

## Suffolk County Council County Farms Estate

### Opportunities from October 2023

#### Introduction

Following the successful bidding round in previous years, Suffolk County Council has now opened the process for 2023, and there are a range of holdings available to let from the **11<sup>th</sup> October 2023**.

We are now inviting interested parties, both aspiring and existing tenants, to apply for any of the opportunities listed (see Available Properties below). Applications will be considered for the **whole** of the holdings on offer, only.

Applications are encouraged from not only the farming sector, but also those who propose initiatives which will support Suffolk County Council's Corporate Priorities (see Notes below). However, applicants are encouraged to read the tenancy selection criteria before applying (see Notes below)

Suffolk County Council would particularly like to hear from younger entrepreneurial minded persons, seeking to find an entrance into the rural business environment.

#### 2023 How to Apply

Applications will be assessed via the submission of an Application Form and, the inclusion of an Outline Business Case which should:

- Include a detailed explanation of how the holding will be used. If the proposal relates to a non-agricultural use please submit any supporting information, including relevant experience.
- State the rent the applicant is willing to offer for the holding.

In addition, applicants will be expected to complete and submit, the interactive budget workbook.

Should a more in-depth business case be required, applicants will be asked to provide this prior to interview.

The tenancies offered will be for a period of 5 years, except for 24.12 acres of bare land at Great Barton which, is offered for a period of 1 year only.

## Available Properties

Available properties are:

1. Great Barton near Bury St Edmunds – 144.51 acres (58.48 hectares), bare arable land holding.
2. Great Barton Near Bury St Edmunds – Jubilee Farm 16.26 acres (6.58 hectares) partially equipped mixed holding.
3. Great Barton near Bury St Edmunds – 24.12 acres (9.76 hectares) bare arable land holding.
4. Undley, Lakenheath near Brandon – 91.43 acres (37.00 hectares) partially equipped arable land holding.

Properties listed are available to let from the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Lettings at other times of the year may be considered depending upon circumstances.

## Timescales

Application forms and outline business cases should be received no later than:

**12 noon on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Please note that any applications received after 12 noon on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 WILL NOT be considered**

Applications should be E-mailed to: [countyfarms@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:countyfarms@suffolk.gov.uk)

Interviews will be held on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

**Further information may be obtained from the following:**

**Email: [countyfarms@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:countyfarms@suffolk.gov.uk)**

## Notes

**A. Suffolk County Councils Corporate Priorities are as follows:**

1. Inclusive Growth.
2. Health Care and Wellbeing.
3. Efficient and Effective Public Services.



**B. Suffolk County Councils Tenancy Selection Criteria are as follows:**

1. Applicants should be able to show that they have obtained sufficient experience in the type of farming or enterprise for which they are applying.
2. In the case of holdings where farming is the main activity, applicants should be able to fulfil the minimum statutory requirement, i.e. 5 years' full-time practical farm work which may include up to 3 years' attendance at a course in agriculture.
3. Where the holding is small and the main enterprise proposed is non-agricultural, the applicant should be able to show sufficient experience in the proposed enterprise.
4. Applicants should normally be able to show that they have undertaken some formal training in the enterprise they propose to undertake and, other things being equal, preference will be given to these candidates. However, applicants should not be refused on these grounds alone if similar training and experience has been obtained in other ways.
5. Evidence of sufficient financial support to enable the proposed business to be established is to be provided.
6. The preferred age group is 23-40. Applicants will not be immediately rejected where they fall outside this range. In particular, younger applicants may be suitable for part-time units, while applicants over this range may have the knowledge and experience to establish specialist agricultural, horticultural rural or non-agricultural enterprises.
7. Applications from persons who are already established farmers in their own right (independently away from the estate) and who intend to run the County Farm as an extension to their existing business, will not be favoured.
8. It is unrealistic to lay down absolute criteria for the type of person required, but in practice it is overridingly important for the 21st Century that the individual be keen, enterprising, adaptable and hardworking.
9. Applicant will not be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, race, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or age (however in respect of age see paragraph 6 above).

10. The rent payment record of existing tenants will be taken into account when and if they apply for another holding on the Estate.
11. Applicants who can demonstrate direct employment generation potential from their proposed business enterprise will have an enhanced likelihood of success.
12. Applicants who can demonstrate that their business will enhance biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions and enhance soil health will have an enhanced likelihood of success.