

Tring Park

Accessibility Statement February 2017

Purpose: This accessibility statement outlines the available facilities and access information for Tring Park.

Welcome

We, the Woodland Trust, invite everyone to enjoy Tring Park – a 264 acre mosaic of chalk grassland, mixed woodland and designed parkland.

Tring Park is one of Hertfordshire's most important ecological areas and one of the Woodland Trust's most exciting and diverse sites. It is a place where everyone can find space, peace, wildlife and beautiful views to explore.

All visitors are welcome at Tring Park with free access 365 days a year.

Further details about Tring Park, volunteering opportunities and the Woodland Trust are available on the [Tring Website](#). If you have any queries or require any further information please contact tringpark@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

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1. Before you arrive

Tring Park lies to the south of Tring. The site runs along the Chiltern ridge, and sits within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The park and woodlands contribute greatly to the local landscape as they are visible from approaches to Tring, notably from the A41.

At 264 acres, there are multiple entrances to the site all linking to either bridleways, public or permissive footpaths. If you are visiting Tring Park for the first time, we recommend you use the entrance leading over the A41 from the joint Woodland Trust and Natural History Museum at Tring car park on Hastoe Lane so that you can view our information board and site map.

Alternatively, if you are in the Natural History Museum at Tring, you can follow one of the recommended self-guided walks from there (see 'Self-Guided Walking Routes').

We do have livestock which graze on site at Tring Park. In the main parkland area we use cows, and in a smaller isolated area known as Oddy Hill, we use Sheep. If you would like to find out more about visiting an area with livestock please visit NFU website [here](#).

2. Visiting us

a. By train

Regular trains run to Tring station which is approximately 2 miles away from Tring Park (Station Road, Tring, HP23 5QR).

Tring station is on the London Midland suburban rail line and is served by London Euston, Watford, Milton Keynes, Northampton and Birmingham. Check travel websites to get up to date journey information before departure. For information on train times please contact National Rail on 08457 484950 or visit the National Rail website.

From Tring station you can walk, cycle or use the bus service into Tring. To enter the site if you are not in a vehicle, head towards the Natural History Museum at Tring main entrance turn left on to Park Street. There is a gate on the right hand side of the road which takes you through to the joint Woodland Trust and Natural History Museum's car park. If you are arriving on bike, please use the cycle stands in this car park as bikes are not permitted in the parkland area (for more information about cycling on site see 'Self-Guided Walking Routes').

To enter the site from the car park, follow the alleyway along the fence line and over the A41.

b. By bus

There are several options for travelling by bus to Tring Park. The recommended route depends on where you are visiting us from, but services run between Tring, Wigginton and Aldbury via Tring Station (387), from Watford to Aylesbury (500/501), Dunstable to Aylesbury (61), Aylesbury to Whippsnade (161) and from Leighton Buzzard (164), all via Tring. If you are planning to travel by bus please check travel websites to determine the best route and times and plan ahead for your journey. For more information on bus services please visit the [Traveline](#) website.

Once you have arrived in Tring, head towards the Natural History Museum at Tring main entrance turn left on to Park Street. There is a gate on the right hand side of the road which takes you through

to the joint Woodland Trust and Natural History Museum's car park. To enter the site from the car park, follow the alleyway along the fence line and over the A41.

Alternatively if you were to get the bus to Wigginton you could access Tring Park from here by walking along Wick Road and turning right onto Common Field. At the end of this road where it meets Highfield road on the corner, there is a private road to the left called 'Upper Tring Park'. You can walk along here to our site entrance which will be on your right hand side. Please note there is no map at this entrance.

c. By car

If travelling by car to Tring Park, the nearest post code is HP23 6AP. If following a sat nav, this postcode will take you to the Natural History Museum at Tring but our joint car park is just around the corner on Hastoe Lane.

The car park has a 10mph speed limit and a single track loop. Please take note of the right of way clearly indicated to allow safe and efficient transport around the car park. The parking bays themselves use a grass-protector system that come off this main loop.

Please do refer to the website to double check if the car park is open as in wet weather it can be shut. If this is the case, please use the NHM@T car park on Akeman Street if there is space, or the ones off the High Street.

Both Tring Park and the Natural History Museum at Tring have brown signage directing visitors once you are off the A41.

If you are visiting for the first time we recommend that you use this car park and entrance to get to Tring Park.

