

BRAND NEW COTTAGES IN PRIME VILLAGE LOCATION

If you're on the hunt for somewhere new to live, wouldn't it be great if all the best features of each property on your shortlist could be rolled into one ideal home? But, like most things in life, buying a house is all about compromise. If you want rolling hills and wooded valleys on your doorstep you have to be prepared to drive a fair bit further to get to work or go shopping. If you want plenty of living space you could be forced to consider houses with less character. And if your budget is tight you may have to settle for a smaller place where the dining table is squeezed into the living room or the spare bedroom doubles up as a study.

That said, when you look at the new homes currently under construction at Basildon Chase, it's difficult to see quite where the compromises lie...

Built by local developer, Thomas Homes, Basildon Chase is a small scheme of just 12 pretty cottages in a mature setting on the edge of Lower Basildon, a popular village just off the A329, halfway between Pangbourne and Streatley.

The cottages are surrounded by beautiful countryside and yet they're only a few minutes' drive from the shops, banks and other local amenities in Pangbourne and Goring-on-Thames. These two riverside villages also have mainline stations with fast services to Reading, Oxford and Paddington. By road there's quick access from here to the M4 and A34, so journey times are less than you'd expect commuting from a rural area.

Satisfied that the location couldn't be much better, you'd want to cast a critical eye over the plans for Basildon Chase. From the outside the 12 properties have a lovely country cottage look and feel. Inside they're surprisingly spacious with a variety of layouts. Some of the houses have two bedrooms and a study (which could be used as a third bedroom), while some boast three bedrooms AND a study AND a playroom! All are cleverly designed to make the best use of space, sometimes with a split-level ground floor, sometimes with the living accommodation spread over three floors.

One thing all the cottages at Basildon Chase have in common is that the interiors are designed and specified to a very high standard, including Bosch stainless steel kitchen appliances and stylish bathrooms with chrome fittings and heated towel rails. They even have the latest electrically-operated combined heating and hot water systems - with fuel prices rocketing, this could make bills significantly lower.

Having added character and living space to the checklist we're still looking for the compromises at Basildon Chase. A lack of local schools maybe? Well, no, you've even got this aspect covered. As well as the primaries at Basildon and Streatley you're also in the catchment area for several secondary schools the nearest being Denefield, Tilehurst, Theale Green, Theale and the highly regarded Downs School in Compton is only 5 miles distant.

Compromises are certainly hard to find at Basildon Chase and you'd expect this to be reflected in the prices. But in fact the properties are excellent value starting at just £285,000 for a two-bedroom semi-detached house with a study. As a result, there's bound to be a lot of interest when the show home opens on 28th April. With that in mind it might be wise to beat the rush by calling the agent, Neville Turner, on **0118 984 1841**. You can also download the Basildon Chase brochure on the Thomas Homes website at www.thomashomes.co.uk