

Welcome to

Amber's Bell Tent Camping

at

Hopton Court Estate

We hope you enjoy your stay!



Tent Key

1. Pheasant
2. Partridge
3. Woodcock
4. Mallard
5. Snipe
6. Pigeon

Path to tents
through trees

If you arrive for your stay and we've been called away, please make your way to your tent.... everything will be ready and waiting for you. We'll come and make sure you've settled in when we return.



Arrival Instructions Hopton Court Estate

Before you set off, please make a note of the name of your tent and print off the site map attached. We can't always be available to meet guests when they arrive, so please make yourselves at home; your tent will be ready and waiting for you from 3pm on the day. There will be a folder in your tent, full of site-specific information for your stay.

Look out for the ABTC sign off the public road and proceed straight to the car parking area about 50 metres through the wooded area. The car parking areas will be clearly signed. Wheel barrows can be found adjacent to the car park area for you to transport your luggage through the woodland path directly to your tent; one barrow for each tent. There are no cars allowed on the field.

If we can't be there to greet you, we'll be over at some point to say hi and answer any additional questions you may have. Feel free to call the number at the bottom of the page if you have any difficulties or queries.

The tents are signposted through tracks through the woodland area from the car park to help you find your way in and are marked with name signs on the front of your tent. They are also marked on the map attached.

Keep warm - There will be a basket of kindling and wood for the log burner in your tent. If you need more, head to the honesty shop / wood store on the field where you will find logs for burners and fire pits, charcoal for BBQ's, gas for the gas stoves, candles, and everything you need to keep the home fires burning.

Check out your folder for eating out recommendations and where you can go for supplies.

Have a safe journey and we'll see you soon!

Hopton Glampsite Team

01299 270 661

07812 077 964

Bell Tent User Guide

In Tent Log Burners You will be supplied with a basket of wood to get things going. Please note, there is no guard around the log burner. If you have little ones who aren't used to being around hot stoves, maybe light it once they're in bed - the main hazard are little ones tripping in the tent and putting their hands out to stop themselves and burning their hands. Don't leave anything on the stove or leaning against it. The door of the stove can be left on the latch to create a draw on the blaze, but close the door down before you leave your tent. Please refer to the stove info sheet further down for stove lighting tips, and the safety sheet for all the risks and how to avoid them.

Fire Pit / Camp Fire Cookery If you want a camp fire or bbq, you can buy nets of logs and bags of charcoal from the wood store. Always get the charcoal white hot before putting your meat or veg on to cook. Avoid using BBQ starter if you can. If you're planning a big communal camp cook up, there are some big camp pots and extra crockery in the honesty shop. Get the chilli on! Don't forget to toast your marshmallows! There should be a jar of them in the pantry supplies in the tent on arrival.

Gas stove We no longer provide these as standard in our kitchen boxes, but now offer the purchase of them when you book. They are then yours to take away and bring back next time you come and stay! If you haven't booked a gas stove and find you need one, there will be some on site available to purchase at £15. Please use the same payment method as for the wood. If using a gas stove, please refer to the specific gas stove safety sheet below and please remember to only use this outside.

Kitchen boxes You should find everything you need for your culinary camp cookery in your kitchen boxes. Please could you make sure that all the bits end up back in the box. This is especially important if you are part of a group. There is a list of what is included below. There should be 5 of each.

In tent cooler Your vintage trunk in your tent works as a cool box. Frozen hot water bottles and cool packs live in the freezers. I'd recommend putting all your food in here to keep the local wildlife out of your tents looking for tasty treats! Please don't have more than two in your tent at one time, otherwise there may be a shortage in the freezer!

More linen Your beds will be made up with crisp cotton bedding. If you're staying for more than a few days and you'd like your beds changing mid stay, please see one of the girls on site or message me.

Lighting You will find either a solar or wind up lantern in your tent for you to use during your stay. Our lighting is pretty ambient. You may want to bring a spare torch or lamp. There are some spare torches in the honesty shop. Tea lights - not for tent use - Please only put light tea lights in the jars provided in the wood store and only on the picnic bench outside.

