

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

## Please read carefully BEFORE completing your booking form

In order to avoid disappointment, and to manage your expectations please read this information sheet carefully as it contains important details about how this workshop is structured and what to expect. If there are any questions about the content of this document, then please contact me directly at huw@huwalban.com or on my mobile on 07508 639 653.

## A typical workshop day

My purpose for running these workshops is to:

- Either develop your existing skills and experience in the landscape using my own approach to the genre, or
- Give you pointers and guidance to get started with the genre, and enough experience to take some ideas away and develop them

Along the way if we come away with some belting images then that is a bonus of course 😊

In order to achieve these aims I pick locations for the workshop with multiple subjects and multiple points of interest, which we will then invest time in exploring. Some locations we may spend the majority of the day at or just several hours, it largely depends on the weather, and of course the enthusiasm of the workshop group for the location itself.

I set out to achieve my purpose by asking you questions on location about what interests you about the scene in front of us, and why there is that interest. What makes for an interesting picture is unique and individual to each of us, so telling you what inspires me is not as effective in giving you the skills to identify future interest when you are out on your own when you get home.

What this workshop is NOT, is a tour of the Lake District National Park visiting the popular photography viewpoints to grab a couple of images and then move on. If this is what you are looking for then photography holiday brands like Light & Land may be better suited to provide that kind of experience.

## The weather

The weather will feature in the running of the workshop as we will be predominantly outside, and it is something that is completely outside of my control. In the workshop guidance notes issued after your booking is confirmed, wet weather clothing is

recommended as is sturdy water-resistant footwear. I have had days where it has rained all day, but I've still managed to get the group out and under some form of natural cover in order to work the conditions, even if it is only for a few hours.

In order to manage wet days, our guesthouse kindly allows us to use their breakfast room, and they have a boiler room where wet coats etc can be hung up to dry. I will bring a laptop, projector, and screen, and set up some "show and tell" sessions or maybe we can also dive into a little bit of processing in the breakfast room. Doing this keeps the photographic juices churning and still provides the opportunity to develop new ideas regardless of what the heavens are throwing down.

It is of significant help to me if everyone carefully watches the weather forecast before travelling up to the area, ensuring that they have suitable clothing and be prepared for the predicted conditions.

Please also consider rain protection for your cameras, lenses and camera bags too.

### **Physical effort and ability**

Unfortunately, this comes up frequently as a late consideration, i.e. I receive a call or email two weeks before we are due to start letting me know that walking up slopes or steps or over rough ground may be a challenge.

It is a fact that the Lake District is not flat. Also, most of the locations I select are within a reasonable distance of our mini-bus, and none of our locations are at the top of Scarfell Pike or Hellvelyn. However, a good proportion of the locations I use do contain some kind of gradient, sometimes over an extended distance and almost certainly over uneven paths or steps. Some of us will be familiar with the Hovis advert filmed on Gold Hill here in Shaftesbury (those not familiar look at this link [https://youtu.be/lpfO\\_QwfyhM?si=Yo063MpMhnrySuRm](https://youtu.be/lpfO_QwfyhM?si=Yo063MpMhnrySuRm)), well some areas are not too dissimilar in both gradient and distance.

Please carefully consider this before completing your booking. In previous years I've had recent hip and knee replacements participants, participants with lung capacity issues, participants with recent heart rhythm issue diagnoses, and even someone who had had a recent mini-heart attack, so most things can be managed.

HOWEVER, to really explore the potential of the Lake District some effort is required so the ability to negotiate elevations and rough and uneven ground.

### **Facilities on location**

Public facilities and washrooms in the National Park do exist but they are sparse, by November generally locked up for the winter, and even if they are there and open, they can sometimes be a little "unsavoury". There are exceptions of course, but

usually they charge for entry (in 2025 it was 50p to use the facilities by the Theatre by the Lake car park in Keswick).

As we are in autumn, woodland areas will feature in most locations and for the gentlemen a call of nature can be concealed reasonably easily. However, for the ladies the “process” is a little more “complicated”.

If at all possible, I will make myself familiar with what public facilities are near the chosen locations, however participants – regardless of gender - should be prepared to “use the woods” if needed. This includes having tissues, hand wipes, and hand sanitiser available.

Please do take this into consideration before completing your booking.

### **Refreshments on location**

Participants are accountable for the purchase, provision, and cost of any drinks or snacks to be consumed on location. This includes items to be consumed for lunch. This is referred to in the booking form conditions. At the start of each of day we will visit a suitable shop or supermarket from which such purchases can be made. I will not be providing any drinks or snacks on location. If a participant prefers a hot drink, then consider bringing an insulated mug so that a hot drink could be prepared in advance at our guesthouse before heading out for the day.

### **Dinners and evening meals**

In the booking form is a box to capture any food allergy, intolerance, or preference considerations. I will book, in advance of the workshop starting, restaurants in Keswick town that have the capability to avoid or control any food allergy or intolerance items.

If the participant would prefer to make their own arrangements for evening meals, then this is perfectly acceptable, but I'd appreciate being made aware in advance.

It is a fact, unfortunately, that the number of restaurants in Keswick that can cater for a party of 7 or more, and have a facility to make a reservation are limited. As a result, some duplication of venue may occur based on availability and allergy & intolerance controls.

I will publish via email in advance of the workshop starting which venues I've been able to secure and for what time. Additionally, if available, in the same email I will also provide web links to menus for the venues booked.

As a general rule, only a main course and a drink are ordered, although occasionally deserts or coffee do feature.

Evening meals are paid for by taking the total meal cost for the entire party and dividing it by the number of people attending and adding a small tip. In 2025 this came to between £25 and £30 per person.

If a participant would prefer to pay for only what they've ordered, then this is perfectly acceptable, but I'd appreciate knowing in advance. In that event the meal cost would then be reduced by that amount and divided by the number attending minus one (or more if more participants choose this approach).

### **In summary**

All the items outlined in this document have been raised during previous workshops or commented on in the post workshop feedback. The purpose of this document is to head into these items early and avoid any surprises, and to ensure that everyone is aware of what to expect.

If there are any questions about the content of this document, then please contact me directly at [huw@huwalban.com](mailto:huw@huwalban.com) or on my mobile on 07508 639 653 before completing your booking. Thank you.