



BLETSOE CASTLE

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A charming Grade II listed house on the site of the former fortified manor house*

Bedford 6 miles (St Pancras 35 minutes) • M1 (J13) 5.5 miles • London 60 miles
(All distances and times are approximate)

Accommodation and Amenities

Hall/billiards room • 2 sitting rooms • Drawing room • Dining room
Kitchen/breakfast room • Study • Games room • Boot room • Utility room

7/8 bedrooms • 4 bathrooms

Domestic office • Stables • Tack room • Barn • Stores • Garden stores
Greenhouse • Garaging

Stunning formal gardens • Grade I listed moat • Walled garden • Paddocks

2 stable cottages

Approximate gross internal area
House: 7,590 sq.ft. • Total (inc. outbuildings): 12,370 sq.ft.

In all about 25 acres • For sale freehold



These particulars are intended only as a guide and must not be relied upon as statements of fact. Your attention is drawn to the Important Notice on the last page of the text.







The History

There has been a castle at Bletsoe since 1327 when John de Patishull decided to crenellate his Manor House there. In 1344 he was summoned to Parliament as a Baron. The subsequent owner was Margaret Beauchamp who married Sir Oliver St John of the ancient family of St John who were great land owners in Oxfordshire before they came to Bedfordshire. On the death of Sir Oliver his wife Margaret married the Duke of Somerset and their daughter Margaret Beaufort, who was born at Bletsoe in 1441, became the mother of Henry VII, the first of the Tudor kings.

The present house is a much altered and renovated house of late

16th Century origins. It is considered to be one range surviving from a courtyard plan approached through an opposite range by means of a limestone bridge. During the 17th and 18th Centuries three sides of the house had to be pulled down leaving only the north wing which was three storeys but then converted to two storeys. It has been used as a farm house since 1813. Only the outer walls of the original Elizabethan fabric remain but at the east end of the house there is an old staircase that used to connect with the third storey before it was demolished. The old moat, which is Grade II listed, can still be traced for a considerable distance around the old walls of the castle.









Bletsoe Castle

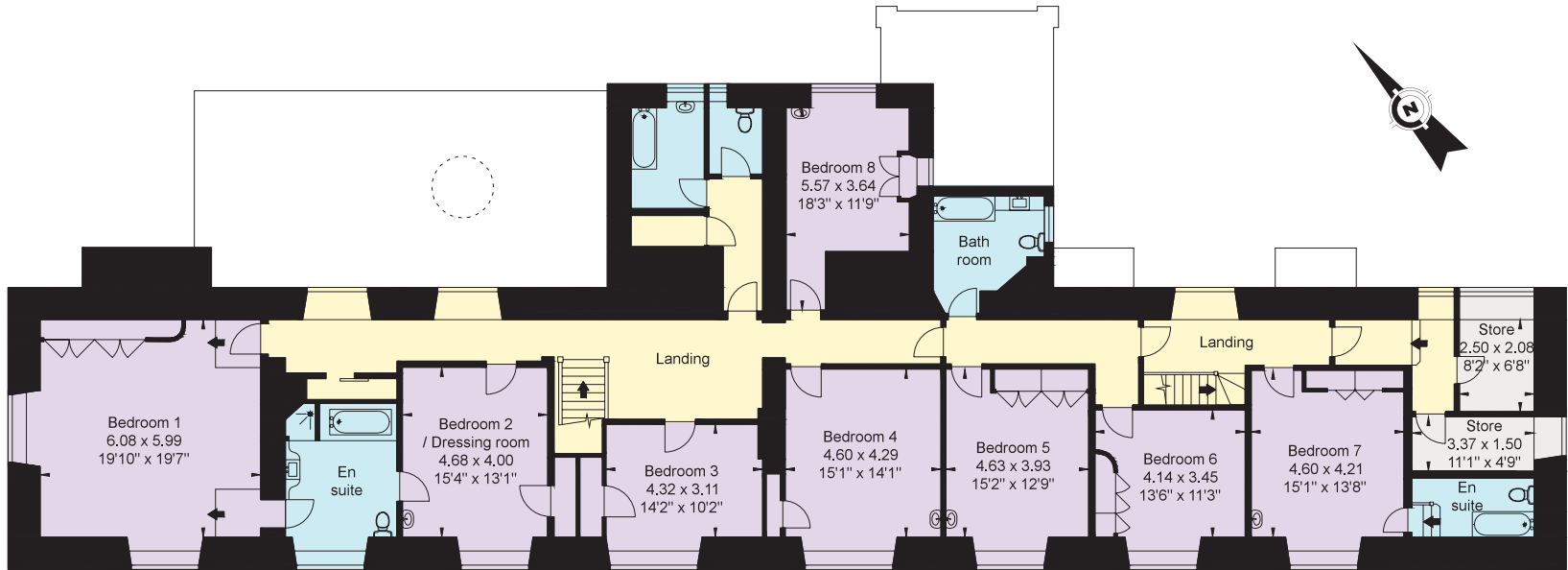
Bletsoe Castle is approached off Coplowe Lane to a gravel drive that leads around to the rear of the house arriving to a gravelled forecourt. Bletsoe Castle is Grade II* listed and built of coarse limestone with clay tiles over a hipped roof.