Keeping Dry Please zip up the tent when you leave or go out....Doors and windows. This will help avoid soggy patches when you get home. If you are camping when wet, avoid any contact with the canvas to avoid drips, and get the stove on!

Hopton Court Site Guide

Bathrooms and Keeping Clean – Your Wet Room, containing a WC, wash handbasin and shower is personal to you and each unit has a combination lock. The code for each will be made known to you and the wet room is exclusive to you throughout your stay. Loo rolls are available free in the Honesty Shop.

Washing up - House/Tent Keeping - You're on holiday, so you shouldn't have to do any! But, if you're not eating out all the time, then of course there'll be the obligatory washing up. You can take your washing up in a wheel barrow over to the washing up area beside the Honesty Shop, where there is hot water. You can leave your pots and pans to dry on the picnic bench. Don't forget, we supply 'Eco' washing up liquid which can be found both at the washing up station and the Honesty Shop. Clean sponges are provided in tents as are tea towels.

Water – You can find water either from a stand pipe at the entrance to the site or at the washing up area by the Honesty Shop. This water is safe for drinking and supplied from the borehole on the Estate. It is beautiful clear natural water, unadulterated by any added chemicals. It is filtered by an ultra violet filter so, no need to buy bottled water when you are staying at Hopton. Enjoy!

Wood Store / Honesty Shop - Here you will find all the supplies that you may need to keep you warm and more. Kindling, firewood, wood for the sauna, gas canisters for the gas stoves, spare lanterns, tea lights. Everything is priced on the blackboard - There are books for each tent in the Honesty Shop where you can tally up what you use for your stay. If you could leave the cash and details of what you have purchased in an envelope in the 'Honesty Box' on the wall before you leave. Thank you.

Fun Stuff - There's a badminton net on the field and a trunk of field games; badminton rackets and balls.

Outside - Feel free to climb trees, explore the woodlands next to the tent field and make a den. Areas where you are not allowed access are clearly signed, and guests are asked to respect this for the sake of the wildlife that occupy these areas. Hammocks are available for you to hang up where you wish within the camping area only. There is a nice little group of trees on site, where campers can have a snooze in the shade!

The Wildlife Pond / Woodland Walk and Catherton Common - The site, the woodland around it and Catherton Common are areas of managed wilderness and / or an SSSI. In the summer you can take a circular walk around the cut rides in the woodland area, and enjoy the wild plants and flowers throughout the whole area. It's a fabulous part of the world for identifying wild plant specimens. Bird life loves it too, and the area is a great environment for spotting your favourites. The pond, at the bottom of the site, was created to provide a wildlife haven for you to enjoy. Please appreciate that it is a sensitive spot, and as this is a new venture, we need to feel our way along so that the pond can achieve its full potential for guests to enjoy. **Campers can go anywhere except where clearly signed as out of bounds. For the wellbeing of wild-**

life, we ask you to respect this please.

The Crown Inn – The 'Local' is popular with the local inhabitants where you can go and be 'part of the scene!' It is only a twenty-minute stroll, so no worries about drink drive!

Sauna - If you want to use the sauna, just block out a session on the blackboard attached to the Honesty Shed. There are info sheets in your packs on how to use it. It's really easy, and works a treat! It's magic when the sun goes down, or on a chilly afternoon.

Communal Fire and BBQ Area - Fire Safety - There are fire extinguishers and a fire bucket in the Honesty Shop and beside the BBQ area - let's hope you don't need to use them - please refer to the fire safety sheet below.

Rubbish! - There are bins adjacent to the Car Park – Black and Bio degradable bin liners are available free from the Honesty Shop. Please use them as I am sure you don't want maggots amongst the wildlife on site! The black bin is for 'landfill' rubbish, the green will recycle the following: Glass, cardboard, paper, tins, cans, plastic bottles, and metal for ash. Could you please make sure there is no rubbish left in the bins in the tents when you leave?

