



# Accessibility Statement

Tinderbox was created so that anyone with the passion and talent could make music. We are therefore committed to maintaining a programme that is accessible, and we've designed it to be as flexible, bespoke and personal as possible.

We are still a young organisation with limits on our resources, and so while there are plenty of adjustments we can make, there are some things we're not able to facilitate quite yet.

We are committed to ongoing improvement and making accessibility a priority in our organisation.

We hope the following information gives a sense of what we can provide, but if you'd like to discuss further or just don't see the information you're looking for, please get in touch.

We'd be very grateful for your feedback and perspective at any time, to make our programme the best it can be.

**This is a guide to working with us, in the different places Tinderbox operates.**

**This statement includes:**

- How to speak to us
- Working in the studio (Recording & Production)
- Working outside the studio and meetings (Artist Development & Funding Guidance)
- Carers and support people
- Neurodivergent work mentor
- Feedbacking

# How to speak to us

If you need to get hold of us, our contact details are as follows:

**Ben Hampson** – he/him (Recording & Production)

07791904425

[Ben@tinderbox-music.com](mailto:Ben@tinderbox-music.com)

**Suzi Ireland** – she/her (Artist Development)

07811943163

[Suzi@tinderbox-music.com](mailto:Suzi@tinderbox-music.com)

**Lucy Sheehan** – she/her (Fundraising)

07720947784

[Lucy@tinderbox-music.com](mailto:Lucy@tinderbox-music.com)

**The designated accessibility contact is Lucy**

She can be contacted on:

07720947784 or [lucy@tinderbox-music.com](mailto:lucy@tinderbox-music.com)

# Working in the Studio: Recording & Production

Music work (pre-production, recording and mixing) usually takes place at Agricultural Audio or 'AA' as its sometimes called. AA is Ben's studio, set in the countryside outside Lewes. It has a live room and control room, and an outdoor area with seating plus a fridge, microwave, kettle and area to prepare food.

However, we know that AA isn't 100% accessible to every artist yet (please see 'The Studio' information for precise measurements and photos) so we can also arrange to work in alternative locations, such as other studios or even your home setup. We have safeguarding procedures for home-based sessions and can organise this with you.

## **Getting to Agricultural Audio**

### **BY CAR**

You can reach the studio by car, giving the driver the following address:

Cowlease Farm,  
Hamsey,  
East Sussex,  
BN8 5TE

### **BY TRAIN**

The nearest station is Lewes, a ten minute drive to the studio.

Lewes Station,  
Station Rd,  
Lewes  
BN7 2UP

### **LIFTS**

We can pick you up from the station, or help you get to a station. We want to be flexible and ensure everyone who wants to reach the studio can do, so please talk to us about your options.

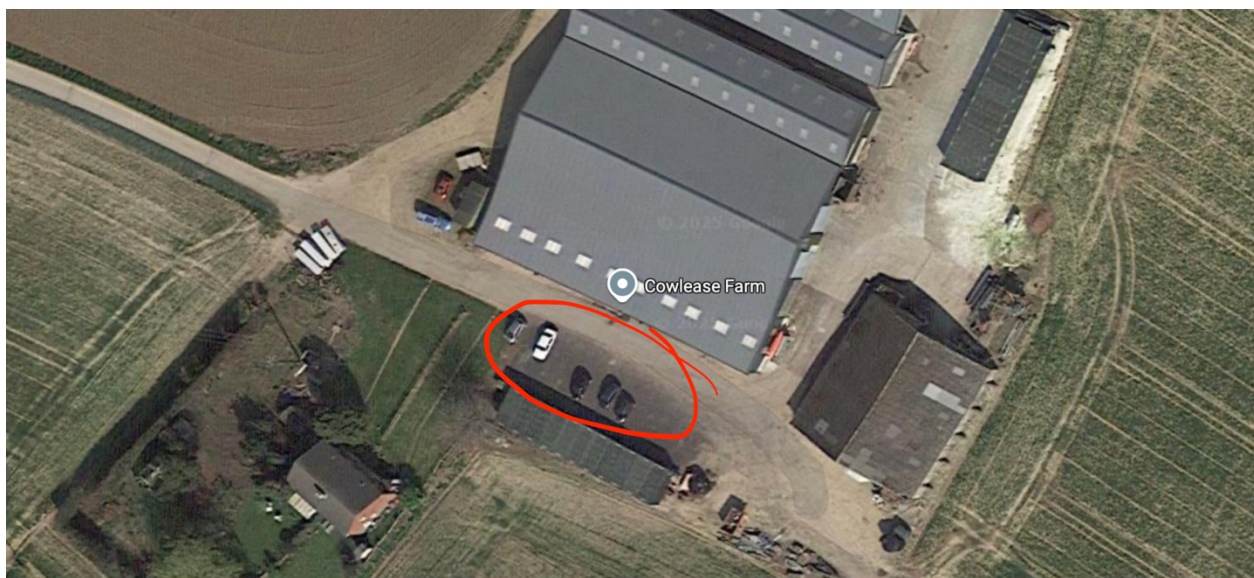
This is the **entrance** to the farm that the studio is located on. The road will take you across farm land and you'll see the farm buildings at the end. Call Ben on 07791904425 if you're at all unsure.



## Parking

There is plenty of parking right outside the studio, free 24 hours on private land, so you don't have to worry about paying for parking. It's on a **very slight incline**, on a **gravel** surface, approximately 10 meters from the door. If necessary, you can park right outside where the walk to the control room or live room is approx 3 meters.

