

July 29, 2018

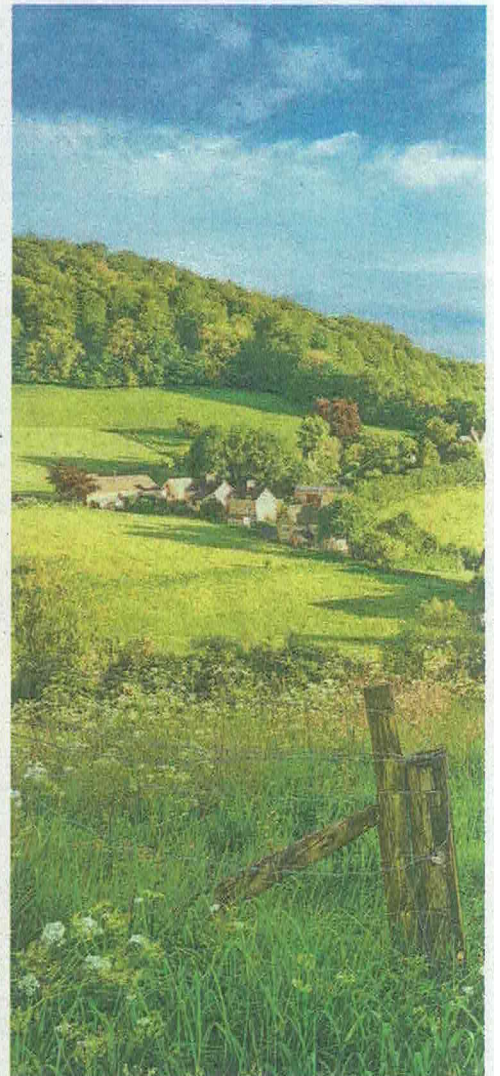
THE SUNDAY TIMES

France's favourite village **16** New rustic style rules **20** Kirstie Allsopp **22**

# Home

PROPERTY SUPPLEMENT OF THE YEAR

Travel  
INSIDE



COUNTRYSIDE SPECIAL

## Best places to live in the country

Make hay while the sun shines: our favourite rural retreats in the UK **8**

# Home Interiors

**T**he heatwave has set townie homeowners fantasising about their escape to the country, and wondering what their dream bucolic retreat would look like. By the water or in the woods? On a hill? How many acres is too many? It is such fun to plot a fantasy pantry for one's imaginary parsonage, and resolve to hunt down a hairy-armed maker to craft the kitchen dresser.

For those of us tied to urban jobs, who have checked out the price of ride-on mowers and value reliable broadband above all things, that country pad is likely to remain imaginary. So how fortunate we are that designers have been honing the key elements of the ideal rural bolthole and making them over into elegant designs that can create comfortable, calm, country-ish interiors for all.

Get the look with tables and benches by Another Country, or perhaps a traditional Windsor seat from Max Rollitt or a Devon chair by Chris Eckersley. The aesthetic is simple, but not puritan: wallpaper and patterned textiles are a must, as is colour. For refined rustic fabrics and papers, try Vanessa Arbuthnott or Rapture & Wright.

Interiors experts with the best eye for country-ish style include Ben Pentreath and Christopher Howe. The painted wood panelling and stone flagged floors in Pentreath's Welsh project, pictured right, are as refreshing as a month in the country. Have a look at his books on English decor for more ideas. And Howe's combination of antique finds with his own chairs, lights and textiles for a lucky client in Bray, Berkshire (see facing page), happens to be exactly what I've been seeking for my imaginary lake house.

# COUNTRY M



This Welsh farmhouse interior is by the architectural designer Ben Pentreath. The green paint is a discontinued Farrow & Ball colour, Saxon Green; the flooring at the front of the picture is in local Blue Pennant stone. [pentreath-hall.com](http://pentreath-hall.com)



Combining sustainable timber and quirky design, the Hewn stool (£180) and bench (£320) are by Sebastian Cox. The tops are in English ash and the legs are coppiced Kentish hazel, finished by hand with an axe. [sebastiancox.co.uk](http://sebastiancox.co.uk)



An elegant take on the botanical print, Fired Earth's Nara wallpaper is based on a Japanese fern motif. It comes in four colourways, including this cool grey and a vibrant green. Was £75 a roll, now £37.50; [fireearth.com](http://fireearth.com)

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