

Dowdeswell Park development



Commercial Character...

Current RRA projects...

Include the redevelopment of the old Barlands industrial estate with Dowdeswell Estates Building Contractors. This includes converting an existing portal frame structure into a cider production facility along with an extensive section of Victorian brick arched vaults which are being converted into various units, including an artisan bakery.

The development already houses the Sibling Gin distillery, Battledown Brewery and Dunkertons Cider production facility and, newly opened, shop.

Montpellier House



Gwynne Warehouse



Canwood Gallery



Commercial architecture is associated by many with large industrial estates and new-build business parks, however, within the sector there is also vast opportunity for the reuse of Britain's aging building stock; often no longer fit for service nor contributing to the economy. These buildings are frequently overlooked when new sites are required, however, they can be repurposed to provide unusual and interesting commercial premises or development opportunities.

RRA Architects, as a design-led practice, has a portfolio of the expected new-build, commercial architecture, but has also carved out a reputation for the sympathetic and imaginative design solutions to reuse existing, overlooked buildings and sites. These may be redundant agricultural buildings, out-dated offices, tired dwellings or, even, the restoration of an Old Waterworks

Pumphouse to give it a new lease of life as part of the exciting Dowdeswell Park development.

Canwood Gallery is another prime example of thinking outside of the box; originally a group of unused agricultural buildings, they were transformed into a unique gallery exhibiting fabulous works of art in striking surroundings. Similarly, Gwynne Warehouse was a Grade II listed, derelict, riverside warehouse which was converted into a state-of-the-art conferencing facility and exhibition space.

To maximise the value of a property many clients look to expand the floor area through an extension. However, where space is limited it may be possible to increase the floor area without increasing the footprint, by adding more storeys. RRA has recently carried out two

developments, Montpellier House and Eagle Tower, where we successfully gained planning permission to add penthouse apartments on top of the commercial office buildings. These projects demonstrate a great example of mixed-use development which is in line with planning policy, offering high-quality residential accommodation with great views and with no increased land usage. Ultimately, where suitable, this achieves a great return for investors and property owners.

Although, sometimes demolition is necessary, many of these sites benefit from an architects vision and a feasibility study to ascertain what can be achieved with the existing structures. This can be a cost effective strategy which often results in an enriched development with character and heritage.

Please contact Mark Powles, mark@rraarchitects.com to see how they can assist you with your project.

