

THE  
**CROFT FARM**  
2020

**WELCOME!**

**IF YOU'RE READING THIS, YOU'VE MADE IT.**

**GET READY FOR A REFRESHING ESCAPE FROM REALITY.**

**YOU CAN NOW DISCONNECT FROM THE CRAZY OUTSIDE WORLD, AND NOURISH YOURSELF WITH MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES IN THIS LUSCIOUS WILDERNESS.**

**THIS IS YOUR GUIDE TO EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR STAY HERE AT THE CROFT FARM ESCAPE.**

**ENJOY!**

**[www.thecroftfarmscape.com](http://www.thecroftfarmscape.com)**



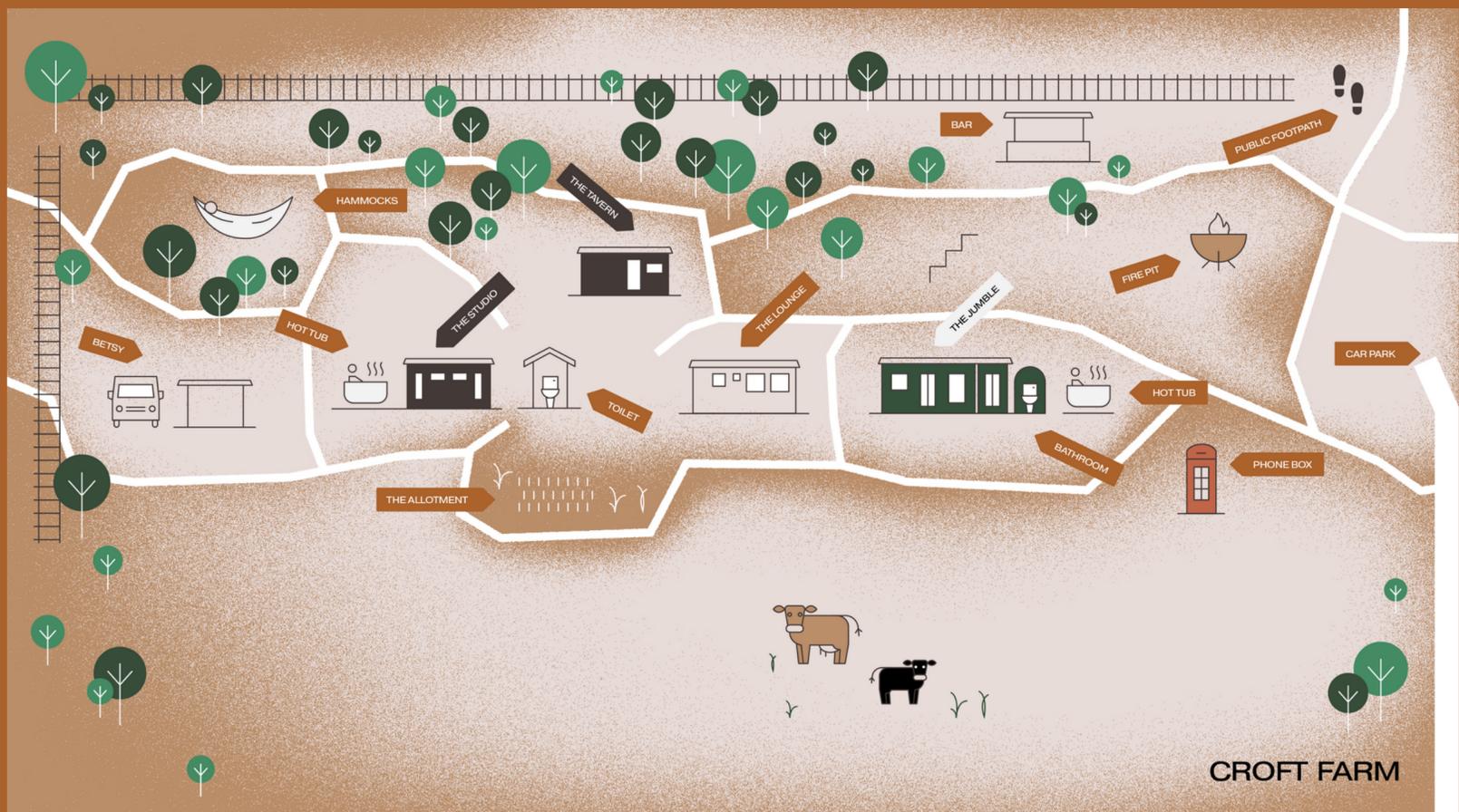
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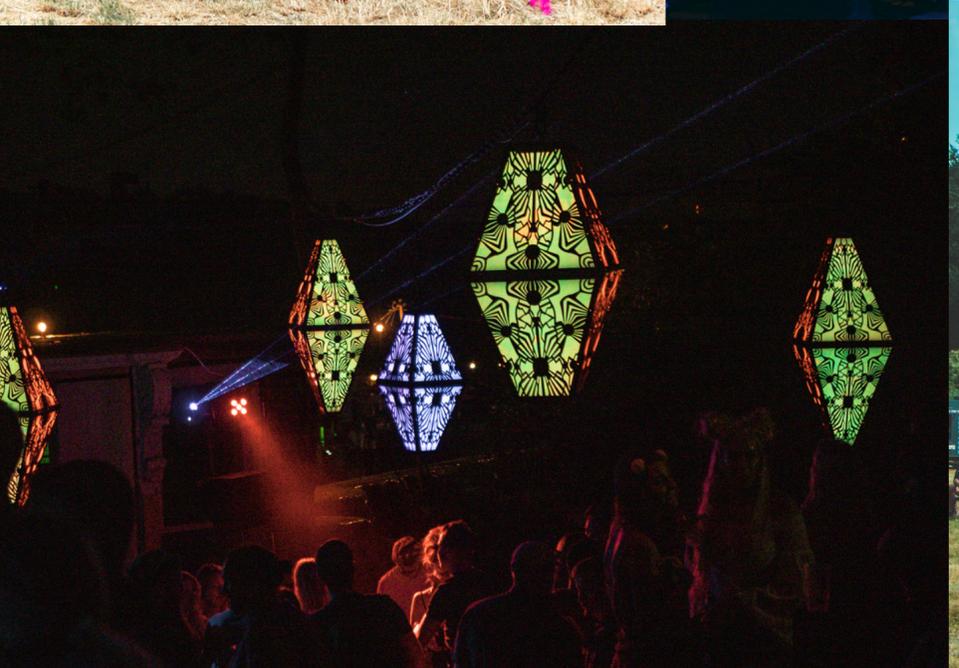


