

# FAQ for UK Permaculture Convergence 2016

## 1. What accommodation is offered at the venue?

- **Dormitories:** There are only 64 Dormitory beds on site. These are split into rooms of 8 beds. Beds are bunk beds. You will be assigned a single sex room and bed in advance. There are a small number of additional private rooms for those with special needs. The Dormitory block has shared bathroom facilities inc. disabled toilets.
- **Camping:** There is ample camping onsite for tents and vehicles. If you book a camping ticket we will get in touch with you closer to the time to find out what you intend to bring. Camping is on a flat field. There will be access to drinking water and toilets in this area.
- **Staying Off-Site:** We cannot arrange off-site accommodation options, however there are ample options in and around the local area. A couple of good places to look are:
  - [Airbnb \(Ilkley Area\)](#)
  - [Trip Advisor \(Ilkley\)](#)

## 2. How much are tickets to the event?

- Please visit our [Booking Page](#) for information on prices
- All tickets include meals for the weekend
- Subject to availability, you can book tickets inc. dormitory accommodation, camping or no onsite accommodation
- Children's Tickets are available at £20 and include all meals

## 3. Meals, Food and Drink

- Meals are provided by Rocket Catering
- There are 6 meals on offer as part of your ticket price to the event
- Meals provided are Friday Dinner / Saturday Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner / Sunday Breakfast and Lunch
- Day Ticket holders are entitled to all meals on the day that they have bought a ticket to (Saturday or Sunday)
- Children receive the same meals as above when booked for the weekend
- Meals will always have a Vegan option. Dietary Requirements will be catered for wherever possible. When booking tickets, please fill in the Dietary Requirements section.
- Ingredients for meals are locally-sourced and organic wherever possible.
- As well as the main onsite catering, there is an onsite café selling teas, coffees and snacks for between meals.
- There is also an onsite bar which will open in the evening on Friday & Saturday.
- Please do not bring your own alcohol to site. Purchasing from our well-stocked bar helps support the Permaculture Association to run events like this!

#### **4. Dogs**

- No dogs are allowed onsite. Please do not bring them.

#### **5. Membership**

- Only Members of the Permaculture Association can attend the Convergence, unless providing a specific service such as catering. You can find out about the many benefits of membership, as well as how to join [HERE](#).
- Membership costs from as little as £15 per year for concessions.

#### **6. Children**

- Children are welcome at the Permaculture Convergence
- There is a dedicated children's programme at the Convergence combining educational activities with play. The venue is exceptionally child-friendly with play areas including climbing equipment; woodlands and lots of green space to explore.
- The kids' programme will provide fun activities for kids outside of mealtimes, we encourage you to come and spend some time together, and over 5s can continue whilst you go to a workshop or talk. Your child remains your responsibility at all times.
- Children between 5-15 must have a ticket booked for them by an attending adult. The charge is £20 that includes all activities and meals/snacks for the weekend.
- Children Under 5 must be registered when you are booking tickets. We do not charge for their place. Food for Under-5s can be brought onto site with you and they can also share meals with you at eating times. Some activities in the childrens programme will not be suitable for the Under-5s.
- Unfortunately, for safety reasons, we cannot provide dorm beds for children, and so camping is the only accommodation available for this age group. Please bear this in mind when planning your attendance.

#### **7. Location**

- The venue for the event is the wonderful Nell Bank Centre in Ilkley, Yorkshire. It's a beautiful site which provides outdoor education opportunities year round for local schoolchildren and those with special needs or from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- The address of the venue is: Nell Bank Centre, Denton Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, LS29 0DE.
- The site has a dormitory block plus a range of classrooms and workshop facilities, all under cover.
- There is a large woodland to explore attached to the site, plus several acres of grounds including a roundhouse, fire circle area, bird hide and much more.
- The site is elevated and looks across Ilkley to the moors beyond.

