



Brook Cottage



James and Benjamin extend a very warm welcome to their home. They and members of the Little Burstead Village Hall committee are on hand in case you need any assistance today.

All proceeds from garden admissions are donated to the NGS for distribution to their charities. All proceeds from catering are donated to the Little Burstead Village Hall charity (charity numbers 1112664 and 301311 respectively).

NB: Please take care in and around Brook Cottage as trip and fall hazards are numerous, including uneven steps and ground, and height hazards specifically on the Girder Bridge and Toblerone; and allergens and intolerances when consuming food and drink.

Cream Tea - £5

Scone, Cream and Jam; Tea or Coffee

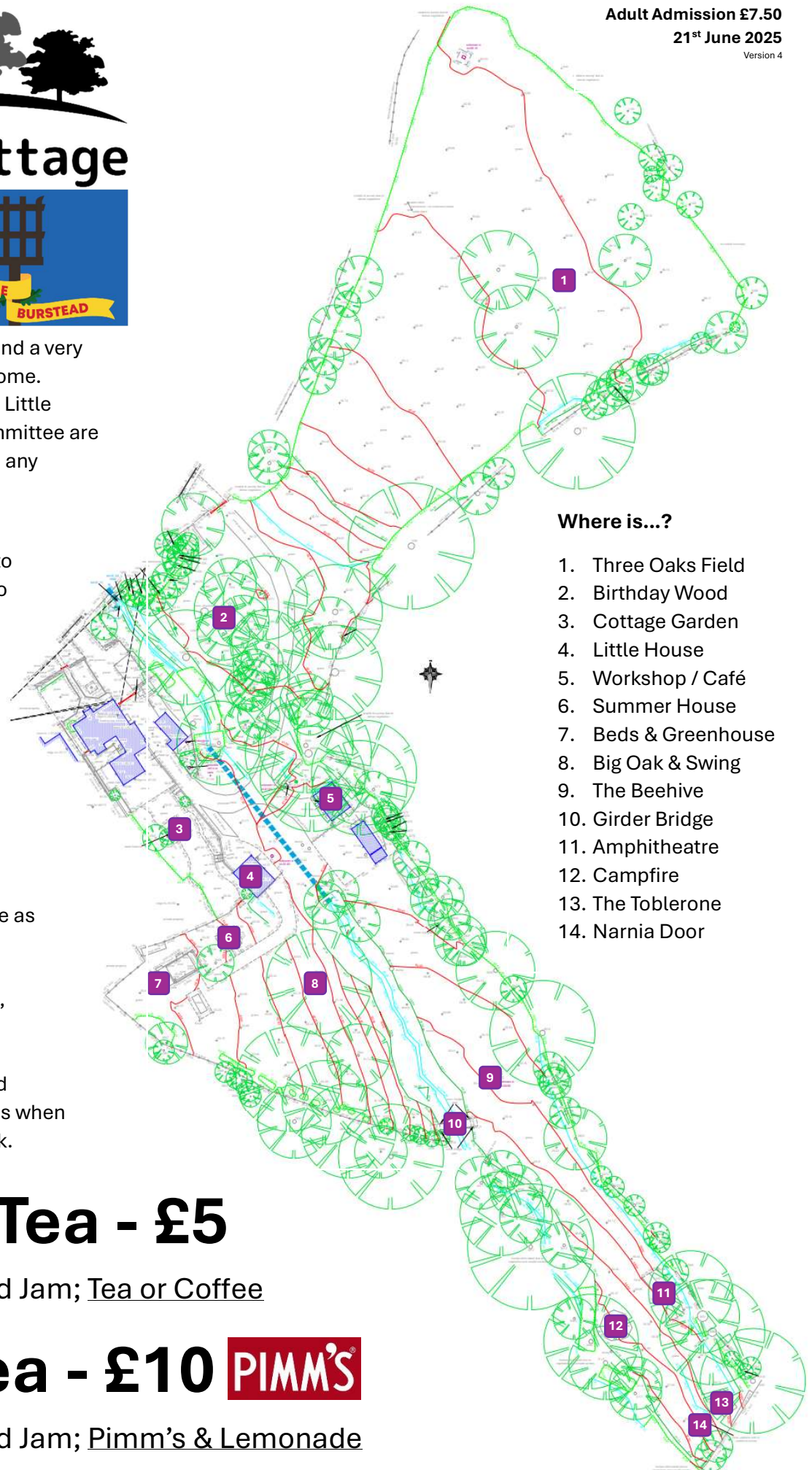
Tipsy Tea - £10

Scone, Cream and Jam; Pimm's & Lemonade

Adult Admission £7.50

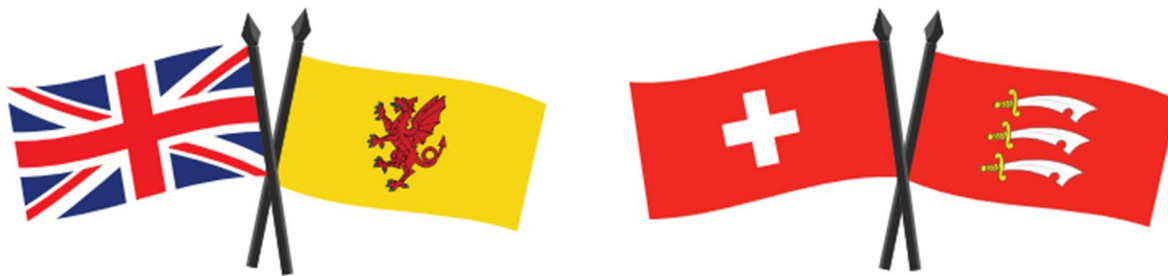
21st June 2025

Version 4



Where is...?

1. Three Oaks Field
2. Birthday Wood
3. Cottage Garden
4. Little House
5. Workshop / Café
6. Summer House
7. Beds & Greenhouse
8. Big Oak & Swing
9. The Beehive
10. Girder Bridge
11. Amphitheatre
12. Campfire
13. The Toblerone
14. Narnia Door



Wondering about the flags? Become a vexillologist...

There is something exciting, colourful and pride-inducing about flying a flag at home. At Brook Cottage we fly four flags year-round. The usual combination, flying today, includes The Union Flag, The Somerset County Flag, The Essex County Flag and the National Flag of Switzerland (usually in that order). Together these four flags represent the household's hereditary story. As a keen vexillophile, here is James' summary of each:

The Union Flag is the de facto national flag of the United Kingdom. No law has been passed making the Union Flag the official national flag of the United Kingdom, it has effectively become such through precedent. Sometimes it is asserted that the term '*Union Jack*' properly refers only to naval usage, but this assertion was dismissed by the Flag Institute in 2013 following historical investigations. It is nonetheless referred to as The Union Flag accurately, as it combines aspects of three older national flags and the Union between them: the red cross of St. George for the Kingdom of England, the blue/white saltire of St. Andrew for Scotland and superimposed in white the saltire of St. Patrick the patron saint of Ireland. Wales is not represented in the Union Flag by Wales's patron saint, St. David, because the flag was designed whilst Wales was part of the Kingdom of England.

