

HEATWEB

CASE STUDY · DOMESTIC

Le Moulin de la Fonderie

A multifuel HEATBANK for a rural stone cottage

AT A GLANCE

CLIENT
David and Pam Marchant

LOCATION
Mayenne, France

PROPERTY
Large two-bedroom stone cottage, sleeps eight

HEAT SOURCES
Wood burner, solar panels, electricity

HEATWEB PRODUCT
275-litre multifuel Xcel HEATBANK, made to order

David and Pam Marchant needed a good heating system for their stone cottage in rural Mayenne, France, where a wood burner heated only one room and gas or oil were impractical. A 275-litre multifuel Xcel HEATBANK now runs on wood, solar panels and electricity.

The challenge

Le Moulin de la Fonderie, 'The Old Foundry Mill', stands in its own 12-acre woodland and four-acre lake where the Loire Valley meets Normandy. When the Marchants took it over, the main heat source was electric panel convectors.

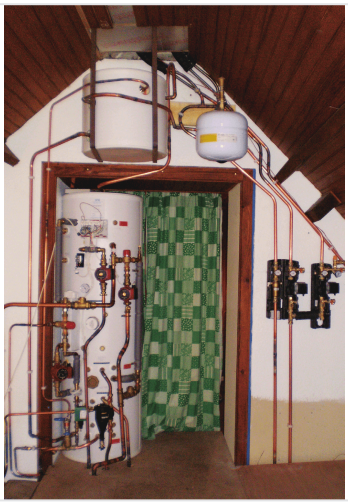
A wood burner alone was not viable: it heated one room, and the fabric of the building stopped the heat spreading. The rural location limited the use of LPG, oil and bottled gas.

What we did

- The Marchants visited eco and domestic shows, heard of the HEATBANK and wanted to fully understand the system before buying.
- Richard Hanson-Graville explained how the HEATBANK works and produced a drawing that simplified the system and could be used by the French installers.
- Made the 275-litre multifuel HEATBANK to order, with all thermostats and safety controls.
- The Marchants took it to France in their van, with the radiators, pipes and wood stove, for an installer who had never seen a HEATBANK.

What we found

- The HEATBANK provides both heating and high-pressure, high-flow hot water from several heat sources at once.
- It stores and manages the heat until it is needed.
- French metric sizes differ from normal metric, which made the installation tricky; the simplified drawing was made for the French installers to use.



The installed HEATBANK and its pipework.

275 l
HEATBANK, made to order

25 yr
guarantee, including thermostats and safety controls

3
heat sources: wood burner, solar panels and electricity

The outcome

- A constant supply of hot water and central heating, using the free wood on hand.
- Heat from the property's own natural surroundings, stored until it is needed.
- A futureproof system, backed by a 25-year guarantee.

> "We quickly noticed the significant reduction in our energy bills and are well on the way to self-sufficiency. It's proved a notable investment."
>
> **David Marchant, Le Moulin de la Fonderie**

About Heatweb. Heatweb Solutions is a UK provider of engineering support for heat networks and commercial HVAC: monitoring, fault diagnostics, technical compliance, optimisation, commissioning and maintenance.

Talk to an engineer

The full case study: www.heatweb.co.uk/blog/case-study/vive-la-heatbank/

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