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## Bristol Area

Posted by jackson - 2008/01/18 18:44

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Anyone up for getting involved in a self build project around Bristol?

We are looking at kick starting things by finding a site in Bristol, putting a sustainable covenant onto the land to ensure that the development meets basic sustainability criteria...obvious and common sense stuff.

Then getting plots set up for anyone interested. So if you haven't logged in, 'log in' to the forum and post a comment and we can get a group of interested people going.

Also don't forget to register for the newsletter as well on the front page.

<http://ecomotive.org/images/fbfiles/images/HouseKit.jpg>

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by SelimG - 2008/01/22 12:53

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Hi Jackson,

finally got logged on to the site. Let's see how she flies...

I'm interested if any projects spark up. I'm currently trying to get my own project together, but pooling resources is always beneficial. I'm trying to work out some land for a green self-build by October. I'll post details for my own project on my next log-on, but Bristol is high up on our list. Anyone looking to get people together on a project, feel free to contact me.

Selim

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by Gerrian - 2008/01/28 13:40

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Dear Jackson,  
thanks for the e-mail, site looks good, and I am very interested in self build and sustainability. I currently work in the Architectural industry and would gladly share skills to get worthwhile projects moving Best Regards

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by SelimG - 2008/01/28 15:43

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Hi Gerrian,

welcome to the site. I'm also trying to link up with some people to go in on a self build. We've got some money to invest, and it'd be nice to go in with a group. Bristol is high up on our list of potential sites, but we're still flexible at this stage. If you catch wind of an interesting project, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Initially, the idea is to end up with a self-built eco house of my own, but the greater picture is to use the equity on our builds to fund future self builds that can provide subsidized home ownership to people struggling to get on the property ladder. Nothing like human self interest to spur motivation for the green movement, eh?

Anyway, keep us updated...

Selim

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by tom - 2008/01/28 19:09

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Hi Selim

I am very interested in a self build in Bristol, I am a wood worker by trade and have developed a method of framing using small diameter round wood (larch and sweet chestnut up to 12 inch) as well as having some general building experience.

I would ideally invest with other people on a site which could then be divided up into self build plots and communal areas. Its putting the cart before the horse but you'd be welcome to come down the yard and see the framing technique i'm using and have a general chat on self build, like wise anyone else interested in methods of house construction. Look forward to hearing from you Tom

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by SelimG - 2008/01/28 22:47

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Hi Tom,

I'd love to stop by and have a chat. I've already been to the yard once to meet Jackson. I'll be returning to Bristol in a couple of weeks to speak to a contact who is an urban planner down there. Maybe that would be a great time to meet.

I didn't see your email on your profile, but please get my email address through my profile. (Are emails available on the profile? Haven't tried to communicate directly with forum members yet. Maybe the site can use an anonymous "send message" e-mailer?..)

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by jackson - 2008/01/28 23:56

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Welcome Gerrian and Welcome Tom.

Great to see different skills and expertise coming forward.

Currently there isn't a private email set up, and Selim, other people can't at the moment see your email in your profile. It may be a good idea to set up a way of sending private emails to registered users, or a way that only registered users can see the emails of other registered users.

I will see what the score is in setting something up...as there are going to be many occasions when people will want to send private messages to each other.

Jaxz

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by james - 2008/01/30 10:47

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Hi

Im looking to get some hands on experience at ANY alternative construction techniques in the bristol area. I am currently studying for an Msc at CAT (centre for alternative technology).

Is there anybody out there whom is building in straw bale, cob, rammed earth, cordwood, green wood, etc

all the best people

james in southville

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by jackson - 2008/01/30 11:41

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Hi James

Maybe worth posting the same request under the 'Building techniques' in the Knowledge tab, as you may get a viewer who is using such methods but not in Bristol or the South West. Of course it would be great to get hands-on experience close to home.

...welcome to the forum by the way.

Jaxz

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by james - 2008/02/02 20:30

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Hi Tom

I'd love to have a chat about alternative building techniques, particularly wood/timber frame.

I'm currently gathering ideas/info for a future build for my family. It won't be in Bristol, however sharing ideas is always good..

Im in southville, Bristol

like the last poster, im not sure if I'm allowed to give out my own details?

james

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by jackson - 2008/02/03 12:51

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Hi guys

In terms of personal details, you can post what you want of your own. So if you would like to put your email on the forum that is up to you.

I am working on a way of allowing people to send a private message providing their personal email without the rest of the world knowing.

This way it reduces unsolicited mail getting sent around. In the mean time, if you do not want to post your personal email on the forum for all to see, I can pass it on to another registered user on your behalf and on your request...at least until we sort this thing out so you can all do it automatically.

Also, on a similar vein...someone could sort out a meet/drinks for the Bristol group if anyone is interested.

Later

Jaxz

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by tom - 2008/02/06 17:45

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Hello

Just to let people know my e mail, which is [red4tom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:red4tom@yahoo.co.uk) and telephone: 07971 985 310  
James, if you're interested in visiting the yard you'd be welcome to come down, I'm around week days and into the evenings some days, probably best to give me a call first as I don't check e mail every day.

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Like wise Salim when you're in Bristol feel free to give me a call.  
Thats all for now!

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by SelimG - 2008/02/08 01:14

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Hi everyone,

Been busy a few days, and looks like the forum's got a bunch of new posts. Nice one. Anyway, looks like I'll be in Bristol from the 16th, 17th, and 18th. I can also stay a bit longer if necessary. I'd love to arrange a little gathering if possible. I have Jackson and Tom's numbers. I'll try to give you two a ring tomorrow. I don't know if Gerrian is close to Bristol, but it would be nice to get some Architectural expertise. James, Southville is close to Bristol right? or am i way off?

Anyway, hopefully we can get a meet set up. Maybe we can post a time, date, and a pub to post on the forum for other viewers to show up. Food for thought...

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by SelimG - 2008/02/09 17:08

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Okay, so... Jackson, Tom, James and I have decided to meet up. If anyone else catches this thread on the forum and wants too meet up, here are the details:

Saturday, Feb. 16th  
1pm at the Tobacco Factory, in Bristol.

For a link to a map: [CLICK HERE](#)

All are welcome...

See you there

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by jackson - 2008/02/19 10:00

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Hey. Great to meet up on Saturday.

We pretty much went through different peoples objectives and desires, and really just making contact.

There is a focus to keep an eye out for small pieces of land in and around Bristol, and to start scoping out land prices in relation to area, local amenities and condition of site.

We are also going to start producing a basic criteria for any site, which self builders will need to sign up to to be part of the development. Such as minimum level for the sustainable design of the buildings.

Selim is looking into how Plymouth City Council supports self build in their area.

Next stage is work on a financial plan, how to get the first development rolling. So anyone with previous experience of such issues greatly welcome to drop a line.

Congratulations James, amazing news. Preparing your construction team already, good work.

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by Soili - 2008/02/28 22:03

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Hi all,  
I just tried to post something but it disappeared - so briefly; we would like to get in contact with people interested in selfbuild in the Bristol area, we (me and my partner James) have been looking for a house to buy but it seems crazy to pay so much for it, and then on top for all the changes we would want to do to get a low energy & solar powered place. We would really like to be part of a selfbuild project also for the sake of a healthy community, but won't be able to do the whole build ourselves since we both work full-time. Would be good to hear ideas & experiences?  
Soili  
P.S. We already know Tom and Jackson!

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by SelimG - 2008/03/06 13:52

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Hi Soili,

It's been a hectic couple of months, but hopefully we're on our way to teaming up for a self build in bristol. I will be going to the US for 2 months to sort out my visa and deal with the financial stuff to get this build going. If you know Jackson, it'd be great to talk to him in person about how we might be able to team up. I'll be getting married in September, so I'd like to start building as soon as October. More likely, we'll still be hunting for land, but I'd like to talk to anyone working around these time frames. In any case, I'd love to be part of a group that pulled the first successful build from this website... and it's not even 6 months old...

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by jackson - 2008/03/10 16:55

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Hi Soili

The forum has a time element for being logged in for security purposes, and I have fallen foul of losing everything I have written as I have nipped off to make a tea in the middle.

So, for all, if you do write anything its worth doing a quick highlight all and copy to clipboard before you press SUBMIT....just in case.

Then if you have been logged out, its not so bad logging back in and pasting your edit.

