



# THE YORKSHIRE RAMBLERS' CLUB

EXPLORATION, MOUNTAINEERING AND CAVING SINCE 1892

## LOW HALL GARTH HUT HANDBOOK



**ALL HUT USERS ARE REQUESTED TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE  
CONTENTS OF THIS HANDBOOK ON ARRIVAL**

**PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE FROM LOW HALL GARTH**

## LOW HALL GARTH

Low Hall Garth (LHG) is an old farmstead cottage owned by the National Trust (NT) and leased to the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club. It is situated above Little Langdale Tarn in a delightful and secluded position. The Coniston fells can be reached directly from the cottage, as can those around Great Langdale by a rather longer walk across Wrynose Pass.

### Access

Grid reference: NY 3096 0289. Post Code: LA22 9NT. Approaching from Ambleside by the A593 road to Coniston, cross Skelwith Bridge and continue for a mile to a junction marked Wrynose, Elterwater & Langdales. Do not turn right. Continue south towards Coniston for 0.4 mile past a wood and take a narrow lane on the right-hand side which almost immediately forks. Take the right-hand fork, where a National Trust sign points to High Park and Hallgarth. Follow this lane for 1.6 miles over two cattle grids, negotiating a very tight zig-zag past farm buildings. Continue along the rough and narrow lane to the left of the ford, passing through a gate to Low Hall Garth. Please close the gate. Do not try to use the ford from Little Langdale with vehicles.

**Warning:** The unmetalled section of the lane beyond the ford is in very poor condition. Please take great care so as not to damage your vehicle. If in any doubt, please walk to the cottage.

### Parking

The farmhouse below the LHG cottage is occupied by a family and it is essential that all visitors follow the rules regarding car parking. The only parking available to visitors at LHG is the small car park up the steep hill past the cottage.

- The lower end of the car park is reserved for visitors staying at the National Trust cottage above LHG and High Hall Garth cottage with a spare space for NT staff. Visitors to LHG are welcome to park above the demarcation sign.
- Cars must not be parked in the corner space below LHG or in front of the barn doors.
- If necessary, a few cars can be neatly parked in the woods near the ford where the lane meets the river and footbridge to The Three Shires.
- All visitors are requested to help us maintain good relations with the National Trust Tenants and abide by these rules.

### Facilities

- Dining room / lounge with open fire.
- Kitchen with electric cookers, microwave, refrigerators and full catering equipment.
- Downstairs washroom with two washbasins, toilets and a shower.
- Large comfortable sitting room with easy chairs and a wood burning stove in a converted barn.
- 15 places in bunks in one dormitory. Three of these places and the bunks in the barn opposite are reserved for members of the YRC at all times.
- Drying room.

### For Urgent On-Site Problems

Contact the Low Hall Garth Hut Warden Alister Renton on 01931 715818 (home), 07974 769514 (mobile) or [alister.renton@me.com](mailto:alister.renton@me.com) during reasonable hours only, depending on the nature of the problem.

### Key Safe

LHG has a key in a key safe accessed by a combination lock. The key safe is located in the small storage shed opposite the cottage between the barn and drying room. The code is changed regularly. Please close the door and scramble the combination to hide the code each time the key safe is used. There should be two keys in the key safe. Please inform the Hut Secretary if this is not the case.

### **Responsible Person**

Hut bookings are only accepted only from groups who designate a “Responsible Person” for the purposes of health & safety and fire regulations. This will normally be the group or meet organiser and should be the first name entered in the Hut Log Book (see below). He/she must make himself/herself familiar with the fire safety systems and other important information in this Hut Handbook on arrival.

### **Registration in Hut Log Book**

On arrival, visitors must fill in the names of all members of their party and their full club name(s) (as there are several clubs with the same initials), together with arrival and leaving dates in the Hut Log Book. This is essential if there is an emergency. Leave the Number of Nights column free if necessary, but ensure you complete this on departure. Please remind any other occupants who have forgotten to sign themselves in.

### **Accommodation**

15 places in three-tier bunks in one upstairs dormitory. Three of these places and the bunks in the barn opposite are reserved for members of the YRC at all times. The middle and top bunks are not suitable for young children. Mattresses and pillows are provided but please bring your own pillow-cases. Camping is not allowed.

### **National Trust Cottage Above Low Hall Garth**

The cottage directly above LHG is rented out by the NT to paying guests. It has a flying freehold and one of the bedrooms is directly above our kitchen. **Please bear this in mind and take care not to disturb any residents.** In particular, avoid any noise in the kitchen between 2230 and 0700 hours i.e. please keep voices down and don't rattle pans, etc.

