



Case Study

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park

Introduction

Our relationship with Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, run by the Aspinall Foundation, goes back to the earliest days of our company and grows stronger each year.

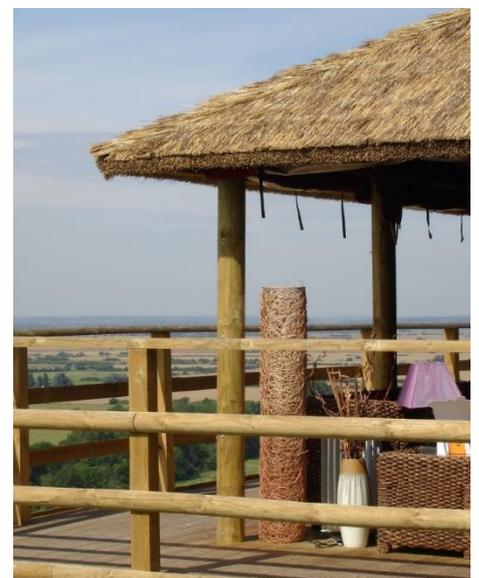
Since first agreeing to supply the award-winning attraction near Ashford with thatched picnic umbrellas in 2006, we have been able to contribute to the foundation's ongoing strategy to transform visitors' experiences, through the design and construction of key buildings to support the safari journey and overnight accommodation settings.

Why they chose The Lapa Company

When Craig Ormiston set up The Lapa Company in 2006, the Aspinall Foundation was one of the first organisations he approached regarding his new business.

"It seemed like a great match", Craig explained "Our buildings and designs have a strong connection with Africa, from the original Lapa thatched buildings to the eucalyptus poles we use. Shortly after I wrote to Port Lympne, they got in touch to invite me in for a chat and it all started there, with an order for eight handcrafted, thatched picnic umbrellas.

Over the years, it's been great to see their visitor strategy put into place, and really satisfying for our team to play a part in it"



Key Projects

Livingston Lodge (2007)

We designed and built a **traditional African Lapa** As the focal point of the luxury camping area and as a central meeting area for the guests.

The bespoke timber framed and thatched Building has a footprint of 110 square metres and stands on eucalyptus poles, looking over a natural escarpment. We used a synthetic thatch for the roof, rustic internal timbers for a genuine African ambience and canvas side panels to allow for an open dining experience. The lodge has gone on to win multiple awards:

- Best Tourism Experience at the Beautiful South Awards: 2009- 2012
- England's Best Tourism Experience at the Visit England awards: 2010 and 2012



Base Camp and Carnivore Corner (2009/10)

These two unique **70-seater buildings** were constructed using full timber frames, and finished with maintenance free synthetic thatch roofs. Each building also included internal thatch theming and a veranda for outdoor dining. The Lapa Company completed all aspects of the build from foundations upwards and also created bespoke thatched umbrellas and shelters to provide covered seating areas, finished in our Cape Reed Thatch Tiles.



Key Projects

Elephant Lodge/Bear Lodge (2012)

Working as the main contractor, The Lapa Company built a unique **fully-thatched restaurant** with a 100-seat capacity.

The central purpose of the building was to offer a meeting place for those visitors who have chosen to stay overnight in one of the foundation's luxury tree houses. It incorporates lounge areas, open-air seating, a Mongolian barbecue kitchen, toilets and staff facilities.

We designed and built the restaurant with a covered veranda using our imported African hardwood poles and synthetic thatch. Their bespoke request to include a Mongolian barbecue meant inclusion of appropriate ventilation, and the barbecue was installed within a handcrafted wooden service plinth.



Tree House Club House (2012/13)

To complete their glass fronted luxury tree house accommodation, visitors needed a central meeting point and The Lapa Company were able to produce the Tree House Club House.

This **cedar clad, flat roofed building** combines modern design with African safari influences, incorporating an internal Fire Pit and a kitchen.



Pinewood Cafe (2014/15)

A **modern cafe** combining part wooden walls and canvas panelling, designed to service the park's additional luxury camping pods. The flexibility of the canvas panels will give a range of visitor access options, and well as adjustments to suit the weather.

The roof is completed with cedar shingle roof tiles.



Customer testimonial

"The quality and style of all the buildings provided to us has been excellent and we have found The Lapa Company to be an efficient and easy company to work with. We would have no hesitation in recommending them."

- Port Lympne Wild Animal Park

Into the Future....

We are proud that our relationship with Port Lympne Wild Animal Park continues to go from strength to strength. We have always delivered our projects to the highest standard, on tight timescales and always to budget. We look forward to a continuing this positive relationship into the future.



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