When you arrive at the studio you will see cars pulled up on the right, see the circled part of the photo below (and feel free to call Ben on the day if you're not sure.)



## **The Studio**

Please see pictures and measurements of the studio below.

The studio is not fully accessible yet, primarily because the toilets are not step free. We are working on making AA fully step free.

However, please talk to us about working in the studio, even if the control room door is too narrow, we have recently done albums where we have moved the control room into the live room, which has worked well. There are many adjustments we can make and if you would like to do your recording at AA we would like to facilitate it.

As mentioned, we also have a great relationship with many excellent studios in the South East, so we can record elsewhere if AA is inaccessible to you. We can also work in your home set-up.

## **Description of the space:**

The **studio** is set inside a long barn and is made up of a live room, a control room, plus a sheltered outdoor area with seating and a basic kitchen. It's great in the summer but it can be chilly when you're using the kitchen in winter, so bring a warm coat.

The **toilets** are nearest the end you arrived from, Ben will show you when you arrive and there are maps and pictures on the following pages. There are sanitary products available on the shelf to the right of the kettle and grill. See photo below. Call Lucy if you're not sure or can't find them on 07720947784.



*Location of period products.*

**If you would like a video walk through of the studio space prior to recording, just let us know.**

**Co2 fire extinguishers and fire blankets in both control room and live room.**

**Standard fire alarms both in control room and live room.**

## The Control Room

**Doors:** 925mm x 2150mm

Double doors: exterior moves out,  
interior moves in

**Step:** 100mm, can be removed



## The Live Room

**Doors:** 965mm x 2075mm

(double opening, width can be doubled)

Double doors: exterior opens out,  
interior opens in

**Step:** 60mm, can be removed

**(Continued on next page)**



Live Room Double Doors



## Toilets

**Doors:** 810mm x 2070mm

No grab rails

**Step** 150mm

Door opens outwards



## **Other things to note...**

**We want you to have a relaxed and productive session**, so we're happy to make any reasonable adjustments to the space, such as lighting. If you want to bring any items that would make your experience more comfortable, please do and feel free to discuss further with Ben or Lucy.

We can provide a place for you to **take a break** or have your lunch somewhere quiet.

If you'd like to **bring a carer or friend** for support, that's no problem at all, just let us know who's coming.

# Artist Development & Fundraising – Working in Person or Online

Participants work with **Suzi** on **Artist Development**. Some artists like to meet regularly – weekly or fortnightly – and others prefer to go away and work on things, meeting every three or four weeks. It's up to you to decide how Suzi's guidance can best be delivered.

Participants work with **Lucy** to get support making **funding** applications and getting grants for their projects. Lucy will often deliver initial sessions over zoom to introduce the world of funding. You don't have to show your face at these sessions and participants are free to just listen or ask as many questions as they'd like. Afterwards, Lucy will meet with you personally to discuss your plans and goals, and you'll begin drafting applications together, depending on the amount of support you'd like.

**It's important that meetings and sessions are in a space where you can comfortably think, share your ideas and discuss next steps.** Feel free to suggest a meeting place, or if you think a suggested location sounds like it might be too loud, too bright, or not comfortable, let us know.

We can also hold some sessions over zoom. Just make sure you've got a quiet place with time for us to speak uninterrupted. **In addition...**

- We can organise live captions, transcripts or BSL interpreters for zoom
- You can choose your communication method for the duration of the programme, e.g. telephone, text, email – just let us know.
- Sessions are participant lead, in terms of frequency and format. We want to focus on what *you* need for your career.
- We can assess and adjust meeting locations at any time for sensory comfort – before, during or for the next session. If you are ever struggling with the working environment, we can adjust immediately.

## Carers & Support

**Carers and support people are always welcome in any setting.**

We can offer them basic orientation and meet with them to discuss the programme if it would be helpful.

## Neurodivergent Work Support

Many of the artists we work with are neurodivergent and we provide sessions for anyone who would like support in managing their time and work during the programme. These sessions are with Abi D'arcy and participants usually have between one and three sessions with her.

**This support is available to all participants on request.** Please discuss with us and we'll organise your sessions and introduce you to Abi.

*Abi is a skilled singer, songwriter, and performer who has collaborated with renowned artists such as Paolo Nutini, Newton Faulkner and Congo Natty.*

*Alongside her artist career, Abi is a qualified specialist mentor (NMH: ASC/ADHD) who is trained to support neurodiverse individuals and communities in improving their cognitive abilities and daily functioning to enhance project outcomes. She develops strategies aimed at helping musicians, artists, and producers excel in neurotypical environments and reach their full potential.*

**Your discussions with Abi are fully confidential and will not be shared to anyone outside Tinderbox.**

# Providing Feedback

**We are very grateful for any feedback participants can provide – it's how we improve and develop our programme.**

There are many ways you can provide feedback. Our feedback form is anonymous and is available [HERE](#). You can provide as much or as little information as you like, you do not have to answer every question.

But, you could also make a voice recording, feedback in person or over zoom, keep a diary or describe your experience in narrative form. Feel free to be creative in your feedback – whatever helps illustrate your experience best.

## Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read our Access Statement.

If you didn't find the information you were looking for or have questions about this information, please get in touch – we are committed to making Tinderbox accessible to everyone so we would be pleased to discuss your needs further.

**Lucy Sheehan** – she/her

07720947784

[Lucy@tinderbox-music.com](mailto:Lucy@tinderbox-music.com)