

A young girl with a red beanie and green boots is sitting on a log in a forest. Behind her is a shelter made of sticks. The background is filled with green foliage.

**hidden
woods**

**THE PLACE FOR
MAGICAL
WOODLAND
EXPERIENCES**

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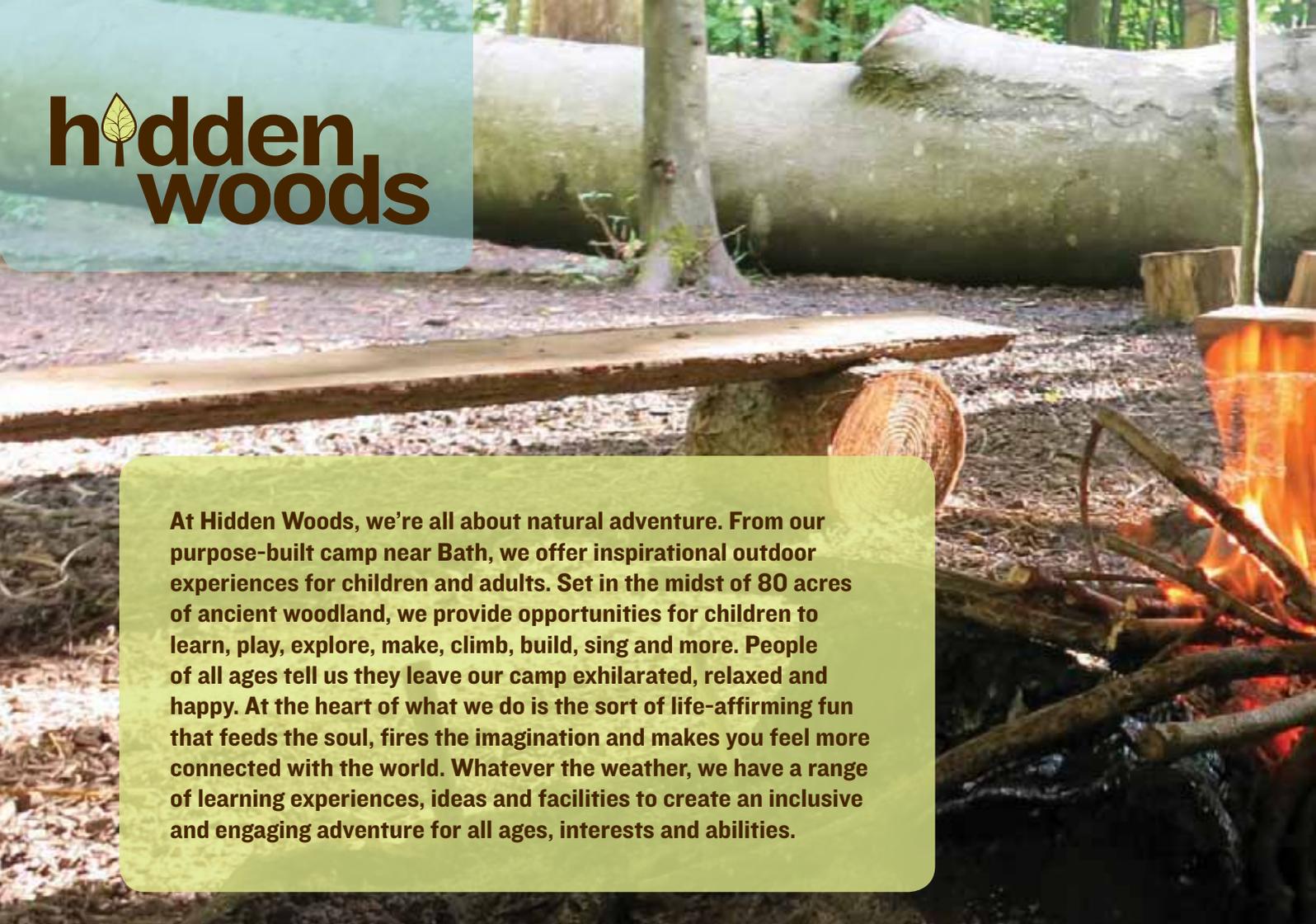
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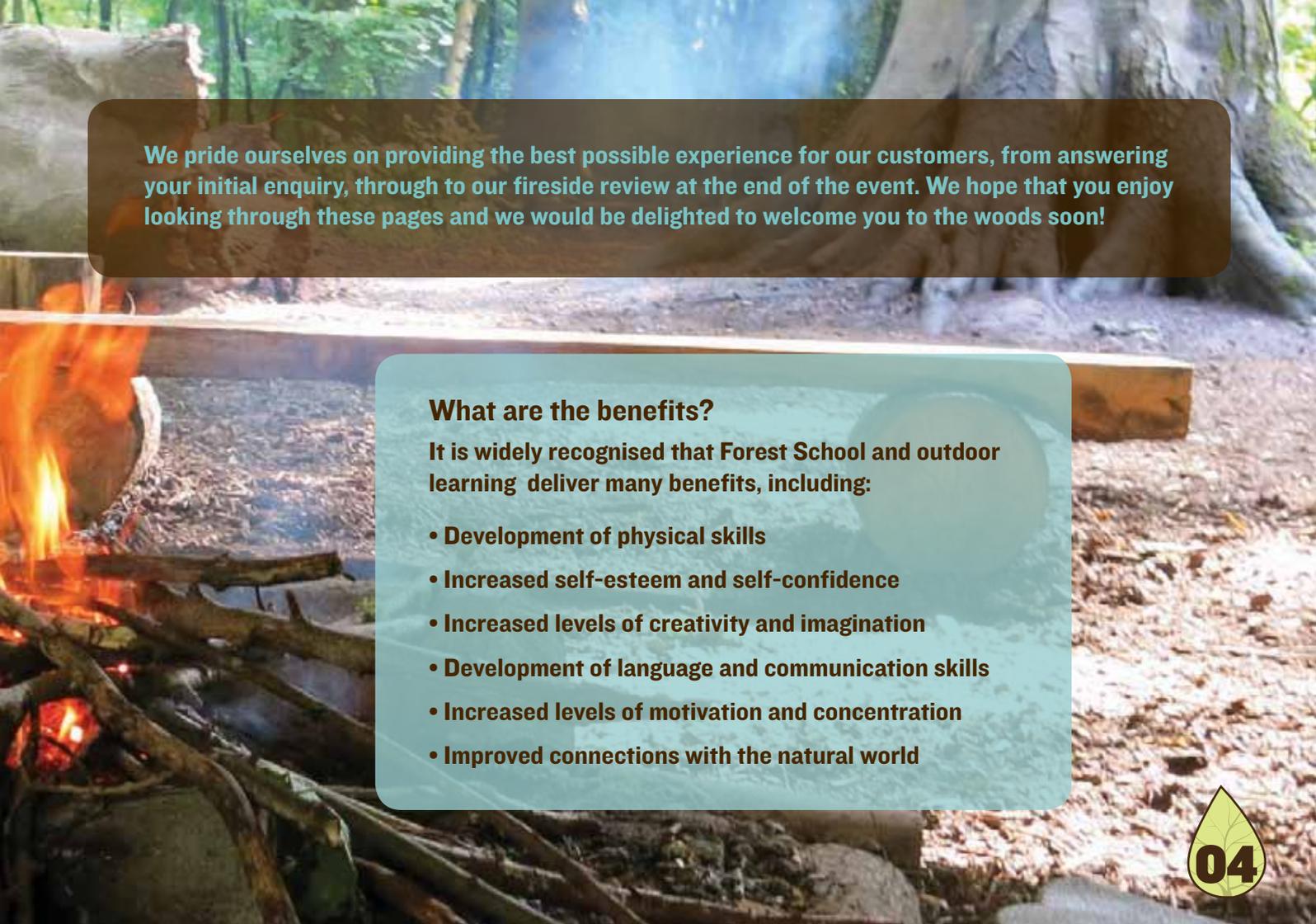




