



The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway has a new station and visitor centre that provides better facilities, is flexible in overall use and sits comfortably in its setting.

The Client

The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway is one of the Lake District National Park's most popular tourist attractions. For 80 years, the station at Dalegarth was a cramped wooden structure with few facilities, so the operators decided to replace it with a new combined station and visitor centre,

The Brief

A functional, highly sustainable building which would attract tourists and be in sympathy with the spectacular backdrop was required. It had to include a ticket office, waiting room with toilets, cafe and gift shop – all large enough to accommodate a full 'trainload' of visitors and coach parties. It also had to be a venue for children's parties, meetings and conferences.

The Specification

The architects at Pinelog submitted a proposal, which was accepted, for a two-storey structure influenced by the history and dramatic nature of the site. The new building is constructed in timber frame with glulam laminated trusses, giving a vaulted roof style on the upper floor. Highly insulated, the frame is clad in Siberian larch panels and blockwork finished with local Lake District render.

The colours selected follow the livery of the original Furness Railway Company and are used in such a way to ensure that the building merges into the landscape.

Full height, narrow windows echo the railway theme and give an overall elegance to the building. They provide excellent ventilation and daylight penetration. The 30 degree pitched roof is finished with locally sourced reclaimed Cumbrian slate and has an overhang on the front elevation to provide a sheltered area for visitors waiting for their train.

Visitors have level access from the platform to the ticket office, 'Fellbites' cafe and the Scafell gift shop. A generous staircase leads down to the open plan lower floor which accommodates the other functions of the building.



Dalegarth Station and visitor centre.



The Scafell gift shop.



The new building from the rear.

Client Benefits

Chief Executive of the R&ER, Jim Walker is delighted with the new facility: “The fact that Pinelog was able to provide a complete design and build solution was a tremendous benefit for us. From original design through to final landscaping, quality was paramount and they consistently delivered this.”

In its ‘promoting sustainable tourism statement’ the Lake District National Park Authority cites Dalegarth Station as an excellent example of good practice.

“The Station occupies a unique location in terms of heritage and landscape and is an important tourist destination. The planning application for a replacement was judged on its merit in terms of design and impact on the environment.”

“The new building can accommodate groups of visitors easily, provides better facilities, especially for disabled users, and the lower floor gives more flexibility in overall use. Upgrading has improved the financial sustainability of the railway – an important consideration given its significance to the local economy of the Eskdale Valley.”

Client: Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway

Location: Eskdale, Cumbria



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