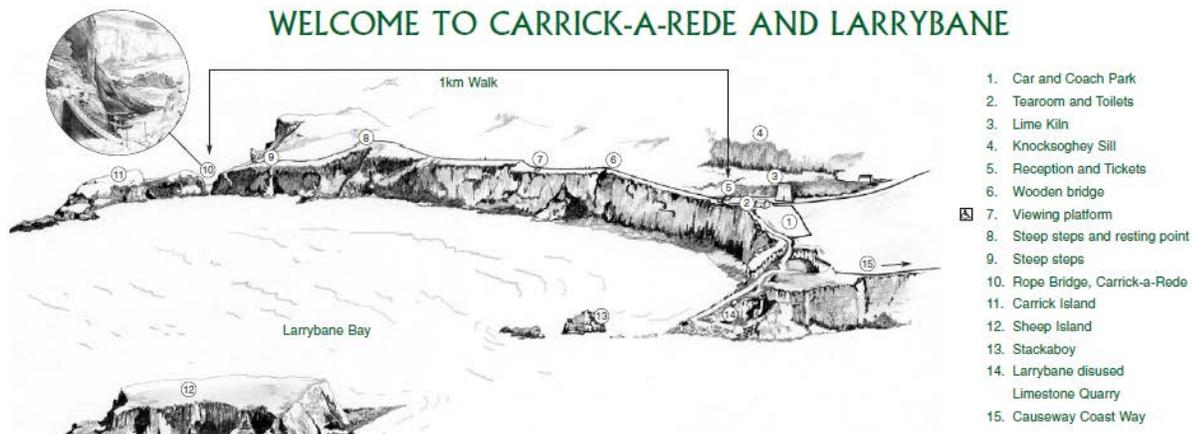


Carrick-a-Rede Access Statement

119A Whitepark Road, Ballintoy, Ballycastle, BT54 6LS

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Introduction

Carrick-a-Rede and Lorrybane are located on the edge of the North Antrim coastline.

Carrick-a-Rede Island is accessed from the mainland by a 20m wide rope bridge, traditionally erected by salmon fishermen over 250 years ago.

The rope bridge is a 1km walk along the cliff path from the carpark at Carrick-a-Rede. Sensible footwear required. Path uneven and rocky in parts, with steps.

Terrain: Gravel paths, stone steps, steep slopes (on final section to bridge), rope bridge.

First 0.5 km of coastal path is wheelchair accessible.

Children must be capable of walking across the bridge independently.

Bridge may be closed due to strong winds – anemometer used to assess conditions on an hourly basis.

Mobile phone reception on site is limited and should not be relied upon for communication. In case of emergency on site, dial 999 or alert a member of our site team.

The Weigh Bridge Tearoom has wifi which can be accessed free of charge.

Dogs on leads are welcome on site but dogs are not permitted to cross the bridge.

Assistance Dogs are welcome on site but are not permitted to cross the bridge.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

Carrick-a-Rede site is located on the B15, 15 km from Bushmills; 10km from Ballycastle; and 2km from the village of Ballintoy.

The site is well sign-posted by brown signs in both directions. Drive time from Belfast: 1hr 20mins.

Parking is located adjacent to the Weighbridge Tea Room/public toilets and is free of charge. Priority parking for Blue Badge Holders. Distance from visitor reception: 100m.

Car park: Gravel surface.

Overflow car park in Larrybane Quarry during peak visiting times: summer months 11am to 4pm. Distance from visitor reception: between 100m and 500m. Visitors with limited mobility may be dropped off at the Tea-Room when overflow car park is in use. The overflow car park is a gravel surface.

Car park attendants will be on duty to advise.

There are six designated spaces for disabled visitors in the main car park. These spaces are tarmacked and located approximately 10m from the toilet facilities and 40m to the Weighbridge Tea-room.

If all disabled spaces are being used in the main car park, priority spaces will be allocated in the overflow car park.

Fully accessible telescope

Carrick-a-Rede was one of the first sites in Northern Ireland to install a fully wheelchair accessible public viewing telescope.

The telescope which sits alongside a standard scope is perfectly situated to provide unrivalled views of the rope-bridge, Carrick-a-Rede island, neighbouring Sheep Island, Rathlin as well as Islay and the Kintyre coastline....all cloud permitting of course.

The telescope is situated 450 yards from visitor reception along a gravel path.



