.
Existing green corridors along the eastern and western boundary will be retained and enhanced with new native trees and wildflower habitat.

These green corridors will be linked by the native understorey plantation along the southern boundary and the native hedgerow along the northern boundary.'

Operational Details/Training Plan (full details included as Appendix)

5.25 The proposed Construction Training Centre will operate as a purpose-built educational and vocational training facility delivering supervised practical construction and plant operator training within a safe, controlled and professionally managed environment.

5.26 The facility has been designed to replicate real construction site conditions through dedicated indoor and outdoor training areas, enabling the delivery of industry recognised qualifications and assessments accredited by organisations including CITB, CPCS, NPORS, NOCN, City & Guilds and Pearson. Training activities will comprise classroom-based instruction alongside practical exercises using construction plant, specialist equipment and temporary stockpiles of construction materials that are essential to realistic training scenarios.

5.27 All activities will be undertaken solely for training and assessment purposes and will not constitute commercial construction operations. The development has been designed to support a wide range of apprenticeship, vocational and continuing professional development programmes, with dedicated internal training facilities enabling year-round operation and reducing disruption caused by adverse weather conditions.

5.28 Overall, the facility will provide a modern Centre of Excellence for construction skills, increasing training capacity, supporting workforce development and helping address the recognised shortage of skilled construction professionals across Wales whilst ensuring that operations are managed in a safe, efficient and environmentally responsible manner.

6. Conclusion

6.1 This Planning, Design and Access Statement supports the application by Rob Morris Groundworks Ltd for the erection of a new Construction Training Centre, car parking, access arrangements, and associated works on land at Parkway, Pen y Fan Industrial Estate, Croespenmaen, Oakdale.

6.2 The proposals represent a high-quality and policy-compliant form of development which:

- Activates an underutilized parcel of allocated employment land under LDP Policy EM2.10;
- Reflects positive conclusions from pre-application enquiries (**SPA/25/0082** & **SPA/26/0024**), confirming the acceptability of an ancillary training facility under Policy CW13;
- Delivers a purpose-built Centre of Excellence addressing acute regional skills shortages in the Welsh construction sector;
- Establishes a standard of contemporary architectural design and site layout (LDP Policies SP6, CW3); and
- Integrates robust ecological, Arboricultural, and sustainable drainage solutions across the development (LDP Policies CW4, CW5, CW6).

6.3 The scheme delivers clear economic and educational benefits without adverse impacts on highway safety or local environmental assets.

6.4 The proposals fully accord with the adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan when read as a whole, as well as national planning guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12) and Future Wales 2040.

6.5 In light of the above, we respectfully request that planning permission be granted.

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Date: 22-05-2026

Introduction

The purpose of this Site Management Plan is to demonstrate how practical construction training activities will be managed safely, efficiently and responsibly, while minimising impacts on neighbouring properties, local highways and the surrounding environment.

The proposed facility will provide supervised practical construction skills training within controlled environments designed to replicate real construction site activities while maintaining a safe and managed setting. Activities undertaken at the site are solely for training and assessment purposes and are not commercial construction operations.

The site has been designed and will be managed to ensure the efficient use of available training space, equipment and operational areas while maintaining safe working practices and compliance with industry standards. Training areas will be organised and utilised to maximise the effectiveness of practical learning and assessment activities, allowing trainees to undertake structured exercises that reflect realistic working conditions.

The operation and layout of the site will also support the requirements of relevant awarding bodies and industry training standards. Practical training and testing activities will be delivered in accordance with the operational requirements, assessment criteria and space provisions stipulated by applicable training and awarding organisations, ensuring that facilities, equipment, safety arrangements and training environments remain suitable for approved delivery and assessment purposes.

This approach ensures the site operates as an organised and controlled training environment that delivers industry-recognised qualifications while maintaining effective site management and minimising operational impacts.

Awarding Body Compliance

The practical training facility will be operated in accordance with the standards, guidance and operational requirements of relevant industry training and awarding organisations, including CPCS, NPORS, RTITB, NOCN, City & Guilds, Pearson, Qualifications Scotland and CITB.

Training areas, equipment, practical exercises and assessment environments will be structured and managed to satisfy the applicable criteria for approved delivery, testing and competency assessment. Site layout and operational management will ensure that sufficient operational space, equipment access, safety controls and realistic working environments are available to enable the delivery of industry-recognised qualifications and assessments in accordance with current standards and awarding body requirements.

This approach ensures that the site functions as an effective and compliant practical training environment, replicating real-world construction operations while maintaining safe working practices and efficient use of the site.

