

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 Polkemmet Country Park



Introduction

Polkemmet Country Park

Polkemmet Country Park is a popular 68 hectare (168 acre) visitor attraction near Whitburn. The Park offers beautiful woodland and riverside walks, play area, picnic areas with seating and a BBQ facility. The Park also provides a golf course, a driving range and a bowling green.

At Polkemmet Country Park you can find:-

- Visitor Centre (further information below)
- Ranger Service
- Toilets
- 9 hole Golf Course
- 16 Bay Driving Range
- Bowling Green
- Play Area
- BBQ Area
- Riverside and Woodland Walks
- Historical and heritage features including the Mausoleum and the Horn
- The Scottish Owl Centre (concession)
- Courtyard Café (concession)
- Polkemmet Daycare (concession)

Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre, housed in the old stable complex, offers a warm welcome together with information and advice, interpretative displays, cold drinks, confectionary, ice creams and refreshments. It offers information on local walks, wildlife and history as well as handling all bookings for the golf, driving range, bowling green, Ranger Service and barbecues.

The Visitor Centre is based on ground level and accessible by wheelchair. West Lothian Leisure staff run the Visitor Centre reception area.

There is a 'Meeting Room' available to hire for a reasonable fee and often used by community groups or other gatherings.

Polkemmet is well served for parking with four car parks. There are 6 disabled bays located in the Train Car Park, close the Visitor Centre.

The Visitor Centre is open:-

- April: Monday–Friday 09:00-19:00, Saturday & Sunday 07:00-17:00
- May to August: Monday–Friday 07:00-20:00, Saturday & Sunday 07:00-17:00
- September: Monday–Friday 08:00-19:00, Saturday & Sunday 07:00-17:00
- October to March: Monday–Sunday 08:30-16:15

Please [click here](#) to view our service standard for our Visitor Centre.

Pre-Arrival

For full details and maps of how to reach us, please see the directions section of our website at www.beecraigs.com

On Foot/Cycle: Easily accessible on foot from Whitburn (2km) and Harthill (2km) via footpath along the B7066.

Bus Service: Buses run from Livingston, Shotts and Edinburgh to Whitburn and B7066, with the bus stops adjacent to the Park's main entrance, approximately 550 metres from the Visitor Centre. There are no direct public transport links to the Park's car parks.

For advice, contact the West Lothian Travel Hotline on 01506 775288 or Traveline on 0871 220 2233.

By Train: For advice, contact Traveline on 0871 220 2233. The nearest train station is situated in Armadale. For rail information telephone the National Rail Enquiry Line on 08457 484950.

By Car: Leave the M8 at J4A Heartlands coming from Edinburgh and J5 coming from Glasgow, following the signs to the Country Park which lies on the B7066, midway between Whitburn and Harthill. The Country Park is next to the new Heartlands development.

Car Parking: Four car parks provide good access to all the Park's facilities.

- Train Car Park (good access to the Play Area and Owl Centre)

Access to this car park is down the drive from our main entrance and is clearly marked. The car park is tarmacked and has 55 bays, 6 of which are designated for disabled visitors, with drop off also available at the door. The designated disabled bays are 65 metres from the Visitor Centre.

- Golf Car park

This is the car park mainly used by golfers using the course and is situated approximately 75 metres from the Visitor Centre. It has a hard rolled stone surface and can accommodate approximately 40 cars.

- Driving Range

There is limited car parking here for 35 cars. The surface is hard rolled stone. Access to the Driving Range is 10 metres and the Visitor Centre is 200 metres back along the main drive.

- South Car Park

The South Car Park surface is hard rolled stone. This is the first car park you pass (on the left hand side) as you come down the main driveway and is 500 metres from the Visitor Centre. There is room for approximately 65 cars. There is a traffic free route from this car park to the Visitor Centre which is 400 metres, accessed along the main driveway.

The main entrance gate to the Park is locked at 21:45 (April – September) and 20:30 (October – March).

If you are planning to bring a bus or horse box to Polkemmet, please ring the Visitor Centre well in advance and advice will be provided on where best to park.

Information and map boards are placed at all car parks to assist you on your arrival to the park.

Edinburgh Airport is approximately 17 miles and a 20 minute drive.

Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area

- The main entrance to the Visitor Centre is located on ground level with paving stones leading to the front door.
- The front entrance door is 0.82 metres wide but can be opened up further to 1.65 metres wide if required. Through the door is a porch area of 4.5 metres x 2.8 metres.
- The reception area is then accessed through another door that is 0.95 metres wide but can be opened further to 1.9 metres if required.
- The reception area is approximately 4.4 metres x 11.4 metres and includes reception desk, display cases, vending machine and ice-cream freezer. This is also the entrance point for the Scottish Owl Centre.
- The floor surface of Reception is carpet.
- The area is well lit with both natural light and overhead lighting.

