



### Country Living

To create a rural idyll focus on simplicity and comfort, rooms should be light and cosy. Choose pale shades, particularly blue, green, rose or yellow, and perhaps embrace a natural theme to mimic your surroundings. Stripes, checks and florals are all perfect for the look. This Cornish-blue teapot, available at £29.95 from [essentiallywhite.co.uk](http://essentiallywhite.co.uk), is an instantly recognisable example of country style. Call 0845 404 9505 for more details.



*“Our beautiful surroundings  
inspired our décor”*

In the quiet hamlet of Withielgoose lies a  
picturesque stone cottage





**A**long with Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Wales, Cornwall is one of the few areas of the British Isles left largely untouched by Roman rule. There is little evidence that it was ever effective in this region, and so the county's Celtic charm remains a key reason why many flock to its seaside towns. In between these coastal resorts lies a beautifully furnished Cornish cottage, set amidst a delightful garden. It is a haven of serenity, yet also has easy access to the bustle of the coastline to the north. Newquay is a mere 30 minutes away, or if you're prepared to drive a while longer, Penzance and Land's End are just over an hour to the south-west. Famous sites like Dartmoor National Park or Bodmin Moor are within similar reach.

Home Farm offers everything you'd want out of country living; a cosy atmosphere in which to relax and unwind, wonderful natural surroundings and a peaceful environment. Yet, as Withielgoose is located almost right in the centre of the county, you're never too far from various sites of interest. If your idea of a day well spent is 18 holes of golf, then nearby St Enodoc Golf Club is the place to be. It was ranked 55th in the world last year by Golf Digest for courses outside of the United States. Alternatively, if tennis is your game then you won't have to go anywhere; take a stroll through the lush green valley and you'll find a full-sized court waiting for you.

### Close to Home

Almost three years ago, owner Judy Douglas-Boyd was delighted to be able to purchase this exquisite cottage. "The property and its land adjoins our existing home and surroundings, where we have another letting property – The Mill House," she says. "We have always known about Home Farm, and when it came on the market it was the ideal opportunity to add it to our existing facilities." And who could resist such an enticing prospect arriving right on your doorstep? Once acquired, Judy was adamant that the property should remain as it was initially intended. "It is a pretty stone and granite farmhouse with all the original barns and outbuildings. We were determined to keep it like that – a charming smallholding in an idyllic part of the county."

The house is south facing with wonderful views, and is surrounded by a beautifully laid out cottage-style garden. Once it was decided that it would make an ideal luxury home for holiday lets, there was a thought to convert the barns too, for extra accommodation. "I quickly concluded that this would spoil the feel of Home Farm," Judy explains. "So it was retained as a small farmhouse which very comfortably sleeps six people." The barns were restored with traditional lime mortar and re-slatted with old Cornish "rag" slates. "Everything has been done to keep the traditional country







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flavour of this once working smallholding farm,” she says. The process of maintaining the heritage of the property was not simply a case of preserving what was there, however. A few modern renovations made before the change of ownership had to be undone, and other necessities carried out. “Needless to say, it was a building site for months whilst all the plumbing, wiring, and stripping out of old, non-original fittings was done,” Judy recalls. “Electricity cables and water pipes were buried underground, too.” Upgrades were made to provide three bedrooms, two with their own shower rooms, and a main family bathroom. The barn is used as a games room complete with a Nintendo Wii and Blu-Ray home cinema system. This relaxing space

has been decorated in a simple style. “Clean pale walls, comfy red sofas and chairs and kilims on the floor make it perfect for rainy days or lazy evenings. Here the whole family can enjoy their time together,” says Judy.

