

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.

Access Statement for Grafham Water Park

Introduction

Just a few short miles from Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire, Grafham Water, England's third largest reservoir is the prettiest and best kept secret.

Grafham Water has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for over 30 years. Our western end features a 280 acre nature reserve and is home to ancient woodlands, reed beds and important populations of several bird and amphibian species.

Grafham Water is set in the heart of the Cambridgeshire countryside and is an idyllic place in which to stretch your legs and get away from it all. With nine miles of well-maintained tracks around the reservoir, plus a number of unique nature trails to follow, picnic area and playgrounds Grafham Water has something to interest the whole family.

The Park offers a wide range of attractions for visitors of all ages. Grafham Water offers a range of services including a visitor centre and cafe, Harbour View restaurant plus children's playgrounds, picnic areas and nature trails. There is always something to do at Grafham Water. A birdwatching favourite, our nature reserve is also home to a diverse set of mammal and amphibious species you can watch discreetly from a hide. The fishing here is great too. Our Fishing Lodge is a hub for angling information and has a well-stocked tackle shop that's fantastic value. Plus, there are meeting facilities for those essential get-togethers.

The Park is serviced by three main car parks.

We want everyone to enjoy visiting our Water Parks and most importantly we want you to stay safe - please visit our Using our Parks Safely page on our website at www.anglianwaterparks.co.uk/park-safety

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01480 812154 or email parksinfo@anglianwater.co.uk.

Pre-Arrival

For full details on how to reach us please see our website <https://anglianwaterparks.co.uk/grafham-water-park/visitor-information>. We recommend you use Google maps to plan your journey to Grafham Water to find the most efficient means of travel by car.

Each of our car parks has a different post code. These are detailed as follows:

- Marlow, Visitor Centre, PE28 0BH
 - Mander, Fishing Lodge, PE280BX
 - Plummer, Car Park, PE28 0BN
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- Car Parking fees apply to all visitors. Disabled parking bays are available in all car parks. Blue badge holders are not exempt from the car park fees.

- Huntingdon Train Station and St Neots Train Station are the two closest stations to the Park. Both are under a 15 minute taxi ride away.
- Bus access to the site is limited and we recommend you check the Cambridgeshire or Huntingdonshire County Council website - www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Car Parking and Arrival

- Marlow is our largest car park with ample of parking, followed by Mander and then Plummer.
- We operate a pay on exit barrier-controlled car park system at Grafham Water. At the entrance to the car park please take a ticket from the machine and enter the car park. At the end of your visit please place your car park ticket into one of the pay stations conveniently located around the main car parks. Car parking charges apply to all visitors and are displayed on each car park.
- All car parks are surfaced with tarmac
- Car Parking is only available during the site opening hours. The Park opens daily at 9am, closing times vary depending on the season and are advertised on each car park
- Car park barrier ticket dispenser, help button & swipe card points are approximately up to 120cm in height. If you need additional assistance with gaining entry please contact us by pressing the help button or ahead of your arrival on 01480 812154
- Car park pay station machine buttons, card payment machine, ticket slot & coin slot are up to approximately 140cm height. If you need additional assistance with paying for your ticket please contact us by pressing the help button or on 01480 812154

Building and Centre Entrances

Each car park has a number of attractions each with an alternate layout summarised below:

Marlow

- Visitor Centre restaurant and cafe - step free access. Opening times as per our website.
- Accessible toilets via radar key - step free access via slabs
- Mini Golf - step free access via hard floor through gate
- Jumping Pillow - step free access via lawn
- Play Park - step free access via slabs and lawn
- BBQ areas - step free access via lawn
- Access to the edge of the water - step free access via lawn
- Several picnic benches and memorial benches (with back rests) are available – step free access, sometimes via lawn
- Rutland Cycling - step free access into lower level of shop. Please check opening times with shop.
- Rumbles - step free access via lawn and grass land

Mander

- Fishing Lodge (Accessible Toilets, Harbour View Café, Tackle Shop, Meeting Room) - step free access throughout
- Play Park - step free access via lawn
- BBQ areas - step free access via lawn
- Access to the edge of the water - step free access via hard floor paths and via lawn

- Several picnic benches and memorial benches (with back rests) are available – step free access, sometimes via lawn
- Track entrance through Wildlife Trust gate - via radar key

Attraction

- Free Visitor Guides are available from all Centres
- Lighting in the centres is bright

Public Toilets

- Public toilets are located in the Centres at the Marlow and Mander car parks
- Accessible toilets are located in the Centres at the Marlow and Mander car parks. All are unisex and have step free access and easy opening doors.
- Rails are provided in each toilet

