

Staunton Harold Access Statement

Staunton Harold, Calke Road, Melbourne, Derbyshire, DE73 8DN

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Introduction

Owned by Severn Trent and cared for in partnership with the National Trust, the reservoir at Staunton Harold has played an important part in the water supply network since its creation in 1964. The flooding of the valley for the development of the reservoir included the largest of Calke Abbey's six ponds. Today the reservoir covers over 209 acres of land, making it home to a rich diversity of wildlife, while the Tower Windmill dominates the skyline. Enjoyed by families, walkers and nature enthusiasts alike, there are many walking trails including a route to neighbouring Calke Abbey, 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 Staunton Harold, including inside the dog-friendly café, 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 685m (750 yards) from a T-junction with the B587, with brown signs in place nearby (picnic area symbol). When approached from the direction of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, heading towards Melbourne, the left-hand turn onto Calke Road is sharp. The car park is situated on a slope, but each parking level is flat and surfaced with tarmac. There are 4 speed bumps along the entry and exit road.

There is a payment machine at the car park. 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 8 marked designated spaces for accessible parking. There is also a drop-off point at the main entrance, which has a dropped kerb.

There is level access from the car park to the visitor facilities and the path is 1800mm wide, or more. Access from the car park to the play area and start of the walks is down a tarmac slope, or via 4 steps.



Photo 1 Accessible parking with the visitor facilities beyond

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 1800mm wide, or more.

The door for the accessible toilet is 800mm wide. Inside, there is 740mm at the side of the toilet, and 1200mm in front. The toilet seat is 460mm high and the direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the right. 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 has a large push button tap and is approximately 710mm off the floor. The hand-dryer is hot air and considered quite loud. There are also automatic hand driers in both the ladies and gents toilets.

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

Baby changing facilities are located in both the ladies and gents toilets.



Photo 2 Entrance to the accessible toilet, to the right of the ladies' toilets

Trails

There is one way-marked route at Staunton Harold, which is 1.5 miles (2.5km) in length. This route, called the wildflower meadow walk, has a crushed stone surface which can be muddy when wet. There are wooden seats at intervals. The footpath leads through woodland from the southern end of the car park, past the sailing club and along to the wildflower meadow, with reservoir views for most of the walk. The walk has a variable gradient but no steep slopes.

There is also a walk across arable fields and through woodland to Calke Abbey, which is 1.7 miles (2.7km) in length, one way.

There is a map available to show these routes on the welcome sign in the car park.



Catering

The café is located within the visitor facilities building. From the closest accessible spaces, the café is 23m away; from the lower levels it is 54m. The path approaching the café is tarmacked and level.

There is a ramp to the café with handrails on both sides, as well as a stepped approach with handrails on both sides. Entrance to the café is via one of two doorways. The first is 840mm wide and opens inwards. The second is through the double doors by the outside seating area, which opens outwards and is 1,725mm wide. Staff can assist with opening the door if required. There is level access throughout the café.

Inside tables are approximately 750mm high with moveable seating throughout. There are also two counters on either side of the room, approximately 1,010mm high. There is hard floor throughout with no soft furnishings, which can cause sound echoes. There is occasionally background music. There is a lot of natural light within the café, as well as ceiling LED lights.

Outside, there are fixed picnic benches with a height of 800mm, with gaps to provide access for wheelchair users.

The counter height in the café is 910mm and the fridge is self-service. There is an induction loop at the till point. Staff will assist as required if you experience difficulty queuing, finding a suitable table and/or carrying food and drinks. Menus are on handwritten blackboards – staff will assist with explaining menus if required. Allergen information for all products is available on request.

There is a double-handed mug and paper straws available.



Photo 3 Cafe interior

Contact details for more information

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Map

