



giving
nature
a home

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.

Access Statement for RSPB Loch Leven Reserve

Introduction

Set on the southern shore of the loch, RSPB Loch Leven nature reserve offers a great day out for families, nature lovers and birdwatchers alike. Formerly known as Vane Farm, we bought this reserve in 1967 as a centre for environmental education and 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, local and ethical food all year-round, all with a fantastic view over Loch Leven itself. There is a manual wheelchair to hire during visitor centre opening times.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01577 862355. Further information is available on our website: www.rspb.org.uk/lochleven

Pre-arrival

- Nearest railway station Cowdenbeath.- 7 miles/11km.
- No taxi rank, but local accessible taxi providers include Cowdenbeath Taxis 01383 513 333.
- 2 miles/3km from Junction 5 of the M90. Follow B9097 (signed Glenrothes and Scotlandwell). The car park is on the right hand side . For a map and directions on how to reach us please see the 'How to Get Here' section on our website, which has a link for sat navs.
- There are regular buses to Kinross (8 miles/12 km) from Perth, Edinburgh and surrounding towns. There is an infrequent bus service (204) from Kinross which stops at the reserve. Call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 for more information, or download bus

timetable from the link in the 'How to Get Here' section on our website.

- Alternatively walk or cycle the 8 mile (1 way) Loch Leven Heritage Trail from Kinross. The path is relatively flat and even surfaced but access to reserve is via steps.
- The reserve is signposted with brown highway signs and large purple RSPB signs with a silhouette of a flying goose at the entrance itself.
- Reserve leaflet and trail map available.
- The reserve is open throughout the year. The visitor centre is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm (except 25/26 December and 1/2 January).
- Entry to the reserve is £5 adults, £3 concession, £1 child and £10 family (2 adults and up to 4 children). It is free for members and carers or essential companions.
- Registered assistance dogs are welcome in the visitor centre building and on all areas of the reserve. A water bowl is provided in visitor centre courtyard.

Car Parking Facilities and Arrival

- Free on site parking for 70 cars.
- 3 clearly marked Blue Badge spaces 60m from the Visitor Centre.
- Car park surface rolled stone surface with adverse camber.
- Car park is always open. No height restrictions.
- Some lighting next to path to the Visitor Centre.
- No drop off point. The pathway between the car park and visitor centre is level and compacted.



Approach to Loch Leven visitor centre



Loch Leven
visitor centre
shop

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Visitor Centre/ Shop

Visitor Centre on two levels with cafe, shop and viewing area

- Visitor Centre courtyard is partially laid with historic cobbles, but access to main entrance door, and from shop to toilets, is paved and step and ramp free.
- Level compacted path running 60m from car park to visitor centre.
- The visitor centre main entrance has manually operated double doors opening inwards. One door is usually open with a clear opening width of 780mm / 31 inches (both doors open 1,570mm / 62 inches wide). A 15mm threshold is present on both the entrance and exit doors.
- Visitor reception and shop located on the ground floor and are both fully accessible.
- Tiled and laminate floor surface. Evenly lit with ceiling spotlights and down lighters.
- Seating in reception consists of a bench with padded seat and without arms and or back.
- Pen and pad of paper and magnifying glass can be made available.
- Four telescopes are located in the cafe on the first floor of the visitor centre, one of which is adjustable for wheelchair users.
- Staff and volunteers are always on hand during opening hours to give assistance.
- Binoculars and family Wildlife Explorer backpacks are available for hire.

- Shop sells a variety of gifts and bird food. Some shop goods may be difficult to reach. Staff available to assist.
- There is an annual programme of events. Please check their suitability for your accessibility requirements with our visitor team.

Nature Trails

Variety of clearly signposted trails. All but wildlife garden trail have steps.

- Wildlife Garden, close to visitor centre, has 70m of gently sloping hardcore surfaced path.
- Woodland Trail is a 1 mile/1.6km trail with a natural, uneven surface . It has a series of steep steps and can be muddy.
- Wetland Trail and Loch Leven Heritage Trail are both accessed from the visitor centre via steps (27 steps down and 13 steps up) and an underpass. There is currently no alternative route to the hides. After the underpass, the Heritage Trail is wide enough for 2 wheelchair/pushchair users to pass each other and is surfaced with rolled stone. The Wetland Trail is 0.5m wide and is an uneven hardcore surface.
- No gates or stiles along any of the trails.
- At weekends, and on some weekdays throughout the year, volunteer guides offer help and information at the visitor centre and / or hides.
- Reserve and trail map available from Visitor Centre.
- Features of interest include dipping ponds (pond in Wildlife Garden is raised).
- 3 benches are provided on the Heritage Trail. 2 have back support and arm rests. There are no benches on the wetland trail.

