

# **Rural Business Opportunity To Let**

Rose Farm, Lady Drove, Downham Market, Norfolk Stow & Marshland Estate

Equipped Holding of 250.57 Acres (101.403 Hectares)

Closing date for applications: 12 Noon Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Lead contact: Jenna Goodall Browne 01603 306613 County.farms@norfolk.gov.uk

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#### LOCATION

Situated on the Stow and Marshland Estate, Rose Farm is located approximately 3.2 miles west of Downham Market and 11 miles south-east of Wisbech. The postcode for the farm is PE38 0AQ.

What3Words: ///luxury.discusses.strictly (farmyard) ///toolkits.shifts.agents (grainstore) ///secondly.flamingo.limitless (farm bungalow)

## DESCRIPTION

The farm forms part of Norfolk County Council's Stow and Marshland Estate which extends to 1463.920 hectares (3617.42 acres). The land is classified as being Grade 1 on the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Plan. Grade 1 land is defined as "Excellent" quality agricultural land. The soils are described on by Soilscape 23 as being loamy sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and peaty surface.

## USE

There are no restrictions on agricultural use. The Landlord is willing to consider proposals from applicants for a range of enterprises. On a wider point, the Council is keen to see applications which include proposals for diversification and environmental enhancement. The successful applicant will be required to retain and maintain any existing margins, hedges and trees planted on the holding. Norfolk County Council have launched the '1 Million Trees for Norfolk' project, with the ambition to plant 1 million trees over a period of five years. As part of the project Norfolk County Farms will be looking to plant trees/hedging on farmland. Any areas identified for planting will be discussed with the incoming tenant and reflected in the tenancy plans.







## DWELLING

Rose Farm Bungalow (Building No. 2134) is a 3-bedroom detached bungalow with oil-fired central heating. The EPC is rated a 'D'.









#### FARM BUILDINGS

General Purpose Building (Building No.2136) Lean-To General Purpose (Building No. 2137) Implement Shed (Building No. 2138) Traditional Barn (Building No. 2140) General Purpose (Building No. 2141) Implement Shed (Building No. 2142)

Located south of the main yard:

General Purpose/Grain store (Building No. 2179) 760m<sup>2</sup> steel portal framed with concrete floor and roller shutter door. No grain walling but can store approx. 700T of grain in the middle of the building, (no services currently connected to this building).

#### SERVICES

Mains water and electricity are available in the main farmyard.

## **CROPPING DETAILS**

The past five years cropping records are attached to these particulars.



#### **TENANT RIGHT MATTERS**

The ingoing tenant shall pay to the Council, if due, the full amount of tenant right due to the outgoer.

#### OUTGOINGS

Drainage Rates are payable to Downham and Stow Internal Drainage Board.

Council tax band B - current charge £1,614.92 payable to Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk.



## PROPOSED TERMS OF TENANCY

This list is not exhaustive, and applicants should familiarise themselves with the specimen tenancy agreement available to download from the Council's website. The Council reserves the right to modify the terms of the agreement.

#### TERM

A ten-year Farm Business Tenancy (FBT) with effect from 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

#### **BREAK CLAUSE**

For the Landlord on the fifth anniversary of the commencement of the tenancy; for the Tenant annually from the second year of the tenancy.

#### EARLY ENTRY

The incoming tenant may have early entry by agreement with the outgoing tenant and providing the tenancy has been signed.

#### RENT

Payable half yearly in arrears upon 11<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> April in each year.

#### **RENT REVIEW**

Every three years to market rent in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995.

#### DYKE MANAGEMENT

The tenant is to be responsible for all dykes except for any main IDB drains or leading drains.

## **TENANT'S IMPROVEMENTS**

Improvements by the Tenant will only be permitted with the prior written consent of the Landlord.

#### ASSIGNMENT

There is a bar on assignment and sub-letting.

#### STAMP DUTY LAND TAX

Where applicable the ingoing Tenant will be responsible for meeting the costs of having the Agreement stamped.

