

(Accessibility full statement– updated with bus details)

Access Statement for RSPB Bempton Cliffs

Introduction

The reserve is set on cliffs that rise to a height of 120m (400 feet) at their highest point. It is located four miles from Bridlington and nine miles from Scarborough. Because of its location, it is often windy and there can be a nip in the air even when it's sunny.



Three of our six safe, cliff edge viewpoints are fully accessible via a hard surfaced path. They also have wheelchair bays with higher handrails that don't restrict the view. A wheelchair, mobility scooter and all-terrain mobility scooter are available but booking it is essential via the Seabird Centre (01262 422212) and a donation is appreciated. Assistance dogs are welcome.

A short film showing accessibility across the site can be seen on our web page: rspb.org.uk/bemptoncliffs

Pre-arrival

- Bempton railway station is 1.25 miles away. The walk from the station is on a quiet road then a lane. Timetables can be found at: <https://www.northernrail.org/travel/timetables>
- There is currently no regular bus service to Bempton village.
- There is no pavement on the lane to reserve. A narrow, loose stone path (trod) runs alongside the road.
- There is access to the reserve at all times. The Seabird Centre is open 9.30am-5pm in summer and 9.30am-4pm in winter.
- There is free entry for accompanying carer/essential companion. RSPB members free. Admission charges can be found at rspb.org.uk/bemptoncliffs

Car parking facilities and Arrival

- Seven blue badge tarmac parking spaces, are located 10-15m (13-18yards) from the seabird centre with paved path access. There is no kerb.



- There are 81 spaces in the main car park, a short, level walk to the entrance of the seabird centre.
- An overflow car park, approx. 100m (300 yards) has 50 hard surfaced spaces.
- The footpath surface from the overflow car park is finely crushed stone. This joins a hard surfaced path direct to the seabird centre. This path is illuminated by lighting posts.
- The drop-off point for coaches is 50m (60yards) from the seabird centre with a tarmac surface and gentle sloped descent.
- There are no height restrictions.
- Entrance to the seabird centre is from a flat paved forecourt, through an automatic door which opens outwards to a width of 117cm (46"). This leads into a small foyer with a wheelchair height 'press to open' button for a second door which swings outwards.
- Access from outdoors to indoors is flat.

Seabird Centre



- The public areas of the building are all at ground level and are level throughout.
- Entry is via an automatic door that opens outwards leaving an access width of 46" (117cm). This leads into a small foyer and a second door which opens to the same with via a 'press to open' panel.
- The flooring material is a non-slip rubberised material.
- The lighting is from downlights fixed in the ceiling. Large glass windows and roof panels allow natural light to enter.
- A staffed ticket desk is immediately beyond the second entrance door. The counter height is approx. 36" (90cm)



- There is no fixed indoor seating.
- Two large screens show live CCTV footage of the seabirds on the cliffs.
- Wall mounted, clear print information panels tell the seabirds' story. Simple directional signage is used throughout.
- A colour map of the reserve, detailing the time it takes to walk to viewpoints, is available.
- There is a part covered patio to the rear of the building and a decked area to the side of it. There is level access to both from the centre and both have fold-out chairs and café style tables.
- Staff and volunteers are on hand to give assistance.
- Access from the rear of the building leads onto the reserve via a gently sloping path (Ambrose Way).

Nature trails

- A seasonally themed trail runs around part of the reserve.
- It is on a mown grass path and is uneven and rough in places. When wet it can be muddy.



- The path is approx. 1.3m (48") wide.
- The starting point is approx. 10 m (30 feet) from the rear of the visitor centre.
- Approx. 150m (400 feet) into the trail there is wooden bench. Close by are three wooden picnic tables with wheelchair spaces.
- A trail quiz sheet is available from the seabird centre.
- Hand written, chalkboard signs point out areas of interest and homes for nature are dotted along its length.



- The time taken to complete the trail depends on your degree of involvement along the way. An average time might be 30 minutes.

Viewing facilities

- Six, safe viewpoints stand along the cliff top path.



