



Access Statement for Sandwell Valley Country Park

Sandwell Valley Country Park

Open throughout the year, Sandwell Valley Country Park is a Green Flag Park that is in the heart of the West Midlands and just one mile from West Bromwich town centre. The Country Park provides a real taste of the countryside and has over 2,000 acres of woodland, grassland, pasture and lakes that attract over 800,000 visitors a year.

Whether your interests lie in walking, birdwatching, sports or just being in the great outdoors, you are sure to find something to do in Sandwell Valley Country Park. It is an award winning Green Flag park and a great place to spend the day.

Within the Country Park are two Visitor Centres with ground floor access throughout. The main Visitor Centre, Sandwell Park Farm, is a Grade II Listed Building and has steps in the Reception, though these can be by-passed.

There are many paths around the Country Park which are suitable for wheelchair access. The Country Park is very large and can take more than a day to walk around. There are no steep hills in the Country Park although a number of the paths do have inclines. Some paths are also bridleways.

As well as two working farm visitor centres are nature areas, an aerial assault course, an adventure playground, a mountain bike trail, an RSPB Visitor Centre, woodland, meadows and farmland. Leisure facilities include an adventure centre with cycle hire, access routes for walking, cycling and horse riding, pitch and putt, footgolf, crazy golf, tennis courts, football pitches, astroturf, a BMX pump track, tractor and trailer rides and land train rides. We are also home to one of the region's largest free outdoor gyms. Historic features range from Priory Ruins, the Sand Well, a Ha-Ha, an Ice House, Burnt Mounds and remnants of coal mining.

The Country Park provides a programme of events including, conservation volunteering, weekly health walks, craft fairs, a summer school holiday fun fair and large-scale shows and festivals. The Sandwell Valley Showground is also host to a range of national events. The RSPB Nature Centre near Forge Mill Lake provides a further gateway to the Country Park, with a visitor centre, a bird hide and car parking. Sandwell Valley

Country Park guarantees to provide a great day out in the country for all the family.

The Country Park is open from 7.30am until dusk throughout the year.

Park Facilities

- Visitor Centre
- Museum
- Farmyard
- Café/Restaurant
- Gift Shops
- Walled Garden
- Glass Houses
- Farm Animals
- Children's Play Area
- Cycle routes
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Events
- Car Parking
- Golf
- Crazy Golf
- Footgolf
- Tennis Courts
- Football Pitches
- Floodlit Astroturf
- Historic Buildings
- Nature Reserve
- Nature Walks
- Picnic Areas
- Ponds and Lakes
- Toilets
- Walking Routes
- Wildlife
- Wildflower Areas
- Woodlands
- Angling
- Public Sculptures
- Sensory Trail
- Fitness Equipment

We look forward to welcoming you. For further information please follow us on our Facebook page 'Sandwell Valley Country Park', view our website: www.sandwell.gov.uk/sandwellvalley or telephone us on 0121 569 3070.

Parking is available at Sandwell Valley Country Park, Sandwell Park Farm, Salters Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 4BG. Alternative car parking can be found

at Swan Pool and Forge Mill Farm, B71 3SZ.

Farms

Sandwell Park Farm

Sandwell Park Farm, a Visit England accredited visitor centre, is a restored Victorian farm in the heart of the Black Country with a historic farmyard, a walled kitchen garden, gift shop and tea rooms.

The farm is home to rare and endangered breeds such as Hereford Cattle and Black Pigs, Leicester Longwools, Boray Sheep and Bagot Goats and is a Rare Breed Survival Trust Approved Farm. Meet the farmer sessions are regularly held in the visitor centre during school holidays.

We have an indoor tearoom which sells freshly ground coffees, pots of tea, specialty teas and a wide selection of cold drinks as well as a variety of home-made cakes, biscuits and buns. There is also a range of freshly prepared lunch options from salads, jacket potatoes, Panini's and sandwiches. We also serve breakfasts until 1.00pm. We have children's meal options such as the Young Farmers Lunchbox and high-chairs. We also have a garden tea bar which sells a variety of snacks and drinks including chips and nuggets and slush. The garden bar and tea rooms also sell a variety of alcohol so you can enjoy a cold beer or glass of wine in the sunshine in our beautiful tea garden.

Within the Visitor Centre grounds there is also a children's maze, play room and a gift shop which sells plants, meat and fresh produce including 'Sandwell Valley honey', toys and gifts.

We are also available for children's party bookings and have party rooms for hire; we offer catering for these parties, for the children we provide a Young Farmers Lunchbox, which includes a sandwich, snacks and farm toys. As part of your visit we can also include an animal experience on the farm. Please call reception on 0121 569 3070 for further details and bookings.

The admission fees into the Visitor Centre, Farm, Tea Rooms and Gardens are as follows:

- Adults - £2.50
- Children/over 60s - £2.00
- Family ticket (two adults, up to three children) - £9.50
- Family ticket (one adult and up to three children) - £7.00
- Under 5s free

Annual and six-monthly passes are available from the farm reception.

The opening times of the visitor centres are: 10.00am – 4.30pm (last admission is at 4pm).

