



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. For climbers, some of the best sport climbing in the Lake District is just a short walk away at Runestone Quarry.

Access

Grid reference: NY 3096 0289. Post Code: LA22 9NT. Lat/Lon: N 54.41665° W 3.06543°

What3Words: [///relishing.improves.insulated](https://www.what3words.com/relishingimprovesinsulated)

Directions: 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 tarmaced 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 down to the ford. Continue to the left of the ford for 750 yards along the narrow unmetalled lane, passing through a gate, to arrive at Low Hall Garth. Please close the gate.

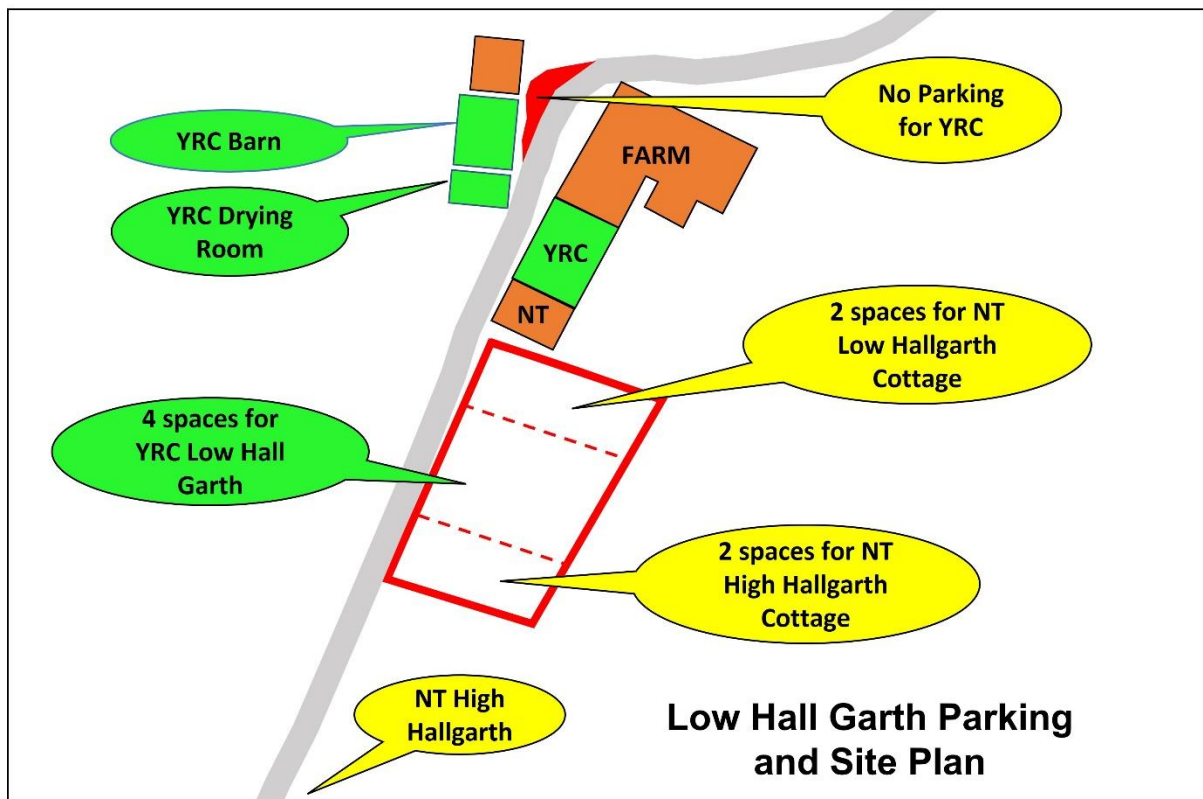
Warning: Do not try to use the ford from Little Langdale with vehicles.

Caution: The unsurfaced section of the lane beyond the ford is narrow, uneven and sometimes in poor condition but it is passable with care and is in daily use by the other tenants in the hamlet. Very low-slung vehicles are not recommended. Please note that the former parking spaces near the ford are currently unusable as the NT have blocked them with boulders because of problems with raves in Cathedral Quarry.

Please also note that formal responsibility for the upkeep of this unsurfaced road (ref U5003 Little Langdale) lies with Westmorland & Furness Council (and not the YRC or the National Trust). Any problems with the lane e.g. potholes, should be photographed and a report made via the Council's website.

The cottage can also be accessed by cycle and by walking from Chapel Stile or Elterwater, which are both accessible by bus from Ambleside or Kendal.

Parking



The NT farmhouse below the LHG cottage is occupied by a family and the NT have two cottages in the hamlet: one is physically part of the same building as our cottage and High Hallgarth, which is further up the track. There is a shared car park for YRC and NT cottage occupants use.

It is therefore essential that all visitors follow the rules regarding car parking to facilitate access by the NT tenants, NT holiday cottage visitors. Our lease restricts us to only having four vehicles in the shared parking. Visitors are therefore recommended to car share to bring as few vehicles as possible.

- The only parking currently available to visitors at LHG is the small car park up the steep hill (25% gradient) past the farm and our cottage.
- The lower end of the car park has two spaces reserved for the tenants of the NT cottage above LHG and the upper end of the area forms two spaces for the High Hallgarth cottage. Visitors to LHG are welcome to park in the central area signed YRC Parking and marked by two lines of slates set into the ground, provided this is by **no more than four vehicles**.
- Cars **must not be parked** in the corner space below LHG or in front of the barn doors.
- The only other parking is in Little Langdale village near the Three Shires Inn (NY 3158 0338); at Hodge Close (NY 3158 0167); at Tilberthwaite Quarry (NY 3062 0101); or at the turn in off the Coniston road (NY 3293 0220). NT have parking information for visitors: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/lake-district/the-langdales/a-guide-to-visiting-cathedral-quarry>. Visitors should walk the rest of the way or use one of their four parked vehicles to operate a shuttle service.

All visitors are requested to help us maintain good relations with the National Trust tenants, visitors and staff and abide by these rules. Car park use is monitored regularly by NT staff.

Facilities

- Well-equipped kitchen with two electric cookers, microwave oven, refrigerator, fridge-freezer and full catering equipment - **please bring your own tea towels.**
- Dining room / lounge with open fire - **please bring your own kindling, logs and/or solid fuel.**
- Downstairs washroom with two washbasins, toilets and a shower.
- Large comfortable sitting room with easy chairs and a wood burning stove (**logs only**) in the converted barn opposite - **please bring your own kindling and logs.**
- 12 mixed places in bunks in one dormitory. The four bunks in the barn opposite are reserved for members of the YRC and CC at all times - **please bring your own sleeping bag and pillows.**
- Drying room.

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 Huts Booking Secretary if this is not the case.**

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 during reasonable hours only, depending on the nature of the problem. If Alister Renton is unavailable, please contact Ged Campion on 015242 42522 (home), 07483 233866 (mobile) again during reasonable hours.

Registration

It is a fire safety requirement that on arrival, all visitors **must** fill in the Signing-In Book fully and legibly together with the full name of their club or group (including any who may be sleeping in a vehicle in the car park).

Low Hall Garth Hirer's Responsibilities

Any hirer 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 Check List** in **Appendix 4**).

Accommodation

12 places in two and three-tier bunks in a single upstairs dormitory. The 4 bunks in the barn opposite are reserved for members of the YRC and CC at all times. The middle and top bunks are not suitable for young children. Mattresses are provided but please bring your own sleeping bags, pillows and pillow-cases. Camping is not allowed.

Young Persons

Youngsters under the age of 18 **must** be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or an adult *in loco parentis* who has formal permission from the parents of the young person supervised.

The parent or carer **must** be mindful of the need to safeguard children in their care by ensuring that the sleeping arrangements are appropriate for their children and for the needs of the other members and guests staying in the hut.

Telephones

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

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 Signing-in 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.

National Trust Cottage above Low Hall Garth

The cottage directly above LHG is occupied by NT tenants. It has a flying freehold and one of the bedrooms is directly above our kitchen and is adjacent to the dormitory. **Please bear this in mind and take care not to disturb any residents.** In particular, you must **avoid any noise** in the dormitory or 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.

Water Supply

Water is supplied from the fell. During spells of dry weather, the water is in short supply at certain times of the year and may dry up. The drinking water supply in the kitchen is treated by UV irradiation and filtration and is regularly checked to meet the required standards, but you may prefer to boil the water before use. The stop valve is below the kitchen sink. It is recommended that the water is flushed for one and a half minutes before use.

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 mains 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 plugged-in items and then reset by pushing upwards.

Electric Vehicles and Campervans

Whilst the YRC would like to encourage environmentally friendly travel, including the use of electric vehicles, we are unable to provide any charging facilities at present, including via a 'normal' 13 Amp socket. This is due to our limited electricity supply and the 'non-smart' nature of our installation meaning any charging may exceed the rating of the hut's supply. *Please do not jeopardise the electrical supply by attempting to charge your EV under any circumstances while staying with us.* The nearest EV charging point is in Ambleside.

For the same reason, campervans are not permitted to connect to the electricity supply using a 13A socket.

