

THE OLD FORGE HODGE CLOSE



USEFUL INFORMATION

Welcome to The Old Forge, Hodge Close. We hope you get as much pleasure staying here as we do. We purchased the cottage in 2011.

It is a great base for exploring The Lake District on foot or bike or for doing “not a lot” and enjoying the views. There is no street lighting or other light pollution whatsoever so The Old Forge is perfect for observing the night sky and the milky way. You are of course also close to the ‘bright lights’ and all the facilities in Ambleside.

We hope the following information will be helpful.



Parking at The Old Forge

There is parking for up to three cars at the Old Forge. Two cars can be parked round the corner in front of the derelict barn to the left of the cottage. One small car can be parked immediately to the left of the front gate adjacent to the rocky outcrop. For visiting friends there is ample parking near the Hodge Close Quarry approximately 300 metres up from the cottage. Please don't obstruct gates or tracks. **If snow is forecast we would recommend leaving your car in the quarry car park or in the region of the cottages at Holme Ground. It would be courtesy to ask the only permanent residents Mr and Mrs Sharrod (closest end cottage) if this was OK.**

Parking is never easy in Ambleside and Coniston however there is disc parking in Ambleside (parking discs are available free from most shops, cafes etc), free for 1 hour, if you are lucky enough to get a roadside parking space. You will have to pay and display in the public car parks.



Telephone and Internet – A Mobile phone signal is almost nonexistent at The Old Forge. Many will find this a wonderful experience however some may find it an inconvenience

A mobile signal can sometimes be picked up opposite the cottage, in the conservatory or summerhouse area. Otherwise the signal usually returns three quarters of the way down the single track road you came in on. Nearest public telephone is Coniston. The land line in the cottage Tel 015394 37532 will accept incoming calls and will allow local outgoing calls only ie calls prefixed with 015394 and Emergency 999 calls. You can for instance book local restaurants

During thunderstorms please unplug the telephone and router. The long stretch of overhead wire acts as a lightening conductor and a strike will blow the phone and router.

Wireless internet is available. The router is situated in the sitting room and the encryption key is :



Available in the cottage

- NHS Medical and Dental
- 1 NHS General Practice nearest is Coniston (3.2 miles):
Coniston Medical Practice, Wraysdale House, Coniston, LA21 8ED
Mon – Friday 0800 – 1830hr
Tel 015394 41205 (Tel 41205 from the cottage)
 - 2 NHS Direct (telephone advice) 0845 4647 (note this number is not available from the land line in the cottage. See comment on mobile reception above)
 - 3 Minor Injuries Unit (14 miles)
Kendal NHS Treatment Centre (14 miles) at Westmorland General Hospital, Burton Road, Kendal LA9 7RG
Tel 015397 43000 (note this number is not available from the land line in the cottage. See comment on mobile reception above)
 - 4 Accident and Emergency (20 miles),
Furness General Hospital Dalton Lane, Barrow in Furness, LA14 4LF
Tel 01229 870870 (note this number is not available from the land line in the cottage. See comment on mobile reception above)
 - 5 NHS Dentist (13 miles)
The nearest Dentist accepting NHS patients is:
Dental Angel Practice, 61 Highgate Kendal LA9 6ED
Tel 01539 722772 (note this number is not available from the land line in the cottage. See comment on mobile reception above)



Heating

The central heating boiler (LPG) is on the wall in the entrance porch next to the kitchen. The emergency off valve is situated on the back wall of the entrance porch – outside turn right out of the door. The house heats up reasonably quickly and the timer has been set to come on around lunch time on the day of your arrival so it should be warm. All of the radiators have a thermostat. There is a thermostat in the hall and the buttons on it can be used to turn from Automatic (Auto) to Manual and to raise or lower

the temperature. The hot water is on a Combi boiler which heats the water when the hot taps are turned on.

The log burner stove in the sitting room will heat the room up quite quickly. With a little practice you should have no trouble getting it lit and controlling the burn. There is a laminated card near the stove with a few tips for getting it going. We would recommend using smokeless fuel ('ovals') (see Logs below) to get a base of hot embers and then use the logs

Note the door handle on the front of the stove can get very hot. Always use the glove provided to open the door when the stove is lit.

Please use the fire guard provided when children are around

Bags of logs are in the store next to the outside loo at £4 each (right out of the kitchen door just passed the outside loo at the side of the cottage). There is an honesty box next to the stove (see below)



Fuses

The fuse box is located in the cupboard adjacent to the entrance porch in the kitchen.



Water

The cottage has a private water supply from the surrounding fells which is naturally filtered through peat and sphagnum moss. There is a particle filter and a UV antibacterial trap on the inlet pipe to the cottage. Despite this, the water may have a slight brown 'tinge' at times, particularly after heavy rain.

