

**CLIENT**  
Blaenau Gwent Council

**CONTRACTOR**  
Dyer & Butler



Blaenau Gwent Council, working with contractors Dyer & Butler on the regeneration of Ebbw Vale town centre, commissioned Forest Pennant to supply over 1600m<sup>2</sup> of paving and 60Lm of coping to restore pedestrian links between the town centre and The Works – a 200-acre former steelworks site, and home to the 2010 National Eisteddfod of Wales. A naturally hardwearing and durable product the indigenous Royal Forest Pennant sandstone was the ideal choice to create a light and attractive pathway.

**STRICT DEADLINE: THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES**

Councillor Don Wilcox, Blaenau Gwent Council's Executive Member for Regeneration, said: "Linking the town centre to The Works – one of the most ambitious regeneration programmes in Wales – after so many years, is a big step forward for us."

"Forest Pennant is only one of two suppliers of indigenous Pennant sandstone and the company's efficiency and response times were the winning factor. We set ourselves a deadline to have the links ready for the Eisteddfod and we had to ensure that all suppliers were able to deliver high quality and on schedule. Forest Pennant was able to provide what we wanted from their quarry at Barnhill in the Forest of Dean."



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**COMPLEMENTING THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT**

"The pathway itself has sections with dark stone on either side – reminders of Ebbw Vale's industrial heritage. The light tones of the Pennant stone bring a natural reflective quality to the walk. The colour suits the area perfectly, complementing the existing local paving materials. Combined with the stainless steel handrails and guard railings we now have a pedestrian link that looks superb," added Coun Don Wilcox.

Paul Ramsey, sales manager for Forest Pennant said: "With a concentration of regeneration projects across Wales, particularly the Southern regions, we feel that the use of local and sustainable materials is imperative. In supplying Pennant sandstone for such a prolific and exciting project as the Ebbw Vale town centre regeneration programme we have been able to work with both the County Borough Council and Dyer & Butler to ensure that the stage was suitably set for the National Eisteddfod 2010 and, more importantly, for the future of Ebbw Vale."

**REGENERATION FOR THE FUTURE OF EBBW VALE**

The Works is a £400 million partnership project between Blaenau Gwent Council and the Welsh Assembly Government part-funded by the European Commission. The restoration of the 200-acre site is ongoing, major regeneration projects include the Learning Zone education facilities, and The General Offices – the sole surviving building from the steelworks, now being restored as a heritage and visitor centre. A new green wetland valley has also been created around a 21<sup>st</sup> century Environmental Resource Centre.

The National Eisteddfod 2010 played an important role in the ongoing resurgence of the Valleys region, bringing over 150,000 people to the Eisteddfod field (or maes). With over 1,000 activities as well as on-stage competitions and a series of concerts featuring musical stars like Rhidian and Only Men Aloud, the Blaenau Gwent and Heads of the Valleys National Eisteddfod was an invigorating success – in line with the traditions of one of Europe's greatest arts and cultural festivals.

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Councillor Don Wilcox | Executive Member for Regeneration | Blaenau Gwent Council

