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Project Principal Investigator

Presentation to:
CIBSE Homes for the Future Group, 18 July 2013
Key Findings from the
CALEBRE Research Project



What is Project 'CALEBRE' ?

- **Consumer-Appealing Low Energy technologies for Building REtrofitting** (October 2008 – April 2013)
- Research project funded by E.ON / RCUK (£2million)
- Address challenges of UK domestic energy efficiency refurbishment
 - **Principally solid wall, 'hard to heat, hard to treat'**
 - **Selected current, medium and longer-term technologies**
 - **Householders' perspectives at heart of our thinking**
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration - laboratory testing; simulation modelling; test house field trials; user engagement methods

Project 'CALEBRE' – the Team

- A partnership of six leading UK Universities: Heriot-Watt, Loughborough, Nottingham, Oxford, Ulster and Warwick
- 24 research associates, doctoral students and academics
- 8 Advisory Board members: CIBSE, BRE, Edward Cullinan Architects, David Strong Consulting, Aachen and Loughborough universities, University College London, E.ON and RCUK



CALEBRE - People and Expertise

Expertise Area	CALEBRE Team Members and Universities
Heat Pumps	Bob Critoph, Steve Metcalf (Warwick) Neil Hewitt, M S Khouhestani (Ulster)
Vacuum Glazing	Phil Eames, Saim Memon (Loughborough) Trevor Hyde, Farid Arya (Ulster)
Field Trials	Mark Gillott, C Spataru (Nottingham) Phil Griffiths (Ulster)
Modelling	Phil Banfill, Sophie Simpson, Andrew Peacock (Heriot Watt)
Householders	Vicky Haines, Val Mitchell, Becky Mallaband, Steve Bayer (Loughborough)
Advanced Materials	Matthew Hall, Sean Casey (Nottingham) Edman Tsang, Abdullah Khan (Oxford)
Manufacturing & Business Models	Svetan Ratchev, Rob Darlington, Kobby Agyapong-Kodua (Nottingham)
Project Leadership and Thermal Comfort	Dennis Loveday, Keyur Vadodaria (Loughborough)

CALEBRE and solid-wall housing: our approach

- 8.3 million solid wall properties
- 34% of UK housing stock
- 50% of domestic carbon emissions
- Refurbishment necessary, but challenging
- Limited choices for reducing wall heat loss



CALEBRE and solid-wall housing: our approach

So, we focussed on:

- Other means to reduce heat demand:
 - Airtightness
 - Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery
 - Advanced window treatments – vacuum glazing
 - Advanced surface treatments for moisture and temperature control
- Efficient heat supply:
 - Gas heat pump technology
 - Electric heat pump technology
- Householders and behaviour:
 - Attitudes to refurbishment
 - Retrofit practices
 - Personal energy tracking
 - Domestic thermal comfort



CALEBRE Briefing Notes

- Key findings summarised
- Handy format
- To assist the growing refurbishment industry
- To guide future policy
- To help further research
- Full set in booklet format for reference purposes available soon, and downloadable

