

Prestongrange Bath House

Graphics Package

June 2026 (V5)



Prestongrange Bath House Graphics Package

This is a working document that will outline proposed and optional designs throughout the Bath House (external and internal). It is intended to be shared and updated after feedback, whereby we have an accurate guide for each graphic position, the proposed format, materials, finish and required installation.

Contents:

Research / Visitor engagement / Aims / Messages

Graphic Package: Locations / Graphics / Materials / Production

Time Schedule

Potential suppliers



Research / Visitor engagement / Aims / Messages

The brief

The former Pit Head Bath House sits within the Prestongrange Heritage Park and is currently undergoing a £2million repair and redevelopment which will result in a new Volunteer Base, Activity Room and associated ancillary spaces (Toilets, Cleaners Store etc.) being delivered to encourage greater use of the Heritage Park site by both the local community and visitors from further afield.

Prestongrange has a long industrial history with glass making, salt panning, brick making, and coal mining all taking place on the site over a 500-year period.

The former Pit Head Bath House was constructed in 1952 as part of the National Coal Board (NCB) drive to improve industrial welfare conditions. The building housed washing facilities for up to 900 miners as well as providing separate clean / dirty lockers for clothes and the incorporation of a medical centre. The importance of these facilities cannot be underestimated as it was, for many, the first time the miners did not have to go home in dirty / wet clothes and were also paid for changing/ washing time.

The building was in use for only 10 years with the colliery closing in 1962. The site began to be cleared whilst the brickworks continued to operate into the 1970s. The local community stepped in to preserve key structures on the site including the Hoffman Brick Kiln, the Beam Engine building and the former Bath House starting the creation of the heritage park.

The community developed a small network of railway within the park to run steam and diesel powered locomotives and the Bath house was adapted to securely store these locomotives and rolling stock. The former canteen building was converted into a small visitor centre and the site was eventually taken over by East Lothian Council Museum Service in 1994. A new Engine Shed was delivered in 2023 which allowed the relocation of the locomotives and rolling stock, freeing up the Bath House for significant repair to the fabric and iterative development to provide community and commercial spaces.

The current redevelopment of the Bath House has focused on getting the external fabric of the building structurally safe, and wind/water-tight, as well as fitting out a limited area for the Volunteer Base and Activity Room. Further development is in the planning stage and will likely see some further commercial accommodation delivered and possibly a café facility.

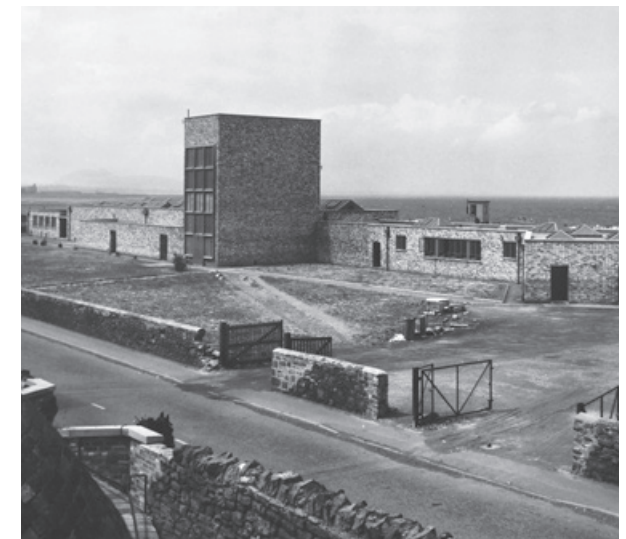
The brief for this package of work is to develop a coherent and coordinated graphic package for a number of different elements for the former Pit Head Bath House building including general internal and external signage, and wider external graphic opportunities, linking to our existing Prestongrange Heritage Park branding.

ELC are keen to present a clean, coordinated and legible design approach across the redeveloped

Bath House that acknowledges the buildings design aesthetic, its importance in the development of industrial welfare practices, and the transition of the site from a “dirty” industrial past to a “clean” environmentally friendly future.

There are a variety of opportunities to explore throughout the Bath House, and a wealth of material to be harnessed including community developed murals and historical photographic imagery.

The aim is to pull together all of the potentially disparate elements and ensure a coherent design approach is identified which can also be extended across the wider heritage park in the future.



Visitor reviews

An analysis of TripAdvisor reviews (70+ reviews) gives an overall rating of 4.1 out of 5. The comments suggest a mixed but generally positive experience, with strong appreciation from some visitors and clear disappointment from others. The museum is often described as a “hidden gem”, but equally as a place that can feel underdeveloped or under-interpreted, depending on expectations. Can we keep that sense of ‘discovery’ while tackling some of the key weaknesses and challenges?



What visitors value

1. Staff and volunteers (when encountered)

Frequently praised as friendly, knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Personal interaction often transforms the visit, adding stories and meaning. However not all visitors encounter staff, and resourcing challenges mean this should not be relied on.

2. Authentic industrial setting

Large-scale remains (mining, brickworks, machinery) give a strong sense of place. Visitors enjoy the ability to explore real industrial heritage in situ. But without interpretation, many structures are hard to understand and some visitors report “not knowing what they were looking at”.

3. Informal, outdoor, free experience

It works well as a low-pressure, free day out with space to run around, play areas, and a relaxed atmosphere. It's considered suitable for short, casual visits with children and strongly valued as a no-cost attraction. Good for a brief stop or local visit.

However, this informality leads to a perception that it is “more a park than a museum” so visitors expecting a traditional museum can feel underwhelmed. Limited structured interpretation or activities means engagement can be shallow or short-lived, and some visitors report a feeling of underinvestment.



Key weaknesses and challenges

1. Lack of interpretation and storytelling

The most consistent criticism is too few signs or explanations, interpretation that is basic, dated or sparse and a reliance on prior knowledge or imagination. This leads to a narrow appeal with those already interested in industrial heritage and local history more satisfied with the visit than tourists with no prior knowledge or families. We can use some of the Bath House signage/graphics as part of a wider plan to address this over time.

2. Inconsistent visitor experience

The visitor experience is dependent on the time of day and year due to limited opening hours. We must make sure the Bath House signage and graphics work as well when ‘closed’ as when open. And that, where possible, the closed openings look intentional rather than ‘closed’.

3. Perception of neglect or underinvestment

Several comments note the site can feel run down or poorly maintained in places.

The new signage and graphics are a great opportunity to address this.

Preston Grange is perceived as visitors as sitting somewhere between an industrial heritage site / open-air museum and a local park with historic features.

This hybrid identity is appealing to some, but unclear to others, leading to mismatched expectations.

Bath House graphics / signage aims

1. Establish the 'Heritage Park' brand and identity.

The whole site is the park. The museum is just one feature. It is primarily an outdoor site with scattered buildings. The package includes a review of the main exterior signs visible from the B1348 main road.

2. Label and interpret the Bath House.

- Tell visitors what it was, why it built, when it was in use and what it meant for the people and community.
- Where does it fit in the wider story of the Prestongrange site and Heritage Park (in time, range of industries)?
- Say something about its preservation, refurbishment, current use and future potential.

3. Make the site look appealing and cared for, whether the buildings are open or closed.

The building should look cared for and be interpreted from the outside when closed out of hours and out of season.



Key messages

Key messages for the signage fall under the themes of Community, Continuity, Renewal and Regeneration:

- At Prestongrange Heritage Park, over 500 years of industry have left their mark on both the landscape and the community. From the earliest coal mining through to the height of Scotland's Industrial Revolution and into the 1960s, generations of local workers built skills, livelihoods and shared identities here.
- Coal was central, but never the whole story. The site adapted over time, producing bricks, clay pipes, fine pottery and glass. By the early 1900s, more than 1,000 people worked here and lived nearby.
- Traces of this past can still be seen across the site and beyond. Transport links evolved. First, Morrison's Haven harbour, then the railway connected Prestongrange to wider networks of trade and shaped everyday life.



- Within living memory, this was a busy, noisy place of work. Since the 1960s, some of the industrial buildings and machinery have been preserved, while other areas have returned to nature. Today, refurbishment is opening up new opportunities for the community to use and share this historic place.
- At its heart, Prestongrange is a story of people as much as industry. Those who worked here, lived nearby and care for it today all play a part in keeping its stories alive and shaping its future.

To deliver these aims and messages think about:

- Showing the range of Prestongrange industries but with primary emphasis on coal mining.
- Decorating all the shutters so that it looks as good when closed as open.
- Using photos of people from the past (and present) inside.
- Showcasing the regeneration and reuse of the building.



Graphics Overview

The existing graphics used throughout Prestongrange Heritage Park, features the mine head graphic, represented in orange, black and white.

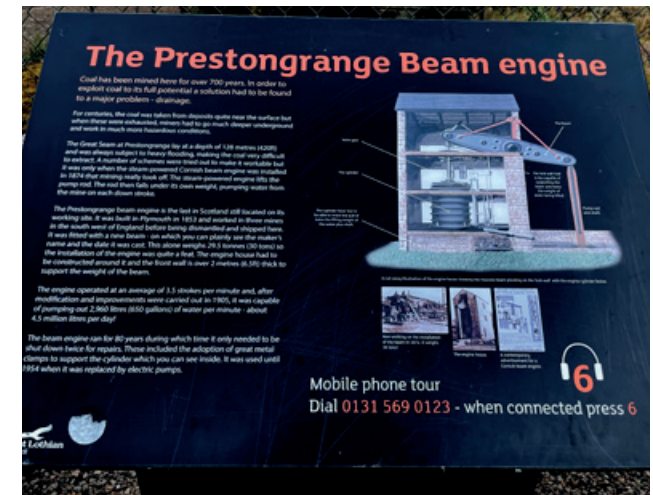
This approach provides a clean and strong image of the Industrial site and should be utilised across the Bath House graphics package.

