



Your Home away from Home

Purchased in 2014, Sidings Farm, is set within 8 acres of prime farmland on the edge of the Fens, deep in the heart of Cambridgeshire. Surrounded by open, arable farmland, a golf course and a fisheries farm our smallholding is something of a novelty and draws its name from the now defunct St Ives to Ramsey branch line of the London & North Eastern Railway (now removed) railway line. In recent years the farm has been used as the headquarters for a transport company, a kitchen design and build company and numerous other small businesses, we aim to restore it to a small, working farm - much as it was during WWII. Producing meat, vegetables and sustainable electricity we keep close control of our carbon footprint and aim to continue to provide a neutral or negative emission rating.

Converted in 2014, Pidley Bottom Cottages and Shepherd's Huts enjoy a peaceful, rural location close to the pretty, riverside town of St Ives and within striking distance of Cambridge. Close to the Lakeside Golf Centre they are ideal for golfers, walkers or those just wanting the peace and quiet of the countryside.

Guests are welcome to help on the farm or just sit and watch others do the work! Children are welcome to get hands on with our animals but please ensure that they are always supervised and that there is ALWAYS a fence between them (and you) and the animals.

Helpful information for your stay

Our Shepherd's Huts

Each of the shepherd's huts has its own equipment to help you make the most of your stay here at Sidings Farm, if you find that you need something else then please let us know as I am sure that we can find it! You will find a fully equipped camping kitchen adjacent to each hut and we would ask that no cooking takes place within the shepherd's huts as this tends to make them smell.

There is a bin outside the kitchen for you to place all recyclable waste (tins, cardboard, paper, plastic etc.). Food waste should be left in the bin in the kitchen, this will be emptied daily.

There is also a pull along barrow to help you move anything from the huts to the main farmyard. Water is available and is fresh each day although please ensure you boil it before drinking.

Your hut has a designated shower room which only members of your party can use. Please do not place anything other than human waste and loo roll in any of the loos – the farm is on an eco-friendly "Muck Muncher" but it cannot cope with cotton buds or sanitary towels. For these please use the bins provided in each loo. The shower rooms are behind the barn on the main farmyard, a short walk away. You will find your own towels, a floor mat and heated towel rail in the shower room. You can hire a hairdryer from The Larder if you wish.

Just next to the shower rooms you will see the shared washing up area. You have been provided with a washing up bowl and tea towels for your stay.

Pets are not allowed on the farm.

The Larder

You have been provided with a welcome pack and you can buy top up items from The Larder as well as order our Shepherd's Breakfast or Sausage Casserole should you wish to have a break from cooking. You can collect your own eggs or buy some from the stall just outside the main gate. There are also a number of other items available to hire so please just ask to have a look.

Our smallholding

You may wish to join us as we tend to the animals while you stay with us. You would be most welcome to join us on the morning feeding rounds – we have cattle (Dexter and Belted Galloways), sheep (Jacob and Southdown), pygmy goats, pigs (seasonal!), turkeys (seasonal!), ducks, guinea fowl, quail and chickens (too many different types to mention!). All of the animals need feeding and there may be other jobs to get involved in should you like to. Most of the animals are in shelters / fields that have some form of electric fencing to keep unwanted predators away so please be careful and wait to be shown how to enter the animal areas to avoid any unwanted shocks or surprises!

We have a polytunnel and vegetable patch that, depending on the time of year, may have some produce you could help harvest or tend to should you wish.

We also have two dogs, Biggles the Springer Spaniel and Ginger the Basset Hound. They are both very friendly and live with us in Sidings Farm House.

We hope that you enjoy your stay with us. Please call 07973 474444 if we can help.

Adam, Katie, Toby and Jack Renwick

The combination to your hut is:

General Information

Animals. Please do not feed the animals unless accompanied by a member of the family. Please beware of petting the animals, although our animals rarely bite they may try and crush or butt hands. A good rule is not to put hands through or over fences!

Barbed Wire. We use barbed wire extensively as this is the best way to keep animals where they should be, please take care around fences as the top three strands and the bottom strand are all barbed.

Barns. Please keep children out of the barns. You are most welcome to look around the barns but please supervise children and take care as the barns contain sharp implements and some machinery. Children should not enter barns unsupervised. Please stay out of the Wiggly-tin Barn.