The Somerset County Flag features a dragon rampant gules and is based on the County Council's coat of arms awarded by the College of Heralds in 1911. The blazon or heraldic description of the coat of arms is "*a Dragon Rampant Gules holding in the claws a Mace erect Azure*", meaning a red upright dragon on a gold background holding an upright blue mace. It has superficial similarities to the gold wyvern on a red background traditionally associated with Wessex (of which Somerset was part). The current flag was designed by Ed Woods and adopted by the County Council and Association of British Counties in July 2013. The design is often mistaken for the *Y Ddraig Goch* [the red dragon passant], the Flag of Wales, but there is no connection.

The Essex County Flag features three notched Saxon seaxes (cutlasses) on a red field. The earliest references to the flag being used to represent the County date back to the 17th century. A Restitution of Decayed Intelligence, written in 1605 by Richard Verstegan, referred to the Anglo-Saxons bearing a standard of "*Three seaxes argent, in a field gules*". Similarly, cartographer John Speed included the flag in his 1611 atlas 'The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine'. The current flag is largely unchanged from these original versions and is used widely throughout the County, including on many road signs. The seaxes are often mistaken for sabres, but sabres are historically French designed to slash, whereas Saxons were predominately Germanic designed to cut and thrust.

The Swiss are not vexillology conformists: the arms of the white cross are equilateral, and their ratio of length to width is 7:6. The size of the cross in relation to the field was reset in 2017 as 5:8. Alongside the flag of Vatican City, the Swiss flag is one of only two square national flags in the world. The flag flown at Brook Cottage is the civil/state ensign (a flag usually flown from the stern of a vessel to indicate nationality). According to etiquette, such a flag is not usually permitted to be flown from a land pole in Switzerland itself, and given Switzerland is landlocked, there are few opportunities for its permitted use. The maritime branch of the Swiss Army maintains a flotilla of military patrol boats on Swiss lakes that fly the ensign, but it is not recommended to google search 'Swiss Navy', you might not find what you were expecting!

The Little House is available to book on AirBnB



5.0
★★★★★



www.airbnb.co.uk/h/1brookcottage

Brook Cottage offers a space for...

'Pop-up' *Al Fresco* and woodland dining, weddings and ceremonies/services, under-canopy and under-canvas performance space for musicians, team building activities and other bespoke events

www.1brookcottage.com