# Green Dragon Barn, featured on Grand Designs, goes on market after 20 years of restoration



A remarkable project featured on Channel 4’s "Grand Designs," known as Green Dragon Barn, has been listed for sale for the first time at £1.5 million. Located in the picturesque South Hams area of Devon, this stunning property embodies a 20-year journey of restoration undertaken by Sue Charman and Martin Whitlock, who first appeared on the show in 2001. At that time, the three interlinked barns were described as uninhabitable, their charm obscured by decades of neglect.

The couple's vision transformed these dilapidated structures into a lavish five-bedroom home, celebrated for both its aesthetic appeal and eco-conscious design. Upon its recent listing by Stags, the estate agents noted the property’s innovative blend of traditional materials with modern architectural features, including a striking green oak frame, cob and stone walls, and a unique mix of slate and thatched roofing. Described as an "exceptional detached property," Green Dragon Barn is nestled within approximately 1.3 acres of landscaped gardens, offering both tranquility and space for family living.

During a revisit for the series, host Kevin McCloud praised the transformation, stating, “This is a home lovingly, painstakingly, time-consumingly transformed. Resplendent with 20 years of devoted care.” The property not only showcases a generous and flexible interior layout, ideal for adapting to modern family life but also highlights the couple's commitment to sustainable living. The inclusion of a detached stone workshop complete with solar panels further emphasises this ethos.

The couple's journey began in 2000 when they acquired the barns, which were described as a "complete wreck." In hindsight, Martin reflected on the overwhelming nature of the project, stating, “It was three barns built together over three centuries, a bigger project than we were planning, but it allowed us to really go to town and create some stunning rooms." Despite the significant time taken, he noted, "Although it took 20 years, it wasn't 20 years of work on the house. We moved into two rooms in 2001 and gradually expanded out from there as we found time."

The project faced numerous hurdles, including design challenges and setbacks related to weather and materials. The couple’s dedication to using traditional methods and local materials is evident throughout the property. Their hard work culminated in spaces that are both functional and beautiful, featuring a spectacular 30-foot reception area that opens up to the gardens, creating a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor living.

Now, as the property attracts interest from potential buyers keen to invest in its charm and heritage, it stands as a rare example of endurance and vision in home transformation. The listing encapsulates not only the property’s physical charms but also its narrative—a testament to what can be achieved through patience, creativity, and a commitment to sustainable living.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14775501/grand-designs-project-hailed-best-sale.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.stags.co.uk/properties/20587394/sales)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14775501/grand-designs-project-hailed-best-sale.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/161315909)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.granddesignsmagazine.com/grand-designs-houses/grand-designs-devon-barn-conversion/), [[7]](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0985964/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14775501/grand-designs-project-hailed-best-sale.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.granddesignsmagazine.com/grand-designs-houses/grand-designs-devon-barn-conversion/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14775501/grand-designs-project-hailed-best-sale.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.jbosence.co.uk/green-dragon-barn/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14775501/grand-designs-project-hailed-best-sale.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.stags.co.uk/properties/20587394/sales> - Green Dragon Barn, featured on Channel 4's Grand Designs, is a five-bedroom property in Blackawton, Totnes, listed for £1.5 million. The property spans over 4,600 sq ft and includes a full-height green oak frame, cob and stone walls, and a combination of slate and thatch roofing. Set in 1.3 acres, it offers landscaped gardens, a paddock with an orchard, a double garage, and a detached stone workshop with solar panels. The interior features a 30-foot reception space and flexible living areas suitable for multi-generational living or creative workspaces.
3. <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/161315909> - Green Dragon Barn, a five-bedroom detached house in Blackawton, Totnes, is on the market for £1.5 million. The property boasts over 4,600 sq ft of space, including a full-height green oak frame, cob and stone walls, and a distinctive combination of slate and thatch roofing. Set in 1.3 acres, it features landscaped gardens, a paddock with an orchard, a double garage, and a detached stone workshop with solar panels. The interior includes a 30-foot reception room, bespoke kitchen, multiple reception areas, and a vaulted studio.
4. <https://www.granddesigns.tv/honiton> - In the 2017 episode of Grand Designs titled 'Honiton', Mark and Candida embark on building a new home with a complex curvy roof in the shape of a plough, alongside a barn for cookery courses and processing their produce like Szechuan peppers, quinces, and pecan nuts. They set an ambitious schedule of seven months to construct both the house and barn, each from different materials—timber frame and timber cladding for the house, and steel frame and traditional Devon cob for the barn. The project presents unique technical challenges and aims to bring work and skills to local people.
5. <https://www.granddesignsmagazine.com/grand-designs-houses/grand-designs-devon-barn-conversion/> - In 2000, Sue and Martin purchased two dilapidated barns in Devon with the intention of converting them into an eco-friendly home. They aimed to use traditional building materials and methods, including cob walls, sheep’s wool insulation, and a thatched roof. The project faced numerous challenges, including miscalculated floor heights and delays due to weather affecting the lime mortar. Despite these setbacks, the couple completed the conversion, creating a home that blends traditional materials with modern design, featuring a 30-foot reception space and flexible living areas.
6. <https://www.jbosence.co.uk/green-dragon-barn/> - Joe Bosence was commissioned to complete the final finishing work on Green Dragon Barn, a project featured on Grand Designs in 2006. His work included interior lime plastering, external walling, paving, and rebuilding a collapsed corner of the roadside barn using traditional lime mortar and local stone. Additionally, he fabricated a new roof with Douglas Fir timbers and reclaimed slate covering, constructed a larder using an old stone water tank, and refurbished the conservatory with Travertine limestone flags.
7. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0985964/> - The 2001 episode of Grand Designs titled 'The Derelict Barns, Devon' follows Martin and Sue as they use traditional English building techniques, including a thatched roof, to rebuild two linked barns from the 1600s and 1850s into a livable home. The episode showcases the challenges and triumphs of restoring historic structures using age-old methods, highlighting the couple's dedication to preserving the barns' heritage while adapting them for modern living.