



Welcome to The Old House Cottage, Bampton. We hope you had a good journey and will enjoy your visit here.

We've made every effort to try and ensure you have a comfortable and private stay and hope the information in this folder will answer any initial questions you might have. However if you do have more questions, or encounter any problems, then please just ask.

The normal departure time is 10 am but this can be extended a bit if no other guests are due later in the day. So if you would like a little more time before you leave, please check with us whether it will be possible.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

- Police 999 in an Emergency
 Devon and Cornwall Police call centre – 01392 431593
- Local Doctor The Surgery, Barnhay, Bampton - 01398 331304
- NHS Direct 0845 4647
- Local Dentist None in Bampton – call dental access centre in Exeter for help -see below
- Local Hospital Tiverton District Hospital, 01884 25325, has a Minor Injuries Unit which is open 24 hours. The hospital is opposite Morrison's Supermarket – see later for directions.
- Emergencies There are major Accident & Emergency units at:

Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Exeter
Musgrave Park Hospital, Taunton

each about 25 miles away. Exeter is probably quickest to reach and likely to be the one used by the ambulance service for emergencies from this area

Dental Emergencies - Dental Access Centre, Exeter. 01392 405700

Practical information about the Cottage

Parking

Please turn in to the area between the two stone buildings at the bottom of the driveway and park so there is wheelbarrow size access to the garden and vehicle access to the area over the bridge.

Outside Lighting

There are movement activated lights down the driveway from the road, in the car parking area, along the garden path and by the door to the cottage. However it's advisable to take the torch (rechargeable) from the cottage if you expect to be out in the dark.

Water Stopcock

The stopcock is in the street, any problems you'll need to contact us.

Fuse Box

The fuse box is opposite the door, over the radiator, under a panel attached by magnets. Each circuit is labelled and the switches just need to be toggled back to the 'on' position if they trip out, which may happen if a light bulb blows.

Fire Extinguishers and Blankets

There is a powder fire extinguisher in the towel recess between the cooker and the boiler, and a fire blanket hanging on the wall cupboard to the left of the sink.

Smoke Alarm

The smoke alarm is on the ceiling near the front door. It tends to go off when you make toast, and if this happens, please hold down the button on the alarm until it stops. If it starts to beep at other times this may mean the batteries need replacing, in which case please contact us. The alarms in the cottage are linked to those in the house so in the (highly unlikely) event of a house alarm being triggered you will also hear it in the cottage but find you are unable to turn it off yourself. Should this happen contact us.

Hot Water and Central Heating

A "Combi" boiler provides both central heating and hot water and is under the worktop to the right of the cooker. Access to the control panel is by pulling gently on the bottom right corner of the door. There are two rocker switches and a timing dial (see picture later in this folder). The on-off switch controls the whole operation and should be left as it is, ie "On". The other rocker switch has 3 settings, top for timed heating, bottom for continuous heating and middle for hot water only. Even when the heating is not on, you may hear the boiler switching itself on and off in order to top up the hot water.

You can see when the heating is programmed to come on by looking at the white "tappets" on the timer dial and can change the time periods adjusting these or temporarily switching to "continuous" - but remember to switch back to timed heating again afterwards. The radiators are controlled by individual

thermostatic valves, which are all set appropriately, and shouldn't need adjusting. If it becomes too hot overall, just switch to hot water only for a while.

The Woodburner

The stove is very easy to light and provides a lot of heat. The air flow control at the bottom shouldn't need to be more than a $\frac{3}{4}$ turn open after the fire has got going, the one at the top keeps the flame looking bright and should be given a $\frac{1}{4}$ tweak. Unless you use the stove a lot you won't need to empty it as a bed of ash helps, if the ash holder does become full empty it into a carrier bag (when the ash is cold!) and put this in the dustbin. Always keep the stove door closed as it isn't designed to work with it open and will probably burn badly. If the controls get too hot the poker tool with the L-shaped end can be used to adjust them. The first basket of wood is provided free, after that you can either buy logs from local shops and garages or ask us, if we have any we'll sell them at slightly less than whatever happens to be the going rate. If you need help with the fire please ask, we're very happy to help out.

