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Life Unplugged: Unique Off-Grid Northumberland Cabin Listed for £165,000

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A rare opportunity has emerged for buyers seeking a slower pace of life, as a secluded off-grid woodland cabin in Northumberland has been placed on the market for offers over £165,000. The two-bedroom property, Stanholme, offers self-sufficient living, complete with solar panels, fruit trees, and a long lease arrangement, making it ideal for buyers looking to step back from the fast lane while preserving long-term value.

Built in 1926, the rustic cabin is nestled within Whittle Dene, a tranquil ancient woodland close to the historic Roman wall. The property has served as a peaceful retreat for its current custodians, Tom and Glory, who moved in just before the first national lockdown in 2020. “I had no idea that the world was about to change,” Tom told *This is Money*. “But the timing meant I had space, peace, and nature to ground me through everything.”

For the past five years, the couple have embraced a self-reliant lifestyle, growing their food, living without utility bills, and appreciating the daily rhythms of nature. Glory added, “This place has given us so much. It taught us how to live simply, live slowly, and live with the land. Now, as our family grows, we’re looking for a new kind of space.”

The property, which includes three interlinked woodland plots, offers complete privacy and zero road noise. Accessible only on foot via Whittle Burn Woods, the home includes a decked area, a tool shed, an outdoor compost toilet, a geodome greenhouse, and a fire pit. Solar panels power the cabin, which features a log burner, open-plan living space, two bedrooms, and a bathroom with a roll-top bath. Large double-glazed windows ensure plenty of natural light.

Despite its back-to-basics ethos, the cabin is far from primitive. While it cannot be mortgaged or sublet, and restrictions apply regarding fences or boundary alterations, it is exempt from council tax and second home surcharges. It is currently on a one-year rolling lease, with negotiations underway to extend this to a 20-year term. The cabin may be occupied for up to 51 weeks each year.

The area’s storied past adds another layer of interest. The surrounding cabins—originally built by Tyneside industrial workers, once housed wartime evacuees. Nearby lie the remains of a historic water mill, which operated until the 1800s. According to local legend, the woods may even be haunted by “Long Lonkin,” a criminal figure from the 13th century.

Estate agency GFW, which is marketing the property, says interest is expected from retirees, nature enthusiasts, or even those preparing for greater self-sufficiency. Lindsay French, a partner at GFW, described it as “truly one of a kind... a piece of living history.”

In an era of rising living costs and growing disillusionment with urban sprawl, Stanholme offers a compelling alternative for buyers seeking independence, simplicity, and a deeper connection to the land, without sacrificing comfort or charm.