



Accessibility Guide for RSPB Arne

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<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/arne/>

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Welcome

RSPB Arne is a nature reserve which covers more than 565 hectares of the Arne peninsular in the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset. It is a stunning and mixed landscape which consists of lowland heath, ancient woodland, wetlands and farmland. The reserve is a haven for wildlife, including birds, all six of the UK's native reptiles, and spiders. Arne has many different walking trails to explore. A wide program of events are also held at Arne.

The reserve has a Shop & Cafe which are wheelchair accesible. Visitors with limited mobility are able to use the Accessible car park, which is closer to the trails, and/or the Shop & Cafe car park, which is closer to the Shop & Cafe.

At a Glance

Level Access

- There is level access from the main entrance to:
 - Dining Table
 - Welcome Area
 - Shop & Café Toilets
 - Arne Shop
- There is level access from the car park to:
 - Beach
 - Café garden

Hearing

- Some staff have disability awareness training.

Visual

- The walls and the doors have high colour contrast.
- We have display information in BSL and large print.
- We have information in BSL and large print.

General

- We have a concessionary rate for disabled visitors.
- We have a complimentary ticket policy for personal assistants.
- There is at least 1 public toilet for disabled visitors.
- Some staff have disability awareness training.

Getting here

RSPB Arne

Arne Nature Reserve

Wareham

BH20 5BJ

Travel by public transport

- You can get to RSPB Arne by bus and train.
- The nearest permanent bus stop is on Corfe Road, in the village of Stoborough Green, near the Lookout Campsite and Stores. There is a bus stop on both sides of the road. SEASONAL: Arne (2RN) shuttle bus will run from Wareham train station and Purbeck Park to Arne nature reserve on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sundays from 2nd May to 30 August 2023. This service will take users all the way to the entrance of RSPB Arne. Please note this service is not wheelchair accessible. The bus stop is 3.0 miles / 4.8 km from RSPB Arne.
- The nearest train station is Wareham. The train station is 4 miles / 6.4 km from RSPB Arne.
- By train
Wareham is the closest station (4 miles / 6.4 km from reserve). You can catch the bus from the train station (see 'by bus' for more details).

By bus

The Morebus Purbeck breezer and Jurassic coaster bring

visitors to Stoborough. The Purbeck Breezer number 40 stops at Stoborough Green, from the bus stop it is 3 miles to Arne. Head along New Road for 0.4 miles, then turn right onto Arne Road.

Taxis

Taxis are available from Wareham train station or using local taxi firms.

By bike

The reserve is accessible by bike (please use 'by road' directions). We have bike racks in the main car park and by the cafe. The bridleway, which leads to Shipstal beach, is also accessible by bike.

By road

From Wareham town centre, head south over the causeway to Stoborough. Travel through Stoborough, turn left onto New Road, signposted for Arne. Turn right at the cross roads in the village of Ridge, follow the road for approximately 3 miles to Arne, the car park is located on the right at the beginning of Arne village.

Travel by taxi

- You can get a taxi with Kings Kabs by calling 01929 554 223, 01929 558 119.
- You can get a taxi with Excel Taxis Wareham by calling 01929 448066.

- You can get a taxi with Disabled Transport Services, Bournemouth by calling 01202 480111. The taxi company has a wheelchair accessible vehicle.
- Summer 2023: Arne (2RN) shuttle bus will run from Wareham train station and Purbeck Park to Arne nature reserve Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sundays from the 2nd May to 30 August 2023. This service will take users all the way to the entrance of RSPB Arne. Please note this service is not wheelchair accessible.

Parking

- We have a car park. There are accessible parking spaces. The parking is less than 50 metres from the main entrance. Parking is not free.
- There is a drop-off point at the main entrance. The drop-off point has a dropped kerb.
- From the car park to the entrance, there is level access. The path is sloped.
- The route is 1100mm wide, or more.
- The car park leads directly into the main entrance with level access. There are no pavements, curbs or steps. The car park ground surface is compacted gravel and soil, with possibility of uneven areas and potholes. There is a continuous outdoor path from the car park through the welcome area to the beginning of the trails.
All reserve trails start with a slope, short but steep then the remainder of the trails undulate, sometimes short and steep

and other places are gentler, the trails are crisscrossed with protruding tree roots and some potholes. There is accessible parking further into the reserve and directions are given after checking in at the main reception. The accessible parking leads directly onto the accessible trail with level access.



The main Arne car park, leading to the welcome area.



The approach to the welcome area from the car park.



The path through the welcome area to the start of the trails.

Arrival

Path to main entrance

- From the street to the main entrance, there is level access.
- The path is 1500mm wide, or more.