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 not available. **Please bring your own tea towels.**

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 recycled 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, solid fuel and logs, firelighters and matches. Do not over-stack wood or solid fuel 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 must be bagged and taken away for disposal or may be used to fill potholes in the track (NB 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. *No solid fuel must be burnt.* 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. The four bunks in the barn are reserved for members of the YRC at all times. (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 Safety and Visiting Fire Warden's Responsibilities

Hut bookings are only accepted from groups and individuals who have agreed to the Booking Terms and Conditions for the purposes of satisfying fire and health & safety regulations.

All formal and informal groups irrespective of size **must** nominate a responsible person to act as **fire warden**. This person will usually be the organiser or the leader of the party. An individual will be their own fire warden. The visiting fire warden **must ensure that everyone in their party is promptly registered** in the Signing-In Book on arrival. This is a **mandatory fire safety requirement**.

The fire warden **must** make themselves familiar with the fire safety arrangements as detailed in the posted **Fire Precaution Notice and Fire Action Notice** (see **Appendix 1 and Appendix 2**).

The fire warden **must** also enquire whether any of their party have any special needs or sensory impairments in the event of an emergency evacuation and ensure that these are taken into account, providing appropriate assistance using a 'buddy' system where necessary.

In the event of an emergency evacuation, the visiting fire warden **must** ensure that all members of their party (and any other visitors present) promptly leave the building by the nearest exit and report to the Assembly Point in the car park. When out of the building the fire warden **must** immediately dial 999 using a mobile phone to call the Fire Service, then conduct a role call using the Hut Signing-In Book.

All groups and any individual visitors **must** collaborate to ensure that everyone is accounted for in the event of an emergency evacuation.

If confident, the incipient fire may be tackled with a portable extinguisher of the correct type only if it is safe to do so using the **PASS** method (**P**ull, **A**im, **S**queeze, **S**pread - see **Appendix 4**).

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 domestic 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, mountaineers 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). Parents and carers must therefore make their own assessment of possible risks, considering the age and capabilities of the child in their care, who should be kept under close supervision at all times.

First Aid

We have a basic first aid kit kept in the kitchen. Please use it if necessary and inform the Hut Booking Secretary what you have used so we can re-stock it for future visitors. For anything more serious:

24HR HOSPITAL ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

- Furness General Hospital, 133 Dalton Lane, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 4LF. Tel: 01229 870870
- Cumberland Infirmary, Newtown Road, Carlisle CA2 7HY. Tel: 01228 523444
-

MINOR INJURIES UNIT (Non-life-threatening conditions e.g. broken bones and minor illnesses)

- Mary Hewetson Cottage Hospital, Crosthwaite Road, Keswick, CA12 5PH. Tel: 01768 245678

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 properties are 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 at all times.
- No televisions 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, removed and disposed of appropriately.

Cleaning

We hope you find our hut clean and tidy when you arrive. If there are any housekeeping issues, please inform the Hut Booking Secretary. All visitors share responsibility for keeping the hut clean and tidy throughout their stay and on departure.

There are no other arrangements for cleaning: it is up to all users to leave the premises clean and tidy for the next party. Even if you're not the last to leave, please make a contribution to the general cleaning of the hut: the floors, bathroom, dormitory and kitchen all need thorough cleaning and every visitor is expected to contribute to this work.

A detailed **Leaving Checklist** is provided (see **Appendix 4**) and cleaning equipment and fluids etc. are kept in the cupboard under the stairs.

Please make sure the hut is left as you'd like to find it!

Low Hall Garth Hut Fees

YRC Members and their families	£6.00 per night
YRC Prospective Members	£14.00 per night
Climbers' Club	£6.00 per night
Members of the following Kindred Clubs: Ardal Turlag, Bradford Pothole Club, Cairngorm Club, Craven Pothole Club, Fell and Rock Club, Grampian Club, Gritstone 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.	£10.00 per night
All other users	£14.00 per night

For other users as a group, there is a £150 deposit for weekend bookings and a £150 minimum weekend charge (Friday/Saturday nights).

Children under 5: free. Children 5-15: £5.00. Children 16 and over: full adult fee.

Payment of Hut Fees

Please pay any balance of hut fees as soon as possible after your visit.

