

# Accessibility Guide for RSPB Scotland Mersehead

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**Contact for accessibility enquiries: Call 01387 780 579 and ask for a member of staff who will help you with your enquiry.**



### Welcome

Mersehead is a real Solway gem in Dumfries & Galloway, situated 18 miles from Dumfries. This working farm boasts a wide variety of habitats in breath-taking surroundings, with wild barnacle geese in autumn/winter and lapwings and natterjacks toads in the spring/summer. It's a stunning example of freshwater wetland habitats, set beside wide expanses of intertidal sand and mudflats, woodland, saltmarsh, farmland and a fabulous beach. A great place for wheelchair access, to wetland hides and towards the beach (just beyond sand dunes).  
Read more at [https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/mersehead/#XG65...](https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/mersehead/#XG655caTp5p0Rjwx.99)

Watch the video: [A short film about disabled access at the RSPB's Mersehead](https://youtu.be/BYo8InZlm1w)

## At a Glance

### Level Access

* There is level access from the main entrance to:
  + Dining Table
  + Visitor Centre Information Desk
  + Visitor Toilets
  + Two Bird Hides
  + Sulwath Garden
* There is level access from the car park to:
  + Beach
  + Car Park Picnic Area
* The hide entrance has level access.

### General

* There is at least 1 public toilet for disabled visitors.

## Getting here

RSPB Mersehead  
Southwick  
Dumfries  
DG2 8AH

#### Travel by public transport

* You can get to RSPB Scotland Mersehead by bus and train.
* The nearest bus stop is at Caulkerbush (Southwick) approximately 1 mile from the visitor centre. Bus 372 Dumfries-Dalbeattie approximately every two hours. Visit the Dumfries & Galloway website for timetable information http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetableswebsite The bus stop is 1.0 miles / 1.6 km from RSPB Scotland Mersehead.
* The nearest train station is Dumfries. The train station is 17 miles / 27.4 km from RSPB Scotland Mersehead.
* There are regular trains to Dumfries, however to continue to the reserve on public transport a bus and short walk will be required.

#### Travel by taxi

* We have a transfer service for visitors. Wheelchair users can use the transfer service.

#### Parking

* We have a car park. There are accessible parking spaces. The parking is less than 50 metres from the main entrance. Parking is not free.
* There is a drop-off point at the main entrance. The drop-off point does not have a dropped kerb.
* From the car park to the entrance, there is level access. The route is 3000mm wide, or more.
* There is no car park fee for RSPB Memebers  
  Non-RSPB member costs are £3 per car to park

  
View from the carpark to the Visitor Centre

## Arrival

#### Path to main entrance

* From the street to the main entrance, there is level access.
* The path is 3000mm wide, or more.

#### Main entrance

* The door is 762mm wide.
* The main entrance has 0 steps.
* The main door is side hung and manual.

  
View of visitor centre entrance

## Getting around inside

#### Ticket/ information desk

#### Visitor Centre Information Desk

* From the main entrance to the desk, there is level access. The route is 3000mm wide, or more.
* Desk is low enough to interface with wheelchair users

#### Public toilet

#### Visitor Toilets

* There is a public toilet for disabled visitors.
* From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. The route is 762mm wide, or more.
* The toilet door is 962mm wide.
* The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the right.
* There is 1500mm at the side of the toilet. There is 1500mm in front of the toilet. The toilets have handrails.
* Disabled toilet has been built to meet standards required under UK Equality Act

#### Place to eat and drink

#### Cafe Lite

* From the main entrance to the dining area, there is level access. The route is 1500mm wide, or more. The door is 1500mm wide.
* To get to a table, there are no steps.
* The dining area is self-service. If you need table service, staff can help you.
* The route through the dining area is 800mm wide, or more.
* There is no background music.
* The table and plates have high colour contrast.
* The self-service cafe area only offers a very limited range of packaged snacks, hot drinks and free tap water.

#### Two Bird Hides

* From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The route is 762mm wide, or more.
* The door is 800mm wide.
* Two hides with step-free, ramped access on Wetland Trail.  
  Blue Badge parking bays 400 m from hides

## Getting around outside

#### Designated Walking Trail

#### Wetland Trail

* The trail is 3600metres long. The trail has a hard surface. The trail is sloped. The trail has seats. There are bird hides along the trail.

#### Designated Walking Trail

#### Coastal Trail

* The trail is 5000metres long. Some of the trail has a loose surface. Trail follows 1000m of shoreline of essentially soft sand and crosses two points of sand-dunes. A further 1600m follows a rout along an earth/grass path and farm track, not accessible by standard wheelchairs. The trail is sloped.
* Access to the beach area is passable by wheelchair (on clockwise route of this circular trail) but crossing the sand-dune threshold would be difficult by wheelchair iff unassisted. The solid surfaced path stops short of sand-dunes but beyonmd this point consists of softer sand.

#### Bruaich Hide

* At the hide entrance, there is level access. The door is 800.00mm wide.
* There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

#### Meida Hide

* At the hide entrance, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The door is 800.00mm wide.
* There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

#### Beach

* The beach access point is 500.00meters from the nearest car park.
* From the nearest car park to the beach, there is level access. The path is 3000mm wide, or more.
* The entrance is 3000mm wide.
* Access to the beach area is passable by wheelchair but crossing the sand-dune threshold would be difficult by wheelchair iff unassisted. The solid surfaced path stops short of sand-dunes but beyonmd this point consists of softer sand.

#### Picnic Area

#### Car Park Picnic Area

* From the car park to the picnic area, there is level access. The path is 5000mm wide, or more.
* The entrance is 5000mm wide.
* Some tables have space for wheelchair users. You can bring your own food to the picnic area.
* A single wheelchair friendly picnic table is available and two more picnic tables (non-wheelchair compliant)

#### Sulwath Garden

* From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The route is 1500mm wide, or more. The entrance is 1500mm wide.
* Beyond the gate into garden area, there are no further gates but a series of grass mowed paths which may be difficult to access by wheelchair, without assistance.

## Customer care support

Guide last updated: 20 December 2022