#### **8. Travel**

- **By Train:** The nearest train station is Ilkley which is on the Wharfedale line. Services run via Ilkley from Leeds to Bradford twice per hour on weekdays inc. Saturday. Station details can be found [here](#). From the railway station it is a 5 minute drive by car/taxi to site; a 25 minute walk; or 22 minutes on the X84 bus
- **By Foot:** From the train station head right on to Railway Road, then right again on to Brook Street. You will then cross the main A65 on to New Brook Street. Keep heading North until you cross the River Wharfe and then follow Middleton Avenue in the same direction as before. At the next junction, turn right on to Denton Road towards Ilkley Lido. Proceed for 0.7 miles until you reach Nell Bank. The total distance is 1.3 miles.
- **By Bus:** From the train station you can take the X84 bus towards Leeds City Centre. Alight at Denton Bridge after approximately 5 minutes. Cross the bridge onto Denton Road and turn left, following the river. Nell Bank is approximately 0.9 miles on the right.
- **By Car:** Sat Nav: LS29 0DE. Follow signs to car park (you will need to park in the field next to campsite). Nell Bank can be reached via the A65 which runs between Leeds and Skipton (and up to the M6). At Denton Bridge, on the edge of Ilkley, cross the River Wharfe (there is a 3T weight limit!) then turn left onto Denton Road for 0.9 miles. If your vehicle exceeds the weight limit you can access Nell Bank from the other end of Denton Road in Ilkley via Middleton Avenue. **Remember to Liftshare wherever possible if driving. See below for details!**
- **By Taxi:** There is a Taxi Stand outside the train station. Plenty of taxi numbers are listed [here](#).

#### 9. Liftshare:

- We ask that anybody travelling by private vehicle seek to share their journey with others. To assist with this, we recommend doing one, or both, of the following:
  - Post your journey (or make a request for a lift) on our **Facebook Event Page**.
  - Use our dedicated Liftshare Website via [liftshare.com](http://liftshare.com). You can offer and request lifts **here**.

#### 10. Workshops and Programme

- All workshops at the Convergence are provided as part of the ticket fee. No further charges will be made.
- We encourage you to offer a workshop yourself using our application form found [here](#). Even if you have not run one before, the Convergence is a great place to get started. Filling in the form isn't a commitment, more an expression of interest! If you've been to convergence before you'll know that workshops are one of the best bits, whether there are thirty people there or just the three of you ending up having a chat :) Please be brave - and generous in sharing what you know.

- All those running workshops must have a ticket or be working as a volunteer on the site. We aim to have most of the programme wrapped up by 1<sup>st</sup> August, so please let us know before this point if you may wish to do something. There will be some additional ad-hoc opportunities onsite to run workshops, so don't be discouraged if you're not selected for the main programme.
- The workshop programme runs more or less to the following timetable, excluding meal times:
  - Friday: 5pm – 7pm
  - Saturday: 9am – 6pm
  - Sunday: 9am – 3pm
- There can be up to 8 or 9 workshop sessions running simultaneously at points across the site, including practical demonstrations, case studies, diploma presentations, talks, film showings and other forms of activity.
- Most workshops last around 1hr, but some can last as much as 2hrs and run across several sessions.
- Music is provided on Friday and Saturday Nights in the social area close to the bar and canteen. Friday night will see a Ceilidh band play, which is a great way to have fun and get to know each other a bit better (and at high speed!) whilst Saturday night is likely to be a Cabaret. We encourage everyone to bring instruments, singing voices, stories and poems to take part in this!

## 11. Fires

- There is a fire circle at the venue positioned outside the roundhouse near the campsite. This will have firewood and be available for use through the weekend, both for practical workshops and for late night acoustic and story sessions.
- Please, no drumming after 11pm, anywhere on site!
- No fires are allowed on the camping field, either in fire bowls or on the ground.
- Woodburners in yurts/bell tents and camper vans are fine.

## 12. Volunteering

- We require volunteers to help set-up the site on Thursday and Friday before the event opens, as well as to pack it down on Sunday afternoon.
- We also have volunteer spaces to help run the café and bar onsite.
- If you have an Enhanced DBS check, then there are spaces for a number of children's area staff to assist in the programme.
- Other volunteering spaces may be available for the weekend. Please fill out our [Application Form](#) online.