





The House at Red Lion Corner, South Side, Steeple Aston, OX25 4RY

Guide Price £795,000

A proud and elegant facade hides one of the most wonderful of relaxed, characterful and fun house we know.

Available with NO CHAIN, an elegant Georgian village house of over 2,400 sq feet. Huge warmth & personality, sensitively updated to retain the character, with great flexibility for work & family life including a double storey annex. 5 beds (1 with ensuite), 3 receptions, kitchen & utility, & cellar.

Steeple Aston is an ancient settlement with roots going back to Roman times, maybe earlier. The village has its own shop and Post Office (barely a ten minute walk), a popular pub, a Dr Radcliffe's primary school dating back nearly 400 years, and a 1000 year old church. A coffee shop, gym, Pilates studio and wellness spa are all within walking distance. The community is enthusiastic and vibrant with social activities ranging from WI to bellringing, football and cricket. Designated a conservation area in 1988, the village is set in glorious surroundings with the river Cherwell running through the valley, situated 8 miles away from the luxurious Soho Farmhouse. And not forgetting that it is also well placed for commuting, you really are spoilt for choice with options by bus, road or rail to Oxford (17m), Banbury (10m), London (40 mins from Bicester North) and Birmingham. We think it's one of the most rewarding villages to live in locally.

During its several hundred year history The House at Red Lion Corner has evolved through many uses including the local police house (with the cellar used, anecdotally, as a jail). Latterly, successive owners have enjoyed long tenure here, proof of its great prowess in caring for a growing family. Over the last two decades our vendors have improved and upgraded the house, always with great sensitivity to the character. This has included upgrading heating, lighting, power circuits, kitchen, and bathrooms as well as comprehensive exterior maintenance, and even purchasing extra land behind the adjacent village pub for parking (albeit rarely needed). It is spacious, charming, light, packed with character - and easy to use with immense flexibility few others can match. The house, the amenities and the vibrant community around them has ensured our clients and their children have made many friends here. Hence it is no wonder that they are moving less than a mile away to stay within the village!



The classically Georgian front door opens through an aperture topped with thick oak lintel no doubt cut from local timber. Once inside, the living room is a wonderful surprise. At some point, it was clearly two rooms, evidenced by a fireplace at either end (complete with wood burner in each), the left hand of which has alcoves either side perfect for bookshelves. The rather gorgeous flagstones on the the left-hand side of the room also change to wide elm plank boards on the right. Overhead timbers, a pair of deep window seats and shutters complete the picture of a room that is packed with character and utterly charming.

Set on an incline, the layout of the house is on first glance a little unusual. But the by-product has created a flow that's better than most. A set of stairs rise ahead to the floors above, of which more later, and a handful of stone steps lead down to the kitchen and utility. Under the stairs to the first floor more stone steps lead down to a very useful cellar. Unlike most, the head height is very good, hence it's a genuinely usable space offering ample storage for bikes and other larger items with ease A couple of small apertures high up in the stone wall bring in light and airflow from the outside, which ensures it is a really well aired and dry space.

Dead opposite, the stable door just a few steps across the kitchen allows those bikes easy access to the garden. The kitchen is a lovely space, stylish and practical in equal measure with a mixture of classic farmhouse style fitted units and immaculate timber worktops, offering a wide range of storage as well as a breakfast bar, with a smart slate tiled floor underfoot. And the utility room next door offers the welcome addition of extra storage space, also housing a second sink as well as plumbing for both a washing machine and a dryer. This could double as the perfect boot room or dog lobby.

Another door at the end of the kitchen opens to reveal a surprising extra dimension. Once again, the layout is an advantage. To the left is a pleasant and high-quality WC. Thereafter, several steps lead down into another reception room, currently used as a dining room. However, closer inspection finds another exterior door to the side that connects to the lane outside. This enables this part of the house to act independently of the rest. Climbing the stairs to the rather splendid gallery room above reveals a large and interesting room currently used as a mix of home office and extra reception room. However, as it could just as easily be used as a bedroom.

