

RESTRICTED ACCESS

Irrespective of the notice below, there is no entry here for members of the general public, other than for those with a valid fishing permit.

If you have a valid permit to fish the nearby stretches of the River Stour and elsewhere, you are welcome to enter here subject to the rules relating to the permit and in respect of that stated on the notice below.

Thank you
Bunting & Sons

ANCHOR INN HERITAGE FARM

Please read this notice before proceeding further

You are entering the private property of the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm. You are most welcome to walk around the farm, although it must be in respect of the following (particularly that stated in the bold type boxed below) and of course at your own risk.

The Anchor Inn Heritage Farm (including Anchor Fen, Court Knoll together with its adjoining small meadow, and much of Thrift Farm) extends to about 100 acres and it is being farmed by Bunting & Sons using traditional methods to produce, in a non-intensive way, livestock and crops especially for the Anchor Inn nearby, which is part of Bunting & Sons estate.

Rare breeds and old-fashioned plant varieties, renowned for their outstanding quality and flavour, abound on the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm. The livestock is happy and thrives in the non-intensive, natural farming environment. The traceability of the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm produce is important to the Anchor Inn's quality of food which stems from the purity and freshness of its ingredients.

Suffolk Punches work on the land throughout the seasons and with new woodland plantations of native trees, hedging and habitats being created the whole area is managed to encourage a richness and diversity of wildlife.

Wide permissive paths have been laid out on the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm to extend the scope of the public footpaths to provide circular and riverside walks, enabling greater enjoyment and appreciation of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Stour Valley. To assist disabled access wide self-closing gates with stock-proof fasteners have been installed.

To see the Suffolk Punches working and/or the results of their endeavours you may walk around the greenswards on Anchor Fen (the area between the River Stour and the public footpath which links Court Street and the Horkesley Lock pool) and Court Knoll, next to the Anchor Inn's garden.

The Suffolk horse breed (fondly known as the Suffolk Punch) is on the brink of extinction with only about 370 registered pure bred left in the world. Just 36 pure bred Suffolk horse foals were born and survived in 2005. Balanced against the numbers of the breed which died during the same period, an important part of our heritage is in the greatest danger of being lost forever.

Bunting & Sons is helping to prevent the Suffolk Punch from dying out by building up breeding stock, promoting the horses and providing a working purpose for them. Bunting & Sons currently has 12 Suffolk Punches.

To find out when the Suffolk Punches are expected to be working next, weather and ground conditions permitting, please enquire at the Anchor Inn in person or telephone 01206 262313.

As there is no charge for any of the above a donation to the Suffolk Horse Society will be much appreciated. The Society was founded in 1877 and as a registered charity (N^o 220756) with Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal the patron, it plays a vitally important role in helping to promote and preserve the Suffolk Punch. If you would like to make a donation there is an official Suffolk Horse Society collection box on the bar in the Anchor Inn.

At all times please abide by the Countryside Code and be safe. As you are now on a working mixed livestock farm it is particularly important you respect and follow the signs, keep to the marked paths, leave the self-closing gates fastened shut, leave other gates as you find them, be prepared for the unexpected when in the same areas as the farm animals, take your litter home and keep dogs under close control (within a lead's length) making sure they are not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, wildlife or other people. Dogs must also be kept off crops and in consideration of others please ensure that you clear up after your dog. Cycling and horse riding is not permitted.

For your safety please do not get too close to the Suffolk Punches. Allow them their own space - they are gentle giants but can, and sometimes do, bite, kick, stamp their feet and bolt, particularly if excited or frightened.

The River Stour runs through the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm which is delightful. However, take great care near the river, its relief channel and the lock pond, all of which contain deep water. You should also be aware that much of the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm is itself a flood plain with some rough and uneven ground, sometimes disguised by river flood deposits. Accordingly, be careful where you walk generally and be particularly cautious when the river and its relief channel water levels are very high. If any of the flood meadows are under water do not attempt to use affected paths. To fish you must have a valid permit.

For good order and the avoidance of doubt Bunting & Sons must make clear that:

with the exception of the public footpaths on the land and access relating to fishing rights granted on a seasonal basis you are on the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm only with Bunting & Sons' permission which may be revoked at any time to enable for example farm, forestry or Environment Agency operations to be undertaken safely and

none of the permissive paths nor any part of the defined greenswards on the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm have been dedicated as a public footpath or way and there is no intention of doing so in the future. Nevertheless, it is intended to maintain the permissive paths and the greenswards for the long term.

Signed for and on behalf of Bunting & Sons

Daniel Bunting
Partner

September 2006

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If you see a problem on the farm, particularly with regard to the livestock, please telephone 07888 840199 without delay. Your assistance will be much appreciated.