The front door opens to a hall/billiard room that leads to the sitting room with doors leading onto the south terrace. Leading from the sitting room is the drawing room. The drawing room enjoys views over the gardens and the surrounding moat. Also from the sitting room a

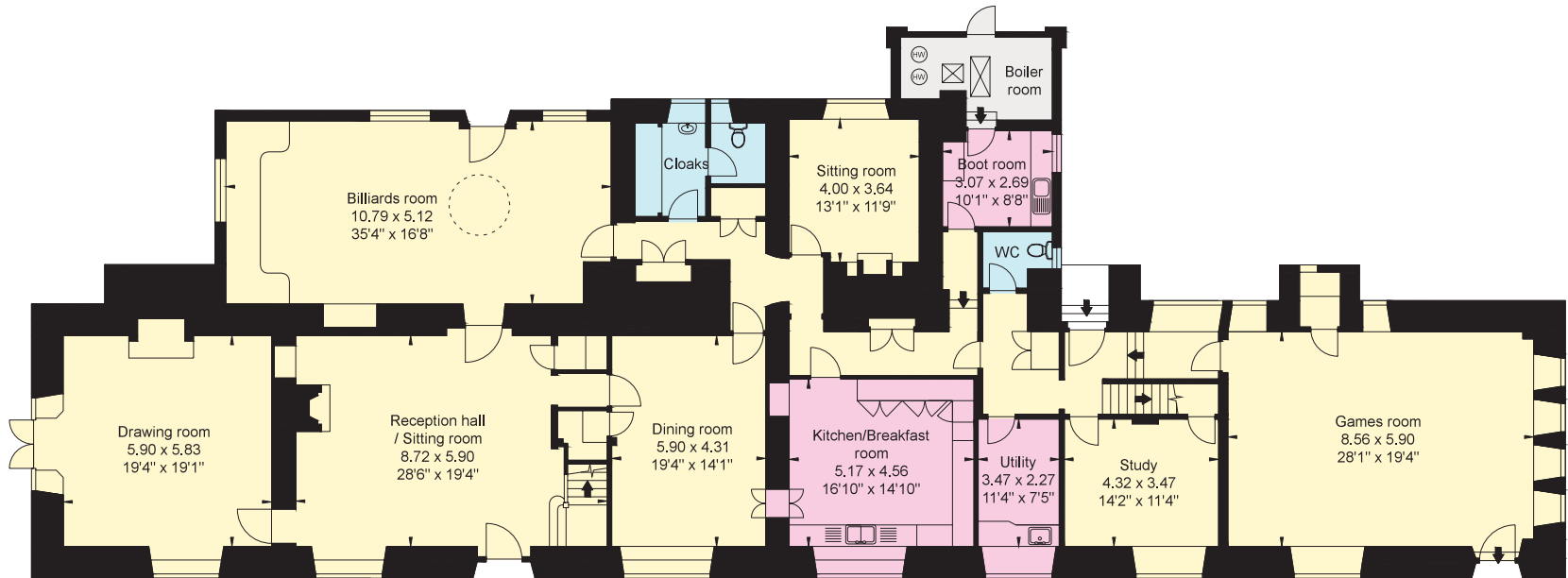
short passage leads to the dining room. The south eastern end of the house is made up of a number of service rooms including the kitchen/ breakfast room, utility room, boot room, study and games room.

