



A sensitive restoration and extension that introduced light and modernity while preserving the unique character and integrity of a historic building

Location: Vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire

Architect: Milton Architects

Contractor: Donovan Construction

Residential / Heritage / Timber / Integration



Heritage Sensitivity and Structural Challenges

This detached 5,113 ft² thatched barn began life as an agricultural structure before its conversion into a home. The vision was to create generous, light-filled living spaces with new floor-to-ceiling glazing, while retaining the building's period character. Its original timber frame, full of quirks and irregularities, presented a challenge — no two lines were straight, and few dimensions were consistent. Every intervention demanded careful consideration to protect the existing historic fabric.

Engineering Approach and Key Interventions

We designed four major structural steel frames to carry the new vaulted glazed spaces, ensuring stability and performance independent of the delicate original frame. A new gabled roof and two cantilevered staircases were also introduced, adding lightness and flow to the interior. With the barn's irregular geometry defying conventional modelling, our engineers took a highly practical approach — extensive site visits, close collaboration with the contractor, and hand-sketched bespoke structural drawings that captured the nuances of every joint and connection.



A Seamless Blend of Old and New

The completed home elegantly merges heritage and modernity. The original thatched form and timber detailing remain intact, while new spaces now enjoy abundant daylight and openness. Structural interventions are discreet yet transformative, allowing the building to evolve without losing its identity. The result is a timeless dwelling — a celebration of craftsmanship, collaboration, and structural ingenuity.