

Aira Force & Ullswater Access Statement

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Section 1: Aira Force

Section 2: Ullswater Countryside

Section 1: Aira Force

Introduction

- Aira Force is an outdoor destination in the Ullswater valley. The property consists of landscaped glades and woodland, leading up to the 65ft Aira Force waterfall. In 2015 a new jetty was installed at Aira Green (across the main road), which is serviced by a small passenger launch (seasonally), operated by Ullswater Steamers.
- Aira Force is serviced by one large main car park on the A592, which has a small Welcome Building, toilets, and a short path to the Aira Force tearoom; there are 2 smaller car parks on the A5091, which have no facilities.
- Mobile phone reception across the property is poor. Vodafone has the best signal, but is still unreliable.
- Assistance dogs are welcome in all parts of the property. Other dogs are also welcome, but are encouraged to be kept on a lead as there is livestock in the surrounding fields. Water for dogs is available at the Welcome Building, the tearoom, and many points around the river.
- Parking is free to National Trust members and to vehicles displaying a blue badge. Parking charges apply to all other vehicles.



Arrival & Parking Facilities

- The property is signposted with brown signs from the Penrith direction. See attached map for location of the car parks.
- In the main car park there are 4 disabled parking spaces, in the fourth row from the entrance – these are signposted as you enter the car park.



The disabled parking bays in the main car park.

- Blue Badges must be displayed in disabled parking spaces. Parking is free to National Trust members and to vehicles displaying a blue badge. National Trust members should obtain a free parking ticket from the parking machine, swiping their membership card. Non-members should pay at the machine and display a parking ticket. Staff can assist with use of the machine if required.
- The main route through the car park is tarmaced. All parking rows and all other paths are of slate chippings.
- If the designated parking spaces are full, drop off can be arranged in the bus loading area, ahead on your left as you enter the car park. Staff are available in the small Welcome Building at the head of the car park, and are happy to assist – please speak to them when you arrive.
- The smaller car parks at Park Brow and High Cascades are not staffed. High Cascades car park has 2 designated blue-badge spaces, and gives a shorter walk to the waterfalls, but please note this is still steep in places.

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- There is an accessible toilet in the main toilet block, situated by the entrance to the main car park. There is a short concrete ramp leading up to the toilet block, which has a handrail.
- The toilet is left hand transfer, with a pull down railing to the right.
- The toilets are lit by fluorescent tube lighting and some natural light.
- All toilets have automatic hand driers.
- There is no alarm pull-cord in the accessible toilet.

Welcome Building

- The Welcome Building is at the head of the main car park. This is used for retail sales, information and membership recruitment. It is open 7 days a week, though winter opening times may be weather dependent.
- It can be accessed by 3 low steps (without handrail) or a short ramp to the left. The surface is of loose slate chippings.
- The door is inwards opening, but is usually kept open. Staff can assist if the door is closed.

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- The building has a wooden floor and no soft furnishings.
- The room is lit by wall lights, and a lot of natural light.
- There are no induction loops in the Welcome Building.
- Staff will be happy to assist in reaching down or describing items.



Exterior of the Welcome Building

Tearoom

- The tearoom is approximately 100m from the car park and 200m from the Welcome Building. Follow the path from the main car park, to the side of the toilet block.
- There is one relatively steep incline up a natural banking, next to the toilet block. The rest of the path is level.
- The path is of slate chippings.
- A concrete ramp leads to the entrance of the tearoom.
- The entrance door is 79cm wide, and is a manual, inwards opening door with a glass window. This is visible from the counter – staff can assist with opening the door if required.



Entrance to the tearoom.

- The tearoom has a hard floor and few soft furnishings, so there are some sound echoes. Rubber feet have been added to the chairs to try and minimise noise.
- The tearoom is lit with a combination of natural light and LED spot light bulbs.



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- The tables and chairs are not fixed, and are moveable as required.
- Menus and prices are hand written on blackboards. Staff are happy to assist by reading these out, or reaching items from the fridge. Staff can also carry items to your table if required.
- The counter height is 90cm.
- Straws are available.
- Outdoors, there are 2 long benches around the perimeter of the building; these are under cover. There is an open patio area which has square wooden picnic tables, with fixed seating.

