

Foremark Access Statement

Foremark, Milton, Derbyshire, DE65 6EG

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Introduction

Owned by Severn Trent and cared for in partnership with the National Trust, the reservoir at Foremark has been a vital link in the water supply network since it was built in the early 1970s. A 230-acre nature reserve, Foremark is home to a rich diversity of wildlife including over 350 species of moths and 200 types of birds. Foremark also includes Carver's Rocks – a scheduled Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geology and plants – and has one of the last patches of lowland heath in Derbyshire. Enjoyed by families, walkers and nature enthusiasts alike, there are many walking trails through woodland including a multi-use bridleway, as well as space for family fun and picnics.

As a man-made reservoir, there are many dangers below the water's surface including strong underwater currents and pumping equipment; consequently, swimming and paddling is prohibited.

Dogs are welcome throughout Foremark but must be kept out of the water for their safety, where blue-green algae is present.

Mobile phone reception is generally good across the site. In an emergency, please make contact on the phone number above as soon as you are able, or dial 999. There are times when there are no staff on site – in these circumstances, assistance should be sought by dialling 999 and requesting the relevant service.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

The car park entrance is accessible 644m (704 yards) from a T-junction with Repton Road, with brown signs in place nearby (picnic area symbol). On approach to Foremark Reservoir from Repton Road, the road forks – the left turn heads to the main car park near to the visitor facilities, and the right turn takes you to the secondary car park near the dam wall. On busy days, grassed areas are used for additional parking, and cars are directed by staff. There are 4 speed bumps along the entry and exit road to the main car park, and 5 speed bumps from the entry road to the dam wall car park.

There is a payment machine in both car parks, as well as in the overflow parking areas. The cost to park is £3.50 for up to four hours, or £5.00 for the day. Parking is free for National Trust members and blue badge holders. There are 5 marked designated spaces for accessible parking in the main car park, but there are no marked designated spaces in the car park near the dam wall. The nearest drop-off point is in the main car park, which is less than 50m from the visitor facilities. There are also two family parking spaces in the main car park.



Photo 1 Parking at the main car park



Photo 2 Parking at the dam wall car park

WCs

There are ladies and gent toilets, as well as one accessible toilet. From the main entrance to the accessible toilet, there is level access. The route is 1400mm wide, or more, and there is a permanent ramp on the approach to the accessible toilet.

The door for the accessible toilet is 840mm wide. Inside, there is 670mm at the side of the toilet, and 1800mm in front. The toilet seat is 500mm high and the direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the left. There are handrails on both sides of the toilet: the one on the right is fixed and the one on the left is moveable. Both handrails, as well as the two on either side of the washbasin, are a contrasting colour to the walls. There is a pull cord alarm which activates both sound and light.

The sink tap is operated via a motion sensor under the tap and the sink is approximately 740mm off the floor. The hand-dryer is hot air and considered quite loud – it is approximately 990mm off the floor. There are also automatic hand driers in both the ladies and gents toilets.

There are two medical waste bins in the accessible toilet and one sanitary bin. All the bins can be moved if needed.

Lighting in all of the toilet facilities is a mix of natural and fluorescent lighting.

Baby changing facilities are located in the accessible toilet.



Photo 3 Entrance to accessible toilet

Trails

There are two way marked walks: the shorter, green route is 1.25km (0.7 miles) and the longer, orange route is 2.25km (1.4 miles). There are other connecting paths that can be explored but are not waymarked. There is also a bridleway to the west of the reservoir, which is used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Many of these paths through the wooded area are uneven, with some shallow steps in places. There is a map available to show these routes on the noticeboard near the main car park. Way marker posts around the park indicate the direction of the routes. The easiest route to access for wheelchair users, avoiding steep slopes, is the dam view trail.

Dam view trail

The trail is 237m long. It has a hard, tarmac surface with a gentle slope. There are picnic benches along the trail.

A shorter footpath leads from the café towards the reservoir edge and back towards the car park. This route provides views of the reservoir and the surrounding area. The start and end points of the trail are within 50m of the accessible car parking spaces.

A further route of 350m leads from the dam wall car park to the café and toilets. The path is hard-crushed gravel surface and tarmac. The path is 1600m wide or more. The path runs through a grassy area, then crosses a road via a pedestrian crossing before heading past the children's play area. At the wooden gazebo, the path turns right through woodland to the visitor facilities.



Photo 4 Start of the waymarked walks, from beyond the main car park

Catering

The kiosk is located 16m from the accessible parking spaces. The front of the building is glazed, with products on display in a window. There is no access inside the kiosk for the public, with all refreshments available from two staffed serving points. Large-handled cutlery, double handled mugs and straws are available on request. Staff will come out to provide assistance where required.

There is level access from the main car park to the picnic area, but there are no paths. Instead, the route is on the grass which can be muddy when wet. There are two benches a short distance away from the accessible car parking spaces. The tables are 840mm high and the seats are 380mm off the ground.

There is also a second picnic area with five picnic benches near the dam wall car park, and two tables have space for wheelchair users. The route from the car park is on grass which can be muddy when wet. The tables are 860mm high and the seats are 500mm from the ground.

BBQs are not permitted anywhere on site.



Photo 5 Refreshment kiosk near the main car park

In addition to those listed above, ten accessible picnic benches have been installed – a selection are on the grass between the refreshment kiosk and the reservoir, with more on hard standing to the right of the kiosk. On all, one side of the table has a larger overhang.



Photo 6 A selection of accessible picnic benches

Contact details for more information

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Map

