

Darg Wood Shepherds Hut

Hexhamshire, Northumberland, NE47 0HL



Hut Manual and Guide Book

Welcome to the Shire!

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Airbnb Link: <https://airbnb.com/h/darg-wood-shepherd-hut-northumberland>

Instagram: [@dargwoodhut](https://www.instagram.com/dargwoodhut)

Safety Info

First Aid Kit:

Fire blanket and extinguisher:

Nearest Defibrillator:

Under Sink

Next to Stove

Whitley Chapel Village Hall, next to main entrance

Welcome to Darg Wood

Darg Wood is located in the beautiful Northumberland countryside with views of the surrounding North Pennine fells and Slaley forest. We are a short distance from the beautiful towns of Hexham and Corbridge and the picturesque medieval village of Blanchland.



About Us

We (Mark and Beth Stobo) live at High Raw Green Cottage with our son and daughter (William and Isabel), our dog (Luther), horses (Ozzy and Harry), and an ever growing mix of pigs, ducks chickens and peafowl as well as all the wild animals and birds who make their home here.

What To bring

- Wellies or waterproof boots are essential for exploring the local area. We'd always suggest wellies and they are easier for slipping on and off as you move in and out of the hut.
- A torch for getting around the site in the dark
- Binoculars for watching the wildlife and taking in the views and the dark skies

Directions

Darg Wood Hut is in Darg Wood, which is part of our property at High Raw Green Cottage, Steel, Hexham, NE47 0HL.

We are located 1 mile south of Whitley Chapel, accessible from the main road via a shared private driveway.

The google map PIN is: <https://goo.gl/maps/eTyZeRRje5RpMupr9>

The images below show the view from the road



Our
House

View from the road down the access drive



Please drive very slowly on the shared drive (walking pace)

Neighbours, walkers, animals, and children all use the driveway. Please keep vehicles off the grass and report any accidental damage to us. Take care as some potholes have recently appeared.

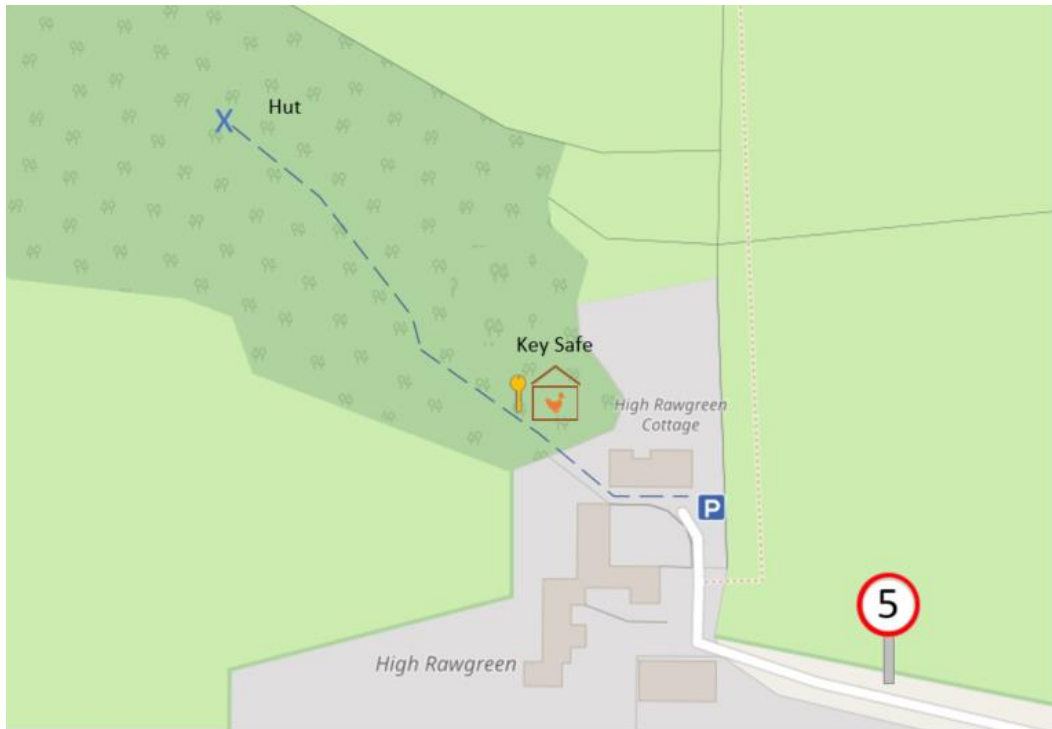
Parking

There is dedicated parking for guests of the hut on the gravel alongside a former pigsty adjacent to our house. Please reverse park alongside the pigsty as shown below.



