

NEWS RELEASE – 14 October 2013

Small Cotswold housing development attracts second award

A small housing development in the ancient village of Southrop has been acknowledged for its design, benefit to local people and the environment with a second award this year.

Stonesfield Close, built by Hills Homes, received the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Gloucestershire Award 2013 at a ceremony last week. It was presented to Nick King, group director of Hills Homes, by Viscount Bledisloe on behalf of the CPRE Gloucestershire.

The annual CPRE Awards recognise projects that are exemplary in their contribution to communities, for the way they contribute to a quality environment and for enhancing the social life of the countryside.

The CPRE judges were impressed with the overall planning, design and integration of Stonesfield Close into the existing Cotswold village of Southrop and described it as ‘a very pleasing and attractive small scale development whose design has created an interesting addition to the village scene.’

Nick King said: “We are very proud that our efforts on this development have been acknowledged. Our team worked particularly hard to ensure that the homes remained sympathetic to their surroundings and sit naturally in their environment.”



Built on a former haulage yard, the development consists of five privately owned 4- and 5-bedroom homes, together with a terrace of three affordable 3-bedroom homes for local families provided through Cirencester Housing Society for rent.



Hills Homes ensured that as many materials, products and trades as possible were sourced locally to minimise the carbon footprint and to support local enterprises. The beautiful mellow Cotswold stone, so much a feature of Stonesfield Close, came from a local quarry and the roof tiles were manufactured and supplied within 5 miles from the site. Traditional rural crafts were utilised to create the dry stone walls.

Environmental issues were a vital part of the strategy for the build process with particular attention paid to the surface water drainage. The SUDS technique was used throughout the site to return rain water to the ground and the waste water treatment plant utilises micro-organisms to process waste with the final cleansed output returning to the ground to replenish ground water stocks. A mix of permeable paving and local Cotswold gravel was used for the road and path surfaces. Additionally the remediation of existing contamination on the site undertaken by Hills Homes has improved the land quality and ensured there is no longer any danger from contaminants migrating to the underlying aquifer.

The Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 was achieved for the affordable housing with solar panels a feature for all the homes, providing sustainable energy to supplement heating systems. To encourage wildlife the paddock areas were seeded with a wildflower and meadow grass mix and bat boxes and bird boxes were incorporated into the scheme.

The successful fusion of environmental, social and natural themes applied saw the development awarded the 'Best social or affordable housing' category in the West of England Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Awards in July last year. ENDS

Notes:

Hills Homes has established a strong reputation for building high quality homes on carefully selected sites in Wiltshire and neighbouring areas – from major developments in large towns to smaller ones in rural towns and villages. www.hills-homes.co.uk

The company was also a winner of the 2010 LABC National 'Best small housing development' Award

In addition to its own developments, Hills Homes is also a successful contract builder.

Hills Homes is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Hills Group Limited, a privately owned family company established in 1900

CPRE Awards - Any building project is eligible for the CPRE Gloucestershire Awards whether new, restored or converted. Innovative use of natural resources, such as habitat management or renewable energy, is recognized, as are projects benefiting local communities. The Awards are also about encouraging others, and projects must be visible from public places.

Media contact:

Monique Hayes, Communications Officer, The Hills Group Limited

Tel: 01672 518941 monique.hayes@hills-group.co.uk



@HillsHomes



HillsGroup