

Garner's Field Campsite

'Garner's Field' is the name of Farnham District Scout Association's campsite just outside Farnham in Surrey. Details of the campsite's features, facilities and site use guidelines can be found below.

History

The site and much of the surrounding area was formally a quarry which had been filled in. Under the leadership of former Farnham District Commissioner Eric Garner the site was purchased in the 1970's for Scouting Activity use and the site named in his honour.

Location

Garner's Field is located in a rural setting approximately three miles south of Farnham near the village of Tilford. The site is easily accessible by vehicle via a single track from nearby Sheephatch Lane, Tilford.

The campsite is at OS Map Reference 865447.

On OS Explorer Map 145, Garner's Field (name not marked) adjoins the Surrey County Girl Guide's 'Herons Wey Camp Site' (name marked).

OS Pathfinder Sheet SU 84/94 also covers the area.

When coming to the site from Farnham via the Tilford Road, take the left turn into Sheephatch lane, proceed over the small river bridge and take the left turn immediately after the house adjacent to the bridge. Proceed along the single track to Garner's Field (passing Heron's Wey Girl Guide site to your right).

Site & Facilities

The campsite comprises a seven acre mainly level field adjacent to the river Wey with individual camping areas located around the periphery. A large central open grassed area is provided for communal use.

The site has a modern purpose built toilet block with separate male and female facilities including toilets, showers, wet rooms, disabled facilities and an external washing up area with hot and cold water. Fresh/drinking water pipe stands are provided around the main field and adjacent to the buildings.

Wood is delivered to the site for camp fires and cooking - only this wood or dead wood collected from the ground may be burned. With the Warden's prior permission open fires may be used at the individual camping areas located adjacent to the river. Fire pits are to be dug and filled in accordance with scouting guidelines. Altar fires may be used at the remaining camping areas (five altar fire/BBQ's are available for use on a first come basis).

Individual camping area waste/grey water drainage facilities should be built above ground near the field boundaries (for example using a perforated bucket or bin liner filled with filter material that can be burned after use). Please do not dig wet pits, throw wet refuse into the hedgerows or pour anything into the river.

Activity features at Garner's Field include:

Shooting/Archery wall – may be used for Rifle shooting (.177 only) or Archery. Instructors must be qualified in accordance with POR rules and guidance.

Groups to supply own Shooting and Archery equipment unless a prior arrangement has been made with Farnham District. When bringing own rifles or archery equipment to site please ensure that the Warden's prior permission has been obtained.

A purpose built Adventure Trail activity course is located within a fenced area at the site (entrance lock combination available from the Booking Secretary or Warden). To be used with a Leader in attendance.

A store of pioneering poles is available and permanent ground holding facilities are in place to erect a zip wire – Groups to supply own ropes, blocks and pulleys.

A launch/access area to the river is provided. The water depth is usually shallow and thereby suitable for rafting, canoeing and swimming. A small stock of drums is available on site to help with building rafts.

Please see later safety notice concerning water activities.

The copse just above the left lower field may be used for back woods camping and training.

All of the above are available at no charge however please advise the Booking Secretary in advance if it is your intention to use any of these.

A series of three basic orienteering trails have been set up at Garner's Field. Copies of the Information Pack explaining the trail routes are available from the Booking Secretary for a small charge.

The site Activity Centre is available for hire on a daily or weekly basis and includes an Assembly Hall, Toilets (including disabled) and Kitchen. The recently refurbished kitchen includes a Gas Hob with 5 burners, Gas Oven Range with 5 burners plus large oven and small oven/grill, Fridge, Freezer, Electric Hot Water Urn, Microwave, Toaster and Electric Kettle. Groups using the Kitchen are to provide their own cooking pots, pans, utensils etc. A small charge per day is made to cover gas use.

The hall has capacity to seat 80 people with folding tables and chairs provided. The hall may be used for sleepovers with the Warden's prior permission. Heating for the main hall is available via a meter accepting £1 coins. Please note there are no mail delivery or permanent telephone facilities at the site.

A history folder on Garner's Field plus leaflets for local attractions can be found in the main hall.

The Garner's Field Campsite badge can be purchased from the Booking Secretary or Warden, or obtained from the local Farnham District Scout Shop.

Facilities are available in the local area for gas bottle exchange. Nearest location is 'Camping & Leisure World' at Frensham Garden Centre, The Reeds Road, Farnham, GU10 3BP (Tel 01252-795293) approximately 2 miles from Garner's Field.

Please note that the site Warden or members of the Scouting Association site maintenance team are not normally permanently on site but may visit from time to time.

Local Interests

The old market town of Farnham includes its Castle, excellent shopping facilities, sports centre, museum and rail link to London. The nearby village of Tilford can be reached along a bridle path, with the Bourne Woods also close by and easily reachable from the site.

Other nearby attractions include:- Frensham Ponds and the surrounding common, Hankley Common including the 'Devil's Jumps', the Old Kiln Museum, the Devil's Punchbowl, Birdworld, Waverley Abbey ruins and Alice Holt Forest's 'Go Ape' high wire adventure course (note this latter facility is at Bucks Horn Oak - 6 miles from the site, not the nearby Alice Holt - Bourne Woods).

Nearby Aldershot and Farnborough include a number of attractions including several Military Museums.

