



# Botany Bay Training & Activity Centre



## Introduction

Botany Bay is situated in the beautiful Wye Valley above the village of Tintern. Tintern on the A466 is approximately 8 miles from Chepstow and 9 miles from Monmouth.

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 and, for the main part is steeply wooded, providing an excellent environment for traditional Scouting activities such as cooking, pioneering, conservation, and woodcraft.

Botany Bay is suitably located close to the range of activities provided in the Forest of Dean, cycling, climbing, caving, canoeing and 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 and the magnificent Tintern Abbey are just a few examples of the variety of days out in the area.

An orienteering course has been laid out on site and a map is available, also under construction are information points about the birds and trees on site.

The permanent Chapel and 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. Taps and wash stands are provided on site.

Male, female and 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. Trench type fires may be used in the wooded area but on the main field altar fires must be used, several are provided.

## Milner Lodge

Built of stone under a slate roof Milner Lodge contains a large meeting room heated by a woodburning stove and electric fan heaters; a kitchen equipped with electric stove



and fridge; three toilets - including one for disabled people; and a shower room.

All hot water, electrical appliances and lights in the Lodge are controlled through a slot meter which takes 50p pieces 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, and 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 and are currently unfurnished.

Cooking is not permitted in any of the chalets.



### **Bookings**

Bookings should be made with (by telephone):

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

This should be confirmed by completing a booking form, and sending the relevant deposit.

**Keys are only available by prior arrangement with Mr Hillard, the site neighbours do not hold keys to the site.**

### **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.)

**Chepstow Community Hospital**  
01291 636363 (24 Hour minor casualty department)

**Hospitals** - 24 hour full A&E units at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, 01633 234234 & Neville Hall Hospital, Abergavenny, 01873 852091

**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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008)

	Gwent Scouts & Guides	Other Groups
Camping Only (per head per night)	£1.50***	£1.75***
Use of Lodge (per day)	£35	£45
Camping and use of lodge * (per head per night)	£3.00	£3.50
Use of Chalet (per day)	£10	£12
Use of Cabin ** (per day per cabin)	£15	£20
Day use of Field (per person)	50p	

\* if cheaper than a combination of the above.

\*\* if use of a cabin is required then the lodge must also be hired.

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

A deposit of £15 (£30 for week camps) should be returned with the booking form, this is refundable if two months notice is given of a cancellation.

Please remember, if applicable, to complete the relevant Permission to Camp (PC) form. After completion by the home District Commissioner the form should be sent directly to Mr Hillard along with the relevant fee.

Inspections will be organised by the Campsite Manager.

**Location and Directions**

The postal address for the campsite is :

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

OS Grid SO 527024 Landranger 162 or Outdoor Leisure 14 (Wye Valley and 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 signposted 'Botany Bay') the camp site is on the right just past the white bungalow.



## Site Rules

1. Access to the site may only be obtained with the permission of the Booking Secretary or Campsite Manager.
2. Any person causing damage or misusing the site in any way will be sent off the site as soon as it is practical to do so.
3. Only the official entrances to and from the site will be used. The climbing of stone walls and fences is prohibited. The boundaries of the site should be observed, in particular the woods over the footpath along the bottom of the main camping field are not part of the site, and should not be used without the permission of the Forestry Commission.
4. All users will familiarise themselves with the location of all fire points and know how to use the equipment provided.
5. No standing timber, saplings or fallen dead trees will be cut without having the Campsite Manager's permission.
6. No natural habitat will be interfered with, except bracken, which may be cut to make bivouacs etc.
7. Standing water points are for filling water containers only. ***They must on not be used as washing places. On no account will they be used to wash out Elsans.*** Failure to observe this rule could result in dismissal from the site.
8. Any night-time or excessively noisy activities must have the approval of the Campsite Manager.
9. All sites must be kept free of litter and every care taken to ensure that the whole campsite is kept clean and tidy. Buildings, including the toilet block, should be left in a clean and tidy condition. Rubbish should only be left in the bins provided in the car park.
10. When cooking on wood fires in the main field, only altar fires may be used.
11. All bird and bat boxes to be left alone.
12. Any equipment borrowed will be:
  - a. signed for by the person receiving.
  - b. returned in the condition in which it was borrowed.
  - c. if returned damaged, will be repaired or renewed by the borrower to a standard that meets with the Campsite Manager's approval.
13. Respect for the site neighbours and the local community must be observed. This includes keeping noise to a minimum, particularly in the early morning and evening, and behaving in a thoughtful manner at all times
14. Any items of equipment used on site should be dismantled and removed/returned after use, unless prior arrangements have been made. Examples include: assault courses, rope swings, bivouacs, aerial runways, stone fire circles etc.