Back to those first floor stairs, and at the top a bright landing features a shuttered window at the rear from which you gain your first glimpse of the valley that runs central to this charming village. The first of the four double bedrooms is currently arranged as a study, opposite which a beautifully refitted bathroom features a separate bath and separate shower, with a pair of sinks topping off a wide timber vanity unit. And the WC sits through the further door at the end.

Another half landing up brings you to three further bedrooms. To the right a welcoming double offers great space embellished by a pair of wide store cupboards fitted to the alcoves either side of the original chimney breast. Next door, another double bedroom is a little smaller, here used as a great home office. The third room is a similar size to its opposite neighbour, this time offering a bank of fitted cupboards covering the whole of one wall. All three are characterful and welcoming.





The final stairs lead to the top floor which contains the main bedroom suite. And what a suite it is! The vaulted ceiling above retains the a-frame trusses harking back to when the house was thatched. Windows to front and rear bring in great natural light even on the dulllest days. A bank of cupboards is fitted to one wall, and through the opening to the side you will find the en-suite. A large shower is practical and stylish. The floor area is surprisingly generous. And the panelling at the far end hides ample storage, with lengthy bookshelf above.

Turning to the outside, the house sits back from a lane that only feeds the village. A traditional low stone wall encloses the front garden, behind which various pretty plants are dotted around, in amongst gravel steps for easy maintenance. Effectively a "house plus separate annex", this is easiest to see from the corner where the two separate entrances are apparent.

Behind the house, the garden is immensely private. Mainly lawn, there is a charming arbor seat to one side, with a low stone wall retaining planted beds, flanked by fencing that is covered with a profusion of flowers and climbers. The gravel area next to the kitchen is the perfect spot for summer dining, barbecues, or just a relaxed moment with the paper. And the gates to the rear enable offstreet parking if required, although we suspect most will instead use the extra land that the vendors have purchased for this specific purpose, just a few yards away.



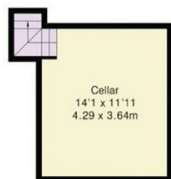
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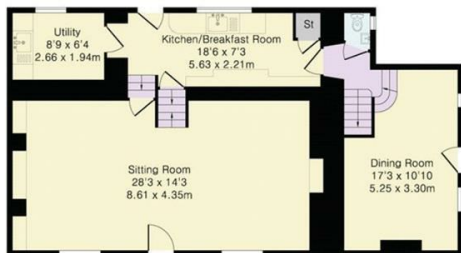
Second Floor

Approximate Gross Internal Area 2408 sq ft - 224 sq m

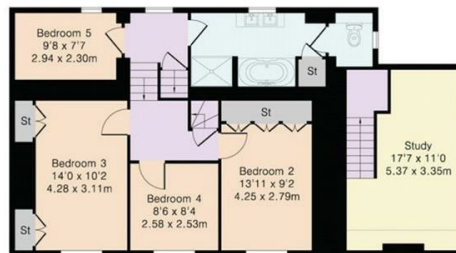
Basement Area 179 sq ft - 17 sq m
Ground Floor Area 913 sq ft - 85 sq m
First Floor Area 913 sq ft - 85 sq m
Second Floor Area 403 sq ft - 37 sq m



Basement



Ground Floor



First Floor

Energy Efficiency Rating

	Current	Potential
Very energy efficient - lower running costs		
(92 plus) A		84
(81-91) B		
(69-80) C		
(55-68) D		51
(39-54) E		
(21-38) F		
(1-20) G		
Not energy efficient - higher running costs		
England & Wales	EU Directive 2002/91/EC	

Important Notice

These particulars are offered on the understanding that all negotiations are conducted through this company. Neither these particulars, nor oral representations, form part of any offer or contract and their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Any floor plan provided is for representation purposes only, as defined by the RICS Code of Measuring Practice and whilst every attempt has been made to ensure their accuracy the measurements of windows, doors and rooms are approximate and should be used as such by prospective purchasers. Any services, systems and appliances mentioned have not been tested by us and we cannot verify that they are in working order.

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