

EXTRACT FROM NARRATIVE PROVIDED BY ARCHITECTS

Externally the continuously evolving elevations will blend into the landscape with its sensitive use of materials and form. The curved nature of the facade will diminish as opposed to having a series of hard edges and corners increasing the dynamic appearance of the building yet being in harmony with environment, and reducing the visual impact from Cliff lane. The scale and mass of the building will appear reduced with the curved facade treatment assisted with the change from double to single storey as you circulate around the building taking on board the natural topography of the site.

The form of the building has evolved to differentiate between the functional requirements of a 5 bay fire station complete with its ancillary accommodation and the spatial demands of the Safety Centre. The Safety Centre has soft lines and curves which contrast with the linear functionality of the Fire Station ensuring that despite the buildings being linked they maintain a clear and distinct character of their own. Internally the Centre has a circular greeting area that allows a 360 degree of the space which assists in orientation and creates a welcoming ambience that combines bright colours with natural light. Careful consideration has been given to the circulation routes and flows around the safety centre and the control that will be required to ensure that groups can be taken systematically around the activities and safety scenarios, whilst allowing the operation of the station, and allowing both uses to inhabit the building effectively and utilise the communal spaces in a controlled manner.

The main body of the buildings is further broken with the use of a natural timber cladding and the use of vertical timber sections as opposed to the solid mass given by close boarded timber. This further breaks down the hard edges of the building giving a ever changing appearance and softening the edges into the landscape, whilst allowing the facade to be broken down to control the proportion of the elevations.