

News release: 13th February 2008

Britain self builds and renovates to escape housing turmoil

Figures reveal that the number of people building their own homes is increasing, despite forecasts of a slowdown in the housing market.

BuildStore, the UK's leading supplier to self builders and renovators, has seen a 66% increase in completions on its market-leading Accelerator mortgage between 2002 and 2007. By 2010, the self build market will be worth £3.6bn¹.

An estimated 20,000 people build their own homes in the UK each year, accounting for one in eight of all new homes – more than the largest single commercial house builder.

On average, self built properties are worth 30% more than their land and build cost combined. Self builders can achieve further savings on household bills by designing water and energy efficiency measures into their homes, as well as renewable energy systems to generate their own power.

Tim Doherty, Managing Director of BuildStore's National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon, said: "Knowing where to start is often the biggest challenge for would-be self builders. The indications are that the sector is going to increase over the next few years, so if you're considering self build, now is the time to act.

"Potential self builders and renovators can learn from the experts at our forthcoming Self Build & Renovation Show. Visitors can learn about finding land, choosing finance and buying materials. They can also book free one-to-one sessions with CAD designers to assist them with designing their own home."

The Show takes place at the National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon between 6th and 9th March. It features an "Education Zone" and "Renovation Zone", including a full-sized house transformed from an 'old wreck' to a fully renovated property. For more information visit www.mykindofhome.co.uk/show

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

¹ See *UK Self-build Mortgages 2006* published by Datamonitor, reference code DMFS1956.

A half price ticket offer is available for all your readers. To arrange the offer and set up a promotion code, please contact Jaclyn Thorburn on 01506 409 466 or email jaclyn.thorburn@buildstore.co.uk

BuildStore, the company behind the National Self Build & Renovation Centre, offers an end-to-end service to the self builder and people wanting to renovate or convert an existing property. To capture this rapidly growing market, The National Self Build and Renovation Centre was opened in February 2007.

The 67,000 sq ft Centre is on a different scale to anything seen before in the UK self build and renovation sector. It has a dual role of helping to educate people interested in self building and renovating and ensuring those actively building can find all the services and materials they need.

Visitors can learn about the different stages of the self build and renovation process from the "Education Zone", which features six life-sized exhibits including, plant, groundworks, walls and roof structures. They can also find inspiration inside the Potton show home, and in the "Renovation Zone", discover techniques for renovating, with a full-sized house transformed from an 'old wreck' to a fully renovated home.

For visitors just starting their self build or renovation journey, the National Self Build & Renovation Centre can help them find a plot of land, renovation or conversion opportunities, with PlotSearch, consider finance options for their project with the in-house financial advisors, or simply get advice from the team of experts. Those actively involved in the process can take advantage of TradeCard, a unique card which offers discounted prices building materials and tool hire from leading merchants and suppliers. Plus, over 240 industry suppliers showcase their products and services in a dedicated "Trade Village", complete with a bar code system, allowing visitors to easily order brochures and further information, which will be sent to them at home.

For further information, including case studies please contact Emma Casey or Samantha Brown at Corixa Communications on 0117 949 3394, or alternatively email emma.casey@corixa.co.uk or samantha.brown@corixa.co.uk

