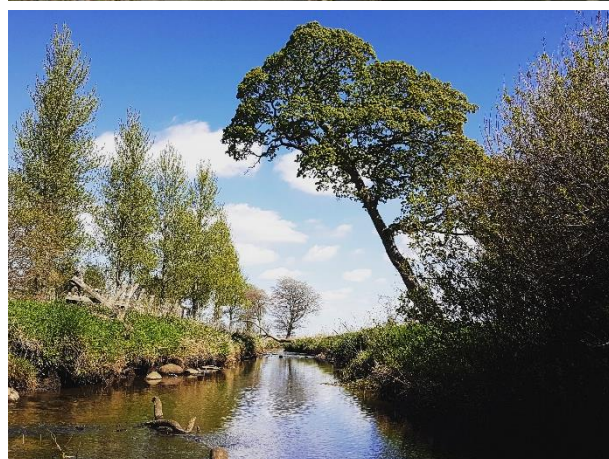
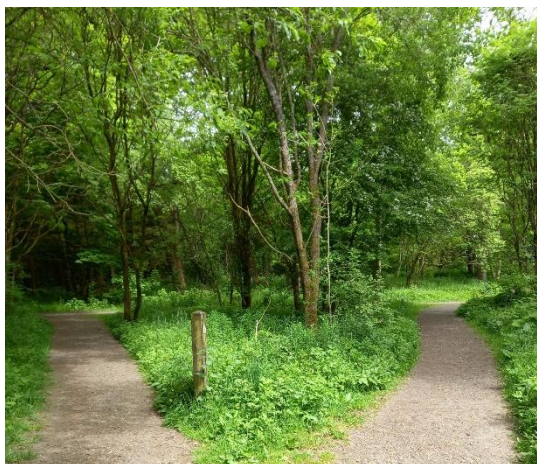


# Accessibility Guide for Polkemmet Country Park

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## Welcome

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

### At Polkemmet Country Park you can find: -

- Visitor Centre
- Ranger Service
- Toilets
- Classroom (hireable facility)
- 9-hole Golf Course (West Lothian Leisure)
- 15 Bay Driving Range (West Lothian Leisure)
- Bowling Green
- Play Area
- Picnicking areas
- Riverside and Woodland Walks
- The Scottish Owl Centre
- The Country Café
- Polkemmet Daycare (private daycare)

## At a Glance

### Level Access

There is level access from the main Park entrance to:

- Visitor Centre
- Visitor Centre Reception
- Public Toilets
- Classroom
- Play Area

There is level access from each car park to:

- Visitor Centre
- Public Toilets
- Classroom
- Play Area

### Hearing

- The fire alarm has flashing lights.
- We have a hearing loop in Visitor Centre reception.

### General

- There is at least 1 public toilet for disabled visitors.
- Guide dogs, hearing dogs and assistance dogs are permitted in the Visitor Centre Reception Area.

## Getting here

Polkemmet Country Park  
B7066  
Whitburn  
EH470AD

### Travel by public transport

- You can travel to an area close-by to Polkemmet Country Park by bus.
- Buses run from Edinburgh to Whitburn, Glasgow/Edinburgh to Heartlands Services, and Harthill.
- The nearest bus stop is on West Main Street, near Polkemmet Road. The bus stop is approximately 900m from the main entrance into the Park and 35m from the Whitburn pedestrian entrance into the Park.
- 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.

### Parking

- We have a car park. There are accessible parking spaces. The parking is less than 50 metres from the main entrance. Parking is free.