We would also recommend boiling the water for babies and young children to drink.

The yellow water stop cock is situated in the outside toilet.



Septic Tank

The waste from the kitchen and WC drains into a septic tank where it is broken down biologically by micro organisms. Only 'biological material' can be broken down – ie kitchen waste water, faeces urine and toilet paper. Other items should be put in one of the small plastic bags which are in the bathroom and placed in the bin. Please use septic tank friendly washing up liquid, dishwasher tabs and washing powder. Harsh chemicals such as bleach and Domestos put down the toilet and drains will kill the micro organisms in the septic tank



Keys including conservatory doors and outhouse.

One set of keys for the kitchen door and conservatory door you collected from the digilock key safe to the right of the front door. A second set of keys is hung on a hook under the fuse box cupboard - (mortise key and blue Yale for the kitchen stable door and yellow for the conservatory). Please remember to leave them there when you leave.

It is very easy to lock yourself out with the yale lock (we have done it ourselves!) on the kitchen stable door. We would recommend returning the keys to the digilock and using the second set for 'everyday'

The key for the outhouse/shed and the summer house should also be hanging on one of the hooks under the fuse cupboard. Please do not take these away with you.

The keys for the window locks are hanging on a small hook to the right of each window



Boots and jackets

We would appreciate you removing your shoes & boots and leaving them in the boot rack in the entrance porch and would ask if you would also hang wet coats/waterproofs etc out there as well.



Manuals

The manuals for the appliances and equipment in the cottage are in a box file in the right hand drawer in the hall table.

The combined washing machine/tumble drier in the kitchen has instructions on the inside of the door.

Instructions for the dishwasher are on the inside of the left hand under sink cupboard door



Walks and biking

There are some great walks and bike routes from the door, Wetherlam and Swirl Howe, Tarn Hows and Holme Fell- to name but a few.

In fact the Local Cycle Route 37 (to Coniston and Ambleside) passes the front door.

The large wall mounted map in the hall is centred on The Old Forge and is useful for route planning

The maps and walking books are for you to use but please remember to leave them behind when you go home. The boxed collection of Wainwrights Guides are not weather protected. They're for indoor planning use, please don't take them walking.

The Tourist Information office is located in Coniston tel 015394 41533 and there's one in Ambleside just by the Market Cross tel 015394 32582

Lake District Tourist office - Cumbria Tourism Tel: 01539 822222. This cannot be dialed from the cottage land line.

Web: www.golakes.co.uk

Email: info@golakes.co.uk

For the "fool hardy" (ie rock climbers) there are a number of bolted rock routes in the quarries – one HVS up to E6 (whatever that means!)

See - <http://www.discoverthelakes.co.uk/parrock-quarry-i504.html>

and - <http://www.ukclimbing.com/logbook/crag.php?id=357>

Also SCUBA diving in Hodge Close Quarry – definitely not for the novice!

See - <http://www.ukdivers.net/sites/hodge.htm>



Banks and Cash Machines – The nearest Bank is Barclays at Coniston – 3.2 miles (opposite the Black Bull pub) but it only opens Wednesday and Friday 0930 – 1530. This bank does not have a cash machine.

The nearest cash machine (with charge for use) is at Hills Garage in Coniston (see Fuel section).

There is a free cash machine at Coniston Post Office (Opening hours 0900 – 1730hrs Monday to Friday and 0900 – 1200hrs Saturday)

Ambleside has a branches of Barclays with cash machine. There's also a couple of ATM's next to the Tesco Express in the middle of Ambleside



Refuse and recycling

Refuse collection is at the moment (March 2015) undergoing change. There should be recycling boxes at The Old Forge. The refuse collection day will be placed on the notice board when we know. The nearest recycling points are:

- 1 Coniston LA21 8EW for Glass, Metals, Paper, Textiles and Plastic. – through Coniston, past the Black Bull Pub, over the bridge and then first left – Lake Road.
- 2 Ambleside LA22 0HQ Metals, Textiles, Paper, Glass and Cardboard
Back towards Ambleside over narrow bridge near Rothay Manor Hotel and take first left to Rothay Road Industrial Estate



Composting

Food waste including veg, tea bags, peelings etc (see the guide in the back of this info folder) can be put in the compost pot in the kitchen and when this is full it should be emptied into the large black compost bin next to the outhouse bike shed up the steps near the kitchen door.



Local Transport – Is not very good!

