

## **Access Statement for Sherwood Pines Forest Park, Nottinghamshire.**

This access statement does not contain personal opinion as to the site's suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that are offered to all guests/visitors.

### **Introduction**

Sherwood Pines was originally known as Clipstone Forest and was first planted in the early 1920s. It was reopened as Sherwood Pines in 1993 with a car park for 12 cars, with one walking trail and one cycle trail. In the early years Sherwood Pines received less than 30,000 visitors per year.

In 1996, European funding enabled us to build a visitor centre and café, following the completion of both sites, visitor numbers at Sherwood Pines increased by over 30% in the following year.

Sherwood Pines is located on the B6030 between Mansfield and Ollerton and one and half miles from the village of Edwinstowe in Nottinghamshire. The entrance road or 'wind down' is approximately 1km in length from roadside to car park entrance, the site has level access externally, the main car park (Woodlark) has blue badge disabled parking on the first row opposite the Visitor Centre. There are four further car parks, Goshawk, Nightjar, Crossbill and Sparrowhawk with a total car park space for 2200 cars at peak times.

In addition there is a coach parking bay to eastern side of woodlark car park which can provide ample parking for three 60 seater coaches.

The visitor centre hosts; An Information Point featuring multi-media and fixed media site interpretation and staffed by our visitor services team. Folding walking and cycle trail maps as well as first aid can be obtained at the Information point.



The toilet block is attached to the rear of the information point, the male toilets have urinals and eight stalls and one baby change. The female toilets have 18 ladies toilets and a baby change, there are also five disabled access toilets with automated doors. The Information point sits within a gravelled centre which extends to the café buildings to the right hand side. On the left hand side of the visitor centre is a GoApe concession with building and 'Segue corral', the GoApe course lies to the rear of their booking cabin.



Sherwood Pines Cycles has two access points, one from the far left of Woodlark car park and one from the same gravelled concourse that houses the Information point, Café and GoApe. All access points are wheelchair accessible.

To the rear of the Visitor centre and Café is the wooden boardwalk fort structure a climbing frame for children of all ages. This area also hosts mushroom village for children aged 18months to 5 years old.

To the eastern side of the café is the main events field, where we often hold large scale events such as concerts or cycle races.



Sherwood Pines has three waymarked cycle routes which are colour coded to represent difficulty. The easiest route is the three mile surfaced family cycle trail, the moderate six mile Adventure trail is graded blue to represent it's more challenging nature, a mixture of surfaced narrow track with often loose natural surfacing.

The red graded Kitchener trail is eight miles long, consists of narrow singletrack of natural trail and reinforced surfacing and features

exposed roots, off camber turns, blind corners and technical trail features such as rocks, jumps and berms.

Other stand-alone cycle features include;

The Bike Park, accessible along the Kitchener at post 12, or the Adventure trail at post 10, Conceived in 1989 as the off road cycling area the area has seen many changes since that period. Its latest incarnation is as a jump spot along with a 4X inspired track.



The skills loop, situated close to the event field between posts 1 and 2 of the family trail, offers beginners and new visitors an opportunity to experience typical technical trail features found on the Kitchener trail.

The visitor centre area has three large map boards showing the layout of the site as well as start and finish points for the cycle trails. The map board also shows the specific location of the waymarked walking trails. The Pink Nightjar trail leaves the visitor centre area in an easterly direction and picks up along it's three mile route Robin Hoods Hideout, a climbing frame and play area for children aged between 6-12 years old.

The white, one mile Dragonfly trail links to the Nightjar trail but includes a circular walk around Childhood Wood a memorial woodland situated close to the edge of pine woodland.

All walking trails and surrounding roads and paths are wheelchair accessible. Sherwood Pines has membership and accreditation of the Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme.

In the same are our world war one trench project in under completion to commemorate the site use as a training base for 30,00 troops during the Great War.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require assistance please phone 01623 825411 or 01623822535, or email SherwoodPines@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

### **Pre-Arrival**

For a map and directions of how to get to Sherwood Pines please see the 'location' section on the website, which has a link for satellite navigation. Alternatively, you can plan your journey by public transport or car using 'get direction!'; simply enter your postcode and select your mode of transport.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-82sdr5>

The nearest railway station is at Mansfield Woodhouse, which is 4 miles away. Taxis are not available at this station.

An easy to read map is available on site, or can be downloaded from the website.

The Visitor Centre is open 9am-5pm daily, except Christmas Day. During Summertime April-October Sherwood Pines is open from 8am to 10pm and 8am to 6pm November to March.

All dogs are welcome, but only registered assistance dogs are allowed within the café. (Please do not be offended if we ask for evidence of registration).

## Car Parking Facilities and Arrival



The main car park, Woodlark, has approximately 200 spaces for cars, is opposite to the visitor centre area and a short walk to the entrance of the Information point and toilets. There is a charge for parking of £1 for the first hour and £4 all day thereafter, and blue badges must also be displayed when using those spaces. Woodlark has two coin operated car park machines at its centre and one cash and card machine opposite the Information Point.

There is clearly-signed blue badge parking spaces situated 60m from the Visitor Centre entrance.



The car park surface is compressed stone. Pedestrian access to the visitor centre is all on one level. The car park is lit in evenings in winter.

Our outer car parks of Goshawk, Nightjar, Crossbill and Sparrowhawk all have cash and card payment machines, have gravelled hard core roads, but mainly set to lawn for parking and picnic purposes. They have no extra lighting during winter months and are often closed during these periods.

