



Welcome to Roundoak and Kings Oak Farms

Rare Breed Cattle, Sheep
and Pigs.

CONSERVATION GRAZIERS

Norman & Ruth Coles
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Welcome to Roundoak and Kings Oak Farms

The Home of Rare Breeds

Spring/Summer 2023

Roundoak farm at Sutton Valence and its sister farm Kings Oak at Ulcombe, are one of the largest breeders of Hebridean sheep in the UK as well as many other rare breeds. The farms are home to, at times, as many as 750 Hebridean sheep, and over 100 Highland cows, calves and bull's.

The Duke of Balmoral is the farms Highland bull from the Queen's fold in Scotland. A herd of Highland cows is known as a fold.

The farm also has a small herd of Sussex cow's calves and our Sussex bull "The Captain".

The farm have added to their rare breed collection of animals by introducing a small herd of ancient White Park cattle. The animals came from Chirk Castle in North Wales and will be used in connection with the farms continued conservation programme.

At the end of 2018 the farm was approached by the Rare Breed Survival Trust to introduce a number of the endangered ancient breed – Vaynols. They are genetically related and look similar to the White Parks. There are only 28 breeding cows left in the world. The Farm is now home to five pregnant cows and several yearling calves and a bull.

In 2020 we also acquired six Irish moiled Heifer calves. The herd now stands at 12 and this year 2022 we are starting our breeding programme with them. They are also on the rare breeds endangered list. We hope to start a breeding program with them when they are old enough.

Roundoak is a unique Rare Breeds enterprise and is well known throughout the South East of England as being conservation graziers. We graze many local country parks and conservation projects, in addition to some private landowners. Combined we graze in excess of 1500 acres.

The farm also has some 50 plus free-range chickens, chicks and Aylesbury ducks as well as guinea fowl and turkeys. The farm sometimes has a variety of rare breed pigs. Dependant on the time of year, there may be piglet's, lambs and newly born calves.

The rare breeds on the farm have continued to grow. Roundoak is now home to a growing flock of North Ronaldsays sheep, as well as the very endangered Boreray sheep.

The Hebridean flock continues to grow. In January 2023 we introduced a small flock of Manx Loghtan sheep from the City farm in London.

We also have Steve our tame Sussex mule sheep. He is the favourite of many visitors.

Our Dogs!

The farm originally had four generations of Cocker Spaniels. We lost Jenny about six years ago at the age of 14, she started it all and is very missed. Millie died this year aged 15 and Scruff is now in charge! Several years ago we adopted Finn, he had been badly treated prior to coming to Roundoak. He soon became the farms main working sheep dog and a loveable pet. We also lost him in November last year at the age of 15. We now have Sam who is Paul the farm Managers dog and this last year in April 2021 Ben arrived, an eight-week-old boarder collie from local working stock. Ben has identical colouring to Finn, we have nick named him 'mini Finn. He lives with Norman and Ruth.

Roundoak and Kings Oak are busy all year round and at certain times the sheep on the farm have lambs, so please keep dogs especially under control.

(Dogs must be kept on leads at all time on the farm and please clean up after them!).

We often have newly born calves in the main barn, lambs and sometimes piglets.

By arrangement guests are welcome to come into the yard and have a look around. Please be careful of working farm vehicles.

Please close **all** gates and be aware of electric fences.

The farm has a special and unique nine acres of oak woodland and open field used by campers and caravaners; guests are welcome to use this area. If walking a dog, please keep them on a lead and please clean up after them. Other areas are out of bounds as they contain grazing stock.

No cars allowed in the woods.

The farm also offers fresh farm eggs, our own Hebridean lamb and Highland and Sussex beef, pure beef burgers, steaks, chops and joints, and also pork sausages. In addition we have quality bed throws and wool and other goods produced from our own stock. You are welcome to look around the shop located in the Farm Office.

The Garage at the end of the lane (turn Left) has general provisions. News papers, Milk and has an off licence.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.....

Sutton Valence village is within walking distance, but with limited facilities, but does have two pubs, all of which offer limited food.

Headcorn to the South is quite a large Kentish village with a good array of facilities, including bakery, Post Office, several Take-aways, and a Sainsburys Local. Headcorn also has a main line railway station with services to central London.

Maidstone, The County town of Kent is about 8 miles away and offers all the usual amenities associated with a principle centre.

On the way to Maidstone there is a large Morrisons and an Aldi supermarket.

SOME PLACES OF INTEREST

Lovely Kentish Villages of Tenterden, Lenham, Biddenden, /Cranbrook and Bennenden
Leeds Castle.

Canterbury City and Cathedral
Whitstable (Whitstable Oysters)
Pineatum at Goudhurst.
Rye and Hastings

Ashford cattle and sheep market (Tuesday) ask Norman and Ruth for details – a good day out!