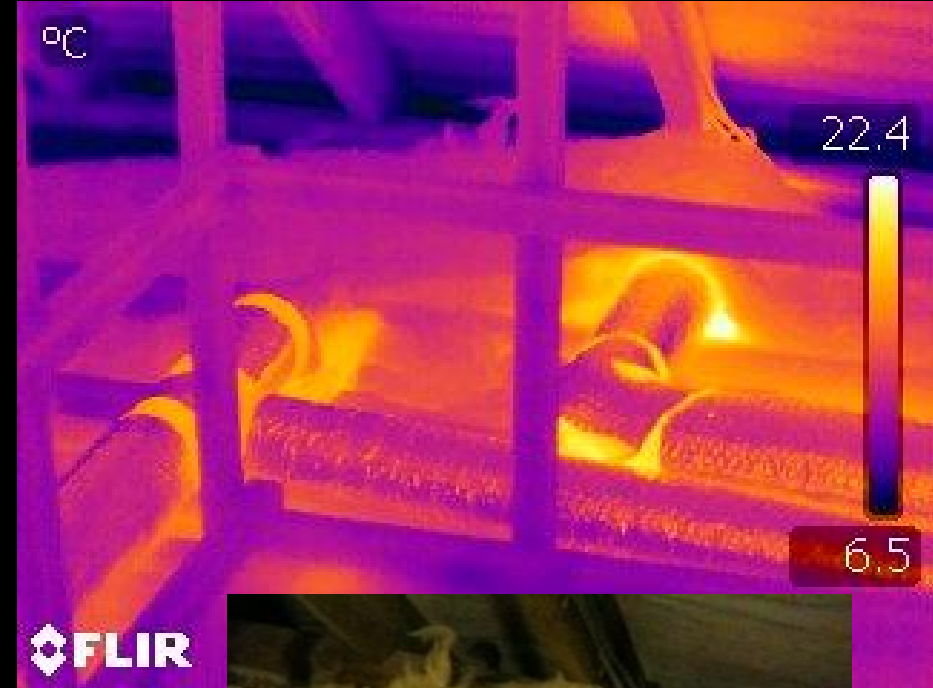
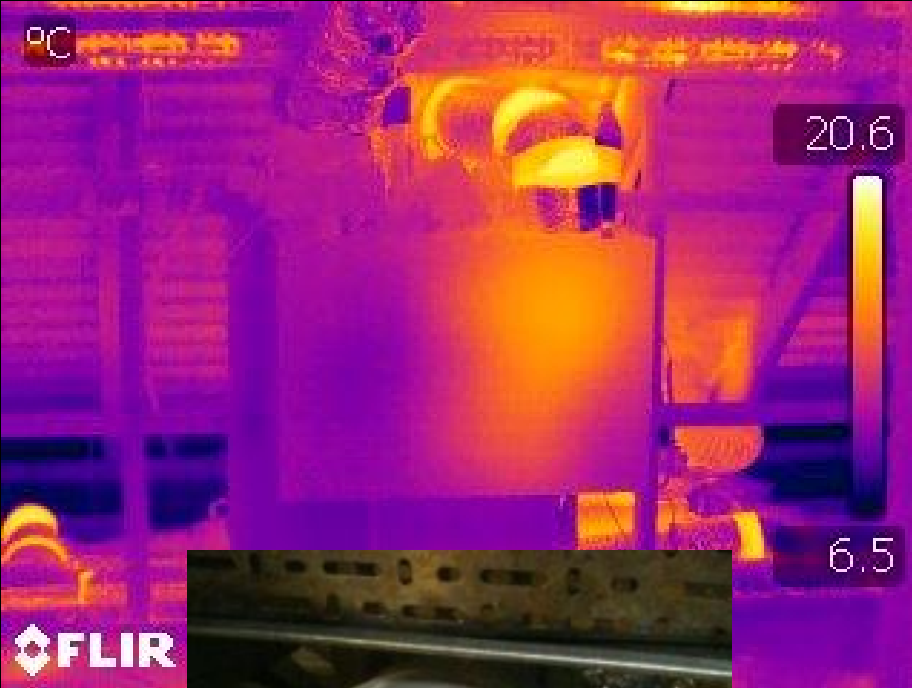


Key findings: Reducing heat demand - Airtightness, MVHR

Through practical trials in a test house, evidence for, and indication of of:

- Airtightness values achievable in practical refurbishment...
- ...challenging but practically realisable
- Levels of detailing required
- Quality of workmanship through training that is required