- The main driveway into the Park leads you to multiple car parks and to the main hub of the Park where the Courtyard, Visitor Centre, Owl Centre, Café, Children’s Nursery and Public Toilets are located. It also provides easy access to the Play Area and direct access to the Driving Range building and car park.
- There are four car parks within Polkemmet Country Park, providing access to the Visitor Centre, Play Area, Public Toilets and other attractions located on site.
- The Train car park is located down the drive from our main entrance, and is clearly marked with a green entrance sign. It provides good access to the Play Area and Owl Centre. The car park is tarmacked and has 55 line-marked bays, 6 of which are designated for disabled visitors. The designated bays are located in the top right-hand side of the Train car park and are 65-metres from the Visitor Centre.
- The Golf car park is located down the drive from our main entrance, past the Train car park, and is mainly used by golfers using the Park’s Golf Course. It is situated approximately 75-metres from the Visitor Centre. It has a hard-rolled stone surface and can accommodate approximately 40 cars, with line-marked parking spaces. Access through the Golf car park allows visitors to be dropped off directly outside the Visitor Centre if required.
- The Driving Range car park is also located down the drive from our main entrance, past the Golf car park, and has limited car parking for 35 cars. The surface is hard-rolled stone. Access from this car park to the Driving Range is 10metres and access to the Visitor Centre from this car park is 200metres back along the main drive. From the car park to the entrance, there is level access. The route is 820mm wide, or more.
- South car park is near to the entrance to the Park, and is the first car park you pass (on the left-hand side) as you come down the main driveway. The surface is hard-rolled stone and has room for approximately 65 cars. The bays are not line-marked. The car park is 500metres from the Visitor Centre. The pedestrian path that runs alongside the main driveway is 400 metres away and can be accessed to reach the Visitor Centre and main hub of the Park.
- If you are planning to bring a bus, coach or horse box to Polkemmet, please ring the Visitor Centre 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.



Main Entrance (and vehicle entrance) into Park



South car park



Train car park



Signposted blue badge bays in Train car park



Golf car park



Driving Range car park

## ♿ Pedestrian Access

- The Park has 4 pedestrian entrances: Greenrigg, Dumback, Main entrance and Whitburn.
- The Greenrigg entrance is at least 1200mm wide. The entrance has a short, sloped section with a relatively steep incline. The Greenrigg entrance links directly on to the Red Route waymarked trail in the West side of the Park.
- The Dumback entrance is gated with an entrance width of 900mm. This entrance links directly on to the Red Route waymarked trail.
- The Main entrance has a path width of 820mm or more. This is also the vehicle entrance. This entrance links on to the main path up towards the Visitor Centre.
- The Whitburn entrance is at least 1200m wide and crosses a bridge. This entrance links on to the paths around the Golf Course.



Main Entrance pedestrian path



Dumback pedestrian entrance



Greenrigg pedestrian entrance



Whitburn pedestrian entrance

## Arrival

### Path to Visitor Centre entrance

- From the main street (B7066) to the Visitor Centre entrance there is level access.
- The path is 820mm wide or more.

### Visitor Centre entrance

- The main entrance has level access.
- The door is 820mm wide.
- 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.



Entrance archway to the Visitor Centre



Visitor Centre/Reception entrance

## Getting around inside



Ticket/ information desk

### Visitor Centre Reception

- From the main entrance to the desk, there is level access. The route is 820mm wide, or more.
- The door is 820mm wide or more.
- The desk has a low section.
- 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.

### Visitor Centre

- From the main entrance to this area there is level access. The route is 820mm wide, or more. The door is 820mm wide.
- Some display information is low, for wheelchair users. There is a hearing loop.
- There are a number of interpretation panels within the Visitor Centre with information including history of the Park.

### Public toilet

- There is a public toilet for disabled visitors.
- Access to the block is by a paved path 40 metres from the Visitor Centre entrance.
- From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. The route is 950mm wide, or more. The toilet door is 950mm wide.
- There is 160mm at the side of the toilet. There is 110mm in front of the toilet. The toilet seat is 40mm high. The toilets have handrails.
- The public toilets are accessed outside from the front of the building (next to the Classroom).
- 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.