**[THE CROFT FARM ESCAPE](https://www.facebook.com/the_croft_farm_escape)**

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# OUR STORY

The Croft Farm Escape is a space designed for people to escape the fast-paced, digitalised modern world, and reconnect with themselves and each other - facilitated by Mother Nature.

A staycation space for people to slow down, enjoy, breathe pure air and make memories to cherish.

After successfully running 9 years of Deeb's Day Festival, Owner & Founder, Darren Brady, wanted to utilise the magic of the land by providing a haven that was accessible all year round.

Respecting and giving back to the nature we inhabit means a great deal to us. That's why over 90% of the site is built using upcycled materials and waste from construction sites donated by Michael Brady Ltd.

## HISTORY

The Croft Farm has a colourful history, having initially started out as the land of Deeb's Day Music and Arts Festival. The festival ethos of "Everybody Love Everybody" is hard not to tap into whilst at the farm, and the creative quirks dotted around the space are a reminder of the charm of this home-grown festival.

The first cabin of the collection, The Jumble, started out as a DJ booth, spinning records to the dancers under the trees, and The Studio had humble beginnings as a ramshackle cinema, streaming 36 hours of David Attenborough.



# SETTLING IN

You're staying in **THE JUMBLE**.

You have sole use of the bedroom cabin, the horse-trailer bathroom, the conservatory kitchen and of course the hot-tub!

The water in The Jumble is drinking water.

We provide luxurious robes (Soul Mystique Cosy Coats) for your ultimate comfort, so make yourselves at home.

If you've brought any food, pop it in the fridge under the counter. You'll find everything you need for cooking in the kitchen - refer to page 16 for details on Food & Drink.

You've got a satellite TV, stacks of DVDs on the shelves, and a selection of boardgames in the chest of drawers to keep you entertained.

Get the log-burner going - refer to page 22 for a Step-by-Step on how to light a fire.

*Continued overleaf ->*



# SETTLING IN

WIFI:

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To turn the hot water on in the shower/bath, turn the tap on the right (it has a C on it - don't be fooled!). Please be patient to allow the hot water to run through.

The hob is an induction hob, so only our pots and pans are compatible with it.

You have an airfryer too which acts as a super fast and healthy oven!

There are outside lights to the front and back of The Jumble - just look for the switches.

The fire pit is yours to use, if you require any extra fire wood, buy another bundle online: [thecroftfarmescape.com/extras](https://thecroftfarmescape.com/extras)



# THE JUMBLE

The Jumble was the first cabin of the collection. It started out as a DJ booth, spinning records to the dancers under the trees at DeepsDay Festival. The tiered decking was originally built as an auditorium dance floor, and the creation of the stage went down a treat.