It is an excellent idea to contact any residents in the cottage above, soon after your arrival. Please let them know that you are also resident and offer to react appropriately if they are disturbed.

### **Low Hall Garth Hirer's Responsibilities**

The hirer of LHG is responsible for taking reasonable care of buildings, furniture and equipment whilst in residence, these must be left clean and tidy before departure (see Leaving Checklist below). Please note occupants of High Hall Garth have no rights to use any of LHG's facilities and should not be admitted to the premises.

### **Young Persons**

Any young persons under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or an adult *in loco parentis* who has formal written permission from the parents of the young person supervised.

### **Telephones**

A mobile phone signal may be obtained outside the building at the top end of the car park above the cottage.

### **Water Supplies**

Water comes directly from a deep borehole which feeds a header tank above the cottage. The drinking water supply in the kitchen is additionally treated by UV irradiation. The stop valve is below the kitchen sink. During spells of dry weather, the water supply may dry up.

### **Frost Protection**

When very severe frost is expected please close the stop valve and drain the system by opening all basin taps, hot and cold. Place a basin under the copper drain pipe beneath the sink, and collect the

remaining cold water. The hot water supply from the immersion heater can be very hot, and takes some minutes to drain. Please be careful!

### **Drainage**

All water from the sinks, showers and toilets is collected in a septic tank in the adjacent field. No bleach may be used and detergent use should be sparing. Only human waste and toilet paper may be flushed down the toilet. All other items e.g. wet wipes, sanitary products and items that are marketed as 'flushable' or 'biodegradable' must not be flushed and must be disposed of in the normal rubbish and taken away.

### **Electricity**

There is a limited electricity supply to the hut. Only the appliances provided should be connected to the mains. No other electrical heating equipment is allowed. If the supply is overloaded the NORWEB / UNITED UTILITIES breaker will trip and cannot be reset by the warden.

The supply must be left on at all times. When leaving the hut, the electricity must be left ON so that the dehumidifiers continue to run.

The mains isolator switch is at the right end of the distribution board to the left of the cottage front door. Open the cover by lifting it up. Push the breaker switch up to turn the supply on, and down to turn it off. Each circuit is protected with a miniature circuit breaker (MCB), the switches should all be in the up position. The supply is also RCD protected. This may trip if a leakage to earth is detected - its function is to protect you from electric shock, however they can trip. If this occurs, first remove any items plugged-in and then reset by pushing upwards.

### **Heating and Hot Water**

Hot water is provided by an electric immersion heater (switch on panel by cottage front door).

### **Cooking**

Two electric cookers (2 ovens/8 rings/2 grills) are provided together with two microwave ovens, kettles and toaster. Please use the kitchen extractor fan when cooking. A comprehensive set of catering equipment is provided together with assorted crockery, cutlery and glasses for 15 visitors.

### **Washing-Up**

Please use the kitchen extractor fan when washing-up. Clean tea towels are available. Please place the dry, dirty ones in the laundry bin provided in the xxx.

### **Rubbish**

There is no rubbish collection from LHG, so all visitors are requested to take their rubbish, waste and recycling away with them for disposal in appropriate facilities, including ashes from the fire. Lost clothing is kept in a bag under the stairs and is periodically dumped if unclaimed.

### **Washing and Showering**

The shower is electric. An automatic extractor fan should operate when showering but may need to be turned on and off manually.

### **Dining Room / Lounge**

Please bring your own kindling and logs or coal. Do not over-stack wood on the open fire. On no account must logs be taken from the cottage above. There may be a supply of kindling in the wood

store next to the Drying room. (Key with Drying Room key.) Always use the fireguard provided when the room is not in use, especially at night, when out or vacating the premises.

Ashes from the fire should be allowed to cool outdoors in the galvanised bucket marked "Fire Ashes". Cold ash should be bagged and taken away for disposal or may be used to fill potholes in the track (remove any nails).

### **Sitting Room in Converted Barn Opposite**

Key kept on Noticeboard. Please bring your own kindling and logs for the wood burning stove. On no account must logs be taken from the cottage above. There may be a supply of kindling in the wood store next to the Drying Room. (Key with Drying Room key.)

### **Drying Room**

Key kept on noticeboard. The Drying Room across the lane has a heater, a dehumidifier and a spin dryer. The water condensate collected from the dehumidifier is piped to a drain.

To dry clothes, switch ON the Drying Room power supply (switch behind cottage front door), switch on the heater. Ensure the dehumidifier is switched on and adjusted as per the notice above the unit. When drying is not required, the isolator behind the cottage front door should be switched OFF. Detailed instructions are located on the wall above the heater in the Drying Room. Please keep the Drying Room locked.

### **Fire Precautions**

- When you arrive, it is important that you record the names of all visitors in the Hut Log Book.
- Familiarise yourselves with the location of all the exits and all fire extinguishers in the cottage and barn.
- No smoking is permitted inside the buildings.
- Determine whether one or more mobile phones have reception for emergency use.
- A fire extinguisher and fire blanket are kept beside the cookers.
- Fire extinguishers are also located in all other rooms.
- Always use the fireguard when the dining room/lounge is not in use and at night.
- Ensure any drying clothing is well away from the fireplace, the electric storage heaters and the drying room heater.

### **In the Event of Fire**

- In the event of fire or the fire alarm sounding, exit the cottage by the front door or by the upstairs dormitory rear window. Leave the barn by the barn door.
- Ensure that everyone in the hut is alerted to it and alert the occupants of the National Trust cottage above Low Hall Garth.
- Assemble on the car park.
- Carry out a role call using the Hut Log Book to enable you to check that everybody is out of the buildings.
- Fire extinguishers are located in all rooms.
- If the fire is small, attempt to extinguish it if it is safe to do so, otherwise summon the Fire Brigade by phone immediately.
- The address is Low Hall Garth, Little Langdale, Post Code LA22 9NT.

### **General Safety**

We believe that we maintain Low Hall Garth as a generally safe place for the accommodation of visitors. There are hazards, but in general they will be obvious and in many cases no different from

what is to be found in a home. Thus, many of the floorings may be slippery if footwear is wet; the hot water can be extremely hot; the stove in the Barn when on will be extremely hot; the open fire in the lounge when lit is an obvious risk; the middle and top bunks are not suitable for young children and the bunks and their ladders if not sensibly used harbour obvious risks. Whilst we welcome accompanied and supervised children as guests, the cottage is maintained as a hut primarily for adult walkers and climbers, and we make no special effort to conceal from children's view things which could be abused by them (such as cleaning fluids and tools). We have a basic first aid kit kept in the kitchen.

### **Shops and Local Amenities**

The nearest pub is the Three Shires Inn, a 15-minute walk away in Little Langdale. There are no shops in the immediate area, but the Langdale Co-Op Village Store in Chapel Stile has a wide selection of supplies and a cafe. Coniston has a Co-Op and Ambleside has a wider range of shops and a Tesco Express.

### **Adjoining Properties**

All the adjoining property is private and out of bounds. The adjacent fields must not be used for camping or any recreational activities.

### **Other Requirements**

- Please remove muddy boots and equipment in the entrance lobby.
- Please keep noise to an absolute minimum when other people are in bed.
- Please be considerate to other users of Low Hall Garth and the NT cottage above.
- No television may be brought into the building.
- No dogs (other than guide dogs and assistance dogs) may be brought into the building. Dogs may be kept in your car. Any dog fouling must be picked up, bagged and disposed of appropriately.

### **Cleaning**

All visitors are required to clean and tidy the hut at the end of their stay in accordance with the Leaving Checklist (see below). We hope you will leave it as you would be pleased to find it. There are no other arrangements for cleaning: it is up to all users to leave the premises clean and tidy for the next party. Cleaning equipment and fluids etc. are kept in the cupboard under the stairs.

### **Checklist When Leaving Low Hall Garth**

- Check all personal items have been removed (NB check under bunks and in Drying Room).
- Place dry used tea towels in the laundry bin provided in the in the downstairs washroom.
- Clean ash from open fire grate in dining room/lounge and empty ash pan.
- Clean out wood burning stove in barn and empty ash pan.
- Clean the cottage and barn, and sweep floors. Vacuum bunk room and mop downstairs floors. Clean the washroom, shower and toilets. Leave the cottage and barn tidy.
- Remove all perishable foods and empty refrigerators. Leave switched OFF with doors OPEN.
- Take all rubbish and recycling away with you.
- Leave UV water treatment ON.
- Both cookers OFF (switches on wall behind cookers).
- Kitchen extractor fan OFF (switch on wall of left hand window recess).
- Leave all dehumidifiers ON. Barn dehumidifier: white spot at 8 o'clock position. Others as set. Please do not alter settings.
- All washbasin and sink taps OFF.
- Shower isolator OFF (switch above entrance to washroom).
- Hot water immersion heater OFF (switch on panel by cottage front door).

