



## **Rockingham Forest Trust – Stanwick Lakes**

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 Stanwick Lakes Visitor Attraction**

#### **Introduction**

Situated off the Stanwick roundabout on the A45 in East Northamptonshire between Wellingborough (eight miles away) and Thrapston (seven miles away), Stanwick Lakes tells the story of the area from quarry to Countryside Attraction and Nature Reserve. The Stanwick Lakes visitor centre and adjacent car park is situated on level ground.

The majority of the site's facilities are wheelchair and buggy accessible, including the visitor centre, toilets, rangers' log cabin, bird hide, the network of footpaths and cycle paths, and areas within the central adventure playground. There are frequent seats and benches along the paths. The majority of paths are level and surfaced, grass paths are mown.

A lift is situated in the café area to allow disabled visitors to access the mezzanine seating area where the archaeological finds are kept. The outdoor heritage trail is accessible by wheelchair.

Every Tuesday a health walk is led from the Visitor Centre at 10am. We encourage all visitors to touch and explore the sculptures, heritage trail markers and willow structures in the park. An electric buggy is available for loan free of charge from the cycle hire cabin upon prior request during school holidays and weekends (April-Oct).

You can also enjoy our café and shop selling a range of gifts. These are all situated on the ground floor with step free access.

Rangers and visitor centre staff are on hand should you require any assistance.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any



assistance please phone 01933 625522 or email [info@rftrust.org.uk](mailto:info@rftrust.org.uk).

## **Pre-Arrival**

- For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the 'How to Find Us' section of our website  
<http://www.stanwicklakes.org.uk/northampton/visit/location/>.  
Alternatively, you can plan your journey by car or public transport using [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info); simply enter your postcode and ours, which is NN9 6GY to get directions.
- The nearest railway station is Wellingborough, which is 7.7 miles away.
- Taxis are available at the station.

## **Car Parking and Arrival**

- There is parking on site for 250 cars and 2 clearly marked Blue Badge parking spaces in front of the pay station, which are 10m/10.9yds from the main entrance.
- The on-site car park surface is made of compressed granite.
- There is a drop off point at the main entrance, with a dropped kerb.

## **Main Entrance, Reception and Shop Area**

- The main entrance, reception and shop area is situated on the ground floor with step free, level access, throughout.
- The entrance doors are double, both of which are 902mm wide.
- The floor surface is tiled.
- The area is evenly and well lit with overhead lighting from fluorescent lights.
- There is a lowered section on the reception desk.

## **Public Toilets**

- Public toilets are located on the ground floor of the visitor centre with level access from the main entrance and shop area.
- There is a unisex toilet near the café in the visitor centre.
- There are additional unisex toilets situated outside behind the refreshment kiosk.

## **Accessible Toilet**



- There is an accessible toilet near the shop.
- It has a light, easy-open door 902mm.
- 1000mm transfer space to the left of the ground floor toilet and to the right of the first floor toilet, when facing the toilet.
- The toilet height is 460mm.
- There are vertical rails either side of both basin and toilet.
- There is a horizontal rail on the side wall adjacent to the toilet.
- There is colour contrast with critical surfaces; all rails are blue and the toilet and wash basins are white, the toilet seat is black.



- A light flashes when the fire alarm sounds, (mounted in the ceiling).
- An emergency alarm pull cord (connected to reception).
- The toilets are well lit with fluorescent tube overhead lighting with a low level light switch.
- The flooring is ceramic tile.
- There are lever taps on the sinks.

## **Catering**

- The café is situated on the ground floor and has step free level access from the entrance.
- The café has step free level access to the outdoor decking area overlooking the lake.
- A lift is situated in the café area allowing access to the mezzanine seating area where archaeological finds are displayed.
- The entrance doors to the café are 901mm wide.
- Tables in the restaurant and café are well spaced apart, with a clear height from the floor of 760mm, with upright chairs without arms.
- Lighting in all areas is natural daylight with overhead lighting used.
- The flooring in the café is tiled.
- Where possible all our food produce is locally sourced. We do our best to cater for any dietary requirements; please contact us in advance to check any specific requests you may have.
- The cafe is self-service, however, staff can assist on request.
- Specials of the day are shown on a blackboard. All staff can assist by running through menus with you.
- The nearest public toilet with an accessible WC is inside the visitor centre, near the main entrance, approximately 20 metres from the café.
- There is also a unisex toilet just off the café area.

## **Shop**

- There is a shop with a range of gifts, souvenirs and books etc. which can be accessed directly from the main entrance area.



- The shop is level throughout.
- A low level desk & counter are provided.
- There is ample room within the shop for a large wheelchair to manoeuvre and turn.
- There are tall display racks and low tables accessible from a seated position.
- There is background music playing.
- Staff can offer assistance if required.

### **Stanwick Lakes Nature Reserve**

- The majority of the paths around the nature reserve are covered with loose gravel, and are level or have gentle inclines up to the bridges.
- There is a picnic area in the 'hub' and one near the adventure playground and rangers cabin with accessible wooden picnic benches.
- There is also a small picnic area on a level lawn next to the kiosk. This has several circular wooden picnic benches (not wheelchair accessible).
- Main pathways are 3000mm.
- Between pathways there are grass areas, which can be uneven underfoot.
- There are wooden benches at intervals around the nature reserve.
- The main bird hide nearest the hub is accessible via a ramp.

### **Additional Information**

- All of our staff receive regular training that includes disability awareness training.
- We have a set of evacuation procedures – should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation either out of the building or out of the decking area or to a refuge.
- A water bowl is available at the main entrance/exit for assistance dogs and on the decking.



- Clear signage is used throughout the attraction.
- There is an area to charge a mobility scooter and battery powered wheelchair at the welcome/ticketing desk. There is also a mobility scooter available to hire for a nominal fee from the cycle hire cabin open at weekends and during the schools holidays. For details contact A J Bikes on 07969 907 115 or [www.ajcycles.co.uk](http://www.ajcycles.co.uk).
- We can offer a list of nearby accommodation and details of their Access Statements for information, where available.

### **Future Plans**

- We are planning a review of our website next year to make it more accessible, your comments are welcome to assist us with this project.

### **Contact Information**

Address	Stanwick Lakes, Stanwick, Northamptonshire, NN9 6GY
Telephone	01933 625522
Email	<a href="mailto:info@rftrust.org.uk">info@rftrust.org.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.stanwicklakes.org.uk">www.stanwicklakes.org.uk</a>
Hours of Operation	Open all year round except Christmas Day