Photo of guest parking area

A wheelbarrow is provided next to the parking space for your luggage – help yourself and make your way up to the hut. It's about 150 yards and can be muddy when wet so you might want to get into your wellies in the wetter months.



Access route to hut (on foot only)

Check-In Information

We provide self-check-in via a key safe on site

Check-in is from 3 pm up until 9 pm on the day of your arrival.



There is a key box attached to the stable on the way to the hut. Your key will be in the safe and we will send you the key code before arrival.

Checkout Time & Procedure

Checkout is by 10 am on the day of departure.

Please ensure the following:

- Any used bedding and towels should be placed in a bedding bag provided (bags are under the bed)
- Any dishes or cutlery used should be clean and left on the shelves as they were found.
- Any rubbish should be put in the bins next to the stable before leaving (please place recycling (**no glass**) in the green bin, compost in the small steel bin and general rubbish in the black bin). Raw vegetable scraps or compostable waste only in the compost bin please. Nothing cooked.
- Please leave the hut as tidy as possible and let us know about any breakages.

The site

Our aim is to let Darg Wood be a small patch of wilderness and to make space for as much wildlife as possible. As well as majestic oaks and beautiful wildflowers, we love and value the weeds, broken trees, dead wood and rough scrub which are essential to the local wildlife. Management is very light touch and nothing natural is tidied up. This is a recent change from the previous use for grazing animals, and we are already surprised by just how much more wildlife we are seeing. Find a nice spot and sit quietly – especially at dawn and dusk – and let us know what you spot.



Our animals

You are welcome to wander anywhere within the woods and we don't mind if you visit our pigs in the nearby paddock. **Please don't feed any of our animals, including chickens and ducks.** It might seem mean, but the horses and pigs have particular dietary requirements and we do not want the birds to be encouraged to pester guests at the hut.

Eggs

Help yourself to fresh, free-range eggs. We will put them in the post-box near the firewood store.

Pigs

Tamworth pigs are an old breed, renowned for their hardiness, they have long legs and snouts, narrow backs, long bristles and a surprising ability to sprint for short distances as fast as a horse - very much like the wild boar.

This year (2024) we have taken on Tamworth/Large Black crosses. They are super friendly and calm with a mix of Tamworth and Large black characteristics. They change from Tamworth pointy ears to Large Black floppy ears depending on their mood.



We take on pigs as weaners at around 8 weeks old and raise them in paddocks and temporary enclosures around our land. Our pigs are given plenty of space and exercise and we move them around the site to give them the chance to forage naturally for acorns under our oak trees and through rough vegetation. They are keen rootlers and can turn over ground at an astounding rate. This is good for the wildlife, encouraging pioneer species to take hold and providing opportunities for wild species - food sources for many birds.

Pork

We usually have a well-stocked freezer of home raised, rare-breed pork which you are welcome to purchase. All meat is professionally butchered and packaged off site and is sold from frozen. See the appended price list and let us know before you arrive if you would like to have some delicious pork waiting in the fridge for you.

Boundaries

Please leave all gates as you find them and beware of electric fences (white tape or string).

Please don't visit neighbouring livestock at the fences – particularly cows. They are curious and will approach as a group and may damage the old fence which could result in a lot of damage to our site.

Our neighbours

We expect guests to respect our neighbours and their land and livestock. Please do not go onto neighbouring land without permission, except for public footpaths or public access areas. We also ask guests to be mindful of noise and observe quiet hours after 10pm.

Appliances/Features

Wi-fi

Wi-Fi is provided by a mobile broadband router. You will find it on the shelves next to the foot of the bed. To switch on press and hold the central button.

Please do not remove from the hut and charge only with the cable provided

Wi-fi name: Darg Wood Wifi

Password key: Dargwoodguest

Firewood

You are welcome to bring your own wood and kindling but we will stock the hut and pigsty for your arrival, and you can help yourself to more from our log store. We buy wood in from a local supplier. We don't charge for extra but if you use a lot, a small voluntary contribution would be appreciated.

