



## **Accessibility Guide for St Aidan's Nature Park**

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



## Welcome

Just a stone's throw from the centre of Leeds, St Aidan's is a stunning park to explore. Whether you're on foot, on your bike or have your camera at the ready, take advantage of the amazing views and wonderful wildlife including bitterns, avocets, black necked grebes, skylarks and meadow pipits.

## At a Glance

### Level Access

- The main entrance has level access with a ramp. The ramp is permanent.
- There is level access from the main entrance to:
  - Dining Table

- Welcome Point
- Accessible toilet
- Recreation Area
- There is level access from the car park to:
  - The Little Owl Café balcony
  - Outdoor picnic area

### **Access with steps**

- There are steps from the main entrance to:
  - Toilet Block

### **Hearing**

- The fire alarm has flashing lights.
- Some staff have disability awareness training.

### **Visual**

- Glass doors and full-height windows have contrast markings.

### **General**

- There is at least 1 public toilet for disabled visitors.
- Some staff have disability awareness training.

## **Getting here**

Astley Lane

Great Preston

Leeds

LS26 8AL

### *Travel by public transport*

- You can get to St Aidan's Nature Park by bus.
- The 167 bus service runs regularly to Allerton Bywater from Leeds City Centre and Castleford. The nearest bus stops are Bowers Row – Great Preston, stop numbers 45010157 and 45012875. These bus stop are 0.2 miles / 62.8 km / 0.3 km from St Aidan's Nature Park. The bus stop is 0.20 miles / 62.8 km from St Aidan's Nature Park.

### *Travel by taxi*

- You can get a taxi with Tiger Cars by calling 01977 555 555.
- You can get a taxi with Cas Cars by calling 01977 556 677. The taxi company has a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

### *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. There is a permanent ramp.
- The path is sloped.
- The route is 1400mm wide, or more.

- Parking costs £4 for a full day. There is a parking machine located in the car park, near the main toilet block. Payment can be made at the ticket machine via card or contactless, or by using the Pay By Phone app. Cash payments can be taken in the Little Owl Café.

RSPB Members and Blue Badge holders can park for free.



The car park at RSPB St Aidan's Nature Park



The car park ticket machine



The footpath running along the length of the car park to the Welcome Point and Little Owl Café

## Arrival

### *Path to main entrance*

- From the street to the main entrance, there is level access.
- The path is 1700mm wide, or more.
- The path is sloped.

### *Main entrance*

- The main entrance has level access.
- There is a permanent ramp.
- The door is 1400mm wide.
- The main door is side hung and manual.
- The entrance to the Little Owl Café has an open doorway which is approximately 140cm wide. The doorway is reached via a short ramp, which is made of non-slip recycled plastic. The ramp is approximately 240cm wide,

and less than 1:12 gradient. With prearrangement, we can support and assist with accessing the Little Owl Café.



The ramp and main entrance to the Little Owl Café

## Getting around inside

### *Visual Impairment - General Information*

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



Indoor seating in the Little Owl Café

## *Ticket/ information desk*

### *Welcome Point*

- From the main entrance to the desk, there is level access. The route is 2500mm wide, or more.
- The desk has a low section.
- The Welcome Point is a wooden structure approximately 2m wide and 2m tall, and has an open front. The outside and inside of the shelter have signage and displays about the RSPB. There is a member of the RSPB team in or around the hut to welcome visitors and help with directions. One of the signs is a large map, which the team can use to help give directions to visitors.

Near the Visitor Welcome shelter there is a large blackboard which shows information on latest sightings, events and activities, and other useful information about what is happening on site.



Members of the RSPB St Aidan's team smiling outside the Welcome Point



## *Public toilet*

### *Accessible toilet*

- 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 920mm wide, or more.
- The toilet door is 920mm wide.
- The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the left.
- There is 820mm at the side of the toilet. There is 145mm in front of the toilet. The toilet seat is 470mm high. The toilets have handrails.
- There is ample space inside the cubicle for individuals with specific needs/need of a carer – the dimensions of the cubicle are approximately 140cm by 2m.

On the left hand side as you look at the toilet is a fold down baby changing table that can be used from a seated position. There is also a nappy bin. Breast feeding is welcome anywhere on site, including in the Little Owl Café.

There an emergency alarm cord that is accessible from ground level and is located to the right of the toilet as you face it. This emits a loud noise when operated, and alerts Little Owl Café staff that assistance is required. An additional vertical rail to the left of the toilet, when facing the toilet, can be easily lowered and locked into the horizontal position. Handrails are navy coloured, and toilet

and washbasins are white. There are easy to operate push buttons to operate the taps on the sink.

There is an automatic hand dryer, hand soap dispenser, paper towels, a hygiene bin, and general waste bin.



The accessible toilet, located in the Little Owl Café

 *Public toilet*

### *Toilet Block*

- From the main entrance to the public toilet, there are 2 steps. There is no lift and no ramp.
- The male and female toilets are located in a small building separate to the Little Owl Café, which is located by the car park.

The male and female toilets have separate entrances, each with an open doorway which is approximately 80cm wide.

Both toilets have sensor-activated lights. There are two steps up to each doorway, and no ramp access.

The female toilets contain four cubicles, and four sinks. The male toilets contain two cubicles, two urinals, and two

sinks. Both sets of toilets also have hand soap dispensers, paper towels, hygiene bins and general waste bins.