#### LAND REGISTRY

The ingoing Tenant will be responsible for meeting the costs of registering the tenancy with Land Registry.

#### **FIXTURES & FITTINGS**

Any fixtures, fittings or equipment shown on the photographs or seen during viewing are not necessarily included within the letting.

#### SOIL INDICES

A record of the soil indices will be obtained by the Landlord at the start of the tenancy, during and before the end of the term. It is expected that the land is farmed in accordance with the rules of good husbandry.

## WAYLEAVES, EASEMENTS & RIGHTS OF WAY

The farm is offered for rent subject to all existing rights including rights of way, whether public or private, light support, drainage, water, electricity supplies and mineral rights, easements quasieasements or wayleaves whether or not referred to in these particulars.



#### **VIEWING DAY**

Attendance at the viewing day is now compulsory if you wish to apply. The farm will be available for inspection on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 between 11.45am and 1.15pm.

Please ensure that you register your arrival to the representative as proof of your visit. No appointment is necessary, and you should ensure you bring a set of particulars with you. The properties are currently working farms. Viewers should be careful and vigilant whilst on the holdings. Care should be taken to prevent damage to crops and to respect the occupation of the farm by the current tenant. Please follow any health and safety advice issued on the day. Viewing at all other times is strictly prohibited. We are grateful to the outgoing tenant who has given permission to run the viewing day. Neither the Landlord nor the Agents are responsible for the safety of those viewing the properties and accordingly those viewing the properties do so at their own risk. The Agents advise that farm dogs may be present on some holdings. Therefore, care should be taken and dogs not approached.

#### **METHOD OF LETTING**

The properties are being let by Informal Tender. **Applications must be submitted online via the Council's website by 12 Noon on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.** The Council will only accept applications that have been submitted online. Applications *must* be accompanied by a business plan that contains the following information:

- Business name
- Business summary
- Business aims and objectives (you may want to consider how your proposed business supports the Council's management policies)
- Financial summary (to include a tender rent and machinery schedule and financial forecasts for the first three years of the

proposed business to include cashflow, gross margins, capital budget, profit and loss forecast and sensitivity analysis)

- Management strategy
- Marketing and sales strategy
- Targets and timescales
- SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats)
- Business strapline
- An elevator pitch in less than 200 words.

Applicants are advised to carefully consider the tenant selection criteria, the County Farms Management Policy and the Stage 1 scoring matrix – all of which are available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/countyfarms

## AGENTS NOTE

For clarification we wish to inform prospective Tenants that we have prepared these Letting particulars as a general guide. Areas and field references are taken from Ordnance Survey plans and digital maps. The plans are published for illustrative purposes only and although they are believed to be correct their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. All measurements quoted are approximate and subject to measured survey. These particulars do not form part of the proposed tenancy. Photographs were taken in December 2023.

# IMPORTANT NOTICES TO PROSPECTIVE TENANTS

1. Applicants are reminded that if successful they will enter into a legal and binding contract for the duration of the letting period. Any change of circumstances which might bring earlier vacation of the property will leave the Tenant responsible for the Landlord's re-letting costs and rent until such time as a new Tenant is found.



- 2. The following events will result in an applicant's automatic rejection and disqualification:
  - a. Lobbying any Member or Officer of the County Council,
  - b. Failure to attend the viewing day,
  - c. Applications that have not been received online prior to the closing date,
  - d. Viewing of the farm outside the viewing day,
  - e. Business plans that have not been submitted in the required format as detailed above.
- 3. Applicants are reminded that the Estate is there to provide a *gateway into agriculture for people to farm on their own account*. Attention is especially drawn to the detailed Tenant Specification contained within the Guide for Prospective Tenants and the need to demonstrate and evidence that the criteria are met. In particular, it should be noted that:
  - a. Applications from persons who are already established farmers in their own right and who intend to run the County Farm as an extension to their existing business, will not be considered in the first instance. This includes those who have a vested interest in family farms or who already operate substantial agricultural businesses. NB this does not apply to existing tenants on the Estate seeking to progress.
  - b. Holdings are only available to persons who are prepared to farm them personally.
  - c. Norfolk County Council give notice that: 1. These particulars are intended to give a fair and accurate general outline only for the guidance of intending Tenants, they do not constitute an offer or contract or any part of an offer or contract. 2. All descriptions, dimensions, references to condition and other items in these Particulars are given as a guide only and no responsibility is assumed by Norfolk

