
HANMER ARMS, HANMER SY13 3DE

19 no. Holiday Lodges, Reception Building and Ancillary Works

Design and Access Statement

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Prepared by:
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Client:
Carlton Holdings

Date:
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INTRODUCTION

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared to support this outline planning application for the development of 19 lodges and a reception building on land to the north of the Hanmer Arms. The applicants are also the owners of the Hanmer Arms. They are seeking to extend the existing offer of serviced and self-serviced accommodation.

The purpose of this DAS is to:

- explain the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the development.
- demonstrate the steps taken to appraise the context of the development and how the design of the development takes that context into account.
- explain the approach adopted as to access and how policies relating to access in the development plan have been taken into account
- explain how specific issues which might affect access to the development have been addressed.

An assessment of the site and its surrounding area has been undertaken to demonstrate its suitability for the development of visitor accommodation comprising holiday lodges and to establish the general principles particularly regarding siting, access and landscaping.

SITE ANALYSIS

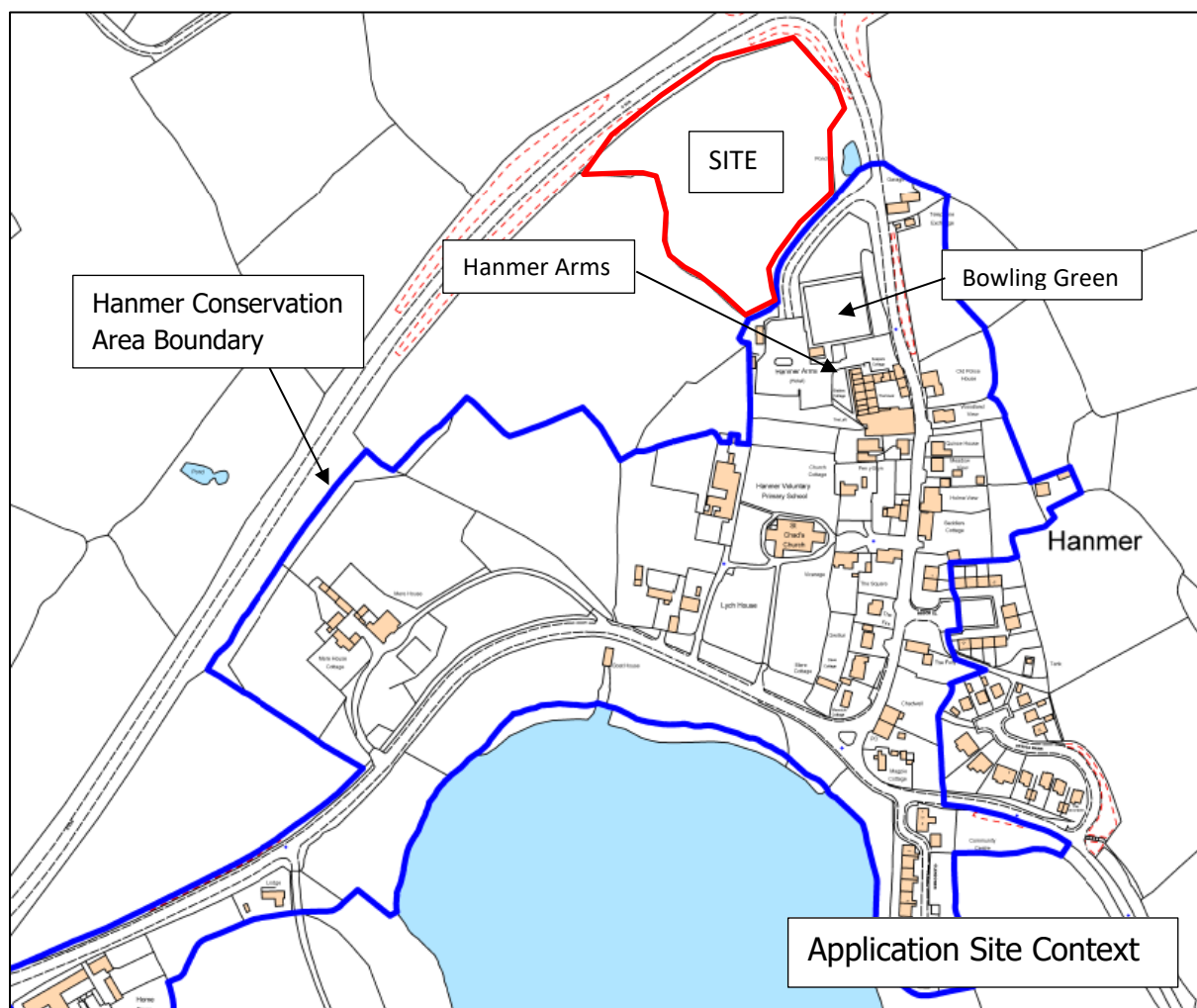
Hanmer is located approximately 9 miles south-east of Wrexham with main road access to the village from the A539 Whitchurch to Overton Road. The village is located within the area known as "Maelor Saesneg" where the landscape is characterised by undulating mainly pastoral lowland farmland with well managed hedgerow trees and small woodlands interrupting the field pattern. The area has also been influenced by historic designed estates including the Hanmer Estate.

