



Welcome

Rich in local history and bursting with wildlife, Barstobrick offers a cultural, active day for all the family.

The Visitor Centre display tells the story of the Hill Fort on Barstobrick Hill dating back 1500 years, and Neilsons Monument which commemorates the life of James Beaumont Neilson who invented the Hot Blast process in steel making.

From the Visitor Centre you can enjoy a wide range of walks - easy grades around a network of wildlife ponds to a more strenuous hike up to Neilsons Monument on Barstobrick Hill. Here you will find one of the most spectacular vantage points in Dumfries & Galloway from where the ruling tribes of Galloway could "see and be seen".

Panoramic views stretch across the Solway Firth as far as the Isle of Man and Cumbria and the surrounding area is full of wildlife and species rich grassland.

Farm Tours

The farm tours are a wonderful opportunity to see the working family farm at Barstobrick - a traditional beef and sheep farm set within 650 acres of beautiful countryside. There are 250 suckler cows and 500 Lley X ewes producing high quality Aberdeen Angus beef and lean and tender lamb.

Tours are by Landrover or tractor and trailer - the driver will explain all about the farming methods used. You can see at first hand how the beef and lamb are reared in a traditional non intensive system, and visit the meat processing facility. You will also have the chance to ask questions.

Barstobrick Farm Tours last approximately 60 minutes, and take place on selected days throughout the summer. Ask at the Visitor Centre for more information.

Farm Shop

Our Farm shop sells our own home grown lamb and Barstobrick Best Angus beef along with a selection of local speciality foods, home baking, pre-prepared meals plus local arts, crafts and gifts.

Wildlife

Wildlife is plentiful around Barstobrick. From Lapwing nesting on open hilly areas, Mallard Duck in the ponds and brightly coloured dragonflies darting through the wetland. We are now part of the Red Kite Trail and birds can often be seen using the up draughts on Barstobrick Hill (*the Red Kite Feeding Station is less than 3 miles away at Laurieston*).

The wetland areas and ponds are amongst the most valuable of wildlife habitats. They support some rare and endangered species of plants, mammals, birds, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles.

The wetland comes alive in spring and summer with an array of brightly coloured flowers - Ragged Robin and Common Heath Orchids thrive in the damp acidic conditions. The flowers attract an abundance of butterflies - the Orange Tip, Green Veined White and Common Blue can all be seen fluttering around the marsh.

Several species of waterbirds including Moorhen, Coot, Grey Heron and Water Rail can all be spotted nesting and feeding around the ponds. The network of wetlands also provide excellent breeding habitat for other birds such as Reed Bunting and Sedge Warbler.



Walking & Cycling

With miles of surfaced paths there are excellent walks for all ages and abilities.

The ponds are well worth a visit in spring for their rich wildlife, birdsong and fauna. A way marked trail (free leaflet from Visitor Centre) takes you up Barstobrick Hill with stunning views of the Solway Firth and the surrounding countryside. The paths and tracks snaking round the beautiful countryside can also be cycled (*bring your own bike*) with the exception of the 'pond trail' and 'strenuous access trail'.

Pony Trekking & Horse Livery

With access to excellent bridleways, hills and countryside at Barstobrick you can also explore the area on horseback.

We have a range of horses and ponies and can cater for beginners as well as experienced riders. Our rides range from 30 minute introductory rides for children, to 1 and 2 hour treks. Pony trekking rides are available all year round. Lessons are also available.

The 16 stable livery yard offers all kinds of livery including facilities for you to bring your horse on holiday!

Fishing

Our ponds are stocked with various species of coarse fish. Permits are available at the Visitor Centre. Coaching is available by arrangement.

Children's Play Area

Coming soon.

see and be seen...



The Visitors' Centre

The Visitors' Centre is fully staffed and easily accessible. Visitor information, exhibition space, Farm Shop and Coffee Shop. Public toilets attached to the Centre are open daily.

Disabled Access

Good physical access near to the Visitor Centre and to the toilets - most of the wetland paths are level, even and hard surfaced. The sign posted 'easy access trail' (1/3 mile) has a bench every 70 yards. Away from the Centre access may be more difficult for people with reduced mobility. Please ring the Centre on 01557 820112 for advice.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome but please be a responsible dog owner by keeping them on a lead or under close control and clearing your dogs mess. Free poop scoop bags are available at the Visitors Centre.

Neilson's Coffee Shop

Our staff offer you a warm welcome to Neilson's Coffee Shop. At Neilson's the emphasis is on seasonal food prepared in-house using local ingredients. Neilson's is open daily for tea, coffee, lunches, afternoon teas and delicious home baking. Bookings for meals and functions welcome by arrangement.

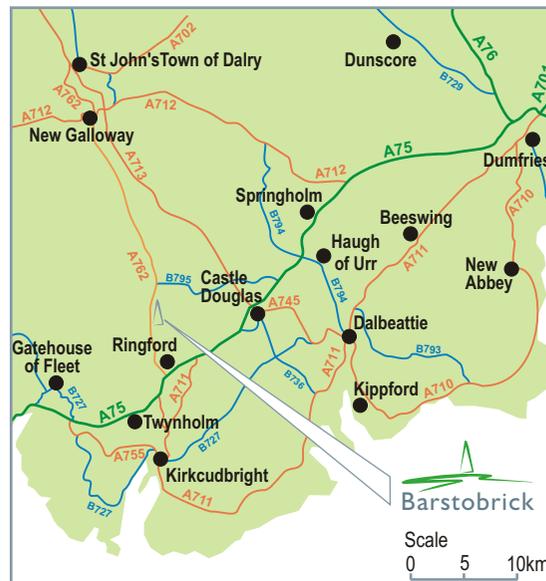
Lodges / Holiday Cottages

At Barstobrick we have modern thermally efficient timber lodges for sale with show homes for inspection. Set on individual and private sites with spectacular views.

Our self catering cottages tastefully converted from estate buildings and timber lodges built in the grounds of Queenshill Mansion House offer spacious, well appointed accommodation for hire. Contact us for more information on 01557 820227 or visit the website www.queenshill.co.uk.

How to find us

We are located on the A762 (1 mile off the A75) six miles from Castle Douglas and 5 miles from Kirkcudbright.



Open all year.

March to October daily 10am - 6pm

November to February weekends 10am - 4pm

Bookings for meals and functions at other times welcome by arrangement.
Coach Parties welcome.



Barstobrick, Castle Douglas DG7 2AT
Tel: 01557 820112 or 820227
Email: info@barstobrick.co.uk
www.barstobrick.co.uk

see and be seen...



Heritage • Wildlife Walks
Coffee Shop • Farm Shop

Horse Trekking - Fishing - Farm Tours
Monument Viewpoint



Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway