# British couple buys French village for £67,000 amid UK housing crisis



In an increasingly challenging housing market, Ben Pearson and Nathan, a British couple seeking a serene retreat, have made a remarkable leap into the unknown. They have purchased what they have dubbed a "village" in France for just £67,000 (€80,000), a sum that would scarcely cover a modest flat in the UK. Located in the charming commune of Sainte Segros, the property is comprised of a farmhouse and five outbuildings, nestled on two hectares of land. Their journey has been anything but straightforward, embarking on a two-year odyssey to secure the necessary paperwork, ultimately acquiring the keys to their new home in December 2024.

The farmhouse, a historical gem dating back to the 1600s, presents a rustic canvas for the couple’s dreams, lacking basic amenities such as a toilet and heating. Despite its quaint challenges, Ben, a retired RAF aircraft engineer from East Yorkshire, is fully committed to the task, intending to personally oversee a renovation that will turn the farmhouse into a three-bedroom abode. The couple envisions transforming the outbuildings into Airbnb rentals and guesthouses, aligning with a burgeoning trend among those seeking to escape the rush of urban life.

Nathan, an English tutor, expressed the couple's enthusiasm, stating, "When we dreamed of a simpler life, we somehow ended up buying a small village — we wouldn't change it for the world." Their aspirations echo a growing movement among British expatriates who see the allure of rural France as a ticket to a less stressful existence, free from the confines of the relentless 9-to-5 grind.

This phenomenon is not isolated to Ben and Nathan. Other British couples have found similar havens in France for remarkably low prices. Paul Mappley and Yip Ward, for instance, purchased a hamlet in Normandy for just £22,000, aiming to convert it into a luxury glamping site amid soaring property prices in the UK. Additionally, Liz and David Murphy sold their three-bedroom home in Manchester for £400,000 and bought a historic hamlet in Poitou-Charentes, managing to renovate it for an overarching investment of £300,000. Their story resonates with many — a deliberate exit from the "rat race" in favour of a pastoral lifestyle enriched with community and tranquillity.

The increasing attraction of rural properties in France is underscored by the current state of the UK housing market, which has become prohibitively expensive for many. According to recent statistics, the average house price in the UK has reached an all-time high, leaving many aspiring homeowners feeling disenchanted. For Ben and Nathan, the choice to invest in French property offers a sense of liberation that is hard to find in their home country.

As they prepare for their new life, Ben confidently states, "It’s a nicer way of life — there is no running around. It will be a peaceful life and no stress — once built." Their story exemplifies a broader narrative of lifestyle migration among younger generations disillusioned with urban living, demonstrating that a dream of a peaceful existence in the French countryside is now more attainable than ever.

The couple is not only embracing their new surroundings but also reaping the benefits of life in a close-knit community that many others find so appealing. With plans to immerse themselves in local traditions and make the most of their quaint village, Ben and Nathan's venture represents a modern twist on the age-old quest for a simpler life.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2
2. Paragraph 3
3. Paragraph 4
4. Paragraph 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2055267/i-bought-entire-village-abroad-france> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.the-independent.com/travel/news-and-advice/france-couple-buy-village-busliere-b2132161.html> - In April 2021, British landscape gardeners Paul Mappley and Yip Ward purchased the hamlet of La Buslière in Normandy, France, for just £22,000. The property includes six cottages, two barns, a stable, a two-storey workshop, a well, a cider press, and a communal bread oven, all surrounded by two acres of land. The couple plans to transform the hamlet into a luxury holiday destination with glamping facilities. Previously, they had been living in a converted horsebox in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and had struggled to enter the UK property market. Their story was featured on Channel 4’s show 'Help, We Bought a Village!'.
3. <https://www.lancs.live/news/property/couple-who-bought-french-village-27154775> - Liz and David Murphy, a couple from Manchester, sold their three-bedroom semi-detached home for £400,000 and purchased the historic rural hamlet of Lac De Maison in Poitou-Charentes, southwest France, in January 2021. The hamlet comprises six 400-year-old houses, two barns, and three acres of land, including two swimming pools. They have renovated the buildings with the help of local builders and tradesmen, spending £300,000 to transform the properties into homes for their family and potential holiday lets. The couple had been working in radio and felt trapped in the 'rat race' before making the move to France. Their story was reported by LancsLive.
4. <https://www.express.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/1779897/house-prices-couple-buy-french-village> - Liz and David Murphy, a couple from Manchester, sold their three-bedroom semi-detached home for £400,000 and purchased the historic rural hamlet of Lac De Maison in Poitou-Charentes, southwest France, in January 2021. The hamlet includes six 400-year-old houses, two barns, three acres of land, and two swimming pools, which they renovated with the help of local builders and tradesmen. The couple had been working in radio and felt trapped in the 'rat race' before making the move to France. Their story was reported by Express.co.uk.
5. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/we-moved-france-bought-entire-30210183> - Liz and David Murphy, a couple from Manchester, sold their three-bedroom semi-detached home for £400,000 and purchased the historic rural hamlet of Lac De Maison in Poitou-Charentes, southwest France, in January 2021. The hamlet comprises six 400-year-old houses, two barns, and three acres of land, including two swimming pools. They have renovated the buildings with the help of local builders and tradesmen, spending £300,000 to transform the properties into homes for their family and potential holiday lets. The couple had been working in radio and felt trapped in the 'rat race' before making the move to France. Their story was reported by the Mirror.
6. <https://www.glampingbusiness.com/2022/08/04/british-couple-buys-french-village-to-create-a-luxury-glamping-destination/> - In April 2021, British landscape gardeners Paul Mappley and Yip Ward purchased the hamlet of La Buslière in Normandy, France, for just €14,000 (£11,727). The property includes six cottages, two barns, a paddock, a two-storey workshop, a cider press, and a communal bread oven. The couple plans to transform the hamlet into a luxury holiday destination with glamping facilities. Previously, they had been living in a converted horsebox in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and had struggled to enter the UK property market. Their story was featured on Channel 4’s show 'Help, We Bought a Village!'.
7. <https://www.ndtv.com/feature/couple-sell-their-uk-home-to-buy-entire-village-in-france-were-making-less-money-but-7855853> - Liz and David Murphy, a couple from Manchester, sold their three-bedroom semi-detached home for £400,000 and purchased the historic rural hamlet of Lac De Maison in Poitou-Charentes, southwest France, in January 2021. The hamlet comprises six 400-year-old houses, two barns, and three acres of land, including two swimming pools. They have renovated the buildings with the help of local builders and tradesmen, spending £300,000 to transform the properties into homes for their family and potential holiday lets. The couple had been working in radio and felt trapped in the 'rat race' before making the move to France. Their story was reported by NDTV.