The application site is located in Wrexham District, to the north of the village of Hanmer and to the south-east of the A539. It comprises part of a larger paddock which covers an area of 1.49 hectares. Its western, northern and eastern boundaries are marked by mature hedges with trees. The southern boundary set against the access road is fenced. The centre of the site is marked by a prominent grass-grown hillock. There is presently one vehicular access point to the site off the A539 on the site's northern boundary. To the south of the site lies a bowling green, the Hanmer Arms, a school and the village of Hanmer.

The bulk of the village is concentrated around The Square and The Hanmer Arms with some properties clustered to the south, close to the junction of Bettisfield and Overton. The A539 by-pass to the west means that through traffic avoids the village. Hanmer has some essential amenities with a primary school, post office and village store, butchers shop, garage and public house and hotel.

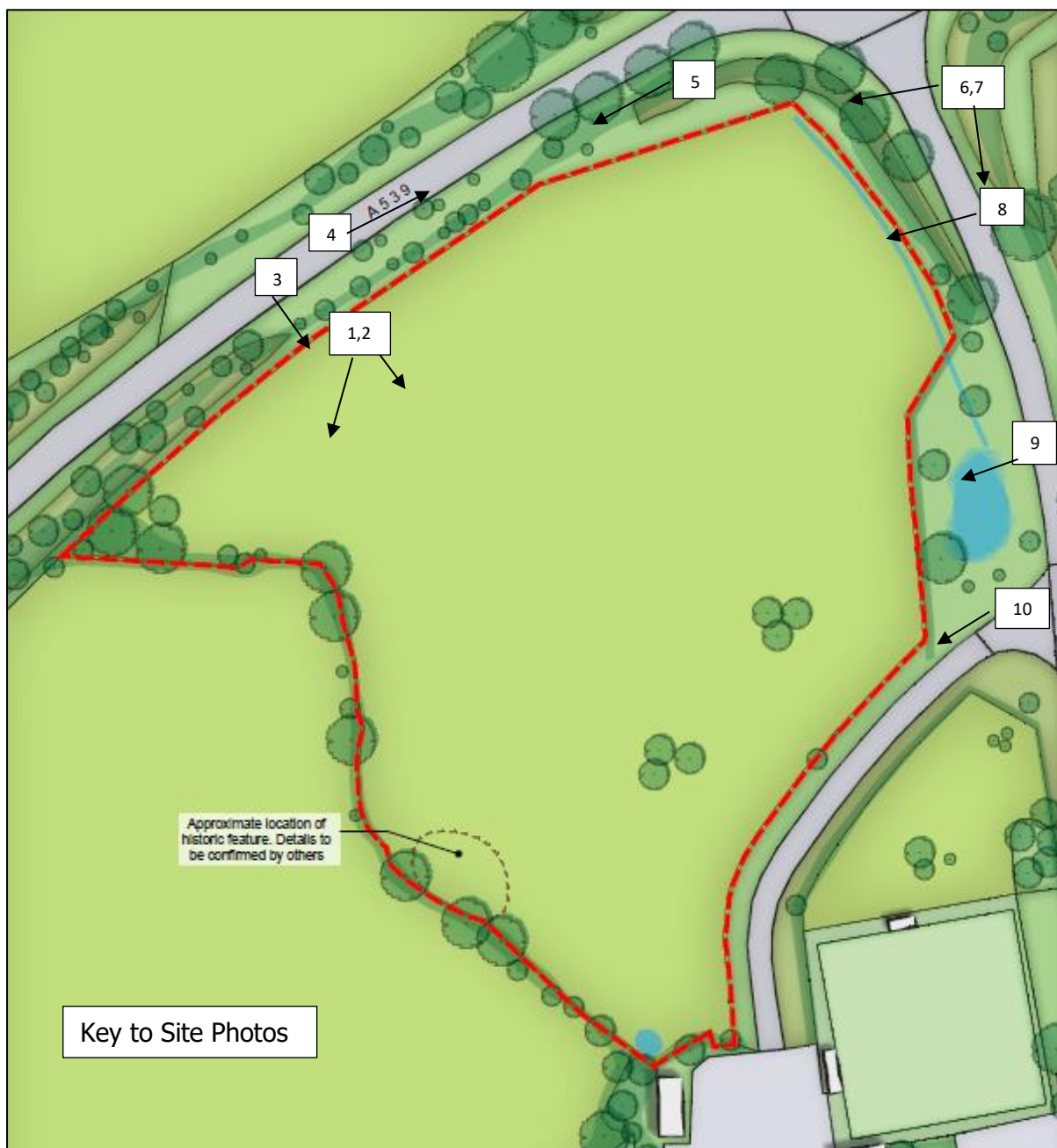
Modern expansion of the village has been limited to the eastern and southern edges with some infill development along the main street, otherwise the original pattern of development has remained largely unchanged particularly along the main street and the old Whitchurch to Overton Road.