Site Use Guide Lines

Everyone using the site and its amenities is asked to behave in a considerate way so that all can equally enjoy the facilities. The site can accommodate up to 120 young people camping on the top field with a further 40 on the lower field right and 20 on the lower field left. Please note it is usual for several different Groups to be using the site at any one time. Noise should be reduced to a minimum between 8 pm and 7.30 am and all at the site are expected to be quiet with lights out by 11.00 pm.

Groups of young people who are members of The Scout Association visiting or camping at Garner's Field and who are under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a MINIMUM of two adults. Prior to arrival the Leader in charge should advise the Warden of the group's expected arrival time and before departure the Warden should be contacted and invited to visit the site. Small hike groups of Scout Association members under the age of 18 may camp without adult supervision providing details of a home contact have been provided prior to arrival. D of E hiking groups coming on to site for short stays must have a Leader ready to supervise their arrival and stay.

By exception alcohol is permitted on site at the discretion of the Leader in Charge, and always in moderation. Young people under the age of 18 are not under any circumstances permitted to consume alcohol during their stay. Drugs are strictly prohibited other than those prescribed by a registered medical practitioner.

The site is surrounded by private fields and tracks which must not be crossed without the Warden's expressed permission. Groups arriving/leaving the site should proceed quietly passed the house and stables by the site entrance at Sheephatch Lane. The adjacent camping/activity field 'Herons Wey' is owned by the Surrey County Guide Association and will normally be out of bounds as is the adjacent small holding farm. Nearby grazing animals should be respected and should not be disturbed. Please note the discharge of fireworks or causing loud noises or explosions is not permitted as it frightens nearby animals and live stock. Generators are not permitted on site.

The single track to/from Garners Field from Sheephatch Lane can become congested during periods of high traffic activity and may become rutted with use in wet weather. Please use the track with care and consideration for others. A maximum speed limit of 10 mph is to be strictly applied when using the track or on the camp site with a more cautious speed (5mph max) adopted if young people are around.

Once equipment has been dropped off at individual campsites ALL vehicles are to be removed back to the marked parking areas near the main field entrance. Campervans or caravans may not be bought on site without the Warden's prior permission.

On departure toilets, sinks and showers, washing up sinks and if used the Activity building and Kitchen, are to be properly cleaned and left tidy with all waste and debris removed. Individual Campsite areas are to be left tidy with all litter and equipment removed and any fire pits properly filled in. Failure to do this to the Warden's satisfaction may result in loss of deposit.

Activity areas and the camp fire area are to be left tidy with all wood returned to the wood pile. Borrowed Altar fires, picnic tables, benches, unused fire wood and pioneering equipment are to be returned to their proper locations.

There are no facilities for rubbish disposal at the site and other than burning; all rubbish should be removed from the site by individual Groups. Please do not bury rubbish as foxes find it, dig it up and scatter it.

For obvious reasons dogs (other than guide dogs) or other pets are not encouraged. If dogs are brought to site then they are to be kept on a lead at all times.

When on site and visiting surrounding areas please observe the Country Code.

Water Activities

Water activities run from Garners Field are to be contained within the river stretch adjacent to the field with care not to proceed downstream further than the sluice warning notice. A cordoned water activities lookout platform is

provided midway along the Garner's Field stretch of riverside. Access to the far side river bank is not permitted as this is private property.

All users of the site are strictly forbidden to use or play in the river near the old sluice or to enter the fenced off bank areas adjacent to it which can be very dangerous.

The river is normally classed as Class "C" waters excluding the out of bounds sluice area. If the river is high due to heavy rains the Class is raised to "B1" and is not suitable for instruction or use. Appropriately qualified Leaders or Instructors must be in attendance during any Water Activities in accordance with POR rules and guidance. A rope swing is provided over the river just upstream from the lookout point - please use under supervision.

Leader Responsibility

Individual Leaders are responsible for the safety and well being of their Groups on site. It is the Group Leader's responsibility to ensure his/her Group are in full compliance with the relevant Scouting Association Policy, Rules and Guidelines – in particular where shooting, archery and water activities are involved. Those making use of the Activity Hall and Kitchen should familiarise themselves with the fire escapes, fire fighting and safety features. The Garner's Field Warden or his nominee may request the prior sighting of the appropriate Scout Association permit or certificate for planned activities.

In the unfortunate event of a personal accident or injury occurring at site the individual Group's own response/reporting procedures should be followed first, then the Garners Field Warden or Booking Secretary notified as soon as practical. If facilities or equipment at the site are found damaged or defective the item(s) should first be made safe and if necessary isolated, then the Warden notified.

To contact the Warden telephone (day & evenings) 01252 - 714094

Booking and Costs

Please note all camps, overnight stays and day or evening visits at Garners Field are to be pre booked via the Booking Secretary.

All bookings are to be accompanied by a deposit - failure of which to pay may invalidate the booking.

Outstanding camping and activity fees should be settled prior to departure.

For current site and amenity charges and to obtain a booking form please contact the Garner's Field Booking Secretary telephone (day & evenings) 01252 – 715747 or e-mail "kenpowell.vh@tiscali.co.uk"

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Please enjoy your stay at Garners Field. If you have any questions about the site, its facilities or its use, please contact the Warden or the Booking Secretary for further information.

Your feedback is important. After visiting you are most welcome to write or e mail the Booking Secretary with comment on your experience, suggestions for improvements etc.

The Warden