

1 Set the Scene

So where are you going to create your new space? Can you carve it out of your home, can you add it to your home, have you got a shell that is crying out to be reimagined or have you found that special place where you could create something amazing?

FINDING A PLOT:

Think about type, position, size and planning. It could be a back garden, on top of an existing garage, an existing house, a loft space, don't limit your search.

TIPS AND LINKS:

- Be realistic – When you find a site, is it big enough, does it have services running to it, how easy is access? Can you really see yourself living on this site – what will you look at and hear?
- Is there any planning history – are any old planning application for the site and if they were refused, why?
- Sign up to the Sheffield City Council Custom Build register:
<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/housing-services/private-sector-housing/custom-build-housing/register-and-sites.html>.
- Group together to increase your budget – Working as a group gives you more financial clout to share the cost of bigger plots as well as being able to share out the work finding and building your self-build. However, remember that if you start to work in a group you are going to have to get along and fully commit!
- Join the Cohousing network to learn from other co-housing groups such as Shirle Hill:
<https://sheffieldcohonetwork.wordpress.com/> or email SheffieldCohousing@gmail.com.
- Where to look:
www.plotfinder.net
www.wreckoftheweek.co.uk