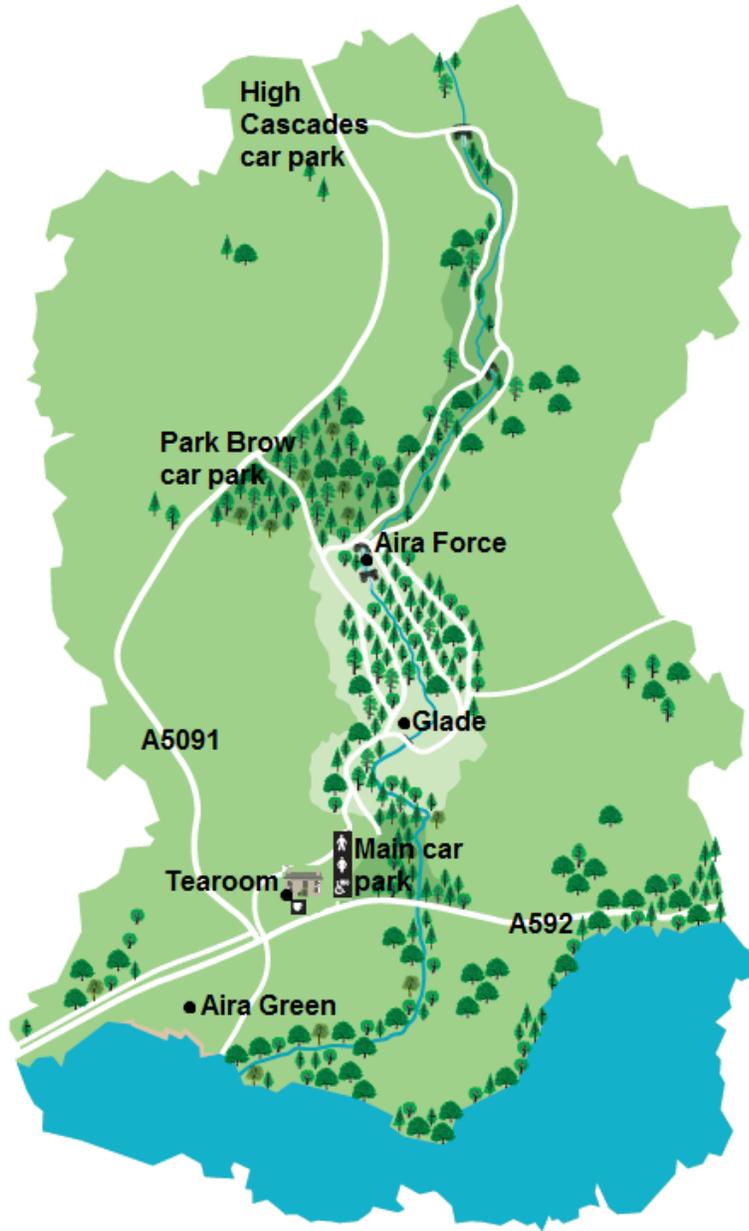
Glade and Waterfall

- A map is attached to the end of this section showing the layout of the property.
- A Rangers' Guide, which includes a map, is available for purchase from the Welcome Building. Staff in the Welcome Building and Tearoom can give information and descriptions about the different areas of the property.
- The Glade can be reached via a slate chipping path and gentle incline, with no steps. There is a gate leading into the Glade. The Glade is situated by a peaceful section of the beck, surrounded by trees, and has some bench seating.
- The paths between the Glade and the waterfall become increasingly uneven, with some steep sections and steep drops to the side at times. Drops are not always fenced off.
- Beyond the Glade all paths are rough woodland trails, which may have protruding tree roots, and muddy or slippery sections.
- Most of these paths have several steps (see map), many of which do not have handrails.
- The path from Park Brow car park to the waterfall has fewer steps, but does involve a steep incline. Paths in this section can be rocky, with muddy or slippery sections.
- Perches and seats are available at many points around all routes.