BBQ. Each hut has its own BBQ and there is a central BBQ available to the cottages, charcoal is available from the Larder. Tools can be found in the kitchens. Please leave the BBQ as you would hope to find it. Please see "Charcoal & Logs".

Bio-security. We take the spread of animal disease very seriously and would be grateful if you would dip your footwear when coming on to the farm. We have placed two boot dips by the main entrance gate, the water contains a strong disinfectant. Just dipping the soles of shoes is sufficient while wellington boots should be dipped to ankle depth.

Bleach. Please do not use bleach in the sinks or toilets as this kills the bacteria at work in the septic tank system. Please use eco-friendly or septic tank friendly cleaners – most show this in the label on the reverse of the container.

Breakages. Please replace any breakages, if you are unable to please let us know and we may be able to.

Charcoal and Logs. These are available from Reception and The Larder. If you would prefer to provide your own then we reserve the right to charge, nightly, for the use of the BBQ and fire pits.

Children. Children should be supervised at all times. Life on the farm is exciting and engaging but some of the animals are large and may bite!

Damage. Please let us know of any damage so that we may repair it.

Dentist. Emergency dental appointments are available from "My Dentist", 10 Station Road, St Ives. PE27 5BH. Tel: 01480 469100

Dogs. You have probably met our own dogs (Biggles the black and white springer spaniel and Ginger the basset) as they have free run of the farm and will probably already have been to

visit. Please do not encourage them into the huts as they have been trained not to enter them. Their role is to keep the foxes away and also alert us to visitors. If you notice that they have made a mess anywhere please let us know and we will clear it immediately.

Eggs. You will be supervised when collecting eggs. If you would like more eggs to take away they are on sale outside the main entrance gate. Why not try a duck, turkey or goose egg while you are here?

Electricity. We try and generate our own power so please turn off electrical equipment when not in use.

Electric Fences. We have several electric fences which will deliver an uncomfortable shock, they are clearly marked and are used to keep the pigs in their paddock and the cattle and sheep away from hedges. Please take care around fences.

Farmhouse and garden. The farmhouse and garden is private, please respect this.

Food Waste. Please place food waste in the bin provided inside the kitchen, this will be emptied daily.

Feeding animals. Please do not feed the animals unless accompanied by a member of the family. Please do not be tempted to give the animals leftovers (particularly the pigs) as this is illegal and may lead to us being fined or prevented from keeping animals. Bread is particularly dangerous to our animals.

Field Gates. You should not pass through field gates unsupervised. The field gates have a karabiner to secure them – please replace these if you pass through the gate. Should you need to climb over a gate please do so at the hinged end.

Front Gate. The front gate is locked at 2200 hours. If you are going to be late please let us know and arrangements can be made, if you find yourselves locked out please park in front of the roller shutter by the farm house (near the road sign) and walk through the gate. Please control the front gate when opening it as if allowed to swing back it will damage the barn.

Hospital. For emergencies the closest hospital in Hinchingsbrooke (approximately 15 minutes away). Telephone number: 01480 416561. Postcode: PE29 6NT.

Hygiene. Please remember to wash your hands after touching the animals. There is a handwash station by the showers.

Kitchen. Please leave the kitchen as you would hope to find it. The kitchen is shared between the huts.

Medical. There is a small First Aid kit above the door in the kitchen; please replace what you use. For emergencies the closest hospital in Hinchingsbrooke (approximately 15 minutes away). Telephone number: 01480 416561. Postcode: PE29 6NT

Noise. Please be aware that other people may be staying on Sidings Farm. We ask that music cannot be heard outside your accommodation and that children are respectful of others when playing on the farm.

Parking. Please park in the designated areas. Cars are not allowed off the concrete parking area.

Rubbish. We will dispose of limited food waste for you, please take all other rubbish home with you.

Side Gate. The side gate is not locked but looks as though it is. Please lift the chain over the post to enter/exit.

Shop. We have a small shop (the Larder) on site where we try and keep all those things that you might need. Please help us and other local businesses by trying the local produce available. For other supplies there is a small Spar in Warboys and a large Tesco (and other supermarkets) in Huntingdon.

Smoking. Please do not smoke in the accommodation. You are welcome to smoke outside but please dispose of your butts. Please do not smoke in or around the barns.