- Grandstand and Mosey Downgate are the nearest, within a five minute walk of the seabird centre.
- Three viewpoints are fully wheelchair accessible and have bays to give improved viewing to wheelchair users. They are linked by a hard-surfaced path. A fourth viewpoint, Staple Newk, has ramped entry and wheelchair bays but is accessed by a grassy cliff top path.
- Most of the viewpoints have benches nearby.
- Two large information panels, detailing the eight types of seabirds that can be seen on the cliffs, are sited at the main viewpoint, Grandstand. Additional information panels are found at other key points on the site.
- The Dell is above the main car park and is visible from a narrow grass path with inclines either end. There is a wooden bench here.
- The bird feeding station is found along a hard surfaced winding path above the centre and towards the overflow car park. There is ample wooden bench seating.
- Wildlife cameras send live footage from the cliffs into the centre which can be viewed on two large TV screens.

Toilets

- The only toilets on the reserve are located in the Seabird Centre.
- There is level access to all the toilets and cubicles.
- The door width of the Mens/Womens' toilets is approx.30" (76.5cm). The width of the open cubicle door is 23.5" (59 cm)
- An all-wheelchair-accessible toilet is available. The cubicle door slides open to a width of 31.5" (80cm). The height of the toilet seat is 19" (48cm). There is space to the right of the toilet itself measuring 52" (133.5cm). There are two fixed rails around the toilet, one vertical and one horizontal. A wall-fixed, vertical drop-down rail is also to the left of the toilet. The sink height is 29" (74cm). The hot air hand dryer height is 43" (109cm). The taps on the sink are lever operated. A pull-cord alarm system activates an audible alarm with flashing lights.



- A drop-down baby changing table is wall-mounted in the fully accessible toilet and can be used from a seated position.
- The flooring is a non-slip rubberised material.
- Lighting is from ceiling spotlights.

Catering

- There is a refreshment counter inside the Seabird Centre selling sandwiches, hot and cold drinks, snacks and ice-cream.
- The counter height is 35.5" (90cm)



- A self-service food cabinet holds a selection of food and drink and can be accessed from a seated position. Baskets for purchases are located nearby.

- There are limited vegetarian and gluten-free food options.
- Soya milk is available on request.
- There are no indoor eating facilities in summer. In winter, temporary tables and chairs are placed in the Seabird Centre.
- Food and drink can be consumed on a patio or a decked area to the rear and side of the seabird centre. Both are accessed via a two heavy 'push' doors which both open to a width of 50" (127 cm). The short distance to the eating area is level and flat.
- Staff and volunteers are available to assist.

Shop

- The shop is located within the Seabird Centre.



- There centre's layout is open plan. There are no internal doors to negotiate.
- There is level access to the retail area.
- Aisles of approx. 46" (116cm) run between product display units.
- An example height of a free-standing product display unit is 32" (82cm).
- The tallest wall shelving unit is approx. 68" (172cm)
- The shop is lit by ceiling fixed spotlights.
- Staff and volunteers are available to assist. .

Education area

- For school visits, part of the main area of the seabird centre is sectioned off using, moveable room dividers.



- All access routes in and out are flat.
- The flooring is a non-slip rubberised material.
- There is no fixed seating. Basic fold-down chairs are available if required.
- A large wall-mounted 'smart' TV screen can be used during educational visits.
- Large, clear print information panels cover relevant subjects eg: food cycles.
- Access on to the reserve is via a door that opens to a width of approx. 49" (124cm)
- In addition, there are two outdoor classrooms on the reserve. These consist of a roped off area of short mown grass. One is immediately to the rear of the seabird centre. The other is a short walk (about 10 minutes) away, opposite Grandstand viewpoint. Both are accessed by hard surfaced paths.



Picnic area

- A number of wheelchair accessible picnic tables can be found immediately outside the rear entrance of the Seabird Centre.
- Three picnic tables can be found approx.150m (400 feet) along the nature trail. All have spaces for wheelchairs.



- Visitors are welcome to bring their own food and drink to enjoy in this area.