

day! Homes



After finding the perfect spot on Skye to live, this couple got lucky when they found a firm to build their ideal home

By KAREN STEWART

Standing in a muddy field in the middle of nowhere, Ray and Margaret Cole knew they'd found the perfect spot to call home.

With great views over Loch Snizort and Skye's moody mists, the couple were convinced they would never find a prettier location on the whole of the island.

But, with no house in sight, it was up to them to make their property dreams come true. Now – just two years after their first trip to the site – the pair are the proud owners of a modern three-bedroom home which fits seamlessly into the landscape.

Roy, who is originally from Kent, said: "We always knew we wanted to move to Scotland when we retired and came to the conclusion Skye would be the perfect choice.

"We had spent a lot of holidays here and knew it had a lot to offer. When we came up initially, our intention was to look at properties and talk to estate agents but that changed when we walked into Skye Homes.

"We had never heard of them and thought they were an estate agent. So when we told them we were looking for a home, we were over the moon when they said they could build one for us.

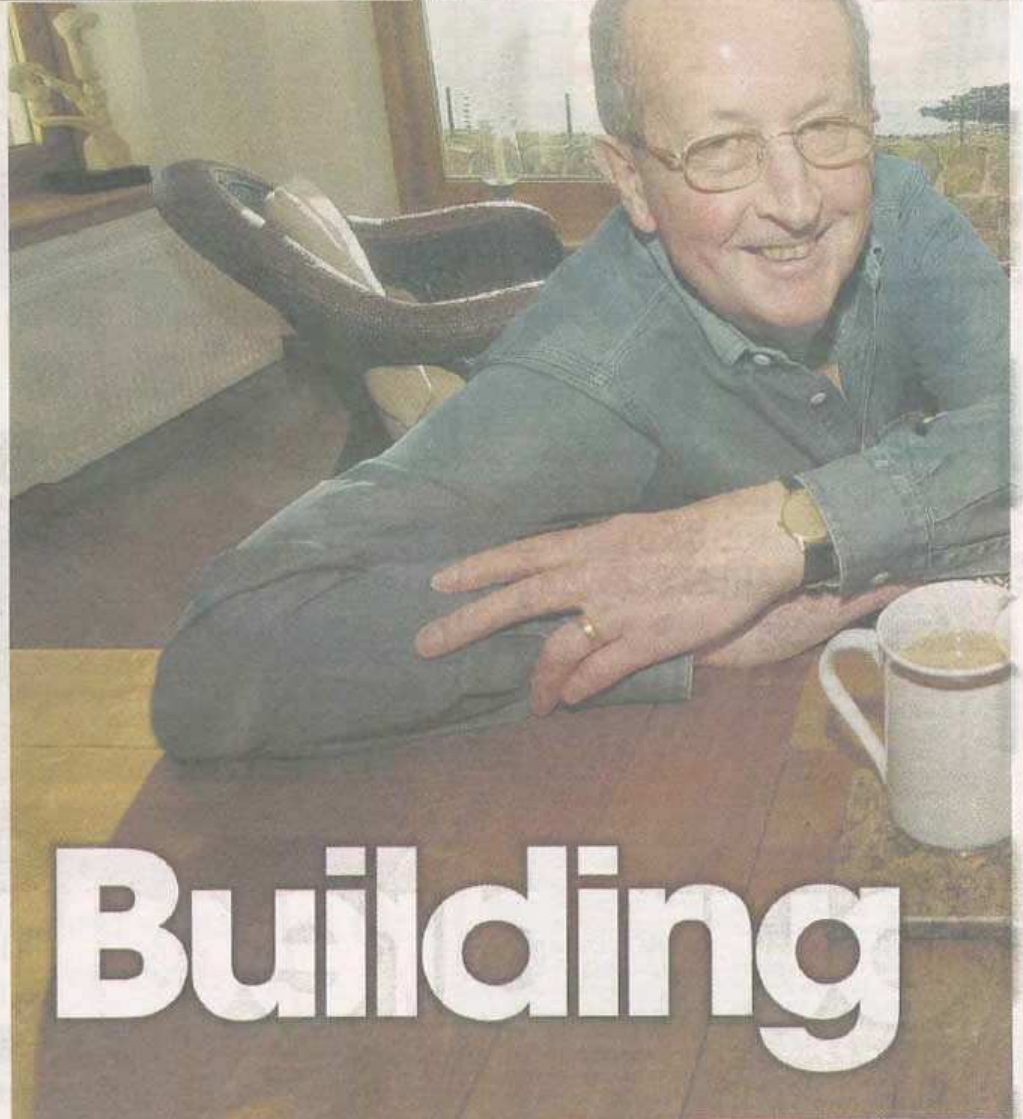
"They took us to see a couple of sites and this was the last plot. It was still early days but as soon as we saw it, we knew it was perfect.

"With such a gorgeous spot, we knew we couldn't go wrong.

Discussing design and layout with the builders, Roy and Margaret were able to sculpt their own dream home from scratch – making sure everything on their wish list was ticked off.

The result is a spacious three-bedroom house with added extras like a separate study, large bathroom and a master ensuite. Which means there's plenty of space for the couple as well as visiting family and friends.

Roy, 65, said: "Right from the start, the process has been smooth. Skye Homes showed us some of their



Building

the plans to make the home a three bedroom rather than the original four.

"They knew we were looking for space so we sacrificed one bedroom to make everything else larger. But now we have two good sized double bedrooms, a big master bedroom and ensuite and a lovely family bathroom. And we also have the study should we ever need an extra bedroom."

With the builders managing the build as well as organising all the work and materials, Roy and Margaret didn't have to worry about the usual

'Our grandkids have a great time running about in the field outside and we don't have to worry about them. It's what we've dreamt of

love it. For years we lived in ordinary, busy, suburban areas in places like Kent. A lot of people down south thought we were mad when we told them we were loving to an island.

"But we knew we were doing the right thing and anybody who has now been up to see us has made the same comment. They can see why we did it."

One of our key objectives was to make sure we could have quality time with our family and now they come up here on holiday to visit us.

"Our son David and daughter Julie



REMOTE CONTROL...
Ray and Margaret love the island and its slow pace of life



our dream

settling into their new community well. And despite a remote location – a mile off the main road – they're close enough to Portree to pick up life's daily essentials.

Roy said: "We're completely private here as there are only four houses in the area which are all around 100 or 200 yards apart. We're also about a mile off the main road so it really feels like we're going into a private estate."

"Yet we're still only 20 minutes North of the main town of Portree and so can go in whenever we want. We're

– although it had its fair share of rain and wind – was fine.

"We're delighted with the quality of the build and the way things worked out. Skye Homes just held us by the hand and led us through it. They listened to everything that we wanted and the end result is perfect."

"They even decorated the house for us in colours which we chose and so I don't have to think about DIY for a while which is also a bonus."

"My advice to people thinking about a big move like us is just to go



ON TELY
A PLACE IN THE
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expertise to help a client
choose between properties
in Somerset and they
go home away

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