



**SCOTLAND**

## **Accessibility Guide for RSPB Scotland Loch Leven**

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## **Welcome**

Set on the southern shore of the loch, RSPB Scotland Loch Leven nature reserve offers a great day out for families, nature lovers and birdwatchers alike. Bought by the RSPB in 1967 as a

centre for environmental education, it is still a fantastic place for children to explore and discover nature today. In the summer, you could see ospreys on the loch, and in the winter, thousands of pink-footed geese, swans and ducks make the reserve their home. Our café serves delicious, freshly prepared, local and ethical food all year-round, all with a fantastic view over Loch Leven itself.

## **At a Glance**

### **Level Access**

- There is level access from the car park to:
  - Visitor centre main entrance and welcome area
  - Changing Places facility
  - Accessible toilet
  - RSPB Scotland Loch Leven shop
  - Wildlife Garden
  - Entrance to picnic area
- The hide entrances have level access.

### **Hearing**

- There are hearing loops at the shop and café payment points.
- Some staff have disability awareness training.

## **Visual**

- Glass doors and full-height windows have contrast markings.
- The menu is available in large print.

## **General**

- There are two public toilets for disabled visitors, one of which is a Changing Places toilet.
- Some staff have disability awareness training.
- A manual wheelchair can be borrowed from the visitor centre during normal opening times.
- Two electric mobility scooters can be hired, free of charge, during normal opening times. Please book in advance by contacting the reserve by telephone or by email.

## **Getting here**

Loch Leven

Kinross

KY13 9LX

## **Travel by public transport**

- The bus stop is 5.0 miles / 8.1 km from RSPB Scotland Loch Leven.
- The nearest train station is Lochgelly. The train station is 5 miles / 8.1 km from RSPB Scotland Loch Leven.
- Buses to Kinross, which is six miles from the reserve, are available from Perth, Edinburgh and other nearby towns.

From Kinross take a taxi to the reserve.

The nearest railway station is Cowdenbeath, 7 miles from the reserve.

### **Travel by taxi**

- You can get a taxi with Taxi Central Ltd (Kirkcaldy) by calling 01592 203040. The taxi company has a wheelchair accessible vehicle.
- You can get a taxi with Cowdenbeath Taxi Service by calling 01383 513 333. The taxi company has a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

### **Parking**

- We have a car park and there are accessible parking spaces.
- The designated accessible parking bays are next to the path which leads to the visitor centre. This path is level with a tarmac surface, and is 60 metres long. From the car park to the visitor centre entrance, there is level access. The route is 4000mm wide, or more.
- Car parking fee is £3 per car, with free parking for RSPB members and blue badge holders.
- Electric car charging points are available, two of which are accessible parking spaces.



Accessible car parking spaces



Path from car park to visitor centre

## Arrival

### *Path to main entrance*

- From the car park to the main entrance, there is level access.
- The path is 4000mm wide, or more.

### *Main entrance*

- The main entrance has level access.
- The visitor centre main door is 1800mm wide.
- This door operated by a push pad. The doors open outwards.
- There is a second set of entrance doors into the visitor centre welcome area, on the accessible underpass side of the building. This door is also 1800mm wide and is operated by a push pad.





Visitor centre main entrance doors



Visitor centre main entrance with doors open



Visitor centre entrance doors - underpass side

## **Getting around inside**

### *Visual Impairment - General Information*

- We have contrast markings on all glass doors and contrast markings on all full-height windows.

### *Welcome area at visitor centre main entrance*

- From the main entrance to the welcome area and shop, there is level access.
- The route is 1800mm wide, or more.
- The door is 1800mm wide, or more.
- The welcome area is directly inside the main door to the visitor centre. This is an open area with no desk, where staff give information and assistance to visitors.



- There is no admission charge, and no requirement to purchase tickets, other than the £3 parking charge for non members in the car park. RSPB members and blue badge holders can park free of charge.



Welcome area

 [\*Public toilet\*](#)

[\*Changing Places facility\*](#)

- There is a Changing Places toilet for disabled visitors.
- From the main entrance to the Changing Places toilet, there is level access. The route is 920mm wide, or more.
- The toilet door is 920mm wide.
- The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the left and right.

