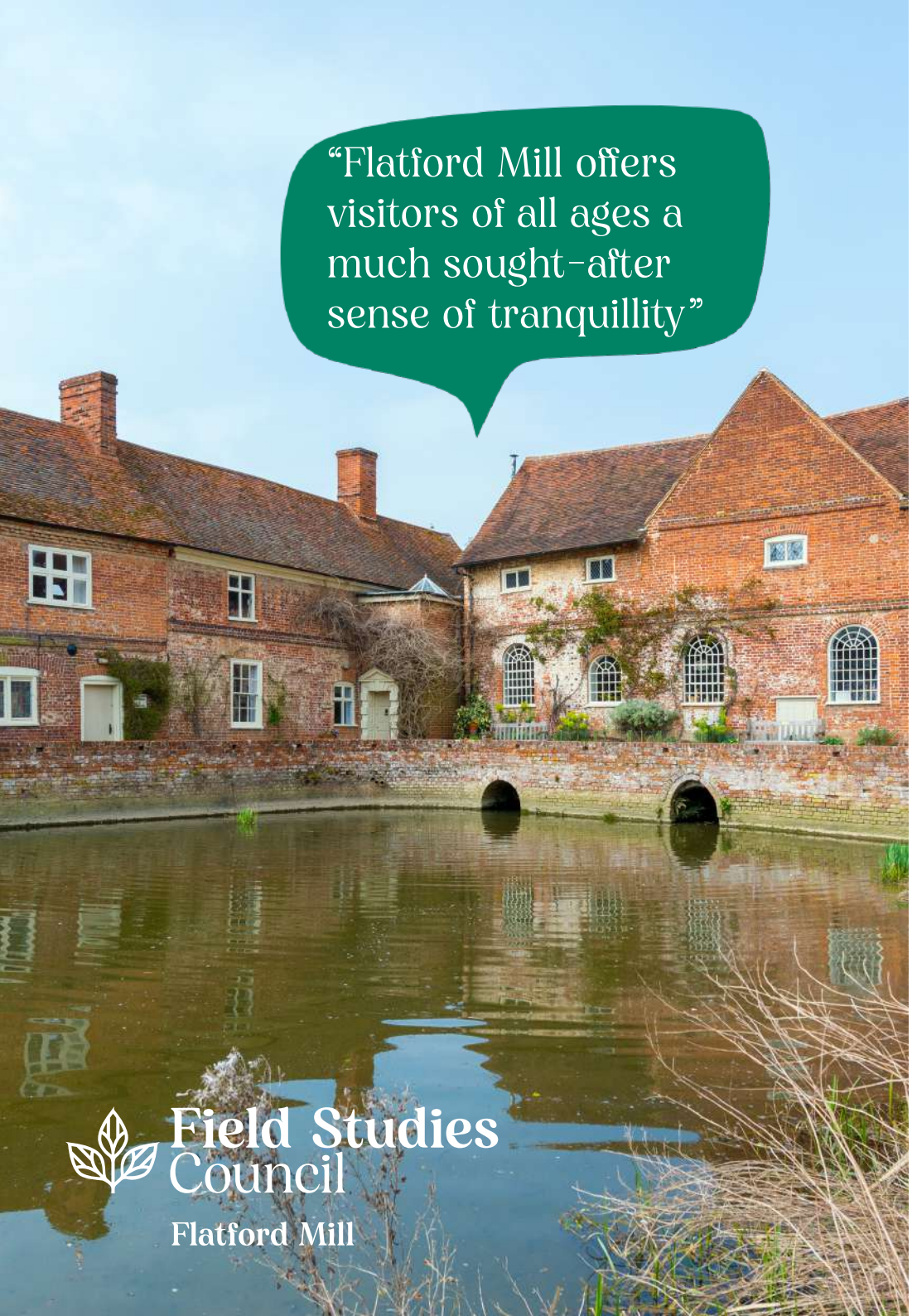

Flatford Mill is located amidst the quintessentially English countryside of the Dedham Vale. It is only an hour from London with excellent road and rail access. The Centre is set across four buildings in beautiful John Constable country in Suffolk. The Mill and Willy Lott’s House are instantly recognisable since they feature in many paintings by Constable (location of his Haywain Painting). It is situated at the end of a lane which has no through traffic and offers visitors of all ages a much sought-after sense of tranquillity sitting on the banks of the River Stour.

