

# DESIGN + ACCESS STATEMENT

## PROPOSED REPLACEMENT ROADSIDE SAWMILLS VEHICLE ACCESS SIGNAGE

### PONTRILAS SAWMILLS

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## 1.0

## SITE ANALYSIS

### 1.1 LOCATION

PONTRILAS SAWMILLS is located on a 53 acre (21.4 hectare) site in Herefordshire near the village of Pontrilas, approximately 10 miles south of Hereford.



#### Aerial view

Location of proposed highway ACCESS Signs to SAWMILLS (shown RED)

### 1.2 EXISTING BUILDINGS AND SITE DESCRIPTION

Pontrilas Sawmills is a long established family-run business founded in 1947 and today consists of two separate sawmills, a *Hardwood Mill* and a *Softwood Mill* providing timber for use across a range of markets from furniture, flooring, building and industry such as steelworks. The sawmills also supply all of the oak for the Canal and River Trust for the maintenance of lock structures and lock gates.

The Hickman family has continued to invest heavily in the sawmills throughout the recession investing approximately **£8.5 million** over the last few years. This has helped to protect and grow jobs in the area, 5 years ago the mill employed **155** people, today this has grown to **199** people, a growth of **29%** - 5 years ago the mill cut **600m<sup>3</sup>/day** this is now **1200m<sup>3</sup>/day**.

### 1.3 TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

The site has good road links via the A465 Hereford/Abergavenny trunk road and local road networks. Public transport in the area is good with a regular public transport route passing through Pontrilas to Hereford to the north and Abergavenny to the south, however, east west routes are poorly served by public transport services.

## 2.0 CLIENT REQUIREMENTS/JUSTIFICATION

Pontrilas Sawmills is a large *state of the art* sawmill operating 250 working days per annum and currently attract an average of 111.3 loads i.e. 222.6 HGV movements per working day. There are a further 6-10 loads (12-20 HGV movements) per day through the existing HGV access associated with the nearby Builders' Merchants at the Old Brickyard, Pontrilas.

A report prepared by **The Hurstone Partnership** - *Transportation Planning, Highway Design and Environmental Assessment - Access Revisions Report* dated January 2019 identified access improvements to demonstrate the satisfactory movement of HGV traffic into and out of the site. Adjustments to the main HGV access as set out in that report and agreed with Hereford Council and Highway Authority are currently in the course of being completed. The changes represent a significant improvement when compared with the existing arrangement and regularise the breach of the existing planning permission planning (*Condition 16 of permission reference P142033/F*).

Existing highway signage directing sawmill traffic to OFFICES, STAFF parking areas and HGV site accesses are out of date and poorly located. Location of these signs give little time to adjust vehicle highway speeds to access the sawmills safely. These signs will be removed and new signs provided located in new positions along the A465 highway curtilage boundary.

The proposed signage will provide 'clearer' less cluttered directional information and the new locations will allow vehicles approaching the Offices, Staff parking and revised HGV access more time to adjust highway speeds to access the sawmills safely.

## 3.0 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

### 3.1 QUALITY OF DESIGN

The proposed non-illuminated signs, **sign A** and **sign B**, will be **3100mm wide x 2100mm high** aluminium signs with a reflective background and vinyl letters/symbols compatible with UK Government Road Traffic signs to oncoming traffic sides only.

### 3.2 VISUAL IMPACT

The proposed signs will be located within the sawmills site curtilage in new locations facing oncoming traffic approaching from Hereford and Abergavenny. The new sign locations will provide more time for cars and HGV traffic to slow down safely before entering the site.

### 3.3 PROPOSED MATERIALS

#### *NEW ACCESS SIGNS*

Aluminium panels; colour : SEE drawings attached

Aluminium support posts; colour : GREY



#### VIEWS 1 and 2

Existing direction signs viewed from A465 Hereford/Abergavenny trunk road.

#### Existing signs to be removed

#### NOTE

- Sign located near STAFF parking access
- Sign located adjacent highway between STAFF parking access and HGV sawmills access

Existing signs are poorly located and give insufficient time for traffic approaching STAFF parking and HGV access junctions from the highway - the A465 has a **60 mph (96 km/h)** speed limit.

Existing signs will be removed and replaced with new signs that will be visually 'uncluttered' appearance using lettering and symbols compatible with standard UK Government Highway Traffic Signs.

The **new signs** will be located in positions that can be easily 'read' by oncoming traffic from both Abergavenny and Hereford directions allowing sawmills traffic adequate warning and sufficient time to slow down safely as they approach the sawmills.



#### VIEWS 3 and 4

Views of proposed location for new **sign A**

**sign visible from ABERGAVENNY direction ONLY**

#### NOTE

- View from bus stop layby opposite STAFF parking access indicating location of **sign A** (rear of proposed sign)
- Approaching the sawmills from Abergavenny showing location of **sign A** (front of proposed sign) in relation to **existing sign A**





#### VIEWS 4 and 5

Views of proposed location for new **sign B**  
**sign visible from HEREFORD direction ONLY**

#### NOTE

- Proposed **sign B** in relation to *existing sign B*
- Proposed location for **sign B**