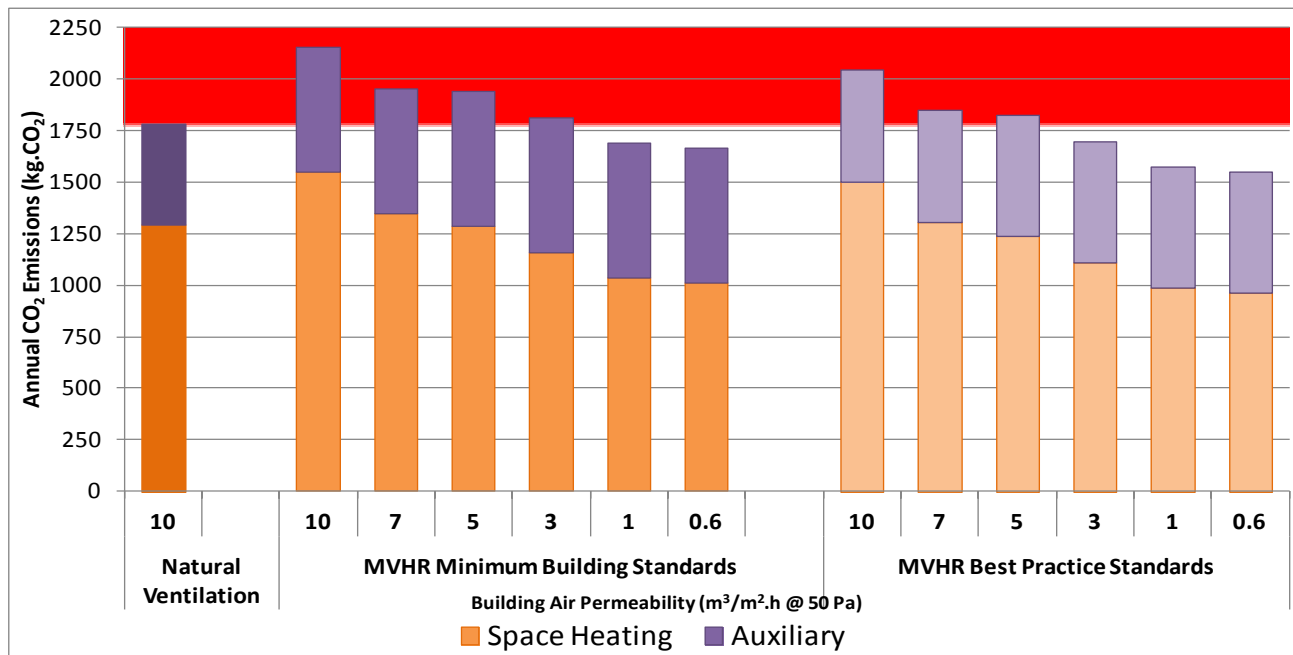




Key findings: Reducing heat demand - Airtightness, MVHR

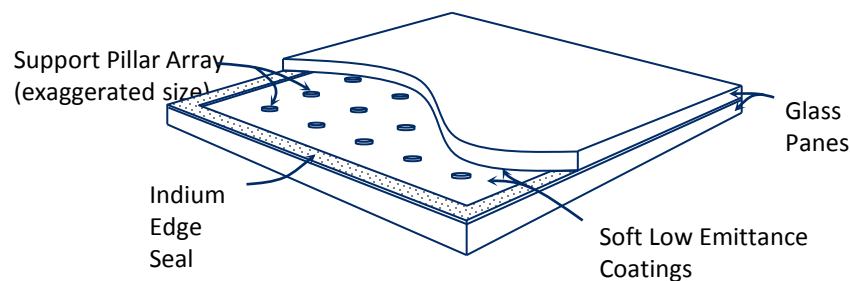
And through dynamic thermal modelling of the test house:

- Airtightness levels needed for MVHR to save energy and carbon
- Install properly and balance, in a sufficiently airtight house



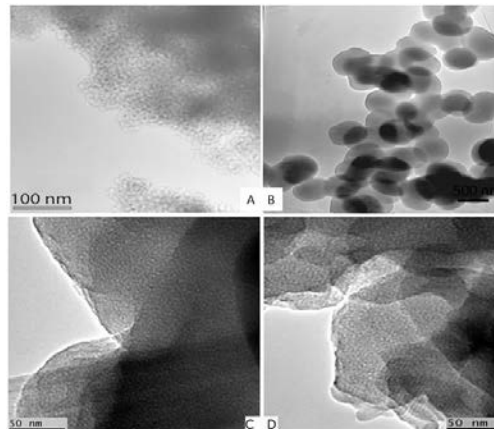
Key developments: Reducing heat demand - Vacuum Glazing technology

- Slimmer than standard double glazing
- New, lower-cost edge seals developed
- A step closer commercially
- U values of $0.26 \text{ Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}$ achievable with triple vacuum glazing
- Can improve performance of solid-wall (and other) envelopes
- Supported by manufacturing business models



