

A new agricultural barn

Though the barn is designed for function first, its visual impact on the landscape must be considered. The initial construction presented a raw appearance of a large single building sitting within a small-scale and intimate landscape. This effect was magnified by the strong contrast of materials used and the lack of tonal weathering that most new buildings attract. Post-construction finishing has substantially reduced the visual impact of this building and provided more integration between development and setting. Painting and staining could be carried out before construction to save costs.



The untreated concrete plank panels visually lift the barn off the ground and the extreme tonal contrast between earth and concrete draws attention to the whole structure.

LOCATION AND CONTEXT

This new barn lies within the Principal Timbered Farmlands landscape character type. This is an area of rolling landscape fringed by steep-sided hills. The small-scale wooded agricultural appearance is characterised by filtered views through hedgerow trees and views to distant hills. Visually-dominant mature oaks are a particular feature of hedgerows and fields in this landscape.

Positioning the barn along the contours of the field helps it to sit more comfortably within the landscape and the siting of the building next to a mature tree helps to break up its outline in both summer and winter.

The barn sits within open countryside in a landscape of farmsteads and pasture.



Post-construction treatment to the timber cladding with a darker semi-transparent wood stain reduces the tonal contrast between the concrete planks and the timber. This reduces the overall perception of height.



Treating the concrete panels to match the tonal value of the ground it sits on, sets the building back down on the earth and reduces the overall perception of height. The contrast in materials puts a 'waistline' on the building which diminishes its apparent scale. The fibre cement roof is dark grey and non-reflective, unlike sheet metal roofs. This helps the barn to recede within views, especially when seen from the hills above.