Buses run from Coniston via Hawkshead to Ambleside. Route 505 – not very often

See - <http://www.conistonweb.co.uk/transport.html>

505 The Coniston Rambler—Ambleside to Coniston via Hawkshead												
Monday to Saturday - 31 October 2005 to 1 April 2006												
	SCH	NS	SO	NS	SO	NS	SCH					
Ambleside Kelsick Rd	0710	0730	0830	0905	1030	1205	1330	1435	1454	1531	1605	1720
Skelwith Fold Road End	0717	0737	0837	0912	1037	1212	1337	1442	1501	1538	1612	1727
Hawkshead Village	0730	0750	0850	0925	1050	1225	1350	1455	1514	1551	1625	1740
Hawkshead Hill	0735	---	0855	0930	1055	1230	1355	1500	1519	---	1630	1745
Monk Coniston	0741	---	0901	0936	1101	1236	1401	1506	1525	---	1636	1751
Coniston	0745	---	0905	0940	1105	1240	1405	1510	1529	---	1640	1755
Far Sawrey	---	0755	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1557	---
	SCH	NS	SO	NS	SO	NS	SCH					
Far Sawrey	---	0758	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1557	---
Coniston	0745	---	0910	0940	1110	1245	1410	1512	1535	---	1640	1755
Monk Coniston	0749	---	0914	0946	1114	1249	1414	1518	1539	---	1644	1759
Hawkshead Hill	0755	---	0920	0952	1120	1255	1420	1524	1545	---	1650	1805
Hawkshead Village	0800	0810	0925	0957	1125	1300	1425	1529	1550	1604	1655	1810
Skelwith Fold Road End	0813	0823	0938	1010	1138	1313	1438	1542	1603	1617	1708	1823
Ambleside Kelsick Rd	0820	0830	0945	1017	1145	1320	1445	1549	1610	1624	1715	1830
SCH - School Days Only NS - Not Saturdays SO - Saturdays Only												
Sundays & Public Holidays - 30 October 2005 to 26 March 2006												
Kendal Bus Station	1000	---	---	---								
Windermere Rail Station	1020	1220	---	1625								
Bowness	1025	1225	---	1630								
Brockhole National Park Centre	1032	1232	---	1637								
Ambleside Kelsick Rd	1040	1240	1440	1645								
Skelwith Fold Road End	1047	1247	1447	1652								
Hawkshead Village	1100	1300	1500	1705								
Hawkshead Hill	1105	1305	1505	1710								
Monk Coniston	1111	1311	1511	1716								
Coniston	1115	1315	1515	1720								
					Coniston	1120	1320	1520	1725			
					Monk Coniston	1124	1324	1524	1729			
					Hawkshead Hill	1130	1330	1530	1735			
					Hawkshead Village	1135	1335	1535	1740			
					Skelwith Fold Road End	1148	1348	1548	1753			
					Ambleside Kelsick Rd	1155	1355	1555	1800			
					Brockhole National Park Centre	1203	---	1603	1808			
					Bowness	1210	---	1610	1815			
					Windermere Rail Station	1215	---	1615	1820			
					Kendal Sandes Avenue	---	---	---	1835			

X12 - Ulverston - Coniston operated by D&H Travel												
Monday to Saturday												
X35 departs Kendal	0825x	1025c	1125x	1325c	1525x	1625x						
Ulverston, Victoria Road	0800	0950	1130	1300	1430	1620	1650	1740				
Greenodd	0807	0957	1137	1307	1437	1627	1655	1747				
Tonver, Church House Inn	0829	1019	1159	1329	1459	1649	1715	1809				
Coniston, opp Crown Hotel	0837	1027	1207	1337	1507	1657	1723	1817				
Coniston, opp Crown Hotel	0750	0800	0840	1030	1210	1340	1530*	1700	1820			
Tonver, Church House Inn	0757	0807	0847	1037	1217	1347	1542	1707	1827			
Greenodd	0815	0828	0910	1100	1240	1410	1605	1730	1850			
Ulverston, Victoria Road	0820	0840	0920	1110	1250	1420	1615	1740	1900			
X35 arrives Kendal	---	---	1020c	1220c	1420x	1520c	1730x	1855x	2020x			

Key:
 Sch - Schooldays only
 c - Service X35 change at Ulverston, Victoria Rd
 X - Service X35 change at Ulverston, Victoria Rd, with approx 20-40 mins wait
 * Buses via John Ruskin School on schooldays. Departs 5 mins later on Sat and non-schooldays.
 512/513 - Operated by Stagecoach in Cumbria. D&H Travel tickets are not valid on this service.

Sorry no Sunday Service X12

Note despite the date on this timetable it was copied from the most recent web information in February 2015!

Buses to and through Coniston:

Coniston Rambler 505 Ambleside - Hawkshead - Coniston.

