

FACT FILE

THE OWNERS

Louise Sayer, a housewife, and her husband Tom, a dentist, live here with their two children, Alex, nine, and Rebecca, seven

THE PROPERTY

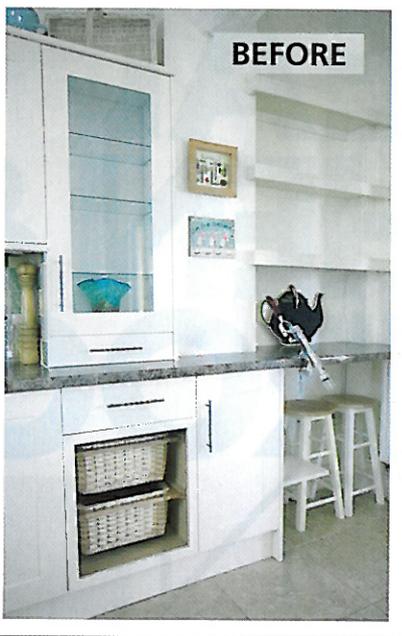
A four-bedroom former farmhouse dating from the 18th century

THE LOCATION

Stroud, Gloucestershire

WHAT THEY SPENT

The kitchen project cost around £37,700



Right The Sayers wanted a much larger family space and a kitchen style that was more in keeping with their traditional stone farmhouse

A modern Neff hob has been positioned next to a traditional Aga range cooker from The Aga Centre



PRACTICAL TIP

Underfloor heating is the perfect solution for an open-plan kitchen with few free walls to hang radiators. Make sure the heating pipes or elements don't run under the units or island, as they can be damaged by drying out, as can their contents

'We added character and doubled our space with an extension'

Louise and Tom Sayer have transformed a small galley layout into a spacious kitchen/breakfast room for their growing family

WORDS VICTORIA JENKINS PHOTOGRAPHS WILLIAM GODDARD

The tulipwood Shaker-style units and island were handmade and fitted by Woodchester Cabinet Makers – Louise painted them in oil-based Hemp by Sanderson



‘I didn’t want perfect symmetry, which is why the cabinets on each side of the Aga are different sizes’

When we first saw our 18th-century farmhouse in the Cotswolds, we loved its period character and fabulous views over the valley. Although we didn’t have children then, we knew it would be the perfect place to raise a family,’ says Louise. ‘The only drawback was the kitchen, which had been added to the house in the

1970s – it was small and dark, with heavy pine cupboards and a matching dresser. It wasn’t particularly well designed, with the hob on a peninsula that cut across the centre of the cramped space,’ she explains. That was 10 years ago. In the meantime, the couple replaced the old units in the existing space with an inexpensive modern kitchen and started a family.

Last year, Louise and Tom realised that with two growing children it was becoming

ever more cramped, so they decided to extend the space out into the garden.

‘We wanted somewhere informal and relaxing to eat as a family – admittedly, we had a dining room, but we only used it occasionally,’ says Louise.

The couple applied for planning permission for an extension. It was granted on condition that its structure was in keeping with the Cotswold stone exterior.

‘Our builder, Nigel Lewis, was brilliant as ▶

Right The double pitched roof and triple-folding glass doors and windows create a light and airy space. The walls are painted in White Tie by Farrow & Ball and limestone flooring from Precious Stone completes the neutral theme. The integrated oven is by Neff



Below An island unit with an oak worktop features an overhang so it can double up as a breakfast bar. The Aga's housing, made by Woodchester Cabinet Makers, contains small cabinets for Louise's spices



A farmhouse sink from Villeroy & Boch is teamed with Ionian taps by Perrin & Rowe. The stylish Nero Assoluto granite worktops are by the Bristol Marble Company

‘Our extension has a double pitched roof with a high ceiling, which makes the kitchen appear larger than it is’

he re-used all the stone from the rear end wall, which he knocked through to create an open-plan kitchen/breakfast room twice the size of the original space,’ says Louise.

‘The extension now has a double pitched roof with a high ceiling, which gives the illusion of a much larger room,’ she adds. ‘The builders also added oak rafters in the ceiling section to reflect the rest of the 18th-century structure.’

Four skylights and triple-folding glass doors leading out into the garden add to the light, airy feel, while the old uPVC window frames have been replaced with more traditional hardwood ones.

‘We took out an old radiator to free up more space and installed underfloor heating

beneath a limestone floor,’ says Louise. ‘We chose limestone, knowing it would be hardwearing and easy to keep clean.’

The kitchen has Shaker-style floor and wall units with antiqued worktops, which were handmade by Woodchester Cabinet Makers and painted with an oil-based paint specially designed for kitchens. The company also made the housing and false chimney breast for Louise’s Aga.