Soili, your situation is one of most people. Working, difficult financially to buy an existing house, and frustrated with high heating bills and still have a cold home over winter.

So there are a number of routes. One is to allocate evening and weekend time in a a complete self build....which is hardwork, physically and emotionally, but the cheapest. The other route would be to be part of a project where you could self-finish a home. This would give you a watertight, insulated unit which you could detail and spec the internal to your own wishes, and the more of the internal work you do the cheaper the spend, but saves you the hard work of getting to a watertight stage.

We are hoping to have a balance of self build and self finish in the first project in Bristol. Obviously this depends on size of site we find.

If other people have suggestions for Soili, throw them in the pot.

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by Julia - 2008/04/15 10:28

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Oh nooo! My message disappeared too! I forgot to copy it! \*sigh\* Ok, here we go again :)

So, hi everybody!

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Julian and I know Jackson and Soili already (Hi guys! :) ). We live in Bristol and we have a flat in St Pauls/Montpelier. Unfortunately, it's way too expensive for the size, it's too small anyway and it's not green at all. So, we have been thinking about a self-built house (it helps to know Jackson and to know that it's achievable!). We are not as ready as Selim seems to be, I think we are in a more similar situation as Soili, but we're keen to meet and make it happen!

There are two difficulties in our situation which we will have to find a solution for (apart from the usual challenges that everybody will go through: the time, the land, the skills, etc.): one is that we already have a mortgage and we don't know what the options will be for us - selling the flat before buying the land and paying for the house (then, where will we live?), paying for two mortgages while-we-build (it'd be too much money a month and the bank won't give us another one anyway.) or something else... The other tricky bit is that we are both freelance and it's the usual dilemma: when we have the money, we don't have the time and vice-versa. Also, sometimes one of us (or both...) has to leave Bristol for work and it can be anywhere in Britain or abroad and for substantial periods of time. Also it's always pretty unexpected. Hard to plan anything in that case.

We'll find a way!

The other thing worth mentioning here is that we are also thinking about kit eco-houses amongst other ways. This is something Soili might be interested to as well, if time is an issue. Does anyone know about them? Do you have an opinion on how good or bad they are? I guess the quality depends on the company too. It's a matter of doing the research.

Anyway, if you guys are meeting up again some day, we would love to join the discussion!

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by Becky Johnson - 2008/04/30 11:58

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Hi all, I have a house in Frome ( near Bath ) with a rather large mortgage. I'm interested in finding people to self build some co-housing in Frome. When I sell my house I would ideally invest the money in a much more sustainable eco home that was also part of a community. Frome has vast quantities of building development going on at the moment. I wonder if anyone has any ideas on how to find land and start this ball rolling or if it's too problematic and I'm better off moving to Bristol and getting involved with the project there?

Also there's a community centre near where I live with a garden that the charity that I work for, Somerset Community Food, has agreed to develop as an eco community garden. Any one out there able to offer workshops in developing a community eco garden? We need a cabin of sorts there too. Small amounts of money available.

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by jackson - 2008/05/03 13:11

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Hi Becky

Welcome to the site. Frome is a great place, and I'm sure it will be possible to find some land and get a project going in or around Frome.

You could print up some of the leaflets on the resources page, and put them up and around to see if there are others in the area interested.

We could meet up at some point to talk about ideas, as I am often in Frome. Away until 12th May, so sometime after that.

Nice one  
Jackson

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## Bristol eco-housing co-op died?

Posted by steve - 2008/05/07 02:09

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What happened to the Bristol eco-housing co-op? A few months ago they found a superb site with the support of the Council. It was East of the Feeder canal on the riverside. I tried searching for their website but its down. Perhaps they

folded? See: <http://www.cooperatives-uk.coop/News/newsArchive/2007/co-housingBristol>

Steve

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## Re:Bristol eco-housing co-op died?

Posted by jackson - 2008/05/16 19:44

Hi Steve

Been away for a few weeks and out of the loop.

Bristol co-housing is still going, and I think they are looking to see if there is any space in the Elizebeth Shaw chocolate factory.

Whats the site at the end of the feeder? Sounds good, fancy showing me sometime, or do you know the location....do ya wanna google earth it?

Jaxz

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## Re:Bristol eco-housing co-op died?