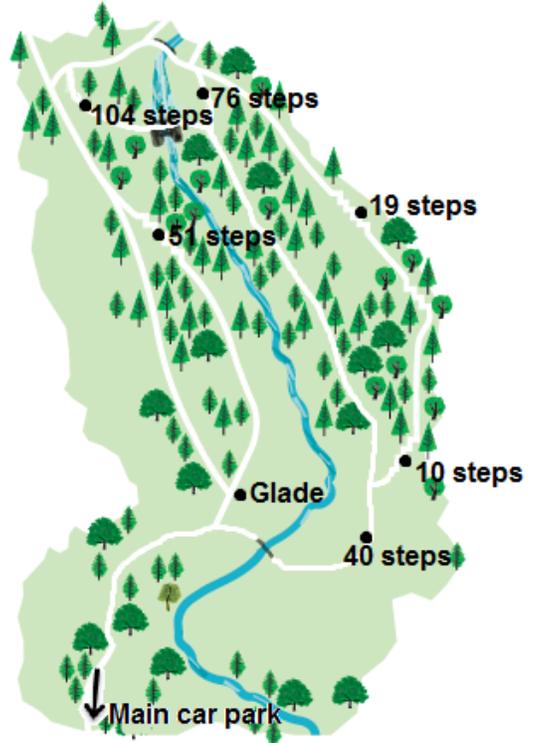
Aira Green & jetty services

- Aira Green is accessed via a wooden gate, across the road (A592) from the tearoom and visitor car park.
- Aira Green is a grassy field, which slopes down towards the shore of Ullswater, giving far-reaching views across the lake.
- There is a footpath leading down a grassy slope, towards the boardwalk which leads to Aira Green jetty.
- The jetty is serviced by Ullswater Steamers' vessel Lady Dorothy, which operates timetabled sailings to Glenridding. Services vary throughout the year, please see www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk or call 017684 82229 for detailed information on launch services.
- Lady Dorothy is not wheelchair accessible. To view Ullswater Steamers' access statement, visit www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk/accessibility.htm

Map



A detailed look at the Glade & Waterfall area



Section 2: Ullswater Countryside

The following are suggestions of more accessible routes or destinations within NT ownership in the Ullswater area. We are aiming to improve accessibility across our sites, and will review this document annually to reflect any changes.

Introduction

- Ullswater is England's second largest lake, and one of the most picturesque regions of the Lake District. Surrounded by spectacular fells, on clear days views reach as far as the top of Helvellyn.
- There are National Trust car parks at Aira Force (CA11 0JS), Glencoyne Bay and Cow Bridge (Brothers Water; note this car park is shared with the Lake District National Park Authority).
- Mobile phone reception is generally poor, and is likely to be patchy all around Ullswater. Vodafone has the best reception across the valley.
- Dogs are welcome in all areas, but should be kept on leads due to livestock in surrounding fields.

Aira Force to Glencoyne Bay

This footpath was created in 2014 and is now part of the Ullswater Way, a 20-mile route around the whole of Ullswater. This section crosses the wood pasture land of Glencoyne Park, and is suited to walkers and off-road mobility scooters.



Key features: close to the lakeshore, this route offers spectacular views of Ullswater lake and surrounding fells. The path winds through the veteran trees of Glencoyne Park. Be aware that this is grazed farmland – cattle may be grazing from April to October. Lakeshore access at Glencoyne Bay gives an ideal spot for a picnic – be aware that you will need to cross the main road, and the most level access onto the bay is about 25m further along the road (towards Glenridding). The lakeshore has a rough, pebbly surface.

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Surface: mostly rough gravel. After heavy rain, some areas of the footpath are prone to smaller stones washing away, giving a rougher surface. The path can be wet in places. All gates along the route open in both directions. There are several bridges along the route, all of which are flat, wooden board style – approx. 1.3m width – see picture.

Gradient: relatively flat with occasional slight inclines.

Parking: There are National Trust car parks at Aira Force and Glencoyne Bay, both pay & display, or free to National Trust members. At Aira Force there are 6 disabled parking spaces, in the fourth row from the entrance – these are signposted as you enter the car park. Blue badges must be displayed in these spaces (parking is free when a blue badge is displayed). Glencoyne Bay does not have designated disabled parking. The car park surface is flat, with no marked parking spaces.



Facilities: There is an accessible toilet in the main toilet block at Aira Force, situated by the entrance to the main car park. There is a short concrete ramp leading up to the toilet block, which has a handrail. (See Section 1 for access information for the toilet block). There are no other toilet facilities on this route, and no facilities at Glencoyne Bay car park. Refreshments are available at Aira Force tearoom.

Distance: 1 mile (2 miles as a return route).



Glencoyne Bay

Brothers Water footpath

This route leads through the woods alongside Brothers Water, leading to Hartsop Hall. There is a circular route right around the tarn, however the section from Hartsop Hall is inaccessible to mobility scooters.



Key features: peaceful lakeside route through woodland, with stunning views to the hills. At the head of the lake a grassy slope leads to grassy area suitable for picnics.

Surface: rough gravel surface which can be wet and muddy at times, especially after heavy rain. Sections of the footpath are prone to washout after periods of heavy rain. There is a gate from the car park leading to the footpath, which is an accessible gate which swings both ways. Further gates are also accessible gates. Beyond Hartsop Hall, gates change to kissing gates and surfaces become rougher and less accessible.

Gradient: relatively flat with occasional slight inclines.

Parking: free car parking at Cow Bridge, with an honesty box for donations to the Lake District National Park (not National Trust; this is on the National Park side of the car park). The car park can get very busy, particularly at weekends. The car park surface is flat, with no marked parking spaces; as this is a small car park, vehicles are often parked very close together.

Facilities: there are no toilet facilities. The nearest public toilets are in Patterdale behind the White Lion pub car park. There are also public toilets in Glenridding, which include accessible facilities.

Distance: 1 mile (2 miles as a return route).



The gate from the car park to the footpath



Contact details for more information

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Maps