The categories of training required at the facility are:

1. 360 & 180 Excavator
2. Crawler Tractor Dozer
3. Articulated Dump Truck
4. Loading Shovel
5. Rollers & Compaction
6. Industrial forklift
7. MEWP's
8. Dumpers
9. Mobile Crane & Lifting
10. Deep Excavation
11. Streetworks
12. Hiab's & Plant Movers
13. Groundworks Apprenticeships

Training Materials Storage for Practical Earthworks

As part of practical construction and plant operation training, the site will require the controlled use and temporary storage of materials to facilitate realistic training exercises. Materials may include:

- Subsoil
- stone and aggregates
- Sand
- Building Materials
- Drainage Materials

The use of such materials forms an essential part of practical training and assessment activities and allows trainees to develop competencies aligned with industry standards and awarding body requirements.

Material stockpile will be needed for some training, for example this will be used for excavators forming stockpiles, ADT's to transport and forming stock piles, battering & GPS training. Quantities will not be more than 100 Tonne and stacked to a maximum height of 2.5 metres.



Some materials will be stored in bays (as pictured) to ensure segregation to reduce contamination of materials and simulate the normal working environment.

360 & 180 Excavator

Overview: The 360 excavator course is designed to provide practical skills and industry knowledge necessary for operating a 360-degree excavator in compliance with CPCS/ NPORS standards. This training is essential for those looking to work in construction, as 360 excavators are commonly used for tasks such as material handling, trenching, battering and earth works.

Novice Duration: 10 Days

Training Area: At least 30m width x 30m length

Resources: Trench: 15m Long x 1.5m deep.

Manhole at the end of the trench: 3m long x 3m wide & 1.5m deep.

Slope that must have at least an 18% (1:5.5) incline with sufficient manoeuvring room at the top, or a straight ramp with an up and down route with a flat area at the summit.

IMAGES:









Crawler Tractor Dozer

Overview: This course delivers detailed training on the safe use of dozers, focusing on both theoretical knowledge and hands-on operation. Participants will learn how to carry out a range of tasks such as bulk excavation, grading, and material movement, while understanding the importance of ground conditions, safety precautions, and machine capabilities. Training aligns with current health and safety legislation and CPCS/ NPORS standards.

Novice Duration: 10 Days

Training Area: At Least 30m width x 30m length

Resources: Trench: 25m Long x 1.5m deep, 5m wide

Stockpile the material at the end of the trench.

Slopes that must have at least an 18% (1:5.5) incline with sufficient manoeuvring room at the top, or a straight ramp with an up and down route with a flat area at the summit.

IMAGES:







Articulated Dump Truck

Overview: The Articulated Dump Truck course is designed to train operators in the safe and efficient use of articulated dump trucks used across construction, quarrying, and earthmoving environments. Suitable for both new and developing operators, this course builds the essential skills needed before progressing to CPCS/ NPORS testing

Novice Duration: 4 Days

Training Area: Sufficient space for travelling and manoeuvring with rough undulating terrain.

Resources: Stockpile of material for loading, transporting and stockpiling, quantity at least 100t.

Trench for discharging material

Slopes that must have at least an 18% (1:5.5) incline with sufficient manoeuvring room at the top, or a straight ramp with an up and down route with a flat area at the summit.

IMAGES:









Loading Shovel

Overview: Loading Shovel Training is essential for operators in the construction, waste management, aggregates, and quarrying industries. The training covers safe operation, maintenance, and handling of loading shovels, ensuring operators are competent and compliant with industry standards. The courses are designed for both new operators and those needing formal certification, with options for experienced workers and foundation courses. The training includes practical and theoretical knowledge, including machine controls, pre-use inspections, safe operation techniques, and health and safety principles.

Novice Duration: 5 Days

Training Area: At Least 30m width x 30m length

Resources: Stockpile of material for loading and forming stockpiles, quantity 100t.

Material bays setup for storing materials separate

Slopes that must have at least an 18% (1:5.5) incline with sufficient manoeuvring room at the top, or a straight ramp with an up and down route with a flat area at the summit.

IMAGES:







Rollers & Compaction

Overview: The Ride on Roller training course provides candidates with the essential theoretical knowledge and practical skills required to safely and effectively operate ride-on rollers. It is widely used in construction, roadworks, and civil engineering projects to master machine operations, site safety, and compaction techniques.

Novice Duration: 5 Days

Training Area: At least 20m in length and no less than 4m width straight run with kerbs, 10m x 4m radius with kerbs.

