

## Souter Lighthouse Access Statement

Coast Road, Whitburn, Sunderland, SR6 7NH

T: 0191 529361

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

### Introduction

- Souter Lighthouse is a grade II listed building open to the public and comprises of ground floor, first floor and lighthouse tower. This access statement relates only to those areas open to the public.
- Mobile phone signal is intermittent. In an emergency please contact a member of staff at the property.
- Assistance dogs are welcome in the lighthouse. All dogs are welcome in the gardens and grounds but please keep them on a lead and clean up after them.
- Pushchairs can be left at the front desk in the engine room.

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

- The car park is directly off the A183 coast road and signed with brown signs.
- At present there are no designated bays for disabled visitors. Disabled drop off is available in the lighthouse grounds. The car park is situated about 100 yards from the lighthouse entrance on level surface.
- The car park is part gravel and part tarmac. There are no marked bays in the car park.
- There is a payment machine in the car park. The cost to park is £2 for half a day and £3 for a full day, or free for National Trust members.



Entrance to car parks

### WCs

- The toilets are located on the north side of the lighthouse and can be accessed internally and externally.
- The area is lit with artificial light.
- WCs have automatic hand driers and hand towels.



Toilet entrance

## Visitor Reception

- The reception desk is located in the Engine Room which has a tiled floor. There is a hessian mat outside the entrance door and another one inside.
- There is one stone step 40mm high into the Engine Room and the clear open width of the door is 1500mm and opens inwards. Staff and volunteers can assist with opening the door if required.
- The height of reception desk is 950mm with a lower front shelf of 760mm. Staff will come round to talk to someone who cannot see over or reach up to the desk.
- There's lots of natural light and also electric light in this area.
- Chairs are available for visitors – please ask a member of staff.
- There is an induction loop available from the reception desk.
- A manual wheelchair is available for loan.



Entrance leading to visitor reception/engine room

## Lighthouse

- The lighthouse is accessed through the engine room/visitor reception.
- The path from the car park and ground outside the entrance is hard surface.
- The lighthouse has lots of artificial lights and some natural light.

- The ground floor is level with outer door leading to Engine Room, through to hallway leading to Compass Room and Collingwood Room and corridor leading to Victorian Keepers Cottage and Scullery to the left and Radio Room and Tower to the right.
- The flooring is a mixture of historic tiles, vinyl, laminate, stone and wooden floor with rugs in some places.
- There's one step up into the Victorian Keepers Cottage and 10 stairs to a two tiered half landing with 180 degree turn and a further 3 stairs to the top landing.
- Some rooms are quite small and not accessible for wheelchairs.
- There are some seats for visitors to use around the lighthouse.
- Volunteers are located at various points around the lighthouse.
- The WC's can be accessed from inside the lighthouse up a ramped entrance.
- Guided tours are available on request.
- Powered wheelchairs or powered mobility vehicles are restricted to the ground floor.
- The tower has 54 spiral steps 190mm high to a door leading to the half landing area. Clear open width of door is 670mm. There's a further 22 steep 'ladder type' steps to the lantern room.



Tower steps

## Catering

- The café is accessed through the door adjacent to the engine room.
- The path from the car park and ground outside the entrance is hard surface.
- The café has ramped access.
- The entrance door is quite weighty, opened manually and inwards.
- Café door is 860mm wide.
- The area has lots of natural light and efficient artificial light.
- Counter is 900mm high
- Staff will assist visitors as required.
- Circulation space between the tables is around 1200mm although some are less.



Café entrance

## Retail

- The shop is accessed through the door adjacent to the toilets.
- The path from the car park and ground outside the entrance is hard surface.
- Entrance to the shop is ramped and the width of outside door is 780mm. There's a 90 degree right turn through another door with clear open width of 750mm
- Entrance door is manual operated.
- The shop can also be accessed from inside the lighthouse up a ramp and door width of 780mm.
- There's lots of natural light and LED panel lights.
- Circulation space between the display stands is limited and less than 1200mm in places.
- Staff will assist reaching down items to view if they cannot be reached by customers.
- Staff can assist with telling visitors the price of items.

## Garden

1. The gardens are fairly small and compartmentalised. All are level access but with some stone steps in places.
2. The wildlife garden is accessed at the top of the drive which is cobbled with a central strip of level hard surface. The bird viewing screen has a lower viewing slot for wheelchair users.
3. The Foghorn Field can be accessed down a set of stone steps and level access from the car park.

## Contact details for more information

T: 0191 5293161

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## The Leas and Whitburn Coastal Park Access Statement

Coast Road, Whitburn, Sunderland, SR6 7NH

T: 0191 5293161

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### Introduction

This property is located on the coast road between South Shields and Sunderland. To the north is The Leas is a two and a half mile stretch of magnesian limestone cliffs, wave-cut foreshore and coastal grassland. The cliffs and rock stacks of Marsden Bay are home to nesting Kittiwakes, Fulmar, Cormorants, Shags and Guillemots. South of the lighthouse is Whitburn Coastal Park and Nature Reserve – reclaimed colliery land, now a haven for wildlife. The coastal path runs the length of The Leas to Trow Quarry and South Shields seafront. Whitburn Coastal Park is criss crossed with paths and markers which are part of the permanent orienteering course and coastal trails. A cliff barrier with warning signs is in place throughout the coastal park and along The Leas. All dogs are welcome, including Assistance Dogs.

**NB** - Mobile phone reception is not very 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 from the A183 coast road. There are brown signs for Souter Lighthouse at the entrance of the car park. There's 2 car parks – turn left for Souter Lighthouse and The Leas and left for the coastal park. The car park surface is firm with a top layer of part loose gravel and part tarmac.



Entrance to car parks

There is a payment machine both car parks. The cost to park is £2 for half a day and £3 for a full day, or free for National Trust members.

Access from both car parks is level, as are most of the paths and trails in the coastal park and along The Leas. There are steep steps down to Marsden Bay next to the Marsden Grotto public house and shallower stone steps further north which again lead down to the foreshore.



Steep steps beside Marsden Grotto



Stone steps to the foreshore

There's a café and shop at Souter Lighthouse and toilet facilities, including an accessible toilet. Further council run toilet facilities are available on The Leas along the coast road.

## Trails

There are three way marked walks ranging from 3 – 10km in length. You can download a leaflet here <http://www.visitsouthtyneside.co.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=17377&p=0>. Way marker posts along the coast indicate the direction of the routes.

There are benches and seats situated along the length of the coast.

Further information about trails around the property is available on our main website. <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/souterlighthouseandtheleas>

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**Date: September 2016**

## Map

