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Subtropical Swimming Paradise starts to take shape at Woburn Forest

The iconic Subtropical Swimming Paradise is beginning to take shape at the new Center Parcs Woburn Forest as 46 Glulam pieces (the longest in the UK at 70 metres), start to arrive.

The laminated beams, known as Glulams, are making the 960 mile journey

from just outside Vienna in Austria, where they are produced, to Woburn Forest in Bedfordshire.

The Glulams will make up the roof support structure of the Subtropical Swimming Paradise and now on site, will take construction workers 12 weeks to assemble into place.

Don Camilleri, Woburn Construction Director, Center Parcs UK, said:

“The Subtropical Swimming Paradise is such an iconic building, which many families recognise as a significant feature at Center Parcs, so it is exciting that the structure for Woburn Forest is now starting to take shape. Work on site is really progressing at pace now and we are on track for the spring 2014 opening.”

Manufactured at a factory just outside Vienna, it takes up to 195 man hours to construct each of the largest main beams and 50 workers in total to construct all of the Glulams.

In line with Center Parcs’ commitment to protecting the natural environment, the beams are sustainably sourced under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) system, meaning that for every tree used another is planted.

Bowmer & Kirkland was appointed by Center Parcs to build the leisure buildings and facilities at Woburn Forest, including the Subtropical Swimming Paradise, and is overseeing the construction, delivery and assembly of the Glulams which have been supplied and fitted by B&K Structures.

Once open from spring 2014, the Subtropical Swimming Paradise will be heated to 29.5°C for guests to enjoy whilst on a short break, whatever the weather.

Woburn Forest will be Center Parcs’ fifth UK Village and will comprise 625 forest lodges, a 75 bedroom hotel, spa with six associated spa suites and two leisure buildings including indoor sports facilities, restaurants and retail outlets www.centerparcs.co.uk/woburnforest

Contact information

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1. Center Parcs has five Villages across the UK; Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire, Elveden Forest in Suffolk, Longleat Forest in Wiltshire, Whinfell Forest in Cumbria and Woburn Forest in Bedfordshire which opened to guests on 6 June 2014
2. As the leader in the UK short break holiday market, Center Parcs regularly achieves average annual occupancy in excess of 97%
3. Center Parcs offers weekend, (Friday to Monday) or midweek (Monday to Friday) breaks and welcomes over 1.7 million guests each year, with 96% of guests expressing an intention to return
4. The Center Parcs concept is to provide a range of high quality accommodation, shops, restaurants and exceptional leisure facilities, carefully nestled amongst 400 acres of protected forest environment
5. This concept originated in Holland in 1967, with the first UK Center Parcs opening in 1987. Center Parcs is now a separate entity in the UK, owned by The Blackstone Group
6. Center Parcs has been awarded the following accolades since 2008: the Green Business Award for Biodiversity Protection, Visit Britain 5 Star Rating, Hospitality Assured, Biodiversity Benchmark - Land Management, Carbon Trust Standard, Good Spa Guide Award, ISO14001, Investors in People
7. Center Parcs has recently been announced '[Best Family Holiday Provider](#)' in the Tommy's Awards for the eleventh year in a row

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