Please don't collect fallen wood from the site, it is an important part of the woodland ecosystem and provides habitat and food. It is also generally wet and rotten and burns terribly anyway. Please clean up the fireplace and firepit/grill after use using the ash buckets provided.

Charcoal

We don't provide charcoal so please bring what you need if you prefer to cook with charcoal on the barbecue.

Central Heating

Central heating is used to maintain the temperature of the hut over winter. In warm weather it will be switched off – **please do not adjust the heating or radiator settings.**

Oven

The oven requires a timer to be set (left-hand knob) to run. This is a safety feature to prevent the oven from being left on accidentally. Turn the knob to the length of time you require and operate as normal.

Worktops

Please take great care with the oak worktops. They will mark if left wet or with wet dishes on the surface. Dry spills immediately and use the heat mat provided for hot pans and dishes.

Sink

The sink has no overflow. Do not leave running unattended.

Kettle

Tip: Works best on the smaller hob as the larger sends heat around the outside.

Extractor fan

The switch for the bathroom extractor fan is raised next to the main door. It is useful to run the fan and open the door while cooking where possible.

Outside lights

Switch located next to the main door

Storage

A large storage space is provided beneath head end of the bed and inside the pull out table under the bed. The cupboard at the foot of the bed is reserved for our use. You are also welcome to store items beneath the deck or the hut during your stay. For bike storage you are welcome to keep the bike under the hut or in the pigsty or in one of our stable buildings.

Rubbish Bins

Small bins are provided under the sink – rubbish can be transferred to the bins located near the keysafe, behind the stable building.

Green: Recycling
Black: General Waste

Glass

Glass bottles are not recycled by the local collections and should be taken to a recycling facility – there is one in Wentworth car park - Hexham.

Northumberland council recycling instructions are listed below

Yes please	No thanks
Clean paper and card (except shredded paper and paper towels)	Shredded paper (put in general waste bin), tissues or paper towels
Plain birthday/Christmas cards	Birthday/Christmas cards containing glitter or other 'bling'
Paper gift wrap	Plastic/foil gift wrap
Junk mail, newspapers, magazines, catalogues and directories	Tin foil or foil trays
Cardboard (please flatten)	Plastics which aren't bottles e.g. bags, carrier bags, cling film, plant pots, yoghurt pots, food trays, margarine cartons, bubble wrap
Clean food tins and drink cans (please rinse)	Tetrapacks (juice and milk cartons)* - you can take these to your local tip.
Empty aerosol cans	Glass* - you can take glass to your local tip.
Plastic bottles, including drinks, shampoo and detergent bottles (please ensure they are washed and squashed but you can now leave the tops on)	Food waste
ANY plastic bottles with or without lids can be put in the recycling bin.	Clothing, shoes and textiles
	Disposable nappies
	Very heavy or electrical items, e.g. television

LOCAL INFORMATION

Eating out

There are lots of places to eat in the surrounding area - a few of our favourites are listed below but we strongly suggest you have a look at local tourism websites or Tripadvisor for a fuller picture of the local area – there's too much to list here

Nearest

- The Traveller's Rest Pub – now run primarily as a café though pub meals are often offered at weekends and with pop up visits from local street food and takeaway vendors – the situation changes often so please call to confirm your plans to avoid disappointment
- The Dipton Mill Inn, cosy country pub, home-cooked food and an on-site brewery

Both within a 5-minute drive or serve as perfect walking destinations. Suggest you check opening hours and booking arrangements as opening times can vary.

Hexham

- The Heart of Northumberland (Pub and kitchen, great food and beer selection)
- Bouchon (delicious Traditional French Cuisine)
- The Beaumont Hotel (Gastro Pub Cuisine)
- Vercelli (Italian and cocktails)

Plus many more independent pubs, restaurants, cafes and takeaways

Corbridge

- The Angel (Traditional pub and restaurant – very popular – also has a street food outlet)
- The Valley (Classic curry house, right on the station platform)
- Casa Rosso (Italian food and a very friendly atmosphere)

Worth a trip

Sale Pepe (Italian in Shotley Bridge – nice bustling restaurant good atmosphere)

The Lord Crewe Arms (Medieval Gastropub in Blanchland – enjoy a dungeon beer)

The Feathers (Fantastic foodie pub in Hedley on the Hill – black pudding starter not to be missed)

Drinking

Northumberland has a wealth of wonderful local breweries, some sell on the premises, most are stocked in local independent shops and pubs and even supermarkets. Tours and deliveries are often available – best to contact the brewery direct – details for a small selection below:

Allendale Brewery	Allen Mill, Allendale, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 9EA T : +44 (0)1434 618686 or 01434 683425 Email: info@allendalebrewery.com http://www.allendalebrewery.com/
Hexhamshire Brewery	The Dipton Mill Inn, Dipton Mill Rd, Hexham NE46 1YA T: 01434 606 577 Email: mb@hexhamshire.co.uk https://hexhamshire.co.uk/
Twice Brewed Brewery	The Twice Brewed Brew House, Bardon Mill, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 7AN T: 01434 344 534 Email: contact@twicebrewedbrewhouse.co.uk ; https://www.twicebrewedbrewhouse.co.uk/
Wylam Brewery (If you're in Newcastle during your stay)	Palace of Arts, Exhibition Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear, NE2 4PZ Email: Sales - onlinebeer@wylambrewery.co.uk Email: general enquiries enquiries@wylambrewery.co.uk https://www.wylambrewery.co.uk/

Pubs

We don't get out as much as we used to but here are our favourite local pubs – in no particular order. Some of the more rural pubs have changeable opening times so its best to call ahead.

The Heart of Northumberland – Hexham – Excellent selection of beers

The Tannery – Hexham - Similar to the Heart

The Travellers Rest – now run as a café, call ahead to check whether food is being served

The Dipton Mill Inn – Dipton Mill - Cosy country pub with own brewery

The Lord Crewe Arms – Blanchland - drinking in a historic setting – a great place to visit

The Angel – Corbridge – Good place for people-watching in the sun

The Peel Tower – Corbridge – Great historic building in the centre of Corbridge

Local Activities and Amenities

From the door

Walking

The local walks and rides are fantastic with enough freedom that even after years here we still find new routes and places to explore. Maps are provided in the hut and we can suggest local rides and walks to suit your needs but the best thing is to take a map and make it up as you go along.

Cycling

The roads in the region are generally quiet and generally hilly, with fantastic views on offer in return for your efforts. Head south towards Stanhope, Rookhope and Allenheads if you like hills, or head along the Tyne valley on the gentle backroads through villages and farms.

There are some excellent mountain biking routes in the local area. Depending on fitness and skill level you can ride for 5 or 50 miles without spending much time at all on tarmac. Many of the local bridleways and forest roads are suitable for gravel bikes, for more experience mountain bikers there are hidden sections of singletrack and some fun descents if you know where to look – I'd be happy to point you in the right direction. Also, Chopwell woods (30 mins away by car), Hamsterley Forest (45 minutes) and Kielder (1 hour) all offer fantastic man made mountain biking trails.

Further afield

Activities

Below is a random selection of local activities, but have a look at tourism sites or come and talk to us about the type of thing you like to do.

- Sinderhope pony trekking centre - <https://www.sinderhopeponytrekkingcentre.co.uk/> rides and lessons for all abilities – call for details – you may need to arrange before you arrive here.
- Beamish - <http://www.beamish.org.uk/> open-air museum
- Craggside - <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/craggside> possibly the best National Trust site ever!
- Derwent Reservoir offers fishing and has an attached sailing club
<https://www.watersideparksuk.com/park/derwent/> <https://www.drsc.co.uk/>
- Hadrian's Wall, The Sill and Vindolanda Roman Fort
- Golfing and Spa at Slaley Hall
- Blanchland – A medieval village just down the road with a pub, tearoom and gift shop.
- Hexham and Corbridge for independent shops and days out.
- Kielder reservoir, castle, forest and Dark Skies Observatory

The Coast

The stunning Northumberland coast is a short trip away and makes a fantastic day out. A favourite of ours is the walk from Craster to Dunstanburgh Castle then back to the Jolly Fisherman pub. Try a crab stottie with a pint from the micro-brewery at The Ship Inn, Low-

Newton-by-the-sea. Bamburgh, Druridge and Howick are all worth the drive if you have some time to spare.

