
CASE STUDY: PUBLIC SERVICES

BANGOR POLICE STATION

Name of Building
Bangor Police Station

Date Completed
September 2005

Project Cost
£1.3 million

Building Type
Public Services

Location
Bangor

Client
North Wales Police

Main Contractor
RLD Construction

Building Overview

Ainsley Gommon Architects were approached by North Wales Police in 2003 to design a new purpose built Police Station within the city of Bangor. The chosen site was located in the heart of the civic centre of the city and is bordered by a diverse mix of architectural styles including the Town Hall, Library, Cathedral and a Neo-Gothic University building. With this in mind, the design had to remain sensitive to its civic setting while creating a modern and practical new base for 40 members of staff at Bangor Police.

Traditional materials of natural stone, Welsh slate and render have been used to ensure the building's comfortable position in its distinctive surrounding. One of the most important aspects of the brief and the driving force behind the design was the requirement to provide secure car parking for police vehicles and staff's personal vehicles. In order to achieve this a courtyard solution was used to enclose the parking and partially conceal it from view in a secure compound that minimises any visual effect on the surrounding area.

While the pitched roofs and gable walls of the new building are designed to relate to the form and scale of surrounding context, the detailed design is recognisably modern. Ample glazed openings ensure the ground floor is naturally well lit and a desirable internal environment is achieved. Use of lead sheeting on flat roofed areas gives the building a detailed level of finish that relates to the chancel of the nearby Cathedral and the domed roof of the library.

Meeting rooms and communal staff areas are positioned at first floor level along the east-west axis of the building in order to take advantage of good views of the university to the north and the Cathedral to the south. The main entrance of the building is raised to give it emphasis among the landscaping to the front of the site.



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Ainsley Gommon
architecture : urban design

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Design Overview

The opportunity for a new purpose designed Police Station came when the existing outdated and cramped facilities were demolished as part of the redevelopment of a nearby shopping centre.

The new building provides local police services to the people of Bangor, a short walk from the high street, including a reception and crime desk, interview rooms and office accommodation, changing facilities and mess room for up to 40 police staff.

Whilst being modern in design, traditional materials including local stone, slate, lead and render are used to ensure the new Police Station complements the existing surrounding buildings.

A small landscaped piazza creates a welcoming entrance into the building and gives the building a civic presence within the local landscape.

Archaeology & Listed Building Consent

An Archaeological Survey was carried out on the site in the mid-1990's which unearthed the remains of timber posts dating back to *circa* 1120.

The evidence collected during the survey strongly suggested that the 12th Century residence of the Bishop of Bangor lay within the boundary of the development site. In order to avoid damaging any further historical evidence which may have been present on the site, a programme of careful mitigation works were included within the development of the new Police Station.

In addition the site was also home to a Grade II Listed late Victorian drinking fountain which had been relocated to its present position due to highway improvements. A Listed Building Application was made as part of the works to allow the fountain to be relocated to the edge of the site, resulting in a more prominent setting similar to the fountain's original home.