

# Access Statement for WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre



## Introduction

Founded in the 1940's by Sir Peter Scott this attraction bordering the River Severn in Gloucestershire is a haven for birds, wildlife and people. It is ideal for birdwatchers, families or individuals who want some peace and calm away from the stresses of life today.

Slimbridge consists of low-lying flat land with paths among lakes, gardens and pools with access to hides overlooking lakes and the Severn Estuary where you will be able to see a huge variety of birds.

## Our facilities at a glance

- The grounds have level access and hard-surfaced paths with tarmac on main routes (and compacted gravel on minor paths) and board walks over marshy areas.
- Ramp access to the Reception and down to the centre and site.
- There are several Electric mobility scooters which can be hired for a suggested donation of £5 – advanced booking is essential.
- There is a fixed hearing induction loop in the admission foyer and cinema.
- Trained assistance dogs only (i.e. guide dogs). No other dogs are permitted.
- Accessible toilets in car park and throughout the visitor centre.
- Free car parking. Tarmac surface and reserved bays for disabled visitors. Further overflow parking is on the orchard or field; these surfaces are either gravel or grass and can become slippery in wet weather.
- Lift to the Sloane Severn view observation tower: take a lift to see a panoramic bird's eye view of the whole site!
- Many of our hides have ramp accesses and low level viewing windows. There is no lift in the Holden Tower hide.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01453 891900 or email [info.slimbridge@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.slimbridge@wwt.org.uk)

## **Pre-Arrival**

### **By Car**

Slimbridge Wetland Centre is conveniently located near to the M5 between Gloucester and Bristol. Exit at either junctions 13 or 14 and follow our brown duck signs.

We have a large free car park.

Coaches are also very welcome, with parking available close to the Visitor Centre and toilets.

### **By bus**

Unfortunately we are not easily accessed by bus. The bus stops on the A38 near the roundabout turnoff to WWT Slimbridge. It is three miles away from the Centre.

### **By rail**

Our nearest railway station is located at Cam and Dursley Station and is a short bicycle or taxi journey away. (Approx 4 miles)

### **By bike**

Download a copy of Sustrans' National Cycle Network map.

We are located on the [Sustrans route](#), number 41.

Free bike racks are situated outside the centre - Please bring your own lock.

## **Opening Times**

WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre is open 7 days a week, 364 days a year.  
We only close to the public on 25 December.

### **Winter (November to March)**

9.30am to 5.00pm (last admission 4pm)  
Christmas Eve 9.30am to 3pm (last admission 2.30pm)

### **Summer (April to October)**

9.30am to 5.30pm (last admission 4.30pm)

## 2014 Admission Prices

Prices are shown inclusive of Gift Aid and without. The Gift Aid admission price includes a voluntary donation, which enables us to claim the tax back as part of the Government's Gift Aid scheme. You can also book online ahead of arrival to save 10%.

Pricing	Gift Aid	No Gift Aid
Adult	£12.30	£11.18
Concession (65+, disabled, full-time student and unemployed)	£9.50	£8.64
Child (4-16 years)	£6.70	£6.09
Family (2 adults and 2 children, 4-16 years)	£34.50	£31.36
Children (under 4 years)	free	free
Essential helpers assisting disabled visitors	free	free

## Car Parking Facilities and Arrival

### Car parking

We have two rows of spaces at the front of our free car park which is designated for users with disabilities.

These 19 spaces are wider and are also close to the ramp to enter the visitor centre.

### Entrance

The Main entrance to the Foyer is via a ramp which is easily accessed from the car park via a smooth brick paved path that leads to brick paved ramp turning to wooden boarding as the ramp traverses to bridge section to the entrance.





There are two powered doors opened by a conveniently placed wheelchair-accessible buttons to lead you through into the foyer.

There is a ramp which takes you down from the foyer into the ground floor of the visitor centre.

## **Wheelchairs / Mobility Scooters**

There are a few manual wheelchairs available for you to borrow free of charge.

There are also several electric mobility scooters available to hire for a suggested donation of £5 per day. Please book in advance to avoid disappointment. Should you need assistance on the day please contact reception on 01453 891900.

## **Visitor Centre**

### **First Floor**

The visitor centre consists of:

- Entrance Foyer containing the ticket desk
- Business Desk
- Information desk
- Grain desk – To buy bird food to feed to the birds
- Cafe where you can buy hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and cakes
- Access to 2 x disabled toilets
- Lift and stairs access to the tower.
- A ramp to the ground floor

### **Ground Floor**

At the base of the ramp there is:

- Ladies, Gents and disabled toilets
- A Gallery
- Access to the Centre grounds
- Cafe
- Shop
- An indoor play area for children
- Toad Hall, amphibian collection with dropped counter for handling during sessions.
- Cinema (fitted with hearing loop)



Pictures show ramp from admission foyer to ground floor, the gallery area, Foyer and the refurbished shop.

## Cafe Facilities

We have 2 cafes in the visitor centre. In the main cafe we can raise the tables using 'elephant feet', to suit some wheelchair users. If you would like a table adjusted please ask any member of staff.

In the grounds there are also picnic areas and 2 kiosks.

## Public Toilets

Within the visitor centre building there are four toilets for people with disabilities. These have wider doors, a larger floor space, help cords and handrails.

There is also a disabled toilet within the grounds about half a kilometre from the visitor centre.

## **Outside facilities**

### **Paths and general grounds areas**

Our large network of paths which take you around the grounds are smooth and designed to be used with ease by wheelchair and scooter users.

There are lots of gates used to separate wildfowl between areas. We have tried to fit these with easy locking mechanisms but a few may prove a little tricky for wheelchair and scooter users without assistance.

### **Hides**

Most of our hides are accessible for people in wheelchairs.

We have a range of hides overlooking different areas of the wild reserve. Many of these have dropped viewing platforms.

The South Lake Observatory and the Peng Observatory are particularly accessible and offer stunning views through their large picture windows.

### **Land Rover Safari**

During the summer months we offer a Land Rover Safari experience so that visitors can go out onto the Reserve. This year we have had a lift installed so that wheelchair users can enjoy this experience too.

This event has to be booked on your arrival (£5 per adult). Please inform staff ahead of the event if you will need to use the lift.

### **Additional Information**

If you need any more information ahead of your visit please call to speak to a member of our team on 01453 891900.