Ash - The fire pits and stoves are cleaned before you arrive, but if you find you need to empty either, there are ash bins for hot ashes. **Please refrain from tipping them into the grass.**

Wildlife - Hopefully the wildlife will be something that you enjoy as part of your stay with us. Please be aware - you are in the countryside and you will be sharing your space with foxes, deer and badgers, which can be heard 'barking' and snuffling around at night. You will also hear Owl's hooting and other bird life screeching. There are insects buzzing around too. We do our very best to make sure your tent is free of flying things before you arrive. If you want to keep it so, please keep your insect nets zipped up especially at night when you have lights on in your tent. Please respect the wildlife in the area and keep food waste down to a minimum. You don't want to attract the wrong company!

What to bring to the tents...

The website has all the details of where to come and what to bring, but as a reminder.. All you should have to bring is a towel, and an extra torch or lantern each. The beds will be made up with sheets, pillows and double duvets on each bed, and there will be a basket of extra blankets and hot water bottles incase it's cold. There's a lantern for use inside the tent, and jam jars and tea lights provided for outside. The tents are fitted with wood burners and there's fire-wood on site, you'll have a bucket in your tent to get you started.

The kitchen boxes are really well stocked with all you need for camp fire or gas stove cooking. I've included a list below for you to check. There's firewood and charcoal and everything to keep the fire burning, and an honesty shop with fuel supplies if you run low. You have an in tent 'fridge' to keep all your perishables cool and a freezer with cool packs provided to help keep your box chilled. Please only take 2 at a time and replace the ones not being used. Outside the tent there's a six seater picnic table for each tent and fireside log seating. Bring cushions, a table cloth and camp chairs if you'd like more comfort.

There's an awning attached to your tent to park your wellies under and cook under if it's wet.

Kitchen box list

frying pan, saucepan, stock pan, colander

enamel plates and mugs and bowls for 5 people

utensils for eating and preparation including; spatula, serving spoon, wooden spoon, bottle opener, peeler, sharp knife, bread knife, chopping board

tea pot, cafetiere or coffee cup drip filter for ground coffee

pantry supplies - including vegetable oil, salt and pepper, tea bags, sugar and marshmallows for toasting on the fire

washing up trug scourer, dish cloth and tea towel

Stove Advise

In cold or windy weather there may be the chance your stove will be a bit smoky. Please follow these tips to ensure you have a snug and smoke free stay!

- The main key to these stoves is little and often. Start with fire lighters and just a few sticks of dry kindling.
- Crack the door ajar while getting going...this will give your fire a good blaze and get it hotter quicker
- Once the stove is roaring, start adding a few more sticks at a time.
- Once the fire is established you can start adding a few of the eco hot log discs.
- It's best to keep the door slightly cracked open while establishing the fire, but once it is going and nice and hot, you'll be able to close the door.
- Please always ensure the fire is attended while the door is cracked open, and that at all times nothing is placed on top or leaning against the stove (apart from the kettle of course!)
- If you do get a bit of smoke in your tent (it will happen from time to time...sorry!) open one or more of your window vents and it will soon clear.

Hopefully, if you follow these instructions, you'll have a nice toasty stay! Feel free to ask for advise!

Fire Lighting Outside

Your outside fire pit will be your best friend while you're camping....use it for cooking, toasting marshmallows, boiling the kettle or just keeping warm while you watch the stars at night.

Each fire pit has a sturdy grill with it that you can cook directly on to, or use it to put pans on your fire.

To light your fire outside, lay a small amount of dry kindling in the bottom of the pit. Place 2 or 3 firelighters on top of the kindling. Then build a small pyramid of kindling on top making sure you can still get a match to the firelighters. Light the firelighters with a match or lighter and allow the fire to take hold. Now you can add some more dry kindling to the fire.

Once your fire is going well, you can decide what your next step is...

