



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 Radipole Lake**

### **Introduction**

RSPB Radipole is a tranquil wetland nature reserve within easy reach of the heart of Weymouth town centre hosting wildlife such as otters, bearded tits and bitterns. With flat terrain bordering the river Wey, there is a mixture of open lagoons, reedbeds and scrub. There is a network of firm footpaths and boardwalks including a shorter circular route. Beyond the Wild Weymouth Discovery Centre is a viewing hide and viewpoint. The Centre offers snacks and drinks and a unisex accessible toilet. Public toilets (including a unisex accessible toilet) are also located nearby (120m) in the adjacent council-owned car park.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01305 778313 or email [weymouth.reserves@rspb.org.uk](mailto:weymouth.reserves@rspb.org.uk).

Further information is available from our website at [www.rspb.org.uk/radipole](http://www.rspb.org.uk/radipole)

### **Pre-Arrival**

- For a map and directions of how to reach us please see the 'How to get here' section on our website, which has a link for sat navs. Alternatively, you can plan your journey by public transport or car using [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info); simply enter your postcode and ours, to get directions.
- The nearest railway station is Weymouth, about 437yds (400m) away. The walk is on level pavements along King Street, across Radipole Park Drive and into Swannery car park.
- Taxi services are available close to Weymouth station.
- The nearest bus stop is approximately 328 yards (300m) away on Commercial Road. It is sheltered and is served by local routes 1, 3, 5, 5a, 8, 10 and the x53 Jurassic Coast route from

Exeter to Poole. Other bus routes are accessible on The Esplanade. Service details can be provided by First Buses: 0870 0106 022, [www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/dorset/](http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/dorset/)

- Public footpaths through the reserve are open at all times, although the North Hide is closed at 4.30pm.
- The Wild Weymouth Discovery Centre is open every day: 9am – 5pm in summer, 9am – 4pm in winter.
- Entry is free and dogs on leads are welcome.

### **Car Parking Facilities and Arrival**

- Parking is at the Council owned Pay and Display car park with 800 spaces available. Blue Badge parking (charges applicable) is available in 27 bays, one of which is next to the visitor centre, the remainder are over 100m away.
- The car park surface is level tarmac with a drop kerb at the Discovery Centre entrance.
- A gentle paved ramp (1:20 slope, no hand rail) leads to the Discovery Centre entrance.
- Manual entrance doors to the visitor centre open inwards - width 170cm / 67inches with no threshold.

### **Visitor Centre**

- Open plan layout, including cafe and accessible toilet.
- Level, tiled floor throughout with no steps.
- Evenly lit with fluorescent tube and ceiling spotlights.
- Equipped with a variable-level telescope for viewing lagoon through glass window.
- Staff are available to give assistance and advice.
- Binoculars are available to hire.
- Information panels are in clear print
- Trail maps are available for navigating the site.

### **Nature Trails**

- The trails throughout the site are firm and generally flat, and surfaced with concrete or crushed stone.
- Path width varies from 1.5m to 2m, with soft verges either side.

There are three paths.

- A trail map is available from our website
- The main path is a public footpath 656 yards (600m) long, leading from the Discovery Centre to gate on the western boundary of the reserve. The gate has a turning area designed for wheelchair access.
- An extension from this main path at its western boundary end leads to North Hide, which is a total of 1317yds (1205m) from the Discovery Centre. The final 147yards (135m) of this hide trail is on a wooden boardwalk which is 1.2m wide and covered with wire mesh to reduce slipping – This can be closed occasionally due to flooding.
- The boardwalk to the hide has no passing points.
- From the main path, The Buddleia Trail is a circular trail. It is 738yds (675m) long and starts 328 yds (300m) from the Discovery Centre.
- There are three benches 109yds (100m) apart along the main trail between the Buddleia Trail access points - the first of these is 328yds (300m) from the Discovery Centre. A sheltered viewpoint is approximately midway along the Buddleia Trail 790 yds (723m) from the Discovery Centre). Also on this trail is a single bench (490m from the Discovery Centre), and a picnic area with several wooden benches (610m from the Discovery Centre).
- There is a bench about halfway along the hide trail.
- There is one gradient on the hide trail - approximately 1:10 over a distance of approximately 10m.
- A level, semi-circular boardwalk extends from the Buddleia Trail to a wooden viewing platform. It is 500m from the Discovery Centre. The boardwalk is 1.2 metres wide.
- Trails are signposted with distances

- Access to the hide boardwalk and other paths can be restricted, for all visitors, by occasional flooding (eg. after heavy rain). Please check in advance by contacting the Visitor Centre.

