

The Lodges

The Cowshed, and The Butterchurn was the original cowshed when The Firs was a dairy farm back in the 1970s, so a lot of cows and milk will have passed through this building. The ceilings, beams and doorways are the original framework, maintaining the character of the lodges. The original floor sloped significantly, creating changes in ground levels and ceiling heights throughout. We carefully lifted the pavement floor tiles that originally covered the dairy floor and repurposed some of them as the hearths for the woodburning stoves. We put the dairy's internal sliding door back in its original position in The Cowshed and have kept the open window which now sits between the kitchen and the snug in the cowshed. The larger sliding external dairy door is in our barn, waiting for us to find the perfect spot for it.

The Old Press, attached to the barn, has had mixed use in the past. There is evidence that it was used as an area for printing a children's magazine in the 70s, and during the 80s we believe it was used as an area for pressing the apples that were harvested when this was a fruit farm. We felt the name Old Press incorporated both roles.

The Stables, was a victorian stable block and it still had hay, an old bridle, horseshoes and feeding troughs in it when we started the renovation. The outside of the building has changed very little, as we wanted to maintain the original building's character.

The Bushel and The Apple Bobber, these are fabulous safari tents - Alison and I both fell in love with glamping in Suffolk in our early years together and memories of these holidays drew us here. The names of each of the lodges hark back to the days when the woodland and grounds used to be part of a large apple farm.

The Piggery, we know that as a mixed farm this area would have kept a variety of animals including pigs. This area has been a labour of love. When we arrived it was an utilitarian flat-roof farm building that leaked. We carefully removed and rebuilt elements to reveal a beautiful walled courtyard area which we have re-landscaped with a parterre on one side of the building. This also houses a yoga studio, our spa (sauna) area and fairy lit dining for group bookings.

The Kitchen garden and other areas, please feel free to wander through the grounds, and the kitchen garden, meet our chickens - they are very friendly. Throw some boules in our petanque (boule) pitch in the woods, by our 'window to the world'

Where do we start

We moved here in 2017 and set about transforming the old farm buildings and grounds into a place to enjoy this tranquil area of Suffolk. Once a utilitarian concrete space with chipped render buildings, we have lovingly regenerated and rewilded the grounds throughout, encouraging wildlife back to The Firs. We hope you enjoy wandering around and looking at where the old and new meet and picking up on the original features and materials we have carefully restored and reused. We cannot imagine being anywhere else, we hope you understand why.

We feel privileged that you have chosen us for your well earned rest and holiday and, while we wish for you a peaceful and relaxing stay, we are on hand to help should you have any questions or need help with anything. **07812 540376 / 07498 752168**

The MOAT

This is an ongoing project of regeneration. We hope you enjoy watching the damselflies and dragonflies dance across the water. Feel free to dip your toes or even go in. Time has brought changes and where it once joined to itself, it is now an L-shape. We understand that it was originally created to house cattle. Please note this area is unfenced, unmanned and you enter the pond area at your own risk. Please do not allow children unsupervised near The Moat. If you do go in please follow wild swimming guidelines (find online) and never swim alone. www.wildswimming.co.uk



The Countryside Code

We hope you love the natural environment as much as we do! We ask that you consider the Countryside Code when on our site and also when you are enjoying the surrounding countryside. Please do not leave any rubbish wherever you decide to pause, whether for a picnic or to simply take in the scenery.

Additional Information



Listen to and watch the birds, bats and nature We operate a [Low Noise Policy](#) at The Firs Suffolk. We ask that there are no high noise levels after 9.00pm, with all noise to stop by 11.00pm, thank you. We do not allow loud amplified music or drumming. To encourage wildlife, especially the bats, please reduce light pollution by [turning off outside lights](#). In the dark, you can see the stars so much more clearly too, thank you.

The Boot Room - you will find the washing machine, tumble dryer, iron and ironing board in here, plus additional cleaning materials under the sink should you need them.

Please walk around the flower bed & up the path by the house, Thank you. Open between **10am & 4pm**.

Check-out: 10.30am
Check-in: 4pm

Inside your lodge

Please don't take your white fluffy towels outside your lodge, they get stained when draped over outdoor furniture. Please use the towel rails or hooks in the bathroom, thank you.

Your Spa towels are to be used with your Soaking tub

If the hob doesn't seem to work, press and hold the safety padlock or key logo for 3 seconds, this unlocks the controls.

Woodburning stove, please do not leave the door open once the fire is lit, this burns the wood a lot faster, is bad for the environment but above all is unsafe.

We provide enough wood for your 1st few fires but if you need more, please ask. You can buy more from us: £8 for 8kg, or a larger bundle for £30. Instructions on how to light the stove are in the log basket.

The roof window over your bed has an integral blackout blind. To close, place the nub on the end of the pole into the groove of the blind and gently pull closed. To open, do the same but gently press the groove towards the window and it will spring up in stages.

We hope you find all the **kitchen utensils and cleaning products** you need for your stay, if something is missing, please let us know.

Private Soaking Tub

Soaking Tub

A good dipping temperature is 37/38 degrees. Please do not go in your soaking tub if the temperature is 40 degrees or above as this is dangerous to your health and well being.

Full instructions on how to use light and use the soaking tub can be found on our website at www.thefirssuffolk.co.uk/soakingtub

The metalwork on your Soaking Tub gets very hot too, please be careful

The Bike Shed



We have **4 beautiful Dutch style bikes** for you to hire for the day. Explore the country lanes and try out the local pubs and restaurants www.thefirssuffolk.co.uk/littleextras We will bring them to your lodge on the day of your booking. Use the Bike shed for your own bikes too, please ask us for more details.