There are other entrances to Tring Park which are not close to this car park. Whilst there is no site designated parking near these, there are places you can leave your car if you feel comfortable to do so, and at your own risk. Please refer too section 5 for more information on these entrances.

d. By bike

The towpath of the Grand Union Canal offers a scenic, flat and traffic-free route for cycling if coming from Leighton Buzzard or Watford direction. Some areas of the tow path can be particularly rough ground and muddy so please take extra care on these parts. The towpath is used frequently by walkers so please also keep to a leisurely pace, particularly when near to a town area.

Whether you are travelling from the north or south, come off the canal at Station Road and continue towards the High Street (B4635). Once on the High Street please take extra care as this is a busy road and whilst traffic is not fast moving there are a lot of zebra crossings, pedestrians on narrow pavements, and often delivery vehicles to the local shops, café's and restaurant's.

Follow the brown signage, by turning left onto Akeman Street and continue along here until you reach the main entrance of the Natural History Museum at Tring. Turn left onto Park Street. There is a gate on the right hand side of the road which takes you through to the joint Woodland Trust and Natural History Museum's car park. There are several bike stands here where you are welcome to store a bike for the duration of your visit.

For those of you who would like to cycle through Tring Park, you are welcome to do so, on our King Charles Ride, which is also part of the Ridgeway National Trail. This 1 mile stretch of bridleway takes in some magnificent views of the local area and is a fairly flat, semi-surfaced, wide path. Please take care when cycling on this path as it often has walkers and horse riders present.

Please note that this is the only path that cycling is permitted on in Tring Park. To get to this, continue on from the Natural History Museum at Tring entrance on Akeman Street and follow the sharp right hand bend round. Turn immediately left on to Hastoe Lane and continue for around 0.5 miles. At this point bear left on to Marlin Hill and continue for another 0.4 miles. The entrance to Tring Park will be on the left hand side of the road. Please note that this route is particularly hilly and is a narrow road so take extra care of vehicles.

3. Arrival and car park

The free joint Woodland Trust and Natural History Museum at Tring car park provides parking for 30 cars, with 4 designated for blue badge holders. These spaces are clearly marked with a blue badge logo. There are no time restrictions on length of parking for visitors to the site, allowing you plenty of time to explore! Just be sure to check the car park closing times shown below.

This car park becomes particularly busy during school holidays, and if you should find that it is full, please do park in the car parks off Tring High Street.

The car park drive surface is compacted stone with some potholes and the parking bays are made up of a grass protector system therefore in adverse weather conditions this car park could potentially become muddy or waterlogged and in extreme circumstances may have to close for remedial work. Please check the website for up to date information about this.

If you are visiting with a dog, please also keep him/her on a lead when in the car park.

Six bike stands are available for use during your visit. They are located next to the coach parking bays.

The Woodland Trust and Natural History Museum at Tring does not accept responsibility for any vehicle or bicycle left in the car park and we politely remind visitors not to leave any valuables on display.

The car park is managed by the Natural History Museum at Tring and the opening and closing times are listed below. The closing time is also clearly displayed on the welcome sign to the car park from Hastoe Lane for your convenience.

Car park opening hours	Opening time
Monday – Friday	10am – 5pm
Saturday	10am – 5pm
Sunday	2pm – 5pm

4. Nearest facilities

We want everyone to enjoy their experience at Tring Park. Due to the size of the site, you may find the following information useful when planning your day.

It is worth noting that from the car park to the main entrance for Tring Park there is currently a fairly narrow fence walkway, steps and a bridge over the A41.

Toilets

The nearest toilets are in the Natural History Museum at Tring which are open from 10am Monday to Saturday. There are also toilets in Tring Forge car park, including a disabled and baby change facilities.

Food and drink

There are plenty of pubs and café's in the Tring area. For individual information about each of them, or to request accessibility information please see the relevant websites or contact them directly.

There are more than on this list but some of them do not currently have websites, so please do explore them to find your favourite!

Zebra Café – Natural History Museum at Tring, Akeman Street, HP23 6AP.

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/tring/facilities-and-access.html> - please note the café is only open weekends and school holidays but the space is available for you to use the rest of the time with pack lunches or picnics.

