

LONGHORN CATTLE SOCIETY

AGM Weekend

5-7 November 2010

Bedford

The Bedford Swan Hotel, The Embankment, Bedford, MK40 1RW

<http://www.bedfordswanhotel.co.uk/>

The Bedford Swan Hotel is an 18th Century hotel full of character and history, occupying a stunning town centre location overlooking Bedford's beautiful River Great Ouse. It has recently undergone a multi-million pound refurbishment.

If you are travelling to Bedford from the M1 be aware that there are roadworks with speed limits on both the M1 and on the A421 to Bedford which may add time to your journey.

Itinerary

FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Arrive at Hotel. (**map attached**) Members to make independent arrangements for their evening meal which is not included in the price of the weekend.

SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER

09.00 Leave Hotel. A coach has been arranged as the visit location cannot accommodate everyone's cars.

10.00 Arrive at Pilkington Farms, Offley Hoo. (map attached)

Postcode for satnav is SG5 3ED

Offley Hoo is an award winning farm in Hertfordshire which is part of the Kings Walden Estate. Jon Birchall is the Farm Manager. Jon was a finalist for the 2010 Farmers Weekly Award for Countryside Farmer of the Year and was awarded the Chilterns Environment Award for 2009. He is also a finalist in the BBC Farmer of the Year Awards. The Traditional Quality Meat business won the Countryside Alliance Local Food Award for East Anglia 2009. The farm grows wheat for Hovis and Warburtons and rears native and rare breed Longhorn cattle, Wiltshire Horn sheep and Middle White and other traditional pigs. The farm sells meat direct to customers.

1.30 Lunch at the Bedford Swan Hotel

2.30 AGM including the presentation of the Bull of the Year Award, Cow of the Year Award and the Paul Lockett Newcomers Award.

7.00 for 7.30 Dinner.

Please let me know your menu selection (below) by Friday 29 October or I will choose for you! If you require a vegetarian option please give me a call.

Starter: Soup of the season OR chicken liver parfait with fruit chutney & warm toast

Mains: Roast sirloin of beef with Yorkshire pud OR baked cod loin with lime butter sauce (both dishes served with veg & potatoes)

Dessert: Vanilla crème brulee & shortbread biscuits OR warm apple tart with vanilla pod icecream.

SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER

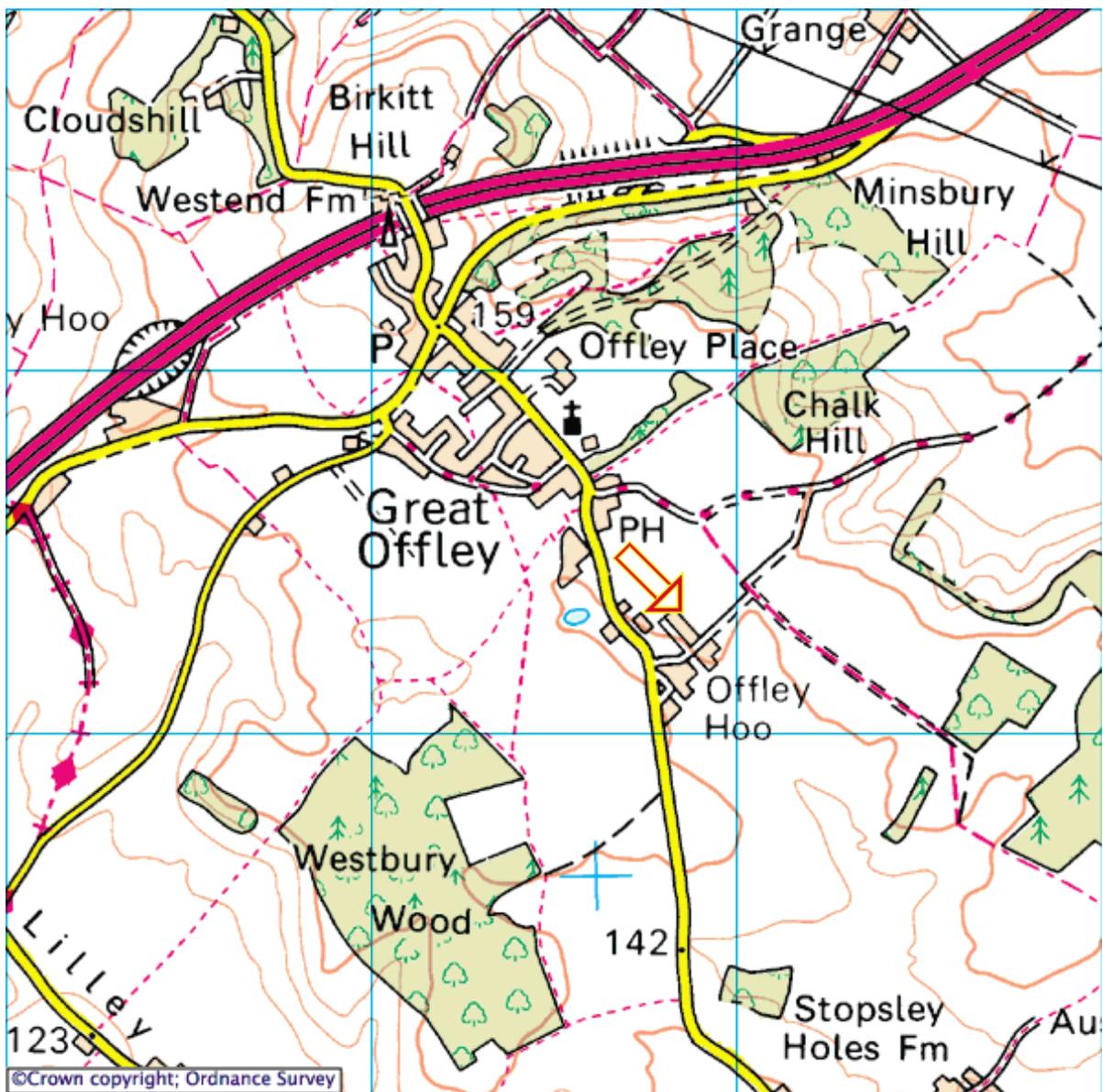
09.30 Leave hotel in own transport.

10.00 Arrive at Roxton House, Roxton, Bedfordshire, MK44 3DP (map attached)

From Bedford take the A421 towards the A1. Take the Roxton exit off the A421 and go right round the roundabout, taking the Roxton exit. The entrance to the house is about 1/2 mile on the left hand side through an electric gate next to a white gatehouse.

The Roxton Herd of Longhorn Cattle was started with the purchase of three in-calf cows in October 1988. At this time Simon was running an 800 ewe flock which grazed the parkland around the farmhouse. He also ran a herd of 850 sows. The Bath family had always enjoyed cattle and felt they were much more civilised as neighbours! Approximately 20 cows are now run which is as many as can comfortably be housed over the winter. Simon would like to leave them outside but by mid - October in most years they start to poach the parkland badly. In the early days Simon had a pig stockman who was keen on showing and Roxton had some success all over the country but when he retired the showing stopped and now they only compete in the area herd competition. The herd is mainly home reared. Heifers surplus to requirements are sold if good enough to breed, a few are sold privately after hanging for 3 or 4 weeks and the remainder are sold as fats or stores. On average steers are fit to kill in 25 to 28 months.

