



CASE STUDY

Birch Court Oxford City Council

Sheltered housing project for elderly residents

Eco-redevelopment programme including provision of solar water heating system.

Designed to run as part of the community heating system for 28 elderly residents, each housed in individual flats.

"Oxford City Council uses solar energy in its housing stock to alleviate fuel poverty in vulnerable households. Birch Court was our first solar thermal installation - it went very well & Imagination Solar were very easy to work with. We now promote solar to private householders and housing associations."

Paul Robinson, Energy Officer,
Oxford City Council



Installed by Imagination Solar's accredited agent, Southern Solar





Innovation

On the specific request of Oxford City Council, Imagination Solar designed bespoke safety features for the system.

- Pump failure LED indicator: to show any failure of the system
- A float switch installed in the drain-back vessel: should the system start to lose water, it would shut down to prevent the pump running dry

System Description

- The eight-collector system was split into two separate four-collector systems, which run in parallel
- Each system feeds one of two solar coils, fitted to the specially designed hot water storage calorifier
- A third coil is fitted for the boiler, which is used to supplement the solar-heated water in winter

Technical Specifications

Size	8 solar collectors
Area	21.6m ²
Cylinder	1000 litre triple coil calorifier



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