Resources: Several straight runs for compacting, with hard- standing kerb edge on one run and an unsupported edge on another run. A radius for compacting, with supported edges, plus a length of uneven ground and a gentle gradient for travelling.

IMAGES:







Industrial Forklifts

Overview: To give training and assessment on an industrial counterbalance forklift truck. The delegate will be expected to identify basic components together with their uses, limitations and principles of operation. Candidates will be expected to understand the hydraulic system, operator duties and responsibilities.

Novice Duration: 4 Days

Training Area: 20m width x 20m Length on hard standing level ground.

Resources: Structure, racking for stacking to allow loads to be placed at high level, lorry bed with headboard, various loads for lifting placing and stacking.

IMAGES:









MEWPS

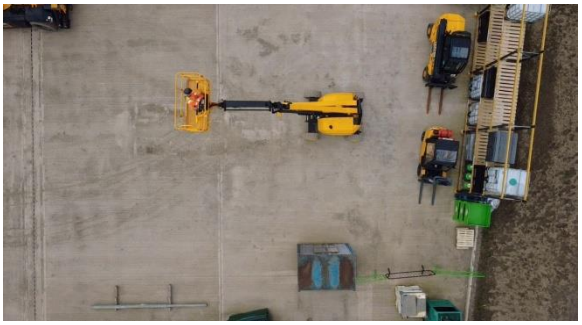
Overview: MEWP training equips operators with the knowledge to recognize and mitigate risks associated with using mobile elevating work platforms. This includes understanding potential hazards such as tip-overs, falls, and electrocution from power lines. Training is mandated by regulatory bodies to ensure that operators meet safety standards and legal requirements. This compliance helps protect both the workers and the employer from legal liabilities The training program imparts essential skills for operating MEWPs effectively and safely. Operators learn about the machine's functions, limitations, and the specific site conditions that could affect stability

Novice Duration: 2 Days

Training Area: 20m width x 20m Length on level ground.

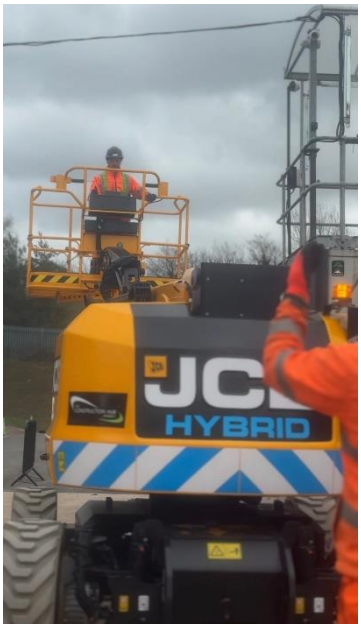
Resources: Area with structures for accessing purposes

IMAGES:









Forward Tipping Dumpers

Overview: Forward Tipping Dumper training is designed for individuals who operate or intend to operate forward tipping dumpers on construction sites. This training is crucial for ensuring that operators are competent and compliant with health and safety regulations, particularly the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations.

Novice Duration: 5 Days

Training Area: minimum of 20m width x 20m length that includes all of the resources below.

Resources: Rough undulating terrain, haul roads, routes between loading and discharge points with access ramps sufficient in size and length, well maintained.

Slopes that must have at least an 18% (1:5.5) incline with sufficient manoeuvring room at the top, or a straight ramp with an up and down route with a flat area at the summit.

Stock pile of material for loading, trench/ pit for unloading purposes.

IMAGES:





Mobile Crane & Lifting

Overview: Lifting courses, generally are slinger signaller, crane lift supervisor, mobile crane and appointed person are designed for operatives involved in slinging loads, plant machinery such as cranes and the supervision & management. The training ensures participants can safely guide crane movements, assess loads, and communicate effectively with operators to prevent accidents and injuries on construction or industrial sites. These courses are essential for anyone responsible for lifting operations.

Novice Duration: 5-8 Days

Training Area: Pad for lifting activities no less than 35m width x 35m length

Resources: Various loads for lifting duties consisting of long loads more than 6m in length, unbalanced loads, bundled loads.

IMAGES:







Hiab's & Plant Movers

Overview: HIAB/Lorry Loader training teaches drivers to safely operate vehicle-mounted hydraulic cranes. The course covers legislation, pre-operational checks, load slinging, lifting attachments, and safe operating procedures. Novices typically take 2 days to complete the course, while experienced operators can complete it in 1 – 2 days

Novice Duration: 5 Days

Training Area: At Least 30m width x 30m length

Resources: Various loads for lifting duties consisting of long loads more than 6m in length, unbalanced loads, bundled loads.