The bedroom accommodation is reached via the main staircase in the sitting room which rises to a central landing and runs the length of the first floor. 7 of the 8 bedrooms enjoy southerly views over the beautiful gardens. The master bedroom suite and dressing room is in the west corner of the house.

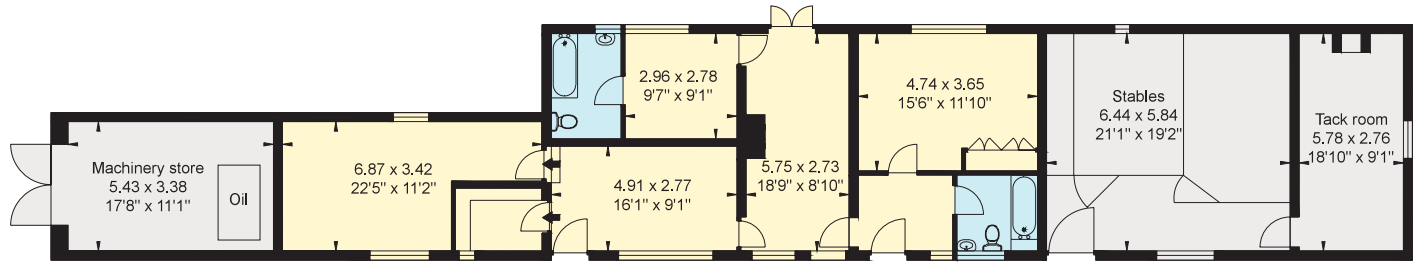




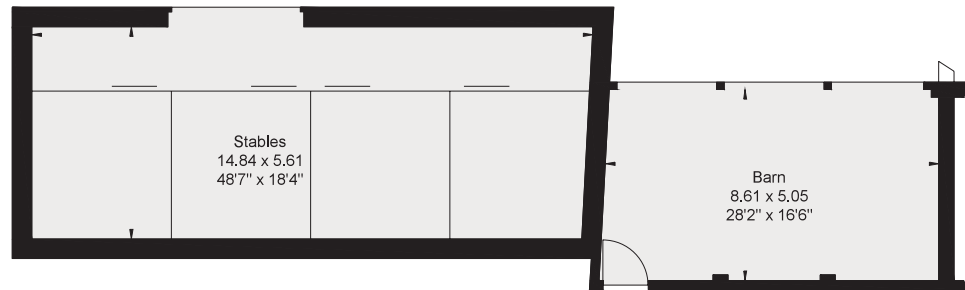
First Floor



Ground Floor



Outbuildings & Former Cottages



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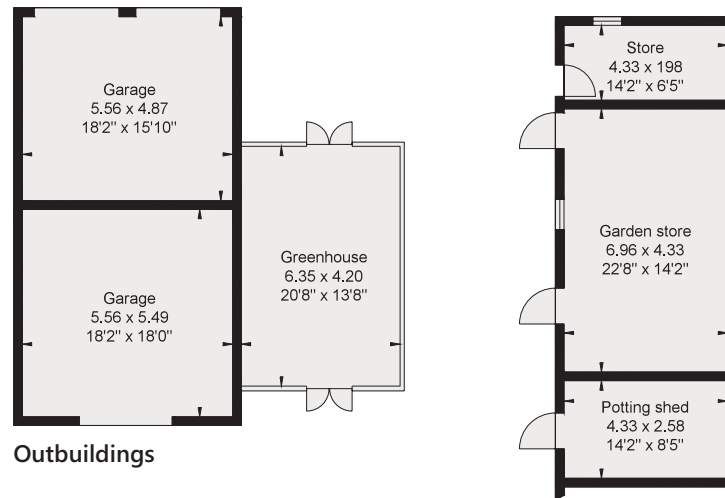
Approx. Gross Internal Floor Area

Main House: 705 sq.m. / 7,590 sq.ft.

