

INFORMATION FOR CAMPERS/TIPIS



A warm welcome from Wiston Lodge to all Campers, this is just a guideline to help you to enjoy your stay here.

- **Arrival.** Please follow signs and report to Reception in the Main Lodge (09:00 – 17:00). If arriving after office hours, please pitch your tent/s and report to reception the following morning.
- **Parking.** Head north out of the back car park, up the track. Then turn left after the detached house which is signposted 'Cabins' down onto the campfield. Face your car down the hill to enable easy exit on wet ground. The exit is downhill at the left corner of the field.
- **Privacy.** Please respect the privacy of other campers, the cabins and the private house nearby when pitching your tent and **leave no trace** from pitching, cooking, litter etc.
- **Toilet block** is situated behind the cottage. **Dishwashing** sink is at the East side of the building next to the track.
- **Drinking water** is available from this sink, from the tap at the bottom of the camp field and from a new hose attachment below the cottage.
- **Showers** can be taken in the main Lodge building, open from 8 am – 10 pm, and are situated inside the back door of the Lodge (opposite the stores).
- **Fire Safety.** A Fire equipment trolley is located by the cabins. Please familiarise your entire group with its location and do not use any items for any other purpose. Do not put yourself at risk by fighting a fire unless you deem it safe to do so. Please contact staff at the Lodge for assistance. There is a Fire Warden on site at all times.
- **First Aid** facilities are available at the Lodge.
- **Noise.** We ask you to observe a noise curfew from 11pm to 8am
- **Fires.** Please only light fires in designated areas, marked on the map. Fire sites must be pre-booked. You can bring your own wood or pre-order a load (£10) from the office in advance of arrival. Please do not gather wood from the surrounding woodland or the materials compound.
- **Swimming** is strictly prohibited in the Canoe Pond; please take responsibility for your children at all times. Activity sessions can be arranged for groups through Reception.
- **Grounds.** Please walk in the grounds (52 acres) with respect and do not disturb other groups working, wildlife or pick any plants or fungi.
- **Built Adventure Structures.** Please stay off unless under supervision of a Wiston Lodge Instructor. Activity sessions can be arranged for groups through Reception.
- **Rubbish Bins** are located in the main Car park. Please take with you any items for recycling, bottles, paper, tins and plastics as we have limited amenities.
- **Payment** in full must be made **prior** to camping unless you have made alternative arrangements with the Booking office.
- **Further information.** Please contact Reception or a member of Wiston Lodge Staff.
- **Emergencies.** Please contact Reception during working hours. After working hours please contact the Duty Manager on call. You will be provided with an emergency contact number prior to or on arrival at the Lodge.

We hope that you enjoy your stay at our Place to Grow!

Tipi Camp

A place for many *tribes* and individuals to gather, explore, learn and contribute. This is a space for all to use who have a common appreciation, respect and genuine interest of learning from and living closer to nature.

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.”

-John Muir

In order for the camp to continue functioning as a communal gathering place and remain in good condition we request all who use it to respect the following guidelines.

- Please leave the camp as you find it. Before departing please tidy away any unused wood, logs or branches etc, returning them back to where you found them. This includes anything used for play, arts and crafts and fire making. Please also put any litter in the bin under the green tent
- Please use the wood that is stored under the green tent for fires but remember to keep the fire small, to help us preserve stocks and also keep the parachute above safe from burning. Please do not remove this firewood to burn anywhere else
- Restrict fires to the designated fire pit situated in the middle of the camp
- Please do not use any twigs or branches from the brash barrier surrounding the camp to burn on the fire
- Do not build any permanent structures in the camp, dig or bury **anything** in the ground or attach **anything** to the tipi's and green tent without permission
- Tents and other non-permanent structures are welcome within the camp
- Feel free to use the composting toilet (Fort Cludgie) situated near to the camp but make sure to follow and adhere to the instructions very carefully
- Above all please treat the camp and everything within it with respect and consideration for other users

We hope you enjoy your stay!

How to Fire the Pizza Oven



Wiston Lodge Pizza Oven operates at high temperatures (380 C) and should therefore only be operated by responsible adults, clear of any intrusion from young people. We recommend that suitable risk assessments are carried out by any organisations for insurance purposes. Remove the door and put in a safe place - the door is designed the inside of the oven dry and clear when not in use and should not be utilised when firing the oven. Build your fire in the centre (left to right and front to back) of the pizza oven using 7-9 sticks of dry kindling, one to two odour-free, non-toxic fire starters, and two to three pieces of seasoned medium or hardwood. Try to avoid wax and sawdust fireplace starters, as they could leave a taste in your food. Once the fire gets going, add 2-3 pieces of wood so that the flame reaches the centre and front of the dome of your oven, without lapping too far out of the pizza oven opening. Use seasoned wood that is roughly 3'-4' in diameter, and roughly 12' long. Your firewood should not smoulder or smoke before catching fire, and should burn easily and quickly. Once the fire is well established, continue adding more wood, and wait for about 20 minutes.

After about 30 minutes, a small spot at the top inside centre of the pizza oven dome should start to turn white and then clear, and then begin expanding outward. This "whitening" is the sign that dome is reaching the desired cooking temperature. This change occurs when the carbon accumulated on the oven dome reaches about and turns from black to clear.

Once the whitening has started, begin building the fire toward the walls of the oven by adding pieces of wood on either side of the fire, and in the back. This wider fire will help drive the necessary heat across the entire cooking floor, and evenly spread heat across the cooking dome. Within a few minutes, you will see the whitening spreading across the dome to the sides.

After roughly 80 minutes, the entire cooking dome will turn clear, and the cooking surface will have reached the desired 350-400°C for cooking pizza, and you will have saturated your oven with the heat it will need for baking and roasting. You are ready to start baking pizzas, or you can let the oven temperature fall in order to start roasting or baking higher heat appetisers

If you will be baking with a fire or hot coals, you should push the fire to the side of the pizza oven, not to the back. There are two good reasons for this. First, you can see the side of the pizza (or whatever you are cooking) and be ready to turn it when brown. It's harder to do that when the fire is in the back. Second, your oven will cook better. Wood-fired ovens work by breathing in cold air through the lower part of the oven opening, heating it and circulating it around the oven dome, and then exhausting it out the top of the opening. By putting the fire in the back, you are giving the cold air a longer path before it hits the heat source, which is both cooler, and less likely to create a nice circular convection pattern.

Please be aware that when you have finished cooking the oven will remain very hot for a number of hours. Please exercise caution with minors in the area. The oven should be carefully raked out, with ashes disposed in a metal bucket to avoid fire risk. The area should be left clean and tidy for the next group arriving.