The Sir Peter Scott Lighthouse
Sutton Bridge - Lincolnshire - PE12 9YT
THE SIR PETER SCOTT LIGHTHOUSE

THE CRADLE OF CONSERVATION

In a land of ever-changing light and skies
With distant sounds of seabirds' cries,
The earth itself seems to slowly breathe
As tides ebb and flow on a gentle breeze,
Winds might strengthen, clouds gather pace
As if hastening to a far-off place –
But here, stands an iconic tower, one of a pair,
An historic home, romantic and rare.

• A Grade II* Listed Lighthouse Situated in Lincolnshire Close to the Norfolk Border
• Located at the Mouth of the River Nene Estuary Overlooking the Wide Expanse of The Wash
• Being the Former Home of Sir Peter Scott a Pioneer of Wildlife Conservation
• Offering a Reception Room Overlooking the Estuary Dining Room, Kitchen, Plus Basement
  • Three Bedrooms, Bathroom and Attached Artist Studio Accommodation
  • Additional Second Floor Room in Tower and Lantern Room Plus Shower Room
• Previously Granted Planning Permission for a Detached Visitor Centre & Parking
• Benefiting from Approximately 1.7 Acres (stms) of Garden, Grounds, and Wetland Wildfowl Ponds
• The Accommodation extends to 2,497 sq. ft.
Spectacular Location

The Grade II* listed East Bank Lighthouse, more familiarly known as The Sir Peter Scott Lighthouse, stands in an elevated position on the eastern bank of the River Nene as it enters The Wash, the biggest National Nature Reserve in England. This is one of England’s last great wildernesses, a place to enjoy true tranquillity, huge skies and landscapes, stunning sunrises and sunsets along with the excitement of some of the UK’s greatest wildlife spectacles.

Hundreds of thousands of birds over winter on The Wash NNR every year with its vast mudflats and huge expanses of saltmarsh as the air fills with their plaintive cries. Large numbers of seals breed here and can often be seen basking at the river mouth or swimming past the lighthouse.

This has to be one of the most spectacular locations anywhere to be found and yet the lighthouse lies within easy reach of London and all main facilities.
This is not just a lighthouse with a stunning location and an amazing history; it is a comfortable, friendly, inspirational home and retreat.”

The Present Owners

The present owners say they have been ‘owned’ by the Lighthouse since 2010. Their unbounded enthusiasm for it and everything it stands for has seen the expenditure of large amounts of time and energy to ensure the preservation of this East Anglian landmark on the northern edge of the fens.

“All the family have moved to Wales and it’s time to follow.” Sadly, the increased distance means they can no longer see it through the next stage in the way they would want to and the lighthouse is therefore looking for enthusiastic new owners. This is a rare opportunity to become part of the select few that have loved this spectacular lighthouse for almost two centuries and that in turn have been gifted with the unique and undeniable privilege of living and working there.

“This is not just a lighthouse with a stunning location and an amazing history; it is a comfortable, friendly, inspirational home and retreat. Sitting in the circular ground floor, with its crazy sloping walls, quirky doors and winding staircase is to experience a silence and inner calm unlike anything we have experienced elsewhere.”

“To stand outside in the sunny freshness of an early winter morning with the river to one side sparkling like a thousand jewels while skeins of geese in their hundreds or thousands fly past, set against the blue sky, vast landscape and delicate tufts of pink cloud is an experience reserved for only a few and yet somehow it seems even more personal than that to the owners of the lighthouse.”

The lighthouse is for sale for only the third time in 188 years.

Broad Appeal

The Sir Peter Scott Lighthouse is a versatile and inspirational property that will appeal to wildlife lovers, artists, writers, poets and environmental organisations. For those wishing to sail or fish the Wash and the fens, the new marina just minutes away at the end of the road will be of major interest.

