

## Introduction

Botany Bay is situated in the beautiful Wye Valley above the village of Tintern, approximately 8 miles from Chepstow & 9 miles from Monmouth.

The Wye Valley is designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Alongside the campsite runs the Wye Valley Walk, a 36 mile route from Chepstow to Ross-on-Wye, offering some spectacular scenery. Just over the River Wye is Offa's Dyke long distance footpath, 186 miles from Sedbury to Prestatyn in North Wales. It is possible to plan many circular hikes using parts of both these paths.

The site covers 27 acres &, for the main part is steeply wooded, providing an excellent environment for traditional Scouting activities such as cooking, pioneering, conservation, & woodcraft.

Botany Bay is suitably located close to the range of activities provided in the Forest of Dean, cycling, climbing, caving, canoeing & more. The peaks of the Black Mountains or the Brecon Beacons are easily accessible for more adventurous activities.

More relaxed activities are not forgotten, Chepstow castle, the Forest of Dean Railway, the magnificent Tintern Abbey, the Blaenavon World Heritage Site (Including 'Bit Pit') & St Fagans National History Museum are just a few examples of the variety of days out in the area.

An orienteering course has been laid out on site & a map is available

The permanent Chapel & campfire circle help provide a traditional Scouting environment.

## Camping

Most campers use the 5 acre main camping field, although clearings in the wooded area can be used for overnight stops or patrol camps.

Drinking water taps are provided on site.

Male, female & disabled toilet facilities are provided in a separate building adjacent to the Lodge, an Elsan disposal point is located in the entrance to the field for groups wishing to use chemical toilets.

The large wooded area at Botany Bay provides a ready source of fallen timber for cooking fires.



## Milner Lodge

Built of stone under a slate roof Milner Lodge contains a large meeting room heated by a wood-burning stove & electric fan heaters; a kitchen equipped with electric stove & fridge; three toilets (including disabled); a shower room.

All hot water, electrical appliances & lights in the Lodge are controlled through a slot meter which takes £1 & £2 coins only.

A payphone is provided in the Lodge for the use of all campers, additionally a coin operated tumble drier is available for the wetter days.



## Other Buildings



The Zena Mellens Challet overlooks the main camping field, & is available as alternative or separate accommodation.

Three larger cabins have recently been constructed on site, these are primarily intended to be used for training & are unfurnished.

Cooking is not permitted in any of the cabins.

## Bookings

Bookings should be made with (by telephone):

Alan Hillard, 3 Park Glade, Tintern, Chepstow, NP16 6TX, Phone 01291 689772

This should be confirmed by completing the booking form & sending with the relevant deposit.

Keys are only available by prior arrangement with Mr Hillard,

(the site neighbours do not hold keys to the site)

## Location & Directions



The postal address for the campsite is:

Botany Bay Activity Centre,  
Trelleck Road,  
Tintern,  
Chepstow,  
NP16 6SN

OS Grid SO 527024 Landranger 162 or Outdoor Leisure 14 (Wye Valley & Forest of Dean)

- From Monmouth, follow the A466 south, turn right on entering Tintern at the Wye Valley Hotel, signposted 'Catbrook 2'
- From Chepstow, follow the A466 north, turn left just before leaving Tintern at the Wye Valley Hotel, signposted 'Catbrook 2'
- Continue up the road for 1 mile, (ignoring the left turn sign-posted 'Botany Bay') the camp site is on the right just past the white bungalow.

## Useful Information

For more information on the site you may also contact:

Mike Breakwell, (Gwent Area Project Officer),  
Area Office (at Botany Bay),  
Phone: 01291 689942  
Email: [areaoffice@gwentscouts.org.uk](mailto:areaoffice@gwentscouts.org.uk)

Doctor - Tintern Surgery, 01291 689335  
(Turn right at the Wye Valley Hotel, into Tintern, surgery is approximately opposite the Royal George Hotel.)



Hospital (Minor Injuries - 08.00 - 23.00)

- Lydney District Hospital Grove Road Lydney GL15 5JE 0300 421 8722

Hospitals (Full A&E 24 hours)

- Nevill Hall Hospital Brecon Road Abergavenny NP7 7EG 01873 732732
- Royal Gwent Hospital Cardiff Road Newport NP20 2UB 01633 234234

Chemists

- Boots the Chemist, 17 High Street, Chepstow 01291 622042
- Chappells/Bulwark Pharmacy 60a Bulwark Road, 01291 622149
- P. C. Merrick - 12/13 Steep Street, Chepstow - 01291 622387

Tourist Information - Castle Car Park, Bridge Street, Chepstow, 01291 623772

# Fees

(Applicable from 1st September 2017)



	Gwent Scouts & Guides	Other Groups
Site Users (per head per night)	£1.50*	£2.00*
Use of Lodge (per day)	£35	£45
Use of Zena Mellin's Chalet (per day)	£10	£12
Use of Cabin (per day per cabin)	£15	£20
Day use of Field (per person)	50p	

\* Reduced rates are available for overnight camps for expedition groups.

A deposit of 25% of the estimated final cost should be returned with the booking form, this is refundable if two months notice is given of a cancellation.