The proposed Cladcolour tie into this colour scheme.

Images should be shown as black and white images, of past workers and present community, showing an integration of the Prestongrange community in a timeless format.

Materials should be reflective of the site's history, potentially used in a contemporary context. For example, the black and white illustrated murals could be framed using corten or metal (Ral 7021).

Typography should use an industrial font (slab serif) for any headline information, and a clean serif for bodycopy.

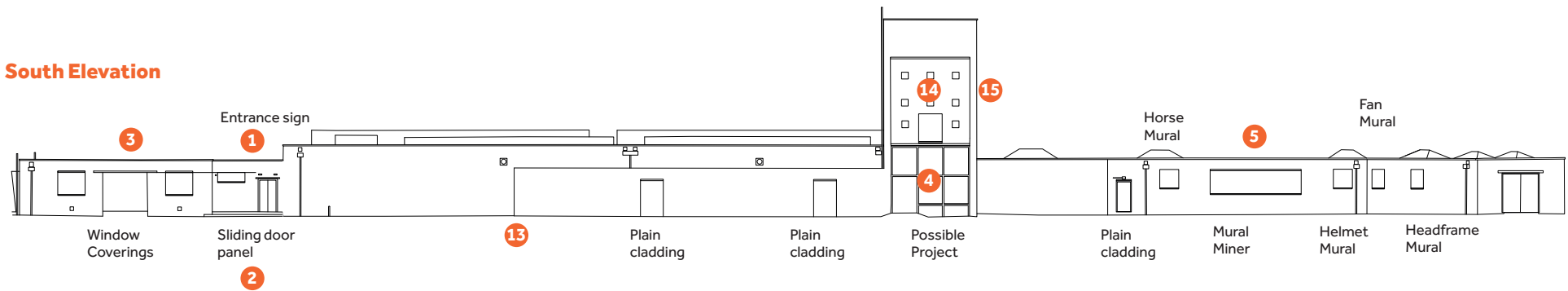


Graphic Package: Locations / Graphics / Materials / Production

Below is an overview of the external signage/graphics based on our initial site meeting and the consultancy brief.

The following pages detail each location point.

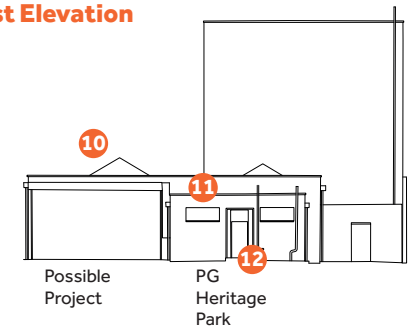
South Elevation



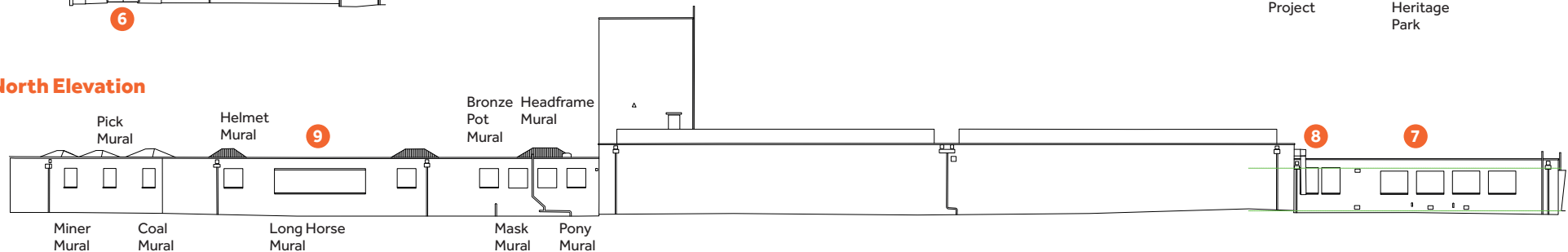
East Elevation



West Elevation



North Elevation



South Elevation

1. Building Signage at Main Entrance

Sign to be applied/fixed to existing brickwork.
Discussion with fabrication supplier on methods of fixing.

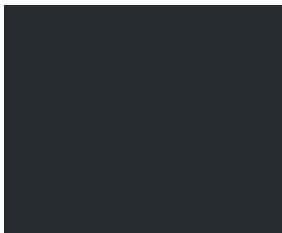
Title to be "PITHEAD BATHS".

Sliding door to be to the left of the entrance door when the Bath House is open, and covering the door when the facility is closed.

Material of door to be confirmed.
Sliding mechanism to be confirmed.



Close-up area where entrance sign is to be applied: existing brick work and concrete.



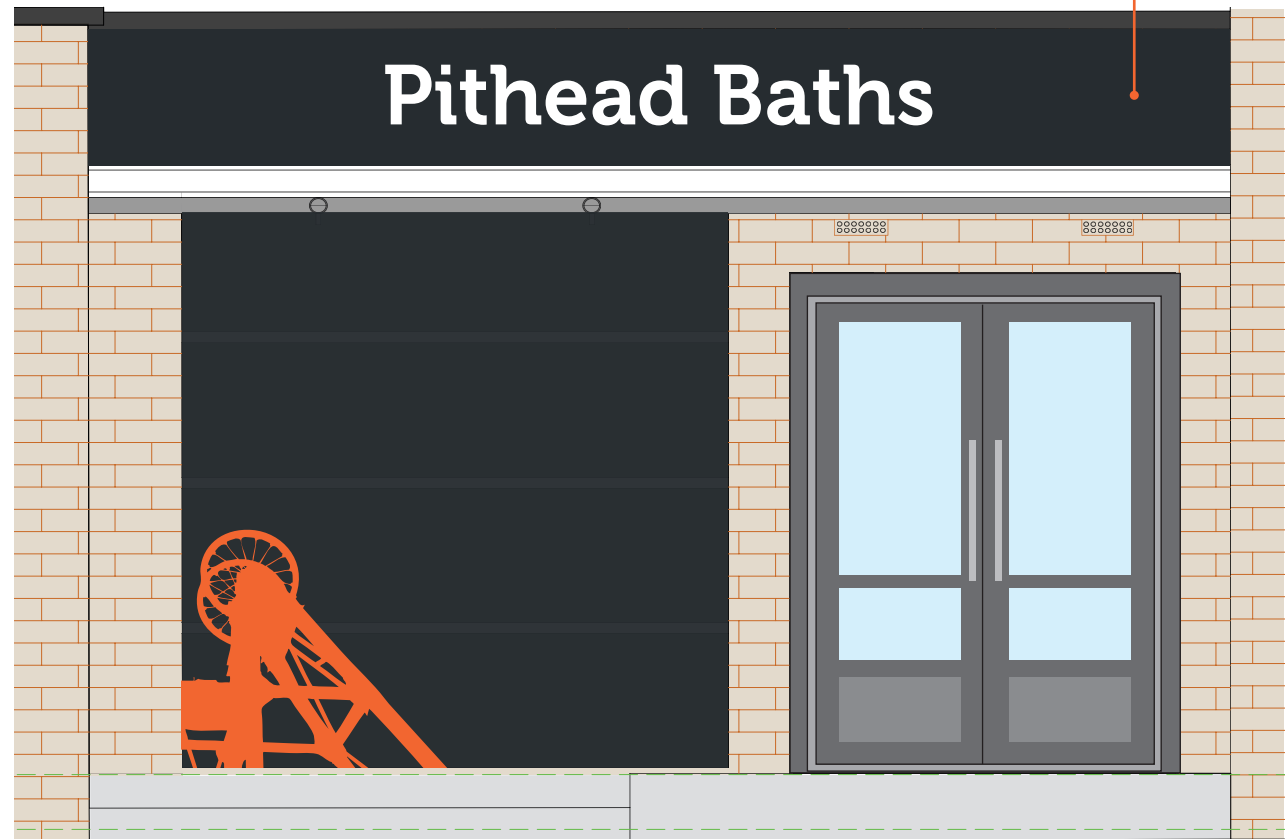
Ral 7021: intended Cladcolour colour.



Notes: The sliding door may possibly be covered in Cladcolour, Ral 7021.

The fixing details for the Cladcolour board are with a protruding coloured capping. This may be able to be reduced slightly with the use of a rivet fixing method - to be confirmed.

Panel size (approx): 5190mm wide x 610mm tall



Above: Dibond print at top. Graphic on door painted via signwriting.
Sliding door approx 2497mm wide x 2525mm. Orange graphic approx 1000 x 1000mm.

3. Security Roller Shutters to Window / Door Openings

4 roller shutters – two full height, two smaller (window). "Almet roller shutter".