The area is generally rural in character with farmsteads spread sporadically across the surrounding landscape. The landscape dominated by irregular field patterns and scattered farms. Hanmer village to the south comprises an early nucleated church settlement. There are several later 'green' and roadside settlements in the surrounding area. Hanmer Mere lies to the south of the village.



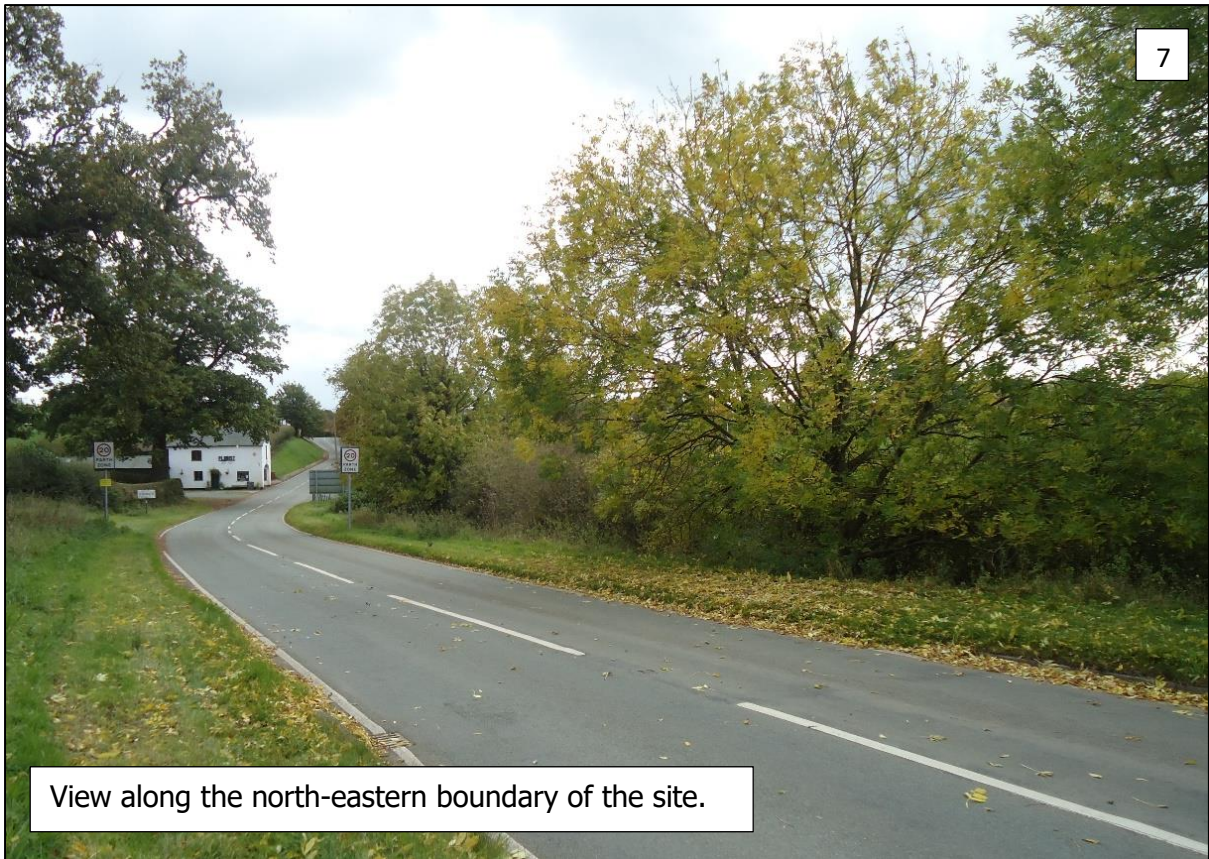
The application site lies outside the northern boundary of Hanmer Conservation Area. In view of the proximity of the Conservation Area and other heritage assets in the locality, a separate Heritage Impact Assessment & Statement of Significance has been prepared in order to inform the design of the scheme.

