



CALOR

Calor LPG solution fuels housing development at Taylor Wimpey



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Chris McTague

Engineering Manager at Taylor Wimpey Midlands

Fuel choice is a key consideration for housing developers and starts way before building commences. An area of land may be rejected simply because the connection to a mains gas supply is deemed too expensive. For Taylor Wimpey’s development, The Hopyard at Martley, mains gas was not an option as the cost of connection to the grid would have made the development unviable. The developer required an alternative fuel, but still wanted to offer prospective buyers the versatility and efficiency that gas offers.

So, when Calor proposed a solution in the form of an LPG metered estate, which would offer the site all the benefits of a conventional gas supply, the technical team was keen to find out more - particularly when it realised that, with standard sized gas boilers being used, there would be no expensive deviation from the established Taylor Wimpey house layout.

Taylor Wimpey

Customer: Taylor Wimpey

Application: Underground bulk tanks for a metered estate

Location: The Hopyard at Martley

Project highlights:

- LPG boilers are the same dimensions as mains gas boilers, allowing Taylor Wimpey to retain its standard house type and design
- Lower SAP ratings than oil and electric allowing a lower cost build
- LPG boilers offer lower maintenance and high reliability over the oil equivalent
- Improved aesthetics with no visible gas tanks
- Significant lower installation costs per plot compared to oil, electric and ASHP

Find out more at: www.calor.co.uk/business
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Case Study
Taylor Wimpey



Specification and design

Having no prior experience of using LPG – as all previous developments had been able to connect to mains gas - Taylor Wimpey needed a trusted and experienced supplier to assist with the specification, to guide it through the process.

Chris McTague, Engineering Manager at Taylor Wimpey Midlands, explains:

“When we looked into the costs of installing an ‘off grid’ fuel, it became clear that electricity and oil would be difficult and expensive to install as the higher SAP ratings of these meant additional measures, such as solar PV or triple glazing, would be required to achieve SAP.

Being able to use our standard house design was key – having LPG meant we didn’t have to fundamentally redesign each property in order to accommodate floor standing oil boilers and cylinder cupboards. It can cost thousands to make even the smallest of layout changes, and this can significantly reduce the profitability of the development.

Although the running costs of LPG can be slightly higher than oil, gas boilers are typically cheaper to service and last longer due to the fuel being much cleaner. The price difference was relatively insignificant and meant we were able to offer buyers the comforts of full gas central heating which was a major selling point for the development.”

Technical expertise

After speaking with a Calor representative, Chris realised that having a metered estate was a viable and affordable option.

“We had initial concerns that separate gas tanks would be required, but the fact that we could opt for a metered estate and bury six bulk tanks underground made the decision an easy one.

Aesthetics are very important with all of our developments, so the option to have the tanks underground is perfect, as they were discreetly fitted in the corner of the site and avoided spoiling the great rural views which were important to the salability of the development.

A number of houses on this particular estate were to be used by a housing association, so there were concerns raised about houses having individual gas tanks. However when Calor explained the metered estate concept that offered a communal supply, these concerns were alleviated.”

Calor confidence

“Calor offered technical expertise including project management, with just one point of contact, which is an essential requirement in the developer market. The Calor brand is also well known among customers, which gives them peace of mind and confidence.

For the homeowner, LPG provides familiarity and the ability to cook on gas, which is very desirable. With on-hand technical expertise, advice, support, and the competitive installation price, the process was easy and I would recommend Calor to anyone considering using LPG on a rural housing development.”