

AS SEEN IN
Beautiful
KITCHENS

Perfectly PALE

Sally Doherty and Nigel Toon's choice of a traditional, farmhouse-style kitchen has transformed the heart of their family home

FEATURE LAURIE DAVIDSON • PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID STILL

Kitchen FACT FILE



THE FAMILY

Sally Doherty, who works in corporate communications, her partner Nigel Toon, and Sally's sons, William, 11, and Paddy, 10, plus Ginger the cat

THE HOME Six-bedroom former Georgian rectory in Somerset

THE PROJECT Updating the kitchen as part of a renovation

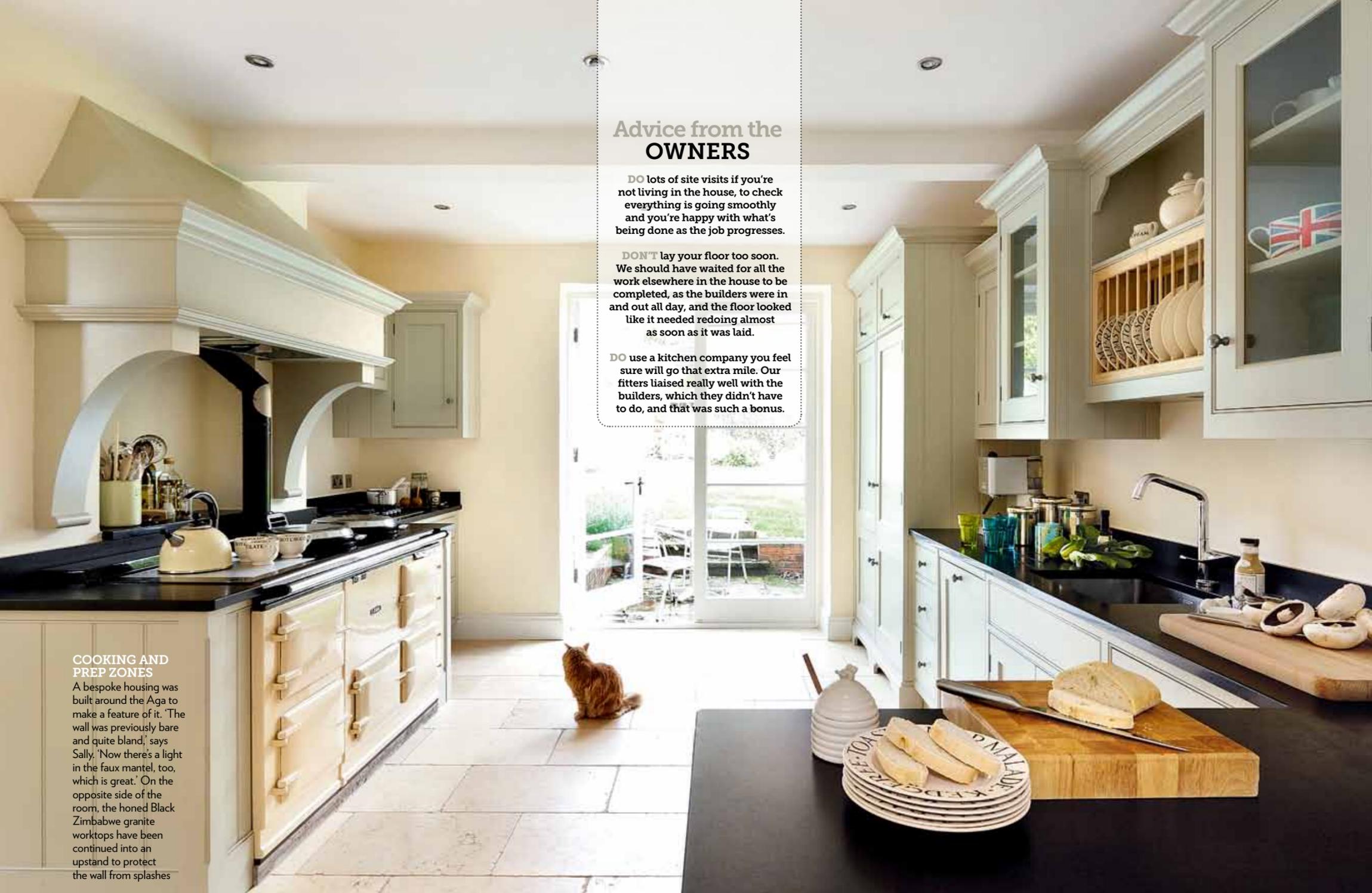
PRICE GUIDE

£19,000

for a similar design from The Bristol Kitchen Company, cabinetry only

CABINETRY

In-frame furniture has been painted in Farrow & Ball's Old White and features glazed wall units for favourite crockery and glassware. A natural ash plate rack is positioned above the sink for convenience



Advice from the OWNERS

DO lots of site visits if you're not living in the house, to check everything is going smoothly and you're happy with what's being done as the job progresses.

DON'T lay your floor too soon. We should have waited for all the work elsewhere in the house to be completed, as the builders were in and out all day, and the floor looked like it needed redoing almost as soon as it was laid.