..... to list but a few.

There are good walks around Roundoak and Kings Oak Farm, we can either point you in the right direction or we have OS maps you may borrow. Short distances up the hill are some stunning views across the Weald of Kent.

In the office at Roundoak, is a tourist board stand of brochures of places of interest. Please help yourself.

We also have our **pop up butchery located in this building**

Please note that visitors to Kings Oak are welcome, by arrangement, to come and look around the Farm and animals at Roundoak, and to visit the office/shop.

Charges:

Prices at both Roundoak and Kings Oak Farm may vary dependant on who you have booked through, as a result of differences in their online booking charges. Any queries relating to charges please speak to Norman or Ruth or Laura.

Extra cars on site: £2:50 per stay.

Day guests on site £5.00 per person.

Overnight guests on site £10 per person with use of facilities.

Pup tent £5.00 per night.

Small caravan awnings - Free Large: £5.00

Wi Fi £2.50 per stay (signal varies around site)

Facilities:

Drinking water and waste disposal: are situated to the right hand side of the main barn.

Rubbish: should be bagged up and left in the bins situated in the bin area around the grey container by the main gate.

During busy times there is a cold water washing up shack and some portable toilets to the rear of the farm.

The Yard Bar: was introduced to the farms growing facilities in 2017. It is a unique area used for functions and as a meeting place. It is open when the site is busy or for special occasions. It has an occasional licence to sell alcohol. Check with the staff re opening times. When it is not open guests are welcome to use this area bringing their own drinks. There is a dart board in the yard bar. Often the fire pit is lit, and there are animals in the barns as a backdrop.

Guest Facility and Toilet and Showers :

Due to the popularity of Roundoak as a CL, camping and caravanning site, the farm has invested in a new Toilet and shower block situated at the rear of the yard bar in the main farm yard, two showers and three WC's plus several sinks for washing up. There are also several overflow portable WC's and a shower which are opened for use in busy times together with a washing up area. The facility is kept to the highest standard. **Please respect this area and clean up after use.**

In May 2022 Kings Oak has a new unit containing Shower, wash basin and WC. For use of guests staying at Kings Oak.

Eating out:

We eat out regularly, but have found over the past few years deterioration in the quality of eating out, maybe we are getting fussier!

There are the usual chains in Maidstone, most of them are in Earl Street Maidstone.

We like Wildwoods also situated in Earl Street. Most of these restaurants are Pizza, pasta and steak houses. It is worth looking on the Web because some do great deals eg: 2 for 1. There are also some of these chains in Tenterden.

There is a superb Italian Resturant in Tenterden called **Montalbano**. Tel.01580 388182 or you can book on line

There are two open pubs in nearby Sutton valence within walking distance. (About half an hour) **The Queens Head** (01622 843225) Good local pub with nice garden and pub grub.

The Kings Head has just re- opened (May 2022) and is under new management. They offer an extensive menu From Steaks to fish and chips and Burgers (tel. 01622 8432640). They are within walking distance.

Several of our favourites local pubs are **The Kings Head at Grafty Green ME17 2AN, 01622 850259** a traditional English pub, great in the winter with large open fire, family run. Limited on food: Fish and Chips on Fridays. No other food.

Another is the **Lord Ragland**, a pub set in the rural Kentish countryside, with great food. It is advisable to book first and check opening times. Pub is closed on Sundays. (01622 843747) TN12 0DE

The Potting Shed on the Sutton Road, Langley is a newly opened eatery, and part of the Elite chain of pubs. Very busy contemporary environment. (01622 862112) ME17 3LZ

The George at Leeds village (01622 861314) ME17 1RN, serves excellent pub food. 10% discount for Roundoak and Kings Oak Farm visitors. Debbie and Jason are the landlords and friends of both Norman and Ruth.

The Plough at Langley Good restaurant. (01622 842 555) ME17 3LX

The Pepper Box at Fairbourne Heath is very good, wonderful location with fantastic views. (01622 842558) ME17 1LP

The Three Chimneys at Biddenden is also very good, period pub and nice restaurant. (01580 291472) TN27 8LW

The Who'd a Thought It at Grafty Green Pub/Restaurant (01622 858951) ME17 2A.

SERVICES

Chemists: Can be found in Headcorn or at Morrisons supermarket on the way to Maidstone.

Doctors: Sutton Valence Surgery, South Lane, Sutton Valence, Kent Tel. 01622 842212

Taxis: Streamline 01622 750000
Express 01622 222222
MTC 01580890003

ROUND OAK POST CODE is ME17 3ED

If you need any further information or directions please find Norman, Ruth, Paul or Guy.