South Elevation

4 window areas below to have roller shutters



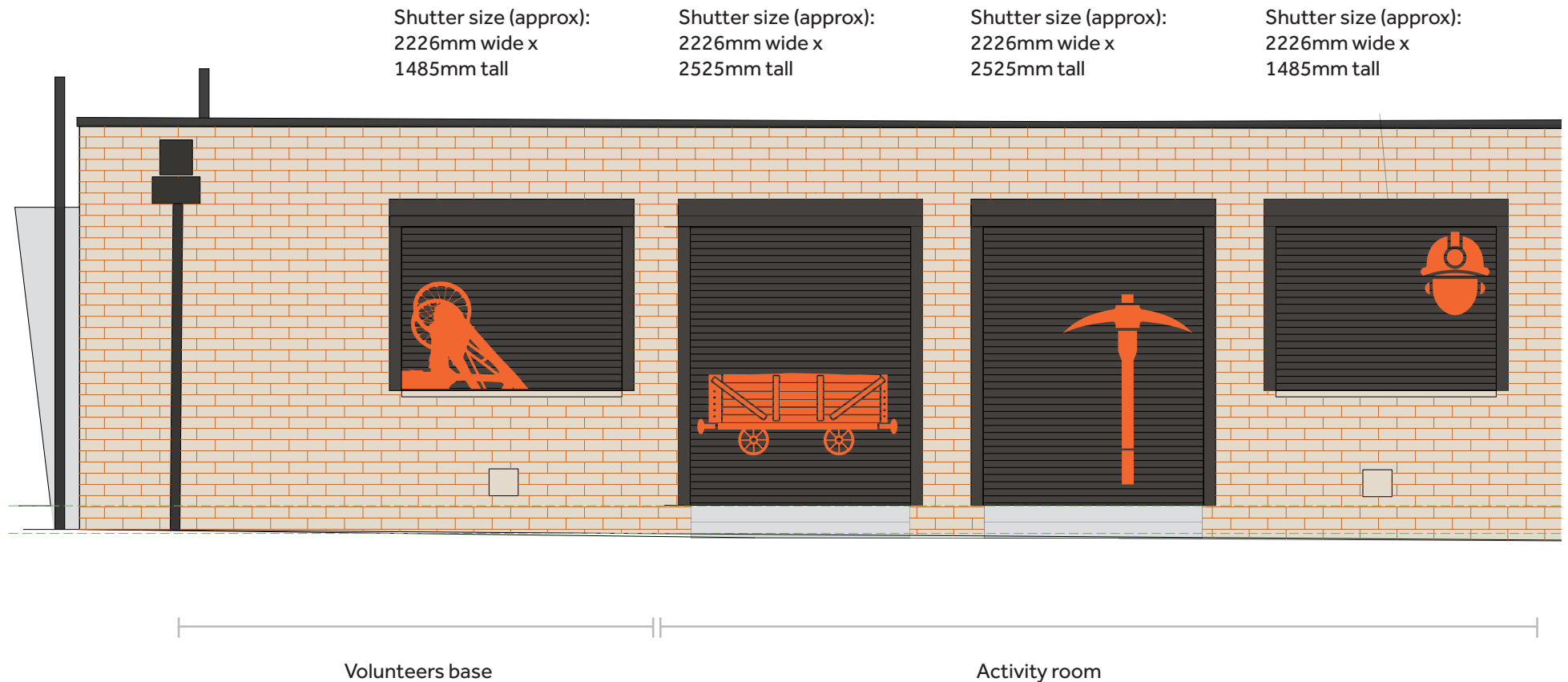
Left: example of Almet roller shutter.

Approach is to apply a graphic by a signwriter by hand, using enamel paint to provide a sharp finish.

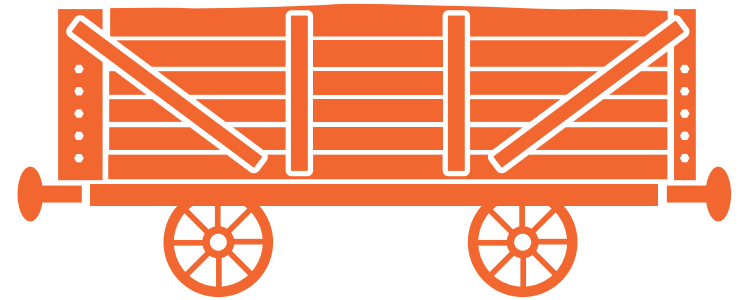
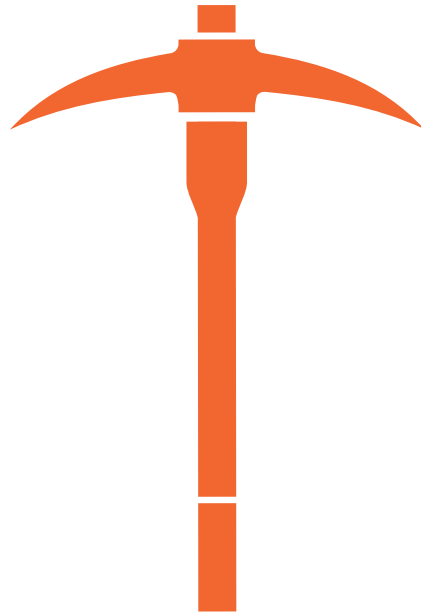
3. Security Roller Shutters to Window / Door Openings

Slats are 60mm tall when the shutters are closed and they are flat/flush.

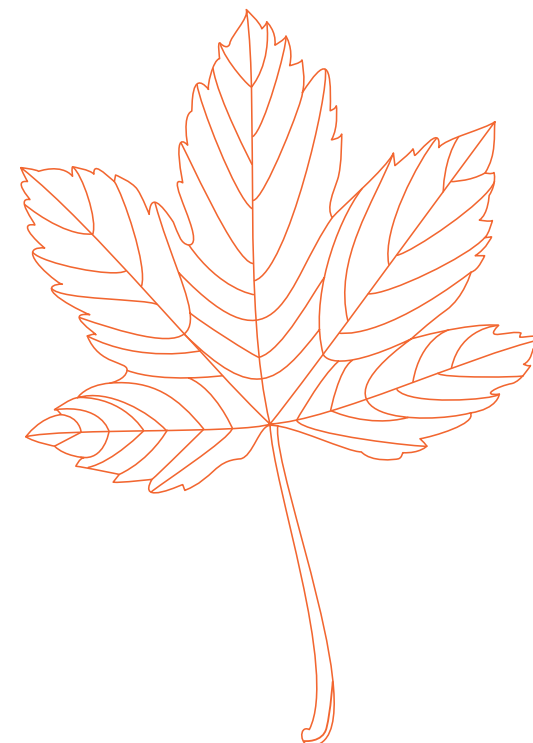
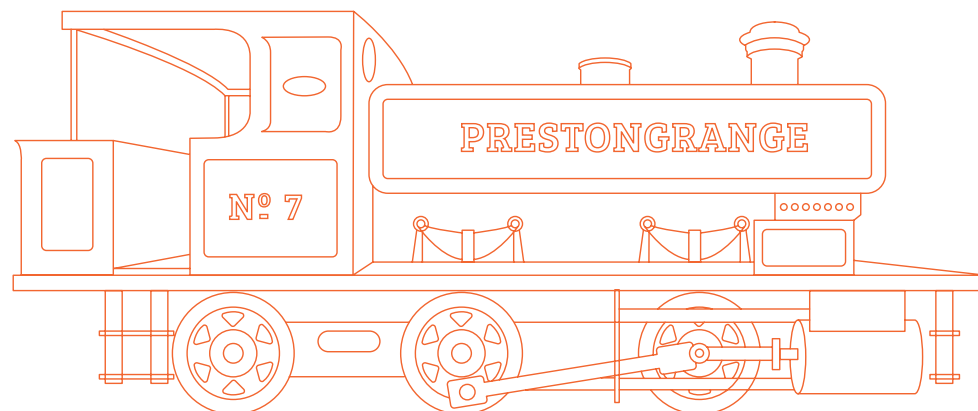
Approach: Icons of activities undertaken by the miners when the Bath House was functioning - eg. pickaxe, lamp, shovel, hammer, chisel, minecart, mechanised shearer, electric shovels etc.



Icons



Icons / illustration



Icons / illustration



Icons / logos



Optional variances on the Industrial heritage stencil font, for use on shutters/ doors to identify spaces within the Bath House.



I think the above version (discussed as an option) will conflict with the PHP logo



Optional: marker turned 45 degrees to be more like a map marker.



Optional: simple circle

Fonts

Prestongrange

Heritage Park

The word “**Prestongrange**” is font is FS Lola Bold - no longer readily available. I'd recommend this is the only place this font is used for consistency across the site.

“**Heritage Park**” is font Museo 500. I'd recommend this is used for main headlines.

I'd recommend Big City Grotesque Pro for smaller bodycopy, which is available in a variety of weights. For internal documents, Verdana is similar in style.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Museo 500

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Museo 700

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Big City Grotesque Pro Book

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Big City Grotesque Pro Bold

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

4. Tower Screen Infill

The tower originally housed the water to supply the Bath House.