Its 7 hectares of grounds include riverside and lake margins, woodland and grassland, quiet areas with picnic benches all connected by circular walks. It is within close proximity to ‘Heaths’ Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Flatford Mill is the first and original field study centre set up in the UK during the 1940’s. It uses 100% green electricity and aims to be as eco-friendly as possible.
This centre welcomes all types of bookings including singles, couples, groups of adults, families and extended family groups. However, please note that we do not accept stag or hen parties. Groups have the option to book B&B, Full Board or it is possible to rent out the whole centre exclusively on a fully catered basis only. (Please note, accommodation at The Mill is currently not available when hiring the whole centre exclusively).

Your options:

Hire the whole centre

- Suitable for activity clubs, large gatherings or faith groups
- Fully catered stays only (self-catering not available)
- Bed linen, classrooms and common rooms included
- Activities available on request - chargeable

Group accommodation with classrooms

- Suitable for special interest groups who need craft or lecture spaces
- Full board accommodation in allocated bedrooms with bed linen
- Classroom facilities with equipment available to hire
- Shared common rooms

Group accommodation

- Suitable for activity groups off-site all day, sports tours, family groups
- Full board accommodation in allocated bedrooms with bed linen
- Shared common rooms

View our virtual tour of the centre

Buildings	3
No. of floors	3
Bed capacity	74 across 3 buildings
No Bedrooms	21. We have three buildings that are used for accommodation. Whilst most rooms are either en-suite or have a dedicated bathroom, there are some rooms in The Mill that share showers and toilets at the end of the hall.
No. en-suites	10
Accessible rooms	Please be aware that due to the age of the buildings and their historical status, if you have any mobility issues you may struggle. Please make staff aware of any health or mobility requirements when you book. Bedrooms in the Babergh Bungalow are accessible.
Accessible spaces	To access the dining room in The Mill, a wheelchair would need to come through the kitchen. We only have one class/workroom that is fully accessible called 'Edwards'.
Double beds	0
Linen	We do supply all linen but we do not provide a bed-making service for exclusive centre hire. Can all guests strip their beds upon departure to assist our hospitality teams.
Guest towels	We ask guests to bring towels (although these can be provided for a modest charge).
Kitchen	A fully equipped kitchen which is used regularly to cater for a wide range of groups and sizes.
Dining capacity in one sitting	The Centre has a large dining room in The Mill with big tables, benches and chairs - can seat 60 in one sitting.
Recreation room and library	These are the only common areas – informal capacity is 20 max. The Recreation Room hosts table tennis and table football games as well as sofas, television, TV, DVD player and films, books and board games. The library has an extensive range of reference books with an easy reference database, along with chairs and pcs with internet connection.
Classroom/work rooms	There are five workrooms of varying size seating 15-30. Constable (x30), Ennion (x20), Bingley (x22), River (x15), Edwards (x24).

Conference space	The largest room is Constable, seating 30. There is a nearby village hall that could also be suitable. Please get in touch for more information.
Onsite Bar	There is a licensed bar stocked with local ales, wines and soft drinks – cash only.
Drying room and laundry facilities	No
Onsite shop	There is a small shop on-site selling postcards, Field Studies Council publications, books and small gifts. It does not sell art materials but does hold a small stock of paper. It is located in Reception and will be open during Reception opening hours.
WiFi	Free guest WIFI is available through-out the centre.
Parking	There is a private carpark for visitors which is located at the rear of the site. It can park up to 30 cars.
Bike storage	No – but most buildings (except Babergh) do have a communal area where bikes can be stored in the building.
BBQ/firepit	Campfire on site – but requires supervision and is led as an activity by Field Studies Council staff. Must be arranged in advance – fee will apply.
Pets	Pets are not usually allowed. Special arrangements will be made for guide dogs.
Smoking	There is no smoking or vaping allowed anywhere except in designated areas outside. Smoking or vaping indoors will set off the alarms.
Grounds	There is an outdoor games field close by. The seven hectares of grounds include riverside and lake margins, woodland and grassland, all connected by circular walks & quiet areas with picnic benches.
Space for marquee	No
Commercial filming	Requires approval.
Music/noise	Please keep noise to a minimum between 11pm and 7am.
Outdoor activities	It is possible to book activities for both adults and children during your stay (subject to availability), these are chargeable and must be booked in advance. Please ask for more information.
Nearest hospital	The nearest A+E is Colchester (10 miles away)
Nearest shop/pub	There are some pubs and a Co-op in the village of East Bergholt.

