

**Hope Park Farm**

**Holiday Cottages**



# **Curlew Cottage**



# **Guest Information**

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## Fire safety procedures

In case of fire evacuate the cottage – close all doors behind you as you leave the building.

Meet in front of the car port and check that all occupants are accounted for.

Contact the owners who will then phone the fire brigade.

## Information for your safety during your stay.

- There are fire alarms connected to the electrical supply on both floors of the property:

Ground floor – in the inter-connecting hallway

First floor – landing area

- Each property is supplied with a fire blanket and a fire extinguisher which can be used in an emergency.
- In some of the rooms windows have been fitted that open fully to enable exit if necessary. Please make a note of their location at the beginning of your holiday.
- All keys to outside doors must be removed from the locks especially at night so that access can be gained by emergency services if required.
- The storage heaters get very hot, especially at night, and must never be covered with items of any sort. Clothes airers must be kept a sensible distance away.
- Wood burning stove and fire lighting materials (Heron Cottage only):

Make sure supplies of wood, paper and matches are kept away from the wood burner when it is alight.

Keep matches out of reach of children

Open doors can be a serious fire hazard – logs can easily fall out and sparks can ignite rugs and/or furniture

Fire guards are provided

- Try to remember to close the kitchen door before going to bed.
- The cottage is a no smoking area, so please ensure that you only smoke outside on your patio area and that all cigarette butts are safely disposed of and not left on the ground.
- At the beginning of your stay familiarise yourself with the layout of the building and all possible escape routes.
- Torches are provided, one in the kitchen and one in the main bedroom bedside drawer, in case you should need them.

The points mentioned above are to help keep you safe during your holiday and we would be grateful if you would bear them in mind during your stay which we hope will be enjoyable and hazard free.

# Curlew Cottage

Welcome to Curlew Cottage. We hope that your stay here will be a memorable one.

If we can make your stay more comfortable or you have any queries then please don't hesitate to ask, otherwise we will respect your privacy at all times. However please remember to respect social distancing at all times so best to contact us by text or phone first : 07905 636569.

On the day of your departure please **vacate the cottage by 9am**, leaving the door unlocked with the key in the lock on the inside.

## About the Cottages

The cottages were converted from the original single storey barns by the previous owners some years ago. All of the stones to the kitchen and bathroom extensions were dug from the garden by hand, hence the two large ponds!

The gardens are a wildlife haven, filled with birds, mammals and insects all year round. In the spring you may be lucky enough to see young hares. They are left to hide amongst the flower beds during the day while their mothers go off to feed. In the evening she returns to feed them before leaving again. We have a large population of sparrows which may not be the most beautiful of birds but they have become quite a rare sight in towns and cities so we welcome them and they can be seen using the many nesting boxes. Pheasants and red legged partridges regularly walk through the garden and are surprisingly tame. If you hear a strange haunting call then you have probably heard the curlew. They regularly fly low over the garden and can be seen feeding in the fields.

The fields around the property of approximately 20 acres once belonged to the farm although now they are owned by a local farmer.

The farm itself has an interesting history and was once a local pub where miners used to buy their beer before going home. The beer was brewed on site using water from the well which is still in the garden.

## Electricity

The main switch for the electrical supply is on the wall above the television.

An electrical fault will result in the on/off switch tripping. This switch will need to be returned to the ON position in order to resume supply to the cottage.

If the switch will not return to the ON position it is because the electrical fault has not been rectified. For example, if there is a faulty light bulb it will have to be removed from its socket.

There should be a selection of light bulbs under the kitchen sink but please ask (by text or phone) for new bulbs if you need them.

## Storage Heaters

During cold weather storage heaters will provide background heat. They can be switched off and on at the switch beside them on the wall.

The storage heaters only store heat overnight which is then released during the next day and so they will only provide heat the day after they have been switched on.

If you lift the flap on the top right hand side of the heater you will see two dials. The larger dial is best left on 1. This will allow a small amount of heat to be released throughout the day and into the evening. If you do turn this dial to 4, for example, then you will find that all the heat stored will be released in the first 3-4 hours of the day and there will be nothing left for the rest of the day. The smaller dial dictated the amount of heat stored overnight, 6 being the maximum and 1 being the minimum amount. It is best never to place this on a setting greater than 5.

**The storage heaters get very hot at night and so they should never at any time be covered and should never have items that are combustible placed too close to them.**

## The Electric Stove

To access the controls on the stove you need to open the small ash door which is located just beneath the main door. You will then be able to see the controls.

