



Camping Pods project

The Naturesave Trust has supported the development of an eco-friendly and sustainable camping area with wooden camping pods, which is being developed at the National Star College in Ullenwood, located between Cheltenham and Gloucester. The camping pods will provide basic overnight accommodation throughout the year for the use by members of the general public. The site is located next to the Cotswold Way National Trail, which runs along the edge of the National Star College's rural site.

About the National Star College, registered charity 220239

The National Star College is a charity providing residential learning, training and personal development opportunities for young people aged 16-25 from across the UK who have complex physical disabilities, acquired brain injuries, learning disabilities, and associated sensory, medical, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Over 85% of the young people the charity supports are wheelchair users, over 50% require speech and language therapy, 20% use a communication aid, and 13% have a life-limiting condition.

About the Camping Pods Project

The wooden camping pods will offer a camping experience with lighting and heating. A facilities pod is also available for users of the camping pods, providing toilets and washing facilities.

The site of the camping pods in a wooded area located within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the project has been designed to maintain and preserve the natural landscape. This will help the camping pods blend into the landscape. When considering the layout of the camping pods the College has taken into account possible light pollution to the natural landscape. The camping pods will be orientated to minimise and contain light emission, and also reduce the impact on the landscape. Native tree and shrub planting around the camping pods area will also be undertaken to reduce the visual impact further, and enhance the existing landscape.

The ground works for the camping pod site have been undertaken by volunteers from a local company, who have worked with the College's in-house Estates team. The facilities pod has also been developed, and the first of the wooden camping pods will be installed and available to hire during Summer 2013.

Income from the hire of the camping pods will provide a much needed additional income stream for the charity, and students on Work Skills courses at the College will also be involved in the day to day management of the project, providing them with invaluable work experience.