- Winter only (November to end-March) storage heaters ON at settings 2 & 1.
- All windows CLOSED and fastened.
- Leave all interior doors OPEN.
- Turn all lights OFF.
- Barn shutter CLOSED, barn door LOCKED and key returned to noticeboard.
- Drying Room heater and dehumidifier UNPLUGGED.
- Drying Room LOCKED and key returned to noticeboard.
- Drying Room isolator OFF (switch behind cottage front door).
- Leave mains electricity ON.
- Leave main water stop taps ON and do NOT drain the water unless severe frost expected.
- Hut Log Book FULLY COMPLETED with details of your stay.
- Front door LOCKED.
- Key(s) RETURNED to the Key Safe, door CLOSED and combination SCRAMBLED to hide the code.
- Report any faults, damage, breakages or anything untoward during your stay to the Hut Secretary as soon as possible.

### Low Hall Garth Hut Fees

Please pay any balance of hut fees to the Hut Secretary as soon as possible following your stay.

YRC Members, their families and Gritstone Club Members	£4.00 per night
Members of the following Kindred Clubs: Ardal Turlag, Bradford Pothole Club, Cairngorm Club, Climbers' Club, Craven Pothole Club, Fell and Rock Club, Grampian Club, Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland, Midland Association of Mountaineers, Oread Club, Rucksack Club, Scottish Mountaineering Club, Wayfarers' Club, Wolverhampton Mountaineering Club and Yorkshire Mountaineering Club.	£5.50 per night
All other users	£10.00 per night

For other users as a group, there is a £100 deposit for weekend bookings and a £100 minimum weekend charge (Friday/Saturday nights).

Children under 5: free.

Children 5-15: half adult fee.

Children 16 and over: full adult fee.

### Hut Bookings

All visitors are encouraged to use the online booking form on the YRC website <http://www.yrc.org.uk/> when planning to use one of the YRC huts. A calendar of bookings for each hut is available on the relevant website page and is regularly updated. In case of difficulty, bookings may be made via the Huts Secretary directly:

Richard Josephy, 135 Divinity Road, OXFORD, OX4 1LW.

Tel 01865 723630.

Email: richard.josephy@ntlworld.com

**NOTICES DISPLAYED AT LOW HALL GARTH**

- 1. Fire Notice**
- 2. Fire Precautions**
- 3. Fire Alarm Instructions**
- 4. Leaving Checklist**



# **FIRE NOTICE**

**In the event of fire or the fire alarm sounding, exit the cottage exit the cottage by the front door or by the upstairs dormitory rear window. Leave the barn by the barn door.**

**Ensure that everyone in the hut is alerted to it and alert the occupants of the National Trust cottage above Low Hall Garth.**

**Assemble on the car park.**

**Carry out a role call using the Hut Log Book to enable you to check that everybody is out of the building.**

**Fire extinguishers are located in all rooms.**

**If the fire is small and it is safe to do so, attempt to extinguish it, otherwise summon the Fire Brigade by phone immediately.**

**The address is:**

**Low Hall Garth, Little Langdale, Cumbria  
Post Code LA22 9NT**

13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

# **FIRE PRECAUTIONS**

**When you arrive, it is important that you record the names of all visitors in the Hut Log Book.**

**Familiarise yourselves with the location of all the exits and all fire extinguishers in the building.**

**No smoking is permitted inside the building.**

**Ensure one or more mobile phones have reception for emergency use.**

**A fire extinguisher and fire blanket are kept beside the cookers.**

**Fire extinguishers are also located in all other rooms.**

**Always use the fireguard when the lounge is not in use.**

**When you leave please ensure that all fires are extinguished, the ovens, grills and cooker rings are switched off.**

13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

# LEAVING CHECKLIST

## **BEFORE YOU LEAVE LOW HALL GARTH AFTER YOUR STAY, PLEASE:**

- Check all personal items have been removed (NB check under bunks and in Drying Room).
- Clean ash from open fire grate in dining room/lounge and empty ash pan.
- Clean out wood burning stove in barn and empty ash pan.
- Clean the cottage and barn, and sweep floors. Vacuum bunk room and mop downstairs floors. Clean the washroom, shower and toilets. Leave the cottage and barn tidy.
- Remove all perishable foods and empty refrigerators. Leave switched OFF with doors OPEN.
- Take all rubbish and recycling away with you.
- Leave UV water treatment ON.
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- Kitchen extractor fan OFF (switch on wall of left hand window recess).
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- Barn shutter CLOSED, barn door LOCKED and key returned to noticeboard.
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- Drying Room LOCKED and key returned to noticeboard.
- Drying Room isolator OFF (switch behind cottage front door).
- Leave mains electricity ON.
- Leave main water stop taps ON and do NOT drain the water unless severe frost expected.
- Hut Log Book FULLY COMPLETED with details of your stay.
- Front door LOCKED.
- Key(s) RETURNED to the Key Safe, door CLOSED and combination SCRAMBLED to hide the code.

13<sup>th</sup> July 2017