Main entrance

- The main entrance has level access.
- The main entrance to the reserve is through the car park and past the welcome hut. There are no steps, curbs or ramps along this route. There is level access from the street to the main entrance, but it is all outdoors and surfaces may be uneven.



The path through the welcome area to the main entrance.



The paths that lead from the welcome area to the start of the trails and to the Shop & Cafe.



A continuation of the paths leading to the trails and Shop & Café, with a signpost.

Getting around inside

Visual Impairment - General Information

- We have high colour contrast between walls and doorframes.

Ticket/ information desk

Welcome Area

- From the main entrance to the desk, there is level access. The route is 1500mm wide, or more.
- The desk has a low section.
- There is not one dedicated ticket desk, but rather a collection of small tables in the welcome area. This is a combined area for information and purchasing entry. All the tables are low enough to be wheelchair accessible. There is no door as the whole area is outdoors under a stretch tent.



The Welcome Area.

Things to See and Do

- We have a concessionary rate for disabled visitors.

- We have a complimentary ticket policy for personal assistants.
- We have display information in large print, we also have BSL tablet guides available.

Public toilet

Shop & Café Toilets

- There is a public toilet for disabled visitors.
- From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp.
- The route is 930mm wide, or more.
- The toilet door is 900mm wide.
- The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the right.
- There is 900mm at the side of the toilet. There is 1400mm in front of the toilet. The toilet seat is 500mm high. The toilets have handrails.
- There is a dedicated public toilet for disabled people in the Arne Shop & Café building. There is step free access from the entrance to the building via an outdoor sloped path with a permanent ramp. Visitors with limited mobility can also park in the Shop & Café car park which lessens the distance to the toilet and allows wheelchair users to avoid the sloped path. The toilet has handrails to the left side of the toilet.



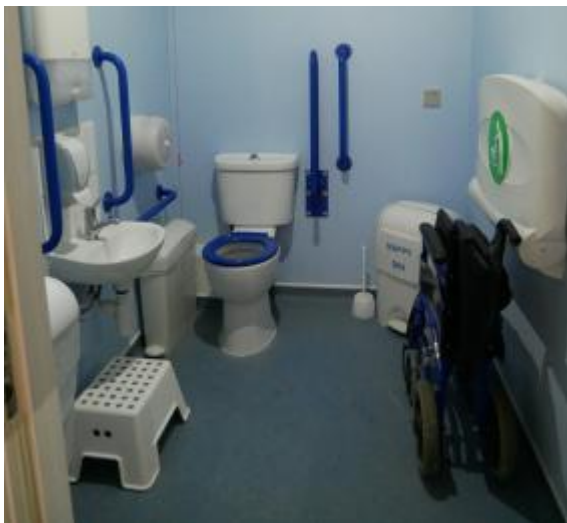
The entrance to the accessible toilet from the shop.



The route into the shop and toilets up the permanent ramp.



The sloped path up to the shop and toilets from the Welcome Area.



Accessible toilet in the Shop & Café.

 *Shop*

Arne Shop

- From the main entrance to the shop, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The route is 930mm wide, or more. The door is 1900mm wide.
- The route through the shop is 800mm wide, or more.

- There is step free access from the entrance to the building via an outdoor sloped path with a permanent ramp. Visitors with limited mobility can also park in the Shop & Café car park which lessens the distance to the shop and allows wheelchair users to avoid the sloped path.



The inside of the shop.



The approach to the shop.

Place to eat and drink

Arne Café

- From the main entrance to the dining area, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The route is 1120mm wide, or more. The door is 870mm wide.
- To get to a table, there are no steps.
- If you need table service, staff can help you.
- The route through the dining area is 800mm wide, or more.
- There is no background music.
- We cater for sugar free (diabetic), vegetarian, gluten free (celiacs), lactose free (dairy free), low fat and vegan specific diets.
- There is step free level access to the café from the Welcome Area along a sloped outdoor path and up a permanent ramp. Visitors with limited mobility can also park in the Shop & Café car park which bypasses the sloped path and allows visitors to go straight up the ramp to the building. The café is also accessible through the shop. There is a wheelchair available to borrow on request for use inside the building.

The café has extensive vegetarian and vegan options. We can cater to sugar free and low fat diets with limited options.

We offer several options that do not contain any gluten containing ingredients, but cannot guarantee there are no traces of gluten in unpackaged products as gluten

containing products are handled in the kitchen. We offer many options that do not contain nuts but we cannot guarantee they are suitable for allergy sufferers as they may contain traces of nuts due to production and storage.



The ramp from the Shop & Café car park to the café main entrance door.



Continuation of the ramp to the main entrance door of the café.



The view inside from the entrance of the café.



The path through the café.

