

The background image shows the interior of a modern building with extensive wood cladding on the walls and ceiling. A large window with a wooden frame looks out onto a wooded area. The room is lit by warm, cylindrical wall sconces and a long, recessed ceiling light fixture. A purple coiled cable hangs from a white panel above the window.

## HERAKLITH® WOOD WOOL INSULATION PANELS CHOSEN AS INTEGRAL COMPONENT FOR UK PASSIVHAUS COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Location:** Garway, Herefordshire, UK  
**Product(s) used:** Heraklith® A2 (2.0mm) 1200x600x15 Bevels white, Heraklith® Wood Screw white  
**Building:** Community Centre  
**Client:** Encon Insulation, Simmonds Mills (architects), William Powell & Sons (contractors).

The Garway Community Centre in rural Herefordshire, UK, is an exceptional example of a Passivhaus building. It has been designed specifically to minimise running costs.

The project was funded with a grant from the UK's Big Lottery Fund and provides the local community with a new village hall, health and social care outreach centre, café, and modern meeting facilities.

## The Challenge:

The architects, Simmonds Mills of Hereford, are specialists in ecological building design and focus on designing healthy, low-energy, high comfort domestic and non-domestic projects that meet the AECB Silver, Passivhaus and EnerPHit energy standards. They use both traditional and innovative building techniques to incorporate key principles of energy efficiency and the use of appropriate renewable energy resources.

It was clearly specified in the grant application that the building should meet the rigorous Passivhaus standards for energy efficiency and ecological footprint.

Passivhaus buildings typically allow for heating and cooling related energy savings of up to 90% compared with typical building stock and over 75% compared with average new builds.

The vast energy savings in Passivhaus buildings are achieved by using especially energy efficient building components and a quality ventilation system.

The challenge for the architects was to provide highly efficient thermal and acoustic insulation using ecologically preferred materials.



## The Solution:

For a solution for the new community centre, Simmonds Mills turned to one of the UK's leading independent UK distributors of thermal and acoustic insulation, fire protection and roofing materials, Encon Insulation.

Encon recommended Heraklith® Wood Wool panels because as well as providing strong sound absorption, the panels offer excellent thermal insulation and fire protection properties and provide a high quality and attractive finish.

The open surface structure of the Heraklith® panels ensure outstanding acoustic properties and because they are manufactured from natural and sustainable materials, they fully met the eco-friendly solution that the architects were looking for.

Heraklith also provided the MSP anchor fixings with caps to match the colours of the panels.

And on the recommendation of Encon, Knauf Insulation materials were ultimately used for the whole project.

"Heraklith® is part of a new product portfolio for Encon and has generated interest from a number of architects, developers and installers," said Chris Barlow, Encon's Product Development Director. "We are very pleased with the results at the Garway Community Centre, and it provides an excellent example of how Heraklith® Wood Wool panels are an excellent choice to meet the criteria for Passivhaus buildings," he said.



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