



## Calor LPG provides Linden Homes' development with reliable energy



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**James Richards**

Senior Technical Manager at Linden Homes

National house builder, Linden Homes, has selected Calor as the LPG supplier for its latest Morgan's Field development in rural Hampshire. As the fifth site to benefit from off-mains gas from Calor, Linden Homes has chosen LPG again due to the fuel's proven reliability and ease of installation over other energy options.

Consisting of a range of two to five bedroom houses, Morgan's Field is situated in the picturesque country village of Broughton, close to Stockbridge.

Calor has installed four, 4000-litre underground LPG tanks in a metered estate configuration, buried in a communal area away from the thirty home development. Gas is distributed through a network of pipes directly to each home, with individual meters read annually by Calor. This arrangement ensures homeowners enjoy the same convenient and reliable gas central heating and hot water as those living in urban locations.

**Customer:** Linden Homes  
**Application:** An LPG metered estate  
**Location:** Morgan's Field development in Broughton, Stockbridge and four other rural sites

### Project highlights:

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



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Case Study  
Linden Homes



Customers' individual consumption is then invoiced directly to the homeowner, meaning that upon completion, Linden Homes has no ongoing commitment to the development's energy supply.

Building to group standard housing design and layout was a key factor for Linden Homes, and with LPG boilers being the same size and having the same flue clearance as mains gas boilers, they were an attractive option, as no internal modifications were required to heating and hot water design layout.

Linden Homes had considered using air source heat pumps (ASHPs) on the development, but was concerned about higher equipment costs and ease of installation, alongside the long-term reliability of any system. In addition, negative customer feedback on previous developments on which ASHPs had been installed was a major consideration.

In particular, experience had shown that the heating system was more complicated for the new homeowner to control and could result in the installation failing to deliver the efficiencies expected.

## Simple installation

ASHP technology will not fit with many standard housing layouts as it is necessary to install a hot water cylinder and, for maximum efficiency, underfloor heating. On smaller properties, of up to four bedrooms, having to alter housing layouts to accommodate cylinder cupboards means reducing bedroom space, impacting on the desirability of the property for new buyers.

In contrast an LPG combination boiler, which is typically installed on smaller properties of four bedrooms and less, needs no hot water cylinder or its associated cupboard and

there is also no requirement to install underfloor heating or increased sized radiators to achieve maximum efficiency.

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. Low-cost, energy-saving 'bolt-on' measures such as waste water heat recovery or high therm lintels are normally sufficient to achieve Part L Compliance, typically costing less than £500 per house.

Finally, by specifying the same boiler manufacturer as a mains gas site, Linden Homes was able to save significant procurement time while benefitting from the same group deals and extended warranty for customers.

## Proven and reliable

Commenting on the installation, James Richards, Senior Technical Manager at Linden Homes said: "The feedback from prospective buyers about LPG on the development has been very positive so far.

Most people would assume that a development in such a rural location would not be able to benefit from gas powered central heating and would require a different energy source. However, the LPG from Calor has meant that all buyers will benefit from the reliability and controllability of a proven heating system which will help with the overall energy efficiency of the new home.

Linden Homes has been working with Calor for a number of years to provide LPG to its off-grid developments, including the Royal Chase and Taylors Grange developments in Hampshire, the Aspire and Poets Corner developments in Cambridgeshire and the prestigious Ridgeway Manor site in Wiltshire.