There are three entrances leading to the Visitor Centre. The main entrance is closest to the blue badge parking and has step-free, level access. One of these entrances leads directly to Sherwood Pines Cycles.





### **Information Point and Toilet block**

There is step-free, level access throughout. There are double doors at the visitor centre main entrance; one door is usually secured open, except during extreme weather. When the door is closed it is a light, easy-to-use glass door, measuring 950mm wide x 2100 high, with a lever handle. The second door can also be opened, creating an opening of 1900mm, there are windows either side of the doors measuring 850mm, with windows above the doors measuring a further 350mm..



The information point and toilet block is a wooden purpose built structure clad in larch timber, in has underfloor heating, double glazed windows to front and side aspects.

The main office attached to the toilet block (which is open seven days a week, provides maps, information and further large scale map of the site. Discovery passes (Annual car park passes) can be purchased here, and questions and issued can be raised.

The information point has a kitchen area for staff as well a large storage area for tools and marketing purposes. Access to the toilet cubicle cisterns is via a separate corridor.

The male toilets have two external doors measuring (900mm x 2100mm x 44mm) and one internal door (825/2050/44) they have 8 cubicles, one large communal urinal and one single urinal. There are 10 sinks providing hot water with four hand dryers. The male toilets also have one baby change facility.



The female toilets also have two external doors (900/2100/44) and an internal door (825/2050/44) they have 18 cubicles and 12 sinks providing hot running water, they also have two hand dryers and a separate toilet with baby change.



Both the Male and female toilets observe a one-way entry and exit system with clear signage displaying the correct into and out of the facility.

There are 5 unisex accessible. Four have automated doors measuring 900mm x 2100mm x 44mm, operated by a push button to the left of the doorway and locked electronically from the inside. These doors open outwards. Inside each has a hand rail, emergency pull cord and sink with hot running water.



The fifth disabled toilet door (also measuring 900/2050/44mm) is operated by handle and opens inwards, this is a larger space for individuals with specific needs/need of a carer. These too have hand rails, emergency pull cords and a sink with hot running water.

The accessible toilets comply in size with building regulations.

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/buildingregulations/approveddocuments/partm/approved>

Handrails, toilets and washbasins are white, there is an easy to operate push button to operate the taps on the sink.

There is an emergency alarm pull cord, which is accessible from ground level. It is located just inside the toilet to the left. This emits a loud noise, and alerts the visitor services staff in the office area. An additional vertical rail to the right of the toilet, when facing toilet, which can be easily be lowered and locked into the horizontal position.



The toilets in the cubicles are 480mm/19 in height and are flushed with a simple button

## Sherwood Pines Café.



The café has seating for 60 customers inside and approximately 30 more outside on the decked area. The café has wooden parquet flooring with an outside raised deck seating area. There are a number of large heavy wooden picnic benches in the immediate vicinity of the café. For further information on prices and a current menu please refer to: [www.sherwoodpinescafe.co.uk](http://www.sherwoodpinescafe.co.uk).

## Sherwood Pines Cycles



Sherwood Pines Cycles has a wide range of bikes for sale or hire as well as clothing, components and accessories. They also offer a workshop service with two Cytech qualified mechanics. For further details and current prices more information is available via the links on our website; [www.forestry.gov.uk/sherwood](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/sherwood) or via [www.sherwoodpinescycles.co.uk](http://www.sherwoodpinescycles.co.uk)

Although there are two entrances into the shop, the entrance from the courtyard has the best accessibility, as the other entrance is via a paved area to workshop at the rear.

There is a picnic area with bench at the side of the bike shop.

### **Picnic areas**

There are several picnic areas with benches around the play areas, event field and out on the trails. In addition our outer car parks, Goshawk, Crossbill, Nightjar and Sparrowhawk are landscape for barbecuing and picnics.



There is an outdoor seating area in the courtyard of the visitor centre, where food and drinks purchased from the café may be eaten.

## Play areas



There are several play areas on site immediately accessible from the rear of the Information point and café. The Mushroom Village and wooden boardwalk fort structure is within an unsurfaced wooded area, there are picnic benches available. Informal play, such as den building is within the same area.

A surfaced pathway leads from the boardwalk towards Robins Hoods Hideout, a formal play structure is situated in its own space 600m away. Along this path are a number of 'Play on the Way' structures and statues, informal play is catered for with a collection of Norleg huts.



Robin Hoods Hideout is a large adventure climbing frame, made with wooden poles, chains and ropes and caters for children aged between 6-12 years old.

The play area closest to the visitor centre is suitable for toddlers upwards and has an accessible, flat, hard-stoned path through it. The equipment comprises of mainly wooden structures, with rope elements in a contrasting blue rope. This area has numerous benches, with good visibility of the equipment.



### **Additional Information**

There are a variety of events and activities available throughout the year, so please ask staff for more details including accessibility. Or refer to our website or facebook page at; [www.forestry.gov.uk/sherwoodpines](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/sherwoodpines) or [www.facebook.com/sherwoodpines](https://www.facebook.com/sherwoodpines).

### **Contact Information**

#### **Address**

Forestry Commission, Forestry Holdings, Sherwood Pines Forest Park, Edwinstowe NG21 9JL. Tel. 01623 825411/01623 822535.

Email: [sherwoodpines@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sherwoodpines@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

Website [www.forestry.gov.uk/sherwoodpines](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/sherwoodpines)

#### **Grid Reference**

OS Grid ref: SK612637

Hours Of Operation 8am till 10pm Summertime, 8am – 6pm Autumn/Winte