

# WENFORD DRIES

CARSON &

Wenford Dries, Cornwall  
Client: Iain Carson & Partners  
Value: £10 million  
Date: 2009 - Current  
Status: Production Information

Wenford Dries is a 10,000 m2 conversion of a former china clay factory in an area of outstanding natural beauty in Cornwall. The building is reported to be the longest Listed building in the UK (over 500m long) and has been derelict for 15 years. There is a sense of historic industry - a life gone by in different times, and it is particularly poignant when we see the disused railway line that used to connect to Wenford Bridge. Although built by the Stannon China Clay Company, the dries were acquired by English China Clays in 1919 - this company being the largest clay producer in the world.

Built at the beginning of the 20th century to process raw china clay following extraction, the proposal seeks to rejuvenate an industrial building in a beautiful rural setting. Working alongside Planning and Development Officers and local residents, the scheme requires a sensitive strategy for site use and a subtlety in design quality to maintain the integrity of the building in its context. Reflecting its rural industrial heritage balanced with the needs of a building in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The proposals include a series of large gallery spaces to promote local artists, live work studios to reflect the burgeoning creative industries of Cornwall, and a total of 36 luxury loft-style residential units to provide a vibrancy of use around the clock.

The landscaping strategy will reflect the local materiality and provide for connections to the hugely successful Camel cycle trail.

The scheme has received planning approval and has a signed Section 106.

