INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

“A beautiful site in a peaceful country setting... and only an hour from London”...

The Smith family and the team are here to ensure that your visit with us is enjoyable and we hope that the following information will help you to make the most of your stay at Sumners Ponds.

On arrival please make your way to reception to check in before going to your pitch.
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Sumners Ponds Fishery & Campsite - a unique and beautiful spot, set in tranquil West Sussex countryside with great facilities - all surrounded by 100 acres of lakes, woodland and pasture.

The campsite itself boasts high quality facilities, acres of woodland, a working farm and of course our fishing lakes. All this in a beautiful and secluded setting which is perfect for just relaxing, or for the more active, exploring the many footpaths and safe cycle-ways within the site.

Sumners Ponds is an ideal touring base, with many beautiful towns and villages nearby. Access to the South Downs and the coast is easy, while Brighton is half an hour by car and London only one hour away.

There really is something for everyone.
THE CAMPSITE

There are three camping areas at Sumners Ponds; Bluebell Park, Ribbon Park and Sumners Park. They are a mixture of grass and hardstanding gravel pitches some of which are positioned on the edge of the lakes and are known as Lakeside pitches, each of which has its own dedicated fishing swim, generally suitable for 2 anglers. In the summer season we can accommodate tents in our overflow camping field known as The Rally Field located next to The Ribbon Lake, but this area does not have any electrical hook-ups.

**Bluebell Park** has a young children’s play area located in the middle of the camping area and is particularly suitable for families as it is adjacent to the Bluebell Woods. Bluebell Park also has its own toilet and shower facilities in its own dedicated block. All the pitches in this camping area have electric hook-ups and television connections available.

**Ribbon Park** is situated in between Farm Pond and Ribbon Lake, and is ideal for anglers and campers of all ages. This camping area is a mixture of grass and hardstanding gravel pitches all of which have electric hook-ups with television connections and drinking water.

**Sumners Park** is the original camping area positioned around The Sumners Lake and Farm Pond. This is the most tranquil area of the campsite and is the most suited to those wanting to fish as the majority of the Lakeside pitches are in this area. All the camping pitches in Sumners Park have electric hook-ups available. The large luxury toilet and shower facilities serve this area as well as Ribbon Park and The Rally Field.

Well behaved dogs are welcome at the campsite and The Café by the Lake but should remain on a lead at all times. Extra cars should be left in the car park by the entrance as only one car is permitted at each pitch. Commercial vehicles that are sign written must be left in the car park. For more information see our website.

THE CAFÉ BY THE LAKE

We have our own restaurant and bar on site appropriately named The Café by the Lake. Our Breakfast Menu, seasonal Sumners Menu and Lunch Menu all offer a wide selection of hot and cold dishes for your indulgence. Not feeling hungry? From the bar we provide a choice of draught and bottled beers, premium spirits and a wide selection of wines all to be enjoyed overlooking the beautiful Sumners Lake. A copy of the current opening times are on display at the Café and on our website. We often have live music at the weekends, monthly quizzes and more, all of which are advertised on our events calendars. Most meals can be provided on an eat-in or take-away basis.

Café 01403 732734
CAMPING PODS
Sumners Ponds is home to four small and two family size Camping Pods. They are situated in either Ribbon or Sumners Park. Two of the small pods are positioned lakeside on the Sumners Lake with another of the small pods and a family pod situated lakeside on the Farm Pond. There is also a family pod and a small pod positioned in the Sumners Park away from the water which come with their very own private garden area. The Pod interiors include a double plug socket, oil filled heater, lighting and a carpeted floor but other than that guests will need to bring all their own camping equipment including bedding as this is not provided. The pods will keep you cosy, warm and dry and eliminate the hassle of packing away a wet tent at the end of your stay!

