

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

FASCINATING FARM ON THE MARKET FOR FIRST TIME IN 50 YEARS



A property with a back story on a scale to match the stature of the elephant once living there is on the market in for the first time in more than 50 years.

Hardwick Court Farm, close to Chertsey in Surrey, dates back to the 15th Century when the magnificent tithe barn, signified its importance. After the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, the property was seized by the Crown from the community of Chertsey Abbey and passed through the hands of two English queens, Henrietta and Catherine, during the reign of Charles II.



The farmhouse itself, said to be the birthplace of Henry VI in 1421, was important in its period, with the manorial courts leet held at the farm until 1827. The court's many functions included the appointment of local people to positions of importance such as constables, tithe collectors, and even ale tasters, duties difficult to avoid once appointed - although maybe the last one was some compensation for the imposition!



Work within the building over the years suggests the origins could be much earlier and while Victorian "improvements" destroyed some detail they revealed others, including hand-moulded 13th Century bricks. Not even a direct hit from a World War II bomb could thankfully do more than damage one end of the house, since rebuilt.

The 21.87 acre ring-fenced property, including 17.22 acres of pasture, last changed hands in 1964, when it was bought by Chertsey vet Carl Boyde, who lived there until his death in 2016. A local community stalwart passionate about animal welfare and chairman of the Chertsey Agricultural Show for 47 years, Mr Boyde developed a keen interest in heavy horses after seeing two Percherons in a neighbouring field but even they could not match the elephant, camel, and llama he rescued and brought to the property!

Now Grade II-listed Hardwick Court Farm is being sold in up to four lots, ready to fulfil the desires of its next owners who will be restricted only by the breadth of their imaginations.



“There have been so many different farming and associated activities at the farm over the years that it lends itself to a variety of residential and business uses,” says Alastair Wilson, a partner at BCM Rural Property Specialists who is handling the sale.

“A sensitive approach could see the tithe barn become a home separate from the farm, subject to consents, as it forms a single lot along with some associated buildings, while other lots would fulfil the ambitions of equestrian enthusiasts who could take advantage of existing buildings and paddocks that form two of the lots. The accessibility of the farm would be a big draw for riders from a wide area of London.

“The five bedroom house, with paddocks, a log cabin, annexe, and manège, itself contains many fascinating features such as its spiral staircase reputed to have been climbed by Elizabeth 1 while riding a pony, but also meets modern family needs and would be a very comfortable base for a large or busy family, particularly those involved in regular international journeys thanks to the close proximity to all major travel networks”.

Guide price for Hardwick Court Farm as a whole is £2.5 million. For more information, contact BCM Rural Property Specialists on 01962 763900.

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For more information, contact Louisa Watson Smith, BCM LLP.
Call: +44(0)1962 763 900 Email: lwatsonsmith@bcm.co.uk

