

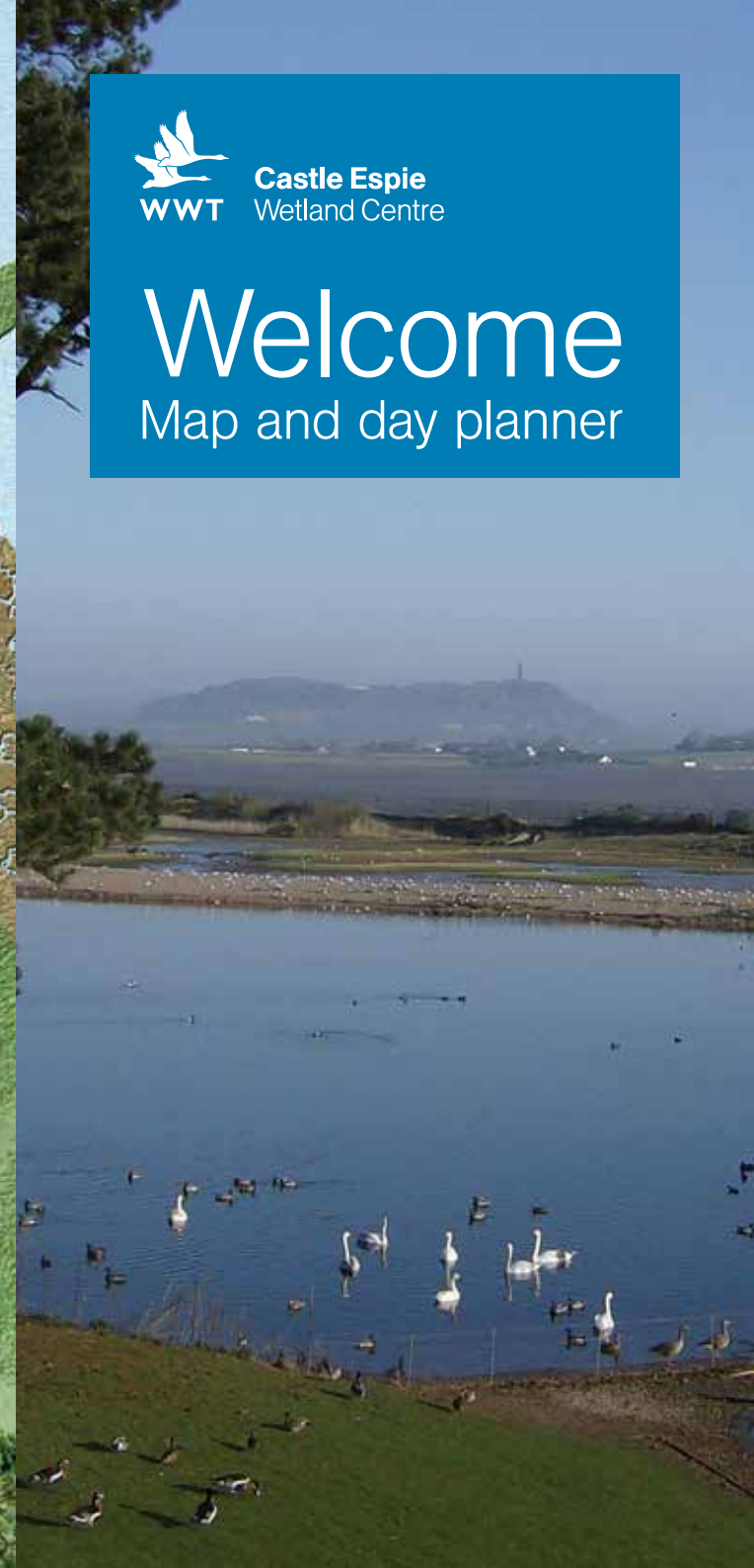
# Welcome

Map and day planner



- Toilets
- Hand washing
- First aid
- Disabled toilets
- Baby changing
- Restaurant
- Picnic area
- Play area
- Gift shop
- Restricted wheelchair access
- Wildlife viewpoint
- Viewpoint
- Bike park
- Bird feeders
- Steep path

**Please wash your hands**  
as all animals can carry diseases





## Don't miss...

**Feeding the birds** – buy some grain on your way out of reception and get a friendly welcome from the largest collection of rare and exotic ducks, geese and swans in Ireland.

**Brent hide** – experience the breathtaking views of Strangford Lough from the best vantage point on the site.

**Limekiln observatory** – this state-of-the-art heated building boasts glass on three sides. It's a perfect venue for bird watching or just sitting and admiring the view.



