



Following one of the worst winters in local memory and weeks of either severe frost, snow or rain the Eco Barn is back now on track and will be completed and ready to use by the end of March. The builders have done a remarkable job making up for lost time and enabling us to have the building ready for use by Easter.

Soon after the weather improved we saw the arrival of the moss for the living roof. This does need to be watered regularly during its first year but after that will be self maintaining. Thank goodness.



Work was then able to begin on the interior and the fixtures and fittings. There were some initial problems with the worktops (which were not quite what we expected) however after much negotiation, several worktops going back to the supplier and replacements arriving we decided on worktops made from recycled wellingtons and yoghurt pots.



One of the main delays to the completion of the project has been the “drying out” of features such as the internal mud wall and the “hemcrete” outer walls. Lincolnshire is not renowned for its dry and sunny climate and this has proved a major challenge to the builders who had to run heaters and dehumidifiers over a number of weeks to boost the drying process.

The final part of the project is the exterior and surrounding of the building where students will be able to design and grow a variety of plants and small gardens. Outside the barn there will be four small greenhouses which will contain examples of different eco systems for the students to maintain.



There will also be a number of oak planting boxes for students to plant and maintain. All this area is being set on recycled stone and the whole area will be under cover for students to be able to work outside in all weathers.

Small windows inside the building will enable students to see the materials used and the Barn will display full explanations of all the materials used and how and why they are environmentally friendly. These windows and display boards are all being created using local craftsmen.



Despite many challenges – accessing materials, using new and unusual products, the weather, we have been able to remain faithful to the original brief and are indebted to the contractors and builders for their persistence and patience in ensuring the vision we originally had for the Eco Barn becomes a reality.