- A portable hearing loop is located on the main reception desk.

Attraction (displays, exhibits, etc.)

- As well as information and interpretation panels, there are also leaflets available to collect and in other formats on request.
- The Meeting Room is accessed outside from the front of the building with a 1.05 metres wide door accessing a porch area of 1.1 metres x 2.9 metres followed by a second door 86cm wide.
- The area is large and uncluttered approximately 4.85 metres x 6.0 metres.
- The flooring in the Meeting Room is carpet.
- The area is well lit with both natural and an overhead lighting system.
- Folding tables and stacking chairs are available for use.

Public Toilets

- The Visitor Centre toilets are accessed outside from the front of the building (next to the Meeting Room).
- The toilets are accessible to manual wheelchairs but door width may restrict some power chairs.
- The toilets are clearly marked with signage.
- The entrance doors to both male and female toilets are held open during opening hours and are 0.95 metres wide.
- In both toilets, there are 2 cubicles where the toilet height is 0.4 metres.
- In the male toilet, there is a urinal trough at ground level.
- In both toilets, the sink height is 0.82 metres.
- In both toilets, the hand drier height is 1.2 metres.
- In both toilets, there is a single disabled toilet cubicle where the toilet height is 0.5 metres and the sink is 0.7 metres. Both have a baby changing table and nappy bin. In the male toilet the table is at a height of 0.9 metres and 0.75 metres in the female toilet.
- Transfer space in the male disabled cubicle is 1.6 metres x 1.1 metres and 1.6 metres x 0.85 metres with the baby changing table folded down.
- Transfer space in the female disabled cubicle is 1.4 metres x 2.6 metres.
- In both disabled cubicles, there is a horizontal rail and vertical rail system. The vertical rail is at a height of 1.0 metres, and the horizontal rail is a double bar at heights of 0.6 metres and 0.8 metres.
- Access to the block is by a paved path 40 metres from the Visitor Centre entrance.

Catering

- Refreshments are available from a cold drinks machine located in reception.
- A selection of biscuits, confectionary and ice cream are available to purchase from reception.
- There is also a café onsite (concession – contact directly for facilities and opening times).
- Outdoor picnic benches with wheelchair accessibility are available within the courtyard.
- The courtyard surfacing is red stone chips with a paving slab path around the edge.
- Additional picnic benches are available in the Play Area, approximately 100 metres from the Visitor Centre.

Shop(s)

- The Scottish Owl Centre reception is accessed via the Visitor Centre (concession – contact directly for information and opening times).

Driving Range

- The main entrance to the Driving Range is located on ground level with concrete surfacing. There is a 2.2 metre wide concrete path with a slight incline from the Driving Range car park to the entrance.
- The entrance door is 0.85 metres wide.
- There is a 0.06 metre step up onto the Driving Range itself.
- Driving Range bays are 2.65 metres wide and 3.65 metres long.

Bowling Green

- The main entrance to the bowling green is located on ground level and leads to the Pavilion. It is a short but moderately steep decline from the Car Park.
- Access to the playing surface is by 2 metal steps with supporting handrail.

Grounds and Gardens

- Polkemmet is 68 hectares in size and as well as the Golf Course, features the River Almond, woodland and some open meadow areas.
- The Play Area is located opposite the Visitor Centre building.
- A family BBQ area is also situated in this grassed area. Nearest stone path access is approximately 2 metres.
- The Red Route is a 2.3km circular waymarked route beginning at the Visitor Centre. The Red route paths include trodden earth paths, stone surfaced paths and tarmac. They range from 1.5 metres – 3.0 metres in width.
- The Blue Route is a 1.6km circular waymarked route beginning at the Visitor Centre. The Blue Route paths include trodden earth paths, grassy paths, stone surfaced paths, boardwalk and tarmac. They range from 1.0 metres – 3.0 metres in width.
- Due to the nature of the park and its different terrains, disabled visitors looking for appropriate routes should contact the Visitor Centre for advice.

Contact Information

Address: The Visitor Centre, Polkemmet Country Park, Whitburn, West Lothian, EH47 0AD

Telephone: 01501 743905

Email: polkemmet@westlothian.gov.uk

Website: www.beebraigs.com

Grid Reference: NS 923 649

Hours of Operation: April: Monday-Friday 09:00-19:00, Saturday & Sunday 07:00-17:00

May to August: Monday-Friday 07:00-20:00, Saturday-Sunday 07:00-17:00

September: Monday-Friday 08:00-19:00, Saturday-Sunday 07:00-17:00

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Local Public Transport: First Bus / Traveline