Viewing Facilities



Gillman and Waterston hides

Visitor centre viewing room, 3 hides and 3 viewing screens:.

- Indoor viewing area in cafe. 4 telescopes, including one adjustable, overlooking Loch Leven. 2 interactive CCTV screens.
- 3 hides on Wetland Trail (accessed by underpass with concrete steps only).
- Gillman Hide (100m from underpass) has handrail on right hand side on approach to hide. Clear door opening of 690mm (or 1380mm if both doors are open) and doors open outwards. Window height 790mm from ground and there are no window catches.
- Waterston Hide (300m from underpass) has no handrails. Clear door width of 880mm and door opens inwards. Windows 960mm from the ground. Catches must be turned to open them and windows hooked up – windows are heavy.
- Carden Hide (500m from underpass) approached by a boarded bridge with handrails on either side. Clear door width is 880mm and door opens inwards. Windows 980mm and 1150mm from ground. Catches must be turned to open them and windows hooked up – windows are heavy.
- All hide entrances are step-free.
- Door lever handles to each hide are 1.2m from the ground.
- Moveable seating.
- Viewing screen by wildlife garden trail near the centre has viewing slots at a variety of heights.

Public Toilets

1 accessible, unisex toilet with baby change facilities accessed via courtyard or shop.



- All WCs with level, ramp and step-free entry.
- Door width of accessible toilet is 800mm/ 31 inches.
- Clear space for a wheelchair (850mm/ 33 inches) to the left of the WC.
- Height of accessible WC from floor to seat is 490mm/ 19.25 inches
- Horizontal/vertical grab rails.
- Red alarm cord for assistance.
- In an emergency alarm and flashing light will activate.
- Well lit with central ceiling light.
- Floor surface is laminate.
- Lever taps on sink.
- Baby changing facility accessible from a standing position.

Catering

Cafe on first floor of Visitor Centre.



- Accessed by internal staircase with handrail on one side (left as you ascend, right as you descend) or external ramp with 1:12 gradient.
- Staff and volunteers available to assist.
- Variety of hot and cold food, catering for vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free diets. Smaller portions available.
- Seating consists of a number of moveable tables (clear height underneath 700mm) and chairs without arm rests .
- Well lit with ceiling down lighters and strip lights. Natural light from large viewing windows.
- Floor surface is laminate.
- Nearest WCs including accessible WC on ground floor of same building.

Education

- Education facilities are on the ground floor with step and ramp-free level access throughout.
- The room has a flexible layout and both indoor and outdoor activities can be tailored to suit schools access needs. To best accommodate access needs, schools should specify when booking
- There are two entrance doors. Door from visitor centre reception area has clear opening width of 740mm / 29inches. Door from courtyard has clear

opening width of 1050mm / 41 inches.

- Floor surface is carpeted.
- Evenly lit with ceiling strip lights.
- Outdoor learning areas including raised pond for pond dipping.

Picnic area

- Picnic area with 5 picnic tables and 3 benches, (including 2 picnic tables with space for a wheelchair user) 35m from the Visitor Centre.
- Visitors are welcome to bring their own food and drink.
- Wide, sloping block paved and hardcore path from visitor centre to picnic area.
- Picnic area is located on grassy slope

Future Plans

- Please let the Visitor Services Manager know if there any improvements we can make to accessibility.

Contact Information

Address: RSPB Loch Leven, Vane Farm, near Kinross, Kinross-shire, KY13 9LX

Telephone: 01577 862355

Email: lochleven@rspb.org.uk

Website: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/l/locheven>

Grid reference:

Hours of operation: Visitor centre, Mon-Sun, 10am to 5pm. Reserve, car park and toilets unrestricted access.

Accessible taxi: Cowdenbeath taxis 01383 513 333