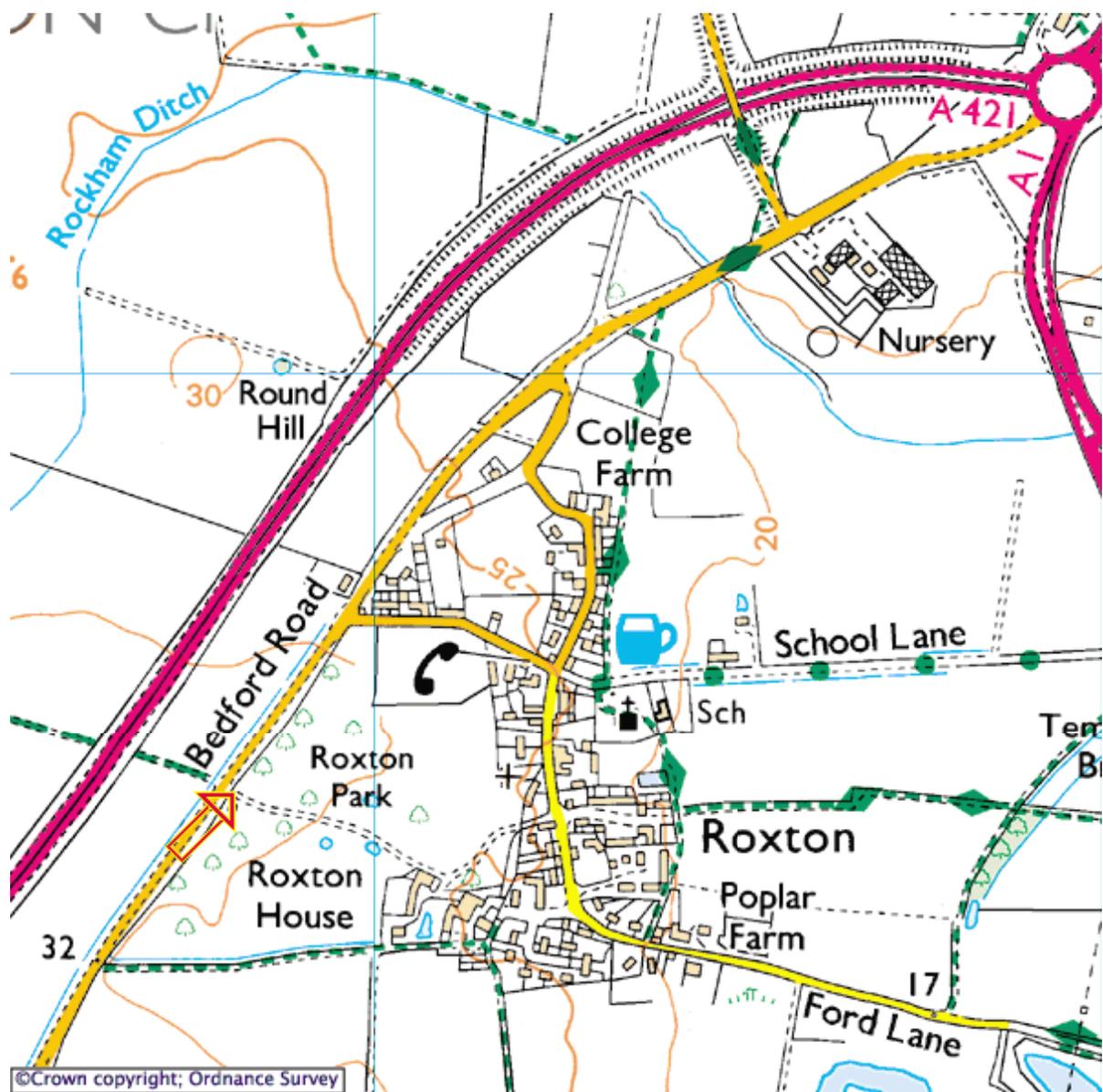
12.30 Lunch - Anchor Inn, Great Barford, MK44 3LF (map attached) A choice of roast beef, roast pork or roast lamb. **Again, please let me know what you'd like by 29 October.** One course will be £8.50, main course & dessert will be £12.25. Payable to the pub on the day. The pub is about 2 miles from Roxton House.