Flatford Mill accommodation

Barbergh Bungalow - sleeps 16 in 4 bedrooms - one floor.
1. 2 single beds en-suite. **2.** 2 bunk beds en-suite. **3.** 2 bunk beds & 1 single bed en-suite. **4.** 2 bunk beds & 1 single bed en-suite.

Valley Farm - sleeps 22 in 6 bedrooms over 2 floors
1. 1 single dedicated bathroom + toilet (bath). **2.** 2 singles 2 bunks ensuite shower + toilet. **3.** 2 singles dedicated shower and toilet. **4.** 3 singles ensuite shower and toilet. **5.** 3 singles 1 bunk ensuite shower and toilet. **6.** 3 singles 1 bunk dedicated shower and toilet.

Willy Lotts House - Please speak to the centre directly about accommodation in this building.

En-suite room

Dining Hall

Flatford Mill accommodation

The Mill - sleeps 26 in 8 bedrooms over 2 floors
1. 1 bunk bed & 1 single bed. **2.** 1 single bed. **3.** 1 single bed en-suite. **4.** 9 single beds en suite shower and toilet. **5.** 2 single beds. **6.** 2 bunk beds & 1 single bed. **7.** 1 bunk bed & 2 single beds. **8.** 1 single bed.

Thing to do locally

Here are some places of interest:

- Fancy a walk www.nationaltrust.org.uk/flatford/trails/flatford-and-constable-country-walk
- Gainsborough's House - www.gainsborough.org
- Munnings Art Museum - www.munningsmuseum.org.uk
- Paycocke's House & Garden - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/paycockes-house-and-garden
- Beth Chatto Gardens - www.bethchatto.co.uk
- Colchester Castle - https://colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/visit/colchester-castle/

View a video of the local area

Hallway

View

Staff

Some centres may have staff living on-site. Whilst their presence will not interfere with your stay, please be considerate and respect their privacy.

Drug and alcohol policy

We would ask guests to familiarise themselves with and adhere to the behaviour and drug/alcohol policies contained within our customer information document.
Some centres may have specific licencing agreements in place in respect of the consumption of alcohol, please enquire with the centre directly for more information.

Entertainment

All of our centres hold a licence to play music, media & radio. If you intend to bring/hire in your own music/entertainment, please enquire with the centre directly for more information as a temporary events licence may be required.

Directions

By road - The Centre is located between Colchester and Ipswich and is about 10 miles from each, approximately 2 miles from the A12. From London take the A12, which is the main access route to Suffolk. Take the B1071 marked East Bergholt and Hadleigh, at the bottom of the slip road turn left. As you enter the village of East Bergholt continue on the main road through the village and out the other side. Take the first turning on the right, Gandish Road, follow this down to a crossroads and go straight over, this will take you into a narrow, one-way lane. After approx. ½ mile you will see the National Trust Car Park for Flatford on your left, just before this is a lane to the left signposted 'Disabled Parking and Field Centre'. You will need to follow this lane until you reach The Mill. Please take care going down the lane to the Centre as it is a popular area and there may be lots of people and families wandering around. Continue driving past The Mill and Willy Lotts Cottage, the trail bends to the right, and the car park is at the end. Please park your vehicle, and then walk to Reception which is located at The Mill.
If you are travelling from north of Flatford, you will need to come down the A12 until you reach the exit for East Bergholt, at the bottom of the slip road turn left and then follow the directions as above.

By train - The nearest train station is Manningtree which is a 15-minute drive from the centre. The East is served by 'National Express East Anglia' and leaves London from Liverpool Street. It is advisable to book a taxi in advance, especially on a Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday. Contact numbers for Taxi providers are as follows:
Riverside - 01206 397563
Ian – 07764 599261
Paul- 07860 284847 (8-seater)

By bus - The centre is not accessible by a local bus route – it is about a 40 minute walk from East Bergholt where the bus stops. Please note that the lane down to the Field Centre is unsuitable for anything above a 30-seater. It is ok to park in the National Trust Car Park to unload. Coaches can remain for the duration of your stay by prior arrangement. Flatford Lane itself is unsuitable for double decker's.

www.field-studies-council.org/locations/flatfordmill/

- Field Studies Council Flatford Mill
  East Bergholt
  Colchester
  CO7 6UL

- **Booking enquiries:**
  01743 852100
  enquiries@field-studies-council.org

- **All other enquiries:**
  01206 297110
  enquiries.fm@field-studies-council.org

Please contact us and our friendly team will be happy to help plan your stay.