‘I love the Aga,’ says Louise. ‘We keep it on most of the time, apart from in summer. Someone told me they’re not easy to use, but I went on a one-day Aga course and found it all very straightforward.’

An oak-topped island in the centre of the kitchen houses a single integrated oven that

Louise cooks on when the Aga is switched off during the summer. There’s also a range of cabinets and an overhang that’s perfect for the children to use as a breakfast bar.

‘I didn’t want a perfectly symmetrical kitchen, so although the Aga is in the centre of one wall, the cabinets on each side are different sizes,’ says Louise. ‘We completed the traditional layout with a farmhouse sink sourced by the builders.’

Now that the couple have moved their furniture into the kitchen, there is plenty of space for them to add new pieces too.

‘The kitchen has made such a difference – we spend most of our time in here,’ says Louise. ‘The original dining room has also been transformed – into a playroom.’

COSTS

- Fixtures, fittings and appliances **£32,812**
- Walls and flooring **£2,096**
- Furniture and accessories **£2,783**

Fixtures, fittings and appliances:

Handmade Shaker-style **units** in painted tulipwood; **island**; **Aga housing**; hammered pewter cabinet **handles** by Dartington; handmade European Oak and Nero Assoluto antiqued granite **worktops** by the Bristol Marble Company, £24,675 in total, all supplied by Woodchester Cabinet Makers. Double farmhouse 80 **sink**, £198.75, Villeroy & Boch. Ionian **taps**, £209.06, Perrin & Rowe. N24K30 Domino **hob** by Neff, £350.75; B14M42 **oven** by Neff, £301.30; GVL207FLQA **fridge-freezer** by LG, £577.07, all supplied by builder Nigel Lewis. Triple-oven **Aga cooker**, £6,500, The Aga Centre

Floors and walls: Tuscany limestone flooring, £47 per m², Precious Stone. White Tie paint, £48 for five litres, Farrow & Ball

Furniture and accessories: Oak Ardennes dining table, £899; oak Ardennes chairs, £189 each, all John Lewis

TOTAL £37,691

How to... add character to a country kitchen

Choose neutral shades and classic pieces for an up-to-date scheme



THE FURNITURE

Go for traditional styles of furniture to complement wood cabinets and worktops. The Sayers' modern island unit was given a rustic feel with classic spindle-back bar stools with a polished finish. This **Coach House bar stool** measures (H)104x(W)38x(D)48cm and costs **£107** from **FeatureDECO**.

THE PAINT

Country kitchens often feature subtle tones, which blend perfectly with natural materials. Try **Farrow & Ball's Strong White Estate Eggshell Paint**, **£43.50** for 2.5 litres (above left), to brighten woodwork, and **Crown's Golden Cream Solo Matt Emulsion**, **£15.99** for 2.5 litres (above right), on walls to create a light feel.

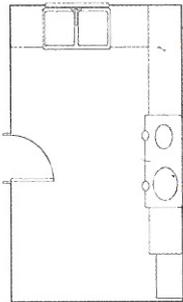


THE APPLIANCES

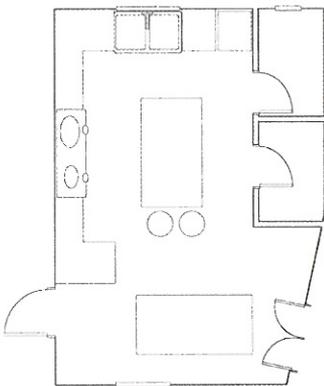
The Sayers chose a traditional Aga for their new kitchen, but there are more contemporary styles on the market – try **Redfyr's** range cookers featuring a ceramic hob and fan-assisted oven. This **Electric Radiant round lid cooker** measures (H)91x(W)100x(D)67cm and costs **£3,795** from **Rangecookers.co.uk**.

PLANS

BEFORE



AFTER



A new extension with a double pitched roof, skylights, folding doors and windows has opened up and added height to the old galley kitchen

THE FLOORING

An uneven, textured surface gives natural stone flooring its authentic country look. This classic **Cathedral limestone tile**, (W)40x(L)40cm, **£144.93** per m² from **Fired Earth**, will work well with other neutrals and cream shades.

THE FINISHING TOUCHES



Set of four wicker baskets, largest basket measures (H)13x(W)40x(D)30cm, **£25**, **Tesco Direct**



Newgate 50s electric wall clock, made from chrome and glass, (dia.)37cm, **£65**, **Heal's**



Kentucky vintage-style bread bin, (H)30x(W)34x(D)19cm, **£14.99**, **Argos**

COMPILED BY LUCY SMITH