

Williamston Barns

Welcome to Williamston Barns

We would like to offer you a very warm welcome to Williamston Barns and hope that your stay is relaxed and comfortable. To help you during your stay our welcome folder is packed full of useful information about the Barns and the farm, together with important contact details that you may need whilst you are here. If you have any housekeeping queries during your stay please call either Viv on 07711 771297 or Laura on 07725 195310.

Wi-Fi

To help you get started please log onto to our Superfast Fibre Broadband (40Mb+) available through out the barns. Please use the following codes:

- Barn Network - **b4uwsvlfp7zwc4w**
 - Router upstairs close to TV in alcove
- Cowshed Network - **7rY9 6ckr Xg7E Ez3P**
 - Router behind TV in alcove

The Farm

Williamston is a working farm and we do hope that you will have an opportunity to see something of the operation of a hill farm whilst you are here. The sheep on Williamston are mainly Swaledale, a breed suited to the high fell sides of the valley, and Cheviots with some Bluefaced Leicester, a breed originating from Northumberland (despite its name) that is regularly crossed with Swaledales. You will easily be able to tell the difference: Swaledales have curled horns and black faces with white around their nose and eyes; Cheviots are broad and stocky animals; Bluefaced Leicesters are bigger than Swaledales and have distinctive Roman noses. You will see our farmer, Ben, around the farm as well as his father Paul. In addition to the sheep, we also keep a small brood of chickens.

Please make sure that you keep your dogs under control and shut gates after you (unless they are already open) whilst you are using the farm trails. We have 9 miles of dry stonewalls across the farm all of which are in constant need of repair and maintenance. Many of which are very old and so please do treat them with respect, and no climbing on or over the walls. As this is a working farm, please supervise young children when you are around the farm.

Shooting season

During the shooting season (starting on the Glorious Twelfth – the 12th August – and finishing on the 1st February) there are occasional shooting parties that will meet in the farmyard at the start and end of the shoot. If there is a shoot whilst you are staying with us, we will let you know before you arrive and provide you with more details but please rest assured that shooting takes place away from the Barns and will not impact your stay.

Fishing

During the fishing season you may see people fly-fishing on our stretch of the river. Please be respectful of people who are fishing along our stretch of the river and avoid disturbing the water around them. At Williamston the prime season for fishing Salmon and Sea Trout is from early September to 31st October. We have a mile of riverbank at Williamston and if you are interested in fishing during your stay, and have a licence (these can be purchased from the Post Office in Alston) please do let us know. A map of the Williamston Beat can be provided on request. Please do supervise children when you are spending time near the river.

Dogs

You are welcome to bring well-behaved dogs (no puppies) during your stay. Kennels and washing facilities are provided and we kindly ask that you keep these clean during your stay and on departure. Please make sure that your dog is well controlled near farm animals at all times, particularly during lambing (March to May) and keep your dogs on leads when walking near livestock. Wet dogs should be kept in the kennels until dry rather than in the Barns. Washing facilities are in the kennels to clean your dogs if needed. If a bitch happens to be in season or comes in to season during your stay we would request that they are kept outside at all times. Please clean up after your dogs around the Barns and in the farmyard. If you are leaving your dog(s) 'home alone' whilst you are out during the day, they should be left in the kennels rather than in the Barns. When inside the Barns, dogs should stay on the floor in living areas, and are not allowed in bedrooms. Please note that an excess charge for cleaning in bedrooms or the kennel will be made after your stay if necessary. Finally, be aware that the kennels serve both the Barn and Cowshed and therefore your dogs may be 'sharing' with other pets.

Garden and grounds

For guests staying in the Barn, access into the garden is from the dining room. Outdoor seating as well as a firepit (with logs available) and a charcoal BBQ, is available for your use.

For guests staying in the Cowshed, access onto the Cobbled Yard is available from the main entrance, with outdoor seating and a charcoal BBQ.

(Charcoal is available to buy from the Spar in Alston.)

Heating

The Barn and Cowshed have under floor heating throughout and are supplied with constant hot water from our Biomass boiler. In the unlikely event that you find that the water temperature has dipped, please wait a while and it will return to normal. Wall mounted thermostats are positioned in each room with heating timed to come on at various points during the day – **please see separate instructions.**

You may also wish to use the log burning stoves in the Barns. You are provided with an initial supply of logs from the farm, with more available for a small charge (£10 large basket/£5 small basket). If you need additional wood, please do let us know and we will provide you with more as required. If using the log burners, please use these safely and make sure that all the ash remains in the burner. The Stovax stoves are opened with a removable door handle that attaches to the bottom right hand spindle. Move the handle to the left to open and do not use bare hands. Handles along with matches are located as follows: Cowshed in the top drawer of coffee table next to sofa; Barn in the stone shelf to the right of the TV. Do not overfill the log burning stoves as this can cause over-firing which will damage the stove, and make sure that stoves are secure and not newly lit when you are leaving the property. Opening vents when lighting the stoves will make sure fires are lit more effectively, but should be closed when fires have become established – slide to the left.

Water and Bathroom supplies

We are very fortunate to be able to enjoy our own spring water straight from our own spring. Please note that our water is specially filtered but can occasionally discolour after heavy rain or snow. There is nothing wrong with the water if this happens and it is still safe to use.