Forge Mill Farm

Forge Mill Farm is a working farm which allows free entry and offers visitors the chance to see a variety of farm animals. The centre includes a farm shop which sells fresh meat, vegetables, plants, gifts and serves drinks and light snacks. Within the grounds of the visitor centre there is also a small animal area, a farm trail, a children's playground, a vending area, good access to Forge Mill Lake and ample car parking.

There is also a maize maze during the summer/autumn months. The maize maze is on a farmer's field, so we recommend that you wear sensible footwear or boots if it's been raining. You can buy your tickets to the maze at the Farm Visitor Centre. Last admission to the maze is at 3.00pm. For ticket prices please telephone 0121 588 7210.

The opening times of the visitor centre is: 10am – 4.30pm (last admission is at 4pm).

For further information please follow us on our Facebook page 'Sandwell Valley Country Park' or telephone us on 0121 588 7210. The address is: Forge Mill Farm, Forge Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 3SZ.

Pre-Arrival

- For full details and maps of how to reach us, please see the directions section of our website. Alternatively, you can plan your journey by car or public transport using a journey planning website: simply enter your postcode and ours, which is B71 4BG, to get directions.
- The nearest railway stations are The Hawthorns, Hamstead and Tame Bridge Parkway.
- Sandwell Park Farm is approximately 1km or 20 minutes walk from West Bromwich town centre, where the main bus station is located.

Car Parking and Arrival

- Sandwell Park Farm has a good surfaced and well-lit car park for up to 100 cars, including blue badge bays. The car park is only 150 metres from the visitor centre. Further car parking is available within 200 metres and is close to other attractions.
- Other surfaced car parks can be found at Swan Pool and Forge Mill Lake on Forge Lane.

- Forge Mill Farm is situated 50 metres from the surfaced car park at Forge Mill Lake, where there is ample parking with blue badge bays.

Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area

- The main entrance and gift shop at Sandwell Park Farm is on the ground floor with step free level access throughout and a tiled floor.
- A separate door which can be opened by staff leads to the Farmyard area.
- The buildings are well-lit with natural light and overhead lighting.
- Admission to the Farm, Tea Rooms and Kitchen Garden is £2.50 for adults, £2.00 for seniors and children over 5, with family tickets available.
- The entrance and the gift shop at Forge Mill Farm are on the ground floor with level access throughout. Admission is free.

Attraction (displays, exhibits, rides etc)

- Sandwell Park Farm is an example of a working Victorian Farm with animals and a kitchen garden amongst the attractions. A heritage display also tells the history of Sandwell Valley.
- Interpretation boards and a variety of information and walks leaflets are available.
- Braille is currently available on some boards.
- Forge Mill Farm is a modern working farm where animals and 21st century farming practices can be experienced. A gift shop, a farm trail and a children's play area are also situated on site, where access is level and partially surfaced.
- Over 2,000 acres of countryside including woodlands, pools, meadows and marshland are to be explored in the wider area of Sandwell Valley Country Park. Signposts, leaflets and marked cycleways help visitors to find their way around.

Public Toilets

- Public Toilets are situated on the ground floors at Sandwell Park Farm and Forge Mill Farm with level access from the main entrances.
- Public Toilets, including a unisex accessible toilet, are also located at the Pavilion building near the Adventure Playground.

Catering

- The Tea Rooms at Sandwell Park Farm are situated on the ground floor with step free level access from the entrance. There is also a tea bar which sells snacks and light refreshments that is open during school holidays and during event days.
- A lift is available for toilets situated on the first floor.
- Lighting is natural daylight with overhead electric lighting.

Shop(s)

- There is a shop at Sandwell Park Farm selling gifts and souvenirs which can be accessed from the main entrance at ground level. The shops are level throughout.
- There is a gift and souvenir shop at Forge Mill Farm which is accessible from the main entrance at ground level. The shop is level throughout.

Grounds and Gardens

- At Sandwell Park Farm there is a Kitchen Garden with a circular surfaced path which is level throughout. Benches are in place around the Garden.
- Sandwell Park Farm has a farmyard area which is level and surfaced with brick paving.
- There is an outdoor picnic area and benches at Sandwell Park Farm which are on a level surface.
- There is an outdoor picnic area at Forge Mill Farm on a level surfaced area.
- Main pathways are 1.5 metres wide or more.

Additional Information

- We have a set of evacuation procedures from the farm buildings - should you require it, someone will assist you with evacuation either out of the building or to a refuge.
- Two members of the Tea Room staff are trained for sign language.
- We welcome trained assistance dogs. A water bowl is available at main entrance points to the buildings for assistance dogs.
- Clear signage is used throughout the Country Park to assist with directions.

Future Plans

- The website is regularly updated. We welcome comments to assist us with improving the site. We will also shortly be launching a new website 'Explore Sandwell' (launch of this website is scheduled for November 2016).
- Future plans include access awareness training for staff.

Contact Information

Address: Sandwell Valley Country Park, Sandwell Park Farm, Salters Lane West Bromwich, B71 4BG

Telephone: 0121 569 3070

Website: www.sandwell.gov.uk/sandwellvalley

Grid Reference: SP019914

Hours Of Operation: Farms open 10.am - 4.30pm

Local Public Transport: The nearest bus stop is on Lloyd Street, West Bromwich by the main entrance to Dartmouth Park and is served by buses 405, 406H and 407H. From here it is about 800 metres to Sandwell Park Farm.