Outbuildings and Former Cottages: 444 sq.m. / 4,780 sq.ft.

Total: 1,149 sq.m. / 12,370 sq.ft.

- Reception
- Bedroom
- Storage
- Kitchen/Utility
- Bathroom



Outbuildings

This plan is for guidance only and must not be relied upon as a statement of fact.
 Attention is drawn to the Important Notice on the last page of the text of the Particulars.
 Outbuildings are not shown in actual location or orientation.







Gardens and Grounds

The gardens are mainly laid to lawn and are interspersed with wonderful flower beds, herbaceous borders, specimen trees and shrubs. Of particular note is the Grade I listed moat which the current owners have dredged and restored during their ownership. Also within the gardens are the relics of the original stone moat bridge. Adjacent to the driveway is a tennis court as well as a range of outbuildings including a 3 bay open fronted barn and stabling. A small door from the barn leads through to a the starvation paddock behind. To the east of the house is a fabulous walled garden that is stocked with an abundance of seasonal vegetables, fruit trees and flora.

Beyond the gardens there is a paddock containing parkland trees such as oak, beech, flowering cherry and is enclosed partly by a post and rail fence. There are further fenced paddocks which lie to the north of the house and in all the grounds extends to some 25 acres.

Outbuildings and cottages

To the north east of the house there is a range of brick and slate outbuildings under tiled roof including; 2 one bedroom grooms cottages that could be knocked into one, machinery stores, further stables and tack room. To the east of the house are further outbuildings including garages, garden stores and a greenhouse.







Situation

Bletsoe Castle is situated in the attractive and unspoilt village of Bletsoe about 5 miles north of the county town of Bedford. Trains to London St Pancras are from 35 minutes. The house is surrounded by gently undulating countryside with The River Great Ouse a short distance to the west. Bedford is a thriving shopping centre and close at hand are a wide range of superb State and Independent schools.

Access to the M1 motorway is just 5.5 miles south west and central London is just 60 miles.

Local sporting activities include hunting with the Vale of Aylesbury Hounds, the Oakley and Woodland Pytchley. Whaddon Chase, and Bicester hunts are within easy reach. Golf can be played at Woburn, Apsley Guise and various other courses around Bedford.

Services

Mains electricity. Mains water. Private drainage (septic tank).
Oil fired central heating.

Fixtures and Fittings

Only those mentioned in these sales particulars are included in the sale.
All others, such as fitted curtains, light fittings, garden ornaments, paintings and pictures are specifically excluded but may be made available by separate negotiation.

