

Accessibility Guide for Almondell & Calderwood Country Park

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<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/almondell-and-calderwood>



Welcome

Almondell & Calderwood Country Park stretches along the picturesque valley of the River Almond and is located between the historical villages of Mid Calder, East Calder and Broxburn.

Based around adjoining old estates, the area has much to offer.

Almondell has a network of surfaced paths and opportunities for wildlife watching, cycling, picnicking and outdoor play. It is a peaceful park with Visitor Centre and garden area cared for by volunteers.

Calderwood is the largest area of ancient woodland in West Lothian and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Unsurfaced, undulating paths accentuate wildness and it is home to a wealth of wildlife including badger, deer and woodpecker.

At a Glance

Level Access

- There is level access from the main entrance to:

- Visitor Centre Reception
- Visitor Centre and Walled Garden Toilets
- Information / Aquaria Room
- Exhibition Room
- Meeting Room
- Visitor Centre Garden
- There is level access from the car park to:
 - Walled Garden



Access with steps

- There are steps from the main entrance to:
 - Conservatory
 - Visitor Centre Garden



Hearing

- There is a hearing loop in Visitor Centre Reception.
- Some staff have disability awareness training.



Visual

- Some parts of the venue have low lighting.
- We have display information in audio.
- We have information in audio.



General

- Some staff have disability awareness training.

Getting here

The Visitor Centre
 Almondell & Calderwood Country Park
 By Broxburn
 EH52 5PE



Travel by public transport

- You can get to Almondell & Calderwood Country Park by bus and train.
- The nearest bus stop is located close to our South Entrance on Main Street, East Calder (B7015). There is a shelter with perch seating and printed timetable. The X27 from Edinburgh to Livingston / Bathgate / Whitburn runs hourly and is currently operated by Lothian Country. There are additional bus routes including the X28 and X22 available from Langton Rd in East Calder (a further 0.75mils from our entrance). Please contact Traveline Scotland / www.travelinescotland.com / 0871 200 2233 for full details of timetables. The bus stop is 0.75 miles / 11.3 km from Almondell & Calderwood Country Park.
- The nearest train station is Uphall Station. The train station is 2.5 miles / 4.0 km from Almondell & Calderwood Country Park.
- Almondell is linked to the train station by a 2.5mils / 4km multi-use path following the line of the old railway. A steep set of steps leads down to Almondell from the railway viaduct. Alternatively, you can continue on the path to East Calder and the main south

entrance to Almondell. This station is on the main Edinburgh to Glasgow Central line with journey time from Edinburgh being 20mins and with several trains each hour.



Travel by taxi

- You can get a taxi with All the Fours by calling 01506 444 444. The taxi company has a wheelchair accessible vehicle.



Parking

- There is parking near the venue. There are accessible parking spaces. Parking is free.
- There is a drop-off point at the main entrance. The drop-off point has a dropped kerb.
- There are 3 car parks and 1 disabled / authorised-only use car park directly linked to the Country Park.

Parking for visitors with a disability is available 100metres from the Visitor Centre for all Blue Badge parking permit holders, with drop-off available at the door. This car park is tarmacked and will hold approximately 25 cars. Access to this car park is down the drive from our North Entrance and is clearly marked. Drive between the two gate lodges and down the hill for 400metres. The driveway is single track and speed limited to 10mph. There are 3 laybys to allow passing. Please be aware of people, dogs, cyclists and horses using this road.

The North Car Park is located to the north end of the Park and can be accessed from the villages of Pumpherston and Broxburn. This is the car park closest to the Visitor Centre and situated approximately 400metres away. It has a hard-rolled stone surface and can accommodate approximately 50 cars. Access to the Visitor Centre is signposted via tarmac driveway or a 1.5metre wide, stone surface accessible off-road path.

The South Car Park is located at the south end of the Park and access from the B7015, East Calder Main Street. There is limited car parking here for 12 cars. The surface is hard rolled stone. Access to the Country Park is by a stone surfaced path for 40metres leading to the tarmacked driveway. Follow the tarmac drive for a further 1.2km to reach the Visitor Centre. When busy, shared parking is available in the new cemetery car park opposite, this car park is tarmacked with space for 60 cars.

Mid Calder Car Park is located on the Pumpherston Road, Mid Calder. There is limited parking here for 10 cars. The surface is hard rolled stone. Access to Visitor Centre is by stone surfaced path, 1.5metres wide for 2.5km.

Arrival



Main entrance

- The main entrance has level access.
- The door is 800mm wide.
- The door has a push button to open it.

Getting around inside

Visual Impairment - General Information

- Some parts of the venue have low lighting.



Ticket/ information desk

Visitor Centre Reception

- From the main entrance to the desk, there is level access. The route is 800mm wide, or more.
- The desk has a low section.

- Our Reception also hosts a small shop with vending machines for hot and cold drinks, ice creams, confectionary and gifts.



Reception

Things to See and Do

- We have display information in: audio.
- There is a hearing loop.
- Videos have subtitles.