If you are going to have a bbq with charcoal, use a stick or poker to carefully level out the burning kindling...then put your charcoal on top. You might need to add some more kindling to keep the fire burning hot while the charcoal catches fire. Once your fire is going well, you'll need to wait until the flames have died down before cooking. Place your grill over the embers and BBQ!

If you are just having a fire, then ignore the charcoal steps and just pop some small logs on once the kindling is going.

Your outside fire is suitable for burning wood you or the kids have gathered, but please only burn dead wood from the ground....please don't pull any branches from trees to burn.

Please only burn kindling and compressed hot logs in your tent's inside wood burner....wet or green wood will produce nasty smoke and will block your chimney quickly.

Amber's Bell Tent Camping

Fire Safety at ABTC

We want everyone who stays at ABTC to have a fantastic time, and to go home with great, happy memories. Fire plays a big part of the experience with the fire pit, wood burners and gas stoves....here are some do's and don'ts to make sure you know how to make the most of these facilities whilst staying safe!

In tent wood burner safety

- Always follow the lighting instructions in your Bell Tent user guide
- Only use dried, seasoned firewood in your stove. Suitable wood can be found in the honesty shop. Green or wet wood will clog the flue and lead to nasty gasses in your tent.
- Make sure that once your stove is lit, nothing is leaning against it.
- Never leave your lit stove unattended. If you have to leave the tent while it is lit, make sure the door is firmly closed and nothing is on top or leaning on it.
- Your stove will be incredibly hot when lit...if you touch it you will burn yourself.
- Never put anything on top of the stove (apart from your kettle), even if you think it is out. Residual heat can still cause fires. The picture below demonstrates what can happen when flammable objects are left on stoves....luckily no-one was hurt!
- Keep your log basket well away from the front of the stove

Other Fire Safety

- Tea lights are for use outside of tents only and in glass jars
- Cooking with your gas stove must be done outside of the tent or in the field shelter
- You can collect wood for your fire pit...but again, never leave a fire unattended
- Always follow the user instructions for using the sauna and pizza oven
- Fire extinguishers can be found in the honesty shop...we are happy to give instruction on how to use them if needed....just ask!

If you follow all of these instructions we hope that your stay will be a happy and stress free one!



Eating Out and Supplies....Hopton Court Estate

Eating out

The Hopton Crown is just a 10 minute cycle ride from the tents at Hopton Court Estate. A fantastic pub with a great fantastic British food, and a dedicated children's menu.

The Sun and Slipper - 6 miles away, makes a nice destination by cycle for lunch or evening supper. Cosy, Warm, stylish free house with family friendly dining with outside seating available.

Lamp - In Cleobury Mortimer, is a contemporary fine indian and Bangladeshi restaurant serving unique blend of dishes created to the very highly professional standard.

Mortimers - A grown up affair offering modern British/French food, served in a stunning restaurant in the idyllic historic town of Ludlow - 20 mins from Hopton.

The Olive Branch on Old Street, Ludlow, offers home cooked Vegan and Vegetarian dining alongside the more traditional favourites. Open for lunches during the week, and supper at the weekends. 20 mins from the tents at Hopton.

The French Pantry - Tower Street Ludlow, offers fantastic breakfasts, coffee, teas, cakes, lunches and suppers. All with a French feel. 20 mins from the tents at Hopton.

Supplies

For Supplies, head to near by Cleobury Mortimer, just 3 miles away, where you'll find a little market town with lots of local produce, and a good selection of traditional free house pups.

Look out for:

Cleobury Cafe which has a bakery for take out bread, pastries etc, and somewhere to chill and have a coffee.

Carrot Tops Green Grocers, next to the Talbot Hotel, for fresh local fruit and veg

Bowketts Food Emporium on the high street which is a butchers and more.

Supermarkets

Tesco Superstore - Just beyond Cleobury Mortimer in Kiddminster

Aldi & Tesco Superstore - Just under 10 miles/18 minute drive in the other direction to Ludlow SY8 2PQ.