



Old Church Cottages

Chollerton, Northumberland

Self-catering
between
Heavenfield
and Paradise

Green Tourism Statement

Introduction

At Old Church Cottages, we are committed to minimising the environmental impact of our activities, so we operate sustainable business practices, recycle and make a positive contribution to the local community and economy.

As a result, we have received a Gold award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Please help us to stay green – every little really does help, so please do your bit to keep Northumberland as unspoilt as possible.



The Great Outdoors

- We minimise the use of chemicals in the Old Church Cottage grounds and actively encourage wildlife and plant growth.
- There is a **Things to do in the Garden** folder in each cottage which can be used by young and old alike to explore the flora and fauna within the grounds.
- We also have several **bird boxes** which usually have blue tits nesting in them; and the little owl box has been occupied by great tits for some years now.
- You'll also see **bats** flying about outside after dark, though we're not sure whether they live in our bat box!

Local transport

- Although public transport in the Chollerton area is very limited, there are some great options available – for example, you can park your car in the lay-by on Brunton Bank and use the **Hadrian's Wall Bus** to explore the Wall.
- If you fancy a trip across to Newcastle, the Gateshead Metro Centre or Carlisle, one of the easiest options is to catch a **train from Hexham station**, where there is ample space to park your car.
- There are two local **bicycle hire** companies – so you can have a great day out exploring the surrounding countryside at your own pace and get fit into the bargain:
 - Bikes@kielder: 01434 250457
 - The Bike Shop, St Mary's Chare, Hexham: 01434 601032

Local walks

- One of the best walks on our doorstep is to follow the railway line up to Barrasford. Turn right out of the main gate, climb the first stile on your left and cut along the field towards the railway line and follow it all the way to the village... but be warned – you should wear waterproof shoes!
- There are many beautiful and picturesque walks in the area – you can find details of a number of circular walks in the back of the red folder supplied in each cottage.

We aim to reduce waste

There are lots of little things you can do to help us...

- Switch off the lights when you go out or leave a room.
- Turn off the television when you're not watching it – and that doesn't mean leaving it on standby!
- Turn down the radiators – each cottage has thermostats, so the heating system will maintain a reasonable temperature.
- Think about how you use water: an average bath uses 18 gallons while a shower only uses 8.
- Once your car's got you safely to Old Church Cottages, try to let it have a holiday too – there are some amazing local walks and the village shop and local pub are only a mile up the road.
- We do all of our laundry on the premises and try to dry washing outside in the fresh air – so if you need to do any laundry during your stay, ask for our assistance.

We try to recycle as much as possible

We make it as easy as possible for you to recycle as many things as possible during a stay at Old Church Cottages...

- We ask guests to use the bins beside the main house, as follows:

Black wheelie bins	Rinsed tin cans and plastic bottles; newspapers; cardboard
Green wheelie bins	Bagged kitchen waste and non-recyclable refuse
Black dustbins (labelled)	Rinsed glass bottles/jars and tetrapaks
Compost bin	Vegetable/fruit parings; teabags; coffee grounds (no potato peelings, bread or plastic please)

- We use environmentally-friendly cleaning and laundry products and ask our guests not to throw away the washing-up liquid bottles from the cottages, as we refill them to minimise waste.

We try to reuse whenever we can

We don't just use recycled paper in our office – we try to reuse as much paper as we can; and we also ensure we only buy recycled kitchen paper and toilet rolls.

Future plans

- We plan to **reduce** our purchases and **reuse** and **recycle** our belongings.
- When renewing our vehicle/s we will always consider more fuel-efficient models.