



Case Study

Ramsey Heights - Forever home



Project Description:

A modern 135m² two bedroom future proof home ready for retired living. The downstairs bedroom, currently for guests, can convert to a carer's accommodation in future. Upstairs is open plan with kitchen, living area and master en-suite bedroom, together with a balcony providing wonderful views of the Cambridgeshire countryside. A wheelchair lift has been installed ensuring that the owner will still be able to enjoy the views in future years.

Interview with Joan Morters

1. What led you to selecting Passivhaus as a construction method?

I had always planned to Self Build. As a retired Head Teacher I knew I would remain active and over the past few years I've also become more conscious of the environment and living in a more eco-friendly way. I used to watch Grand Designs and saw how new technology and design innovation could reduce the need for electricity and fossil fuels whilst allowing for modern design and creativity, and this interested me hugely.

2. How and why did you approach Beattie Passive?

I attended an event at the National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon back in June 2016 and met Ron Beattie at their stand. We talked through the Beattie Passive system and I was struck by how efficient it was and how their system made perfect sense when building an energy efficient home. I was also swayed by the fact that they are a British manufacturer as I am passionate about supporting the UK market!





UK's First Certified Passivhaus Build System

3. How were the early stages of design and working with Beattie Passive?

This went really well and Beattie Passive actually introduced me to an architect they had worked with before so he was not only well versed in the Beattie Passive system but also passionate about Passivhaus living.

He had a great understanding of how I wanted to future-proof the house and we spent a lot of time discussing ideas to ensure the layout would work for me in the coming years.

Then the process of transforming the design into the Beattie Passive system to create the structural thermal envelope went smoothly as both teams had worked together in the past.

4. Future proofing – what elements did you consider during the design process?

This was always designed to be my forever home so I was keen to ensure that I could cope living here as I get older. So the key design criteria for me was accessibility and an easy layout. I have a downstairs bedroom which acts as guest accommodation for now but could also be for a carer in latter years and the installation of a lift will allow me to continue living on the top floor to enjoy the fantastic views! All doors are wide enough for a wheelchair so I've covered all bases, just in case, as I wanted to ensure this was both a beautiful and practical home to live in during my retirement.

5. Have there been any downsides to the project?

Managing other contractors has been a challenge but no more than I expected with a self build project! Also, with using other contractors who are not familiar with the Beattie Passive system meant I had to guide them through the installation of various

fixtures and fitting, for example telling them they couldn't simply drill a hole in the external wall for wiring or the outside tap as this would adversely affect the integrity of the structure and therefore its performance. However they soon learned how to work with the building and the air tightness test of just 0.358 hm²@50Pa shows it's performing as it should!

6. How has the process been on site?

All in all it has gone relatively smoothly. Planning took longer than expected and I was grateful to my neighbour who is a builder/developer who was able to recommend various trades I needed prior to Beattie Passive arriving on site. When the structure arrived it all went up so quickly, it was amazing to see my house take shape. The Beattie Passive team worked really well together and they were always helpful and took time to explain the process as it happened.

7. Which aspects are you looking forward to the most once the build is completed, due to it being a Passivhaus?

The reduction in utility bills will be fantastic not only with it being a Passivhaus and therefore



super-insulated, but I also have 6 PV panels on the roof generating my own electricity. Even though I live in a quiet area, the noise quality afforded by the high-spec triple glazing and super insulated structure will be another bonus along with it being less dusty which is not just better for my health but also less work to clean!

“The key design criteria for me was accessibility and an easy layout”

For more information contact: 08456 449003 | www.beattiepassive.com