hidden woods



At Hidden Woods, we're all about natural adventure. From our purpose-built camp near Bath, we offer inspirational outdoor experiences for children and adults. Set in the midst of 80 acres of ancient woodland, we provide opportunities for children to learn, play, explore, make, climb, build, sing and more. People of all ages tell us they leave our camp exhilarated, relaxed and happy. At the heart of what we do is the sort of life-affirming fun that feeds the soul, fires the imagination and makes you feel more connected with the world. Whatever the weather, we have a range of learning experiences, ideas and facilities to create an inclusive and engaging adventure for all ages, interests and abilities.



We pride ourselves on providing the best possible experience for our customers, from answering your initial enquiry, through to our fireside review at the end of the event. We hope that you enjoy looking through these pages and we would be delighted to welcome you to the woods soon!

What are the benefits?

It is widely recognised that Forest School and outdoor learning deliver many benefits, including:

- **Development of physical skills**
- **Increased self-esteem and self-confidence**
- **Increased levels of creativity and imagination**
- **Development of language and communication skills**
- **Increased levels of motivation and concentration**
- **Improved connections with the natural world**





Who we are

Hidden Woods was founded by Steve Sutherland in 2012, with a view to offering formative outdoor experiences for children. Our ethos is based around the kind of elemental play that past generations took for granted. Having previously worked in event management and adventure education, Steve is an experienced outdoor practitioner who is passionate about delivering awe-inspiring events from our stunning woodland base. Steve is supported by an award-winning team of outdoor education specialists including Forest School Leaders, Play Leaders, bushcraft instructors, green wood workers and environmental artists.

What we offer

In addition to a wide range of activities open to the public, we offer fantastic tailored events for schools and groups - from one-off day trips to residential activity weeks and ongoing Forest School programmes. Underneath a canopy of mighty oaks, groups can light fires by primitive means, learn wilderness cookery and sleep out in their natural shelters. Other activity options include roped tree-climbing, archery and woodland crafts. Hidden Woods is the perfect place to connect with nature in a fun, adventurous, safe and (so we've been told) magical way.

Where are we?

Hidden Woods is located directly off the A36 near the Somerset/Wiltshire border, less than 15 minutes from Bath and Frome. The postcode for our entrance is BA2 7NH.



Our offering

Our tailored events vary enormously in both duration and content, from half-day outings to residential weeks (and everything in-between too). We regularly work with children of all ages and offer activities and experiences that engage and challenge children at all levels, for example:

- **Bushcraft (including primitive fire lighting and shelter building)**
- **Wilderness Cookery**
- **Woodland Crafts**
- **Tree Climbing**
- **Archery**
- **Journeying**
- **Storytelling**



Sample Itineraries

Day Trip – Year 3 Group

Welcome Brief at Base Camp

Fire Lighting

Shelter Building

Lunch

Woodland Crafts

Free Play

Marshmallows

Fireside Review

There are **FIVE** fantastic camps at **Hidden Woods**, each with its own unique features and opportunities. This offers us great flexibility and means that we can easily accommodate large groups (up to 150) on the same day.

Residential Activities Week – Year 9 Group

Day 1

**Welcome Brief, Shelter Building, Lunch, Camp Craft,
Free Play/Time Out, Dinner, Marshmallows**

Day 2

**Breakfast, Archery, Lunch, Tracking, Free Play/Time Out,
Dinner, Owl Prowl**

Day 3

**Breakfast, Fire Lighting, Lunch, Wilderness Cookery,
Free Play/Time Out, Dinner, Marshmallows**

Day 4

**Breakfast, Woodland Crafts, Lunch, Bushcraft Challenge,
Free Play/Time Out, Dinner, Storytelling**

Day 5

Breakfast, Tree Climbing, Lunch, Tree Climbing, Fireside Review

Parents say...

'The concept is fabulous, but most of all you were all wonderful with the children. We couldn't have asked for more.'

'I appreciated the free flow and variety of activities and learning opportunities. Thank you!'