## DVD Player

Ensure that both the TV and DVD Player are switched on (DVD has a small push button on the left at the front)

- Select **Menu** on the TV remote
- Select **TV Set** Up using the down arrow
- Press **OK**
- Select **Source** by using the right/left arrows
- Select **EXT-1** using the down arrow
- Press the **right arrow**
- Press **Return** twice

**To return to TV:**

- In Source select **DTV/USB**
- Press the **right arrow**
- Press **Return** twice

## Internet Access

Network **HopeParkGuestWiFi**

The password **hopepark**

Sometimes the router needs to be re-booted. If you experience problems with the WiFi please first of all switch off the router (located in the main bedroom) at the power socket, wait 20-30 seconds, then switch it back on again. If this does not solve the problem please let us know but **DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, PRESS THE RESET BUTTON ON THE ROUTER.**

## Shower Room

The switch for the fan in the shower room is on the wall in the hallway. When this is switched on the light pull will then activate the fan.

The shower pull (left hand side of the sink) must be switched on to heat the water going through the shower. This can be left on permanently during your stay.

Waste water from the cottages is fed into a septic tank which is emptied annually. It is essential that only tissue is flushed down the toilets. **Any other items MUST be placed in the waste bin provided.**

Hot water for the basin comes from a heater under the kitchen sink. For best results turn the tap on full until the water feels warm then reduce the pressure to obtain hotter water

## Kitchen

Water is heated by a small unit under the kitchen sink.

There is an automatic safety mechanism built into the heater and it will trigger out if very hot water is run for long periods of time. Try to avoid this happening if at all possible because you will not be able to obtain hot water again until an electrician has corrected the fault.

## Freezer

If you require more freezer space you are welcome to use our larger freezers in the outhouse if we have space in them – please just ask by text or phone.

## **Bins and recycling**

There are two recycling bins outside the back door which are clearly marked with what to put in each bin.

All other non-recyclable and food waste goes in the kitchen bin and needs to be put into black sacks at the end of your stay and placed in the large brown box just outside the workshop. It makes our job of taking it up to the top gate for collection so much easier if all of the rubbish is already in black sacks so thank you in advance for your help.

## **Parking**

There is enough space to park your car with ease and we ask holiday makers using the cottages to park in front of the open car port. If there is a car parked in the car port we are unlikely to need it while you are here so no need to worry about blocking it in.

You are, however, welcome to drive to the front of Curlew to unload and load up your car at the beginning and end of your stay.

## **The Garden**

There is a small patio area with table and chairs directly at the back of Curlew cottage for your use so please feel free to make the most of it and enjoy the views from there. The rest of the gardens, apart from the area at the front of the house, are for our own use so we would be grateful if you would respect our privacy.

## **Local shops**

There is a Co-operative store at the Texaco petrol station in Minsterley (on the main Shrewsbury road) and there is also a butchers in Minsterley (turn left at the roundabout and it's just over the bridge on the right).

There is also a good butcher and baker at Pontesbury (Hignett's), as well as a Co-operative store.

The nearest larger supermarket is Tuffins at Churchstoke, approximately 8 miles away.

Pontesbury has a fish and chip shop as well as a Chinese and an Indian takeaway.

For much larger supermarkets it is necessary to go to Welshpool (Aldi, Morrisons, Co-operative, Tesco and Sainsbury's) or Shrewsbury (Aldi, Lidl, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Asda, Tesco etc).

## **The Stables Inn**

Within walking distance and dog friendly.

It's a good idea to ring to check their current policy, opening times and whether it's necessary to book.

Please see separate list of Local Pubs for contact details.

## **The dogs**

We have a black Labrador called Monty and a Norfolk terrier called Bertie.

They both try very hard to be well-mannered but sometimes just can't contain themselves so you may need to be firm with them.

We do our very best to pick up after them as soon as possible but please let us know (by phone or text) should you find any unpleasantness on the ground. We will take immediate action.

For their own good please don't feed them any tit bits or treats and don't be tempted to invite them into the cottage.

See separate information for guest dogs in Curlew Cottage.

## **And finally.....**

If the gates on the drive are already open there is no need to close them but if they are closed please ensure that you close them securely after use. We do not want sheep in our garden!

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information and now enjoy your stay in this beautiful corner of Shropshire.....**

Please read on for further information on:

Dogs at Curlew Cottage

Useful Contacts

Local Pubs

# Dogs at Curlew Cottage

We love dogs and welcome them to Curlew Cottage but we do have strict rules for the safety and comfort not only of all our guests but ourselves and our own animals too.

