

## **Access Statement for Newport Wetlands Environmental Education and Visitor Centre**

### **Introduction**

Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve (NNR) is situated just outside the City of Newport with mostly level and step free routes through the beautiful reedbeds offering spectacular views of the Severn Estuary. The Visitor Centre offers a shop and cafe with lovely views over the wetlands and with access being all on one level. There are also toilet facilities within the visitor centre. Within the immediate vicinity of the Visitor Centre is a picnic area.

Newport Wetlands NNR is owned and managed by Natural Resources Wales, working in partnership with RSPB Cymru, Newport City Council and others for the benefit of wildlife and people. RSPB Cymru manage the grounds immediately surrounding the Visitor Centre plus the car parking area.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01633 636363 or email [newport-wetlands@rspb.org.uk](mailto:newport-wetlands@rspb.org.uk)



Left: Approach to Newport Wetlands Visitor Centre

## **Pre-Arrival**

- For details of how to reach us please see the 'How to get here' section on our website which has a link for satellite navigation devices and directions for cyclists and drivers.
- The nearest railway station is Newport, which is 5 miles/8 km away. Taxis are readily available at the station.
- The Visitor Centre is served by the number 63 bus from Newport city centre, which is a demand responsive service. Details on how to book this service are available from Newport Bus on 01633 211202.
- The Visitor Centre and car park are open 9am - 5pm daily. The cafe is open 10am - 4pm daily, the RSPB shop is open 10am – 4.30pm daily. The visitor centre, café, shop and car park are closed on Christmas Day. Please check website for other Christmas and New Year opening.
- We welcome assistance and therapy dogs throughout the reserve.
- There is one permissive path for dogs (other than assistance/therapy dogs) and all dogs should be kept on a lead throughout the reserve. Tethering rings and a dog drinking bowl are provided at the visitor centre entrance from where a map of the permitted dog walking route can be obtained.
- There is one permissive route for cyclists which can be accessed from the western end of the car park. A covered bicycle stand is available in the car park to facilitate access to the Visitor Centre and areas of the reserve where cycling is not permitted. There is also a small bicycle rack at the visitor centre entrance.
- There is a car park charge of £4.00 per day for non-members and car parking is free to members. Tokens to exit the car park are available from the visitor centre.

## **Car Parking Facilities and Arrival**

- Car parking facilities are 180 metres/197 yards from the Visitor Centre. There are 130 marked spaces plus 10 marked blue badge spaces. Drop off at the Visitor Centre can be arranged by telephoning 01633 636363.
- The car park is accessed through an entrance barrier which opens on approach.
- To exit the car park a token is required from the visitor centre. The costs are as above.

- The number 63 bus picks up and drops off just outside the reserve car park main entrance.
- The car park surface is tarmac and the path leading from the car park to the Visitor Centre consists of limestone chippings with limestone dust laid on top and compacted.
- The main entrance to the Visitor Centre is accessed via a wooden walkway with a maximum gradient of 1:40.
- The main entrance to the Visitor Centre is via double steel/glass manually operated doors with a width of 1.8 meters / 6 foot.

## **Visitor Centre**

- There is step free, level access throughout with a non-slip tiled surface.
- A hearing loop system is installed at the service counter and in the education rooms.
- The area is well lit with daylight via large windows and partial glass roof and overhead lighting from LED light fittings.
- Staff can give assistance and read out any literature if required.
- There are three mobility scooters and two wheelchairs available for use on the reserve. Whilst booking is not essential, we recommend checking availability in advance by contacting the Visitor Centre. To borrow mobility equipment please bring a RSPB membership card, or photo ID and proof of address if not a RSPB member. There is a mobility passport scheme for the convenience of regular users, please ask at reception for details.
- Binoculars are available for hire (from £3.00 for the day).
- There are a variety of events and activities available throughout the year, these are listed on our website at [events.rspb.org.uk/newportwetlands](https://events.rspb.org.uk/newportwetlands). Our events are fully accessible wherever possible, please telephone 01633 636363, email [newport-wetlands@rspb.org.uk](mailto:newport-wetlands@rspb.org.uk) or ask staff for more details.



Left: Inside the visitor centre is flat, step free and well lit

## **Nature Trails**

- There are a number of nature trails around the reserve of various lengths with accessibility for wheelchairs and pushchairs:
  - A sculpture trail at just over 1 mile / 1.6 km
  - Woodlands and estuary trail at almost 1.5 miles / 2.3 km
  - Orchid trail which is 1 mile / 1.6 km
  - The wetlands experience is almost 3 miles / 4.5 km
- All trails are on paths constructed from compacted materials with access to the reedbeds via a zig-zag access path. A bilingual trail guide is available from the Visitor Centre.
- Most trails are maintained and managed by Natural Resources Wales.
- There is a floating walkway across the reedbed to the lighthouse which is accessible by wheelchairs, scooters and pushchairs. Caution should be taken when using this walkway due to its buoyancy.