Limekiln Observatory

**Wild wood play** – our woodland natural play area is a novelty for both children and adults, taking you back to your childhood days. It's also an ideal picnic spot.



Wild wood play

**Pond dipping** – from spring to autumn we open up our ponds for dipping by children of all ages (and grown-ups!).

**Climbing wall** – don't look down! Have a fantastic time challenging yourself to climb the wall by the Limestone Pavilion.

**Discover our History Zones** (Crannog, Limestone pavilion & brickworks) – with interpretation on hand exploring the rich tapestry of our ancient and modern past.

**Loughshore cafe** – relax and enjoy views of the reserve, Strangford Lough and Scrabo Tower.

**Art gallery** – Castle Espie's gallery, 'nature through art', hosts a series of art exhibitions.

**Family activity backpacks** – pick up your binoculars, magnifying glass and spotter sheets from reception and go out on your own adventure. Refundable deposit required.



Castle Espie Wetland Centre

Cover image: Castle Espie Wetland Centre. Maeve Curran.

## Free walks, trails and events

**Wildlife wander** – an easy going signposted trail around the grounds taking in a variety of wildlife areas and spectacular views of Strangford Lough.

**Woodland walk** – through the woodland and the swamp, this is an enjoyable signposted experience to undertake whatever the time of year.

**Sustainability trail** – this trail guides you around the site, highlighting the buildings and facilities that demonstrate ecological design (leaflet from reception).

**Guide in the hide** (first 3 Sundays of the month from Sept - March, 2pm - 4pm) – visit the Brent Hide where guides share their expert bird knowledge and help you identify wildfowl and waders visiting in the winter months.

**Seasonal event trails** – at Easter, Halloween & Christmas, enjoy a series of self guided trails for kids (map and clues from reception).

**Drumlin theatre** – drop in to see the short films showing all year. Check times with reception.

**Downy duckling tours** (every weekend in June, 12noon, 2pm, 3pm) – visit the duckling nursery, and see the amazing real life transition from egg to duckling.

**Meet the quackers** (every weekend except Oct, at 12noon & 2pm) – find out more about the fascinating birds in our captive collection.

**Birdwatch morning** (last Thursday of every month, 10.30am) – meet at reception.

**There is always a selection of activities for families to do. Please ask at reception or refer to the 'what's on' board for further details.**



Duckling tours



Feeding the birds

## Information

### Fancy a cuppa or a browse in the shop?

Relax in our Loughshore cafe or find that special gift in the shop knowing that you have helped support WWT's vital Wetland Conservation here, and around the world.



### **Binoculars**

Available to hire from reception.



### **Accessibility**

Electric scooters and wheelchairs are available to hire from reception (pre-booking essential). Castle Espie is fully accessible and low-level telescopes are now available in the Brent Hide.

### Photography

There are many great photo opportunities here and it's fine for you to take photos for your personal use. For more information, please refer to our website.

### **Opening times**

Centre: 10am to 4.30pm winter / 5pm summer / 5.30pm summer weekends.

Last admission 45 minutes before closing.

Open 7 days a week, except 24 & 25 December.


Cafe open 10am - 4pm winter / 5.00pm summer.

Hot food served: 12noon - 2pm winter, 12noon - 3pm summer.



Group days out

## Take care and help us protect the wildlife here

- Please be careful near water.
- Enjoy your close encounters with wildlife here but remember all animals can carry diseases. Washing your hands is a sensible way to protect yourself, especially before eating. 
- Birds have ears too – you'll see more around the reserve and in hides if you are quiet and approach slowly.
- For healthy birds, please do not feed them bread as grain is their preferred choice.
- Wheeled toys – you are welcome to leave these behind reception as they can be a hazard to wildlife and other visitors.
- Guide dogs & listening dogs only.



Bottoms up

## See you next time

For information on regular and seasonal events, wildlife sightings, birthday parties, group, corporate functions and after hours opening, go to [www.org.uk/castleespie](http://www.org.uk/castleespie)

Sign up for our newsletter at [www.org.uk/signup](http://www.org.uk/signup)

 @WWTCastleEspie

 WWT Castle Espie

### **Volunteering at WWT Castle Espie**

If you enjoyed today and are interested in volunteering, please speak to a member of staff for more details.

 **Castle Espie**  
WWT Wetland Centre

78 Ballydrain Road, Comber, Co Down, N Ireland, BT23 6EA

WWT reg charity, Eng & Wales, no. 1030884 and Scotland no. SC039410

