

# New home is a green dream for eco couple

A SPECIAL eco-friendly house has been built near Laugharne, just four weeks after the project began.

Work started on retired couple Peter and Alison Stopp's timber-framed prefabricated house at Uplands Farm, Llandawke, on February 23 and finished on March 23.

Alison was born at nearby Caphorne Farm, which her brothers Bill and Harry continued to farm until two years ago.

Planning permission for the German-designed house, which replaces the existing Uplands home, was granted in November.

The Uplands site also has brick buildings with approved plans to convert into holiday lets, and large farm buildings which will be used for storage and a workshop, plus about 8.5 acres of grassland.

As well as being quick to build, the house design emphasises energy efficiency and meets the highest eco standard for new homes.

Back in 2008, Peter and Alison

---

**“Building started on February 23, the house was erected and weathertight by the evening of the next day”**

— Peter Stopp

---

started looking at ways in which they could renovate the existing Uplands home to make it more energy efficient.

But they were advised that this was not the best move in



**GREEN HOUSE:** Peter and Alison Stopp's Hanse Haus eco home at Uplands Farm, Llandawke, which took just four weeks to build from start to finish.

terms of saving on energy and finances, so they began extensive research on what it would take to build a house with minimal heat loss.

“The house needed to be as airtight as possible and with maximum insulation, as well as a mechanical ventilation system with heat recovery, in order to achieve minimal heat loss,” said Peter.

“Having arrived at a basic design, we then sought prices from about 15 different companies, ranging from a basic frame to a full house turn-key specification. Our preference

was for a British company, ideally Welsh, since that was where we were moving to.

“What we discovered was that such building was new for most companies in Britain and pricing was difficult, plus many agents we spoke to clearly had little idea of the technical aspects we were trying to explore with them.

“We could not afford to go over our very tight budget and needed to know in advance what costs were likely to be.

“Three companies, who seemed capable of meeting the specifications, were able to give

predictions, which worked out at about £395,000 — twice our actual budget. So we needed to take another tack.”

That change of tack turned out to be German company Hanse Haus, and work on the eco home proceeded rapidly.

Peter said: “Building started on February 23, the house was erected and weathertight by the evening of the next day.

Fitting out then took place and handover — fully finished and fitted, apart from the kitchen, which we are installing — took place four weeks from the start, on March 23.”