

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

You have been invited to take part in the research project, *Self-building: the production and consumption of new homes from the perspective of households*. I am currently recruiting self-build households to complete an online survey. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important that you understand why the research is being undertaken and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask if you need any further information.

What is the purpose of the study?

This project is a systematic enquiry into self-building in Britain today, taking seriously the need to know who is using self-build, what their characteristics are and to what extent they succeed in their aims. Through a variety of different research methods, it aims to understand the outcomes of self-building for individual households, in order to broaden understandings of how the self-building is constituted in the UK. I will be conducting research between November 2012 and December 2014. This will be accompanied and followed by the analysis and dissemination of the research data. The project will conclude September 2015.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been asked to participate because you and your household have decided or have undertaken the building of your own home, whether through a collective or community-led project or as an individual household. I am interested in recruiting participants from a range of socio-economic backgrounds, family composition, at all stages in the lifecycle, and irrespective of gender and ethnicity. Furthermore, I hope to recruit participants at all stages in the process of self-building, from those just embarking on the initial stages of their projects, through to those who have completed their projects within the last ten years.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet. If you decide to take part in the survey, this will be taken as an indication of your consent to participate and for the information supplied by you to be used for research purposes. You are, however, still free to withdraw at any time until 31st May 2013 when the data from the survey will have been analysed.

What will happen if I do take part?

You will fill in the online survey, which has been designed to collect basic household data, information on the choice to self-build, the obstacles and challenges faced in building your own home, and the overall experience of building your own home. This will take a maximum of thirty minutes to complete. You will also be asked if you are interested in taking part in the next stage of the project (case studies with individual households) and/or becoming part of the project's advisory panel.

What are the benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits to the participants of the research project. However, you will be informed of all dissemination events taking place towards the end of the project, which will include the presentation of research findings through an exhibition and seminars at various self-build shows around the UK (2015). In addition you will receive a copy of the consultation document for potential self-builders prepared on the basis of the research findings.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

All data will be treated with the utmost confidentiality; the data supplied will not be used in a manner that would allow identification of your individual responses. In addition, each survey will be allocated a randomly generated code, which will not be traceable back to respondent except by the researcher. Electronic data files will be stored on an encrypted, password protected computer, backed up regularly to an encrypted hard drive accessible only to the research.

What will happen to the results of the research?

The results of the research will be disseminated through a range of outlets including academic publication and conference papers, presentations at various self-build exhibitions around the UK, a research report and a one-day workshop for practitioners. The progress and findings of the project will be communicated through the project website <http://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/research/current-research/benson-self-build/> and blog <http://selfbuildproject.wordpress.com>.

Who is organising and funding the study?

The research is being undertaken by Dr. Michaela Benson (Department of Sociology, University of York). The study is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council through their Future Research Leaders Programme (Grant Number ES/K001078/1).

Who has reviewed the study?

[*Subject to approval* - The research has been approved by the Economics, Law, Management, Politics and Sociology Ethics Committee (ELMPS), University of York. If you have any concerns over the way that the research has been conducted, please contact Caroline Hunter (caroline.hunter@york.ac.uk) the chair of ELMPS.]

If you decide you want to take part, or if you require any further details about the project, please contact me:

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