

WHAT WE DID

Installed external cladding and an air source heat pump to a 3-bed detached house in a conservation area

‘ONCE OUR HOUSE WARMS UP IT STAYS WARM’

The owners of this 1970s 3-bedroom home in a rural South Oxfordshire village are delighted with the results of the energy efficient home improvements they made to their property.

“The house is so well insulated now that our heat loss is minimal. We took thermal images since the work has been done and they prove it that heat is not leaking out. Once the house warms up the heat just stays in...”

They undertook a major project of house renovation with an aim that at the end of it their home would be warmer, cheaper to run and reduce their carbon emissions.

To achieve their goals, they added external cladding to insulate all the outside walls, new double and triple-glazed windows and loft insulation all to minimise heat loss and stop wasting energy. They also removed an old oil heating system and replaced it with one air source heat pump.

WHAT IT COST

Loft insulation	£666
Air source heat pump, new radiators, underfloor heating and water tank	£23,000
External cladding (premium quality)	£20,000
Double glazed window	£27,000



PLANNING PERMISSION?

Before starting work, the couple contacted the district council planning department to check if they needed to get planning permission for their project.

They didn't need planning permission for the air source heat pump as it was allowed through permitted development. However, as the property was in a conservation area, planning permission was needed to add the cladding as it changed how the house looked, as well as for other work they were doing at the same time, including adding a balcony and enlarging the garage.

AND WHAT ELSE?

“The most challenging aspect of the project was its management – having to work out which order to do everything and ensuring that suppliers and tradespeople were available when we needed them.”

“One lesson we learnt was to be prepared for unexpected costs and price rises and that we needed to have some contingency in the budget.”

In this case as there was so much work being done the owners also had to pay for scaffolding, architect fees and planning and building regulation costs as well as waste disposal and skips which all added up. But not everything was expensive - the loft insulation was less than £700.

THE HEAT PUMP BECAME A TALKING POINT

“Our house – and our air source heat pump - is visible from the main road in the village. Neighbours and other people often ask how we find it works.”

“The answer is... it's been great. It easily heats our whole home and there is always plenty of hot water whenever we need it.”