Please make a bank transfer to “Yorkshire Rambler’s” 53-70-00 72005688, giving your booking number as the reference, and sending the following details by email to the Huts Booking Secretary Richard Josephy at: richard.josephy@ntlworld.com

Dates:	
Booking number:	
Club:	
Fees collected by:	
Phone:	
Email:	

	<i>Bed-Nights</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
<i>YRC Members & Family Climbers' Club @ £6.00</i>		
<i>Kindred Clubs @ £10.00:</i>		
<i>YRC Prospective Members, all Guests and Others @ £14.00:</i>		
<i>Children aged 5 – 15 @ £5.00:</i>		
<i>Children under 5 – FREE:</i>		0
GRAND TOTAL	X	
Less deposit paid	X	
BALANCE TO PAY	X	

If a bank transfer is not possible, payment may be made by cheque payable to YRC, sent together with the above information to: **Richard Josephy, 135 Divinity Road, OXFORD, OX4 1LW.**

Hut Bookings

All visitors should use the on-line 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 Booking Secretary directly:

Richard Josephy, 135 Divinity Road, OXFORD, OX4 1LW.
Tel 01865 723630. Email: richard.josephy@ntlworld.com

NOTICES DISPLAYED AT LOW HALL GARTH AND LEAVING CHECK LIST

- 1. Fire Precautions Notice**
- 2. Fire Action Notice**
- 3. Safe Use of Fire Extinguishers**
- 4. Leaving Checklist**

APPENDIX 1 FIRE PRECAUTIONS NOTICE

	Fire Precautions
	The names of all visitors MUST be recorded in the Signing-In Book on arrival
	IMPORTANT On arrival make sure you know the means of escape If you are the last to bed, check: • The electric hobs, ovens and grills are all turned OFF • The open fire has died down and the fire guard is in place • The woodburning stove air vents are closed right down • All doors are fully closed • All lights are turned off
	Familiarise yourself with the location of all exits
	Familiarise yourself with the location of all fire extinguishers A fire blankets is kept in the kitchen
	No smoking or vaping in the cottage or barn
	Ensure one or more mobile phones have reception for emergency use – best signal is at the top of the car park
	Warning Fire Risk No use of candles or tealights Always use the fireguard when the open fire in the living room is unattended Ensure the electric hobs, ovens and grills are all turned OFF when you leave No charging of e-bike batteries in the building

APPENDIX 2 FIRE ACTION NOTICE

	Fire Action IF YOU SUSPECT OR DISCOVER A FIRE
	RAISE THE ALARM BY SHOUTING "FIRE"!
	ON HEARING THE ALARM Leave the cottage by the entrance door exit Alternative escape is by the upstairs dormitory rear window Leave the barn by the entrance door
	DO NOT stop to collect belongings DO NOT take any risks DO NOT re-enter the building until you are sure it is safe to do so
	PROCEED TO FIRE ASSEMBLY POINT in car park. CALL FIRE SERVICE on 999 or 112, quoting address: Low Hall Garth, Little Langdale Ambleside, LA22 9NT and “What3Words” location: relishing.improves.insulated REPORT FOR ROLE CALL using Signing-In Book ENSURE ALL PEOPLE are accounted for MEET FIRE SERVICE at the bottom of the hill
	If confident, attempt to tackle the fire with the correct appliances unless the fire is beyond obvious control Use PASS method: Pin Aim Squeeze Spread If in any doubt evacuate immediately

APPENDIX 3 SAFE USE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

First Floor	Kitchen
 WATER  Safe for use on: Wood, paper & fabric fires  DO NOT use on: Electrical fires  DO NOT use on: Flammable liquids  DO NOT use on: Flammable metal fires	 POWDER  Safe for use on: Wood, paper & fabric fires  Safe for use on: Flammable liquid fires  Safe for use on: Gaseous fires  Safe for use on: Electrical fires

Use the **PASS** method to effectively use a portable fire extinguisher in an emergency:

P Pull

- Pull safety pin
- Unlock extinguisher
- Hold upright

A Aim

- Aim fire base
- Keep 6–10 feet
- Point nozzle low

S Squeeze

- Press handle slowly
- Release extinguishing agent
- Maintain steady pressure

S Sweep

- Sweep side to side
- Cover fire base
- Continue until out

Tackle the fire with a portable fire extinguisher only if it's safe:

- The fire is confined to a small area and not growing
- Everyone has exited the building
- The fire service has been called or is being called
- The room is not filled with smoke
- You have a clear exit route behind you
- The extinguisher type matches the fire
- Never use water on electrical or flammable liquid fires

If it doesn't go out quickly, evacuate immediately - don't take risks

APPENDIX 4

LEAVING CHECK LIST

PLEASE LEAVE LOW HALL GARTH AS YOU WOULD BE PLEASED TO FIND IT
Even if you're not the last to leave, please make a contribution to the general cleaning.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

- 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 living room 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 refrigerator and freezer. Leave switched OFF with doors OPEN.
- Take all rubbish and recycling away with you.
- Leave power supply to UV water treatment system 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 external light switch located inside barn above door adjacent to Emergency Light OFF. Barn window 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 Signing-In 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.