

# Eco-home in Cotswolds sells for a record £7.2m

By Andrew Pierce

A REVOLUTIONARY eco-house in a Cotswold nature reserve has been sold for a world record £7.2 million for a country home.

The house, whose design is based on the bee orchid found on the reserve, was sold off-plan last week to an anonymous buyer.

The size of an average semi, the cost works out at £3,000 per square foot - double that of homes in Beverly Hills and Manhattan. For their money, the mystery buyer - reputed to be in the entertainment industry - will get a lakeside home complete with a glass-sided badger set in the garden.

Orchid House will be part of the Lower Mill Estate, built on a 550-acre privately owned nature reserve near Cirencester, which was created from abandoned gravel workings.

Brad Pitt, the actor, has looked at the plans for Orchid House, while Paul Sandberg, the producer of the "Bourne" films, is buying a home nearby. Kylie Minogue has stayed at the estate and the ballerina Darcey Bussell has visited.

The home will take three years to build. It is hoped it will produce more energy than it uses, with an underground heat pump, geothermal heating and cooling, rainwater and solar and wind power.

The design is by Sarah Featherstone, whose practice in east London is designing part of the Olympic athletes' villages.



An illustration of Orchid House. Modelled on a bee orchid, it will take three years to build on a reserve near Cirencester