WCs

Our eco-friendly water-economical toilets have been recognised as 'Loos of the Year' in 2013 and are located to the east of the car park.

These include one accessible toilet with an emergency alarm. It is right-hand transfer.

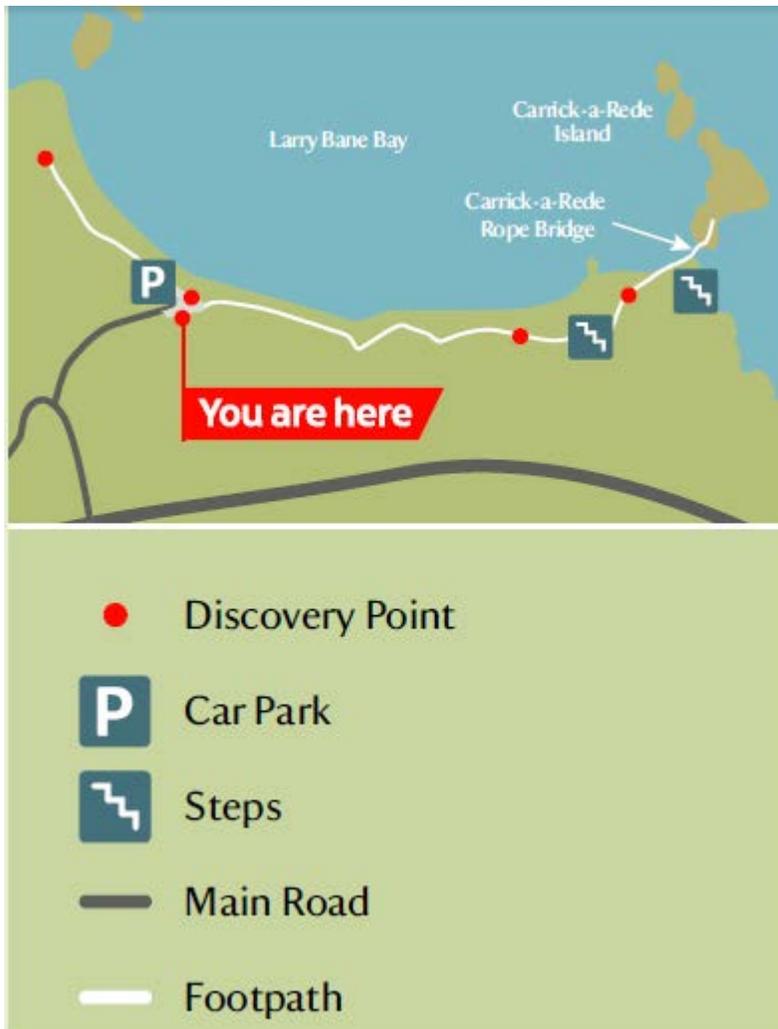
The area is lit by natural light and artificial light and automatic hand-dryers are available.

Visitor Reception

Reception is a wood and metal hut on a tarmac footpath. The entrance is flat with a reception window which is more than 750mm high, however, a stable door is located to the front of the building, where visitors in wheelchairs can speak to staff or staff can come around to visitors.

There is an induction loop available at reception.

Please note: there are no manual or automatic wheelchairs available for loan or hire.



House – Fisherman's Cottage

The Fisherman's Cottage is located on Carrick-a-Rede Island and is not accessible by wheelchair.

It is located over 1km from reception and visitors must cover uneven gravels paths, multiple steps, a cliff-top path and a rope bridge to access the cottage.

There are steep steps down to the cottage and the cottage itself is lit only by natural light.



There are no washroom facilities at the cottage or on the island. The only facilities are located adjacent to the carpark.

There are no induction loops in the Fisherman's Cottage.

Guided tours of the cottage are available upon request and staff will be available to advise anyone with access concerns.

Catering – The Weighbridge Tea-Room

The Tea-room is located between 10m-40m from the main carpark, along a tarmacked path.

There is circulation space between the tables of around 1200mm and staff will be available to assist anyone with limited mobility.

The counter height is higher than 750mm but staff will come around to assist anyone who cannot reach the counter. Induction loop available for till point.

The menus are written on boards are not available in braille.

Straws are available.

Retail

The retail unit is located within the Weighbridge Tea-Room.

Contact details for more information

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E: Matthew.McMullan@nationaltrust.org.uk

Date: 31 May 2016

Map

