

BRICKYARD COTTAGE



House Guide

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1. GETTING THERE

The cottage is at the end of a stone track on the edge of the Cleddau Estuary. The post code is SA67 8BE if you are using a sat nav, although this won't take you to the exact location of the cottage. The exact location can be found using this [Maps link](#). We recommend using this link rather than the post code where possible. It can be worth downloading a map of the exact location on google maps before you get there as reception is not perfect for all networks around the track area – so best to download this in advance.

To get to the cottage you will need to go along a stone track that can be muddy in places after rain. Care should be taken driving along the track.

There are two gates that guests will need to go through along this track, one of which is kept closed. Please close both when you leave.

2. KEYS

The keys to the house are in a key safe by the front door. The code will be sent to you as part of the check-in process.

3. WIFI

There is wifi at the cottage. The details are on the back of the router in the living room. Most mobile networks get reception in the area.

4. HEATING

Heating: There is timed oil central heating and three electric nightstores. Please use both frugally.

Hot water: you will need to turn on the immersion heater on arrival. The switch is in the airing cupboard in the upstairs bathroom. Please switch off when you leave.

Sitting room open fire: burns logs and/or coal; coal and wood are in the garden. Wood can also be picked up on the beach and there is a saw in the shed. If the fire starts to smoke, open the adjoining window to provide a draught. To avoid this happening, keep wood to the back of the fire basket. Please use the fireguard whenever you leave the room with the fire lighted.

5. DUVETS & PILLOWS

You will need to bring your own bed sheets, duvet covers, and pillow covers.

Duvets and pillows can be found in the bedrooms inside duvet bags. Please return them to the bags on your day of departure.

6. WATER AND TOILETS

Brickyard is on mains water.

WC's: as these empty into the cesspit, please do not use bleach in the toilets. Babies' nappies, sanitary towels, condoms etc should not be flushed down the loos: please take these away with you.

7. SUPPLIES

Groceries etc: the closest shop is Dickie's Garage, Robeston Wathen (on the A40 about 1.5 miles back from Canaston Bridge); otherwise there are good shops in Narberth.

8. GENERAL

Gates: the first gate at the beginning of the track should always be kept closed. Please close it if others leave it open. The gate marked Brickyard can be left open while you are there, but please leave this closed when you go. It is wise to keep the gate onto the shore SHUT to prevent horses, cows and sheep invading the garden.

Walls: the interior walls are very soft and chip easily. Please try to keep chairs etc away from them.

Shoes: Please do not wear outdoor shoes and boots upstairs.

Rubbish: food waste can be added to the compost bin under the apple tree. Paper and other burnables can be burned at the top of the garden. Please take all other waste or re-cycling away with you when you leave. Bags can be found in the larder.

Dogs: if you bring dogs, please:

- keep them from sitting and lying on the sofas, chairs and beds;
- do not shut them in the house or porch when you are out;
- clear up after them;
- make sure that they do not chase or alarm the farmers' stock: local farmers take this seriously.

Barbecue: please do not use any of the kitchen equipment for BBQ's apart from the grill, pans and utensils kept on the bottom shelf of the lower cupboard in the kitchen. If you build barbecues, please dismantle them before leaving.

Breakages: please inform us of any breakages at the end of your stay. In the case of more serious damage (eg broken windows, damage to the TV or other appliances) please email Tim Clutton-Brock on thcb@cam.ac.uk.

9. BOATING

Anyone using the boat must wear a buoyancy aid; these are kept in the shed.

The estuary is relatively safe and, although there is a strong tide (especially at springs), there are no tricky currents.

The 12ft fibreglass boat in the garden is suitable for rowing. The boat should be launched directly from the wheels and kept in the garden. It is easy to handle, but it is important that it should not be bumped on the rocks or scraped on the shingle, so float it off and onto the wheels when going out or coming in and pull it up by hand, never leaving it afloat at half-tide.

Rowlocks, oars (plus a spare), anchors, ropes, petrol cans and waterproof containers with spare plugs and springs can be found in the shed. A length of light line is worth taking: one end may be tied to the anchor, which is then balanced on the prow, the boat is pushed off into deep water and the anchor then pulled overboard with the light line running up the beach – useful for keeping the boat afloat on a falling tide.

When the boat is not in use, please remove the plug at the stern and replace the cover so that any rainwater runs off. Attach the plug to the clip on the cord at the stern.