'I've had nothing but fantastic feedback from everyone - they haven't stopped talking about it!'



Children say...

'The whole day was brilliant, especially cooking on the camp fire.'

'Hidden Woods is such an amazing place. We had great fun and felt so free.'

'I've never slept outside before and loved it. I hope I can come back next year!'



Group Leaders say...

'Our 'Wilderness Day' team building event was brilliant. Pupils learned about themselves and their new form-mates. Tutees got to know their tutor more intensely and the tutors gained insights into individual pupils. So many students genuinely wanted to spend more time in the woods when the day was over. Having invited the Deputy Head to accompany us, I knew that the day would be subject to close scrutiny, but they were all hugely impressed.'

Jon Kean, Head of Year 9, King Edward's School Bath

'Thank you for such a brilliant day on Friday! Your delivery was so in-tune with the ethos of the project and it was a really complementary experience to the work we have been doing. Despite the weather which wasn't too bad really!) the children really enjoyed it and were so inspired by your setting.'

Lucy Howell, Theatre Royal / St. Andrews School Bath



**'Where kids can
be grown ups and
grown ups can play'**

Hollie McNish - Hidden Woods poem



Health, Safety & Welfare

Participants' safety and welfare is of paramount importance to us. We have a comprehensive set of policies, procedures, risk assessments and other safety documentation, all of which are made available to schools and groups in preparation for their visit.

The environment in which we work and the activities that we undertake are comprehensively risk assessed prior to an event commencing. Naturally, a woodland environment has its own inherent risks, which will be minimised as appropriate but will not always be removed completely. Appropriate risk taking is encouraged so as to educate children in techniques to manage their own abilities and develop an understanding of what is safe and what isn't.

“The next generation is tomorrow’s workforce. Helping young people to experience and handle risk is part of preparing them for adult life and the world of work. Young people can gain this experience from participating in challenging and exciting outdoor events made possible by organisations prepared to adopt a common sense and proportionate approach that balances benefits and risk.”

Judith Hackitt CBE, Chair, Health and Safety Executive

Insurance

Hidden Woods holds Public/Products Liability (LOI 5,000,000) and Employers Liability (LOI £10,000,000) insurance cover, which is underwritten by a syndicate from Lloyd's of London.

Accessibility

Our events are always as inclusive as possible, and we are creative in adapting our activities in order to achieve this. Due to the nature of our undulating woodland setting, it is not possible to provide wheelchair access to the whole site. However, there are wheelchair accessible camps should they be required.

Loos

We have two very smart composting loos, which regularly receive rave reviews!

BESD

We recognise the incredible benefits of spending time outdoors and the effect it can have on young people. We welcome opportunities to work with small groups of children who may have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) within school. The combination of our incredible, natural setting coupled with a team of experienced professionals enables us to deliver highly engaging programmes packed with positive outcomes.

Top notch team

Our committed team of outdoor professionals are our greatest asset. We are passionate, approachable, great fun and full of ideas: we really know our stuff. All Hidden Woods leaders have an enhance first aid training and DBS disclosure, as well as a wealth of relevant qualifications and experience.

Pricing

All our events are designed to meet your exact requirements and priced accordingly. We pride ourselves on delivering first rate experiences and great value for money.

Parking

There is ample parking on site for both cars and coaches, making it easy for schools and groups to drop off and collect.

Food

We love cooking on the campfire. Who doesn't? For catered camps we provide good quality, healthy, locally sourced food and can accommodate all dietary requirements. We ensure there are plenty of opportunities for children to cook their food too, sometimes over their own fires. Some of our classics include campfire calzone (pictured on Page 6) and delicious chocolate orange volcano cake.

Get in touch

We'd love to hear from you. To discuss your requirements and check availability please contact us on **01373 823832** / hello@hiddenwoods.co.uk

We're more than happy to meet you at your school or in the woods, to better understand your requirements and discuss how we might be able to meet them.

Once your event has been confirmed, we'll provide you with an organiser's pack with all the info you need, including safety documentation.

www.hiddenwoods.co.uk