DO use a kitchen company you feel sure will go that extra mile. Our fitters liaised really well with the builders, which they didn't have to do, and that was such a bonus.

COOKING AND PREP ZONES

A bespoke housing was built around the Aga to make a feature of it. 'The wall was previously bare and quite bland,' says Sally. 'Now there's a light in the faux mantel, too, which is great.' On the opposite side of the room, the honed Black Zimbabwe granite worktops have been continued into an upstand to protect the wall from splashes



HOB AREA

'Much as I love the Aga, it can get too hot, especially in the summer,' says Sally. 'That's why my Bosch gas hob is great.' Deep drawers beneath keep saucepans and utensils to hand



LARDER

A generous floor-to-ceiling cupboard takes advantage of the room's proportions and provides plenty of storage for dried goods, herbs, spices and a microwave



When Sally Doherty and Nigel Toon first saw the former rectory they now call home, they fell in love with its spacious rooms and quiet location in rural Somerset. However, the Georgian property badly needed to be brought up to date, so, as soon as Sally and Nigel had made the place theirs, they began a major renovation.

As well as repairing the roof and floors and installing a new bathroom, the kitchen required a complete overhaul. 'The scheme we inherited was really old fashioned and

hadn't been replaced since the 1960s,' Sally recalls. 'It had a diner at one end and tired cabinetry at the other, with an old laminate worktop – I knew it was going to be a big job.'

With the family renting a house nearby, the builders moved in and began fixing the roof. Meanwhile, Sally started to think about her new kitchen. 'The house is set in quite a rural location, so I felt a country style would suit it best, but at the same time, I didn't want anything too twee,' she says.

After approaching a few cabinetmakers and seeing what they had to offer, Sally settled

on The Bristol Kitchen Company. 'I met Howard Purse in his workshop in Bristol and liked that I was able to see other kitchens being built – it was reassuring,' she says. 'Howard came up with a few ideas and I decided to go with his design because he had a good feel for the style I was after.'

'We talked for some time over whether to retain the old Aga,' Sally continues, 'and eventually we decided to keep it, so it was reconditioned and then put back in place.'

A debate also arose over the layout for the kitchen. 'I would have liked an island but ►



DINING AREA

A farmhouse-style dining table and chairs, and an old armchair, give this area a cosy feel. The wall cabinet was the only item besides the Aga that Sally kept from the inherited kitchen, simply giving it a fresh coat of paint

the room wasn't quite big enough,' Sally explains. 'Instead, Howard suggested a peninsula, and made one just the right size so you can walk past it without the space feeling cramped. He even used the end of it as a place to store my cookery books.'

When it came to the remainder of the cabinetry, the couple opted for hand-painted cabinets that work well with the decor in the rest of the house. To prevent the area around the Aga looking too stark, Howard built a faux mantel, which houses a custom-made extractor. Pan drawers ensure Sally has plenty of storage, along with a bespoke larder cupboard. For the worktops, honed black

granite was the perfect match. 'I ummed and ahed a bit about the surfaces,' admits Sally. 'Initially, I looked at wood, before deciding on this granite. It's proved to be a good choice.'

Sally had firmer ideas about which appliances to install. 'I knew I would keep the Aga, but I wanted a different option as well, so we went for a gas hob,' she says. 'I also chose a new dishwasher and fridge freezer.'

Six months after the project began, the revamp of the house was completed and the family could finally move in. 'I'm so happy with the result,' says Sally. 'We love entertaining and this kitchen is perfect for that. It's completely changed the way we live.' □

GOOD IDEA

'Installing pan drawers has made such a difference – I'd never realised how much they can hold and how easy it is to locate and access items'



SHOP THE LOOK

CABINETS

■ Bespoke, hand-painted in-frame units with glass doors and ash details. A similar scheme from The Bristol Kitchen Company, cabinetry only, costs £19,000

WORKSURFACES

■ Honed Black Zimbabwe granite, Avon Marble. Price per sq m £275

FLOORING

■ Limestone tiles, for similar, try Umbria, Fired Earth. Price per sq m £55

APPLIANCES

- Aga, reconditioned by Aga Twyford. Price for a similar oil-fuelled model, from £4,995
- Four-burner gas hob in black, Bosch £255
- Bespoke canopy extractor hood in stainless steel, Westin Design EPOA
- Fully integrated fridge freezer, Bosch £640
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Bosch £430

SINK AND TAP

- Kubus undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke £370
- Axor Citterio single-lever monobloc mixer tap in chrome, Hansgrohe £350

FINISHING TOUCHES

- Pendant lights, for similar, try 20cm Round nickel lamp, Marston & Langer £100
- Dining table, for similar, try Marseille farmhouse with tapered legs, Barker & Stonehouse £1,590
- Dining chairs, for similar, try Farmhouse spindleback in light oak, Trent Pottery, each £40
- Black Toast crockery, Emma Bridgewater, from £8
- Toaster, for similar, try Russell Hobbs £50
- Baby Gaggia coffee machine, Amazon £250
- Old White estate eggshell, Farrow & Ball. Price per 2.5 litres £48.50
- Tallow estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball. Price per 2.5 litres £32.50

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 136