There is huge potential for running a business from home here with as much involvement as you like, with the lighthouse as gallery and wildlife at the centre but for those simply seeking the adventure and thrill of owning an historic, easy home located in one of the most stunning locations the country has to offer with views for miles in every direction the Sir Peter Scott Lighthouse has it all.

History

Commissioned by John Rennie in 1839. The East Bank Lighthouse together with its twin on the west banks of the Nene were its final flourish. They celebrated the final stages in draining the fens and marked the entry to the sea.

Originally the lighthouse consisted of the tower with a small kitchen extension only, with the broad shape of the lighthouse being dictated by the need for it to be lived in.

The river authorities needed the lamp lit on the approach to any high tide that occurred after dark and then put out again once the river became unnavigable. As tide times vary continually with the state of the moon, they hit on the idea of designing the lighthouse big enough to house a navigation board employee and their family that would also be given...
the duty of lighting the lamp at whatever time of night that might be and would cost them nothing extra!

Skilled harbour pilots, after dark, could safely navigate ships through the winding approach channels and into the river by means of the very specific arcs of light given out by each lighthouse.

It is likely that they were in service for a limited period of time before better methods of night-time navigation were developed.

All of the additions you see today except for a small extension to the kitchen that was built in 1985 were added by Peter Scott when he occupied the lighthouse in 1933.
Sitting in the circular ground floor, with its crazy sloping walls, quirky doors and winding staircase is to experience a silence and inner calm unlike anything we have experienced elsewhere.

In 1933, 24 year old Peter Scott, son of ‘Scott of the Antarctic’ was washed ashore at the foot of the lighthouse after a horrific storm filled night out in his gun punt. It captivated him and he took a lease from the Crown at £5 per year.

In addition to refurbishing the lighthouse and constructing most of the modern additions including the famous observation room, he enclosed an area of the mudflats to the side and after encasing a pond, started to collect wildfowl. Highly ambitious as always, soon he wanted the best wildfowl collection in the world and travelled many countries obtaining geese that few, if any, had in their collections.

After a while he realized that wherever he went, wildfowl numbers were crashing due to increased habitat destruction and advanced methods of hunting. Because this was occurring at different points across their flight ranges of sometimes thousands of miles, he realised that there was an urgent need for a global conservation organisation that could monitor habitat requirements, movements and threats and then put conservation measures in place.

He began work on the idea whilst at the lighthouse but was called into the navy for the duration of the war. After the war he went on to found the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust, became highly influential within the fledgling IUCN and then co-founded the World Wildlife Fund, including designing the instantly recognizable panda logo. He was also creator of the Red List for endangered species that sets our global standard even today.

He was knighted in 1973 for his contributions to global conservation, with the Welsh FAIRHARK being dedicated to his memory. He was our greatest twentieth century conservationist and described by David Attenborough as conservation’s ‘patron saint’. Few would disagree.

It all began here with a young man, his goose collection and a lighthouse. This small lighthouse is therefore the cradle of global conservation and through that fact The Most Powerful Lighthouse in the World.

Whilst at the lighthouse Peter Scott was also to become a world famous artist and wrote and illustrated his first two books ‘Morning Flight’ and ‘Wild Chorus’.

After the war it was impossible for him to return to the lighthouse. The army had left it in a poor condition and the Crown had pushed the sea walls half a mile further out into the Wash to reclaim the marsh to feed a starving country. In its turn, that had taken away the water he needed for his ponds.

The Most Romantic Lighthouse in the World

Peter Scott told his friend, American sports writer Paul Gallico about his lighthouse home, his art, his sailing boat and goose collection. About Annabelle the pink footed goose that wintered every year at the lighthouse with his tame geese before returning thousands of miles to her breeding grounds in summer. This was the first recorded occurrence of such a thing.
Paul Gallico was to turn this material into the legendary and romantic wildlife love story 'The Snow Goose' that was to become his masterpiece. Printed in 1940 and reprinted in just about every language around the globe it has sold millions of copies and caused many a tear to be shed. 'The Snow Goose' was re-recorded by the BBC as a radio play in 2010 and a 1971 TV movie starring Jenny Agutter and Richard Harris was made of it.

