

In 1999 The Organic Research Centre began planning the redevelopment of its head office site. Using energy efficient and sustainable methods, our new headquarters sees the transformation of a 17th century Grade II listed barn into a flexible meeting area, and the conversion of derelict outbuildings into light and spacious modern offices.

This groundbreaking project successfully demonstrates how state of the art environmental technologies can fit with traditional construction methods and materials, to not only preserve but also to breathe new life into once run-down historic buildings.

Phase 1 - Offices

Phase 1 involved the refurbishment of existing offices and the conversion of derelict outbuildings into a revitalised working environment. Due to extensive damage, much of the original structure had to be carefully dismantled and rebuilt using the same materials. This painstaking but hugely successful phase of the project was completed in May 2008.

Phase 2 – Reception and barn conversion

Phase 2 of the development programme commenced in September 2008. This phase includes construction of the new “link” reception area, joining our modern office suites to the meeting and conference area, located in the converted Grade II listed barn. Completion date May 2009.

The original buildings:

These images show the condition of the original buildings before work began. In order to preserve the character of the site, many parts of the structure have been dismantled and rebuilt using the original materials.



Virtually unrecognisable, the old cartsheds have undergone a complete transformation.



From the outside it's possible to see the change, from derelict outbuilding to light and spacious modern offices.



Our Grade II listed 17th century barn, showing its age before work begins.



Organic Research Centre refurbishment



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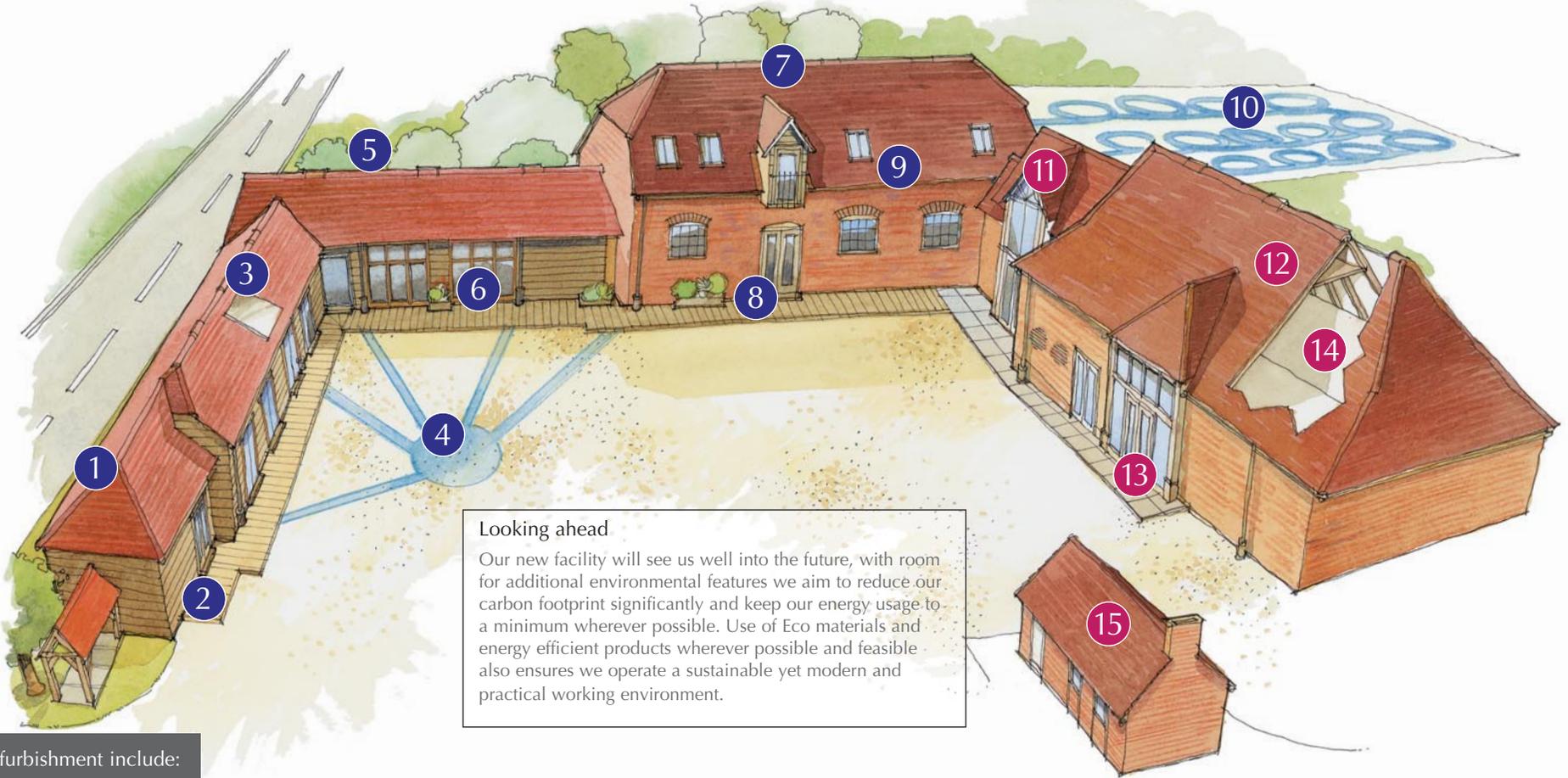
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Looking ahead
Our new facility will see us well into the future, with room for additional environmental features we aim to reduce our carbon footprint significantly and keep our energy usage to a minimum wherever possible. Use of Eco materials and energy efficient products wherever possible and feasible also ensures we operate a sustainable yet modern and practical working environment.

Key features of the refurbishment include:

- 1 Reclaimed materials**
Re-using bricks and tiles from the original building with lime mortar means less waste and helps retain the character of the building.
- 2 Double stud sheep's wool insulation**
100% natural and very efficient, sheep's wool is an ideal environmental material choice.
- 3 'Evacuated tube' type solar panels**
These highly efficient solar panels work alongside our heat pump, providing hot water for the entire site all year round.
- 4 Rainwater harvesting**
Our gutters channel rainwater via filters which is stored in an underground tank and used for flushing toilets.
- 5 Solar vent and light tube**
The wc vent is powered by solar energy and incorporates a light tube, flooding the area below with natural daylight.
- 6 Re-used woodwork**
The thresholds and internal doors use wood sourced locally from old buildings, saving on energy costs and materials.
- 7 Eco-flooring**
On the ground floor we have used new eco-screed, which uses 70% recycled glass. The carpet used in our first floor offices also contains a high percentage of recycled material.
- 8 Windows and doors**
Our new high performance windows and doors are made with FSC certified timber and insulated with argon gas-filled double glazing.
- 9 Energy efficient lighting**
The use of low energy lights and occupant sensors means our electricity usage is reduced throughout the life of the building.
- 10 Ground source heating**
Our underfloor heating is generated on-site, using a heat pump and ground-source coils buried in our land behind the offices.
- 11 Reception area**
Cob wall construction and wire trusses, combining traditional building techniques with highly efficient modern technology.
- 12 Bat attic**
We have ensured that our resident bat population is protected with the inclusion of specifically designed roof spaces and entry/exit tiles.
- 13 Reclaimed flags**
The concrete flags have been reclaimed from other sites, avoiding the need for new materials.
- 14 Eco paints**
Special eco paints from Dulux have been used throughout the complex, minimising environmental damage from chemicals.
- 15 Storage unit**
Our original storage area is also improved, with new insulation and windows.