Entrance to public toilets



## Classroom

- From the main entrance to the Classroom entrance, there is level access. The route is 950mm wide, or more.
- There is a 5cm tall concrete kerb at the entrance door and a further 5cm tall metal floor plate in the threshold of the doorway.
- The door is 950mm wide.
- The classroom is a hireable indoor space for approximately 30 people.
- The entrance doorway is 950mm, with a small porch area and a secondary internal door which is 850mm wide. The porch area is linoleum and the classroom itself has carpet tiles throughout.



Entrance to classroom

## Getting around outside



### Designated Waymarked Trails

#### Red Route

- The trail is 2.3km (2300 metres) long.
- There is a bridge across the river with multiple steps.
- The trail is sloped in places. The trail has seats.

- The Red Route is a 2.3km circular waymarked route, beginning at the Visitor Centre. The nearest car parks to this route are the Train car park or South car park. The route can also be accessed from the Greenrigg pedestrian entrance (West side of the Red Route).
- 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 ‘riverside path’ of the Red Route features an old mill laid structure from the historical presence of a mill on site, consisting of a small built-up area of stones. This section of path is not passable by mobility aids such as wheelchairs and scooters. There is an alternative path available along the Red Route which runs along the South boundary of the Park.
- The bridge crossing the River Avon along the Red Route has multiple steps. An alternative route is available by continuing along the Red Route until you meet the main driveway.
- Due to the nature of the Park and its different terrains, disabled visitors looking for appropriate routes should contact the Visitor Centre for advice.



Red Route Trail



Bridge crossing along Red Route

## Designated Waymarked Trails

### Blue Route

- The trail is 1.6 km (1600 metres) long.
- The bridge near the Horn has a ramp leading up onto it.
- The Mausoleum path has a set of concrete steps leading back to the Visitor Centre.
- The trail is sloped. The trail has seats.
- The Blue Route is a 1.6km circular waymarked route beginning at the Visitor Centre. The nearest car park to this route is the Train car park. The route can also be accessed using the Whitburn pedestrian entrance (East side of the Park).
- The Blue Route paths include trodden earth paths, grassy paths, stone surfaced paths, boardwalk and tarmac. They range from 1metre to 3metres in width.
- There are sections of both boardwalk and surfaced path around the pond.
- Due to the nature of the Park and its different terrains, disabled visitors looking for appropriate routes should contact the Visitor Centre for advice.





Surfaced path around the Pond on the Blue Route

## Picnic Area

### Play Area

- From the Train car park and the Visitor Centre, there is level access. The path is 1600mm wide, or more. The entrance is 1600mm wide.
- There are picnic areas and a number of picnic tables around the Play Area. You can bring your own food to the picnic area. Some picnic tables have space for wheelchair users, and most of the tables are accessible along compacted stone paths. A small number of picnic tables are located on grass areas.
- The picnic tables are located on a grass area.
- There is an open grass area near the bottom of the Play Area. There is an additional grass picnic area at the South car park with a number of picnic tables. The picnic tables in this area are located on grass.
- Due to the nature of the park and its different terrains, disabled visitors looking for appropriate routes should contact the Visitor Centre for advice.



Grass picnic area near the Play Area



BBQ Area with tables near the Play Area

## Customer care support

### Accessibility equipment

- There is a hearing loop in Visitor Centre reception.
- Polkemmet Country Park welcomes dogs including assistance dogs. The Park has many open areas, however we would request, where possible, that assistance dogs are not permitted to toilet within the Play Area or on paths around the building.
- Guide dogs, Hearing dogs and Assistance dogs are permitted in the Visitor Centre Reception Area.
- The Country Café are 'Dog Friendly'.

- Dogs are not permitted in the Owl Centre.

### **Emergency evacuation procedures**

- We have emergency evacuation procedures for disabled visitors.
- The fire alarm has flashing lights.
- Emergency evacuation procedures are in place for the Visitor Centre and public toilets, with trained fire wardens. The assembly point is located at the Dardanelles train - directly opposite the Courtyard (Visitor Centre) building.

### **Customer care support**

- Information in different formats may be available on request. Please enquire for more details.
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Guide last updated: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024