The two sizes to choose from are:

**Small Pod:**
Sleeps up to 2 adults and 2 small children
Inner dimensions:
Width: 2.30m (7ft 7in),
Length: 2.70m (8ft 10in),
Head Room: 2.10m (6ft 9in)

**Family Pod:**
Sleeps up to 5 adults.
40% Bigger by Volume.
Inner dimensions:
Width: 2.65m (8ft 8in),
Length: 3.50m (11ft 6in),
Head Room: 2.20m (7ft 2in)

Please note: Sleeping capacity is guideline only. For your own safety (carbon monoxide poisoning etc), it is forbidden to cook or store spent BBQs under the covered decking area or inside the pods.
LOG CABINS

There are two lakeside log cabins, Grebe Lodge and Moorhen Lodge, each positioned on the bank of the Sumners Lake in an enviable setting with their own private veranda over the water ideal for fishing. These superb log cabins boast fantastic unobstructed views over the lake. Both the cabins are light and spacious, tastefully furnished and fully equipped to a high standard. Use of electric/gas is included. All cabin residents are welcome to use all of the other facilities on site at Sumners Ponds. Bed linen for all beds and sofa beds is provided and included in the rental price. Up to two well-behaved dogs are welcome at each cabin for a small charge. The only things you will need to bring are your own towels and tea towels. Fishing permits are not included in the cost of the cabin rental but a discount will be offered to all holiday occupants that fish on any of the lakes. The fishing area allocated to the cabin would generally be adequate for two anglers to share. The cabins are not recommended for those with small children due to their close proximity to the lake. For more details about the cabins please ask at Reception.

Lakeside Log Cabins are available to book weekly, Saturday to Saturday and for shorter stays available in the winter period. Grebe Lodge sleeps up to 6 people including 2 on the sofa bed and Moorhen Lodge sleeps up to 8 people including 2 on the sofa bed.
SAFARI TENT

Our Safari Tent, Swallow’s Hide, is the ultimate in luxury camping and would tempt even the most reluctant campers. Situated on the bank of the Sumners Lake the outlook and atmosphere is unrivalled. The tent itself can sleep a family of four between two bedrooms, one double room and one bunk room. There is a private veranda overlooking the Sumners Lake that is ideal for fishing or just relaxing and taking it all in. The interior is furnished with a corner sofa, dining table, double bed and bunk bed with linen included. A BBQ, stove, fridge, kettle, toaster, cooking equipment, glassware, crockery and cutlery are all provided. Drinking water is available on the veranda. Although there aren’t toilet or shower facilities in the Swallow’s Hide, the luxury amenity block and washing up facilities are located just behind. When renting the Swallow’s Hide, use of the shower blocks and electricity is included, but towels are not provided. Fishing is separate and tickets can be purchased on arrival.

Arrival is any time after 3.00pm and departure is before 10.00am.

Swallow’s Hide is bookable for either three nights; Friday to Monday, four nights; Monday to Friday or seven nights; either Friday to Friday or Monday to Monday.

Please Note: Swallow’s Hide is not recommended for those with small children due to its close proximity to the lake and with regrets no pets are allowed in Swallow’s Hide.
**SHEPHERD’S HUTS**

Sumners Ponds is home to four Shepherd’s Huts; ‘Old George’, ‘Gabriel’, ‘Bathsheba’, and ‘Boldwood’ all of which can accommodate up to a maximum of two people on a fixed double bed. These quirky and beautifully handcrafted huts are ideal for a quick stop over or a romantic weekend away. The interiors are furnished with a comfortable memory foam double bed, rustic antique table and chairs and a log burner. Bed linen and cosy throws are provided. Although there aren’t any toilet and shower facilities at the Shepherd’s Huts, the luxury amenity blocks are just a short walk away. All four of the Shepherd’s Huts are located in the Sumners Park with ‘Old George’ and ‘Gabriel’ boasting views from bank of the Sumners Lake. Rental of your Shepherd’s Hut is on a bed and breakfast format so each morning you can enjoy anything from a round of toast to a full English at The Café by the Lake. Arrival time is anytime after 3.00pm and departure is before 10.00am.

Shepherd’s Huts are available to rent for a minimum of two nights arriving either on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday and can accommodate up to two people.

*Please Note:* due to their location it is not possible to fish from the lakeside shepherd huts and are not recommended for those with small children due to its close proximity to the lake. With regrets no pets allowed in the shepherd huts.
The Farm

Sumners Ponds was once a dairy farm until the owners diversified and began allowing people to camp and fish around the original Farm Pond. We are still very much a working farm with a beef herd of around 100 cattle. They are a mix of Charolais (white), Simmentals (various colours with white faces), Aberdeen Angus (black), Holstein Friesian (black and white), Belgian Blue (blue/black and white) and native Sussex (brown/deep red). In the winter the cows are kept under cover in the cattle barn at the entrance to the site and in the summer they graze out in the fields. Sumners Farm is also home to a large brood of chickens, a dozen sheep and three Shetland ponies.