Outboard engine

We are prepared to lend a small Seagull outboard engine to visitors who have experience of outboards and arrange this with us in advance. The outboard runs on a mixture of petrol/2-stroke oil mixed at the ratio of 10:1. The outboard is in the shed. If it has not been used for some time, it may be difficult to start, but it will do so eventually.

10. FISHING

In the summer, there are bass to be caught in the estuary. We have caught bass up to 5lb bottom fishing as well as on mackerel spinners; bass can sometimes be seen jumping and gulls hovering over them. There is a legal requirement to return fish under 14" (approx 35cm). Prawns can be caught in the seaweed below Brickyard as well as on the opposite shore under the wood. Cockles and mussels can be found on the spit below the cottage. Lug and ragworms for fishing on the bottom can be dug from the mud to the left of the slipway at low tide.

11. BATHING

You can bathe in the slipway at all tides though it is best at high tide. Remember that the tide, especially at springs, runs strongly. There is excellent sea bathing and at times quite good surfing at various places round the coast. Best surfing is probably at Newgale, Broadhaven and especially Whitesands. Marloes Sands (map ref 860170) and Musselwick (map ref 785090) on the Marloes Peninsula are both good at the lower half of the tide. Barafundle Bay is a most attractive bay; take the car to Stackpole Quay then a mile walk along the cliffs (map ref 992950). Other worthwhile bays for visiting: Freshwater West; Druidston (map ref 860170); Monk Haven (map ref 830062; Lindsway (map ref 840065); St Brides (map ref 800111); Broadhaven (map ref 977940). There is another Broadhaven with good sand but often crowded (map ref 860138).

12. ISLANDS

Skomer: a very beautiful island lying off the Marloes Peninsula and reached by boat from Martin's Haven. The island is run by The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (01656 724100; <<https://www.welshwildlife.org/skomer-day-trip/>>), and from mid-April to early August one can see puffins, razorbills, guillemots, kittiwakes, fulmars etc as well as seals. Boats usually run to Skomer from Martin's Haven (beyond Marloes) between 10am and 12pm, returning between 2pm and 4pm. To check if the boats are running call 01646 636800. The journey to Martin's Haven from Brickyard takes about an hour. No-one, except the Warden, lives on Skomer, so food and drink must be taken; there is little shelter so it is wise to take a raincoat unless the weather is guaranteed fine. In the spring and summer, Skomer is very popular and you need to book a place online.

Grassholm: this little island is 1.5-2 hours away and is the site of the largest gannet colony in the British Isles. It is difficult to reach but weekly trips are run by Dale Sailing (01646 603123; <<http://www.pembrokeshire-islands.co.uk/boat-trips/>>).

Ramsay: lying at the north end of St Brides Bay and reached by boat from St David's (01437 721911; <<https://www.ramseyisland.co.uk/boat-trips/ramsey-island-voyage/>>). Trips to and round the island (late-March to mid-November, then limited sailings in winter months) from St Justinians below the city of St David's; boats (depending on the time of year) daily from 9am through to dusk; the trip round the island taking 1 to 1.5 hours depending on season and logistics.

13. WOOLLEN MILLS

There are two mills making their own wool and tweeds within easy reach and these make attractive clothes, cushions, throws, runners, rugs etc.

Melin Tregwynt (01348 891288; <<https://melintregwynt.co.uk/>>): near St Nicholas, on the road to Strumble Head off the Fishguard road; good for a day's outing and a picnic at Pwll Deri or Strumble lighthouse.

Solva Woollen Mill (01437 721112; <<https://www.solvawoollenmill.co.uk/>>): a mile or so from the village of Solva on the St David's road.

14. LEAVING

When you leave Brickyard at the end of your stay, please see that:

(1) the house is clean and tidy. Please leave the cooker (including the oven) clean, too.

(2) the back door, front door and shed are locked. Please leave the keys for the backdoor and shed on the dresser hooks in the kitchen. Please return the house keys to the key safe and press the CLEAR switch and do not leave them in the house.

(3) the galvanised gate into the garden from the shore is shut and also the gate on the track (with Brickyard notice on it);

(4) the outside and inside bins are left empty with a new bin liner in them. Please take away all rubbish that is not compostable or burnable with you.

(5) the boat is left covered and in the same place in the garden. Oars, ropes etc are stored in the shed

(6) the fridge is clean, disconnected and the door is left open

(7) the immersion heater in the airing cupboard in the upstairs bathroom is turned and so are the 3 night storage heaters.

(8) please do NOT switch off the mains electricity supply (in larder)