Internal Lighting Controls

There are three switches on the right as you come in through the door. The left hand switch controls the light just inside the door as well as the lights in the bookcase (though these can be individually controlled by switches on top of the bookcase). The outside light is controlled by the right hand switch. Once switched on it is movement activated. The middle switch is two-way with the one at the top of the stairs for the bedroom. Work surface light switches are under the crockery cupboard and there is a light switch for the inglenook on the inside right of the oak beam – mind your head!

Telephone

There is no landline phone in the cottage. All mobile networks work to varying degrees (T-mobile is excellent, O2 is good, Orange is dodgy) and reception may be best upstairs near the window facing the village. There are public phones in Newton Square and at the top of Briton St.

TV/Radio/DVD/CD

Terrestrial reception is hopeless here, so there is a satellite system for radio and TV which receives all the free to air channels and radio stations. There are three remote controls - TV, freesat and DVD. There is a detailed description of how to use them in a plastic folder near the TV.

Internet Access

The laptop in the bedroom provides free internet access via our own broadband network. If you want to connect your own laptop the instructions with the laptop should help, but if they don't mean anything to you come and ask and we should be able to sort things out.

Sleeping

The bed is “zip and link” and can be made up as a double or two singles. The sofa converts to a bed which may be used for an occasional overnight guest. There is a travelling cot in the wardrobe cupboard upstairs and a folding bed can be made available for a larger infant if necessary.

Eating

4 seats for the breakfast bar are stored in the pedestal under the breakfast bar. To open the door, give a sharp tug in the middle on the left hand side.

Laundry

The washing machine is under the worktop to the left of the sink with a wheeled storage cupboard parked in front. The cupboard contains an initial supply of washing powder/gel/conditioner, washing basket and pegs. There is a drying rack, full size ironing board and iron in the bedroom cupboard; also, in the cupboard under the stairs, a small ironing board which can be used on a worktop. Outside in the lawned area you will find a rotary clothes dryer if the weather is right.

Cleaning

There is a soft sweeping brush and a vacuum cleaner in the cupboard under the stairs and other cleaning equipment and materials under the sink.

Rubbish Disposal

Use the front bucket in the sliding fitting under the sink for day to day waste (the back bucket is intended for use as a general purpose bucket). There are spare plastic carrier bags in the container alongside for lining it. When full, please tie up the bag and put it in the dustbin in the corner of the terrace outside. For recycling purposes, please put glass/bottles in a separate carrier bag and leave by the bin. Clean paper and cardboard can be left in the fireplace..

Outside

The cottage has its own small patio and lawned area but you are also welcome to use any parts of the garden. Garden furniture and deck chairs are available but are stored elsewhere in the winter. Should there be an unexpected period of good weather and you would like them brought out, just ask. Cushions for the patio chairs are in the whatnot just inside the cottage.

Equipment

The cottage has quite a lot more than the minimum inventory requirements of holiday cottage companies, but please ask if there's something more that you need. There's a copy of the complete inventory in this folder, in alphabetical order so you can find things without having to hunt around.

Bampton

Bampton has a long and interesting history and there are various booklets in the information box and a larger illustrated book on the table (or somewhere else if it's been moved).

We think the collection of buildings here, now known as The Old House, dates back to the early 1700s, though remarkably little seems to be known about it locally and we are still trying to assemble information from various sources. However we do know there was a tannery on the site up to about the mid 1800s - the roofless building across the stream is still known as the Bark House - and a school for young ladies in the early 1800s. From the 1880s to about the second world war it was a nursery and seedsman business.

Shopping in Bampton

Bampton has a good range of local shops which can cater for most of your day to day needs. Below is a general description and opening times are on a separate spreadsheet.

General Food Shopping/Newspapers

There are two mini-markets in the village, Spar (bottom of Frog Street and turn right) and Costcutter half way up the main street (Brook Street) on the left.

Bread and Bakers

There are two bakers: the Spar shop and Bowdens on the right hand side of Brook Street opposite Costcutter. Bowdens' granary bread is especially good but tends to sell out early.

Butcher

There is a butcher in Brook Street who offers local meat and cheese of a high standard.

Fruit and Vegetables

Next door to the butcher is Bampton Fruit and Veg with a good range of fruit, vegetables, dairy and eggs

Pharmacist

Bampton Pharmacy is on Newton Square (opposite The White Horse/Blackberries) . The out of hours rota for the Tiverton pharmacists is shown in the window.