Peter Scott illustrated the UK editions and the painting of Fritha is of his first wife, novelist Elizabeth Jane Howard. She is shown in the lighthouse kitchen doorway with the River Nene behind her. The illustrated 'Snow Goose' book was reprinted in 2017 by the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust.

In the story the lighthouse is moved to a mythical location so the hero can sail easily to Dunkirk and Annabelle becomes 'Princess the snow goose.' All of the illustrations however show it to be clearly the East Bank Lighthouse that it was based on. It is therefore 'The Most Romantic Lighthouse in the World.'
Living Accommodation
Entry door with side lights leading to sizeable entry hall with tiled floor, storage radiator, internal borrowed light to the studio/reception room and doors leading off to:

Studio/Reception Room
A large double aspect room with substantial areas of glazing custom built by Peter Scott as his first art studio. The large windows offer dramatic views for miles out to sea and over surrounding farmland as well as over the grounds and ponds of the lighthouse.

The main lighthouse wall is exposed original brickwork with a large fireplace (disused) with a door at the far end leading to a useful small store room. Built into the wall is the famous ‘goose lintel’. There was a public outcry when this was stolen in the late 1970s leading to its return in 1985.

Varnished timber floor built in shelving at both ends, two storage radiators, ample electric points, broadband hub and CCTV main control centre. Large opening to loft storage space above.

Bathroom
Fitted with bath, wash basin and heated towel rail. Elevated views across gardens and miles of open landscape from your bath!

Separate WC
Toilet, wash basin and heated towel rail.

Master Bedroom
A spacious airy double bedroom with ceiling taken to the apex. Double glazed window overlooking the courtyard garden, solid floor with carpet, storage radiator, two built in wardrobes, one with hot water storage tank.

Bedroom Two
A half glazed door leading to a charming bright room with many features. Double glazed windows with views into the far distance. Solid floor with carpet. Ample power points.

Gallery/Art Studio/Lecture Room
The internal door to this area is accessed from the master bedroom through the third wardrobe that is laughingly called the ‘Narnia’ door.

This is a completely modern space with ceiling to the roof apex, two large roof lights, fully insulated walls and roof and new timber windows. White timber clad internal wall al round with both areas being joined by balustrades and a short ramp. The lower level has a sink with worktop and water heater plus a separate WC with wash hand basin and ‘wastemaster’ pumping unit.
Bright modern LED lights to both areas, ample power points, mains Broadband connection.

Bright fully double glazed timber entry vestibule doors and side lights to outside.

Main Entry Hallway also leads to:

Ground Floor of Tower - Dining Room

Up two steps from the entry hall via a Georgian glazed door. This stately stunning and cozy circular room with sloping walls, doors and staircases will remain a major talking point for visitors after any evening entertainment!

This sizeable stunning and crazy circular room with sloping walls, doors and staircases will remain a major talking point for visitors after any evening entertainment!

Two double glazed Georgian sash windows. timber floor with carpet. Large fireplace (disused). Ample power sockets and several wall light positions for illuminating paintings.

Steps up with custom metal handrail lead to:

Tower First Floor - Bedroom Three

A bright and charming room with three double glazed Georgian sash windows offering stunning views overlooking the river to the west lighthouse and beyond to sea and inland to the docks of Sutton Bridge. A storage radiator, ample power points and steps leading to:

Tower Second Floor

This is fitted with two tilt and turn feature windows, one facing inland and the other out to sea with stunning views. The ceiling means the reinforced lighthouse roof brackets and chamber that acted as a flue for the fireplaces below and to vent fumes from the lighthouse lamp.

Timber floor, double power socket. Valuable Lighthouse Lamp.