The Conservation Area covers the majority of the village with St Chad's Church located centrally, elevated above the surrounding domestic properties and facing onto Hanmer Mere. The surrounding open landscape provides views out of the Conservation Area complementing its mere-side position and contributing to the strong sense of place. The historic core of the settlement is governed by the natural topography.









View along the north-eastern boundary of the site.



View across the site from its eastern boundary

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View of waterbody adjacent to site's eastern boundary

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View towards site in northerly direction from Hanmer Arms access road

PLANNING POLICIES

The following planning policies are applicable:

UDP Policy PS2 advises that development must not materially detrimentally affect countryside, landscape/townscape character, open space, or the quality of the natural environment. This forms part of the DAS assessment.

UDP Policy GDP1 requires that all new development should:

- a) Ensure that built development in its scale, design and layout, and in its use of materials and landscaping, accords to the character of the site and makes a positive contribution to the appearance of the nearby locality.
- b) Take account of personal and community safety and security in the design and layout of development and public / private spaces.
- c) Make the best use of design techniques, siting and orientation in order to conserve energy and water resources.
- d) Ensure safe and convenient pedestrian and vehicular access to and from development sites, both on site and in the nearby locality.
- e) Ensure that built development is located where it has convenient access to public transport facilities and is well related to pedestrian and cycle routes.
- f) Ensure the safety and amenity of the public and safeguard the environment from the adverse effects of pollution of water, land or air.
- g) Secure public services – Utility services are accessible from the site.
- h) Safeguard sites and areas of nature conservation and wildlife interest, and to provide new habitats where there is an unavoidable loss of existing habitats and areas of wildlife interest.
- i) Ensure that development does not result in, or is subject to, flooding, soil erosion, landslides or contamination.
- j) Have regard to the need to safeguard those areas that possess a strong Welsh cultural and/or linguistic identity.
- k) Secure the development of sustainable communities.

The requirements of Policy GDP1 have been used to inform the development proposals.

UDP Policy EC6 advises that development either within or close to sites of biodiversity interest will only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the need for the development outweighs the need to safeguard the intrinsic nature conservation value of the site. The accompanying ecology reports address these points and provide mitigation advice. This has been used to inform the proposed development.

UDP Policy EC7 advises that in close proximity to conservation areas, the priority will be to preserve and or enhance those buildings, structures, streets, trees, open spaces, archaeological remains, views, and other elements which contribute to the unique character of the area. The accompanying Heritage Impact Assessment addresses these points and provides mitigation advice. This has been used to inform the proposed development.

