

Karuna rises! The birth of a low impact icon



In the Spring 2012 edition of Green Building magazine we covered the history behind Karuna and the granting of planning permission for this low impact dwelling on a greenfield wildlife, nature friendly site in Shewsbury. A successful crowd funding campaign raised £6000 towards building the foundations and floor ...

The structure is a roundhouse and the footings have just been completed. The builder, Mal, who although described as a 'regular' builder is not afraid to try something new or different. He also builds with tremendous thoughtfulness, care and skill. Here is a very brief outline of the main footing and wall structure:

Foundations/floor: floorboards on 50x50mm battens fixed to 100mm conc slab. 50mm edge insulation and 130mm Kingspan insulation below slab over sand blinding.

Plinth wall: stone rubble walling bedded in lime mortar, where visible, with lightweight blocks support. All on 450mm 'Trenchblocks' over strip concrete foundation. DPC in appropriate position (see diagram and picture).

Main walls: will be lime plastered over strawbales resting on the plinth wall (see diagram) with base frame of 100mm x 50mm studs with OSB webbing.

We will bring more news on the build progress in a forthcoming issue of Green Building magazine.

