

Independent Site review

Where to find the pick of the pitches

by Nick Harding in August 2009



The Old Oaks Touring Park

Wick Farm, Wick, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8JS

Tel 01458 831437

Web www.theoldoaks.co.uk

Open All year

Number of pitches 100, 69 of which are hardstanding



OS EXPLORER 141 GRID 5239



SPECIAL BARELY BEGINS to describe this immaculately presented site, run by the White family. It's peaceful, too, but its adults-only status is only part of the reason for that. As the address suggests, you're surrounded by a working farm and the lovely countryside of Somerset.

Old Oaks started out as a Caravan Club CL (certificated location), which limited it to a maximum of five vans. That was back in 1980 but by 1987 it was operating as a commercial campsite. Today, it boasts 100 spacious pitches, 69 of which are hardstanding with 16A hook-up and 30 are fully serviced.

Site facilities are at the very top of the quality scale. For example, washblock cleanliness was nigh on perfect during my mid-summer visit, with facilities even extending to separate bathrooms. By mid 2011 a brand new eco friendly toilet and shower block is planned in the Top Oaks area.

Even the family pet is well cared for, with a dog wash and dog walk.

If you want to bring friends along and don't have the bed space for them in your own tourer, the site has installed smart-looking camping pods for hire during the season.

The on-site shop is very well stocked, with lots of local produce including home-produced beef, home-made cakes and local ciders. It also arranges gas exchange. Adjacent to this is one of the most luxurious tourist information rooms I've ever seen. It includes



Peace is the watchword at this adults-only site set in beautiful Somerset countryside

a pool table, comfy seating and its own toilet.

Guests have exclusive use of the site's fishing pond at £5 a day but if you prefer walking to fishing, the site is encircled by a network of paths. Glastonbury's famous Tor is a three-quarters of a mile walk away and offers 360° views across the Somerset Levels and the Mendip Hills. Or you can cycle the mile and a half to Glastonbury itself.

If you're hungry after a trek, the site has arranged generous discounts with a number of local eateries, including up to 25% off your meal at the Crown in nearby Wells' marketplace and 10% off at the well-regarded Glastonbury pub, Who'd A Thought It.

Old Oaks also has its own Gorgeous Gardens Club, again giving guests discounted entry to three local public gardens.

Charges (2010)

Pitch+2+hook-up.....	£18-£23
Extra person.....	£5
Serviced pitch.....	£20-£26
Awning.....	£1
Dogs (no maximum).....	£1.50
Extra car.....	£1.50

Facilities

- Washblocks (heated)
- Separate bathrooms
- Facilities for the disabled
- Dishwashing sinks
- Launderette
- Shop
- Tourist information room
- Wi-fi
- On-site fishing
- Dog walk and wash

On site

Jim and Sally White started Old Oaks as a Caravan Club certificated location, turning it into a full site in 1987.

"We've been an adults-only site for 18 years," say Jim and Sally, who still take a key role in the running of Old Oaks.

"Peace and quiet is what we're selling. The site has just grown, but we never planned it like that. "It's a uniquely peaceful situation away from traffic noise and, of course, no children. There's great fishing on our private coarse pond, and excellent facilities for the disabled, plus a strong environmental ethos - recycling, local produce, habitat provision."