Potential ideas:

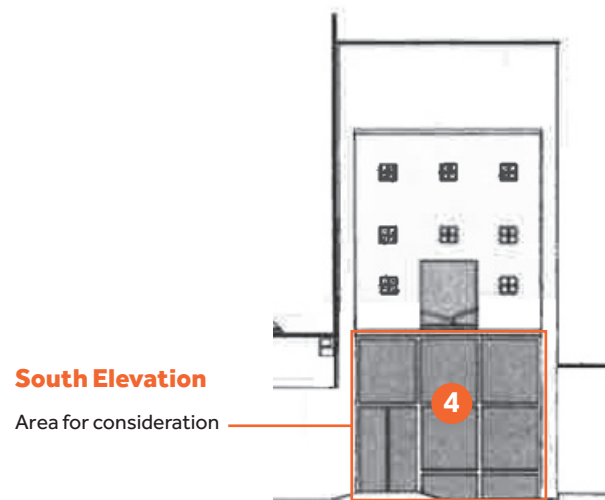
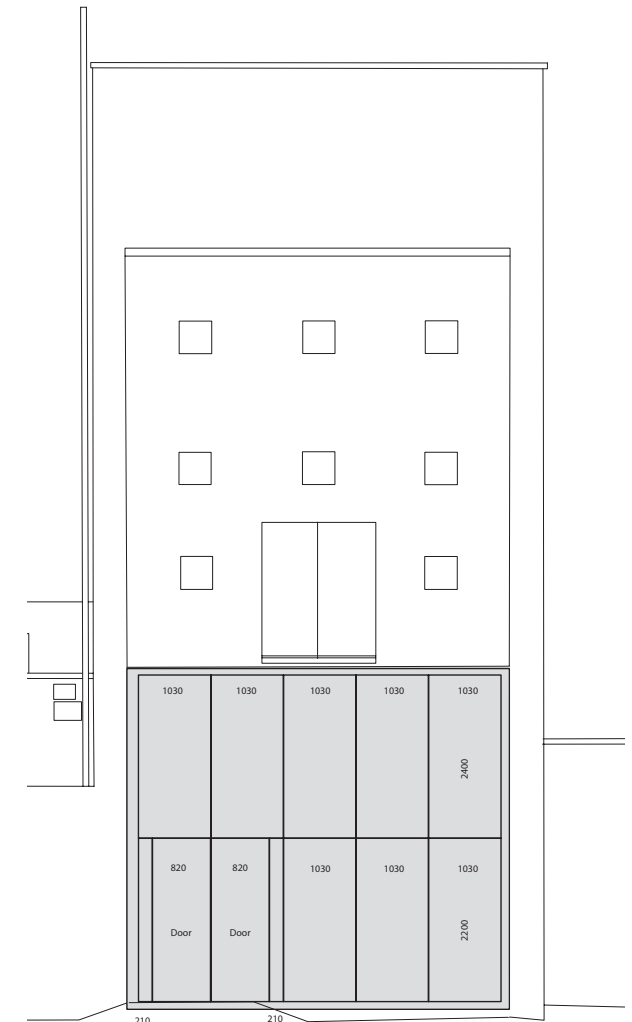
- Further mural development
- Projection
- Community involved project (eg. mosaic)
- Stencil area (if used on the shutters)
- Building Wraps & Mesh Banners
- Light-touch graphics

For the purposes of timescale and budget, we are proposing a light-touch graphic approach is undertaken for this phase of graphics.



The door part will be a functioning door. Initially maintenance only. Other areas will be covered by Cladcolour.

The fixing details for the Cladcolour board are with a protruding coloured capping. This may be able to be reduced slightly with the use of a rivet fixing method - to be confirmed.



South Elevation

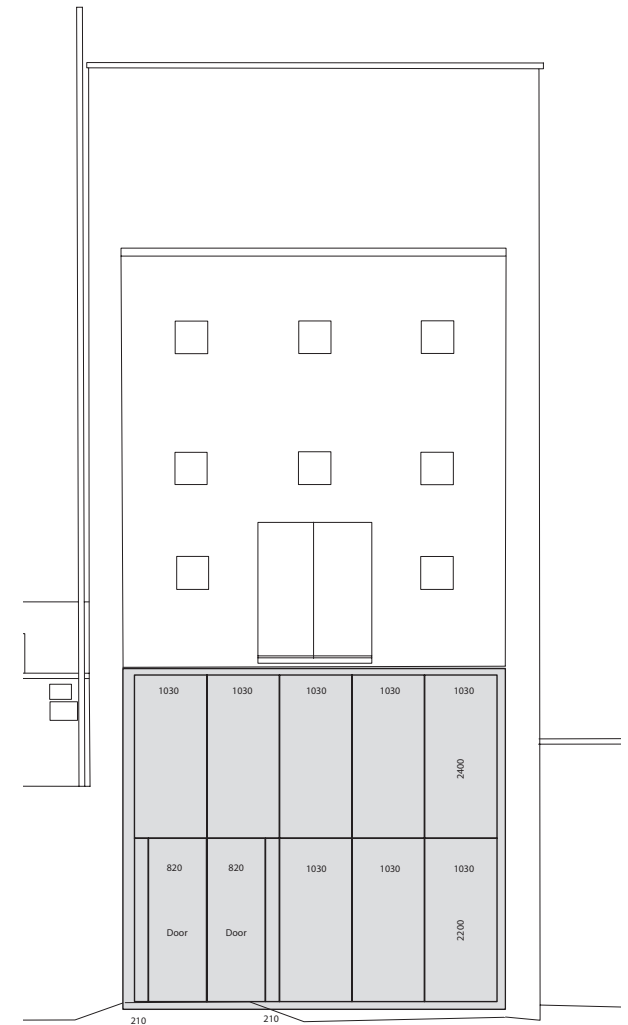
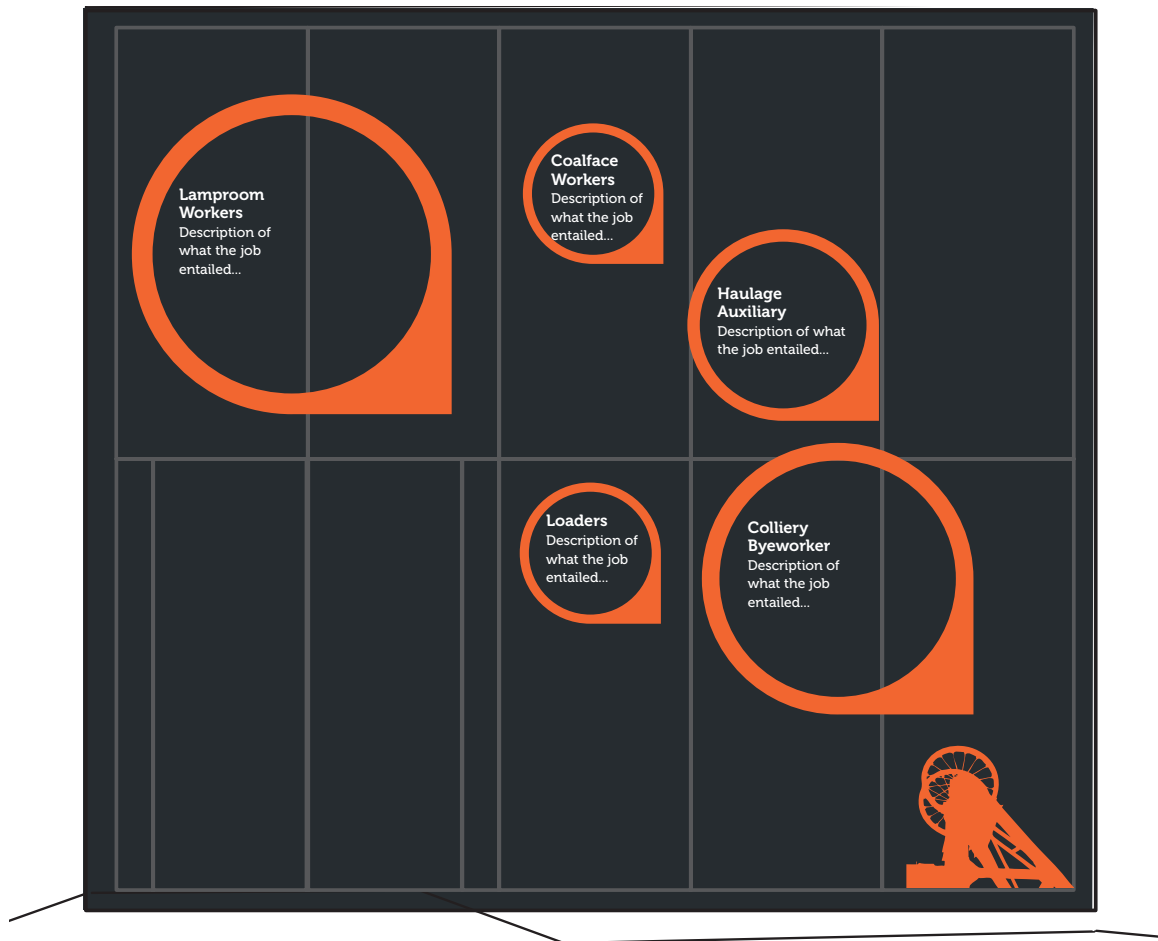
Area for consideration



4. Tower Screen Infill

Light-touch approach: Signwriter to apply graphics using enamel paint directly onto Cladcolour.

Approach: Quotes from past workers. If this proves too difficult to source, miners job titles and descriptions of their duties. Or this could be local Pit names from surrounding area.