Key developments: Advanced surface material for moisture control

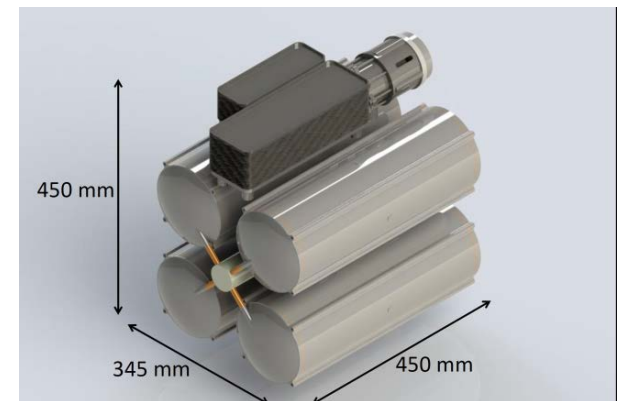
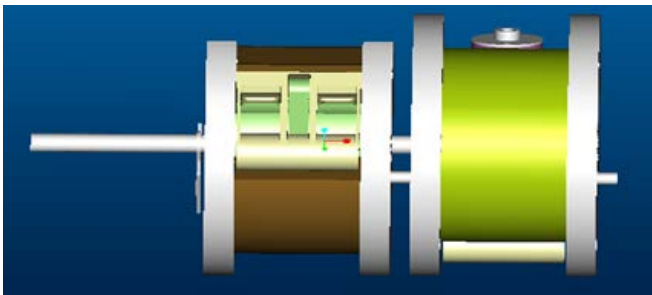
- Materials successfully engineered for rapid response humidity and temperature buffering
- Two orders of magnitude better than traditional interior building surface materials
- Expensive now – research for bulk manufacture needed
- Potential to control indoor moisture using relatively small surface areas



Key developments: Efficient heat supply - Heat Pumps technology

New technologies developed for air-source heat pumps:

- Designed for ease of retrofit
- Boiler replacement
- Operate with existing radiators (output at 60°C)
- Still give good performance
- Supported by manufacturing business models



The gas-fired air-source heat pump

- New technology – thermal compressor
- Box-for-box exchange for old boiler
- Split system, saves garden space
- 30% annual fuel savings
- Payback time < 3 years
- Commercial development continuing...
- ...spin-out 'Sorption Energy' formed



The electric air-source heat pump

- New technologies – economised vapour injection (EVI) and compressor-expander (CE)
- High temperature for direct retrofit
- In lab, CE gave COP (heating) of 4.31, but needs further development
- EVI is a viable product, competitive with cascade units
- Energy storage required to manage tariffs and electrical demand



Key findings: Householders and Behaviour – Attitudes to refurbishment

Older properties - barriers and opportunities identified relating to:

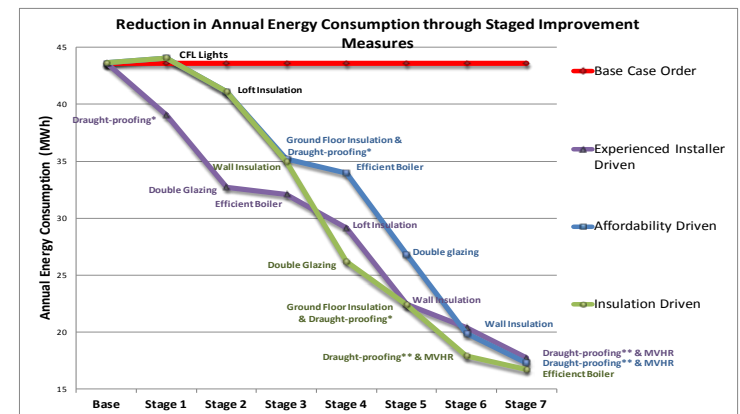
- Motivation, timing & cost (e.g. repair and comfort are key drivers, not energy)
- Original house features (e.g. windows)
- The refurbishment process
- Issues of trust
- Attitudes to airtightness and ventilation
- Types of home improvers identified



