



Elton Magpies Holiday House and Campsites

Information 2026

This is designed to provide you with all the information that you may need prior to and during your stay. Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) if you have any additional queries. Please bring this brochure with you to your stay.

Files containing information on the site, check out forms, fire registers, risk assessments, etc are located as follows: -

Magpies Holiday House – in the leader's room

Magpies Campsite – in the Magpies Kitchen

Downing Campsite – in the Downing Shelter

Unequipped Campsites – in a box on the wall of the campers shower/toilet room

Please locate these on arrival and read.

General Information

Address	Station Road, Orston, Nottinghamshire NG13 9NB. Sat Nav – use NG13 9LG
Directions	Please note that use of a sat nav will take you to houses near the train station and not to the campsite. Look out for the railway station sign and turn immediately left after the bridge (if coming from A52 Elton on the Hill) or right before the bridge if coming from Orston).
Map reference	OS Map 129 Ref. 765402. Gateway is adjacent to the railway bridge on the Orston side. Coaches/buses must approach only from Orston because of the turning circle.

Site information	There is a 5-acre camping field and 6-acre wild area – ideal for wide games and nature study.		
Warden	Marc Popplewell 07710 271641	Chair of management committee	Vicky Stanton 07818 086939
Accommodation			
Magpies house	Maximum number for non-residential events is 100. Equipped for 24 young people sleeping: – • Max of 16 on camp beds in the sleeping room • 4 pop-up tents in the dining/activity hall (each tent sleeping 2 girls) Additionally: – • 4 leaders in the leaders' bedroom • 3 young leaders in 1 pop-up tent • Roll mats are provided to use inside the pop-up tents or to use on top of the camp beds. Totalling 31 people sleeping in Magpies Nest. We recommend that girls and leaders bring sleeping bags and blankets rather than sheets and duvets.		
Additional information for when you are there	It is a wooden building with 2 large rooms (one for sleeping, the other for dining/activities + the pop-up tents). There is a separate bedroom for leaders. Large, equipped kitchen with electric cooker, microwave, fridge and freezer. Two toilets and two showers (one shower and toilet is wheelchair accessible). Slot meters for showers – £1 shower token (in the leaders' bedroom) for a longer shower (disabled access shower) and 20p per shower (able bodied access shower). The 4 pop up tents are each suitable for 2 Rainbows/Brownies/Guides. In addition, there is another pop-up tent for the Guides (if staying with Rainbows/Brownies) or Rangers. Camping mats are provided for use with the tents. The tents should be put up at bedtime along the wall opposite the fire exit in the main hall. They should be packed away during the day so there is sufficient space for activities etc.		

	Heating – please use the overhead electric heaters first – please note these do not glow red when on, they remain black. When the house is in use the front door should be locked but leave the key in the door. For hot water – there are 2 switches next to the tank in the entrance to the showers/toilets. The left-hand switch MUST REMAIN ON. The next switch is for the holiday house and needs to be switched ON on arrival and OFF before leaving. Please check that you have turned off all the lights and heaters before you leave the building. We may charge you if lighting and heating are left on when you go home.
Magpies campsite	Equipped for 36 with large altar fire. Basement kitchen has electric cooker, microwave, electric urn and fridge/freezer and can provide some indoor shelter with tables and benches. Toilet block and showers are nearby. A trolley is available for moving equipment.
Downing campsite	Equipped for 30 with large altar fire. The wet weather accommodation (wooden building 5mx10m) has basic kitchen facilities (2 ring calor gas cooker, gas fridge, gas boiler). The building is not approved for sleeping in. There is no electricity on site but there are solar lights. A generator is available, but petrol needs to be brought by those making the booking. Toilet facilities are in the Peet building (not wheelchair accessible). If using the campsite showers – cleaning should be co-ordinated with users of the Magpie's campsite. A trolley is available for moving equipment. You can have use of the freezer in the Magpies campsite downstairs kitchen during your stay.
Unequipped campsites	Saker – suitable for 24 campers – has an altar fire. Hedgerow – suitable for 24 campers – has a ground level fireplace. Railway – suitable for up to 10 campers – has a ground level fireplace. If using the campsite showers – cleaning should be co-ordinated with users of the Magpies campsite. Toilet facilities for all these sites are in the Peet building or those located on the pathway at the side of Magpie's Nest Holiday House below the garage.
How to book	Bookings are managed via our website. Here you will find information about the property, an online calendar, and details on how to book your visit. Unequipped campsites – cannot be booked online, contact the county office to check availability.

