

Investing in Research and Development



Housebuilding

We have invested in a number of demonstration projects which aim to improve the sustainability of new housing and make it possible to build in areas where development is currently precluded because of flood risks.

We are investigating the exciting potential for houses to be built on foundations that could rise in response to flooding. We have built a half-scale timber-framed house on rising foundations at the Larkfleet Group headquarters and are currently constructing a full-size version using a steel frame on a site near Spalding in Lincolnshire. The three bedroomed house can be raised up to 1.5m above ground level by eight mechanical jacks, lifting it above flood waters.

On an adjacent site we are planning to erect an experimental pair of lightweight modular housing units to be built on an elevated platform.

The structure is designed to fit in space above eight standard-sized parking spaces.

If successful, this system would enable much-needed housing to be built on land in areas that are short of housing and where land is in 'part-time' use for things such as car parking.

Renewable energy

We have built and tested a 'solar steam' power rig designed to generate carbon-free electricity. It works by concentrating solar energy through a series of plastic lenses, mounted on a giant sun-tracking array, which focus the sun's rays onto water-filled metal tubes to produce hot water and steam.

The technology is moving from the research phase into commercial development. We have signed a contract with Richfield Engineering of Kenya under which Richfield will manufacture solar steam plants for Africa, the Middle East, South East Asia and India.

The Larkfleet Group of Companies is a major investor in research and development (R&D) of new building technologies and systems and new options for renewable power generation.

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Images: Bottom left: The X-House
Bottom right: The Elevating House

