

**Claife Viewing Station and Courtyard Access Statement:**

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**Introduction:**

Claife Viewing Station and Courtyard is located on the west shore of Windermere, at the heart of the Lake District UNESCO world heritage site. Built in the 1790, this culturally significant viewing station was visited by many of the first tourists to the Lake District. Visitors are invited to walk through the quaint courtyard, perhaps pausing for coffee and cake in the cosy Café, then up the steep slope towards the viewing station itself. On arrival at the atmospheric ruin, visitors can then climb a short flight of steps to the upper level, listening out for the eerie Aeolian harp and, following in the footsteps of those first tourists, looking through coloured glass panels towards the fantastic view of Lake Windermere.

**Dogs:**

All dogs are welcome at Claife.

**Arrival by Car:**

Claife is connected to Coniston, Windermere and Ambleside by narrow country roads. Visitors arriving by car via the M6 are recommended to take junction 36 off the M6, then the A684 which becomes the A591 to Windermere and Ambleside. Visitors traveling from Windermere can take the B5285 from Windermere town via the Windermere ferry. Visitors travelling from Ambleside should take the B5286 and B5285, and visitors travelling from Coniston should take the B5285. Claife Viewing Station and Courtyard is not signposted along these roads but satellite navigation can be used to find the site using the postcode LA22 0LW.

Claife Viewing Station is very close to two small National Trust car parks; Ash Landing and Harrowslack, on Windermere's west shore. Visitors parking at Ash Landing walk up to Claife Viewing Station along a short woodland track then up a steep flight of slate steps. Visitors parking at Harrowslack walk around a quarter of a mile to Claife Viewing Station along Windermere west shore where there is a level cycle and footpath running along the road, these visitors pass through Claife Courtyard before climbing up to Claife Viewing Station via a steep uphill path (without steps). Parking at Harrowslack and Ash Landing is free for National Trust members; non-members can buy a parking ticket at £5 for 2 hours, £6.50 for 2 to 4 hours or £7.50 for the whole day. Blue badge holders park for free. There is a pay-for-parking machine in each car park, the parking machines accept coins only. There are two designated disabled car parking spaces, these are clearly marked next to the entrance to Claife Courtyard. The car park surface and the disabled car park spaces are both gravel.

**Arrival by Public Transport, Foot or Cycle:**

Many visitors use public transport to access Claife Viewing Station and Courtyard. The Windermere car and passenger ferry travels regularly between Ferry Nab to Ferry House, visitors then walk four minutes, first along the road then along a narrow off-road footpath, to Claife Viewing Station. Visitors can also take the cross Lakes shuttle from Windermere train station, via Claife Viewing Station to Hawkshead. Good networks of footpaths allow visitors to walk from Hill Top or Wray Castle and there is a 4 mile lakeshore cycle track suitable for mountain bikes from Wray Castle to Claife Viewing Station. Visitors can take their bikes on the ferry across Windermere or on the Bike Boat from Brockhole, in the summer.

**WCs:**

Claife isn't connected to mains water, so there are no toilets on site. The closest toilets are a four minute walk away at Ferry House. There is no accessible toilet at Ferry House, the nearest accessible toilet is situated in the Bowness at the marina and the nearest changing places toilet is at Kendal Leisure centre. The toilets at Ferry House are lit with a mixture of natural light and LED bulbs. There is a limited water supply at Ferry House, so there is hand sanitiser provided instead of sinks. There are no hand dryers.

**Garden Shed Visitor Reception:**

A National Trust representative is usually available to assist visitors to Claife at weekends and during school summer holidays and the green shed in the Courtyard has been converted into a basic visitor reception. The building is wood, with laminate flooring and is entered through a one meter wide doorway with a small step. The door is opened manually, but left open when the room is available for visitors to use. There is plenty of natural light, but the room is also lit from florescent bulbs. There are chairs available, but they don't have arm rests. There is no induction loop available.

**The Station and Courtyard:**

The walk up to the viewpoint is relatively short, but includes a steep incline; there is a gravel surface across the whole of the site, with one very small step to access the viewing station. The viewing station is exposed to the elements and naturally lit. The lower floor of the viewing station can be very dark in winter, and the floor has an uneven surface. As the viewing station has no furnishings it can be rather echoey. The viewing station has two floors; the second floor is accessed by a winding stone staircase. The entrance to the station is a small stone doorway, which is not accessible to wheelchairs. There is a large seating area in the Courtyard, but no other benches or seats around the site.

**Catering:**

The Café in the Courtyard at Claife is run by the Lakes Catering Company, a National Trust tenant, not directly by the National Trust. There is a gravel surface on the path to the café. There is no lower level counter but staff will assist if visitors experience difficulty when queuing. This café is a small building, with limited space and limited seating inside. The tills don't have induction points. The menus aren't available in large print or Brail. There are no large handled cutlery or double handled mugs, but straws are available.

**Mobile phone reception:**

Mobile reception on site is good



Steps to reach the second floor of the viewing station

The courtyard seating area