

Bargate Homes chooses Calor LPG for third rural housing development



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Mark White, Operations Director at Bargate Homes

Award-winning South coast housebuilder Bargate Homes has partnered with Calor for a third time to provide its energy requirements for another prestigious rural development site in Hampshire.

Mark White, Operations Director for Bargate Homes, explains, “We switched to Calor after experiencing unsatisfactory service from another LPG supplier, including being hit with lots of ‘hidden extras’. I’m pleased to say there have been no such problems with Calor and we’ve built a strong working relationship over the past three years.” “The Hideaway” - a collection of 19 thoughtfully designed and beautifully finished homes at Lower Upham - is the third development on which the two companies have teamed up since 2015.

- Customer:** Bargate Homes
- Applications:** An LPG metered estate
- Location:** The Hideaway development in Lower Upham, Hampshire and two other Bargate Homes sites

Project highlights:

-  No internal modifications required to heating and hot water design layout, saving time and expense
-  LPG heating systems are both familiar and easy to control so prove popular with homebuyers
-  Improved SAP ratings compared to oil or electric heating with minimal bolt-on energy-saving measures required



“With LPG from Calor, our homebuyers will benefit from the reliability and controllability of a proven, energy-efficient heating system. They will not need to sacrifice warmth and hot water on tap for a stunning rural location.”

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As was the case for its two previous partnerships with Calor, connecting to the mains gas supply was not an option due to the development’s countryside setting. However, Bargate Homes was determined that its homebuyers would be able to enjoy all the benefits of rural living without sacrificing the comfort, convenience and control of gas central heating.

LPG - the logical choice

From a practical standpoint, the ease of installation and standard design of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) boilers – being the same size and having the same flue clearance as mains gas boilers - make it the logical choice of fuel for an off-grid housing development.

Having previously worked with Calor and found the team to be efficient, knowledgeable and reliable to deal with, Calor LPG was Bargate Homes’ first choice fuel. Calor has installed four 4000-litre underground LPG tanks, buried out of sight of the imposing four and five-bedroom detached homes.

Gas is distributed through a network of hidden pipes directly to each home, which each have individual meters read annually by Calor. Homeowners are then invoiced for their individual consumption, which means on completion of the site, Bargate Homes will not need to be involved with its energy supply on an ongoing basis.

Homebuyers’ comfort a priority

Bargate Homes briefly considered the viability of using air source heat pumps (ASHPs) on The Hideaway development but,

from past experience, was concerned about hidden extras, installation issues and the long-term reliability of the system.

Additionally, adopting ASHP technology would require Bargate Homes to compromise housing layouts to accommodate a hot water cylinder cupboard, reducing bedroom space and impacting on the properties’ desirability to buyers.

As a developer, its customers’ lifestyles are at the forefront of everything it does and negative customer feedback on other developments where ASHPs had been installed was a major factor in Bargate Homes ruling out this more complex heating system.

Energy-efficient

In terms of SAP ratings, LPG scores better than electric heating solutions, meaning fewer energy-saving measures – such as solar PV or triple-glazing – need to be installed. In contrast, simple, low-cost, energy-saving ‘bolt-on’ measures such as waste water heat recovery or high therm lintels, typically costing less than £500 per home, are normally all that is needed to achieve Part L compliance with government Building Regulations.

Mark White, Operations Director at Bargate Homes, explains, “Buyer satisfaction is our paramount consideration in how we operate as a housebuilder and it all starts with the

design process. From higher ceilings that add to the sense of space and light within each home and boot-rooms to kick off muddy wellies after a long country walk to dressing rooms and high spec kitchen and dining areas, we want our customers to live a life of comfort and convenience. That philosophy extends to central heating and hot water.

“With LPG from Calor all our homebuyers will benefit from the reliability and controllability of a proven, energy-efficient heating system. They will not need to sacrifice warmth and hot water on tap for a stunning rural location.”



Hampshire-based Bargate Homes successfully teamed up with Calor on two of its earlier off-grid sites: the Dunsell’s Stone development at Ropley and The Landings at Over Wallop.

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