

Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre

Access Statement

We want to make sure the park is enjoyed by visitors, whatever their access needs. Please use these notes or have a chat with one of our park staff on **01623 823202 (options one or four)** for more detailed advice to help you get around the park safely and easily.

General Points

Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre opens daily (except Christmas Day) from 10am to 4.30pm (5pm in the peak season). Located off Swinecote Road just outside Edwinstowe village, it comprises a cluster of small buildings around a central courtyard space. The Centre is set within a country park 450 acres in size, part of the larger Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve.

Predominantly an outdoor venue, the site is relatively flat. Paths in and around the Visitor Centre are made from crushed red shale and though this is a loose surface, most visitors in wheelchairs and mobility scooters use the paths with little difficulty.

The most popular tourist route is from the Visitor Centre to the famous Major Oak Tree. This takes approximately 20 minutes in a mobility scooter. Shops, a restaurant and exhibition are all accessible for wheelchair users. There is a children's activity play area on the path from the car parks towards Edwinstowe village.

Entrances and Car Parks

A car parking charge of **£3** applies at **peak times** and this applies to all cars including **blue badge holders**. Please see our web page www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/sherwoodcp for more information, including a link to a calendar showing the exact dates of car park charging.

The main public car parks are accessed off Swinecote Road. Blue badge spaces are available closest to the Visitor Centre. To reach these go straight through to the rear woodland car park and turn right.

Please note that surfaces in the Visitor Centre car parks and some paths are worn and uneven in places. A new visitor centre is scheduled to be built around 2016 at a site across the road from the present one. The existing car parks will then be taken up and the site returned to forest.

Wheelchairs and Mobility Vehicles for Loan

Wheelchairs available for free loan. We also have two light self-propelled wheelchairs specially designed for children or young people.

Two electric mobility vehicles are available and can be hired from the Visitor Information Office, open seasonally 10.30 am to 4.30 pm, or the Ranger's Office at other times. A small amount is charged per hour and users need to sign a hire agreement (designed to deter inappropriate usage.) Please book in advance to ensure availability. **Tel 01623 823202 option one, 10.30 am to 4.30pm daily.**

Toilets

Accessible toilet available adjoining the Park Ranger's Office. This has an adult sized changing bed.

Hard to Access Areas

Please be aware that Sherwood Forest is primarily an outdoor site and is set in a Site of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserve. Some areas of woodland include rough ground which is not suitable for wheelchair or mobility scooter users.

Hearing Impaired Visitors

The Visitor Centre is scheduled to be replaced by a new building in the near future. Currently there is no hearing aid loop on site. If you would like a portable "counter top" hearing loop to be made available, please contact us in advance: linda.hardy@nottscc.gov.uk, tel 01623 821328.

Blind / Visually Impaired Visitors

Our website has the facility to "talk" information. Please see www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/sherwoodcp

We can print and send out information from of our park events programme, menus or park leaflet in large sized print or order braille versions on request. Please ring 01623 821338, or email linda.hardy@nottscc.gov.uk to request information in other formats.

Need More Help?

Everyone's access needs are different. If you need extra information, help or advice in order to get around the park and enjoy your visit, don't hesitate to ask. Staff around the site will be please to advise you, or ring the Visitor Centre