Ruth Mob 07967009509

Norman Mob 07811209409

**Paul. (Farm Manager based at Roundoak)
07809 111653**

Guy. (based at Kings Oak) 07440633841

Land line for Roundoak is 01622 844491

Gate code this week is 1254 E at Roundoak and 1254 at Kingsoak (please check if you come again this changes from time to time).

The Farm and animals

Roundoak is a working farm and we would kindly ask you to respect the farm. Its occupants are ever changing due to many animals going offsite to conservation graze.

Please note that there is strictly no smoking in the farmyard.

The barns and buildings surrounding the farmyard itself are out of bounds to visitors, however those guests wishing to have a look around are welcome and both Norman and Ruth will be happy to show you around – please ask.

Visitors book: This is located in the farm office, please take time to let us have your comments especially if you have enjoyed your stay at Roundoak or Kings Oak Farm. Please complete our registration form on arrival and let us have a note of your contact email so that we can keep in touch.

Just a final note upon leaving. Please leave pitches clean and tidy. Rubbish should be left in the bins provided. Any extension leads should be returned to the office.

Additional facilities:

THE BOTHY at ROUNDOAK FARM

New to 2020 was the Bothy, luxury self contained holiday accommodation,
Comprising large open plan ground floor, with Lounge area and wood burning stove, dining area, fully fitted kitchen with hob, oven cooker hood and fridge. Washing machine and dishwasher.
One large, double bedroom, with lovely country views. Bathroom with shower.
The Bothy is centrally heated.
Ample parking and fenced garden.
Barbeque.

Anybody staying at the farm that wishes to have a look speak to Norman, Ruth or Paul.

THE YARD BAR AT ROUNDOAK FARM

The Yard bar is unique; it is situated in a barn off the main farmyard. It is a pop up events area and hosts a variety of events during the year, from weddings to carol concerts around Christmas and private parties. It also is opened up some **Sundays for Beer, Beef and Baps**. We get in a guest Real ale, wine and serve up farm produce on a butcher's block, normally several highland beef joints. Ruth also has her special Balmoral Horseradish. When open it is usually between 12noon and 3pm. If interested register your e-mail address with us and we will let you know when the events are up and coming. The Yard Bar has an open fire pit and a stage.

During busy periods during the summer the yard bar and its roaring fire pit may be open to guests staying on the farm or in the Bothy. There is a pay bar when open serving a variety of drinks from beers, wines and spirits as well as soft drinks. When the yard bar is not open guests can bring their own drinks and use this area. It is a great social gathering place.

THERAPY ROOM

Was introduced several years ago. It is a fully equipped therapy room for massages. A present Winter/ Spring 2023 this facility is not in use

CLAY PIGEON SHOOT

Roundoak and Kings oak farms hold regular Clay pigeon shoots, normally on a Saturday or Sunday morning. It is normally between 10am and 12noon. The majority are at Roundoak in the woods where the fire pit is lit; coffee and tea together with a bacon or sausage roll are served. The shoot is normally limited to 10 so that everybody gets a good turn. It is a great few hours that sometimes ends up at the Kings head at Grafty Green for a pint! (or two).

For further detail speak to Norman, Ruth or Paul. Let us have your e-mail address and we will keep you posted of these and other events.

GUIDED FARM SAFARI TOURS

Both farms at Roundoak and Kings oak are home to an array of rare breed Cows and sheep.

By arrangement a farm safari can be organised for individuals or groups.

Parties will be taken around in one of our Kawasaki Mules with a shooting trailer for larger parties.

You will be taken out to the grazing Highland, White Parks, Sussex and Vaynols cows and the Hebridean, North Ronaldsay, and extremely rare Boreray sheep where you will be close up to the animals.

The safaris can be an add on or included as part of a function package.

For details please contact the farm.

EVENTS

Roundoak has now hosted several events including weddings, a Beer Festival and Christmas Fair and has been a venue for several private birthday parties including children's parties.

Anyone interested in hosting a function or event at Roundoak should contact us at the farm or Roundoak events has its own dedicated website at:

www.roundoakevents.co.uk

Louise is our wedding co-ordinator

Tel.0044 7725966617

POP UP BUTCHERY AT **ROUND OAK**

Next to the office at Roundoak farm is a pop up butchery selling the farms produce. This includes **Beef** from our Highlands, Sussex and White Parks, joints, burgers and steaks. Other cuts of beef are also available and include Shin, Brisket and stewing steak etc. Please ask if you want a particular cut.

We also have various cuts of **Hebridean Lamb** including Shoulder and leg and Lamb burgers.

Lastly we have Pork, various cuts including Pork steaks, pork loins and bacon.

Generally our meat is frozen, however at certain times we do have fresh meat. We advise people of the availability of fresh though e-mails via those registered on our mailing listFriends of Roundoak.