512 Coniston - Spark Bridge - Ulverston.

Cross Lakes Shuttle 525 Bowness - Ferry House - Hawkshead - Grizedale - Coniston - seasonal.

X12 Coniston - Ulverston.



TV and Bluray disc player

Basic TV and satellite box operating instructions are next to the remotes on the TV table. There is a selection of DVD's in the cupboards in the TV table.



Taxis

Tour n Travel - Tel: 015394 41796

Coniston Taxis - Tel: 07977 148730 (note this number is not available from the land line in the cottage.
See comment on mobile reception above)



Weather

Call weatherline on 0870 0550575 (number not available from cottage land line) for an up to date Lake District weather forecast.

If it is your first time in the Lake District be prepared for rain and lots of it.



Trips and Excursions

You can enjoy a trip down Lake Windermere – steamers and launches sail daily throughout the year between Ambleside at Waterhead, Bowness & Lakeside. Seasonal connections for Brockhole, the Steam Railway, Fell Foot & Ferry House, for further information you can ring 015395 31188 (see telephone section above)

There are also cruising experiences on Coniston Water, Ullswater & Derwent Water.
For further information we advise you to call The Lake District Visitor Centre
015394 46601 (can call 46601 from cottage land line)



Fuel

The nearest Petrol Stations are in Coniston. Both of these Petrol Stations sell logs and bags of kindling

1 Bp Oil Uk Ltd

Yewdale Road, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8DX
Tel 015394 416 89

2 Hills Garage Coniston

Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8EN Tel 015394 416 89

Note there is a cash machine

*here but there is a charge to
withdraw*



Dogs

There are many superb walks from the cottage for you and your dog but near some of the old quarry workings extra care is needed.

Please bag all of your dogs poo's and put the bags in the bin for collection (see refuse). Please don't not allow dogs on the furniture and we would prefer that they were kept in the kitchen. Also its common sense not to leave your dog locked in while you go out. Recently this has resulted in damage to the cottage and significant cost to the guest.



Logs

Bags of logs are in a small store next to the outside loo. The logs are £4 a bag. There is a small honesty box next to the stove. Please retain the net bags so that they can be recycled.

Kindling, logs and coal are also available from Hills Garage Coniston and the BP Garage in Coniston (3.2 miles) – see above.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would leave some kindling, paper/firelighter and a bit of coal 'ovals' for the next guest. A small 'starter pack' – thanks.



Groceries and Shopping

Tesco on line deliver to The Old Forge – the selection available at the local store is perhaps not as extensive as the larger stores but is not bad.

<http://www.tesco.com/>

There is a good greengrocers and good local butcher in Coniston. Coniston also has a Post Office (see above Banks and Cash).

In Ambleside there is a much greater choice of food shops etc. There are some interesting galleries and of course many outdoor walking/climbing gear shops. Wednesday is market day in Ambleside – you will find this on Kelsick Road opposite the library.



Restaurants and cafes (most give good gluten free options)

There are many good places to eat out in Ambleside. In the folder is a list of restaurants and cafes in Ambleside and Grasmere. We enjoy Apple Pie (good hearty lunches and breakfasts), Sheila's Cottage, Lucy's 4 and Lucy's on a plate (lovely cakes incl gluten free) and Zeffirellis (Vegetarian) where you can purchase a two course meal and reserve cinema tickets at the four screen independent cinema. Apple Pie and Lucy's on a plate are OK with dogs as are most of the pubs. There is some 'fine dining' at The Old Stamp House, Zeffirellis and Lake Road Kitchen.

The Drunken Duck near Hawkshead is excellent – dog friendly and gluten free options.

The Three Shires pub also does excellent food and is well worth the 20 minute walk to work up your appetite. The owner (Ian) and his wife (Jane) are very pleasant and helpful.

The Black Bull in Coniston is comfortable with a log fire. Food is very good and the Coniston Micro Brewery is just round the corner. Bluebird Bitter always gets a thumbs up from me



Breakages

We understand that accidents and breakages can occasionally happen. Cups, glasses, crockery etc can be easily replaced. For significant breakages please contact me on: 07973 116796 or email: janlowe_otley@hotmail.com.



Emergencies

If you have a **non medical emergency** then please ring or email me.



Suggestions

At the back of this folder is a suggestions page. Please add any thoughts or ideas you may have that would help us to improve guests' enjoyment or any equipment you feel the cottage needs. Do make an entry in the visitors' book before you leave and if you wish to keep in touch leave an email address.



On departure please replace keys in the kitchen and in the digilock safe under the window ledge to the right of the kitchen door. Jiggle the combination numbers when you've closed the door.

After all that, we do hope you enjoy your stay and the peace and quiet of The Old Forge

Jan and Betty Lowe