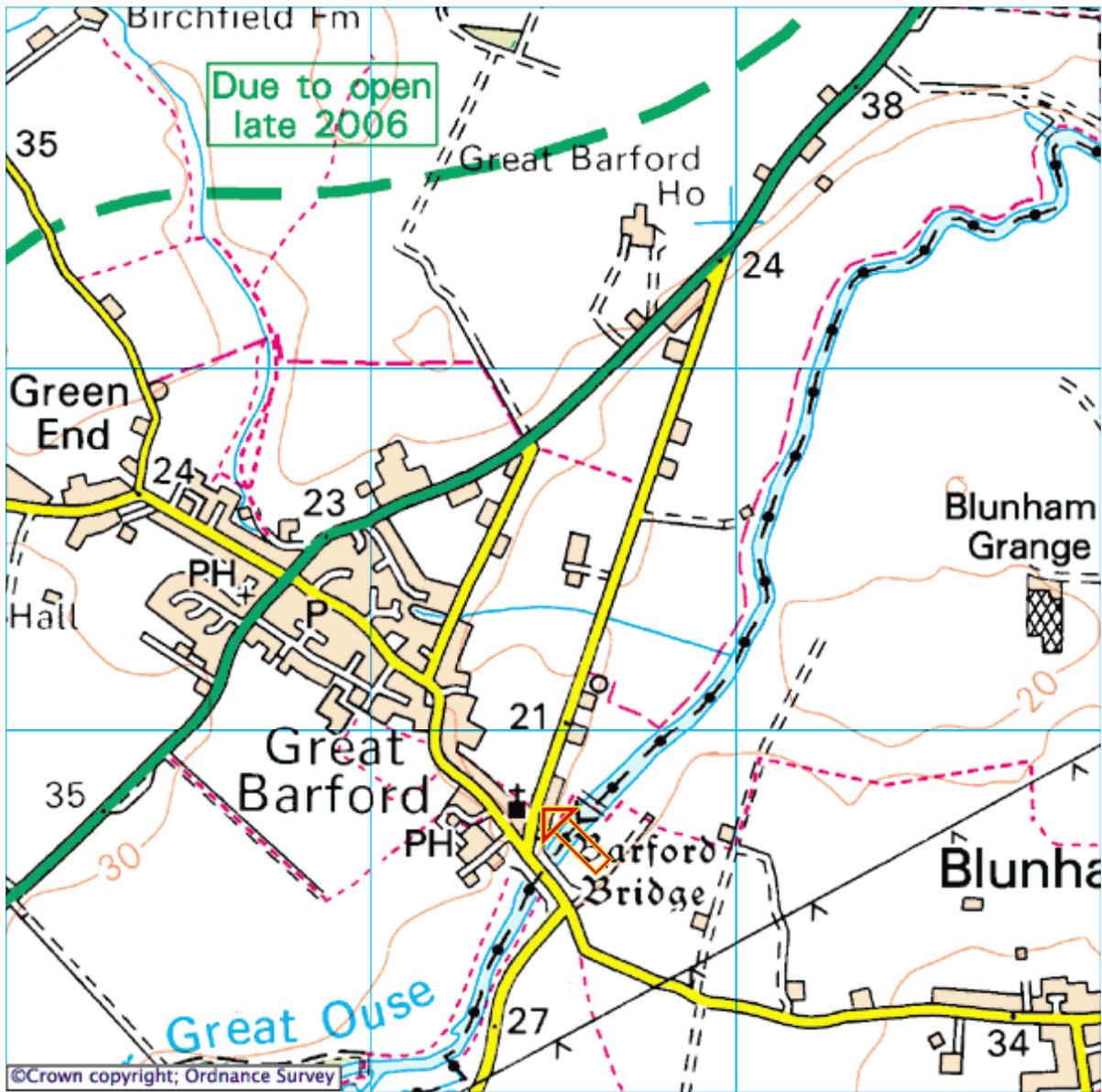
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