

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.



## **Almondell & Calderwood Country Park Access Statement**

### **Introduction**

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. The nearest large town is Livingston, 3 miles away.

Based around the two historical adjoining estates of Almondell and Calderwood and with a history going back 340 million years to the time of the Carboniferous swamps, this area has much to offer its visitors.

Almondell offers great opportunity for walking on a network of surfaced paths, wildlife watching, cycling, picnicking and outdoor play. It is a peaceful park with Visitor Centre and garden area cared for by an enthusiastic group of volunteers.

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

### **Visitor Centre**

The Visitor Centre located in Almondell offers information on local walks, wildlife and history together with changing displays. Refreshments are available from our hot and cold drinks vending machines along with a selection of confectionary and ice cream from Reception. There is a small retail area offering a range of gift items.

The Visitor Centre is based on ground level but with a dropped set of three angled steps to the Conservatory seating area which can also be accessed by wheelchair from the garden via an access ramp.

The Reception leading to information, exhibition and meeting rooms are all on ground level and accessible by wheelchair.

Within the Information Room, displays tell the history of the old estate and stories of the River Almond. There are also several aquaria offering close up view of fish found in local waterways.

The Exhibition Room features exhibits by mainly local artists on a variety of themes. The exhibitions change every 6 weeks and some paintings / artworks are available for sale.

The Meeting Room is available to hire for a reasonable fee and often used by community groups or celebratory gatherings.

The Visitor Centre Garden to the rear of the building is a tranquil spot looked after by volunteers and provides a lovely place to sit and enjoy a quiet moment or picnic.

If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01506 882254 or email [almondell&calderwood@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:almondell&calderwood@westlothian.gov.uk)

### **Pre-Arrival**

- For full details and maps, see the directions section of our website [www.beecraigs.com](http://www.beecraigs.com)
- Walking access is available from nearby villages of East Calder (1.2km) and Mid Calder (2.4km).
- The nearest bus stop is located at South Entrance, East Calder Main Street, 1.2km from the Visitor Centre. This service is currently operated by First Bus - the Number 27 from Edinburgh to Livingston

/ Bathgate runs hourly. There is a shelter and perch seating. Please contact Traveline Scotland / [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com) / 0871 200 2233 for full details of timetables.

- The nearest train station is Uphall Station, 4km away with access via the Old Railway Path. This station is on the Edinburgh to Glasgow Central line with journey time from Edinburgh being 20mins with several trains each hour. Please contact Traveline Scotland / [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com) / 0871 200 2233 for full details of timetables.
- Route 75 Edinburgh to Glasgow cycle route passes through Almondell.
- Please note that access from A89 Broxburn has a height restriction of 3.7metres.
- Edinburgh Airport is approximately 9.5km and 10-15mins drive.

### **Car Parking and Arrival**

- Path access available from East Calder (1.2km) and Mid Calder (2.4km).
- There are 3 car parks and 1 disabled/authorized-use car park directly linked to the Country Park.
- Parking for disabled visitors 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. 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 by 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.

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

- The main entrance to the Visitor Centre is located on ground level with a dropped kerb leading to the front door.
- The main entrance door is automatic, 80cm wide and operated by a push-pad on the wall to the right hand side.
- Receptionist staff are available for information and assistance whenever and as possible.
- The area is approximately 3x6metres and includes reception desk, display cases, vending machines and ice-cream freezer.
- The floor surface of the reception is non-slip vinyl.
- The area is well lit with both natural light and overhead lighting.
- A portable hearing loop is available.
- The information, exhibition and meeting rooms are all on the same level and accessible from reception.
- Due to the historical nature of the Visitor Centre, the doorways are limited to 70-76cm in width and although suitable for most wheelchairs, may be restrictive to some powered chairs.

- Doors are fire doors and require to be kept closed - please ask if assistance is required.

### **Attraction (displays, exhibits, rides etc.)**

- 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 well lit with overhead spotlights.
- Leaflets are available to collect and in other formats on request.
- Access to 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 every 6 weeks.
- This area is large and uncluttered - approximately 7x4metres. The flooring in the Exhibition Room is non-slip vinyl. The area is well lit with natural light and overhead spotlights.
- 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 has a push bar and is 78cm wide.
- The area measures approximately 8x2 metres. The conservatory has a mix of tables with padded bench seating and metal bistro tables with chairs. Benches and seats are 45cm high and tables 75cm.
- Access to the Meeting Room is from reception through 76cm wide door.
- The area is large and uncluttered approximately 7x4metres. 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 as a Smartboard.

### **Public Toilets**

- The Visitor Centre toilets are located in an annex of the building and accessed from the outside.
- The toilets are accessible to manual wheelchairs but door width may restrict some power chairs.
- The toilets are clearly marked with signage.
- The entrance door to the toilet is a fire exit and opens outward from the building (pull towards you), width 80cm.
- A changing area has baby changing and nappy bin.
- The entrance door to the toilet pulls toward you and is 76cm wide. Transfer space is 1.5x1.4metres. The toilet height is 45cm. The sink height is 80cm. There is a horizontal rail and vertical rail system next to the toilet.
- 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 2.2x1.8metres. 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.

### **Catering**

- Refreshments are available from both hot and cold drinks machines located in reception.
- A selection of biscuits and confectionary are available to purchase from reception.

- Our Conservatory seating area, accessed down 3 angled steps, is available to enjoy refreshments.
- Seating is also available in our Exhibition Room on the same level.

### **Shop(s)**

- There is a small retail area in reception offering a range of gifts.

### **Grounds and Gardens**

- Almondell & Calderwood is 97 acres in size and features the River Almond, woodland and open meadow.
- Access to the formal garden is from the Conservatory seating area via a ramp. The formal garden is a peaceful and sheltered area to enjoy the out of doors and wildlife. Access to the Play Area is through a gate 1.8metre wide opening inwards from the garden. A 200metre level hard stone path circles the garden.
- There are 4 picnic tables, each with wheelchair access. There are 8 benches all accessible from a hard stoned path.
- There is a small pond area in the garden so children must be supervised.
- The Play Area is located in the Walled Garden adjacent to the Visitor Centre.
- A family BBQ area is also situated in this grassed area. Nearest stone path access is approximately 10metres.
- The Red Route is a 2km circular waymarked route beginning at the Visitor Centre or Disabled Car Park. Red Route paths are a mix of stone surfaced paths and tarmac and range from 1.5-2.5metres in width. The path is largely level when following the river with slight incline to bridge crossings.
- An accessible off -road path from our North Car Park to the Visitor Centre is 400metres long and 1.5metres wide.
- The historical stone Nasmyth Bridge carries vehicles and is 4metres wide (no public vehicle access).
- The historical Canal Feeder Aqueduct is 1.5metres wide with a metal surface.
- R75 Edinburgh to Glasgow cycle route passes through Almondell.

### **Future Plans**

- Ongoing upgrading of internal path network.

### **Contact Information**

Address (Inc postcode):           The Visitor Centre, Almondell & Calderwood Country Park,  
By Broxburn EH52 5PE

Telephone:                           01506 882254

Email:                                 almondell&calderwood@westlothian.gov.uk

Website:                             [www.beecraigs.com](http://www.beecraigs.com)

Grid Reference:                   NT 091 697

Hours Of Operation:             Summer 9am-5pm / Winter 10am-4pm

Closed for lunch 12.30–1pm

Local Public Transport:

First Bus / Traveline