Nearest Cash Point

There are free cashpoints in Spar and Costcutter. Tiverton has all the main banks and building societies.

Petrol

The best places to buy petrol are the supermarkets in Tiverton - Tesco (24 hour) and Morrisons. The nearest petrol is in Brushford (half way to Dulverton), after that in Dulverton itself (said to be the most expensive petrol in the UK!). It's advisable to fill up whenever you have the chance as other petrol

stations round here are few and far between.

Post Office

The post office is in Brook Street. Post is collected from the box outside at 4.45 pm Monday-Friday, 12.15 on Saturday and 10.00 am Sunday.

Other Shopping

Tiverton, about 7 miles away, is the local shopping centre and you get there by making for the link road (dual carriageway) and going straight on at the roundabout (see street map).

Supermarkets

There are two major supermarkets in Tiverton, Morrison's and Tesco. To reach Morrison's go straight across at the roundabout on the link road (dual carriageway) then right at the second roundabout (opposite the leisure centre, before the hill on the way into town).

The most straightforward way to reach Tesco is to turn left at the link road roundabout, take the first exit, go right over the link road and straight on at the first roundabout (passing McDonalds on the left). Go straight down to the next roundabout, turn right and then almost immediately right again into Blundells Road, following it to the left until you reach the small roundabout at the entrance to Tesco's car park.

There is a small Somerfield off the Market parking area and a smallish food-only Marks & Spencer near the bus station in Phoenix Lane. The Tiverton Pannier Market in the town centre is open every day with a Farmers Market on the third Wednesday of the month, open till early afternoon.

Other Shops

Tiverton has a reasonable range of the better known high street and other shops, plus banks and building societies. Also rare examples of two endangered species - a department store (Banbury's) and an independent cinema (the Tivoli).

Taunton and Exeter, each about 25 miles away, are county towns and have the usual range of large-town shops and amenities plus superstores and shopping sheds on the outskirts. Exeter being a city and with a large student population is livelier and has the better entertainment and shopping facilities of the two.

Two well known nearby factory shops are Dartington Crystal at Great Torrington and WH Brannam (who make a huge range of garden pottery) at Roundswell near Barnstaple.

Eating Out

In Bampton, The Quarryman's Rest (highly recommended) and The Bridge all have some good beers and restaurant-type food. The White Horse also does food of sorts and is probably the liveliest of the pubs. The Bridge has a folk night sometimes, the Quarryman's Rest and the White Horse have live music every now and then. The Quarryman's has recently changed hands and has been getting good reviews from visitors. The Blackberries Restaurant does a wide range of meals, including themed nights.

The Toucan Café/Bistro in Brook Street is open for espresso, lattes (with newspapers for browsing) and lunch weekdays from Tuesday to Friday and evening meals 2 or 3 nights a week. It offers a contemporary menu, is licensed for beer and wine and has live jazz on occasion. It is advisable to book for evening meals.

Bowdens the bakers in Brook Street has a cosy café area where you can have breakfast, tea, coffee, cakes, rolls/sandwiches, pasties, ice-cream and Sunday lunches in a homely setting. It's recommended for basic well cooked food in a homely environment.

The Chip Shop on Brook Street has some seats for eating in. It does a variety of other fast food including pizzas. It has recently had a change of ownership and is much improved.

Takeaways. Apart from the Chip Shop, the nearest takeaways are the various Indian, Thai and Chinese restaurants in Tiverton. You can order by phone and then drive in to collect (no home deliveries here!). There are some leaflets in this folder. The Thai restaurant in Dulverton also does takeaways but is more expensive and a less easy drive. If you're going to make the journey there, it would be much nicer to eat in the restaurant itself.

Restaurants. There are lots of eating places in the countryside roundabout, but the following are not far away and are ones we use ourselves and can recommend.

The Rock Inn at Waterrow about halfway between here and Wiveliscombe on the back road to Taunton - turn left at the bottom of Frog Street. Booking is sometimes necessary. Very good food, but pricey for around here. 01984 623293.

The Globe at Appley. You may need to book as it can get quite busy especially at weekends. It's not all that easy to find so if you want to go there it might be as well to ask us for directions. 01823 672327.

There is more information and sample menus in the folder.

Things to Do

A brief guide is below and there is a wide selection of leaflets and booklets in the information boxes. Another good resource is the Bampton website www.bampton.org.uk which has links to many other useful sites. www.discoverdevon.com is also worth a look. If you switch on the cottage laptop the menu bar along the top has links to various useful local sites.

Riding

There are many Riding Schools in the area, Dulverton Tourist Office, the Exmoor Information Centre, (about 7 miles away) is a good place to look as the village is a centre for equestrian sports. See the leaflets in the local information box and maybe also visit the Exmoor Information Centre in Dulverton.

Beaches

Minehead is the nearest beach, but not the nicest. Lynton and Lynmouth on the North Coast for traditional seaside towns, Dawlish and Teignmouth on the South. There are many great lonely bays and surfing beaches on the coast between Lynton and Barnstaple, notably Woolacombe and Saunton. The South coast down past Exeter is quicker to reach and much more developed, Torquay being most upmarket, while the North Coast is rugged and dramatic.

Swimming Pool

Tiverton has an excellent new Sports Centre, on the road in on the left before the hill up into town. It also has tennis courts and skateboarding.

Cinema and Theatre

The Tivoli in Tiverton is an independent cinema mostly showing second run films and deserves support, check its' website to see what's on. Taunton has an Odeon multiplex close to the motorway junction.

Exeter has an Odeon multiplex and the 3 screen Picture House for less commercial films. Films, theatre and music are on offer at the Phoenix Arts Centre in Gandy Street. The Northcott Theatre, a theatre in the round, has a national reputation.

Walking

In the information box are booklets of walks in and around Bampton and on Exmoor. Other villages are covered by booklets that can be bought from the Tourist Offices in Tiverton and Dulverton or the local section of Waterstones in Tiverton. A good website for Exmoor walks is www.geoffbannister.com.

Sailing

Wimbleball reservoir has sailing facilities including tuition.

Fishing

Fishing is on offer at Wimbleball and Clatworthy reservoirs and there are local farms which also offer trout fishing. Such as Exe Valley Fishery, Exbridge, Dulverton, Somerset. Telephone: 01398 323328. See the leaflets in the folder. Also available is fly fishing tuition by businesses like Nick Hart Fly Fishing, The Cottage, Benshayes Farm, Bampton, 01398 331660/07971 198559.

Golf

Tiverton has a golf course, Tiverton Golf Club, Post Hill, Tiverton, EX16 4NE - 01884 252114 / 254836 and a Driving Range out by Parkway Station near the M5 junction 27.

Badgers

Devon Badger Watch is run from a farm about 6 miles away. The owners lead you down into a wood and then into the very comfortable hide they've built. You then see the local badgers come out, eat, play, fight and run around. A great experience. Phone 01398 351506.

Places to Visit

Houses and Gardens

There are many lovely houses and gardens within easy reach of Bampton and you will find a selection of leaflets in the box. The nearest locally is Knightshayes Court just down the road at Bolham, which is run by the National Trust and is well worth a visit. There is more National Trust information in the box and the folder and you can consult their website if you want more detail or to check opening times.

There are also many gardens within easy reach and again there is a selection of leaflets in the box. The Royal Horticultural Society's Rosemoor garden is about an hour's drive away near Great Torrington and if you are here for a few days you might like to make a short expedition to see the well known gardens in Cornwall, like Trebah and Heligan, or the Eden project. It's advisable to book in advance for the latter.

Other Places

There are many other places of interest within easy reach - too many to list, ranging from the quirky Bakelite Museum to more conventional attractions. See the leaflets in the box and the Bampton website.

Local History

Tiverton Museum off the main street between the bus station and the Town Hall, is much more interesting and well laid out than you might expect for a small town museum. A comprehensive social history of the area's agricultural and industrial past and well worth a visit.

Local Events

Bampton Charter Fair is held on the last Thursday in October. Once upon a time it was famous for sheep, Exmoor ponies and cattle. These days it features a fun fair and a street market. Still worth a look though, all the pubs and cafes will be open all day and various events will be laid on. The main street is usually closed from the middle of the afternoon on the Wednesday and all day Thursday. In this event, there will be signposted diversions which will bring you out on the South Molton road to the north of the village.