Lending Criteria

Sovereign Lifetime Mortgages



For financial intermediaries only. Not approved for use with customers.











1. Property

A mortgage will only be granted on a residential property if deemed by the surveyor as acceptable security. Properties which the surveyor deems not readily saleable, in poor repair, needing major essential works (over £2,500 worth of works) or in the process of significant renovation or alteration may not be accepted.

Location

Acceptable

- Mainland England (including the Isle of Wight).
- Mainland Scotland.
- · Wales.

Not acceptable

- Any property located in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man, The Scilly Isles or any Scottish Islands.
- Northern Ireland.

Property value

- Minimum value: £70,000.
- Maximum value: No maximum, refer if over £6 million. Properties worth over £6 million should be referred to Pure prior to producing a KFI.

Property tenure

Acceptable

- Freehold houses and bungalows.
- Leasehold houses and bungalows.
- Leasehold flats and maisonettes, with blocks up to 6 storeys high.
- Absolute ownership houses, bungalows and flats / maisonettes in a block up to 6 storeys high.
- Flying freehold where the total floor area / shared alleyway represents 25% or less of the total floor area of the property.
- · Absolute ownership.

Not acceptable

- Local authority or housing association leasehold properties.
- Freehold flats and maisonettes.
- · Commonhold tenure.
- Shared ownership (other than between the 2 applicants).
- Flying freehold where the total floor area / shared alleyway represents more than 25% of the total floor area of the property.
- Anything other than Absolute Ownership is not acceptable.
- Any leasehold properties that do not meet the additional lease term rules. Please see below for the additional lease term rules.
- Properties of 4 storeys or more that are not serviced by a lift.

Property tenure: Additional lease term rules

• If the property is leasehold, the age of the youngest applicant + lease term = must be 185 or greater as at the date of the offer.

Property type

Acceptable

- · Houses.
- Ex-council houses.
- Ex-MOD houses.
- Bungalows.
- Flats and maisonettes, providing that they are not ex-council.
- Properties with up to 20 acres of land, provided that there are no agricultural restrictions.
- Barn conversions, subject to all permissions gained.
- Listed buildings Grade 2 in England and Category C in Scotland.

Not acceptable

- Ex-council flats and maisonettes.
- Retirement properties / age-restricted properties.
- Sheltered housing.
- Any form of shared ownership (Housing association).
- Listed properties that are not Grade 2 or Category C in Scotland..
- Peverel Housing.
- Commercial properties.
- Studio flats.
- Properties where any form of commercial activity takes place and the property could not be easily restored to 100% residential.
- Properties above commercial premises.

- Properties directly next to commercial premises where the surveyor believes it will adversely affect the sale of the property.
- Properties without suitable services (such as not benefiting from electricity or water).
- Caravan homes, park homes, log cabins and house boats.
- Back to back (cluster homes).
- Holiday homes.
- Crofted and de-crofted properties.
- Properties where a housing association are the freeholders.
- Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, if you are unsure then please refer to Pure Retirement.

Flats and Maisonettes - Please note that 100% of the property value will be used.

Acceptable

- Private sector purpose-built flats of no more than 6 floors.
- · Converted flats.
- · Coach house flats located over garages.
- Service charge and ground rent combined is a maximum of 1.5% of the property value.
- Maximum ground rent of 0.1% of the property value.

Considered

• Flats where the block has 7 storeys or more, if within an "excellent" location. Please refer to Pure.

Not acceptable

- Studio flats.
- Ex-council or ex-MOD flats and maisonettes.
- Flats where the block has 7 storeys or more, unless in an "excellent" location.
- Living/work units.
- Flats with restricted access, i.e. access is not via main entrance.
- Flats with only external staircase access.

New build properties

Acceptable

- All properties built within the last 10 years must have a suitable certificate to confirm that it does not contravene any building regulations (e.g. NHBC certificate).
- Self-build properties subject to all relevant planning consents and architect certificates.

Not acceptable

• Properties that do not have an NHBC certificate or equivalent.

Wall construction types

Acceptable

- Conventional walls, i.e. 265mm + cavity, or 225mm+ solid of brick, block, stone etc.
- Wimpey no fines concrete walls (subject to survey)
- · Laing easy form concrete
- Lath and plaster inner walls
- Single skin walls (where single storey, a minor part of the whole property and in non-habitable rooms) that are deemed as non-traditional or non-standard by the valuer.
- Timber framed property with outer walls of brick / reconstituted stone, built 1965 or later.

- Timber framed property with rendered outer walls of brick / reconstituted stone / block, built 1965 or later.
- Steel framed property built post 2000 with a "new build certificate" at the time of the original construction.
- Modern timber frames built post-1965 with an outer skin of brick or stone, and compliant with building regulations.
- Tudor-style timber framed in historic towns / areas (subject to satisfactory comments by the surveyor and no saleability issues).

Not acceptable

- Any property deemed defective under the 1984 Housing Defects Act.
- Airey construction.
- · Alumina cement.
- Wattle and daub.
- Asbestos walls.
- Bryant wall frame concrete panels.
- Camus construction.
- Canadian Cedar wood frame with Cedar wood panels and PVC.
- Colt construction.
- · Concrete block with cement render.
- Concrete panels.
- Concrete slabs / blocks with timber frame.
- Cornish slabs pre-cast concrete.
- · Cumber homes.
- Mundic concrete block.
- Norfolk clay lump.
- Norwegian log.
- Norwegian timber frame.
- Poured concrete.
- Prefabricated homes.
- · Shiplap built on brick piers.
- Single skin walls (except those shown as acceptable).
- SSHA (Scottish Specialist Housing Association) no fines concrete.
- Steel / metal-framed, built prior to 2000.
- Steel frame with other cladding.
- Steel / metal-framed unconventionally clad.
- Timber frame with fibreglass and plasterboard insulation.
- Walls constructed entirely of Timber.
- Unity build.
- Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. If you are unsure please refer to Pure.

Roof construction types

Acceptable

- Tile or slate.
- Felt and asphalt.
- Copper and lead.
- Thatched roofs (reed and straw only).
- Flat roof (subject to surveyor comments and traditional construction).

Not acceptable

- Asbestos roof
- Thatch roof not constructed of reed or straw.
- Traditional pitched roofs which have been treated internally or externally with coating or foam.

Other factors

Acceptable

• Solar panels that are owned outright.

Not acceptable

- Properties with excessive service charges or ground rents may be unacceptable.
- Properties subject to material repairs (as defined by the surveyor with costs in excess of £2,500).
- Leased solar panels.
- Shared septic tanks.
- Properties where the floor area is less than 25 square metres.
- Properties subject to coastal erosion.
- Properties that have flooded in the last 5 years.
- Presence of Japanese knotweed within 7 metres from the building.
- Properties subject to localised issues, e.g. fracking, new airport runways, landfill sites, telephone masts and wind farms.
- Properties that have high voltage power lines passing directly over the site, or within 75 metres of high voltage equipment.
- Properties next to an electrical substation.

2. Occupants

Minimum age 55.

Maximum age 85.

Credit history

- CCJs and IVAs are acceptable, subject to being paid on completion.
- Applicants who have been discharged from bankruptcy are acceptable.

Enduring or lasting power of attorney

• Acceptable subject to approval.

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