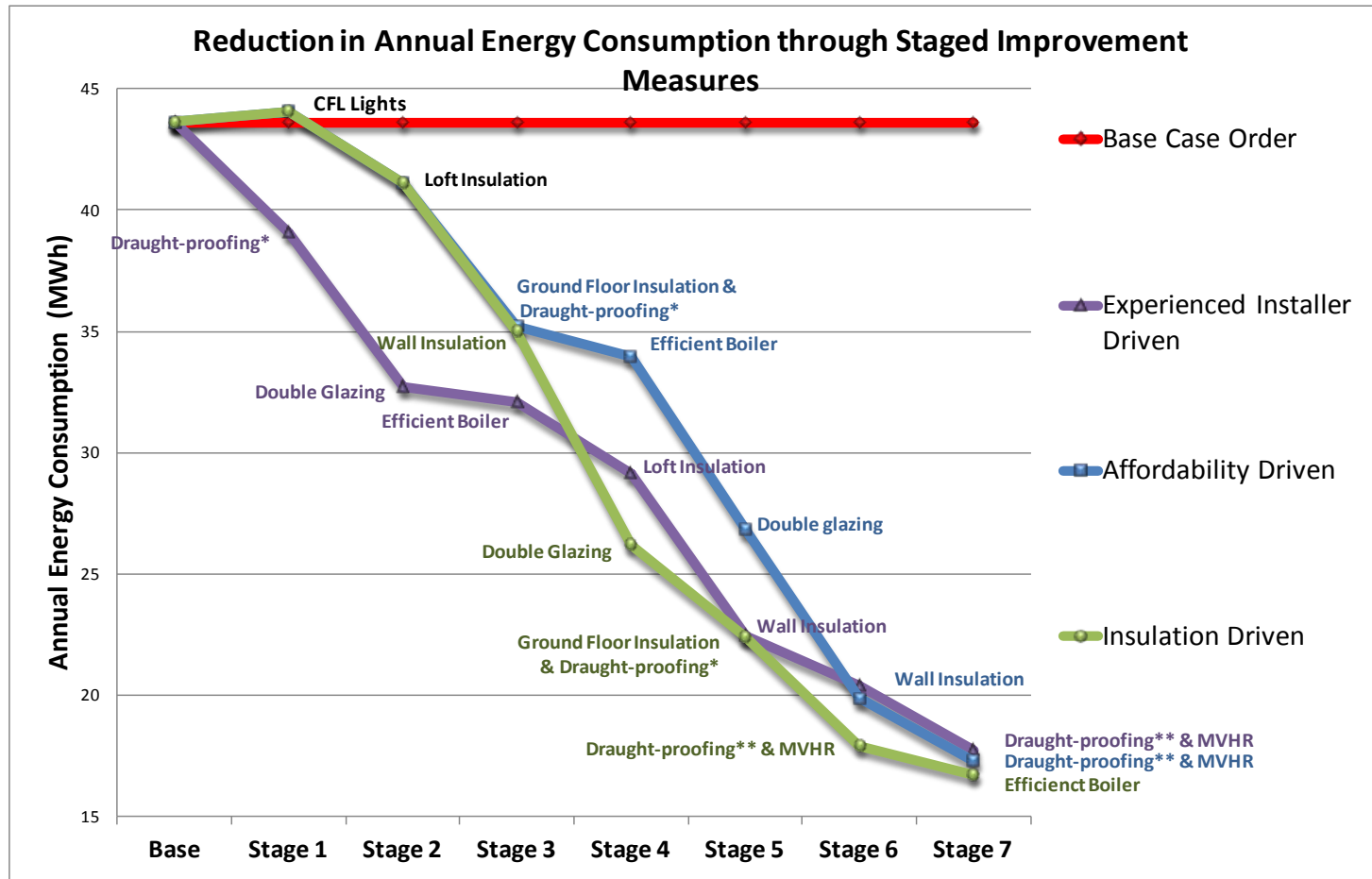
Key findings: Householders and behaviour - Orders of Retrofit

Using dynamic thermal modelling of the test house:

- Sequences for retrofit of standard measures investigated
- Benefits and payback times of individual measures varies, depending on preceding measures installed
- Can impact upon the Green Deal and 'Golden Rule'
- Early implementation of measures like wall insulation, double glazing, yield greatest cumulative savings