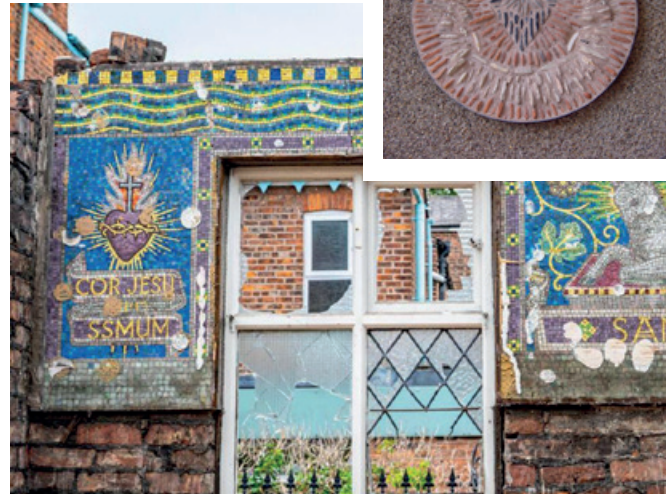


4. Tower Screen Infill Moodboard of ideas

These ideas are based on a more long term funded project, involving the local community and artists.

A community mural painting, could have specific mosaic areas, created off-site and integrated into the painting - eg. using painted tiles or materials reflective of the Park eg. brick, coal, tiles, ceramics, glass, metal etc.

Community mosaic



Community mural (painted)



Projection onto building



Stencil Art onto building



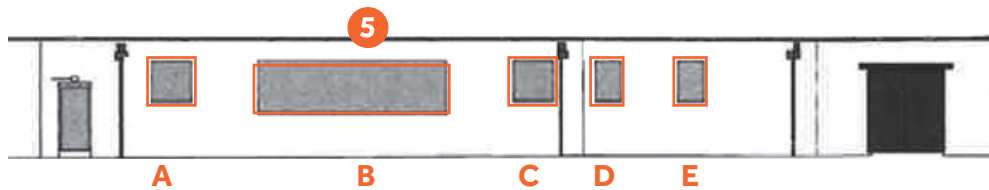
Mesh Banner, vinyl wrap, pvc banner

5. Temporary Security Boarding to External Openings

Coordination of the mural designs by Tom Ewing to be applied to the Cladcolour infill boarding to 1 long opening and 4 square openings.

Cladcolour fit and finish to be confirmed, so we can confirm fitting of printed murals.

South Elevation



Below: Murals could be a heat sealed print directly onto the Cladcolour material for simplicity and durability.



A

1260 x 1220

B

6100 x 1450

C

D

1260 x
1220

E

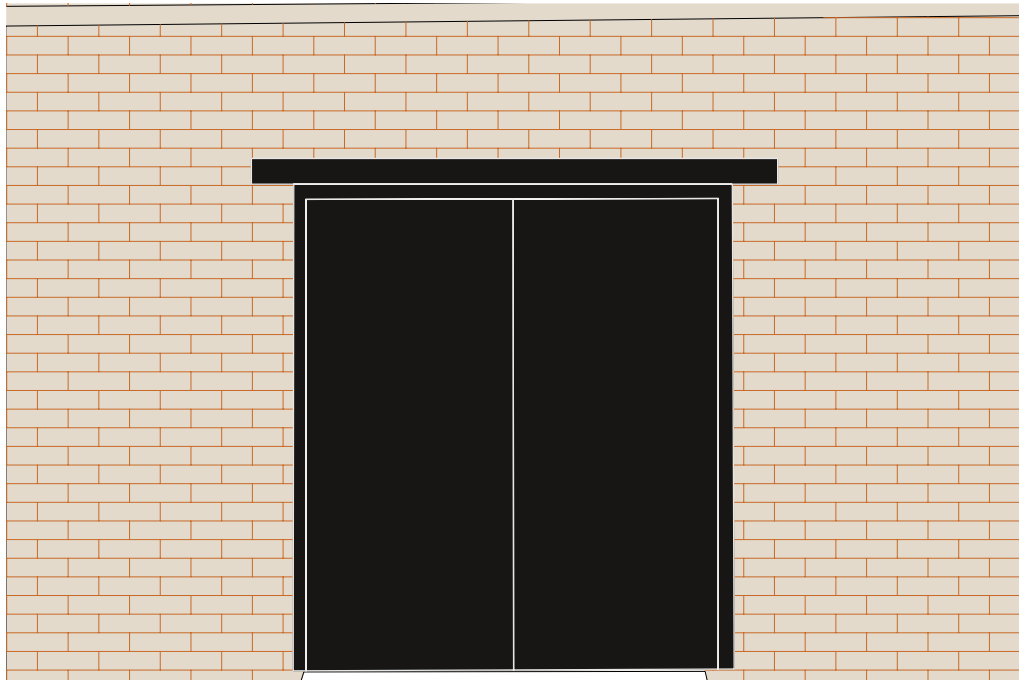
1260 x
1220

Measurements to be double checked on-site

6. Double Doors to East End Gable

Door is to remain as is with the addition of being painted. This is a Fire door which opens from inside only.

We would recommend there's no graphic on these doors, as the base area is quite frayed.



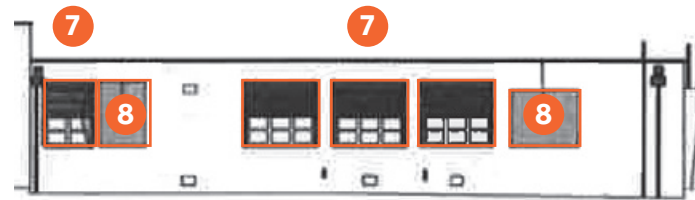
North Elevation

7. Security Roller Shutters to Window / Door Openings

8. Permanently Built-Up Openings

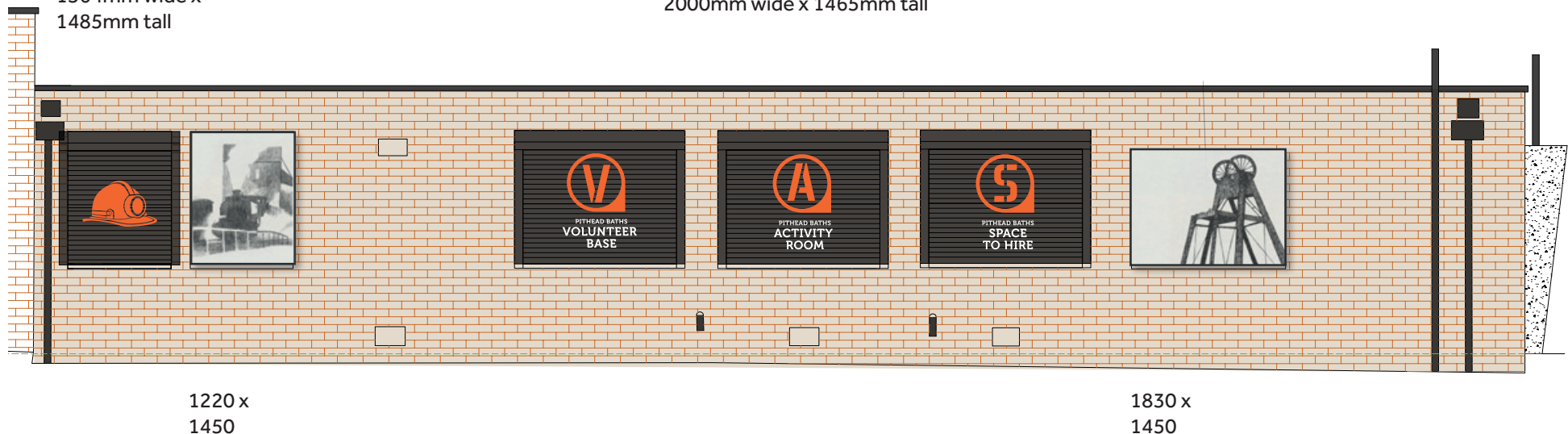
Approach: to label the activity room and volunteer base on these windows to show the building does have a contemporary use, visible from the roadside, creating awareness of the facilities. These should look welcoming and inviting

North Elevation



Shutter size (approx):
1364mm wide x
1485mm tall

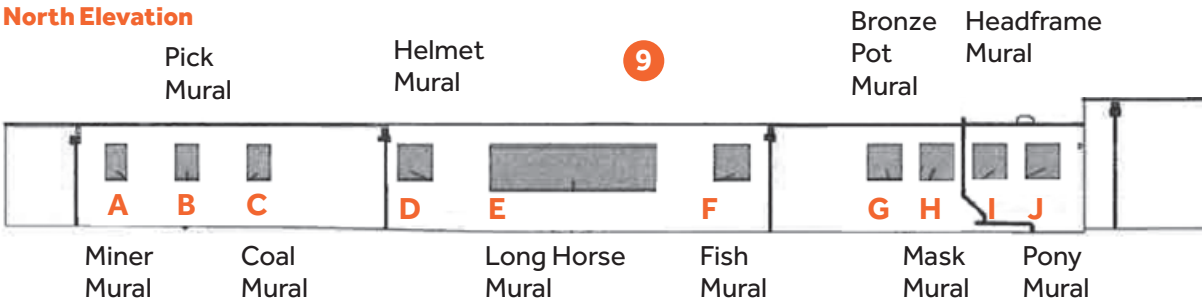
3 x Shutter sizes below (approx):
2000mm wide x 1465mm tall



Measurements to be double checked on-site

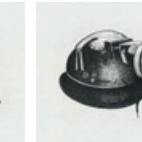
9. Temporary Security Boarding to External Openings

Coordination of the mural designs by Tom Ewing to be applied to the “Cladcolour” infill boarding to 1 long opening and 9 square openings. These may be printed from the existing design files onto a suitable backing and face fixed to the infill boarding installed within the current repair contract.