Every piece of The Jumble has been preloved or handmade. The branch pedestal was made using wood from the forest and the old horse-trailer bathroom also lived a life as a DJ booth at DeepsDay Festival.

The entrance porch came from the Algerian Embassy in Kensington and the conservatory kitchen was the unwanted orangery in the 1800s home of Sir Stamford Raffles - the founder of Singapore! All kindly donated to us as construction waste from Michael Brady Ltd.

Anything else is made from pieces of scrap wood we have lying around and is then scorched to give it its rustic look.

All the wall panels are old floorboards and even the appliances in the kitchen have been preloved.

The luxurious robes are Cosy Coats from our friends at Soul Mystique and are hand crafted from thick Indian blankets. Find more of their unique wearable art at [www.soulmystiquelondon.com](http://www.soulmystiquelondon.com)



# THE HOT TUB

The hot tub is an absolute luxury, day or night.

Relax overlooking rolling hills during the daytime, or gaze up to the stars and see if you can spot any bats at night. The water will be fresh for your stay.

Our hot tub is an authentic log-burning hot tub, so you'll need to heat up the water with a fire, refer to page 22 for a Step-by-Step on how to light a fire.

Light the fire in the hatch on the top of the tub.

There is a metal holding tray next to the cabinet that allows you to drop the firelighters and kindling down easily. It's best to light the kindling when it's on the tray before dropping it in.

Logs for the fire can be found in the metal cabinet. Please bear in mind that it takes 3-4 hours to heat up.

You can turn the hot-tub light on using the button on the outside.

We provide enough fire wood for both the hot tub and the log-burner in The Jumble for 1 night. If you'd like to order extra, buy another bundle online: [thecroftfarmescape.com/extras](http://thecroftfarmescape.com/extras)

Please ensure that when you're not using it, the lid is put back on top of the tub.



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Croft Farm Escape is a communal space, and while we do our best to maintain your privacy, you may bump into someone during your stay.

Be as social or as private as feels comfortable for you, though we pride ourselves on being a friendly bunch!

We have a good relationship with our neighbours and ask that you respect that by turning off any music outside from 9pm.

As we are located in a valley, it is the nature of the land that sound travels easily down hill and will reach our lovely neighbour, Tom.

Please ensure that at night-time or if you leave the site, that all lights are turned off, all doors are closed, and radiators are turned off.

We're in the middle of the countryside, there will be wildlife! We do our best to ensure that creepy crawlies indoors are kept to a minimum, but if you do come across a critter, please be kind!

Check-in is 3pm.

Check-out is 11am.

On checking out, remember to sign the guestbook and leave the key in the door.



# FOOD & DRINK

The Conservatory Kitchen is equipped with a hob and an air fryer.

Please help yourself to:

- oil, salt & pepper
- tea & sugar
- our Waste-Free Box (non-perishable items that have been left by previous guests, under 2 weeks' old)

You have the option of purchasing an ethically and locally sourced food hamper and/or renting our wood burning pizza ovens. We also have a bar menu to keep you merry! Check out all the options on our website [thecroftfarmscape.com/food-and-drink](https://thecroftfarmscape.com/food-and-drink).

If you're looking to do your own shop, you can pick up supplies from our closest Tesco Express, a 10-minute drive away, in Henry Wells Square - HP2 6BJ. <https://w3w.co/script.paper.slide>

If you're looking to go out to eat, we're blessed with a huge variety of nearby delicious pubs & restaurants:

- The Lamb, Berkhamsted - premium pub & bar
- The Red Lion, Water End - gastro pub
- Chang Mai Cottage - Thai restaurant

Find the full list on [thecroftfarmscape.com/food-and-drink](https://thecroftfarmscape.com/food-and-drink)

If you don't feel like going out or cooking, there are a few restaurants that will deliver, pop the postcode in on Just Eat - HP1 3BP.



# PIZZA OVENS

You can hire our fire & stone baked pizza ovens for a tasty and authentic pizza experience. The hire of the oven will also come with the wood to fire it up.

The entire process of lighting to eating your cooked pizza will take roughly 25 minutes. However, once primed and hot, if you have multiple pizzas ready, you should be able to cook them all in a matter of minutes (1 pizza - 2mins).

Take a look at this video to learn how to get it working, or follow the step-by-step below. <https://youtu.be/eHCHD-rHPCc>

**STEP 1.** Check the oven is clean and free of debris/ash and empty if so, make sure you are outside when emptying and you have no cover above you before lighting.

