

## **BRISTOL BUILDER PRAISED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICE**

A local construction firm, based in High Littleton, has been singled out by a leading trade body for its commitment to environmental best practice.

Ken Biggs Contractors Ltd has been praised by the National Federation of Builders (NFB) for its work on the Avon Wildlife Trust's Folly Farm study centre which is nearing completion.

The year-long project, funded by the Heritage Lottery and the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA), has included the refurbishment of a 300 year old farm house and additional farm buildings including stables, dairy and cow sheds. The company have also added two new extensions and a glazed reception area – all within the 25 acre wildlife reserve.

The firm installed solar panels, a biomass boiler and rebuilt using existing materials and traditional resources. The plant room was built with innovative ready - made rammed earth blocks and the wall finishing is a non-toxic, environmentally safe bio-paint stain.

The project presented the company with several challenges - tiles had to be removed one by one to be checked individually for bats and walls had to be dismantled stone by stone to check for great crested newts.

Andrew Percy, regional director for the NFB in the South West said:

“Ken Biggs has shown an impressive commitment to using sustainable methods and maintaining the local landscape.

“The company is to be commended for showing a high regard for the environment with its use of existing and traditional materials and for demonstrating an awareness of and dedication to protect all wildlife encountered.”

When complete Folly Farm will include a field study centre, accommodation for children and adults and the dairy and cowsheds will be converted into a teaching space and conference centre.

Paul Wyatt, managing director of Ken Biggs Contractors Ltd said:

“This was a challenging but exciting but project for us. We have started to build up a record in architectural conservation and restoration and the business is diversifying into new areas, including the heritage and specialist private sector.

“Growth and change provides a number of challenges and we have found the advice and guidance from the NFB to be invaluable. We see the support package it offers as key to our continued development.”

Nationally, the NFB operates a network of eight offices, employs around 50 people and is the largest constituent member of the Construction Confederation. The Federation lobbies local, national and European government on a range of issues to sustain positive trading conditions for members.

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