Murals could be a heat sealed print directly onto the Cladcolour material for simplicity and durability, as other murals.

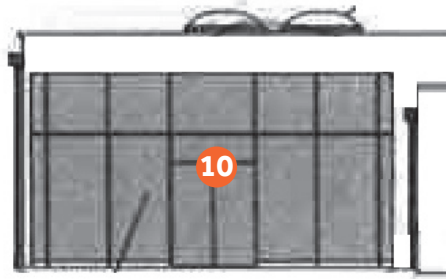


9										
										
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	J
1260 x 1220	1260 x 1220	1260 x 1220	1260 x 1220	6100 x 1450	1260 x 1220	1260 x 1220	1260 x 1220	1260 x 1220	1260 x 1220	1260 x 1220

Measurements to be double checked on-site

10. Main Hall Infill Screen

West Elevation



Notes: This will be covered in panelling will have a central door. At present we do not have a fixed use for the space, this is subject to ongoing work. It is visible to the road.

Similar to other large opening areas, a simple light-touch solution could be proposed for an economic and quick installation.

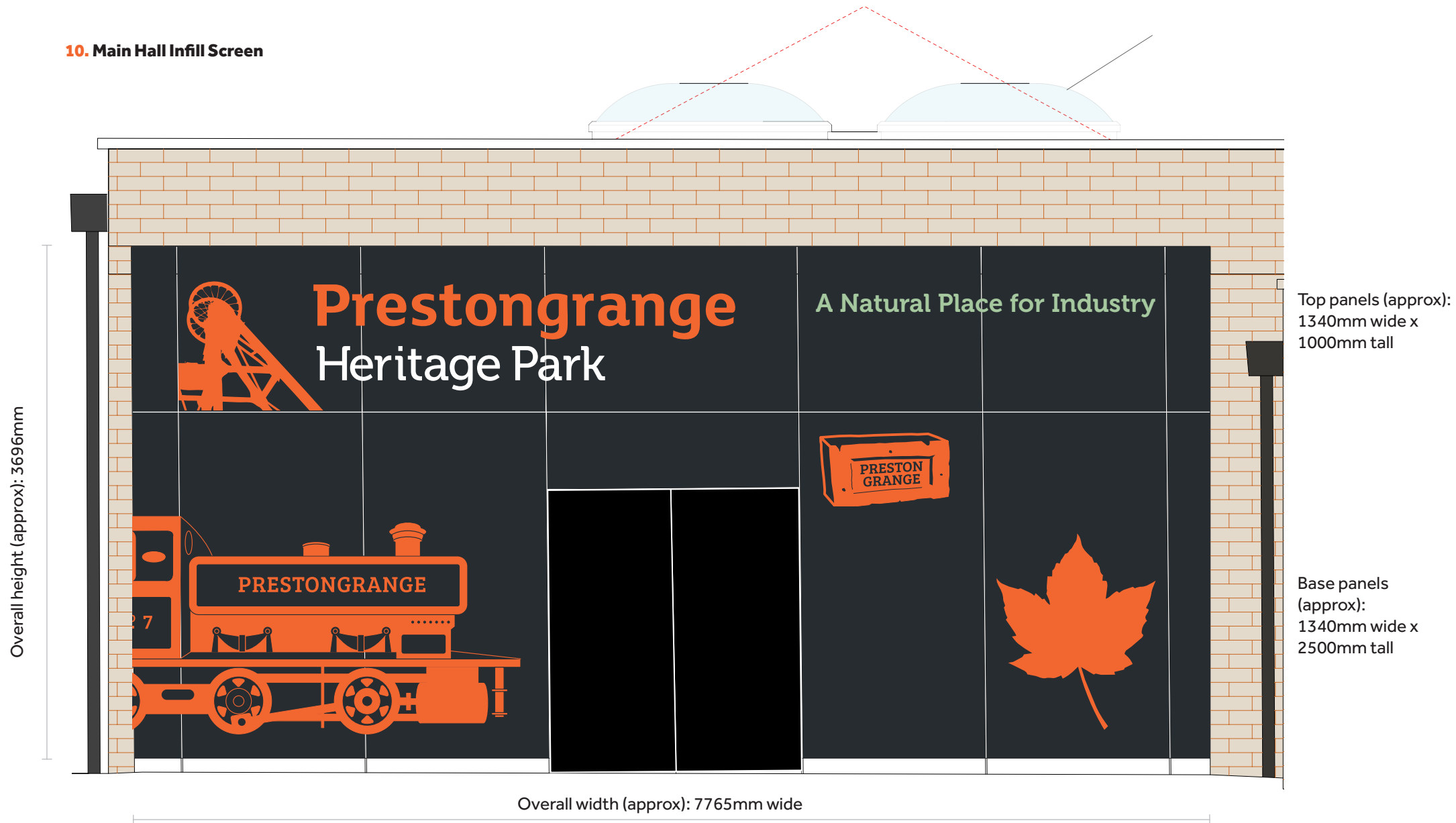
Alternatively, a more involved project could be developed involving the local community / artists to create which has long term funding :

- Mural development (Children's)
- Projection
- Community involved project (eg. mosaic)
- Stencil area
- Building Wraps & Mesh Banners

Further activities could be undertaken with children to create more images showing glass making, pottery, clay pipes, soap, beer, Morrison's Haven ships and the railway.



10. Main Hall Infill Screen



Light-touch approach: This opening, could give a hint of the further estate using linear graphic icons of materials, industry and nature at Prestongrange. It has broad appeal, viewed from the main road. Artwork: Signwriter paint onto Cladcolour, or vinyl applied.

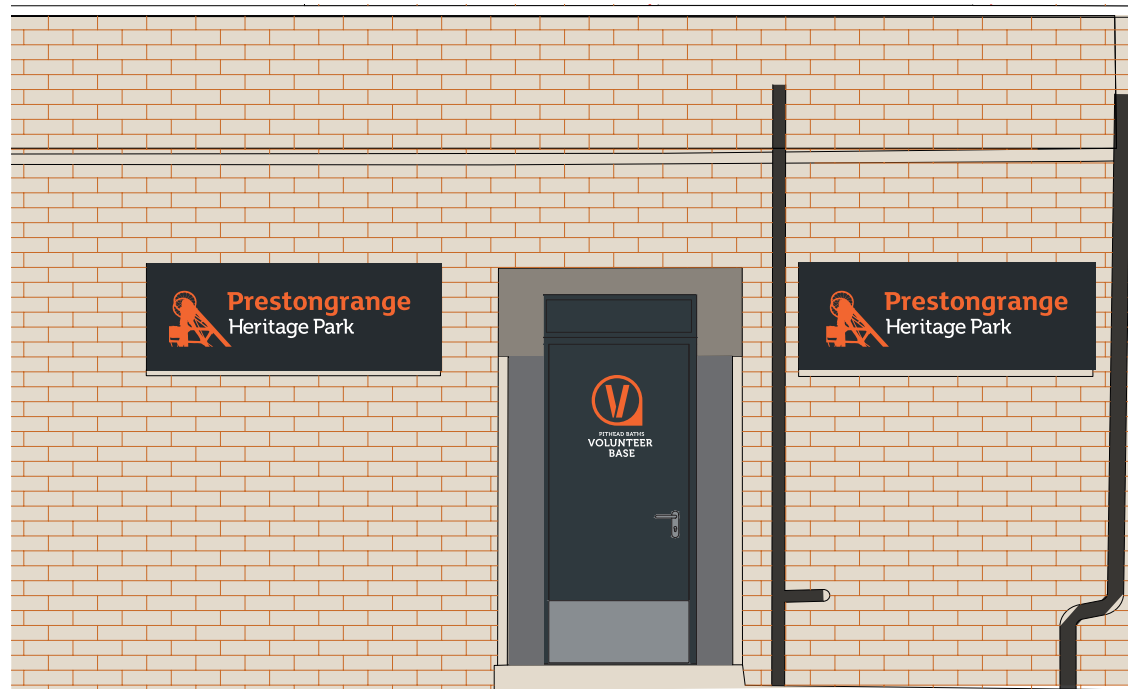
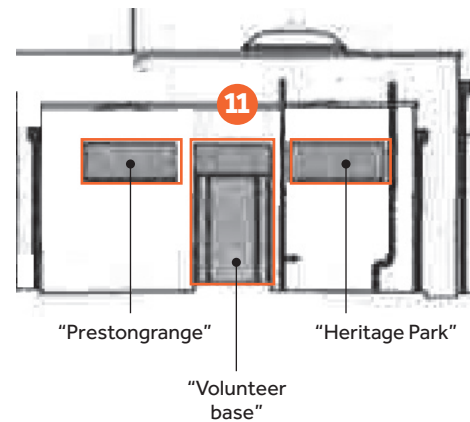
11. Permanently Built-Up Openings (High Level)

Incorporation of text graphic. This is a discreet / service area of the building although it does have the entrance to the Volunteer Base.

12. Security Roller Shutters to Door Openings

No roller shutters, this is a steel security door.

