



**visits4u Case Studies:
The Calf Shed
Wiltshire, United Kingdom**

The Calf Shed

Wiltshire, UK

Title: Accessible Self-Catering Accommodation in the UK

The Calf Shed is a luxury single story barn conversion, set in the grounds of a family run organic farm in Wiltshire. The property has been renovated to offer modern highly specified self-catering accommodation with universal appeal to all.

The contemporary one bedroom property comprises of a spacious open plan living area and kitchen, a large accessible designer wetroom, stunning double bedroom with electric profiling bed and underfloor heating throughout.

Becoming inclusive:

1. Description

Owners Gillie and Richard, were inspired to provide accessible accommodation after their nephew sustained a spinal injury whilst playing rugby. The family spent time helping to care for him in a specialist Salisbury spinal unit. During their visits at both Salisbury hospital and Horatio's Garden (an accessible garden within the spinal injury centre), the couple spent time researching accessibility with the help of the staff, patients, their friends and families.



The Calf Shed - before the access works

2. Description of steps taken, changes and progress

Through their research, the couple uncovered that there was a huge gap in the market for luxury accessible holiday accommodation.

Key Research Findings

- Accessible accommodation was often under specified, leaving frustrated guests expecting full accessibility, but key elements often overlooked. (Raised shower trays being a top frustration.)
- Disabled guests don't want clinical, hospital style environments. They want a luxury and stylish environment to stay in.
- Accessible accommodation is perceived to be difficult to sell as it's a niche product not desirable to a mass audience.

A Beautiful Solution

Their resulting business objective was: to create fully accessible, luxury self-catering accommodation where guests could relax, recover and feel independent. It showcases inclusive design principles but not at the expense of beautiful design, thereby appealing to a much broader target audience.



The Calf Shed, after the access works

Wetroom Design Principles

- Large level access shower area allowing plenty of space for a wheelchair
- Shower riser rail with in-built support, avoiding the need for additional grab bars within the shower area.
- Split level, bi-folding shower screens allowing for carer washing.
- Removable shower seat and hinged chrome grab rails that can be covered with chrome plates when not need.
- Wall hung basin, set at a level suitable for wheelchairs users.
- Large, beautiful slip resistant tiles.
- Long projection toilet with palm operated flush plate.



The new wetrooms

Kitchen and Living Design Principles

- Porcelain wood effect tiles with underfloor heating avoids harsh cold sensations underfoot and an easy surface for wheelchairs.
- Low level built in wardrobes
- Low level kitchen cupboards
- Access space below the kitchen prep area and kitchen sink

3. Main stakeholders / actors

Accessible design specialist Motionspot in the UK were approached to design the large wet-room which would feature all the aids and supports required to make it fully accessible, at the same time as appealing to any guest who didn't need the additional support.



Results and Impact

Since its launch, the Calf Shed has seen a split percentage of both disabled and non-disabled guests staying.

Owners Gillie and Richard have seen a positive impact on accessible bookings by highlighting the accessible facilities and have had no detrimental comments, feedback or impact on future business as result. In fact they are looking to extend the accessibility of Calf Shed further by resurfacing the farm track to provide wheelchair access to the heart of the farm.

The Calf Self Feedback

'Feedback has been incredible, with many guests staying at the cottage without any need for accessibility, but leave us wanting to add accessible elements to their home!

The shower seat has been a complete hit, so many of our guests love the option of sitting in the shower if they want to, so much so that we leave it in there all the time now!'

Lessons learnt

- Accessible design can be beautiful and functional.
- Flexible design and innovative products can appeal to a wide audience.

This concept was shared between the business owner and the designer, who ensured the final project would be aesthetically appealing to all.

For a tourism business that relies on tourists for its income and sustainability, beautiful and accessible design of their premises increases their chances to attract tourists (disabled or non-disabled).

Further information

The Calf Shed

www.calfshed.net

Motionspot

www.motionspot.co.uk

Link to the case study on Montionspot's website

<https://www.motionspot.co.uk/idyllic-accessible-get-away-calf-shed-wiltshire/>



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