We do ask that any sanitary products and cotton wool are not flushed down the WC's but disposed of separately. All bathrooms are supplied with Cowshed bathroom products, which we hope you enjoy. If you wish to take any of the products with you when you leave, please leave a note and money to cover the cost of the item(s). (A price list is provided.)

Washing and drying facilities

Both the Barn and Cowshed have a washing machine and tumble dryer. In the Barn, these are located in the housekeeping cupboard on the right of the entrance porch. In the Cowshed these are located in housekeeping cupboard under the stairs. Cleaning products and cloths are also kept here.

Security

If you are locking up when heading out during the day, doors can be locked by holding the handle up whilst turning the key anticlockwise. You may wish to use the key safes for safe storage of your keys whilst you are away.

Windows and Blinds

Many of the doors and windows in the barns have blackout blinds. To close the window or door blinds, gently pull on the drawstring at the top right of each blind to raise or lower. To close or open the roof light blinds in the upstairs bedrooms, please use the poles provided (stored in each room). Simply hook the "lip" of the blind into the slot in the end of the pole to move blind.

Recycling & Waste Bins

Bins for general waste can be found next to the sinks in each kitchen. Recycling should be disposed of separately, and can be collected in the recycling bins stored above the tumble driers.

Please note that glass should be recycled separately - [Northumberland County Council](#) are unable to deal with glass mixed with other recyclable materials currently. A bottle bank is available as you leave the farm - in the layby over the bridge. Please recycle your bottles before you check out after your stay.

Large wheelie bins for emptying general waste and recycling can be found on the track opposite the entrance to the large cladded barns. The black wheelie bin is for recycling (not glass) and the green wheelie bin is for non-recycling (yes we know the colours are wrong but that is down to NCC!).

Kitchen

Both kitchens are well equipped and include Nespresso coffee machines. You will find instructions on how to use the Rangemaster cooker in one of the kitchen drawers.

Groceries

For local grocery shopping, Alston has a Spar and a Co-op as well as other local food shops. The Nook farm shop and café is 2 miles south from Williamston Barns on the way to Alston on the right hand side.

If you are wanting to stock up en-route to the farm and are coming via the M6, we recommend Cranston's Cumbrian Food Hall, situated 2 minutes from junction 40, with locally farmed meat, fishmonger, greengrocer and delicatessen, alongside a very well stocked selection of wines and local beers.

Housekeeping

If you have any comments on housekeeping arrangements please keep us informed by writing in the housekeeping book, kept in the utility cupboard in each property.

Damage and breakages

We understand that accidents do happen. Please leave a note and a contribution towards replacement in order that we can replace the item on your behalf. In the unlikely event of major damage to items of furniture, furnishings or bed linen, the cost of repair or replacement will be taken from your good housekeeping deposit. Please inform us, or our agents Crabtree & Crabtree, as soon as possible of any accidental damage to the furnishings or property.

Furniture and work surfaces

We kindly ask that you use the coasters and tablemats provided to avoid water and heat damage to furniture and deal promptly with any spillages on the furniture, rugs, flooring or kitchen work surfaces. Do not hang or drape wet/damp towels or clothing on the furniture. Trivets provided must be used on the kitchen work surfaces to avoid damage from hot pans/cookware.

Please note that the Barn and Cowshed are both non-smoking properties, and you are requested to smoke outside. If you light the candles that are in the hurricane lamps, please do not leave these unattended.

Emergency information

In the event of a fire, please call 999 and ask for the Fire Service (Fire and Rescue Services are based in both Alston and Haltwhistle). All members of your party should leave the property and wait by the big wooden clad shed whilst awaiting the Fire Service.

Fire extinguishers and fire blankets are located under the sinks in each kitchen. An additional fire extinguisher is located in the Cowshed upstairs bedroom wardrobe. A First Aid kit is provided in each Housekeeping cupboard.

Electric fuse boxes are located as follows: in the Barn this is located in the downstairs WC; in the Cowshed this is located in the boot room area of the entrance hall. In the event of a power cut, torches are kept in the Housekeeping cupboards of each property.

Contact numbers for our local hospital, doctor's surgery, chemist and vets are listed on the following page.

Finally if you have any housekeeping queries during your stay please call either Viv on 07711 771297 or Laura on 07725 195310.

The following facilities are all available in Alston, located 5 miles South of Slaggyford:

Petrol - petrol is available at the Spar convenience store. Open from 7am to 11pm every day.

ATM - located outside the Spar convenience store.

Garage - Henderson's Garage for car repairs in Alston (opposite the Spar)
Tel: 01434 381204.

Taxi services - Sprouls Taxis in Haltwhistle.
Tel: 07712 321064 / 01434 321064

Library and tourist information - the library and tourist information centre are located in Alston Town Hall on Front Street.
Tel: 01434 382244.

Alston Wholefoods - stocking a wide variety of local cheeses and freshly baked bread.
Tel: 01434 381588

Chemist - there is a chemist open 6 days a week (early closing Wednesday).
Tel: 01434 381259.

Hospital - Alston has a cottage hospital and provides non-emergency care.
Tel: 01434 382218.

Doctors Surgery - This is adjacent to the hospital in Alston.
Tel: 01434 381792.

Vets - The Old Stone Vets is open Monday to Friday (8.30-6.30pm) and Saturday mornings. An out of hour's facility is provided if required.
Tel: 01434 381792