

Whilst there are opportunities to wild camp along the Nene and the commercial company Canoe 2 www.canoe2.co.uk can arrange camping for you as part of a package holiday, these are places that you can use to plan your own canoe-camping trip down the Nene.

Being able to park a car securely or leave it securely while you paddle down to it are important to canoeists and some, but not all, venues provide this facility.

If you are happy to leave a car in a car park then please also check out my list of parking spots with access to the river.

Unless I become geographically challenged whilst writing, everything should be in a downstream order from Northampton.

This list is only as good as the replies I've had to emails and phone calls so I'm grateful for those companies and individuals who took the time to do so.

If you come across other venues please message me and we can share them with other paddlers.

Lastly, paid up members of Friends of the River Nene may camp on some, but again, not all, of their moorings subject to some common sense condition such as not getting in the way of bigger craft, no fires, take rubbish away etc - none of these moorings have facilities or water supplies.....check with the committee if unsure.

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Billing Aquadrome

I did not receive a reply from this company but it's a very famous local venue which also makes the news regularly for flooding!

The camping page of their website <https://www.billingaquadrome.com/holidays/camping/>

makes mention of riverside pitches.

I have been told that they allow launching/car parking for £5 a day but have yet to confirm this.

Cogenhoe Mill Caravan Site

Owned by Pure Leisure along with Billing, as far as I know there is no camping here - so why mention it you ask - well, it does have its own mooring and whenever I have stopped there they have been happy to let me use the water tap or pop in the shop.

<https://www.pure-leisure.co.uk/parks/northampton/cogenhoe-mill/overview/>

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White Mills Marina

A strong supporter of Friends of the River Nene - I think the reply from Debbie says all you need to know so here it is.....

Hi Dick – Thanks very much for your email

To launch a canoe/kayak including parking we charge £5.00 per day

We don't actually have a specific canoe/kayak launching area although this can be done in our service bay off a jetty

Camping is through the camping and caravanning club and at the moment is from £12 for a two man tent through to £18.00 6 man tent – these prices will go up once we have electric hook ups which we hope to do this summer. A caravan/camper is £15 at the moment too

We have the boat house café which overlooks the marina which at the moment and up until April/May is open Friday/Saturday and Sundays only. Again once the Spring/Summer comes then we are intending to extend the days it is open and the hours.

The marina office is shut on a Tuesday in the winter.

Hope this helps.

You can find us at www.whitemillsmarina.co.uk

We are also on all the usual social media including - twitter, facebook, pinterest, Instagram, google+

Any more questions, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

Debbie

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Glebe Meadows Fishery

This is next to Ditchford Lock which has the only radial gate on the Nene.

There is no website so you'll need to google the address.....

Ditchford Road, Rushden, Nr Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 1RL

There are no toilet or shower facilities here since the local authority forced their removal but there is a farm shop and water.....oh, and yes you can still camp if you wish.

You may also park your car here for £3 a day but check the closing times so you don't get locked in.

Easy launching upstream and downstream of the lock.

Phone Kevin Goodman on 07941 257090 or email kgoodman1@tiscali.co.uk

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There is then a bit of a gap in camping provision - I did contact Blackthorne Marina at Ringstead but have yet to receive a reply - they don't advertise camping but I have seen yurts erected there www.blackthornlakemarina.co.uk

Nene Valley Boats

Again, a strong supporter of Friends of the River Nene and situated at Barnwell moorings upstream of Upper Barnwell lock www.nenevalleyboats.co.uk

This is primarily a boat hire & training company but occasionally they may have space for individuals or small groups.

You would need to be a member of FOTRN and then contact Carol via

mail@nenevalleyboats.co.uk or 01832 272585

Oundle Marina

A mile or so downstream from Barnwell moorings you will find Oundle Marina between the two Barnwell locks.....it doesn't permit camping but could be a useful start or finish to a camping trip certainly, Jacqui's email shows they welcome paddlers.

Good morning Dick

Thank you for your e-mail regarding canoeing on the Nene. We already offer canoeists/dayboaters the opportunity to leave their cars here and launch their boat(s) at a fee of £5 for all day parking & the launching/retrieving, however the security of the car still falls to the owner. This is only available while the marina office is open i.e. Thursday – Tuesday 9.00 – 5.00 & has to be pre-booked in case we are using the slipway (not an issue for canoeists but must still be pre-booked).

This allows us to control numbers for a couple of reasons, firstly safety as we have nearly 200 motorised boats here & they must have priority & secondly although we have parking our moorers vehicles must come first. We also ask that canoeists launch and then go out on to the river, we don't want people paddling too close to the cruisers.

Having said all that we do like to see people out & about on the river and will try and accommodate any requests, so the answer to your question is yes we can offer the service but it is not unlimited!

Kind Regards

Jacqui

<http://www.oundlemarina.com/>

Castle Farm Fotheringhay

I had a very enthusiastic response by phone from the owner Charles Gould and he followed it up with a short email that should tell you what you need to know

Good to speak today Dick and thanks for thinking of us. To clarify

We allow camping and have regular canoeists - We request people call us before they pitch up but it's very flexible, parking we charge £2 a day although if people are camping then we usually just waive that, camping is £6 per person per night and £3 per child.

We did have a portaloo last summer so we'll probably have one throughout the summer but not arranged yet so perhaps just a note that we have a portaloo during busy months.

There are no showers, just a tap in the field.

We just charge a couple of quid for people who come along to launch a canoe.

Basically if people call me on 07976958452 then we work a price out that way.

Any questions let me know.

.....or check out their website here www.fotheringhaycastlefarm.co.uk

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Yarwell Mill

You will find all you need to know about the camping side of things at their website here www.yarwellmillcountrypark.co.uk

I spoke to the manager and was told that if you pitch up as individual or a small group and don't expect electric hook up (unlikely on a canoe trip but you never know) they should be able to accommodate you.

To be sure, and in peak periods, it would be best to phone or book ahead.

I have always found this venue very helpful with letting me drive into the site to retrieve canoes.....if you drive down to reception and park in the waiting area and ask you should receive a good response.

I have always left cars at the top of the lane on the wide grass verge but it may be possible in quieter times to park in the site - there is no charge but they expect you to patronise the cafe instead! It's a case of asking but I've never been disappointed.

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Ferry Meadows

This is a large site run by the the Nene Park Trust which caters for many different activities on a large site near Peterborough <http://www.neneparktrust.org.uk/ferry-meadows>

I had the following email reply which clarifies a few canoe specific issues.....I have not been there personally from the road but it is possible to paddle out of their lakes onto the Nene

Hello Dick,

Thank you for your email regarding paddling at Nene Park. We do permit parking at Ferry Meadows, details of our parking charges can be found at: <http://www.neneparktrust.org.uk/ferry-meadows/parking-at-nene-park>

Launch charges for canoes are: £6 half day/£10 full day and can be paid at Nene Outdoors. While on the water a buoyancy aid must be worn and 3rd party insurance on the equipment.

There is a small campsite at Ferry Meadows for group bookings but this is very popular, further camping is available at: <https://www.caravanclub.co.uk/club-sites/england/east-anglia/cambridgeshire/ferry-meadows-caravan-club-site/>

I hope this helps, more information can be found on our website.