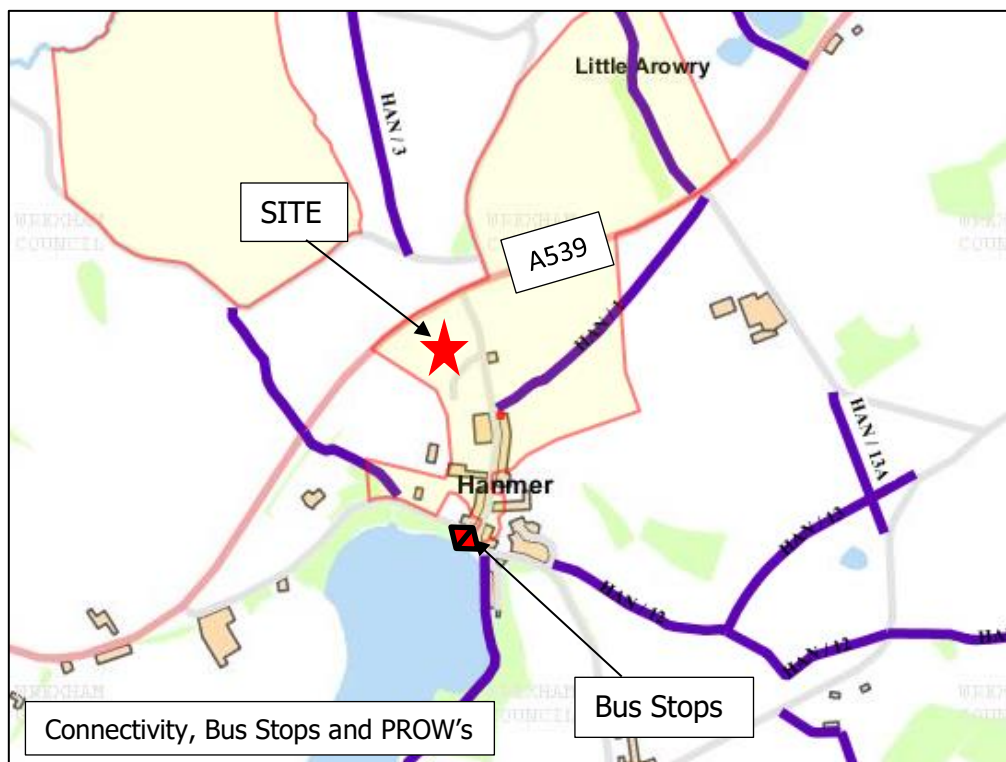
Careful consideration has been given to the above policies in developing the application proposal. These are further addressed within the Planning Statement.

DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

Principle 1 - Connectivity

To connect to the existing highway and footpath network and to create the opportunity for occupiers to access local attractions and facilities by:

- Provision of a pedestrian/vehicular connection to the road into Hanmer via the Hanmer Arms access road.
- Encourage walking and cycling. There is good access to the PROW network providing alternative routes and for recreational use.
- Provision of sufficient on-site parking and turning.
- Integration of the development into the existing movement network.
- Bus service 146 - Wrexham – Whitchurch stops outside St Chad's Church approx 350 metres from the site.



Principle 2 - Circulation

To create a structured and legible vehicular circulation within the site. This will be based upon the vehicular access points from the Hanmer Arms access road. From this, a more informal accessway and parking areas will be created.

Principle 3 - Character

- Consideration needs to be given to the setting of the Conservation Area and the surrounding countryside and the way in which the Conservation Area is experienced and appreciated.
- The site of the proposed development lies outside the northern boundary of the Conservation Area, which in this location is characterised by the modern Bowling Green and its access road. With mitigation by careful siting and additional planting, it is not considered that the proposed development would have an adverse impact on the Conservation Area.
- It is not considered that, within the local landscape context, there would be significant visual impacts from this development. This can be improved with additional screen planting, particularly along the site's southern boundary with the Conservation Area.
- Respond to the existing site topography including consideration of views into and out of the site.
- Retention and enhancement of existing landscape features.
- Use of materials that reflect the locality.
- Minimise impact of the development on its surrounds.
- Provide an efficient and sustainable use of the land.
- Use soft landscaping to enhance the environment.