Local Authority

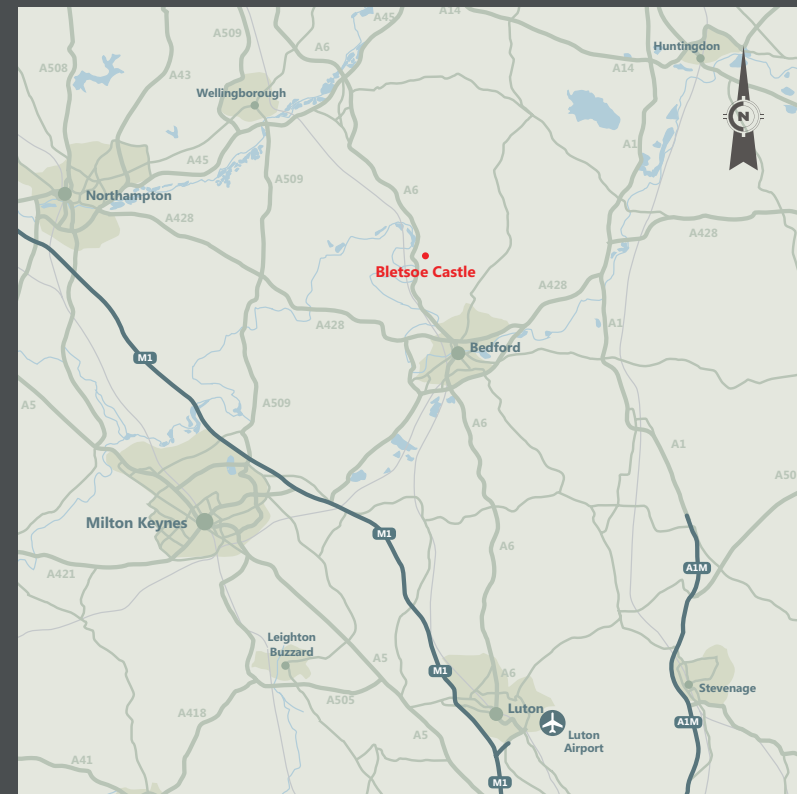
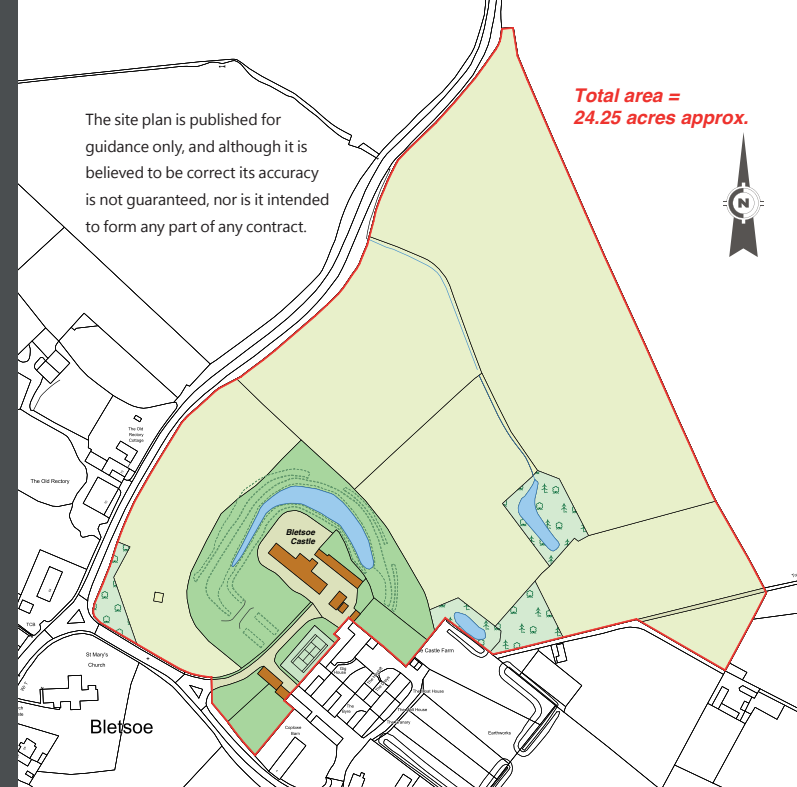
Bedford Borough Council. Tel: 01234 267422. www.bedford.gov.uk.

Directions (MK44 1QE)

From London take the M1 north exiting at J13. Take A421 for 7 miles then exit onto the A428 and take the new north Bedford by-pass to the A6. Follow the A6 for 5 miles before turning right to Bletsoe. Follow the lane into the village and having passed the church turn immediately right onto Coplowe Lane. After 100 yards the driveway to Bletsoe Castle can be found on your left hand side.

Viewing

Strictly by appointment through Knight Frank.





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Particulars dated: October 2015. Photographs dated: July 2015.

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