- There is 1000mm at the side of the toilet. There is 1400mm in front of the toilet. The toilet seat is 490mm high. The toilet has handrails.
- The Changing Places facility has an adjustable hand basin, hoist, adjustable changing table, shower facility, colostomy bag shelf, hand drier, hand towel dispenser, nappy bin, coat hooks and alarm.



Changing Places toilet



Changing Places changing table



Changing Places adjustable sink

## *Public toilet*

### *Accessible toilet*

- There is a public toilet for disabled visitors.
- From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. The route is 850mm wide, or more.
- The toilet door is 850mm wide.
- The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the right.
- There is 630mm at the side of the toilet. There is 1000mm in front of the toilet. The toilet seat is 490mm high. The toilet has handrails.
- The accessible toilet has a wall mounted, fold down baby change unit



Accessible toilet

## *Shop*

### *RSPB Scotland Loch Leven shop*

- The main entrance door to the visitor centre is 1800mm wide and is opened by a push pad. It leads into the welcome area which leads directly into the shop.
- From the main entrance through the shop, there is level access.
- The route through the shop is 800mm wide, or more.
- The shop can also be accessed by a door at the accessible underpass side of the visitor centre. This door is 1800mm wide, is opened by a push pad and leads into the welcome area which leads directly into the shop.



Shop interior





Shop interior



Shop interior

|| *Place to eat and drink*

### *RSPB Scotland Loch Leven cafe*

- The cafe is situated on the first floor of the visitor centre and can be accessed by an external ramp and automatic door leading directly into the cafe.
- The route and ramp are 1150mm wide, or more. The door is 930mm wide.
- Once inside the café there are no steps.

- The menu is available in large print.
- The cafe is self-service. If you need table service, staff can help you.
- The route through the café seating area is 800mm wide, or more.
- There is no background music.
- We cater for vegetarian and vegan specific diets.
- The cafe can also be accessed by a flight of stairs (800mm wide, 14 steps) from the shop area inside the visitor centre. The stairs have a handrail on the left as you ascend. At the top of the stairs is a short landing and the door to the cafe here is 760mm wide.
- Gluten, lactose and nut free dishes are made on site but in a kitchen which uses gluten, lactose and nut ingredients.



Café counter



Café seating area



Café seating area



Ramp to café

## **Getting around outside**

### *Designated Walking Trail*

#### *Wetland Trail*

- The trail is 800metres long. The trail has a sloped section. The trail has seats.
- There are three bird hides along the trail (Gillman hide, Waterson hide and Carden hide)
- The Wetland Trail is reached from the visitor centre by a fully accessible sloping tarmac path and underpass which takes visitors under a road.

#### *Gillman hide*

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. The door is 950mm wide.
- There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

- There are two ponds at the Gillman hide where visitors can pond dip, and which are used for visiting school groups.

#### *Waterston hide*

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. The door is 900mm wide.
- There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

#### *Carden hide*

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. The door is 840mm wide.
- There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.



Wetland Trail leading to the Gillman hide





Gillman hide



Gillman hide door



Gillman hide interior



Gillman hide interior



One of the two ponds at the Gillman hide



Wetland trail



Waterston hide



Waterson hide door



Waterston hide interior



Path to Carden hide





Carden hide



Carden hide door



Carden hide interior



View of underpass from top of steps next to visitor centre



Path from visitor centre to underpass



View from visitor centre over underpass area

### *Designated Walking Trail*

#### *Woodland Trail*

- The trail is 1600metres long. Some of the trail has a loose surface, there are very steep sections and many steps. It is not suitable for people with mobility difficulties and sturdy footwear is recommended. There are benches located on this trail.

- This spectacular trail leads walkers through birch tree woods to a lofty viewpoint at the top of Vane Hill. This is a place to enjoy birdsong and wonderful view over the loch.