We have created some picturesque walks through the woods on the farm, particularly through the bluebell season. These trails span out with miles of footpath, bridleway and farm land. Whilst we hope that you enjoy all the footpaths on the farm we do advise that if you have dogs or young children you look for alternative routes to cross any fields where cows are grazing.
THE FISHING LAKES

The fishing lakes are open from 7am each morning and close at 9pm or dusk, whichever comes sooner. Day tickets can be obtained from the reception or from the bailiff who will make several visits during the day. The fishery rules can be viewed on the large notice board located outside reception, on the website and also on the back of all fishing permits.

There are five coarse fishing waters at Sumners Ponds. **Sumners Lake**, the larger specimen water, is stocked with predominantly Carp up to 39lb 2oz, Perch to 4lb 6oz, Roach to well over 2lb, Pike to 19lb, Eels to 9lb and Bream into the double figures. In the **Farm Pond**, the smaller but more mature of the lakes, we have Carp to 24lb, Tench to 4lb, Roach and Rudd to 2lb as well as Perch over 4lb. Set on its own, away from the campsite is the 3.5-acre, landscaped **Match Lake** which provides prolific fishing with Carp, Barbel, Chub, Crucians, Tench and Roach. Primarily designed for match fishermen but provides great sport for the day ticket angler too. Carp go to 33lb 1oz, Barbel to 12lb 4oz, Chub to 6lb 5oz, Crucians to 3lb 3oz along with Roach over 2lb and Bream over 4lb. The **Ribbon Lake**, as its names implies, is a meandering ribbon of water. It is well stocked with silver fish such as Barbel in excess of 8lb, Tench and Golden Tench over 4lb, Perch to 4lb 2oz, Chub to 6lb, Bream to 4lb, Roach to 2lb and Crucians to 2lb 4oz. It is popular with match fishermen and is also ideal for beginners as all can be guaranteed a successful catch on most visits. Our newest addition, **Betty’s Lake**, is another 3.5 – acre specimen water situated behind Bluebell Woods. It is well stocked with specimen Mirror and Common Carp to 35lb 2oz along with Barbel up to 12lb, Chub to 7lb 9oz and Perch to 4lb.

Our bailiffs are usually available for help and advice on every aspect of fishing at Sumners Ponds. We have a bait and tackle shop in our reception building and stock many popular brands.

If you have any other questions please feel free to ask a member of staff or see our website for more information.
THE DISTRICT
BARNES GREEN AND BEYOND

Barns Green is a pretty village is well known for its close-knit community and its many different events within the village. The Queens Head is our local pub offering traditional pub food, real ale, beer garden and small function area. It’s within easy walking distance via footpaths on the farm and campsite. If you wish to book a table their telephone number is 01403 730436. Barns Green Village Stores is open from 7am to 8pm Monday to Saturday and 8am to 5pm on Sundays. The store offers an excellent range of groceries including a well stock deli and off license. Post Office facilities are also available including cash withdrawal. There is a small children’s playground on the village green which can be reached via footpaths and so avoiding the road.

Westons Farm Shop, just outside the village offers a good selection of local and homegrown produce and much more besides. Local pubs include The Selsey Arms at Coolham crossroads, The Red Lion in Slinfold village, the George and Dragon at Dragons Green and the Bax Castle at Two Mile Ash. Barns Green has miles of footpaths connecting neighbouring villages such as Brooks Green, Dragons Green, Christ’s Hospital and Itchingfield.

Southwater and Billingshurst, are larger local villages, both around 3 miles from Barns Green. Southwater’s main attraction is its Country Park which offers a variety of recreational activities including an adventure-style play area, orienteering course and tuition in canoeing, sailing and windsurfing. The Park also includes a wildlife area. Both villages also have a supermarket each, along with a good selections of shops, and several pubs, restaurants and take-aways.