Public toilet

Visitor Centre and Walled Garden Toilets

- There is a public toilet for disabled visitors.
- The toilet is a Changing Places toilet.
- You need a RADAR key to open the public toilet.
- From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. The route is 850mm wide, or more.
- The toilet door is 850mm wide.
- The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the right.
- There is 1500mm at the side of the toilet. There is 1100mm in front of the toilet. The toilet seat is 470mm high. The toilets have handrails.
- The Disabled Toilet with RADAR lock is situated in the toilet block in the Walled Garden. Access to the block is by a rolled stone path 50metres from the Visitor Centre. The entrance door is 85cm wide and pulls open toward you on entering. This accessible toilet is roomy with transfer space of 2.2 x 1.8metres. The toilet height is 47cm. The sink height is 70cm. A pull down horizontal bar and fixed vertical wall rail are available. Hand drier height 1metre. An emergency pull cord system is in situ. Baby changing and nappy bin available. Nappy change unit is 60cm height above ground.



Visitor Centre toilet



Garden toilets



[Shop](#)



Reception vending



Reception stock

Information / Aquaria Room

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The route is 760mm wide, or more.
- The door is 760mm wide.
- The Information Room is accessed from Reception and features wall-hung displays showing the history of Almondell & Calderwood. Several aquaria offer a close up view of fish found in local waterways and tell the story of the River Almond. The door between Reception and Information Room is 76cm wide. This area is large and uncluttered approximately 8 x 4metres. The flooring is non-slip vinyl. The area is lit with overhead spotlights and a large window. Leaflets are available to collect and in other formats on request.



Information / Interpretation Room

Exhibition Room

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The route is 760mm wide, or more.
- The door is 760mm wide.
- Access to the Exhibition Room from the Information / Aquaria Room is via a hallway with ramped step and 76cm wide door.

The Exhibition Room features a variety of work by local artists and is changed approximately every 6 weeks. This area is large and uncluttered - approximately 7 x 4metres. The flooring in the Exhibition Room is non-slip vinyl. The area is well lit with natural light and overhead spotlights.



Exhibition Room

Conservatory

- From the main entrance to this area, there are 3 steps. There is no lift and no ramp.
- The Conservatory seating area is accessed down 3 angled steps from the Information Room. Steps are narrow and steep and use of handrail is recommended. Access to the conservatory for wheelchairs is from the garden via a ramp. The ramp is 1.2metres wide with kick plate and side rails. The entrance door from the garden has a push bar and is 78cm wide.

The area measures approximately 8 x 2metres and has a mix of tables with padded bench seating and metal bistro tables with chairs. Benches and seats are 45cm high and tables 75cm.



Conservatory seating

Meeting Room

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The route is 760mm wide, or more.
- The door is 760mm wide.
- Access to the Meeting Room is from reception through 76cm wide door.
The area is large and uncluttered approximately 7 x 4metres. The flooring in the Meeting Room is non-slip vinyl. The area is well lit with both natural and overhead lighting system. Folding tables and stacking chairs are available for use.
The Meeting Room is used for exhibitions and is available to hire for meetings, events and activities.



Meeting Room

Getting around outside

Visitor Centre Garden

- From the main entrance to the gardens, there are 3 steps. There is no lift and no ramp.
- The route is sloped.
- A gently sloping ramp leads from the Conservatory to the garden and is easily accessible for both wheel and push chairs.



Visitor Centre Garden

Designated Walking Trail

Red Route

- The trail is 1600metres long. The trail has a hard surface. The historical Canal-Feeder Aqueduct has a narrow entrance / exit of approximately 1m. The trail is sloped. The trail has seats.
- The Red Route provides a picturesque snapshot of Almondell following the river path on a circular route from the Visitor Centre to the historical Nasmyth Bridge (or Almondell Bridge) and on to the Canal Feeder Aqueduct, returning by the Dell Bridge and site of the old Almondell House (no longer here). Look out for wildlife including otter, dipper, kingfisher, roe deer and badger - wildlife trail panels offer information along the way.



Nasmyth Bridge

Picnic Area

Walled Garden

- From the car park to the picnic area, there is level access. The path is 2000mm wide, or more.
- The entrance is 2000mm wide.
- Some tables have space for wheelchair users. You can bring your own food to the picnic area.
- The Walled Garden is adjacent to the Visitor Centre and has a children's Play Area, large grass area, BBQ area and several picnic tables and benches. The area is gently sloping.



Play Area in Walled Garden

Visitor Centre Garden

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The route is 780mm wide, or more. The entrance is 780mm wide.
- The Visitor Centre Garden is a formal garden and managed by volunteers from the Friends of Almondell and provides a peaceful and sheltered place to rest. There are 4 picnic tables, each with wheelchair access and 6 memorial seats. A 200m stone surfaced path circles the garden with access to the Play Area through a 1.8m gate.

Customer care support

Accessibility equipment

- We have a hearing loop in Visitor Centre Reception.
- Grassy area located 5m from front of Visitor Centre.

Emergency evacuation procedures

- We have emergency evacuation procedures for disabled visitors.

Customer care support

- Some staff have disability awareness training.
- We have information in audio.
- Information in other formats is available through the council on request.