**STEP 2.** Open the top hatch at the back of the oven, fill with kindling and add a fire light on top.

**STEP 3.** Add more smaller pieces of wood through the front mouth of the oven, make sure you build it gradually until the wood is on the stone (you need the stone to be really hot).

**STEP 4.** When you can't touch the stone for more than a second, add more kindling and with the fire roaring close the top hatch.

**STEP 5.** Open the chimney and the flames should be pulled along the top. Wait around 10mins for the heat to take inside the oven and you'll be ready to cook your first pizza.

**STEP 6.** Grab the pizza peel/paddle, add a little flour all over and also just in front of the pizza, slide it on and place it on to the stone in the middle of the oven.

**STEP 7.** Wait for a moment to let the base cook, then Using the small circular peel, turn your pizza so as to achieve an even cook, hold the pizza at the top of the oven to make the toppings sizzle.

**STEP 8.** Check the base is cooked, if not bring towards the front of the oven and again gently turn over time.

**STEP 9.** Pull the pizza out and enjoy.

**STEP 10.** Wait 2/3 hours for the oven to cool down, do not touch the outside before, it will be hot. Empty the ash into the ash pot.

**STEP 11.** Using the provided metal wool and warm water, give the inside a quick once over until most of the ash is cleaned.



# THINGS TO DO

In the chest of drawers in The Jumble you'll find a drawer full of board games.

There are shelves full of classic DVDs or you can choose to tune into the satellite TV.

It's unlikely you'll get bored!

If you like to explore, we're perfectly situated to do so. We are located equidistant between two National Trust Estates, so if you'd like a wander, here are some tempting options for every mood...

- **ASHRIDGE ESTATE** - Ashridge is a firm favourite amongst guests as it's just a hop and a skip down the public footpath. Famous for the picturesque bluebells in Spring and the Ivinghoe Beacon.
- **DUNSTABLE DOWNS** - An absolute delight just a 10 minute drive away. A beautiful sunset spot and a calendar full of events.. stargazing in the planetarium anyone?
- **AMARAVATI BUDDHIST MONASTERY** - We highly recommend the Open Meditation sessions on Saturday afternoons. Just a 10 minute walk away, we're very lucky to have this gem right on our doorstep.
- **THE REX CINEMA** - An art deco single screen cinema originally opened in the 1930s. Complete with a fantastic wine bar, it's understandable why this is almost a sell out most nights.
- **WARNER BROS STUDIO TOUR** - A jaw-dropping experience. Walk in the footsteps of Harry Potter and explore the making of the famous film series.
- **BERKHAMSTED** - Whether it's shopping or exploring historic artefacts, the quaint town of Berkhamsted is a pleasure to spend time in.
- **THE SNOW CENTRE** - Hemel Hempstead's own Val Thorens. London's closest indoor real snow slope, providing perfect indoor skiing and snowboarding conditions.



# HOW TO LIGHT A FIRE

1. Put tinder (fire lighters) down
2. Create kindling tipi, as shown ->
3. Light the tinder underneath
4. Allow kindling to take flame
5. Leave for a few minutes
6. Feed the fire:



## HOT-TUB

**Feed the fire with 2-3 logs to start with, once the fire is primed, stack the chamber with logs, and maintain with 3-4 logs at a time.**

Do not add coal and be patient - flames are important.

Fire intensity can be adjusted with the air intake by opening the lid.

Do not load more than 2/3rds of the height of the heater.

Please bear in mind that it takes 3-4 hours to heat up.

## INTERNAL LOG-BURNER

**Feed the fire with 1-2 logs and add coal once the fire is roaring, and extra logs once the flame is nearly out.**

Keep the door closed at all times.



# STAY SAFE

You'll find 3 fire extinguishers located:

- 1 inside The Jumble
- 1 inside the kitchen
- 1 outside next to the hot-tub

In the event of a fire, please leave all belongings behind and proceed to the fire meeting point at the gate by the main road.

We have a full first aid kit which is located in the kitchen cupboard.

## ENERGY

Some of our lights are on a sensor, so you don't have to worry about turning them off, however there are a few which will need to be switched off.

Turn off all lights in The kitchen, outside in The Jumble hot-tub garden.

We're conscious about our carbon footprint so please help us be mindful of our energy usage and turn off anything when not in use.



# DIRECTORY

Darren Brady: 07807 545 268

Hemel Hempstead Hospital (with urgent care walk in clinic):  
Hillfield Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4AD Telephone:  
01442 213141

Grovehill Pharmacy: 01442 251 435

Choice Taxis, Berkhamsted: 01442 877000

Crown Taxis, Hemel Hempstead: 01442 230032

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