Supermarket deliveries. We have had a number of supermarkets deliver to the farm, if you would like to arrange a delivery please let us know and we will arrange to be available to take delivery for you.

Take Away / Deliveries. A number of restaurants deliver, please ask us for a list of current restaurants. If you order a delivery please wait at the back gate for the driver – we will turn drivers away from the farmhouse.

Toilets. Sidings Farm is serviced by septic tanks, a bio-digester and a compost loo for the shepherd's huts. It is important that nothing but human waste and loo paper is put in any of the loos; we provide nappy sacks and small bins (which are emptied daily) for the disposal of sanitary towels and the like.

Visitors. We do not accept visitors onto Sidings Farm. Should you wish to invite friends or family onto the farm then please see a member of the family and they will arrange tickets for which there will be a charge. Visitors are not allowed to use facilities such as hot tubs and saunas.

Water. The water from all taps is designated drinking water. Where we have provided water in containers this should be boiled prior to drinking.

Wi-fi. Wi-fi is available in the cottages and in the Conference Room at the farm, please ask at Reception for the code and for access to the Conference Room.. Wi-fi is not available in the huts.

Wildlife. You can see some wonderful wildlife from our smallholding. There are usually buzzards flying overhead (they nest in Winnie Wood, a spinney that runs alongside our farm boundary). There are badgers that have a day sett in between our farm and Winnie Wood, as well as small deer, rabbits (lots on the farm too!), hares on the farmer's field, owls, bats, red kites, pheasants, partridge and lots of other smaller birds.

Wiggly-tin Barn. Please do not go into the Wiggly-tin Barn. Each barn has a name plate for ease of reference.

Please like us at:

www.facebook.com/sidingsfarm

Places to go and to eat



Rookery Waters (10 minute walk)



Rookery Waters is just a short drive or 10 minute walk down Fen Road and offers a fabulous weekend breakfast café (open till 10 am).



You can walk from our smallholding onto their farm without using the road by Winnie Wood – just ask and we'll show you.



They also have a great selection of fishing lakes.....



.....and a tackle / bait shop.

The Barn Restaurant. (5 minute walk) - 01487 842204

The Barn Restaurant is an informal à la carte restaurant housed within a fabulous green oak timber framed barn on our family farm in Pidley.

The restaurant produces modern British food with international influences where the focus is on creating fresh, great tasting, seasonal food and presenting it with flair. There is a core monthly menu complemented by daily specials. The menu offers fresh produce cooked to order and the fantastic food sits alongside a well balanced wine list.

Head Chef Lee Shewan has worked restaurants in the Cambridgeshire area for over 15 years. In this time he has built up a reputation serving great quality fresh fish and meat dishes with an excellent knowledge of local suppliers and growers.

Opening times are Thursday to Sunday (lunch only on Sundays)
Lunch 12:00 to 2:30pm (3:00pm Sundays) & Dinner 6:30 to 9:30pm

Booking at weekends is recommended.

No children under 16 years of age (except by prior arrangement)

Lakeside Lodge Golf Centre (5 minute walk) – 01487 740540

Lakeside Lodge Golf Centre was established in 1992 and is owned by the Hopkins family. It is the close personal involvement of the family that ensures a welcoming, friendly atmosphere. Over the years, Lakeside Lodge has expanded to become a popular venue in the heart of Cambridgeshire, offering not just first class Golf, but also Accommodation, Tenpin Bowling, Conference/Meeting facilities, Wedding/Civil Ceremony facilities, a Licenced Bar & Restaurant and a superbly equipped Health Club.

Golfers and non-golfers are welcome, and please remember, membership of Lakeside Lodge Golf Centre is not required to use any of the facilities in the complex .(www.lakeside-lodge.co.uk/)

The Mad Cat Inn (15 minute walk)– 01487 842245

The Mad Cat Inn is set in the picturesque village of Pidley in Cambridgeshire and attracts thousands of visitors every year. This quirky and beautiful old fashioned pub, dating back to 1648, has a great reputation for it's food, real ales, great service and good company. You can relax with friends and family in the bar before moving into the restaurant to enjoy your meal while sitting next to the log fire. In the Summertime you may wish to enjoy your meal in the large pub garden. (www.madcatinn.co.uk)

Cambridge.

