

# Williamston Barns

## A Brief History

Williamston dates back to 1215 when it was known as Williams Town. Around this time the land was divided into four farms, each with its own farmstead dwelling: Stokeld Green, Williams Town, Shawhead and Blackley. All these original dwellings are intact and can still be seen today around the farm, although Stokeld Green is just a ruin.

Over time the four farms became two and in 1712 they joined into one estate, when John Gill who owned Blackley and Shawhead bought the two other farms, and it became known as Williamston. The farm has stayed in the same family ever since and was passed on to the 11<sup>th</sup> generation of Gill's in 1988.

Since then Neville and Viv Gill have continued to look after the land and all the buildings here at Williamston. Until recently the Barn and Cowshed - built in 1836 - were used for wintering cattle and were in much need of repair. Following a review of the farm and a decision to move away from cattle farming we decided to restore these historic building.

Work on the conversion of the Barn and Cowshed started in May 2014 and we were delighted to open just over a year later, in July 2015.

We hope that you enjoy your stay.

Neville & Viv Gill