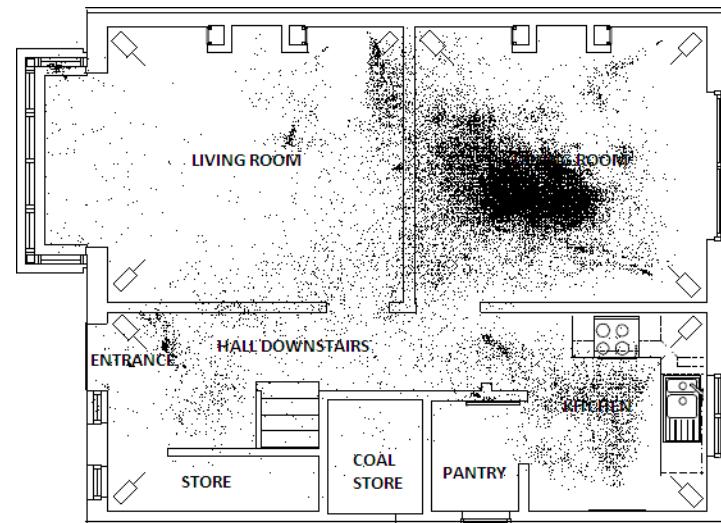


Key findings: Orders of Retrofit



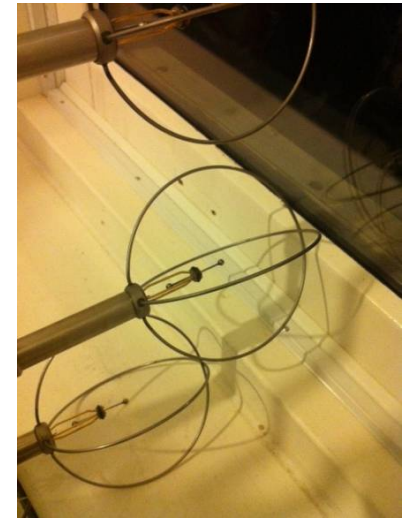
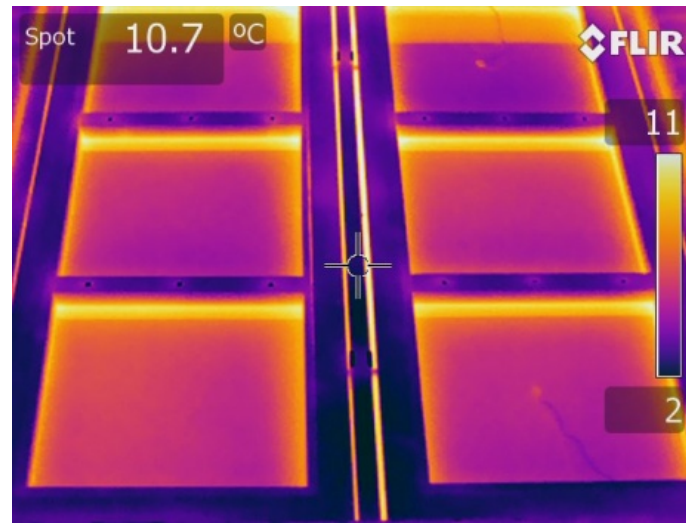
Key developments: Householders and behaviour - Occupant energy tracking in real time

- Real-time location and energy tracking system developed
- Occupancy behaviour and energy use – personal carbon footprint
- Monitors space usage in response to indoor environmental conditions and interventions (e.g. retrofit)
- Can evaluate in-use performance of homes – a metric of occupants' behaviour



Key developments: Householders and behaviour – Domestic thermal comfort

- Thermal comfort evaluation of technologies: vacuum glazing
- Review of indoor temperatures in UK dwellings, 1969 – present
- Development of a domestic thermal comfort model (on-going)



CALEBRE and solid-wall housing: bringing findings together

- **The effective retrofit:** Householders and trust, use of professionals, airtightness, MVHR, quality of installation, orders of retrofit
- **Fit with existing systems:** Heat pumps and existing radiators, slender vacuum glazing for period windows and envelope thermal improvement
- **Space efficiency:** split heat pumps in boiler space, saving small garden space, advanced surface treatments



CALEBRE and the Green Deal

GD Assessors:

- Order of retrofit, variable payback and 'Golden Rule'
- Also if people go it alone

GD Installers:

- Training, quality of installation – closing the 'gap'

GD Provision:

- Tailor to needs of different householders

GD Approval:

- Modified heat pumps, vacuum glazing – process?



Summary

- Householder perspectives in older properties
- Guidance on current refurbishment practice:
 - Airtightness, MVHR, installation quality & training
- Advances to technologies, near & longer terms:
 - Heat pumps, vacuum glazing, advanced materials
- Contributions to Green Deal, and solid-wall challenge





Summary

- CALEBRE Briefing Notes - booklet for referencing available soon
- Will be available for download at our website
- Visit us at: www.calebre.org.uk
- Thank you for listening.....!