## **Viewing Facilities**

- There are many natural viewing opportunities on the reserve such as the estuary views.
- There is a wheelchair accessible hide overlooking the reedbeds on the reserve.
- There are viewing screens overlooking the reedbeds on the reserve.
- The hide and screens are maintained and managed by Natural Resources Wales.



Left: Screens provide space and depth for wheelchairs and mobility scooters

## Public Toilets

- Public toilets are located on the ground floor of the Visitor Centre with level access throughout.
- There is one unisex accessible toilet, open to all and described below:
  - A light, easy open door 915mm/36ins wide.
  - 980mm/38.5ins transfer space to the right of the toilet, when facing the toilet.
  - Toilet height is 430mm/17ins.
  - Vertical rails either side of both basin and toilet.
  - Horizontal rail on the side wall adjacent to the toilet and pull down handrail on opposite side of toilet.
  - An emergency alarm pull cord.
  - Well lit with automatic fluorescent overhead lighting.
  - Non-slip tile flooring.
  - A lever mixer tap on the low-level sink.
  - A baby changing table accessible from a seated position.
- There is a second baby changing facility in the ladies toilets.



Left: Accessible toilet available in the Visitor Centre

## **Catering**

- The cafe area has level access to both the inside seating area and the outdoor decking seating/viewing area.
- The cafe is accessed either via the front entrance to the Visitor Centre or from rear entrance doors of the same specification as the main entrance.
- Tables are well spaced apart, with a clear height from the floor of 900mm/35ins, and chairs with arms. Furniture is not fixed in place.
- Lighting in all areas is natural daylight with supplementary overhead led lighting.
- The flooring is non slip tiled.
- The menu is displayed at the main servery including calorie information.
- Where possible produce is locally sourced.
- We do our best to cater for any dietary requirements; please contact us in advance to check any specific needs can be accommodated.
- Allergens information is available from the café staff on request.
- The nearest public toilet with an accessible WC is located on the level of the cafe in the Visitor Centre.

## **Shop**

- There is a shop with a range of birdfood and wildlife products, optics and gifts, accessed directly from the main entrance of the Visitor Centre.
- There are no doors or barriers to enter the shop once inside the Visitor Centre main entrance.
- There is step free, level access throughout.
- The floor surface is non-slip tiled.
- There is ample room within the shop for a large wheelchair/pushchair to manoeuvre and turn.
- The area is well lit with daylight and overhead led lighting.
- There are some tall book/gift racks and low display units accessible from a seated position.
- Staff will provide assistance if required.

## **Education Centre / Classrooms**

- There are two classrooms with level entry from the Visitor Centre.
- The classrooms can be opened up into one large room using a removable partition wall.
- There are easy to open manual doors, of the same dimensions as the main Visitor Centre entrance.
- There is step free, level access throughout.
- Furniture can be re-arranged giving ample room within the classroom for a large wheelchair to maneuver and turn.
- The floor surface is non-slip flooring.
- The area is evenly and well lit with led overhead lighting.
- A hearing loop system is available and staff are trained in its use.

## **Picnic Area**

- There is a picnic area in the immediate vicinity of the visitor centre.
- There are ten picnic tables of which six have wheelchair access.
- Sandwiches, snacks and drinks are available from the cafe and visitors are free to bring their own refreshments for consumption in the picnic area.



## **Contact Information**

Address: RSPB Newport Wetlands Visitor Centre, West Nash Road, Nash, Newport NP18 2BZ

Telephone: 01633 636363

Email: [newport-wetlands@rspb.org.uk](mailto:newport-wetlands@rspb.org.uk)

Website: [www.rspb.org.uk/newportwetlands](http://www.rspb.org.uk/newportwetlands)

Grid Reference: ST334834

Hours Of Operation: Visitor Centre 9am - 5pm daily  
Coffee shop 10am - 4pm daily  
RSPB shop 10am – 4:30pm daily  
Car park 9am till 5pm daily  
Closed Christmas Day – check website for opening hours over Christmas and New Year

Local Public Transport: Newport Bus 01633 211202 [www.newportbus.co.uk](http://www.newportbus.co.uk)  
National Rail 08457 484950 [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)