Getting around outside

 *Designated Walking Trail*

Easy Access Trail

- The trail is 2000metres long. Some of the trail has a loose surface. pedestrian gate, which is accessible for tramper mobility scooters. The trail has seats. There are bird hides along the trail.

- The Easy Access trail is a mostly flat, short trail route without any major obstacles. It is a 30-minute looped walk-through silver birch wood, ancient oak woodland and through our dragonfly ponds. The ground surface is a mixture of gravel and mud paths and may be uneven. The Shipstal hide is two stories, with viewing screens either side. Both stories are only accessible via stairs. The two outdoor viewing screens are accessible step free as they are on ground level. The Middlebere Lookout, accessible via the Coombe trail, is a wheelchair accessible alternative.



An example of the surface of the Easy Access Trail.



Shipstal Hide entrance.



The accessible viewing screens.

Shipstal Hide

- The hide entrance has 9 steps. There is no lift and no ramp.
- There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

Shoreline

- The shoreline access point is 650.00meters from the nearest car park.

- From the nearest car park to the shoreline, there is level access. The path is 1120mm wide, or more.
- The entrance is 1500mm wide.
- From the car park to the shoreline, there is 1 step. There is no lift and no ramp.
- The shoreline is part of the nature reserve, so has no facilities. It is quite narrow and can be impassable at high tide. There is sloping access on both ends of the beach via the trails. The slopes are on sandy soil. The closest car park to the beach is the Accessible car park, which is 650 meters away along the bridlepath.



The entrance to the shoreline that is closest to the Accessible car park.



The alternative entrance to the shoreline.



The shoreline at low tide.

Picnic Area

Café garden

- From the car park to the picnic area, there is level access. The path is 930mm wide, or more.
- The entrance is 930mm wide.
- Some tables have space for wheelchair users. You can bring your own food to the picnic area.

- Visitors are able to eat their own food in the café garden. This is an outdoor, grassy, sloped area with picnic tables. This is accessible via an outdoor, step free path from the main car park.



The café garden from the entrance closest to the main car park.

Customer care support

Accessibility equipment

- Visitors can hire Countryside Mobility tramper scooters, which are suitable to use on most of the reserve trails. A short induction needs to be completed prior to hire, alongwith some paperwork - both can be done on the day. Visitors need to be a member of the Countryside Mobility scheme, or agree to a taster session (£3 for RSPB members, £3.50 for Non-members) – you can sign up for either on the day.

Trampers can be booked in advance at

<https://events.rspb.org.uk/arne> or email:

tramperhirearne@rspb.org.uk. Trampers may be available on the day subject to availability - please enquire in the Welcome Area.

- Most of the reserve is outdoors. There is no dedicated toilet area for assistance dogs.
- We have standard plugs available to charge mobility scooters and battery powered wheelchairs in the Shop & Cafe building if necessary.



The two mobility trampers which are available for hire.

- You can hire mobility equipment from Purbeck Mobility Centre by calling 01929 552 623.

Emergency evacuation procedures

- We have emergency evacuation procedures for disabled visitors.

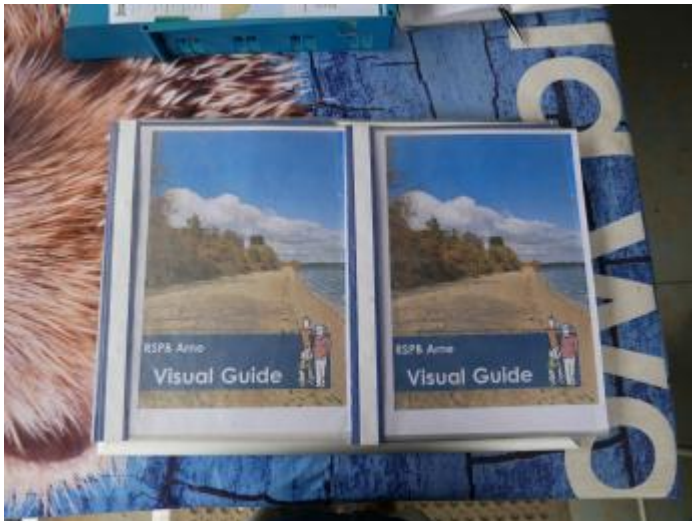
Customer care support

- Some staff have disability awareness training.
- We have information in BSL and large print.

- We provide a BSL guide to the reserve on a tablet, available to borrow from the Welcome Area. We also provide a visual guide to the reserve, available physically from the Welcome Area and online through the website. Large print maps are available from the Welcome Area. All reserve information is also available through our helpful staff and volunteers.



BSL Tablet.



Visual Guides.



Large Print Map.

Guide last updated: 27 April 2023