Grounds and Gardens

- The grounds of Grafham Water Park are wide open and exposed. The access tracks mostly follow the reservoir shore line and are exposed to wind and rain.
- The tracks are shared access tracks and are used by walkers, runners, cyclists and dog walkers (dogs must be kept on a lead). The track between Plummer car park and the dam is open to fishing season ticket holders' cars.
- The length of track between the Visitor Centre and the end of the dam (approx. 2 miles in length) is tarmac and a smooth surface.
- The remainder of the track around Grafham Water is a mixture of tarmac, compacted sub base / limestone and areas of compacted soil. Heavy rainfall can make the track muddy and can cause puddles in some areas. In the woodland areas the track tends to be damper and covered by more top soil and leaves from trees. The track has step free access. At Mander Car park access is also available via radar key through the Wildlife trust gate. All other gates allow pedestrian access through the side of the gate.
- Benches are situated along the paths.

Grafham Water Nature Reserve

Grafham Water nature reserve is located with Grafham Water park and consists of approx. 81Ha of mixed habitat around the western end of the reservoir.

Access to the nature reserve is via the cycle track that encircles the reservoir. There is approximately 5km of cycle track within the reserve consisting of a mixture of stone and tarmac surfacing giving a solid but not always smooth surface. The cycle track is generally mildly undulating but as it follows the contours of the land it does have some sections that are steeper.

In addition to the cycle track there are 4.5km of paths through areas of the reserve. These consist of undulating, sometimes narrow, grassy tracks mainly through woodland. This gives them an uneven surface and they can become muddy in periods of wet weather. They are maintained by periodical cutting and mowing of vegetation. There are no stiles on any of the paths and where kissing gates are necessary, they have wheelchair access via a RADAR key.

There are seven bird hides within the nature reserve with an additional hide overlooking the settlement lagoons on the southern shore of the reservoir. All can be accessed from the cycle track but have different characteristics, as listed in the table below.

Hide	Path type to hide	Hide entrance	Distance to nearest car park
Mander	Stone path	No steps	80m to Mander CP
Valley Creek	Stone path, wooden boardwalk	No steps	170m to Mander CP
Dudney	Grass and stone path, wooden bridge	No steps	1100m to Mander CP
Lymage	Grass path and wooden boardwalk	Flight of 8 steps	1670m to Mander CP
Liittless	Grass path and wooden boardwalk	Flight of 10 steps	2160m to Mander CP
Savages Wood Pasture	Stone path and wooden boardwalk	No steps	3560m to Mander CP
Savages	Grass path through woodland	Single step	4310m to Marlow CP
Lagoons	Stone path and wooden bridge	Flight of 4 steps	840m to Plummer CP

There are a number of wooden benches located throughout the reserve, adjacent to the cycle track or other paths.

Interpretation panels are provided at the entrances to the reserve and at various points of interest. These are in large size print, and some contain maps of the reserve. Reserve maps are included in information leaflets available on site. These leaflets can also be downloaded from the Wildlife Trusts website.

Additional Information

- A wheelie boat is available at Grafham Water Fishing Lodge for all access fishing
- We welcome dogs on site
- We have a set of evacuation procedures, should you require it someone will assist you out of the buildings and to a place of safe refuge
- Blue Badge Parking for anglers behind the pontoon – barrier free, step free access, tarmac
- Blue Badge Parking for anglers in the workshop car park – barrier free, step free access, gravel surface
- As well as the three barriered car parks, bank anglers can also park in two anglers parking areas on the North shore. These car parks are not barriered and can be used by anglers only. They are by Hill Farm and by Pylon point and can be accessed from the village of Grafham. Church road takes you to the Hill Farm parking and Church Hill takes you to the parking by Pylon point. Unlike the main 3 barriered car parks, you cannot be locked in if you park in these areas. Access is step free, main track surface.

Future Plans

- We are continually investing in our site and tracks.
- Contact Information
Address: Grafham Water Visitor Centre, Marlow Park, Grafham, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 0BH.
Telephone: 01480 812154
- Email: parksinfo@anglianwater.co.uk (add Grafham in the subject)
- Website: www.anglianwaterparks.co.uk/grafham-water
- Hours Of Operation: 9am daily opening. Closing times vary as per season.
- Local Taxi companies:
Panther Taxi's 01223 715715/ 424424/ 523523
Buckden Private Hire 01480 812929
Nair's Cars 01480 453085
Master Cars 01480 456 000
Huntingdon Taxi 01480 273995
- Local Public Transport: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk