

Member Company Profile - LHC Design

LHC Design is a multi-disciplinary team of architects, urban designers, landscape architects, graphics and interior specialists in Exeter, Plymouth and St Austell. We take pride in our collaborative approach and while lockdown has presented challenges, not least in the rapid transition from office to home-working, our team has risen to them. We've delivered a huge variety of work in the past four months, which have been among our busiest of recent years.

In Cornwall we have major projects which have gathered pace, with ongoing work on **West Carclaze Garden Village** occupying an LHC team with skills across architecture, urban design, landscape and graphic. It is testament to their collaborative skills that lockdown hasn't interrupted this complex work schedule, which included the approval of an updated RM application for the first 169 houses; tender drawings for the first phase; works continuing on site and the submission of an RMA for Phase 2 (127 houses).

Similarly, the urban extension to Redruth at **Tolgus**, which LHC masterplanned some years ago, has seen our teams collaborating virtually to deliver work for several developers, as we help to bring the plan forward. Work has included the Phase 1 development of 185 houses for Treveth (Cornwall Council Housing Development); RM planning and production of RIBA Stage 3 and 4 design; integrated landscape and public realm design, and the compilation of tender packages.

Our landscape architects are engaged on a number of new cycle routes and trails, begun before lockdown and submitted for planning during, which have acquired added relevance with the recent focus on cycling. In particular we've designed a network of multi-use trails which link West Carclaze Garden Village into the surrounding area.

They have also been busy on several town centre public realm projects which will deliver much improved town squares and numerous streetscape enhancements to improve the pedestrian environment.

Our urban designers are, meanwhile, looking at masterplans for in excess of 3000 homes on sites ranging in scale from 80 to 1500 units, in Cornwall and across the wider region.

Projects occupying our architects include new education facilities for the imminent T Levels at regional colleges; along with the next phase of Plymouth's Oceansgate Marine Industries Campus

Just last week we held our annual LHC gathering. As a team we shared project highlights and talked over Zoom about how we could weave lockdown positives into new ways of working to better meet our clients' needs, reduce our carbon footprint and capture benefits for our team's health and well-being. Before the pandemic we'd dipped our toe into video conferencing, but we've learnt over the last four months that remote meetings are not just possible but can be advantageous.

So, in future we'll be making informed choices about when to physically meet and when to use technology, because it will *always* be vital to sit down with our clients and consultant teams in person, to understand their requirements, sketch concept ideas and agree shared outcomes.

LHC's studios are now open and staffed by a small team, most of us continue to work remotely for now, and we'll seize this opportunity to blend the best of the virtual and face-to-face worlds of work in the future.

*New homes
masterplan
Tolgus, Redruth >*



West Carclaze Garden Village view