IMAGES:









Deep Excavation

Overview: This safety course introduces the learner to the theoretical and practical dangers of excavation work. Examples of areas covered are but not limited to the HSE's HSG150, HSG 47 guidance, the Construction Industry Research and Information Associations report. Learners will become familiarised with the necessity for identifying various ground conditions and will come to understand a variety of methods for utilising the appropriate ground retention systems. This course also includes practical training and assessments while installing ground support systems in a live dig environment with a specific temporary works design.

Notice Duration: 2 Days

Training Area: Excavation 3m width x 3m length x 2m deep

Resources: Various types of shoring like sheet piles with hydraulic struts and manhole boxes.

IMAGES:









Streetworks

Overview: Streetworks (NRSWA) training ensures compliance with the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. It equips workers and supervisors with the legal and practical skills needed to safely execute excavations, reinstatements, and traffic management on public highways. Certifications are valid for 5 years.

Novice Duration: 5 Days

Training Area: 20m width x 20m length

Resources: Area to support training simulating a highway environment including all of the following: Buried services for locating, Block paving area, slabbed area, finished concrete, finished tarmac and traffic area for setup of traffic management equipment including traffic lights.

IMAGES:











Groundworks Apprenticeships

Overview: Our Groundworks Apprentices work alongside experienced groundworkers to learn the skills required for construction site preparation and civil engineering works. This apprenticeship combines on-site practical experience with off-the-job training leading to a recognised qualification in Groundworks.

Novice Duration: 3 Years

Training Area: 30m width x 30m length

Resources: Training areas that can accommodate simulated training such as drainage, road formation, kerbing, slabbing, block paving, formworks etc to best replicate a live construction working environment.

IMAGES:








Training Delivery and Industry Benefits of the Proposed Development

The proposed development will provide a purpose-built training facility specifically designed to support the delivery of practical construction and plant training to the highest industry standards. The development of dedicated training infrastructure will create a controlled, safe and adaptable environment capable of meeting the evolving needs of the construction industry while supporting recognised training and qualification standards.

The proposed development includes new warehouse structures designed to support specialist practical training activities and provide flexible internal training environments. These facilities will enhance the delivery of training and assessment associated with Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs), industrial forklift operations and other plant-related practical activities requiring controlled operating environments. The provision of purpose-designed internal spaces will allow practical exercises to be undertaken within environments that closely reflect operational industry conditions while maintaining appropriate safety standards and effective supervision arrangements.

The facility will also strengthen the continued delivery of apprenticeship and vocational training programmes in partnership with Coleg y Cymoedd, including Groundworks Apprenticeship programmes. The practical nature of groundworks training can present challenges due to seasonal weather conditions and prolonged periods of rainfall, which can significantly affect the consistency and continuity of outdoor practical learning activities within Wales.

The introduction of dedicated indoor practical training areas will provide protection from adverse weather conditions and substantially reduce disruption to training delivery. This will enable practical exercises and assessments to continue throughout the year in a more controlled environment, improving the consistency of programme delivery and ensuring that learning objectives, practical competencies and assessment requirements can be achieved within expected timescales.

The proposed facility will also incorporate new classrooms, changing facilities and associated welfare amenities designed to support the overall learner experience. These facilities will provide modern teaching environments and suitable welfare provisions for trainees and staff, creating a comfortable, professional and supportive environment for both practical and classroom-based learning activities.

The proposed development will significantly enhance the overall learner experience by reducing weather-related interruptions and creating a more structured and reliable training environment. Increased continuity in training delivery will improve learner engagement, support achievement outcomes and ensure trainees receive a high-quality learning experience.

In addition to improving the quality and consistency of training delivery, the proposed development will increase the overall capacity of the facility, enabling the organisation to accommodate a greater number of apprentices and trainees across a wider range of practical construction and plant programmes. This increased capacity will create additional opportunities for individuals to access training, qualifications and career pathways within the construction and infrastructure sectors.

By expanding apprenticeship provision and industry-recognised training opportunities, the development will contribute positively to employment growth and skills development within the local and wider economy. Increasing the number of competent and qualified individuals entering the workforce will support employers in addressing industry skills shortages and help meet the ongoing demand for skilled construction personnel.

Overall, the proposed development represents a significant long-term investment in skills provision, supporting apprenticeships, employers and the wider construction industry through the delivery of high-quality, purpose-built training facilities, increased training opportunities and improved pathways into sustainable employment.