

# Rufford Abbey Country Park Access Statement

Rufford Abbey Country Park welcomes visitors. We want to make sure it's enjoyed by guests, whatever their level of mobility or access needs. Please use these notes or ring our Visitor Information Office on 01623 821338 for more detailed advice to help you get into and around the park, safely and easily.

## General Points

The park is 150 acres in size, and is a mixture of parkland, grassland, gardens, surfaced walks and buildings. Most of the park is flat, with only one short incline which may be difficult for push wheelchairs. This is on the far side of the lake in the area known as Scotland Bank. A **site plan** showing accessible paths around the park is available free from Visitor Information, and can be downloaded from our webpage [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/ruffordcp](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/ruffordcp)

## Entrances and Car Parks

The park has two entrances, each with car parking and some spaces marked for blue badge holders.

- Rufford Abbey (off A614)
- Rufford Mill (off Wellow Lane)

A car parking charge of £3 applies at peak times, but parking for **blue badge holders** is free at all times. We recommend that visitors with mobility restrictions use the main Rufford Abbey entrance and car park, as this gives easier access to toilets, shops and the Visitor Information Office.

## Wheelchairs and Mobility Vehicles

All public facilities on site, such as toilets shops and catering outlets are accessible to wheelchair users. Wheelchairs and electric mobility vehicles are available on free loan from the Visitor Information Office, which is located in the Craft Centre Courtyard, open 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. Please book in advance to ensure availability. Tel. 01623 821338.

## Toilets

Accessible toilet at Rufford Abbey (Craft Centre Courtyard). Radar key needed (ask at Visitor Information – we have a spare). There is also an accessible toilet at Rufford Mill, on the ground floor in the entrance to the Outdoor Living Shop

## Paths and Surfaces

There is a mixture of different path types at Rufford Abbey Country Park. Areas immediately surrounding the Abbey remains are hardcore, crushed limestone or

tarmac, giving a firm surface for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. The Craft Centre Courtyard (the historic former Abbey stableyard) is cobbled, but wheelchair / mobility vehicle users generally get around the courtyard without problems.

Further out into the park paths are narrower and more informal, with a loose crushed limestone surface. Most, such as the circuit around the lake, are suitable for wheelchairs. Users of walking sticks and other mobility aids should be aware that paths within the woodland are more uneven. At times woodland paths can be partially covered by fallen leaves, which can make surfaces slippery when the weather is wet, and for partially sighted visitors, the edges of woodland paths will often be indistinct. Please bear this in mind when choosing your route around the park.

Ask for a free **site plan** where paths are colour coded to show their level of accessibility.

### **Hard to Access Areas**

The top storey of the **Abbey ruins** is not accessible to wheelchairs and can only be reached by stone steps. Because this is a scheduled ancient monument, building adaptations are not possible. Mobility-restricted and visually impaired visitors please note that the **Undercroft** of the Abbey is dimly lit and has a stone flagged floor, uneven in places. Please take extra care in this area.

### **Hearing Impaired Visitors**

Our Visitor Information Office is equipped with a portable induction loop – please ask. If you are attending a function at the Talbot Suite, this has a built-in induction loop system.

### **Blind / Visually Impaired Visitors**

We can print and send out copies of our park events programme in large sized print on request, or order Braille and tape versions of park leaflets, including the park events leaflet. Please ask at Visitor Information, tel. 01623 821338, or e-mail [peter.pearson@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.pearson@nottsc.gov.uk)

### **Need More Help?**

Everyone's access needs are different. If you need extra information, help or advice in order to get around the park and enjoy your visit, don't hesitate to ask. Call Visitor Information, tel (01623) 821338, 10.30 am – 4.30 pm daily or e-mail [info.rufford@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:info.rufford@nottsc.gov.uk)