West Elevation



1830 x 630mm

Steel Door:
900mm wide x
2050mm

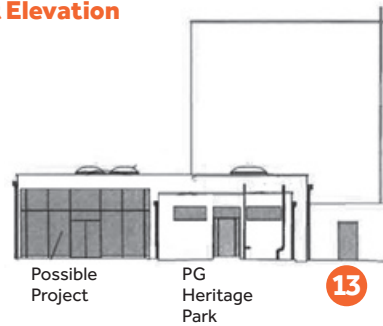
1830 x 630mm

Measurements to
be double checked
on-site

13. Electrical Plant Room Door

Notes: Door to be powder coated. Recommend Ral 7021 to match other areas.

West Elevation



14. Temporary Security Boarding to External Opening (Tower First Floor)

Notes: Currently painting area. Discussion on light colour for future projection onto this area.

This area is high up from the ground, so possibly more suitable for a creative solution to be applied (eg Community Mural, or printed dibond panels from artwork with future funding).

South Elevation

Area for consideration



15. Tower "Prestongrange" Sign

This is one of the Further Building Graphic Opportunities.

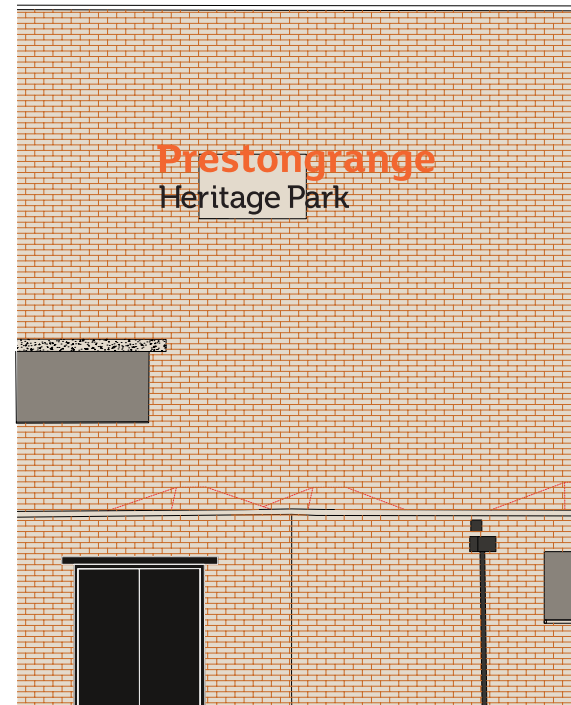
The existing "Prestongrange" is removed and not re-usable.

Solutions: This could take the form of:

- Lettering applied to building
- Single sign print



Dibond printed panel:
Approx size
5500mm wide
x 2000mm tall



3d raised lettering
Subtle lighting -
preferred option.

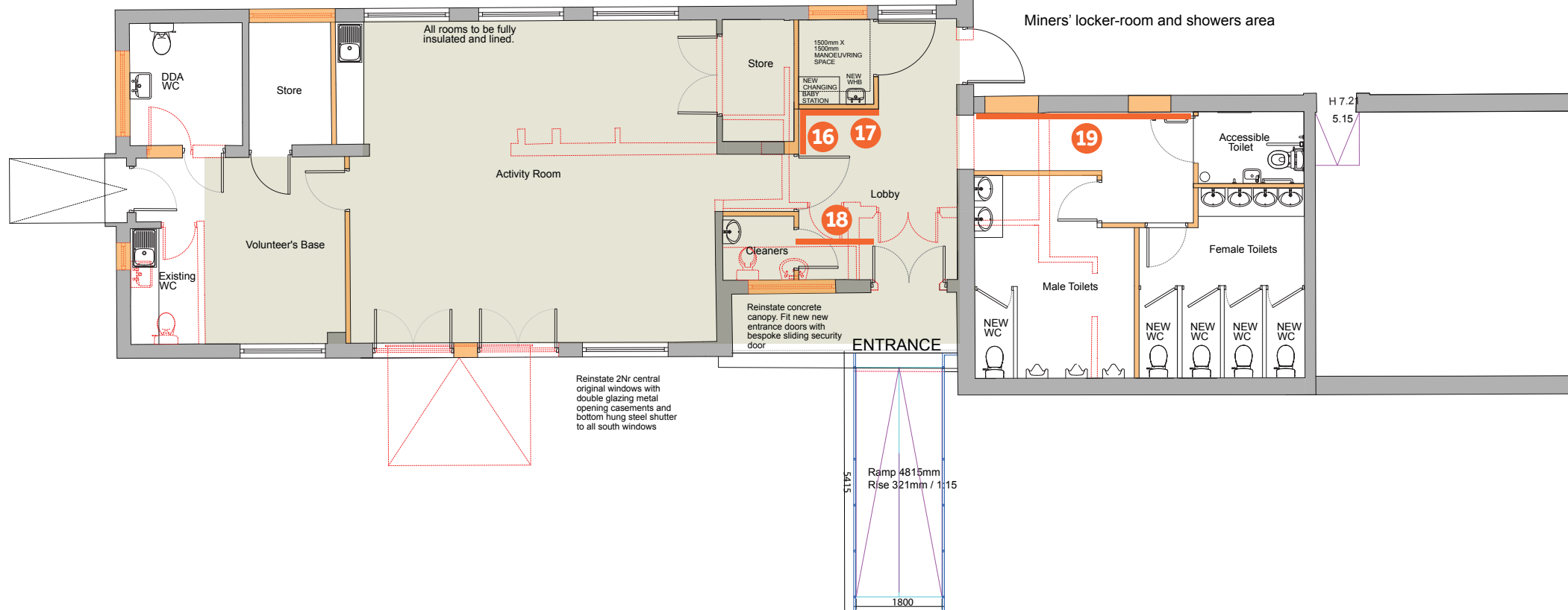
Floor plan of the internals

16: Wall measures 1135mm wide x 2335mm high.

17: Wall measures 1150mm wide x 2335mm high.

18: Wall measures 1650mm wide x 2335mm high.

19: Corridor area is 4220mm wide x 2400mm tall



Internal (General)

16. Funders Board in Entrance Lobby

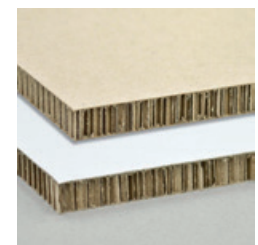
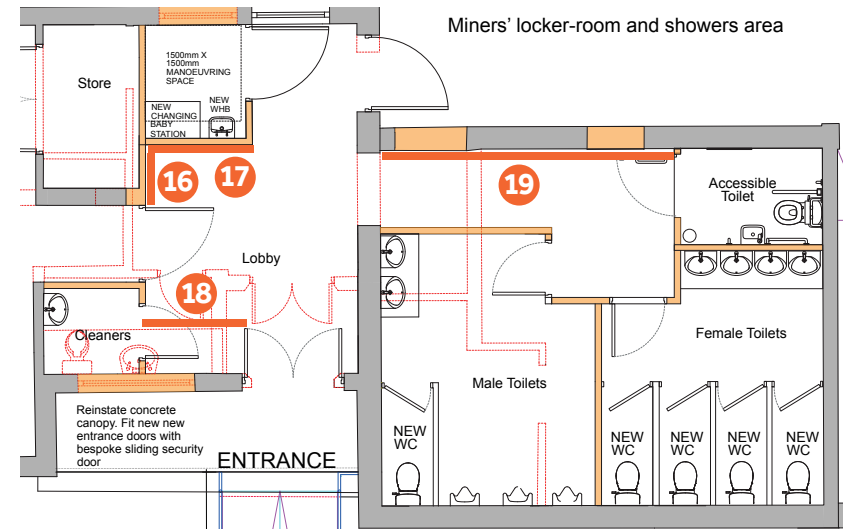
Notes: Funders acknowledged on panel but panel content to showcase the preservation and regeneration of the building and the whole site, as well as future potential.

We are recommending the Funders board is moved to the wall indicated below, to avoid a blockage at the doorway, and a large image and statement is now at the door entrance.

17. Lobby Interpretation Board

Notes: Content to be about the original building and use of the Bath House and what it meant for the lives of the miners and their families.

Possibly a foamex panel applied to wall, or Xanita board (compressed cardboard) - see below.



Xanita board

internal wall opposite the Funder Panel (area 18). A collage is a good idea for this area. I think that a combination of printed material and photos would be good.

16: Wall measures 1135mm wide x 2335mm high, 17: Wall measures 1150mm wide x 2335mm high, 18: Wall measures 1650mm wide x 2335mm high.

16

Pithead Baths Redevelopment

Preserving the Past

The Pithead Baths building was built in 1952 and was in use for 10 years before Prestongrange Colliery closed in 1962. The Prestongrange Brick and Fireclay Works continued to operate into the 1970s, whilst the wider site was cleared. The local community and heritage groups acted to save key buildings during this period, including the Hoffman Kiln, Beam Engine and the Pithead Baths.

Stripped of its original fittings, the Baths found new uses, including locomotive storage, while the former pit canteen became a visitor centre and museum in 1984.

Community Regeneration

Recent investment marks a new chapter. The Engine Shed, completed in 2023, now houses locomotives and rolling stock formerly stored in the Pithead Baths, freeing the building for repair and reuse. The former medical centre has been transformed into a volunteer base and an activity space for local groups.

A Living Site

This redevelopment is part of Prestongrange's ongoing story, shaped by community action, continuity and change, as it evolves from an industrial workplace into a shared Heritage Park and community asset.