Call us if you need our help: **07812 540376 / 07498 752168**

Great food - The Fox and Goose Fressingfield The Station Framlingham The White Horse Sibton. Sorrel Horse Shottisham The Ivy Stradbroke The Sole Bay Fish Co. Southwold The Lighthouse Aldeburgh Pinneys of Orford **Good / Local pubs** The Low House, Laxfield The Huntingfield Arms, Huntingfield **Bakeries/Cafes** The Jungle Rooms Metfield - Blackdog deli, Halesworth The Two Magpies bakery Pump Street Bakery, Orford Earsham Street Cafe, Beccles **Friday Street Farm shop and Kitchen** **Farm Shops** Emmerdale Farm Shop Friday Street Farm Shop **Antique Shops** Vintage Mischief Beccles Diss Emporium BlackDog Antiques Halesworth Yoxford Antiques



East Coast Beaches | Orford Castle, Southwold, Aldeburgh, Dunwich **Wildlife** | Minismere, Dunwich, Africa Live Banham Zoo, www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/nature-reserves **History** | Many local villages and towns, Needham Market, Leiston Abbey, Norwich Cathedral and town Sutton Hoo, Framlingham Castle **Gardens** | Helmingham Hall Gardens...Grade1 listed gardens on our doorstep, Glenham Hall, Little Glenham Walled rose garden with formal gardens and park land, Christchurch Park, Ipswich with 70acres of lawns, woodland and Botanical gardens, Somerleyton Hall and Gardens Yew Tree maze, walled gardens, ornate greenhouses and 90m blossom pergola

Please compost where possible using our 'Hot box' just put all cooked and uncooked food stuffs in this bin. It is in the back left corner of the kitchen garden, by the fruit cage. Please make sure you close the lid of the Hot Box afterwards to ensure it continues working.

Please recycle responsibly. Separate all waste and put it in the appropriate bins near the main guest gate. Please note the separate area for glass. Please empty your bins throughout your stay and also at the end, thank you

We are excited to be able to say we are almost off grid, when it comes to electricity, due to having installed solar earlier this year. Please keep energy usage to a minimum where possible.

We are not on mains drainage, please be mindful of what you put down the drain and sinks. No sanitary products can be flushed, so please use the bins in the bathroom and if you are pouring cooking fat down the sink, please run the hot water while you do to help it disperse in the system.

Environment and Bins



Little extras

You can always enhance your stay by booking any of our little extras while you are with us, pricing and details are on our website. www.thefirssuffolk.co.uk/littleextras or WhatsApp us

Bike Hire | Ooni Pizza Oven hire | Fresh pizza dough | Large Pizza oven hire in the Piggery Spa | Sauna in The Piggery Spa | Extra logs for your soaking tub, fire pit or wood-burning stove | Beach Towel (Spa towel) | Coffee pods for your nespresso (these are fully compostable, please put in your green waste bin and into our HotBox composter. |

The Chickens and their eggs
We have extended our Firs family with 6 Bantam chickens, who live in the Kitchen Garden. Please bob by to see them, they roam around the vegetable gardens. Please close the gates behind you, to keep them safe. They lay fresh eggs every day, so please let us know if you would like some bringing to your lodge. Subject to availability

BOOK THE WHOLE SITE

14 adults +2 kids or
12 adults +4 kids

We think the magic of The Firs Suffolk should be shared. It is PERFECT for **group bookings**. Dine together in our fairy lit inside/outside cartlodge, with a supersized bbq fire pit and pizza oven large enough to create a feast for everyone. Free reign to wander, lounge, play, soak anywhere you choose.. Plus full use of the Piggery Spa with its Sauna, plunge bucket, outdoor shower and wood fired hot tub.

SPREAD THE WORD! (we need your help)

First of all we hope you love it here and would want to come back again!

Beyond that we are a young business that started in lockdown and we need your help to tell the world that we exist and, hopefully, how lovely it is here!

Ways you can help us:

Instagram Please follow us and share **posts & reels** during your stay at [the_firs_suffolk](https://www.instagram.com/the_firs_suffolk)

Follow us on **Facebook** and tell your friends & family about us too!

If you don't use social media and have thoroughly enjoyed your stay, please write a google review for us.

We would really appreciate your help to grow our business.

Thank you!

[the_firs_suffolk](https://www.instagram.com/the_firs_suffolk)



Fire and Safety

We operate a no smoking and no candle site. Please be careful around fire and remember things on or close to the fire will get hot.

Please also be mindful of the weather, if it is breezy this will of, course, fan the flames. So starting with a few logs and only adding 1 or 2 at a time is much safer.

We have fire pits, woodfired Soaking Tubs and woodburning stoves with all the lodges. A pizza oven is available to you too, on request. Fires are amazing, beautiful and mesmerising, please do take care when using them.



A Fire Blanket in your kitchen under the sink and in The Spa

A Fire Extinguisher is positioned near the main door of your lodge and is safe for use on electrical fires.

Fire pits

Please place the lid over the fire pit before going to bed. This will mean the fire will die down safely and leaves no chance of embers blowing around in the wind. Cooking over the fire pit is a fantastic experience, we hope you enjoy it.

Woodburning stoves

Please make sure you do not overload the fire and also dampen the fire down before going to bed.

Please don't help yourself to logs as these are still seasoning. Logs that aren't dry enough to be used will spark and spit and cause excessive smoke. In addition, if used in the woodburner, they will damage the fire and create a dangerous build up in the flue.

FIRE ASSEMBLY POINT: GUEST CAR PARK

A fire blanket is under your sink and a fire extinguisher by your main exit door, which can be used on electrical fires

If you find a fire, please alert as many people as possible and dial 999

Our Address: The Firs, Manse Lane, Cratfield, IP19 0QD

