

PRESS RELEASE



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The Old Dairy
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Conversion of Little Snakemore Farm Barn

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BCM Architectural Division are at present overseeing the conversion of the 17th Century timber-framed barn at Little Snakemoor Farm in Durley, into a modern home for the family of the farmer's daughter. The farm itself no longer supports a dairy herd and is now arable only.

The barn is grade II listed and presented a real challenge, firstly to retain the quality of one of the few remaining traditional timber framed barns in Hampshire. The Conservation Department of the Local Authority also needed to be persuaded that we could sensitively re-use the original building, whilst finding a use that would guarantee its future survival.

BCM Architects produced a clever design that inverted the usual arrangement of domestic accommodation and provided free-standing mezzanine structures within the original timber frames, separated by a void that rises to the original roof line. The main living space is located at first floor level and is an open plan layout with a bridge linking the two mezzanines. By this arrangement the designers have kept the uninterrupted space below the roof, allowing occupants to sense the scale of the original barn. Bedrooms are arranged on the ground floor to avoid too much compartmentalisation that would be alien to the internal volume of this type of building.

The original timber frames have been carefully restored and brought back to as near an original condition as is practicable. The external materials used to renovate the barn bring the external appearance back to its condition at the turn of the century. The roof was clad with corrugated iron sheet, which is being replaced with plain clay tiles, whilst the original timber cladding to the walls is being retained and repaired where it has been allowed to deteriorate.

Although the internal space within the barn has been altered to meet different needs from the original purpose of the building, the mezzanine design was adopted so that, if necessary, that component could be unbolted from the floor and the original framing left in as near original condition as possible.

As with all applications to change redundant barns to residential use, this planning process was difficult and protracted, but ultimately successful. This has led to a home that celebrates the quality and history of the original hand-built structure and seeks to preserve it largely intact and unaltered.

Partners: Iain Curry Andrew Bays Henry McCowen Ros Foreman Alastair Wilson James Fraser

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