Gate to Woodland Walk and Vane Hill

### *Designated Walking Trail*

#### *Leafy Loop*

- The trail is 450metres long. The trail has a hard surface. The trail has a sloped section, and there is a bench.
- This short accessible trail is perfect for a breath of fresh air. It is wheelchair friendly and is great for exploring the changing seasons.



## The Leafy Loop

 *Designated Walking Trail*

### *Loch Leven Heritage trail*

- The trail is 21000metres long. The trail has a hard surfaces and there are sloped sections. The trail has seats, and there are bird hides along the trail.
- This 21km trail skirts the picturesque shores of Loch Leven. Whether you are exploring by foot, mobility scooter or bicycle this car-free trail takes you to some of the most attractive parts of the loch.
- The Heritage Trail is reached by a fully accessible sloped tarmac path and underpass which takes visitors under a road. The Heritage Trail can also be accessed at other points around Loch Leven



## *Designated Walking Trail*

### *Sleeping Giant path*

- The trail is 7000metres long, with a hard surface. This invigorating hill walk has some very steep inclines and takes in stunning views of Loch Leven before continuing over Benarty Hill. It is not suitable for people with mobility difficulties and sturdy footwear is recommended.



Start of the Sleeping Giant path

## *Designated Walking Trail*

### *Wildflower Meadow trail (seasonal, summer only)*

- The trail is approximately 200metres long. Some of the trail has a loose surface and uneven grass surface.
- This is a winding, uneven path which is cut through long grass and wildflowers in the wildflower meadow each summer. This path is perfect for a relaxing amble and spotting bees and butterflies.

The Wildflower Meadow Trail is accessed from the Wetland

Trail, which is reached by a fully accessible sloped tarmac path and underpass.

## *Picnic Area*

### *RSPB Scotland Loch Leven picnic area*

- From the car park to the visitor centre, there is level access.
- From the visitor centre there is a permanent sloped, accessible path to the picnic area. The path is 1500mm wide, or more.
- Two of the picnic tables have space for wheelchairs.
- You can bring your own food to the picnic area.
- The picnic area is set on the lower slope of Vane Hill and has beautiful views over the loch, and red squirrels can sometimes be seen here. A natural play area at the top of the picnic area provides a great space for children to let off steam.
- More picnic tables are available around the visitor centre, three of which have space for wheelchairs.



Picnic area tables with space for wheelchairs



View of Loch Leven from picnic area

### *Wildlife Garden*

Please be aware that this area is currently being redeveloped to provide an accessible cottage garden, so access may be temporarily restricted.

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The route is 1500mm wide, or more. The entrance is 1500mm wide.

- This area is next to the visitor centre and has 70m of gently sloping hardcore surfaced path. It is a lovely space for an easy stroll or to sit and relax, watching birds on the feeders. There is a raised pond here which allow easy access for pond dipping for all visitors.
- From the Wildlife Garden visitors can pass through a gate to the Secret Garden and follow a path up steps through the squirrel and bird feeding area, and from there reach the Leafy Loop. This path is not suitable for wheelchairs.



Wildlife Garden



Wildlife Garden



Raised pond in Wildlife Garden





Path from the Wildlife Garden to the Leafy Loop, via squirrel and bird feeding area

## **Customer care support**

### *Accessibility equipment*

- We provide use of a wheelchair, free of charge.
- Two mobility scooters can be hired free of charge during visitor centre opening hours. To book the scooter please contact the reserve in advance on 01577 862355 or email [lochleven@rspb.org.uk](mailto:lochleven@rspb.org.uk)

### *Dogs*

- There is no specific toilet area for assistance dogs, but visitors with assistance dogs are welcome to take them to the Wildlife Garden or picnic area. We request that dogs are kept on leads at all times and that owners pick up after their four legged companions.
- Assistance dogs and all other dogs are welcome in the visitor centre, shop and café.

- Dog water bowl and tap are available in the visitor centre courtyard.
- All dog owners should observe the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and keep their dogs to heel or on a lead when on the reserve.

### *Emergency evacuation procedures*

- We have emergency evacuation procedures for disabled visitors.

### *Customer care support*

- Some staff have disability awareness training.

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Guide last updated: 20 February 2024