Who can book the property	We accept bookings from Girlguiding, Scouting, other uniformed organisations and schools.
Fees for 2026	Prices for 2026 can be found on our website .
Arrival/departure times	Arrival is from 4pm and departure is before 4pm. One night stay – arrival from 4pm on the first day and departure at 4pm on the second day. It may be possible to arrive earlier from 10am on the first day, if this is possible then the day rate fee will be applied in addition to the overnight fee.
Payment methods	All deposit payments need to be made online using a credit or debit card, (we do not accept American Express) at the time of making a booking request. Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable. We process all online payments securely via Stripe. Balance payments are due 60 days before arrival and can be made by cheque or bank transfer, details can be found on your booking confirmation email.
For further information	Contact the office team. Telephone: - 0115 987 7220 or email - office@girlguidingnottinghamshire.org.uk If you would like to arrange a site visit – contact the office, your details will then be passed onto a member of the property committee who will contact you to arrange the visit.

Other information – everything you need to know (A-Z)	
Access arrangements	The code for the padlock on the main gate, location of the key safe and key safe number will be sent to you two weeks before your arrival. You may need a torch when opening the key safes as they are located where there is no lighting. Please ensure that all keys are returned to the correct key safe on departure.
Activity container	This is a shipping container located on the driveway to Downing site. See activity inventory for contents.
Alcohol	Alcohol is not permitted at any Girlguiding Nottinghamshire property or grounds.

Available activities	The Elton Challenge is a series of activities suitable for all sections based on Explore, Lend a Hand, Team Building, Outdoors and Nature. A badge is available on completion of the challenge. Full details are on the website. See the separate list on the website for all other activities that are available.
Campfires	If you wish to use the campfire circle during your stay, please liaise with other site users. Please clear away ash etc after use, there is a shovel and brush in the fireplace store. There are several altar fires located around the site that are free to use. Please clear ashes after use using the bins provided and do not place ashes in the hedgerows.
Car access and parking	Cars should not be taken onto the grass for unloading/loading. There is a car park near the Magpies House (with space for a coach to turn) and another car park area near the Downing site. Please keep the service road clear of vehicles. Vehicles are parked at the owner's risk.
Caravans	Small caravans may be parked on the hardstanding area on the main car park with limited electric hook up. If camping on the Downing Site, a caravan may be parked in the car park area for that site. Places should be booked in advance.
Cleaning and checking out lists	There is no cleaning service - please ensure that you leave the house/campsite/toilet area as you would like to find them. Checking out lists are provided for each site and can be found in the information file for your accommodation. Please take home all your cleaning materials. Please check that you have turned off all the lights and heaters before you leave the building. We may charge you if lighting and heating are left on when you go home.
Compost bins	These are in the mud kitchen.
Dogs	Dogs are not allowed at any Girlguiding Nottinghamshire property or grounds, except for registered assistance dogs who are welcome in all our properties and grounds.
Easyfundraising	Help us to raise funds for Elton when you shop online. Visit Easyfundraising.org.uk and search for Girlguiding Nottinghamshire Elton to support Elton.

