

Pictures: REX FEATURES; TIM IRELAND/PA



FAMILY-SIZE: Aston Farm, former home of Captain Mark Phillips, could go to Zara after his divorce from his second wife, Sandy

# Zara moves into Daddy's royal manor

ZARA PHILLIPS'S surprise move back to her mother's Gatcombe estate has prompted speculation that she will take over her father's farmhouse.

Zara and her husband, rugby player Mike Tindall, sold their £1.2million Cheltenham townhouse last month to move back to Princess Anne's estate 20 miles away in Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire.

It has been suggested the couple may move into Aston Farm, next to Anne's home on the estate, where her former husband Mark Phillips had been living with his second wife Sandy before they announced their divorce last May.

An insider said: "Mike and Zara have outgrown the Bothy, where they used to live on the estate before they moved to Cheltenham. Aston Farm could make the perfect family home for them once Mark and Sandy finalise their divorce."

The couple announced their split after it emerged Captain Phillips had been having an affair with fellow equestrian Lauren Hough, who at 35 is almost 30 years his junior. Captain Phillips, 64, who coaches the American eventing team, is understood to have set up home in Florida with Miss Hough.

His 58-year-old wife, whom he married in 1997, had been living at Aston Farm with their daughter Stephanie, 15. It is understood she has no claim on the property because it is owned by Zara and her brother

Peter, 35, who also lives at Gatcombe Park with his wife Autumn and their daughters Savannah, two, and

By **Camilla Tominey** ROYAL EDITOR

18-month-old Isla. Princess Anne is understood to have put the property in a trust for her two children following her 1992 divorce from Captain Phillips to ensure it would remain in the family.

Last year a new all-weather gallops was installed next to the farm, where Zara trains and stables her horses.

The silver Olympic medallist and former world and European three-day eventing champion has already set her sights on competing at Rio in 2016.

Living at Gatcombe alongside her horses would help her to realise her ambition of winning Olympic gold.

The move to Cheltenham was always a temporary measure, partly necessitated by former England captain Mike, 34, being banned from driving for three years in 2009 after being caught over the limit.

They chose the Regency house because it was within walking distance of the town's nightlife and much closer to Tindall's rugby club Gloucester than Gatcombe.

Now he is back behind the wheel, the couple, who prefer the countryside to towns, are free to live in more rural surroundings.

Zara, 31, was in Australia earlier this month promoting the role of women in equestrian sport.

Asked about when she would start a family, Zara, who married Tindall in 2011, said: "Before we got married, everyone was saying, 'When are you going to get married?' Then as soon as we were, it was, 'When are you having kids?'"

"In the future we will see what happens, but we are not, sort of, putting a date down."

**COUNTRY FOLK:** Mike Tindall and Zara prefer rural living



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## Tindall backs a £200,000 winner

A RACEHORSE that was bought by Zara Phillips's husband against her advice has gone on to become a winner worth £200,000.

The Queen's granddaughter is having to eat her words after branding former England rugby star Mike Tindall an "idiot" for spending £12,000 on Monbeg Dude at auction.

Its value rocketed after winning the Welsh Grand National at Chepstow two weeks ago.

Tindall says the horse was an impulse buy and he had not even checked the auction brochure because he did not believe he would win. He said: "I like to bid at auctions without meaning to actually win things."

He added that he has no intention of selling Monbeg Dude, whose next race could be at the Cheltenham Gold Cup in March.



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