

# Falls of Clyde Access Guide



## Before Your Visit

- The Visitor Centre is open daily from 10am – 4pm.
- The Visitor Centre is currently unmanned, although non-members are asked to pay £3.
- Free entry to Scottish Wildlife Trust members.
- Assistance dogs welcome.
- Phone 01555 665262

Email [fallsofclcyde@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:fallsofclcyde@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk)

- SWT will promote and provide, where practical, access to its wildlife reserves for all individuals, irrespective of age and ability in accordance with the location, terrain and nature conservation requirements of the reserve. For further information on the trusts access policy [please click here](#).

## Getting to the Reserve

- The Visitor Centre address is;

Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre  
New Lanark  
South Lanarkshire  
ML11 9DB

- **By road;** The Visitor Centre is located within the New Lanark World Heritage Site, 1 mile south of Lanark, off the A73. Just follow the brown signs for the Heritage Site until you arrive at the site entrance. The main car park is situated at the top of the hill, with a fairly steep descent to the village. However, blue badge holders may park in the village's designated spaces. There are 4 spaces in front of the New Lanark Visitor Centre main entrance and 4 at the entrance of the New Lanark Mill Hotel. If you contact staff members in advance it can be arranged for you to park closer to the Visitor Centre.
- **By bus;** There is a bus service available between Buchanan Bus Station in Glasgow and Lanark. You can then take the hourly number 135 bus from Lanark to New Lanark. For timetables, visit [Traveline Scotland](#).
- **By train;** Two trains every hour run from Glasgow Central or Motherwell to Lanark, full details can be found on the [ScotRail website](#). There's a taxi stance and bus stop just outside the station.

## Parking

- The main car park is situated at the top of a fairly steep hill, with a footpath leading down to the Visitor Centre. There are also spaces available for coaches. If the distance is too great for passengers to walk from the main car park, cars without Blue Badges are permitted to drive down into New Lanark village and drop off/pick up passengers before returning to park in the main car park.
- Blue Badge holders may park in the village at the designated parking spaces. There are 4 designated spaces in front of the main New Lanark Visitor Centre entrance and 4 at the front entrance of the New Lanark Mill Hotel. If you call up the Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre (01555 665262) you can arrange parking outside the Centre. This involves driving along a busy, predominantly pedestrianized area, so pre warning is advised.
- If using the parking spaces outside the New Lanark Visitor Centre you can go to the Visitor Centre reception desk and ask to use their lift. This lift will take you down to the outer ground level and allows you to avoid a large section of the walk to Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre. The lift holds a maximum of 8 people standing (630kg) and provides audio alerts to floors and door movement.
- If parking in any of the New Lanark designated spaces the walk to the Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre is straight forward but fairly long. The entire route is on a wide, smooth tarred surface. If following the Scottish Wildlife Trust

signs, they will advise you to come off of the tarred surface and walk along an uneven cobbled path. This, however, isn't fully accessible (leads to a deep gravel path and set of stairs), so it's advised to continue down the slope on the tarred surface until you reach the Visitor Centre.

## Visitor Centre

- The Visitor Centre is currently unmanned so it's important that you call ahead if you have any special requirements or need assistance.
- The Visitor Centre is accessed through a single backwards opening door 106cm wide.
- The inside of the Visitor Centre is fully accessible, with a level, smooth surfaced floor and adequate space between exhibits for full manoeuvrability. The workbenches, exhibits and viewing window are all at a good height for wheelchair users.
- There is a fully accessible education room situated within the main Visitor Centre, which is used for activities and events. The room is accessed via a set of sliding double doors, the flooring is again flat and smooth and there is adequate space within for manoeuvrability.
- There is a fixed loop hearing system in place within the Visitor Centre.

## Toilet and Baby Change Facilities

- Fully accessible toilets and baby change facilities are available in the New Lanark Visitor Centre. They can be found in the foyer of the main Visitor Centre reception, in the Mill Pantry cafeteria (accessed via a ramp) and in Robert Owen's School.

## Events

- The ranger team runs an events programme throughout the year. Events are held both in the Centre and on the reserve. Details can be found in the Scottish Wildlife Trust's [Events & Activities Guide](#).
- A lot of the events include activities that take place across the reserve and therefore aren't fully accessible, for full details please call or email the Visitor Centre in advance.

## Reserve Walks

- Two of the reserves walks, the Clyde walkway (5km) and the woodland trail (3km) start from the main Visitor Centre area whilst the other two, the Corehouse trail (2.5km) and Bonnington trail (3km) start from the West Lodge car park at the other side of the reserve.
- To avoid disappointment it's worth noting that although some sections of the walks are accessible, due to the terrain and gradient of paths any visitor with access issues and particularly using a wheelchair is unlikely to be able to complete any of the full walks.
- **Access to Peregrine site;** The walk to the Peregrine site and back is roughly 5km. The path begins with a set of 37 stone and gravel steps with a hand rail on the right hand side. At the top of the steps there is a compacted mud trail that's slightly uneven at points and has several upward slopes. The trail also has narrow stone doorways and drainage channels at several different points. There is then a wide (170cm) wooden boardwalk for a considerable length before moving onto a fine gravel path with steep upward slopes. There's then a set of 103 steps varying from stone, gravel and wooden surfaces, the majority of sections having handrails but there are some smaller sections without. The final section of the path to the Peregrine site is an uneven compacted mud surface with roots and some narrow passages. Just before the site there's a section of 6 downward steps and 5 upward.