

Welcome to Whistlewood Common!

Your guide to planning your visit, enjoying the site safely and caring for it together

A warm welcome to Whistlewood. Whether you're planning a visit or already here, we hope you'll feel at home and enjoy your time with us.

Whistlewood is ten acres of community-owned woodland, orchard and outdoor space, cared for by local people. We want to bring people closer to nature and to one another, with space to learn together, celebrate and simply enjoy being outdoors.

Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share are at the heart of what we do. We aim to help wildlife flourish and show how we can live more lightly on the earth, caring for the land and sharing its benefits fairly.

This guide explains what to expect on site and the ground rules that help keep everyone safe and protect this special place. Please take a few minutes to read it and share it with others in your group. Thank you for helping us care for Whistlewood.



1. Planning your visit

Whistlewood is an off-grid woodland space where we keep things simple and tread lightly on the earth. We want you to feel at home, so here's a guide to our facilities and access, with a few tips to help you enjoy a comfortable visit.



Water

Please bring your drinking water as there is no mains supply. We can use rainwater for handwashing and washing up. Please use water sparingly, especially in summer.



Toilets

Our composting toilets work differently from flushing toilets, so **please follow the instructions provided**, but it's really not complicated! Thank you for helping us make the most of this simple, sustainable system.



Electricity

Our solar panels provide limited lighting power, with **no mains sockets**. You can charge a phone or laptop via USB-A or USB-C under the shelter. Please use power sparingly and chat with us about your needs beforehand, including generators if needed.



Comfort

Our shelter offers protection from the rain but has open sides, so you may still feel the wind. Unless your event is in the Roundhouse, **please bring warm layers** to stay comfortable, even under cover.



Accessibility

We have accessible parking and toilet, a path to the Roundhouse and some raised growing beds. Other areas have uneven ground or natural paths. We're working to improve access, so please get in touch if you have particular access needs.



Dogs

To protect wildlife and our food-growing areas, **we do not permit dogs, except assistance dogs**. Please share this with your guests before they arrive. Thank you for understanding.



2. Enjoying Whistlewood safely

Whistlewood is a natural outdoor space, full of wildlife and opportunities to explore. Uneven ground and changing weather are all part of the experience, so please take a little extra care and help everyone enjoy the site safely.



Bees and wildlife

We have working beehives on site. Please enjoy watching from a safe distance and leave the bees undisturbed. Anyone with a known severe bee-sting allergy should **bring their prescribed medication**.



Ponds

Please take care around the ponds and stay mindful of the water's edge. Take particular care to **supervise children** and support anyone who may need help near the water.



Swales, uneven ground and thorns

Please watch for uneven ground, roots, thorns and **hidden swales (shallow drainage channels)**. On muddy or slippery paths, wear suitable footwear and help others. Please keep young children out of the resource area by the camping field and off unstable piles.



Fire

Please agree fires with us first and use approved areas only. **Never leave fires unattended**. Keep children safely away and **put fires out fully before leaving**. Water buckets and fire beaters are on site.



Looking after each other

Please supervise children and anyone needing help, and follow safety rules. Please report accidents, damage, hazards or concerns promptly. First-aid kits: shelter, Roundhouse, kitchen and Yurt. **Defibrillator**: under the shelter. For emergencies, **call 999** (what3words: [///homecare.flattered.brightens](https://www.what3words.com/homecare.flattered.brightens))



Planning your activities

Please **have a chat with us before planning** fires, using our BBQ, camping, music, equipment or activities beyond a simple gathering. We'll talk through any risks and agree suitable arrangements together.



Please enjoy Whistlewood with care and be aware that you visit at your own risk, taking responsibility for your own safety and for anyone in your care.

3.

Caring for Whistlewood together

Whether you're here for a quiet wander, a volunteering day or a celebration, we hope you feel at home. Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share guide how we look after Whistlewood. Everyone can help this shared place flourish, simply by visiting with care.



Living lightly

Thank you for helping us reduce waste. We encourage reusables, seasonal local food and minimal packaging. **Please leave balloons and plastic decorations at home** to protect wildlife. Paper or cloth bunting is a lovely alternative. Please choose games that leave no waste.



Growing and harvesting together

Our harvest reflects the care of those who grow and tend it together. We'd love you to get involved. Joining a shared harvest lets us **pick together and share fairly**, while celebrating the work behind each season's produce.



Enjoying and protecting nature

There's so much to discover here. Please help young plants and wildlife thrive by **giving habitats space** and leaving natural materials in place.



Sharing the space

You may meet other visitors or groups enjoying Whistlewood alongside you. **A friendly hello** and room for one another's activities help everyone feel welcome.



Rubbish and recycling

Thank you for helping keep Whistlewood lovely for everyone. As we have no bin collection, **please take all rubbish, recycling and leftover food home with you**. Bringing a bag makes this easier, even on a short visit.



Considerate neighbours

We love hearing Whistlewood full of life and we also care about our neighbours' peace and quiet. Please keep noise at a considerate level and chat with us before planning music. **Between 11 pm and 8 am**, please keep noise to a minimum and **switch off amplified music**.

If you have any questions, please get in touch at:
admin@whistlewoodcommon.org.





Ponds

Bee hives

Oak Tree
Glade

Camping

Yurt

Children's
area

Resources

Round
house

Firepit

Shelter

Community
Garden

The Hub

Orchard

Key:



Take care
potential hazard



Toilets



Accessible toilet



Parking



First aid kit



Defibrillator (AED)