1. All dogs must be **kept on a lead whilst on the grounds** of Hope Park Farm for the following reasons:
  - Whilst most people are comfortable with dogs, some are not used to them and may be scared of them.
  - Our chickens are free to roam wherever they please in the gardens and whilst our own dog is quite used to them, yours may not be.
2. All dogs must be **kept on a lead whilst walking across the fields immediately adjacent** to Hope Park Farm.

All of the fields around the property are interconnected and the sheep, which are always in the fields all year round, are free to move between them all, so do not assume that there are no sheep just because you cannot see any.
3. You must **clean up after your dog(s)**. A separate bin is provided outside the cottage.
4. Dogs are **not allowed in the bedrooms, and must be kept off the furniture**, for hygiene reasons. A stair gate is provided, stored in the cupboard under the stairs if not already in place.
5. You must **not leave dog(s) on their own in the cottage** - a strange place can be stressful for the dog(s) and they might cause damage (for which we might have to charge) and disturbance to other guests.

## **USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Doctors**

Pontesbury Medical Practice

Tel 01743 790325

Hall bank, Pontesbury, SY5 0RF

[www.pontesburymedical.co.uk](http://www.pontesburymedical.co.uk)

Worthen Medical Practice

**Tel 01743 891401**

Worthen, SY5 9HT

**NHS 111 Service**

**Tel 111**

### **Hospital Accident & Emergency**

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Tel 01743 261000

Mytton Oak Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Full **24 hour service** dealing with **acute illness and injury**.

Victoria Memorial Hospital

Tel 01938 553133

Salop Road, Welshpool, SY21 7DU

**Minor injury services** available 24 hours 7 days a week

### **Dentist**

**Pontesbury Dental Practice**

**Tel 01743 790678**

Minsterley Road, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, SY5 0QJ

Emergency Dental Service - Out of Hours      Call NHS 111 – see above

For serious **dental problems that cannot safely wait** until normal working hours

## **Police**

In an emergency, always call **999** (or **112**). An emergency is when:

- there is danger to life or risk of injury
- a crime is in progress and the offender is still at the scene or has only just left
- immediate police attendance is necessary, such as when a crime is obviously about to be committed.

If it is **not** an emergency:

**101** is the number to call when you want to report less urgent crime and disorder and for general police enquiries. For example:

- if your car has been stolen
- if your property has been damaged
- to report a minor traffic collision

## **Vets**

Malthouse Surgery

Tel 01743 791246

Minsterley, SY5 0AA

[www.minsterleyvets.4mg.com](http://www.minsterleyvets.4mg.com)

## **Garage**

Plough Garage

Tel 01743 790270

Chapel St, Pontesbury, SY5 0RJ



## Local Pubs

Every effort has been made to keep this list up to date but it is advisable to check opening times and food serving times before visiting.

1. **Stables Inn**, Hopesgate 01743 891344  
[www.thestablesinn.co.uk](http://www.thestablesinn.co.uk)

ADVISABLE TO BOOK A TABLE, ESPECIALLY AT WEEKENDS.

2. **Bridges Inn**, Bridges, Ratlinghope 01588 650260  
[www.thebridespub.co.uk](http://www.thebridespub.co.uk)
3. **The Miners Arms**, Priest Weston 01938 561352
4. **The Stiperstones Inn**, Stiperstones 01743 791327  
[www.stiperstonesinn.co.uk](http://www.stiperstonesinn.co.uk)
5. **The Lowfield Inn**, Marton 01743 891313  
[www.lowfieldinn.com](http://www.lowfieldinn.com)
6. **The Sun Inn**, Marton 01938 561211  
[www.sunninn.org.uk](http://www.sunninn.org.uk)
7. **The Herbert Arms**, Chirbury 01938 561216  
[www.herbertarmschirbury.co.uk](http://www.herbertarmschirbury.co.uk)
8. **The Courthouse Inn**, Churchstoke 01588 620305
9. **The Inn on the Green**, Wentnor 01588 650105
10. **The Crown**, Wentnor 01588 650613  
[www.thecrowninnwentnor.com](http://www.thecrowninnwentnor.com)
11. **The Nags Head**, Pontesbury 01743 790060  
[www.nagsheadpontesbury.co.uk](http://www.nagsheadpontesbury.co.uk)

This list is by no means exhaustive and is also not meant to be any kind of recommendation on the part of Hope Park Farm Holiday Cottages.