



Low Bank Ground
Adventure Centre,
Coniston



Boat House
Refurbishment



July 2025



20 Weeks

Project Overview

Low Bank Ground Adventure Centre, situated on the picturesque shores of Coniston Water in the Lake District, is a long-established outdoor education facility used by schools and youth groups across the UK. As part of its ongoing commitment to improving access to high-quality outdoor learning, the centre undertook a comprehensive refurbishment of its existing Boat House and the construction of a new Boat Store.

Client

Operated by: Be Well, Wigan Council,

Delivered by Alliance Leisure

Constructed by The Universal Group

Project Goals

The refurbishment project was initiated to:

- Modernise and structurally enhance the existing Boat House
- Improve accessibility, safety, and functionality for staff and visiting groups
- Provide additional secure storage for water sports equipment
- Maximise use of the lakeside location in a sustainable and sensitive manner



Universal Group

1st Floor, Ashbrook House
Forest Street, Sutton in
Ashfield, Nottinghamshire
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Scope of Works

The works included the following key elements:

Boat House Refurbishment

- Structural assessment and strengthening of the existing stone Boat House building
- Re-roofing for weather resilience and structural timber repairs for longevity
- Removal of a portion of the internal jetty to provide additional boat storage racking
- Upgrade of doors and windows to meet current security and conservation standards
- Installation of new timber piles, external jetty area, rope barriers and moorings.
- Provision of internal lighting, power supply, mezzanine stairs and handrails
- Installation of bat and bird boxes and a wild flower meadow

New Boat Store Construction

- Construction of a galvanised steel framed, storage building adjacent to the main Boat House
- Purpose-designed to accommodate paddleboards, canoes, kayaks, buoyancy aids and ancillary gear
- Environmentally sensitive materials chosen to blend with the natural surroundings including locally sourced Coniston slate and aggregates
- The very latest in solar panel, inverters and battery backup has been installed to operate general and security lighting and power



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Challenges

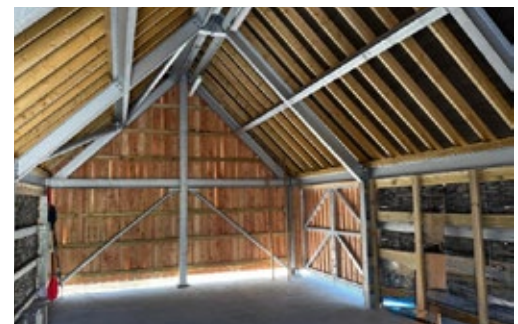
- Working within a national park and lakeside conservation area required careful planning and coordination with the Lake District National Park Authority.
- Maintaining safe and clear access for ongoing educational programmes during construction.
- Ensuring minimal disruption to the ecology and natural character of Coniston Water.

Solutions

- A phased construction approach allowed parts of the site to remain operational throughout.
- All works were scheduled to avoid peak activity periods and sensitive wildlife seasons.
- Materials were selected for durability, low environmental impact, and visual harmony with the local vernacular and style of the boat house

Outcome

- The refurbished Boat House and new Boat Store now offer vastly improved facilities, enabling the safe and efficient delivery of water-based activities.
- Equipment is now better stored, maintained, and accessed, improving the experience for both instructors and young participants.
- The project has helped future-proof the centre's outdoor education offering while respecting the site's environmental context.



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