

LUXURY LODGES UNVEILED AT WHITBARROW

FAMILY-RUN resort company Luxury Lodges has unveiled its inaugural phase of contemporary countryside lodges in Whitbarrow between Keswick and Penrith.

Nestled within 65 acres of unspoilt Cumbrian landscape, this first phase of 24 residences presents an opportunity for holiday-makers and investors to own a new turnkey property in one of England's most protected and picturesque regions.

The luxury lodges offer panoramic views of Blencathra and the Helvellyn range. Available in six styles named after local fells, the two and three-bedroom lodges range from 1,200 to 1,500sq ft, each with an additional 25 per cent of private outside space.

The company claims that owners of the lodges at Whitbarrow can expect to receive an average net rental income of up to £37,543 per year, thanks to an annual 80 per cent occupancy rate across its sites, and a comprehensive in-house sub-letting programme.

It says the first two years come with a guaranteed rental yield, while the company's fully managed

service handles all aspects of rentals, from marketing and bookings to guest services and maintenance. The lodges are exempt from both second home stamp duty and council tax. This has contributed to a 25 per cent increase in enquiries across Luxury Lodges' sites since the higher SDLT rate on second homes was introduced in April.

Commercial director Jack Hurley said: "Planning regulations in the Lake District are among the most stringent in the UK, making the development of new homes incredibly rare."

"As such, the Residences at Whitbarrow represent a limited opportunity for buyers to secure a high quality, newly constructed home in the heart of this iconic landscape."

"Building upon the success of our flagship location Dylan Coastal Resort in West Wales, our aim is to rethink holiday home ownership by offering something that is both emotionally and financially rewarding — a place where owners can escape to the peace of the fells, or make the most of a high-performing asset in a robust market."



LUXURY: One of the new lodges at Whitbarrow. Photo — Ryan Wicks.



HOWDY PARTNER: Jill and David Jackson with Calvert Trust staff Georgia Naylor and Cole Kelly.

CASTLERIGG TEAMS UP WITH CALVERT TRUST

A CHARITY providing accessible outdoor adventure to thousands of people living with disability around the UK has secured an exciting new partnership with an award-winning Keswick tourism operator.

The Lake District Calvert Trust announced this week that Castlerigg Hall Camping, Caravanning and Glamping Park has become its latest key charity partner. The partnership will see the Castlerigg team take part in a range of fundraising initiatives in the hopes of raising a substantial sum for the charity.

Park owners David and Jill Jackson have been long term supporters of the charity's work. They and their team collectively chose the Lake District Calvert Trust as their newest charity partner as they were all drawn to its vision of 'challenging disability through outdoor adventure'.

Georgia Naylor, the Lake District Calvert Trust's community fundraising officer, said: "We are delighted and privileged to have been named as Castlerigg Hall's charity partner."

"Castlerigg Hall is a long-standing and hugely respected family business with strong local history and national reach. Support like theirs makes all the difference as we continue to challenge disability through outdoor adventure."

"We're looking forward to supporting David and the team to develop an exciting and challenging fundraising plan for the year, which we hope in turn will benefit their staff by bringing the team closer together, developing skills and boosting staff morale."

The fundraising began in earnest this weekend as Castlerigg held the first of several coffee mornings planned over the coming months on the park. More

than 40 guests, staff and members of the local community enjoyed a cuppa and a slice of cake over conversation with glorious views over Derwentwater.

The team will also further cement their commitment to accessibility and inclusivity by undertaking a disability awareness training day with the highly-specialised staff from the Lake District Calvert Trust in time for re-opening in Spring 2026. These training days are the gold standard in promoting accessibility in the work place. They help organisations of all sizes to confidently welcome both colleagues and guests who live with disabilities.

Other initiatives planned over the coming months include regular visits to the much-loved Calvert Stables to visit the pony they have chosen to sponsor along with the building of a wishing well on the park.

David hopes to complete this over the winter

so it is ready to receive guests' pennies and pounds from early next year. And while thinking about the wishing well David felt he could do more and has set himself a personal challenge.

"I love local history and I recalled that Jonathan Otley wrote in the 1820s about early surveying markers on the fells — including a 30-foot wooden staff erected on Skiddaw by a detachment of the Ordnance surveyors in 1826," said David. "That means next year marks 200 years since the first early surveying marker was placed on Skiddaw."

"The wishing well will have a panoramic backdrop of Derwentwater and Skiddaw beyond and so I formed the idea of climbing every trig point in the Lake District during 2026 — call it a 'Trig Trek' if you will."

"The plan is to start the first one from the Calvert Trust centre and climb

Skiddaw and then attempt to complete the rest of them. I'm still finalising the exact number, (different sources suggest anywhere between 49 and 61) but with a time limit of completing them all in a single year."

"To raise awareness along the way, I'm going to design a fold-out 'trig seat' to go in my rucksack for my lunch stops including information about the Calvert Trust. The idea is that people I meet on the fells will ask about it, hopefully generating conversations and helping spread the word about the charity."

"Climbing them as part of this partnership would be a wonderful way to honour that history while raising funds for the brilliant Calvert Trust."

Corporate partnerships are an important aspect of the charity's fundraising work. The team is keen to hear from any other local businesses considering getting involved into 2026

New date for Dorothy's award-winning documentary

A SCREENING in Keswick planned for this month of a celebrated documentary about Mungisdale artist Dorothy Ramsay has had to be rescheduled for November.

Following a sold-out premiere at the Keswick Alhambra cinema last November, the documentary *Show Up and Start: The Life and Art of Dorothy Ramsay* was set to return to Keswick for a special screening on Saturday 20 September.

Since its debut, the film has gone on to win multiple awards at festivals around the world. It received the Jury Award at the USA's oldest film festival in Dallas and won Best International Short Documentary at the Golden State Film Festival in Hollywood.

Director Neil Emery said: "I understand that the original plan was for the screening and Q&A to be followed by an exhibition of Dorothy's artwork."

"Apparently the timing has had to shift because Dorothy is currently taking part in the Eden Open Studios and Art Trail (running until 21 September), an annual event where artists across Cumbria open their doors to the public. It's a hugely popular celebration of creativity, and great for people to get to meet Dorothy in her studio and see her work, but it also means Dorothy's current pieces are committed there until the trail ends."

"The good news is that the screening has been rescheduled for 22 November. This later date means the film can be presented as intended: with a Q&A and a dedicated exhibition of Dorothy's work at the Northern Lights Gallery afterwards."



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