



Dumfriesshire Scouts - Scotland Branrigg/Craigshiels/Castlemaddy



Branrigg cottage

The centre is a former shepherd's cottage is situated within the Forest of Ae.

Although there is only space for four campers, up to 18 can be accommodated indoors in three rooms indoors (9 double bunks).

As well as the three bedrooms, there is a kitchen (crockery, cutlery and utensils provided), toilets, washbasins and a living room. Lighting is by a diesel-powered generator and heating by wood-burning fire. The fire also provides hot water. Cooking is by bottled gas.

Altar fires can be provided for outdoor cooking and there is access to wood and water.

Open all year round, the centre is situated approximately 6 miles from Ae village where the nearest payphone shops and public transport can be found.

The site provides abseiling, a basic climbing wall, small activity course and poles for pioneering.

The site is also suitable for hill walking, forest walks, mountain biking, general cycling, orienteering, badge work, field studies and fishing. Additionally loch fishing, pony trekking, golf, swimming, indoor bowling, green bowling, cinemas, museums, canoeing and sailing are all available nearby.

Vehicles up to minibus size can access the site, which is open all year round.

Contact: Mr G Stobbs,
"Aughnane", Watchill Road,
Lochmaben Lockerbie, DG11
1RX.

Telephone 01387 810334.



Craigshiels Cottage & Barn

The centre is a former cottage and barn is situated within the Forest of Ae, and therefore is accessible to good walking country in the shape of forest roads, hills and riverside walk. Some routes are signposted and the Southern Upland Way is within a few miles of the centre.

Cottage and Barn, newly renovated. Cottage sleeps 20-25. Toilets, shower, kitchen, dining room, leader's room. Barn sleeps 12 with toilets, shower, kitchen, dining room. Mains electricity, suitable for special needs groups, zero terrain. Small field suitable for activities. Area ideal for forest walks, swimming, canoeing, fishing, mountain biking etc.

Contact: as for Banrigg.



Castlemaddy Cottage

This is a former shepherd's cottage located within a forestry area. Application is currently being made for lottery funding which, if successful, will be used to refurbish the centre. Therefore there is a restriction on numbers using the centre at present (9 instead of the usual 20 – 25).

The attic space is out of bounds, the current sleeping accommodation being in two rooms, one sleeping five, and the other four. In addition there is a kitchen with two gas cookers, crockery, saucepans etc, common room, toilets and washing/shower facilities. There is one coal fire and the common room has a wood-burning stove, which provides hot water.

The centre relies on groups to gather wood to replace what has been used, thus keeping the woodpile well stocked. Groups are required to provide coal if they wish to use the coal fire. No fires are permitted elsewhere.

A diesel driven generator provides lighting, again groups will need to bring their own. (Two gallons should be sufficient for an average winter weekend.) Calor gas, however, is supplied and there are two 13-amp sockets. The water supply is not suitable for drinking and should be boiled or brought in by each group.

There is plenty of unspoilt countryside and good walking in the area. It is 4 miles to the nearest public transport and 10 miles to the nearest shop.

Contact: B Gillies, 31 Victoria
Street, Kirkpatrick Durham,
Castle Douglas, DG7 3HQ

Telephone: 01556 650412

As you will see from the above description, these shepherds cottages are basic accommodation and you will need to bring your own; sleeping bag etc.