Posted by steve - 2008/05/22 03:53

Hi Jax

I think Vince showed it me; one of these three locations adjacent to the river:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=111842932223714973168.0000011205472ef28ac29&ll=51.452158,-2.560099&spn=0.002193,0.005858&t=h&z=18> - the enclosed space left of Marsh Lane or:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=111842932223714973168.0000011205472ef28ac29&ll=51.45524,-2.546071&spn=0.002119,0.005858&t=h&z=18> - again adjacent river, centre of image. Or:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=111842932223714973168.0000011205472ef28ac29&ll=51.450863,-2.567499&spn=0.001097,0.002929&t=h&z=19>

The links don't paste in properly - make sure to copy all of each before pasting.

I've emailed Vince but he doesn't reply.

Steve

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by jcaillet - 2008/06/08 17:03

Hello.

I am looking for an eco-house and preferably an eco-community in Bristol for my family and me. Would love any information anyone would have. Please feel free to contact me directly.

We are moving to Bristol this summer, in a couple months. We would LOVE to purchase a house but I have not seen anything I like yet. We'd prefer to live in an eco-community or co-housing community if one exists. I have been looking at houses to "gut" or to self-build. No luck. We'd even rent an apartment for a period of time if we knew a community was being built.

Would love any information anyone has.

THANKS!!

Janice  
Janice@CoachingCircles.com

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by aylee - 2008/06/25 21:11

Hi there

Would like to express my/our interest in joining any group within the Bristol area wanting to find land and self-build.

I see you already have a small group going and wondered what stage you're at. Are you interested in any more members?

If you're planning to meet up again at any time soon, would love to join in.

All the best

Alix

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by jackson - 2008/06/26 09:39

Hi Alix

Welcome to the site, yea definitely get involved. There isn't a closed group it is purely the people who get involved in this forum thread.

Currently people are keeping their eye out for land opportunities, and we are talking with the local authority to get their support in any future schemes.

So, if you find any plots then post details on the site and feed in any other info you wish if you think relevant.

You are also welcome to get things rolling and call a gathering to meet up with other people on the forum.

Jackson

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by alexa - 2008/09/16 13:49

Hi. I've just found out about this website, and am interested in finding out more about sustainable housing/self-builds/kits/etc, as I know very little at the moment! Would love to come to any talks or meetings to learn more about the whole process.

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by jackson - 2008/09/18 23:37

Hi Alexa

I am actually giving a presentation at the National Self Build and Renovation Centre about the self build project in Bristol if you are interested.

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It is part of the SHOW which is on from the 2nd-5th Oct. I am only presenting on the Friday 3rd Oct @ 11.00 and @ 3.00. But there will be lots of information at the show about self build.

If you want to find out more have a look at <http://www.mykindofhome.co.uk/>

The Centre is in Swindon, and if you book in advance it is free to get in. Maybe see you there?

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by alexa - 2008/09/20 11:36

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Thanks for that - it depends a bit on work, but I'll see if I can make it. Cheers!

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by JandAhomebuild - 2008/11/26 12:14

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Hello

We are currently building/project managing our own self build in Bristol. We are building just off the Stokes Croft/Cheltenham Road.

Would be more than happy to offer any (amateur) advice on finding a plot or recommendations of party wall surveyors, trades people etc.

Not sure if anyone is aware of the Bath and District Self Build Association ([www.bathselfbuild.co.uk](http://www.bathselfbuild.co.uk)) We meet the first Tuesday of every month at the Rummer in Bath. In the last year (since we purchased some land) we have found it really useful.

Also the Swindon Self build Centre is worth a visit.

There seems to be a fair amount of land dotted around Bristol. Although, this tends to be single plots rather than larger plots suitable for community developments.

Now seems to be a good time to conduct a self-build. Land is getting cheaper and you are able to hire various trades at a fair price.

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by Laura - 2009/07/12 16:58

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Hey Jacx

Alan and I are seriously thinking about self build rather than buying our own house (I'm not sure where we got the idea from...) so if you come across some land in or around Bristol then we'd definitely be interested in joining other like minded people and building our own.

Cheers

Lol x

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## Re:Bristol Area

Posted by digger - 2011/05/06 12:31

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Could Jackson please contact me as your website seems to have a glitch

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David Parkes  
07787 153410

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