

Porth Teigr: Cardiff Docks come roaring back

At its peak, Cardiff Docks was the world's busiest port exporting nearly nine million tonnes of coal per year. Half a century later, exports had ceased. In 1987, the UK Government set up a development corporation to redevelop one sixth of the area to create Cardiff Bay.

Porth Teigr is the last piece in the jigsaw. It is one of the most significant waterfront property projects in Europe. A development by specialist sustainable investor, Igloo, Porth Teigr is already becoming a truly mixed-use, sustainable neighbourhood with creative, commercial, residential, and leisure uses. It is home to BBC Wales.

Recognising the importance of public space, Igloo commissioned LDA Design to review the existing masterplan for the site, focusing on ensuring its deliverability. LDA Design then prepared a public realm strategy to shape the early infrastructure works and implementation. The scheme comprises four key connected people places – Teigr Gateway, Roath Basin Waterfront, Bute Dry Dock, and the Bay Front.

At Porth Teigr, there are three distinct character areas: the 'forest' is a public square beneath a canopy of pine trees; the 'cliff' is a 100m-metre-long green wall featuring recycled Welsh blue pennant stone; and the 'beach' is a new waterfront space with views over Cardiff Bay.



Client
Igloo Regeneration

Location
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff

Partners
FAT, Ash Sakula, Bay Associates,
Gardiner and Theobald, Vinci

Services Used
Landscape Architecture, Masterplanning

Area
2 ha

Schedule
2010-2011 (Phase 1)

¹ Outside the new BBC Studios at Porth Teigr, featuring semi-mature pine trees, hardy 'colonising' plants and an arrangement based on the former rail sidings.



1,3 The 'Forest' space outside the BBC Studios

2 Hardy 'colonising' plants and seating