### **Viewing Facilities**

Information about the hide at the north end of the reserve:

- Its 1205m from the Discovery Centre
- Has level access with a 84cm / 33inches wide door opening outwards with a latch at height 97cm / 38inches.
- Has two floors with steps and handrails.
- Fixed benches at the viewing windows. Windows open inwards and upwards and secured with latches.
- The lower floor windows (lower sill height: 80cm / 32") have nno bench and a shelf at height 70cm / 28". These lower windows slide open sideways.

A raised viewpoint platform is beside the main path 180m from the Discovery Centre.

- It is a wooden structure with sloping boardwalk access.
- The slope has a 180° turn half-way and has a gradient of approximately 1:10.
- The slope and platform have handrails on all sides.

### **Public Toilets**

An accessible toilet is provided in Discovery Centre with

- Level entry, door width: 85cm/33.5".
- Clear space to right of WC (when facing WC), width: 64cm/25".
- WC floor to seat height: 48cm/19".
- Grab rails: Horizontal rail on each side of the WC. Right hand side rail hinges down into position (viewed facing WC). Horizontal rail on inside of door. Vertical rail to left of basin.
- Basin has lever tap.

- A baby changing facility is provided which folds down from wall to right side of WC (viewed facing WC). Height: 94cm/30".
- There is an alarm cord for emergency assistance.
- Lighting: tungsten bulb.
- Floor: hard, non-slip.

Alternative public toilets are located in the Swannery car park. They are approximately 120m from the Discovery Centre, near the car park entrance off Radipole Park Drive. Opening times: 07.00 - 22.00 (Summer), 08.00 - 18.00 (Winter). The disabled access public toilet is unisex and is free of charge. A spare radar key can be borrowed from the Discovery Centre.

### **Catering**

The self service cafe is in the Discovery Centre with staff assistance and includes:

- Level, tiled floor throughout.
- Evenly lit with fluorescent tube and ceiling spotlights.
- Moveable tables and chairs are provided.
- Clear height underneath tables is 70cm/27.5". Chairs have no armrests. A cushioned bench seat is located along a wall.
- Hot drinks machine, cold drinks and a range of hot and cold snacks are also available, e.g. rolls, pastries, cake, biscuits.
- An accessible WC is provided.

The nearest shops and cafes are about 500m from the reserve, near the railway station.

## **Picnic Area**

- A concrete-tiled patio area is provided.
- It can be accessed from the Discovery Centre through inward opening manual doors. Doorway width 135cm/53inches.
- Moveable tables and folding wooden chairs are provided.
- Clear height underneath tables is 70cm/27.5inches.

## **Additional Information**

A water bowl is available at the Discovery Centre entrance/exit for dogs.

## **Contact Information**

Address (Inc postcode): Wild Weymouth Discovery Centre RSPB  
Radipole Lake The Swannery Car Park  
Weymouth Dorset DT4 7TZ

Telephone: 01305 778313

Email: [weymouth.reserves@rspb.org.uk](mailto:weymouth.reserves@rspb.org.uk)

Website: [www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/r/radipolelake/index.aspx](http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/r/radipolelake/index.aspx)

Grid Reference: SY676796

Hours Of Operation: Wild Weymouth Discovery Centre: 9am - 5pm (Feb - Oct), 9am - 4.00pm (Nov - Jan).

Local Accessible Taxi: Bee Cars, 6 St. Edmund Street, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8AR, 01305 775151 Weyline Cars Ltd, 4 Queens Street Weymouth, Dorset, DT4, 01305 770000

Local Public Transport: South West Trains, [www.southwesttrains.co.uk/](http://www.southwesttrains.co.uk/) First Buses, 0870 0106 022, <http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/dorset/>