

## Birling Gap Access Statement

Birling Gap, East Dean, East Sussex, BN20 0AB

T: 01323 423197

E: [birlinggap@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:birlinggap@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### Introduction

1. The Visitor Centre, shop and café are on one floor with no internal steps with an accessible toilet internally as well as a second ambulant accessible toilet situated within the outside toilet block.
2. There is no mobile phone signal on-site. There is a BT phone box situated on the other side of the main car park. Please note this only takes card payment except for emergency calls i.e., 999
3. All dogs, including assistant dogs are welcome throughout the site on a lead, water bowls are provided at the dog tie up point to the right of the café entrance.
4. The platform overlooking the Seven Sisters is accessible from Blue Badge parking but is over some uneven ground and shingle.
5. The shingle beach is accessed down a staircase of 50 steps from the viewing platform. The steps are solid wooden treads with gaps in-between and have handrails on both sides. There are four flights of steps with level landing areas between each one.
6. If you require specific information, please call us before your visit.

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. Birling Gap is situated within the South Downs National Park, west of Eastbourne. There are signs to the site at East Dean village just off the A259, alternatively the open top bus runs regularly throughout the summer season and the 13x (please check bus websites for specific times).
2. There are 6 designated blue badge parking spaces outside the Café and shop which are approximately 50m from the viewing platform and 25m to the Café.
3. Blue badge spaces are all on uneven ground. The remainder of the main car park is made up of very worn tarmac and gravel and can be uneven in places, the overflow car park consists of chalk and grass and can be muddy.
4. None of the car parks are lit at night.

1. There is one accessible toilet located internally, accessed from the café and one ambulant accessible toilet located in the outside toilet block.
2. The outside accessible toilet is 1.5m x 2.5m. The internal accessible toilet is 1.5m x 3.5m.
3. The outside toilet has no accessible transfer, the internal toilet is a right-hand transfer.
4. There are baby changing facilities in both accessible toilets.
5. Both toilets have low level natural lighting, alongside fluorescent lighting which comes on automatically when you enter.
6. Both toilets have automatic hand dryers and emergency alarms.

## **Visitor Centre**

1. The Visitor Centre is accessible through the café via 3 steps from the main car park or there is level access via the shop and cafe.
2. The Visitor Centre has a raised lip at the entrances and the floor is level throughout.
3. There is a manual door to the side of the building, measuring 1.4m wide and open outwards. Staff will endeavour to assist whenever possible. Please let us know on your arrival if you need assistance.
4. There is an information point in the Visitor Centre and the desk is 720mm high.
5. The building has lots of natural light which is supplemented by directional LED spotlights.
6. There is one bench (without arm rests) in the Visitor Centre as well as two chairs.

## **Catering**

1. The café is situated at the front of the building approx. 25m from Blue Badge parking.
2. The access from the car park is via a brick path and 3 steps or there is level access through the shop
3. The entrance doors open outwards and measure 1.4m wide.
4. There is a raised lip of approx. 3cm at the entrance and the floor is level throughout.
5. The building has lots of natural light which is supplemented with spotlights.
6. The main counter is 880mm high.
7. Staff are happy to assist visitors as required, please ask us if you need additional help.
8. The tables are spaced with space around for wheelchair users.
9. The till point has a hearing induction loop.
10. There is large, handled cutlery, double handed mugs and straws available.

## Retail

1. The shop is situated opposite the Blue Badge parking approx. 10m away.
2. The access is via a rubber tiled pathway which leads to the front of the shop.
3. The entrance doors are automatic with a push button as you approach and are 1.2m wide.
4. There is some natural lighting supplemented with directional LED spotlights and downlights.
5. The main counter is 770mm high.
6. The displays are spaced to allow for wheelchair access.
7. The till point has a hearing induction loop.
8. Staff will be happy to get items down or provide any additional assistant required, please just ask.

## Beach

1. The shingle beach is accessed down a staircase of 50 steps from the viewing platform. The steps are solid wooden treads with gaps in-between and have handrails on both sides. There are four flights of steps with level landing areas between each one.
2. The beach is made up of shingle with a small amount of sand at low tide and a chalk platform with many rockpools
3. Caution should be taken when near the cliffs as there is a danger of rock falls.
4. Tide times are listed at the top of the steps and in the Visitor Centre.
5. Be aware of tide times as you can easily be cut off from the main beach.

## Contact details for more information

W: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/birling-gap-and-the-seven-sisters](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/birling-gap-and-the-seven-sisters)

T: 01323 423197

E: [birlinggap@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:birlinggap@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Local accessible taxi: 01323 720720 provide accessible taxis and minibuses

**Date 07/06/2023**

## **Crowlink property Access Statement**

Crowlink Lane, Friston, Nr Eastbourne, BN20 0AY

T: 01323 423197

E: [birlinggap@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:birlinggap@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### **Introduction**

Crowlink is situated on the edge of the South Downs. This tranquil stretch of coastline is part of the Seven Sisters chalk cliffs, which stretch from Cuckmere Haven to Birling Gap. During the warmer months, the chalk grassland around Crowlink is abloom with wildflowers that attract butterflies. The area has an interesting history: the hill at Belle Tout (where there is now a lighthouse) was the site of a Late Neolithic enclosed community; the remains of an Anglo-African woman who lived in southern England during the Roman era – around AD 245 – were found near East Dean; and Crowlink Gap was used by smugglers in the Middle Ages. During World War II, Gayles Farm became RAF Friston – 1,000 people worked at the base, which had an airfield and a fleet of Hurricanes and Spitfires. All dogs are welcome, including Assistance Dogs. Livestock do graze in some areas so please be alert to this and put dogs on leads in these areas.

**NB** - Mobile phone reception is not particularly good across the site. In an emergency, please make contact on the phone number above as soon as you are able.

### **Arrival & Parking Facilities**

The car park entrance is accessible down a bridleway off the A259 by Friston Church. The road down to the car park is quite narrow and will only allow one vehicle each way, there are passing points along the lane. It is a well-used bridleway with walkers and there is a speed limit of 5mph. The car park surface consists of chalk and grass with some steep gradients and can be slippery if the weather is wet. There are approx. 28 parking spaces with no marked designated spaces for disabled people.

There are private residents that live along the lane, and we would ask that you respect their privacy when visiting.

There is a payment machine at the car park. The cost to park is £1.50 for up to 1 hour, £3 for up to 2 hours or £5 for all day, free for National Trust members and blue badge holders.



Access from the car park onto the Seven Sisters is from the South end of the car park. There is a gate to the left of the cattle grid which is wheelchair friendly. The ground on the Seven Sisters is made up of grass and chalk and can be slippery if the weather is wet.

There is a road from the southern end of the car park after the cattle grid. Private access is limited to vehicles of the residents who live in Crowlink Hamlet, further down. This is a public right of way (bridleway).

There are no refreshment or toilet facilities available.

## Trails

There are several trails to follow once you are on the Seven Sisters.

Further information about trails around the property is available on our main website:

[Birling Gap and Seven Sisters | East Sussex | National Trust](#)

## Contact details for more information

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**Date 07/06/2023**

## Map