Transportation

Local taxis are available. On weekends, book well in advance or you can use the taxi rank in Hexham town centre.

- Advanced Taxis – 01434 606065
- Eco Cabs – 01434 600600
- Bateys – 01434 602500

Transport links

Hexham and Corbridge provide transport links to Newcastle by bus or train. For details and booking use the web links below.

Buses

<https://www.gonortheast.co.uk/>

<https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/>

Trains

<https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

Banks

The closest bank with a cash machine is on the high street in Hexham. There is an HSBC, an da Halifax though services are limited. Tesco and Waitrose also have cash machines. Please note there are no banks in Corbridge, only a cash machine in the Co-op grocery store.

Petrol Stations

There is a Shell station in Hexham as well as a BP near the A69 roundabout. There is also a Shell station in Corbridge.

Groceries

In Hexham, there is a Waitrose, Aldi and Tesco Extra and Lidl. In Corbridge there is a co-op. Both Hexham and Corbridge have a range of independent shops – in Corbridge, Stobo's fruit and Veg shop is highly recommended. There is also a small community-run shop in Slaley village.

Hospital

For minor injuries, you can visit the local hospital in Hexham. The centre treats conditions including minor head, ear or eye problems, broken nose or nose bleed, sprains, strains, cuts and bites, children's minor injuries and ailments, minor fractures or broken bones, minor skin abscesses and infections and wound infections.

Hexham hospital direct dial 01434 655388

Between 10pm and 8am people should contact NHS 111 where trained advisors will refer them to the most appropriate service. NHS 111 is open 24/7. The only exception to this is if they are seriously ill, in which case dial 999.

Pharmacies

There are multiple pharmacies in Hexham, including Boots on the high street, a Lloyds at Hexham Hospital and a pharmacy in the Tesco Metro grocery store and Hexham Hospital.

Police Station

The nearest police station is in Hexham, Shaftoe Crescent, Hexham, NE46 3DG
Tel: 01661 872555.



dargwoodhut.com

Home-Raised Rare-Breed Pork Price List

This year we have raised a litter of Tamworth/Large Black cross pigs. They were a happy accident which surprised our friend and pedigree pig breeder of Tamworths and Large Blacks – we scooped them up as soon as we heard.

Our pigs are moved around our site and given plenty of space and exercise, with the opportunity to dig and forage.

Tamworths are an old breed, still closely related to their wild boar ancestors and are used extensively in rewilding projects to regenerate overgrown areas. Large Blacks are a super gentle (and super tasty) breed with a reputation for excellent bacon.

All sales are priced according to weight – **estimated pack sizes shown but packs will vary**

		Price Per kg	Pack Size (approx.)
Bacon	<i>Traditional thick cut middle and back bacon with rind on.</i>	£16/kg	300g (6 rashers)
Sausage (Available types vary)	<i>Chunky traditional link sausages</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cumberland</i>• <i>Farmhouse pork (breakfast favourite)</i>• <i>Pepper and Sage</i>	£11/kg <i>Cumberland</i> £12.5/kg	450g Traditional curl
Black Pudding	<i>Traditionally made in a square tray, sliced</i>	N/A	£4.50/pack 2 slices
Gammon Steaks	<i>Delicious grilled or fried and enjoyed with our fresh eggs</i>	£14/kg	350g (2 steaks)
Classic Chops	<i>Classic chops with a perfect covering of crackling</i>	£13/kg	400g (2 chops)
Fore-rib steaks	<i>Our new favourite – Pork's answer to beef ribeye taken from the middle of the shoulder. Recommend 2 per person</i>	£15/kg	400g (2 steaks)
Pork Belly strips	<i>Try roasted slow or sliced thin and cooked Korean style on the BBQ</i>	£13/kg	400g
Pork and Apple burgers	<i>Lightly spiced and delicious.</i>	£12/kg	300g (Pack of 2)
Roasting joints	<i>Leg, boned and rolled covered with crackling Shoulder, roast slow for classic pulled pork Belly, flat, scored ready for roasting or home curing Ham roasting joints and hocks</i>	£12-14/kg	1kg-4kg Varies