County Council for the accuracy of individual items. Intending Tenants should not rely on them as statements or representations of fact and should satisfy themselves as to the correctness of each item by inspection or by making independent enquiries. In particular, dimensions of land, rooms or buildings should be checked. Metric/imperial conversions are approximate only.

3. Intending Tenants should make their own independent enquiries regarding use or past use of the property, necessary permissions for use and occupation, potential uses and any others matters affecting the property prior to letting. 4. Norfolk County Council, and any person in its employ, does not have the authority, whether in these Particulars, during negotiations or otherwise, to make or give any representation or warranty in relation to this property. No responsibility is taken by Norfolk County Council for any error, omission of misstatement in these particulars. 5. No responsibility can be accepted for any costs or expenses incurred by intending Tenants in inspecting the property, making further enquiries, or submitting offers for the Property. 6. These particulars were prepared in December 2023.



# Cropping Schedule

Field No.	Area (Ac)	Area (Ha)	Use	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
				3ha WW/	3Ha WW/			
				7Ha S.Beet/	8Ha SB/	10Ha Potatoes/	W.Wheat	W.Wheat
271	59.46	24.063	Arable	12Ha WW	12Ha Potatoes	12Ha WW		
274	4.72	1.910	Arable	Fallow	Fallow	Fallow	Fallow	Fallow
275	0.67	0.271	Track	Track	Track	Track	Track	Track
				2.4H WW/			Potatoes	TBC
				7Ha WW/	5Ha S.Barley/			(S.Barley or
276/281	30.26	12.246	Arable	3.3Ha S.Barley	7 Ha S.Beet	W.Wheat		S.Wheat)
				2.4Ha WW/7Ha				
~~~~~		40.000		WW/3.3Ha		2.4Ha	W.Wheat	Potatoes
282/277	30.24	12.238	Arable	S.Barley	10.3Ha W.Wheat	S.Beet/5Ha WW		
284	0.38	0.154	House	House	House	House	House	House
			Yard and	Yard and	Yard and	Yard and	Yard and	Yard and
286	1.16	0.469	Buildings	Buildings	Buildings	Buildings	Buildings	Buildings
287	0.68	0.275	Grass	Grass	Grass	Grass	Grass	Grass
288	33.89	13.715	Arable	Potatoes	F-Beet/S.Wheat	Maize	W.Wheat	S.Barley
290	29.64	11.995	Arable	Potatoes	S.Wheat	Maize	W.Wheat	S.Barley
293	14.88	6.022	Arable	S.Barley	S.Barley	Potatoes	W.Wheat	W.Wheat
294/318	26.39	10.680	Arable	S.Barley	Potatoes	W.Wheat	S.Beet	W.Wheat
359	8.34	3.375	Arable	S.Barley	S.Barley	W.Wheat	S.Beet	W.Wheat
296	1.18	0.478	Track	Track	Track	Track	Track	Track
403	3.49	1.412	Ditch/Dyke	Ditch/Dyke	Ditch/Dyke	Ditch/Dyke	Ditch/Dyke	Ditch/Dyke
			Yard and		•		Yard and	Yard and
401	0.91	0.368	building	Yard and building	Yard and building	Yard and building	building	building
402	4.28	1.732	Arable	W.Wheat	W.Wheat	S.Barley	S.Beet	TBC
Total	250.57	101.403						



