This is an original lighthouse lamp brought here in the 1985 restoration. It's twin is in the west lighthouse and both owners have lit them by way of a time clock every night since then. They are still welcomed by ships passing and those out late on the marsh.

Step down from the ground floor dining room.

Kitchen

A fully equipped kitchen with electric cooker and tall fridge. Single bowl sink with base units, work surfaces and wall units. Double aspect double glazed windows with amazing views over the courtyard garden and bird feeder and across the river with sunsets to die for. Solid floor with vinyl covering. Corner pantry with part built in shelving and door leading to:

Shower Room and WC

Shower with electric shower, large wash hand basin and separate toilet area. Plumbing for dishwasher and washing machine. Double glazed windows with views out to sea. Storage radiator and double plug point.

EXTERNAL

Basement

Steps with handrail leading to an undercroft storage area on one side and door leading to the basement on the other.

The basement is the largest room of the tower and could be suitable (stp) to make into another bedroom or even a small self contained guest room or office. Stairs could connect this room with the first floor of the tower.

Brick floor, double glazed window to the north wall, original fireplace ( disposal) double power point.

The main external lighthouse structure has been completely overhauled and re-rendered in recent years, with new Georgian sash windows.

All the timber framed cladding has been replaced as necessary, fully insulated and redecorated to a high standard, with new windows to the gallery areas and external garage doors.

CCTV has been recently installed that can be monitored remotely.

All the fencing to the goose enclosure has been renewed and the ponds are only about four years old.
To stand outside in the sunny freshness of an early winter morning with the river to one side sparkling like a thousand jewels while skeins of geese in their hundreds or thousands cry past, set against the blue sky with landscape and delicate tufts of pink cloud is an experience reserved for only a few and yet somehow it seems even more personal than that to the owners of the lighthouse.”
On The Doorstep...
The property is within easy reach of riverside walks (River Nene) and the nature reserve at the mouth of the river, beyond the West Bank lighthouse. The extensive sandy beaches on the North Norfolk coast is accessed via the hanseatic port and market town of King’s Lynn 12 miles away with Sandringham Estate and the Royal Estate of Sandringham is just 17 miles away. Sutton Bridge provides basic shopping and health facilities with more extensive access to the market town of Long Sutton 4 miles to the west. New all tide floating moorings are just at the end of the road with bookings through the harbour office at Wisbech.

How Far Is It To...
Sutton Bridge is 9 miles north of Wisbech which has supermarkets, a swimming pool and sports centre, library, museums, a theatre, and secondary schools. King’s Lynn is 12 miles to the east offering a wide variety of schools, cultural and leisure facilities plus a main line railway service with links to London King’s Cross taking approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes. Peterborough is a 45 minute drive with cut services to London in less than an hour and the Midlands/North. The popular seaside resort of Hunstanton is only 25 miles away and the North Norfolk coast is within easy access. The Royal Estate of Sandringham is just 17 miles away. The capital city of Norwich lies approximately 55 miles to the South East with all the local amenities, including an airport with national and international flights. Cambridge is 55 miles to the south on the A10 with a park and ride facility in Milton.

Directions
From King’s Lynn take the A11 westbound towards Peterborough. Cross the River Great Ouse and at the major roundabout take the second exit onto the A17, signposted Sleaford. Continue on the A17 for approximately 8 miles and just before the River Nene at Sutton Bridge turn right onto E Bank. Stay on this round and the Lighthouse will be found at the very end of the road.

Postcode for satellite navigation: PE12 9YT
LOCAL AUTHORITY South Holland District Council
AGENTS’ NOTES:
• Mains Water (via farm supply)
• Three phase mains electric supply
• Heating generally by electric off-peak storage radiators
• Septic Tank
• Mains telephone and broadband
• TV reception good
• Vodafone reception fair

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We would also point out that we have not tested any of the appliances and purchasers are advised to make their own enquiries regarding the connection of any services.

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