



NORBURY NOOK

'Nook' - "a small space that is hidden or partly sheltered"

This eco-friendly, sustainable retreat is situated in the beautiful Surrey countryside adjacent to the River Mole, a tributary of the River Thames. The river flows through the heart of the site offering visitors a unique connection with nature and the accompanying wildlife. These stunning surroundings create a naturally secluded retreat giving visitors the opportunity to escape the city and their busy modern lifestyles.

The retreat provides accommodation for up to 10 people with individual 'huts' surrounding the central communal 'hub' that are connected via suspended walkways crossing the river. These walkways traverse the river on stilts with solar powered string lights providing illumination during the evenings. The central hub provides a communal area for visitors to engage in social and group activities proposed by the retreat organisers such as meditation, yoga, trust exercises etc. The retreat also offers a range of outdoor activities, hiking or group walks being the most appropriate with stunning views of the Surrey landscape just a short walk away via the Box Hill viewpoint overlooking the Denbies Wine Estate. Kayaking/canoeing, paddle boarding and cycling is also on offer using equipment available to hire kept on site.

Each hut consists of its own en-suite bathroom, a fold out bed in the main living space, a

kitchenette and a green roof complete with solar panels. Solar panels are also found on the green roof of the main communal hub and generate enough energy to power the site. An OSB lattice roof structure projects below the skylight in each hut representing the surrounding tree line and recreating the effect of sunlight breaking through the trees in a forest. This lattice roof structure is also a main feature of the communal hub, it is designed to give the impression of a tree growing from the centre of the room, forming a canopy over the space to create a feeling of protection from the elements provided by the canopy of a tree.

The retreat aims to have a minimal impact on the site and its surroundings, integrating with nature in a coherent and subtle manner. Being self-sufficient in regards to energy allows the retreat to be carbon neutral and the sustainable fabric first approach to the construction of the individual huts aims to achieve high levels of air tightness. The sterling OSB board is used as a primary material in the construction of the retreat being used in not only the wall build-up of the individual huts but also the lattice 'waffle' structure used to simulate tree canopies. It is left exposed in several areas to achieve a neutral timber tone that sits within its environment and provides an aesthetically pleasing finish.





Key features of the central hub:

- Communal Kitchen with dining area (includes adjacent bin-store)
- Reception for guests and visitors with local information
- Two accessible toilets
- Private seating pod
- Shop for hiking equipment to buy or hire including general items.
- Main gathering space

Within the central hub visitors will be encouraged to leave memories of their visit in the form of fixing images to the wall. Over time this will create a physical story of inhabitation and exhibit the experiences and adventures of the visitors to the retreat. These collages of photographs will inspire new visitors at the retreat to try the activities on offer whilst showcasing the beautiful scenery and wildlife that has been previously encountered.