HORSHAM

A charming market town that has managed to hold on to its past, yet has also moved forward with the times. Four miles from Sumners Ponds, Horsham has regular markets and a good variety of independant shops as well as a shopping mall offering the usual high street names, a large well stocked library and all the other amenities associated with a town this size. Attractions include a good public swimming complex, bowling alley and large park featuring pitch and putt, tennis courts, the Millennium Maze and coffee shop, as well as good night life. The Capitol theatre and cinema features two cinemas and a 400-seat theatre. Box office number is 01403 750220.
Walking and Cycling
The village and local pub may be reached via footpaths, to avoid using the road. There are plenty of safe walking and cycling paths around the site, away from the ponds. Some walking and cycling routes have been planned and are available from reception. The Downs link is easily accessible and offers easy, flat, walking and cycling for many miles! Visit www.footpathsofsussex.co.uk for more information.

Local Churches
Itchingfield Church (C of E) St. Gabriel, Billingshurst (Catholic)

Public Transport
A regular Bus services run from Barns Green to Horsham and other local villages, see the operators website for details. www.compass-travel.co.uk The routes are 74, 74A, and 75. There is also a regular train service from our local station at Christ’s Hospital, that has it’s own car park. (3 miles from Sumners Ponds) Trains to London (approx 1 hour) leave every hour.

Food Shopping
Barns Green Village Stores - 400yds left from the site and selling fresh vegetables and groceries.

Westons Farm Shop - 2 miles from the site and selling locally produced meat, vegetables, cheeses and much more!
Tesco Extra 24hr - Broadbridge Heath - RH12 3IU - 4 miles
Sainsbury's - Horsham Town Centre - RH12 1SQ - 4.7 miles
Co-operative Southwater RH13 8LW - 3 miles

Local services
Cash Machines: Barns Green post office and all above supermarket locations.
Public Telephone: The Queens Head Pub, Barns Green

Doctors
The Surgery, Roman Way Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 9QZ Telephone: 01403 782931

A & E Hospitals
Worthing Hospital East Surrey Hospital, Redhill Crawley (01293 600300) and Horsham (Hurst Rd) offer minor injury clinics with limited opening times.

Veterinary Surgery
Farthings Vet Practice Farthings Hill, Guildford Rd Horsham, RH12 1TS Telephone: 01403 252900

Dentist
Billingshurst Dental Practice 114 High Street, Billingshurst Sussex RH14 9QS Telephone: 01403 783688

Camping Gas & Camping Equipment
Roundstone Caravans Worthing Rd, Southwater Telephone: 01403 730218 (gas also from Tesco Garage Broadbridge Heath)

Farmers Markets
Horsham Carfax Every Thursday & Saturday 9am - 5pm
tel: 01403 733144
Pulborough Village Hall Last Saturday in every month Feb-Dec 9am - 12pm
Wisborough Green Village Hall 2nd Thursday every month, Feb - Dec 9am to 12.30pm.

The Coast
Brighton 35 mins by car, Victorian and Regency architecture, pier and many attractions.

Climping
Nearest sandy beach, 40 mins

Worthing
25 mins, shingle beach and traditional Victorian Pier.

Littlehampton
35 mins, sand and shingle, the West beach is backed by dunes.

West Wittering
45 mins, a superb sandy beach, access from the A27 Chichester by-pass.
WE HATE RULES!... BUT, IN ORDER FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY THEIR STAY AND TO REMAIN SAFE, WE HAVE TO ENFORCE THE FOLLOWING

We do not permit open fires. Feel free to have a BBQ but make sure that they are off the grass and that you only use charcoal, not wood or briquettes.

We want you and your children to relax and have fun but please ensure that your children’s play does not spoil the enjoyment of others.

We do not permit the playing of loud music. If you want to play music you can as long as it is quiet and contained to your pitch.

Dogs are to be kept on a lead at all times around the camping areas and the fishing lakes. Please ensure that you clean up after your dog.

Groups of more than three pitches are not permitted in the same area. If you are in a group please ensure you are considerate to fellow campers.

No vehicle movement is permitted after 11pm and before 7am. If you need to drive between these times then park in the front car park.

Please ensure that you are quiet after 10.30pm as not to disturb fellow campers and please be mindful that some people may be trying to sleep.

Ball games are not permitted in the camping areas. You may play ball games in the front playing field or next to the Ribbon Lake away from tents.

Please note that the on site speed limit is 5mph.

No more than one vehicle may be parked on a pitch at any one time. This is a condition of our licence. Any other vehicles, including those that are sign written, must be parked in the Car Park.

IMPORTANT: these simple rules are to ensure that everyone’s stay is as enjoyable as possible. Failure to abide by them could result in being asked to leave without refund.