

Streme meshes well with developer and construction team on Suffolk estate



CHILLESFORD
LODGE

Ali and George Watson's family have farmed in a beautiful corner of Suffolk for almost a century, and have recently obtained planning permission to redevelop 40,000 square feet of redundant Victorian farm buildings into high-end residential properties.

They engaged the established and highly reputable Suffolk company Robert Norman Construction Ltd to carry out the development.

Working a livestock farm the couple are all too aware of the occupational hazards in the form of insects and bugs that accompany rural life. Having lived abroad and spent many holidays in Scotland Ali was particularly aware of the horrors of midges!

"It's extraordinary to me that we don't install more fly screens here in the UK. Our climate is changing, the temperatures are rising and there are more mini-beasts migrating here than ever."

Explaining what she wanted for her new neighbours Ali said: *“We decided we wanted our new homes to offer the best bits of rural life without the poor residents having to endure the nasty things that bite in the night!”*

But the couple also wanted to develop their estate to the highest level of quality, and for the buildings to retain their integrity. Ali said: *“We have a mixture of single and two storey dwellings, with a variety of openings for windows. We wanted to fit insect screens as unobtrusively as possible so we needed a screen supplier who was skilled and flexible enough to meet our requirements.”*

Having done some research on insect screen suppliers Ali identified three different companies, one of which was Streme UK.

“Streme was the only supplier we spoke to who responded positively to our requirements. Andy Ross the Streme MD has quite an engineering bent and loves to take on a quirky new problem to solve. In contrast the other supplier we interviewed was really not interested in providing anything other than their vanilla installation.”

Ali arranged a meeting for Andy to meet her and Robert Norman Construction site manager Mark Adamson.

Recalling the event Mark said: *“Our first site meeting with Ali and Streme went really well. Ali explained how she wanted all the screens recessed and Andy told us what he needed. Once we were all on the same page we were then able to mock up a dummy window opening using some sample tracks that Andy had brought with him. This gave Ali confidence about what the finished article would look like.”*

Explaining the project Mark said: *“Once it came to the actual construction it was important to make the process as efficient and cost effective as possible, bearing in mind the substantial distance between Streme’s High Wycombe base and the Suffolk location of Chillesford Lodge.”*

“To be honest we thought it would be a nightmare at first! But the installation went really smoothly,” said Mark.

“First we formed all the plaster reveals and left a recess for Streme’s track. We then sent them the track dimensions we required and they sent us the track to fit. There were a lot of phone calls backwards and forwards to double-check dimensions and tolerances, but Andy was always very helpful and easy to work with.”

“Once the track was in place Streme then came down and installed all the screens over a couple of days.”

Streme provided a cassette casing to house the screen fabric in a concertina arrangement, which could then be pulled down when required, moving along the tracks embedded in the side walls. The screen mesh acts as both an insect barrier and a sunlight shade, resulting in a cooler interior in the summer.

“In the end we were really impressed with Streme’s system and approach. From planning and design through to implementation the whole process was a success. Everyone worked to their strengths and it really gelled.”

From a developer’s perspective Ali said: *“I have no reservations in recommending Streme. Working so well alongside our excellent contractors they have helped us achieve exactly the solution we wanted and we are delighted with the end result.”*

“We’re looking forward to working with Streme on the next phase of the Chillesford Lodge development, and we would certainly recommend Streme again for future projects”.

Ali Watson
Owner Developer | Chillesford Lodge

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