The toilet block at RSPB St Aidan's

## *Place to eat and drink*

### *The Little Owl Café*

- From the main entrance to the dining area, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The route is 1400mm wide, or more. The door is 1400mm wide.
- To get to a table, there are no steps.
- The route through the dining area is 800mm wide, or more.
- There is no background music.
- We cater for vegetarian, gluten free (celiacs), lactose free (dairy free), nut free and vegan specific diets.
- Inside the Little Owl Café, visitors can purchase a range of hot and cold drinks and snacks, including crisps, cakes, traybakes, sausage rolls, and ice creams. Gluten free and vegan options are available. All calorie and allergen

information is available – please talk to friendly staff about any concerns or questions.



The counter in the Little Owl Café

## Getting around outside

### *Designated Walking Trail*

#### *Bowers Bimble*

- The trail is 1500metres long. The trail has a hard surface. The trail is sloped. The trail has seats.
- There is a slope from the Little Owl Café down to the lake – the most direct route is a 1 in 10 slope downhill to access some of the trails, which is 110m long. There is also an accessible path which leads down through the Recreation Area. It has a hard surface, light gravel, and is less than a 1 in 12 gradient.

The Bowers Bimble footpath is mainly loose gravel and it is at least 2m wide. Some parts of the trail are public bridleway, as well as some public and permissive footpath. There are a number of lectern stands, made of recycled

plastic, which contain family trail activities and information. There are a number of benches and rest areas along the trail.



A section of the Bowers Bimble footpath

### *Designated Walking Trail*

#### *Lowther Loop*

- The trail is 2800metres long. Some of the trail has a loose surface. The trail is sloped.
- There is a short section of the trail on the eastern edge of the lake which is currently inaccessible due to a broken bridge. This means the trail cannot be completed as a circular walk – visitors can walk along the northern, western and southern edges of the lake.

The trail It is mostly flat. The footpath is very rough and unsurfaced in places. Some parts of the trail are mainly long grass and roughly trampled. In wet weather it becomes very wet and muddy. The route is very narrow in places - sometimes less than 30cm. There are no benches

on this trail. It is not suitable for mobility scooters, wheelchairs or pushchairs. Some sections of the trail are public bridleway.

## *Designated Walking Trail*

### *Hillside Hike*

- The trail is 3000metres long. Some of the trail has a loose surface. The trail is sloped. The trail has seats.
- Some inclines on this trail are more than a 1 in 12 gradient. The footpath is very rough and unsurfaced, mainly long grass and roughly trampled. In wet weather it becomes very wet and muddy. It is very narrow in places – sometimes less than 30cm. It is not suitable for mobility scooters, wheelchairs or pushchairs. Some sections of the trail are public bridleway. There are a small number of benches spaced along the trail.



A section of the Hillside Hike trail

## *Designated Walking Trail*

### *Reedbed Ramble*

- The trail is 4600metres long. The trail has a hard surface. The trail is sloped. The trail has seats.
- The trail has a hard surface, is mainly loose gravel, and is at least 2m wide. It is mostly flat. All of this route is public bridleway. There are a number of benches and rest areas at regular intervals around the trail.



A section of the Reedbed Ramble trail

## *Picnic Area*

### *The Little Owl Café balcony*

- From the car park to the picnic area, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The path is 1400mm wide, or more.
- The entrance is 1400mm wide.
- Some tables have space for wheelchair users. You can bring your own food to the picnic area.

- The balcony is rectangular shaped, approximately 12 metres by 2 metres, and faces out onto the site. The surface is non-slip recycled plastic. The balcony is accessed by a ramp from the outside, which is at least 1m wide and less than 1:12 gradient. From the balcony, there is a small step up to get inside the Little Owl Café– a portable ramp is available and staff are happy to assist. Access between the inside of the building and the balcony is via a door with manual handle opening, which opens outwards towards the balcony side. The door is approximately 80cm wide. On the balcony are a number of small round metal tables, and lightweight wicker chairs with metal frames. Chairs can easily be moved to create different seating options around tables, and there is ample room for wheelchairs and mobility scooters.



The balcony of the Little Owl Café



## *Picnic Area*

### *Outdoor picnic area*

- From the car park to the picnic area, there is level access. The path is 1400mm wide, or more.
- The entrance is 1400mm wide.
- Some tables have space for wheelchair users. You can bring your own food to the picnic area.
- Near the Little Owl Café there is an outdoor picnic area which includes 12 sturdy wooden benches – visitors are welcome to bring their own food to eat. There are general waste and recycling bins outside the Little Owl Café, which are clearly labelled.



The outdoor picnic area near the Little Owl Café

### *Recreation Area*

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The route is 1400mm wide, or more. The entrance is 1400mm wide.

- Outside the Little Owl Café there is a large grassed area, called the Recreation Area. The Recreation Area slopes down towards Bowers Lake, and extends east of the Little Owl Café towards the Linesway.

Visitors are welcome to picnic in the Recreation Area on the benches provided, and to enjoy the grassy spaces off the paths. Barbecues and open fires are not permitted.

There is an accessible path which leads down from the Little Owl Café and picnic benches towards the lake and the walking trails. It has a hard surface, is 1m wide or more, and is less than a 1 in 12 gradient.

## **Customer care support**

### *Accessibility equipment*

- A mobility scooter is available to hire, and this can be brought to the car park on request. We require pre-booking – please contact us on 0113 2320529.
- Assistance dogs are welcome in all areas of RSPB St Aidan's, and can use the area outside for a toilet. Users are asked to clean up after their dogs and use the bins provided.

### *Emergency evacuation procedures*

- The fire alarm has flashing lights.

### *Customer care support*

- Some staff have disability awareness training.

- We have other services for people with accessibility requirements.
- A mobility scooter is available to hire, and this can be brought to the car park on request. We require pre-booking – please contact us on 0113 2320529.



The mobility scooter available for hire at RSPB St Aidan's

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