Principle 4 - 'Development Form'

The size, shape, constraints and rural location of the site are factors that determine the form of development. It is important to maintain a human dimension in terms of scale for ease of orientation.

CONSULTATION

The application proposal has been devised in consultation with locally experienced development consultants. Pre-application consultation has taken place with Mared Rees. Her response is addressed within the Planning Statement and has provided the context to the approach adopted in preparing the planning application.

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

Following the assessment of the application site and its surroundings earlier in this statement, several constraints and opportunities associated with its proposed

development have been identified. These are outlined and illustrated below. Each of these constraints and opportunities have been used to inform the design proposals for the site.

Opportunities:

- The roads in the immediate vicinity of the site are lightly trafficked and are of a sufficient width to accommodate visiting vehicles.
- Well established boundaries comprise existing mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees to the site's northern, western and eastern boundaries that provide screening from A539 and the road into the village which runs adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site.
- Good access to the PROW network which providing alternative routes and for recreational use.
- New visitor facilities to support the local economy.

Constraints:

- Impact on nearby residential amenity.
- The need to minimise the impact of the proposal on the existing, boundary hedgerow to A539 and road off A539
- The need to minimise impact on the area's rural character.
- Designated and non-designated heritage assets. Enzygo's Assessment has identified designated and non-designated heritage assets within a 1 km radius of the site dating from the prehistoric period through to the post-medieval period. There are eleven listed buildings, associated features, and one Scheduled monument within the area. None of the designated buildings and features lie within the application site and it is not considered that there would be visual impacts on any designated buildings arising from the proposal.
- The assessment has identified a small earthwork of unknown date within the area of the proposal. It is proposed to maintain this feature in-situ.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The proposal is for the development of 19 no. holiday lodges and a reception Building on land to the north of Hanmer. The layout on the following page demonstrates how the site is to be laid out to accommodate the proposal.

Layout

The analysis for the site has determined the most appropriate way of laying out the proposed lodges and access road. It is largely screened from the public realm whilst giving a feeling of intimacy and security for visitors.



Access

The current access point to the site from the A539 is to be closed to vehicles. A new access is to be provided off the Hanmer Arms access road, with a less formal accessway within the site to the lodges. This provides for interconnectivity within the site and with the surrounding highway network. There are no public rights of way over the site.

The site of each of the proposed lodges will be informally defined. Surface materials will be limited across the site to grass for parking and the accessway. Parking provision will be adjacent to each plot.

Scale

The proposed lodges and reception building will be single storey and relatively small scale, appropriate to the site and its surrounds.

Use & Amount

An assessment of the site and its surroundings has been provided earlier in this statement to demonstrate its suitability for the proposed use. The site is approx 1.49 hectares. The proposal is relatively small scale and it is low density, surrounded by significant open areas and landscaping. It is considered appropriate to the area and the specific circumstances of the site: its shape, topography relationship to Hanmer, the Conservation Area and the area's rural character. It will not appear out of character with their surroundings.

Appearance

The design of the proposed lodges and reception building will be addressed at the reserved matters stage. They will respect the rural setting and the character of the Conservation Area. Examples of Holiday Lodges:



Landscape and Visual Impact

Overall, it is considered that the landscape and visual impacts of the proposal will be limited.

CONCLUSION

Every site is unique, raising a series of constraints and opportunities. Each development should be considered "in the round" in order to assess whether it meets the principles of good design.

The key components are:

- The scheme has been designed taking into account its rural and conservation area context.
- The site layout and scale of the proposal are low-key.
- Access to be taken off the Hanmer Arms access road.
- Additional structural landscaping to minimise the development's visual impact on the surrounding countryside and conservation area.
- The layout has been designed to give legible structure to the site. It is distinctive, safe and secure.

In arriving at the Site Layout consideration has been given to the influence of the physical, social and economic aspects of the site. These have influenced the design of the scheme. The proposed development extends and expands the type of visitor facilities provided Hanmer Arms. It has been sensitively designed to respond to context of its surrounding area. It develops the site in a viable, positive and appropriate manner.