The kitchen is a typical example of country living. There are rich, dark stone floor tiles of varying sizes which help reflect light around the room in the warm summer months. These fabulous slates more than likely come from Delabole, the famous slate quarry on the north coast. They run throughout the kitchen and hallway and set the scene perfectly. The white drawers, cabinets and walls are offset by marble worktops, and large wooden crossbeams on the ceiling. There are plates and mugs on display, floral curtains and an Aga oven. “This area was a recent extension added just before we bought the house, and originally there was a door that led into it. But we decided to move this entrance for two reasons,” explains Judy. “One was to make more room in the kitchen, and the other was to provide a welcoming hall into what was a galley kitchen area. The same lovely old, heavy door with glazed panels is now where there used to be a window. It has created a surprisingly large space for coats and wellington boots.”



### Inside and Out

Leading on from the dining area is the south-facing terrace which is perfect for summer lunches, breakfasts or barbecues, with overhead heating panels that will take the chill off the evening air. “It was almost the last thing we did,” says Judy. “We put down fantastic granite slabs which had come from a local farmhouse kitchen, so it looks as if it has always been there. Once the vines and jasmine grow over the pergola above, it will complete the picture.” This charming cottage garden is brimming with roses and summer blooms. There is ample space to sit and relax under a shady tree, and the garden leads round to the rear where the raised pond is a distinctive feature of this tranquil setting.



### Treat Yourself

Available from Unique Home Stays, prices at Home Farm start at £750 for a three night weekend, or £1,100 for a week's stay. This delightful cottage sleeps up to six people. Well-behaved dogs are admitted by prior arrangement and for an additional fee. To find out more, or for booking details call 01637 881 942 or visit [homefarm.uniquehomestays.com](http://homefarm.uniquehomestays.com).

Back indoors, there are three living rooms downstairs which Judy was intent on keeping as cosy, distinct areas. "Some people would have knocked down adjoining walls to make larger spaces," she says. "But I strongly believe that by doing this the whole feel and atmosphere of the old house, which has grown organically over generations, would be lost. Many modern homes feature large open spaces, so why would I want to ruin this lovely traditional design?" Even the more contemporary items of furniture have been blended in seamlessly with the period style. There is modern lighting throughout, but it's interspersed with the odd old lampshade in order to keep the traditional country look. "Several trips to the local antique shop resulted in chairs, chests, hat stands and occasional tables which give the cottage its comfortable home from home feel," Judy says.

### Plan of Action

"The advantage of having to decorate a whole home all at once is that you can start as you mean to go on, and carry the look all the way through," explains Judy. "Consequently, once we'd picked the basic paints for the skirting boards, doors and ceilings to match the slate floors, as well as the granite and stone features, this chosen scheme was applied throughout the home." After this, wallpapers, furnishings and fabrics were chosen to complement them. "I really wanted guests to feel that everything had been thoroughly thought out," she says. "It is not luck or coincidence that the towels match the paintwork and that all the wallpapers have similar background colours to create a feeling of continuity and space. It was all selected very carefully, with the splashes of colour – shocking pinks and raspberry, green, blue and rusts – all adding layers, depth and dimension to the rooms."

### Paper Trail

Inside the property, stylish cottage chic is abound with textured wallpaper, antique furniture and sumptuous fabrics. Each of the three bedrooms has a unique look, but all continue the natural theme seen throughout the house. The first bedroom combines traditional creams

and blues to create a cosy rural setting. The light and airy feel along with the pale look gives this room an illusion of space. Conversely, the abundance of pillows and the lowered ceiling above the window add to the comfort and warmth of this intimate space. The second combines pale country colours with a green foliage design which covers the walls, bedsheets, pillows and curtains. These rooms are both decorated in classic Colefax and Fowler designs in keeping with the cottage atmosphere.

The third and final one also features soft colouring and motifs of plants and leaves. But, here they are covered with splashes of reds, blues and yellows in the form of a swarm of butterflies. "They were chosen to give movement and be fun – I didn't want anything too feminine," Judy explains. The design is by Nina Campbell and the sumptuous matching curtains are silk. All three of these rooms offer tempting views of the rural countryside. So why not sink into crisp linens, silk-filled duvets and deep cosy beds after a day in the Cornish air?