	4500 online retailers will give a free donation to Elton when you shop with them with no additional cost to you.
Equipment	For a list of equipment available please see separate inventory lists.
Facebook page	The link to our Facebook page for more information is https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100080011431267
Fire alarm and emergency assembly points	Magpies House fire alarm – if the fire alarm sounds see instructions at the side of the fire alarm panel. Emergency assembly point is the far side of the hedge at the top of the field. Please check this out on arrival. For campsites there is no marked assembly point as this will depend on the location of the emergency. However please brief your unit so they are aware of what they need to do in the event of a fire/emergency.
Fire drill and register	Please ensure a fire drill is held as soon as practical after arrival and recorded on the fire register. Copies of the fire register are in the information file for your accommodation/site. Once completed these should be placed where they can be easily accessed in case they are required. Don't forget to take these away with you at the end of your event. There are also copies in a plastic wallet pinned to the noticeboard in the sleeping room.
Fireplace store	Located near the Magpies Campsite kitchen. In here you will find fire buckets, fireplace grids, brush and shovel, BBQ's and ash buckets. Please clean grids etc. and return to the store after use.
Fire ash – disposal of	Ash buckets are available from the fireplace store. Please dispose of ash, once cold, in the marked dustbin in the mud kitchen. Please ensure that it does not contain any metal or unburnt items. Please do not scatter any ash into the hedgerow bottom.
Firewood	There is a woodpile at the side of the Peet Toilets and plenty lying on the ground in the woods. Please replace what is used with more wood for the next group of campers so they too have dry wood.
Grass sledges	There are 4 grass sledges available. Helmets are provided and gloves should be worn (not provided). If you are staying in Magpies house these can be booked online via the website. If you are staying on one of the campsites then please booked as indicated on the booking form. In the event of wet weather the sledges should not be used, and the warden informed. If the visit is only to use the sledges (e.g. in an

	evening) a booking for Downing or Magpies Campsite must also be made to have access to facilities.
Grounds and boundaries	Please be aware that in the woods there are some ponds/areas of deep water and banks that are vertical in places these areas should be avoided. In strong winds groups should keep out of the wooded areas. Take care to avoid tree stumps, overhanging branches, rabbit holes etc. The bridle path, hedge and railway are the site boundaries. Please keep out of the fenced SSSI site except for accessing the gate to the lane. You can access the bridle path at the bottom of the field by walking down the right-hand side of the field and crossing the stile into the SSSI please keep to the edge of the field. The padlock code will be sent to you along with the other access codes. Please remember to walk around people's camps and not through them when on the field.
Health and hygiene	You will need to bring toilet rolls, first aid kit, soap and towels for washrooms/toilet areas. Please ensure that a high standard of cleanliness is maintained throughout the buildings and campsite. Do not put sanitary towels/tampons etc. down the toilets, use the bags and bins provided.
Local shops	There are shops and takeaways in nearby Bingham and Bottesford.
Mail	Cannot be delivered to the site.
Main gate	When people are on site the main gate should be closed but not locked, especially at night. Lock the padlock and chain onto the top of the gate. If no one is remaining on site, the gate must be locked.
Mud kitchen	Located near the activity container.
Noise	Please respect other users on site by keeping noise to a minimum between 11pm and 7am.
PAT testing	All electrical appliances should be in good working order and be electrically safe. The best way to ensure that your devices are safe is with an electrical portable appliance test. It is not permitted to leave an electrical device plugged into the mains without being supervised.

