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A slate gravel path leads into a sunny courtyard garden area

# *Light and Luxury* at the Log Store

The Log Store at Rosewastis Farm has been transformed into luxurious holiday retreat in St Columb Major, writes Tor McIntosh

**R**osewastis Farm, a 220-acre farm in a wooded valley near St Columb Major, contains within its Grade II Listed farmhouse and scattering of farm buildings, more than 700 years of Cornish history. Its first-known recordings were in 1250 when it was called ‘Roswalstus’, derived from ‘ros’ meaning ‘moor’ in Cornish. It was owned by the Arundell family in the 16th century, described by historian A L Rowse as: “the richest and best-beloved of all Cornish families of the Tudor period”. The rebuilding of the current stone farmhouse took place in the 1830s.

Today, Rosewastis Farm is owned by builder Richard Skinner, who is currently transforming many of the redundant barns within the farm’s land into contemporary holiday cottages. But before he had even begun converting any of the buildings Richard’s dream of bringing life back to Rosewastis Farm

suffered a blow when personal reasons led him to put the farm on the market before heading to New Zealand for an extended break to visit his brother. Returning to Cornwall with renewed focus, he was delighted to discover that the planning permission he had applied for to convert the first outbuilding into a holiday let had finally been approved.

Unfortunately, at exactly the same time, a buyer had been found for the property, leaving Richard with a tricky decision to make. However, luck was on his side. “The buyer actually pulled out the day before I was going to pull the plug on him, so fate sort of decided that I wasn’t going to sell,” explains Richard.

Spurred on by this lucky turn of events, Richard set to work converting the barn into a one-bedroom holiday let called The Potting Shed. It was the success of this initial conversion that gave him the confidence to go ahead with his plan to convert two small derelict farm



buildings into a one-bedroom holiday cottage, unsurprisingly called The Log Store, as they were used to store wood. The challenge with this conversion was finding an innovative way to join the two barns together, which were virtually set at right angles to each other and had vastly different floor levels.

The solution wasn’t easy to come by. “I spent many a long evening looking at



French windows open up from the master bedroom onto a terrace

This barn conversion is a considered design that is sensitive to the surrounding landscape

the barns, measuring, drawing and measuring again, trying to come up with a workable idea,” admits Richard, but with the help and expertise of local architect Gavin Woodford, the resulting design is an oak-framed link. This houses a stylish bathroom and wet-room, while a corridor connects the cosy master bedroom located in the upper barn with the open-plan living space in the lower

barn. “It was a bit of a struggle, but I’m really pleased with the outcome,” says Richard. “It’s a very modern addition to the cottage but you can still see the two original buildings and you can get a real sense of their history because of the exposed stonework on two of the internal walls of the bathroom (the side external walls of the two original barns).”

It’s the combination of modern and

traditional that makes The Log Store so impressive. During his years in the trade, Richard renovated many old buildings, but with this personal project he was keen to let his creative juices flow and experiment by mixing contemporary features with original materials. This is immediately apparent in the spacious living area where enormous stainless steel brackets are used in place of timber to



Modern and traditional are combined in the open-plan living area

help support the roof. The rest of the fully-exposed internal roof structure is constructed of reclaimed wood that reveals old woodworm holes and tool marks. A number of roof lights and a large window that fills the peak of the end A-frame allows light to flood the interior.

Between the living area and the kitchen/dining space, two granite posts support the stainless steel brackets. One post is from the original building and positioned exactly where it was found, while the other is an old gate post Richard found on the farm. Large salvaged floor slates with underfloor heating are used throughout the kitchen, dining and living areas.

The modern twist continues subtly throughout the interior with the inclusion of steel fittings, such as on the door handles and the banister, together with the doors and legs of the kitchen units. The sharp lines of the industrial-looking white and stainless steel kitchen with its glass splash-backs contrast dramatically with the warmth of the exposed stone, which is found throughout the interior on the slate floor, the battered wooden beams and the ragged edges of the granite posts.

It's the combination of modern and traditional that makes The Log Store so impressive



The sharp lines of the industrial-looking stainless steel kitchen contrast with the softness of the original stone and slate

Externally, the cottage blends into its rural surroundings with the exterior walls built using local stone and traditional lime and mortar pointing. The roof is built using reclaimed rag slate, either saved from the original barns or sourced locally. The external fascia boards have been traditionally painted black, in-

keeping with the other buildings within the grounds of Rosewastis Farm.

This barn conversion is a considered design that is sensitive to the surrounding landscape. It is a light and luxurious holiday cottage for couples wanting a rural retreat close to Cornwall's north coast. Living on site in



Underfloor heating throughout the kitchen and living areas keeps the floor slates warm



**Above**  
View from the lower barn to the master bedroom in the upper barn



**Above right**  
A wall of exposed stonework in the master bedroom is part of the original fabric

**Right**  
A narrow, bath-level window offers views across the countryside



the partly converted 19th-century corn mill to the west of the farmhouse with his two teenage sons, Richard plans to continue developing the other barns and then to use an area of land in the furthest corner of the farm to build a green-roofed eco lodge: another impressive property challenge that Richard will undoubtedly make a success of. □

*The Log Store is available to rent through: [uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com)*

PHOTOS: UNIQUEHOMESTAYS.COM