## DOs & DON'Ts



- ☑ **DO** make the most of all of the site!
- ☑ **DO** only use the official entrances to from the site.
- ☑ **DO** observe the boundaries of the site. In particular the woods over the footpath along the bottom of the main camping field are not part of the site & should not be used without the permission of the Forestry Commission.
- ☑ **DO** familiarise yourselves with the location of all fire points in building & know how to use the equipment provided.
- ☑ **DO** provide your own First Aid facilities (the site is not usually manned)
- ☑ **DO** use standing water points for filling water containers but **DONT** use them as washing places.
- ☑ **DO** use the chemical disposal point (located at the entrance to field from the car park) for disposing of toilet waste.
- ☑ **DO** avoid any night-time or excessively noisy activities, if you are not sure please check with the Booking Secretary first. Lights out & quiet by 11pm.
- ☑ **DO** keep your campsite free of litter & take every care taken to ensure that the whole campsite is kept clean & tidy; leave buildings, including the toilet block, in a clean & tidy condition.
- ☑ **DO** leave rubbish in the bins provided in the car park.
- ☑ **DO** use altar fires on the main field for fires (fires may be lit on the ground in the wooded area)
- ☑ **DO** leave all bird & bat boxes alone.
- ☑ **DO** have respect for the site neighbours & the local community. This includes keeping noise to a minimum, particularly in the early morning & evening, & behaving in a thoughtful manner at all times.
- ☑ **DO** dismantle & remove/return any items of equipment used on site returned after use, unless prior arrangements have been made. (Examples include; assault courses, rope swings, bivouacs, aerial runways, stone fire circles etc.)
- ☑ **DO** ensure you risk assess all activities you carry out on site.
- ! **DON'T** cut standing timber, saplings or fallen dead trees without having the permission of the Campsite Manager or Booking Secretary.
- ! **DON'T** interfere with natural habitat (except bracken, which may be cut to make bivouacs etc)
- ! **DON'T** access the site unless you have the permission of the Booking Secretary or Campsite Manager.
- ! **DON'T** climb the stone walls & fences.
- ! **DON'T** cause damage or misuse the site in any way (or you will be asked to leave)

# Hazards



The Botany Bay Campsite consists of 27 acres of steep wooded hillside incorporating a 5 acre grass camping area.

The site is intended for 'traditional' Scout camping, giving the opportunity to use natural resources and cook on open wood fires.

Whilst the site gives access to many outdoor Scouting activities it creates a number of hazards:

Category	Description	Potential hazard
Environment	The majority of the land is steep, rough ground with protruding rock, loose stones, unseen diverts, holes and undulations.	Trips and falls
	A large area is covered in fern, bracken and brambles and other vegetation.	Cuts, bites and stings
	The area is an ancient deciduous woodland, containing, oak, beech, chestnut, hawthorn, cherry, apple, silver birch and hazel trees. Many trees are old with decaying roots and upper branches. The soil depth in many places is quite small so root systems are not able to penetrate to a great depth, causing tall trees to be blown over and uprooted with little or no warning. There are many low branches at head height. There is a large and varied amount of fungus both at ground level and on trees. These can appear overnight.	Trip and falls; eye and face injury
	The site has numerous dry stone wall systems these are liable collapse. Climbing on them should be avoided.	Falls and crush injuries
	The grass camping area and other grassy banks can be slippery when wet.	Trip and falls
	At certain times of year there is a heavy leaf fall, these can be very slippery and hide a multitude of trip items on the ground. This is also the case during the die back of the bluebells.	Trip and falls
	Because of the steep nature of the campsite, there are hundreds of steps at various locations throughout the site, these are generally secured by metal stakes, which if fallen on, could cause serious injury.	Trip, fall and injury.
Animals	The site is home to a herd of deer which migrate throughout the lower Wye Valley.	
	There are badgers, foxes, moles and other smaller wild animals on the site with relevant breeding places.	
	Wild boar have been encountered on site.	
	There are snakes on the site, but are rarely seen.	
	Wasps, horseflies and midges are regular inhabitants. Numerous wasp nests can be secreted in trees.	Stings, bites and poisoning
Water	There are many stream beds throughout the site.	Trips and falls
	There are two streams just outside the boundary, the one by the gate can become quite deep with silt; the one at the north end of the site is fast flowing especially when in spate.	
Buildings	With all wooden construction buildings there is always a risk of fire.	Burns and asphyxiation
	The veranda on the lodge and Zena Mellens Chalet can become slippery when wet.	Trips and falls
	No chairs should be taken onto the veranda, as the legs could fall through the gaps causing the chairs to topple.	
Activities	No activities are provided by the site other than an Orienteering Course.	
	All Scoutcraft activities, fires, cutting wood etc can be dangerous and must be undertaken with care.	
	Kites should not be flown near overhead power cables.	Electrocution
Site Water Supply	The site has its own private water supply and also provides a water supply for three neighbours, this is cleansed by a chlorine drip filtration system. There should be no interference with tanks or water pipes.	Poisoning

# Booking Form



Group / Organisation :	
Person in Charge	Phone (Evening) :
Name :	Phone (Daytime) :
Address :	Phone (Mobile) :
	Email address :
Dates Required	Facilities Required (Please tick)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Camping <input type="checkbox"/> Lodge <input type="checkbox"/> Chalet
Number of people	<input type="checkbox"/> Training Cabins <input type="checkbox"/> Day use of field only
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Programme - Please give a brief outline of your programme during your stay.	
Declaration I accept the 'Dos & Don'ts' & have reviewed the Hazards list, as provided in this information & displayed on site. I enclose a booking deposit of £ _____ (which I understand may not be refundable in the event of insufficient notice being given of a cancellation)	
Signed (Person in charge as above) _____	

This form should be completed & returned along with the relevant deposit to:

Mr A Hillard, 3 Park Glade Tintern, Chepstow, NP16 6TX  
 (Cheques should be made payable to Gwent Area Scout Council)

Please note – this form is only for confirming a booking, bookings should be discussed & agreed with Mr Hillard by telephone; 01291 689772