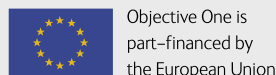


Objective One case study sites and premises



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The projects in the Sites and Premises investment cluster are helping address the shortage of quality modern workspaces across Cornwall for businesses wishing to grow and relocate.

Sites and premises projects have included both new build and the sympathetic conversion or redundant historic buildings for use by new businesses.

This workspace needs to be equipped for 21st Century business – including high speed internet access and environmental features that reduce running costs and access for people of all abilities.

Providing modern, suitable workspace facilities is essential to establishing an environment in which business can flourish long after 2006.

FINISTERRE at Wheal Kitty Workshops, St Agnes

Forward thinking design has helped to transform a derelict tin mine into high quality workspace in the west of Cornwall.

Historically Wheal Kitty tin mine provided the major source of employment for the village until the industry went into terminal decline.

In 1997, Wheal Kitty Phase One meant that work space replaced some of the old mine buildings. In 2006, Phase Two, which received Objective One investment, was opened. This phase saw the transformation of the Grade II listed former engine house into bespoke offices; the construction of environmentally friendly units built and more than 30 jobs created.

In a nod to the past former Wheal Kitty tin miner Colin Wills struck a symbolic sledgehammer blow at the official opening of Phase Two.

The Phase Two units range in size from 50 square metres to 200 square metres. As well as immediately creating 31 new jobs the development safeguarded a further nine. Tenant businesses at Wheal Kitty include web designers, surf board and surf wear manufacturers, Surfers Against Sewage and Atlantic Radio.

One of the tenants is Finisterre, which specialises in high quality, technical apparel for surfers. Tom Kay, Finisterre founder, said: “These are very exciting times for us. We have created a new clothing category that has been missing for some time. The quality of the product and the depth of brand have been well received. The move to Wheal Kitty means that we



Formerly a derelict tin mine, Wheal Kitty has been transformed into high quality workshops

have a perfect base to test and try our product in the very environment where it will be worn.”

As a group of historic mine buildings in a beautiful landscape Wheal Kitty demanded a high standard of design and build. Environmental design features include a ground source heat pump in the engine house; a grey water system; super insulation in the new build using a recycled paper product; a permeable car parking surface and local materials, and timber from sustainable sources.

The project, costing just over £1 million, was funded by the South West of England Regional Development Agency, the Objective One Programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, the Isles of Scilly Council and Carrick District Council.

Carleen Kelemen, Director for the Objective One Partnership, said: “This is a good example of partnership working and these workspaces will now be able to provide employment for generations to come. This project is one of a £70 million suite of workspace projects that have been invested in by Objective One. It builds new opportunities on the footprint of our past.”

For further information about Finisterre, see www.finisterreuk.com.