The Pithead Baths redevelopment was made possible thanks to the support of:



17

Pithead Baths History

The Pithead Baths

When the facility opened in 1952, the Pithead Baths transformed daily life for the miners at Prestongrange and their families. For the first time, miners could shower, change and return home clean after a shift. Before this, men travelled home on foot or by bus in coal-stained, damp clothes. The baths marked a major step forward in workers' welfare, dignity and family life.

Showers and locker room

Inside the Pithead Baths were rows of tiled showers (despite the name, there were no baths!). Water was heated by steam power. Workers arrived via the main entrance on the way in and by a gantry from the colliery after their shift. A large changing hall with separate "clean" and "dirty" areas kept home and work clothes apart, heated lockers dried their work clothes ready for the next shift.

Miners' Welfare

The building also included a canteen, medical room, offices, boot-cleaning area, lamp room and storage for bicycles and motorbikes. Facilities like these for miners were paid for collectively through the Miners' Welfare Fund.



16: Left wall measures 1150mm wide x 2335mm high.

17: Right wall measures 1135mm wide x 2335mm high.

Both panels are 870mm wide x 1680mm tall.

The smaller text is 46 point (12mm Cap Height) and sits 1600mm from the ground allowing readability for all ages and abilities.



The Bath House

Text above is actual size of smallest text (on A4 sheet).

1600 mm

750 mm

18. Room Designation Signage

Toilet sign on toilet door:
Men/Women/Accessible - Kate has 1 existing sign.

Baby change on baby change door.

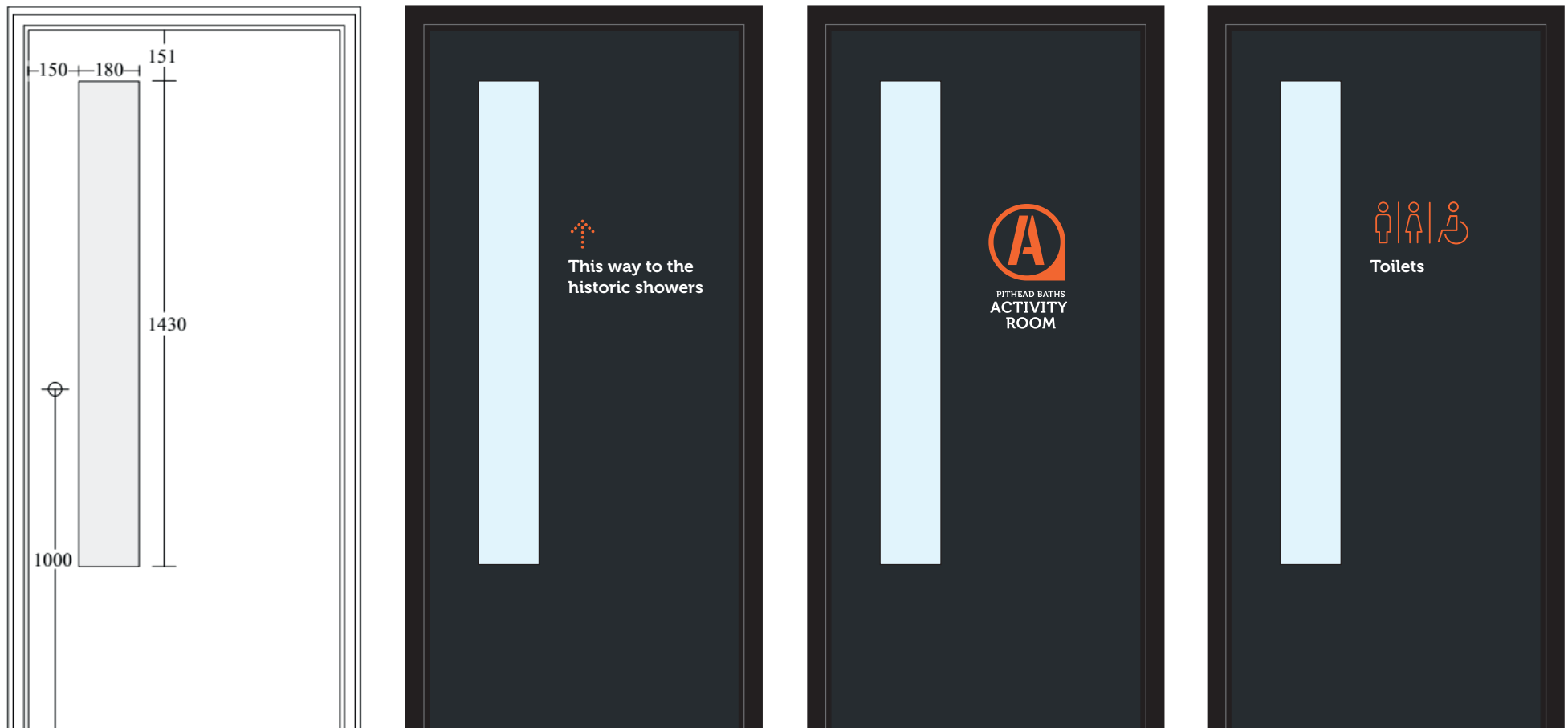
Notes: Areas to be labelled are:

- Toilets
- Babychange / accessible toilet
- Miners' locker-room and showers
- Activity Room (for hire)

Third graphic panel (opposite 17):

Propose contemporary family image in the Park setting to connect the past with contemporary use of the facilities and wider park.

Framed black and white photographs could be dotted throughout the activity room.



Graphics possibly applied via Vinyl, pending door material.

19. Toilet Corridor Wall Graphic / Interpretation

Notes: Could be:

- examples of digital wallpaper
- Collage of images with text

Corridor area is 4220mm wide x 2400mm tall.



Above: existing corridor

Based on discussions, as the corridor area is fairly narrow, a single large image will be difficult to see in context. Therefore a series of smaller images and text (news clippings) collaged together is more appropriate.

As the corridor could have a fairly high footfall, we are recommending foamex boards with wrap prints, which are laminated and can be wiped clean for maintenance.



19. Toilet Corridor Wall Graphic / Interpretation

Potential images and sources for a large collage.

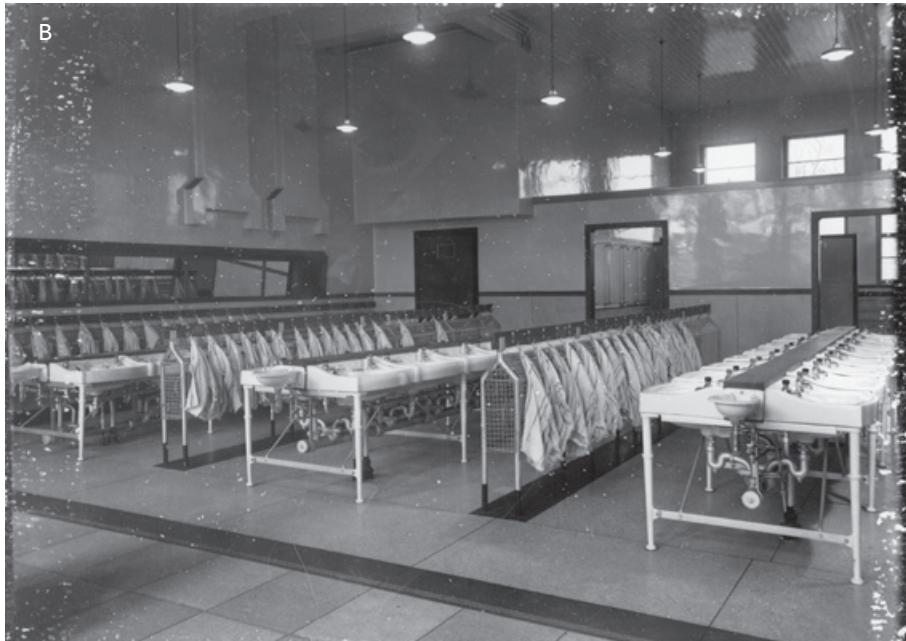
A: Canmore

B: Prestongrange Museum

C: <https://www.trove.scot/image/376407>

D: <https://www.trove.scot/image/2510603>

E: <https://www.alamy.com/the-pithead-baths-big-pit-national-mining-museum-of-wales-blaenafon-south-wales-image612942264.html>



External (General)

20. Directional Signage

The existing gate which is to remain and will nearly always be closed, is the ideal position for a large sign to promote the Bath House.

The rails on the gate will allow a sign to be positioned easily and avoid creating a free-standing sign.



This sign isn't part of the project but it does seem to be located at an odd position. We would recommend it is slightly moved and the legs are painted black or Ral 7021.



Size (approx): 2500mm x 1500mm (to be measured)

21. Prestongrange Road Sign

Update of the Prestongrange Road Sign to show "Prestongrange Heritage Park".

Suggested copy:

Prestongrange Heritage Park

Museum and cafe open seasonally
See [website] for details
Admission Free

Can we use Bitly or similar to create a short link to take people to: https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210593/museums/11878/museums_in_east_lothian/4? That way you don't need to keep updating the sign.

Prestongrange Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/PrestongrangeMuseum>

Website:
<https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/prestongrange>



Left: close up of existing road sign

Below: position of two road signs



21. Prestongrange Road Sign



Size Approx: 1800mm wide x 1200mm
(to be measured on site).

