



Kingspan Potton Build the UK's First Code Level 4 Self Build Show Home

Leading self build specialists, Kingspan Potton, will showcase the construction of UK's first Code Level 4 self build show home on-line at www.buildapottonbarn.co.uk. The project, which kick-starts in Spring 2011, will take place at Kingspan Potton's Self Build Show Centre in St Neots, Cambridgeshire. Visitors to the centre and the website will be able to follow the build of a traditional barn style home and see the design features and materials required to make it 44% more energy efficient than a standard built home.

The new design, a 2,780 sq ft barn style property, is both the first of its kind and the 25th design to be added to Kingspan Potton's portfolio of traditional and contemporary barn designs. Once built, it will be the 4th Show House at the Kingspan Potton Self Build Show Centre, where there are three other show homes built using the company's award winning timber frame packages.

The build, which would normally take 12 weeks, will be slowed down over a period of 8 months to cater for a series of open days. These unique sessions will show the installation of the latest products and materials used to meet the Code Level 4 rating as well as those needed to create a home that has all the charm of a barn style property but with all conveniences of modern day living.

Ieuan Compton, Head of Marketing at Kingspan Potton explains: "You never normally see the process behind building a show home; you just see the finished property. For would-be self builders, seeing the build is as important as seeing the finished result.

"Last year, building to Code Level 4 became a requirement of planning. There are several ways to meet the Code which has been confusing even for the industry, so for self builders it could potentially be off putting. The aim of this project is to demystify the process and show one way to

meet a Code Level 4 standard easily and affordably.”

Kingspan Potton is a pioneer in sustainable construction. They led the way in 2007 with the build of the Kingspan Lighthouse, the UK’s first Code Level 6, net zero carbon home. The company, whilst advocates of the Code, appreciate that it’s not easy for the lay person to understand.

“The Code is based on a points system and there are several ways to get those points. We are applying a ‘fabric first philosophy’ towards the build of this barn. This means we are focusing on getting optimum levels of airtightness and insulation into the fabric of the home. We believe that this helps future proof your home. Solar panels and energy efficient heating systems can break down, so if you get the fabric of the building itself right you have the foundations required for an energy efficient home.”

Kingspan Potton’s new barn would typically cost £100 per sq ft to build and once built, being 44% more energy efficient than a standard built home.

Anyone interested in following the progress of the build can log on to the website www.buildapottonbarn.co.uk. Every week there will be an update on the progress of the build including pictures and video footage showing products being installed. Regular interviews with the Project Manager will be posted in the ‘How to Build’ section and visitors to the site will have the opportunity to pose questions via the site.

A section called ‘Suppliers’ will show off the A-Z of companies used throughout the build, with a special section called ‘Sustainability’ which will showcase the products used to help gain the points needed for the Code 4 rating.

The ‘How to Build’ section will not only follow the progress on site but it will also provide details of the other 12 barn style timber frame packages, 6 Contemporary designs and 6 Classical designs - available in the Kingspan Potton portfolio.

Details of the open days scheduled throughout the build will be posted on the site and on www.potton.co.uk. For further information or to order a catalogue featuring Kingspan Potton’s complete range of Classical and Contemporary barn designs call 01767 676400.

ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE CODE FOR SUSTAINABLE HOMES

The Code for Sustainable homes is designed to improve the sustainability credentials of all new homes built.

The Code measures the sustainability of a house by design and performance, awarding points in nine different categories:

1. Energy and CO2 Emissions
2. Water
3. Materials
4. Surface Water Run-off
5. Waste
6. Pollution
7. Health and Well-being
8. Management
9. Ecology

There are 100 points which can be awarded overall. To achieve a Code **Level 1** rating 36 points are needed, **Level 2** - 48 points; **Level 3** – 57; **Level 4** – 68; **Level 5** – 84; and **Level 6** – 90.

These nine categories above break down into two groups: 'Mandatory' and 'Other'. The Mandatory elements are Energy and Water and remainder fall under the category of 'Other, where minimum standards must still be met.

Through the Kingspan group of companies, self builders can not only benefit from access to a range of products required to meet those mandatory requirements but thanks to their Code Assurance scheme, they can also benefit from a hand-holding service through these process.

CASE STUDIES

Case studies are available on customers throughout the UK who have built a barn:

Award Winners

Name: Lee and Phyliss Bollingbrook

Children: 2 - Sophie and Leanne

Profession: Boat Charter Business

Package: Thaxted timber frame barn design from Kingspan Potton

Address: St Osyth, Essex

Land Cost: £370,000

Build Cost: £150,000

Valuation: £700,000+

Lee and Phyliss Bollingbrook's new home was built in 2007. They knocked down an existing bungalow and rebuilt a Thaxted barn from Kingspan Potton's portfolio of timber frame package designs. It took a year to build and is now worth £700,000. The new property incorporates a huge inglenook fireplace, a farmhouse style kitchen with quirky boating themes built into various part of the property.

Their new home has been voted Best Barn in the 2011 Dream Home Awards.