Places of worship	There is a church in Orston but check times of services.
Recycling ink cartridges	We recycle ink cartridges for Elton Campsite. Please leave yours in the Magpies House, Magpies Campsite kitchen or the Downing Hut. Alternatively, you can go online to Recycle 4 Charity to print a freepost label to send them from home.
Risk assessments	Please see separate risk assessment documents on the website. These should be read before visiting/undertaking the activity.
Rubbish	The bin is located at the end of the drive. Due to fly tipping it must be kept locked and the key is on the notice board for your site (in Magpies Campsite toilets for unequipped sites). Please put rubbish in bags and ensure they are securely tied at the top. If the bin is full, please take it home and do not leave it at the side of the bin. Please use the recycling bin for paper, cardboard, washed cans and plastic Vegetable peelings and fruit can go into compost heap. All other waste should go into the general waste bin.
Safety	Please ensure participants are aware of the safety issues around the site.
Showers for campers	Showers are available for all campers. One is wheelchair accessible. There is a slot meter, and it is 20p per shower. The wheelchair accessible shower requires a shower token. Shower tokens can be found in the leaders bedroom – these cost £1. When using the camper's showers, to avoid the fire alarm going off in Magpies house the windows and main door should be open when the showers are in use. After use, ensure that everywhere is clean and there are no belongings left. If there are several groups using the showers, please liaise over the final cleaning of the shower room.
Smoking and vaping	Smoking and vaping are prohibited and must be outside in the marked designated area. This is located on the main driveway near the carpark. Dispose of cigarette ends in the bucket provided.
Souvenirs	Souvenirs are in Magpies House, and on Magpies and Downing campsites. If on the unequipped sites speak to the warden about how to access these. Fully completed records of what your unit purchases should be left in the box provided with the souvenirs. Payments can be made by BACS payment or by cheque sent to Guide Headquarters. Please do not leave cash on the site. A range of souvenirs is available, and the selection does change from time to time. Badges – around £1 • Elton site • ELTON Challenge – but need to complete the challenge! •

	I've been grass sledging at Elton • I'm supporting the wildlife at Elton • Elton 90 Badges Going away with Nottinghamshire Postcards 25p, Pencils and Pens 25p – 60p, Fridge magnets £1, Knitted toys £1 – £2.50.
SSSI	The fenced area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It contains rare flowers and grasses. During the months of July to October there may be animals grazing within this area such as sheep, secured by an electric fence. Please do not feed the animals nor try to pet them. Keep out of this area unless accessing the gate to the lane.
Telephone and useful numbers	There is no telephone available and mobile phone reception may be patchy. Please bring a mobile and ensure the number is on your booking form – please inform the Guide Office of any change. • Belvoir Medical Practice – ask for Bingham Surgery 0115 896 9991 (option 3) • QMC Nottingham – 0115 924 9924 • Grantham and District Hospital – 01476 565232 • Emergencies – dial 999 • Medical non-emergencies – dial 111 • Police non-emergencies – dial 101 • Warden – Marc Popplewell – 01949 81604/07710 271641 Please see emergency contact list on the notice boards.
Television, music and film	The Elton site does not have a TV licence or music licence. <u>Showing a film</u> Girlguiding groups only – Girlguiding do have a film licence with the Motion Picture Licensing Company but there are exclusions to this, in particular that Warner Brother and Sony are not covered. Prior to showing a film, check if it is covered by the licence by calling or emailing the MPLC. Call 01323 649647 or email ukinfo@mplc.com. Non Girlguiding groups – are not covered by the Girlguiding licence and therefore appropriate licences to play music or watch films must be obtained by the hirer at their expense and a copy provided to the county office in advance of the visit.
Toilets and elsan disposal	There are three toilet blocks. One toilet in each block (not Peet toilets) is wheelchair accessible. There is an elsan emptying point near the Peet toilets.

Transport	Trains – the station is Elton and Orston (on the Nottingham to Grantham line). Contact National Rail on 08457 48 49 50 regarding the timetable. Local Bus Network – contact https://www.traveline.info/ for details of local buses.
Water	Please be aware that all water on site is on a meter. Please ensure that taps are turned off to reduce wastage.
Where to visit	Contact Tourist Information Centre, Nottingham Tel: 08444 775678 or email tourist.information@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Places of interest to visit include: – Nottingham – Nottingham Castle, Brewhouse Yard Folk Museum, Bowling Alley, Skating Arena, Wollaton Hall. Nottinghamshire – Sherwood Forest, Rufford Abbey, Clumber Park, Newark, Bingham Leisure Centre, Scarrington Village (famous for its pile of horseshoes), Holme Pierrepont Water Sports Centre. Leicestershire – Belvoir Castle, Grantham (indoor pool, etc), Twinlakes. Lincolnshire – Belton House (adventure play area, nature trail etc)