Be inspired by the many beautiful museums and art galleries. Admire the beautiful architecture and majestic college buildings. Explore quaint passages set around the historic market place and colleges, where a unique and relaxing shopping experience can be found. Here a blend of independent shops is mingled with high street brands. Relax in the many beautiful pubs, restaurants and cafes. Catch a student theatrical production, or a show at the Arts Theatre. See live music or comedy at the Corn Exchange.

Get there on the Guided Bus from St Ives and see some more of the countryside too!

Johnsons Old Hurst (10 minute drive)

Available for patrons of the farm shop and tea rooms, the children's playing field is a safe and enjoyable area with toy tractors and play fort in the pleasant surroundings of the farm animals.

The Eccentric Englishman and garden sells home produced food and snacks using ingredients from their shop wherever possible, from a delicious fresh cooked breakfast through to morning coffee, lunches and their speciality traditional cream tea.

Along with their traditional farming they are not afraid to try alternative meats with a modern approach.

The Raptor Foundation (10 minute drive)

The foundation is a bird of prey sanctuary and hospital. It is a unique and exciting place for children and adults alike to meet and learn about owls, falcons, hawks and buzzards in a 30 acre site. There are over 300 raptors and more than 25 species, many of which are threatened or endangered.

Cromwell Museum – Huntingdon (20 minute drive)

The purpose of the Cromwell Museum is to interpret his life and legacy through portraits, documents and objects associated with Cromwell. The Museum opened in 1962 in the old grammar school where Cromwell had been a pupil. After leaving school Cromwell studied briefly at Cambridge before marrying and settling in Huntingdon. He later lived in St Ives and Ely.

Cromwell was driven by his religious commitment from the 1630s onwards. As MP for Cambridge he became an active soldier in the English Civil Wars of the 1640s. His success on the battlefield and his skill as a politician led him to power as Lord Protector.

At his death on September 3rd 1658 he was the head of state, and for some a king in all but name. He is an intensely controversial and fascinating figure of British history.

The Museum sets out neither to celebrate or denigrate his achievements but to interpret where possible the significance of "God's Englishman".

Houghton Mill (10 minute drive)

Situated in a stunning riverside setting and full of excellent hands-on activities for all the family, this five-storey historic building is the last working watermill on the Great Ouse.

Flour is for sale, ground in the traditional way by water-powered mill stones. Note: milling demonstrations subject to river levels.

They offer a family events programme, including open-air theatre and hands-on baking days. Visit their website for children's summer holiday events. Follow the family Cat and Rat trail around the mill.

St Ives (15 minute drive)

Formerly known as Slepe, in the old county of Huntingdonshire, this ancient riverside market town St Ives is now named after the Persian Bishop, St. Ivo. St. Ives, now within the county of Cambridgeshire, stands on the River Great Ouse and is world famous for the Chapel on the Bridge. St Ives is one of the five principal towns in the District of Huntingdonshire, the others being Huntingdon, St Neots (the largest town in the County of Cambridgeshire), the Roman town of Godmanchester and Ramsey site of the former Abbey.

For nearly 1,000 years the wide centre of St. Ives, now known as Market Hill (pictured above), has hosted some of the largest public markets in England. Many years ago these markets included livestock and for a time was one of the biggest of its kind. Today the Street Markets still fill the St Ives town centre on Mondays and Fridays. On every Bank Holiday Monday

however the market swells to fill almost the entire town with traders coming from all over the country to sell their wares to the thousands of people who attend under the watchful eye of Oliver Cromwell, one time resident of the town, whose statue stands in the centre of the Market Place.

The St Ives Mystery Treasure Trail (15 minute drive)

There's plenty to discover on the St Ives self-guided mystery themed Treasure Trail. Suitable for all the family and designed so that kids as young as 6 can get involved, there are some tricky clues for the adults too! There's certainly more than first meets the eye in St Ives so take a closer look on this Trail.

You won't even notice that you've walked 2 miles as you'll be too busy looking at plaques, signs and buildings to solve the clues! Get ready for some fun and intrigue as you follow the route and put your detective skills to the test.

**If you have time on your hands why not leave us a review
at:**

www.facebook.com/sidingsfarm