Akeman Inn – Akeman Street, Tring, HP23 6AA

<http://www.theakeman.co.uk/>

The Kings Arms – King Street, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 6BE

<http://www.kingsarmstring.co.uk/>

Jack and Alice – 50 High Street, Tring, HP23 5AG

<http://jackandalice.co.uk/>

Black Goo – 98 High Street, Tring, HP23 4AF

<http://www.blackgoocoffee.co.uk/>

Espresso Lounge – 56 High Street, Tring, HP23 5AG

<http://theespressolounge.co.uk/>

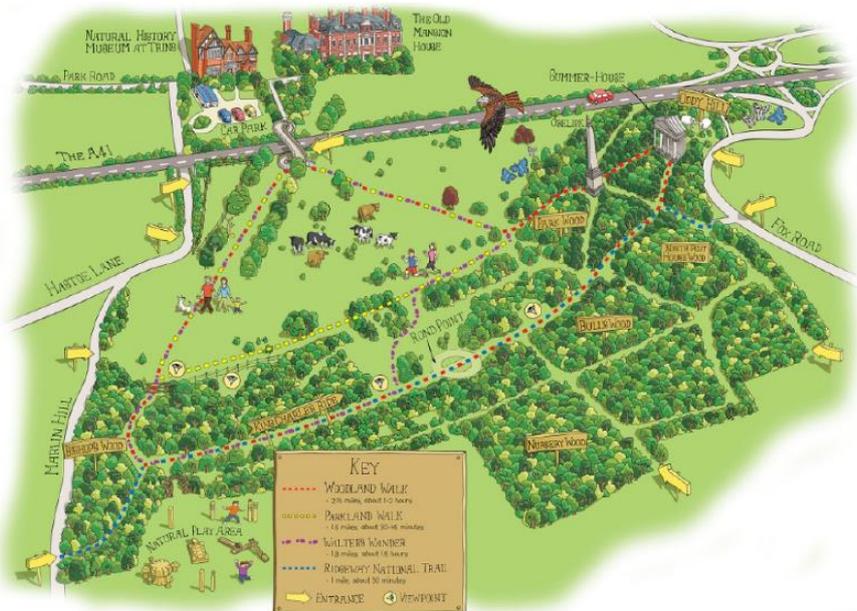
There is also a nice village style pub in Wigginton:

The Greyhound – Chesham Road, Wigginton, Tring, HP23 6EH

<http://www.greyhoundtring.co.uk/>

5. Entrances to Tring Park

There are nine entrances to Tring Park, as highlighted by the map below, which all include different access methods.

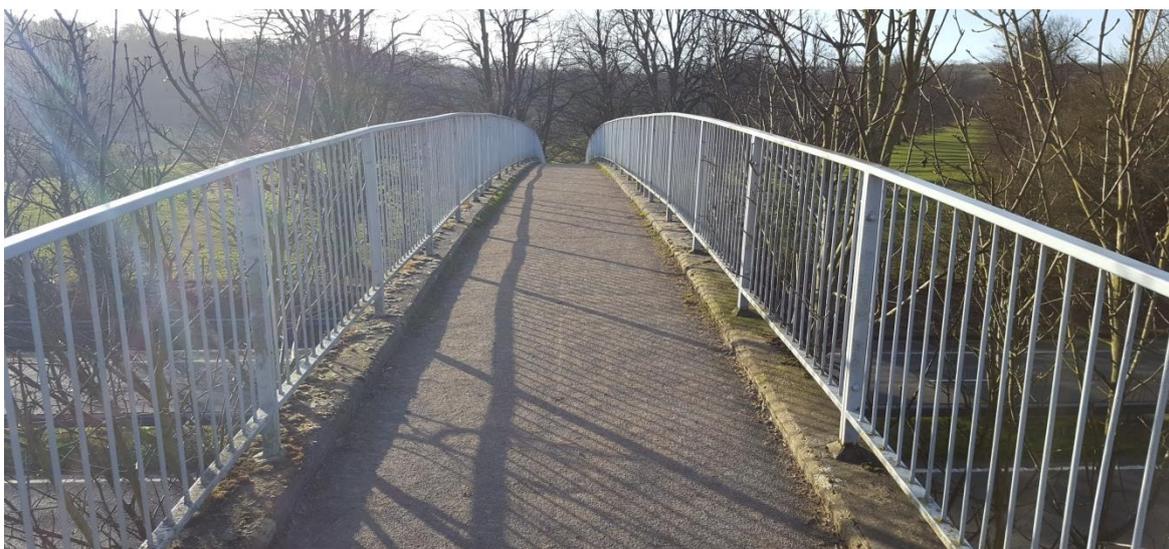
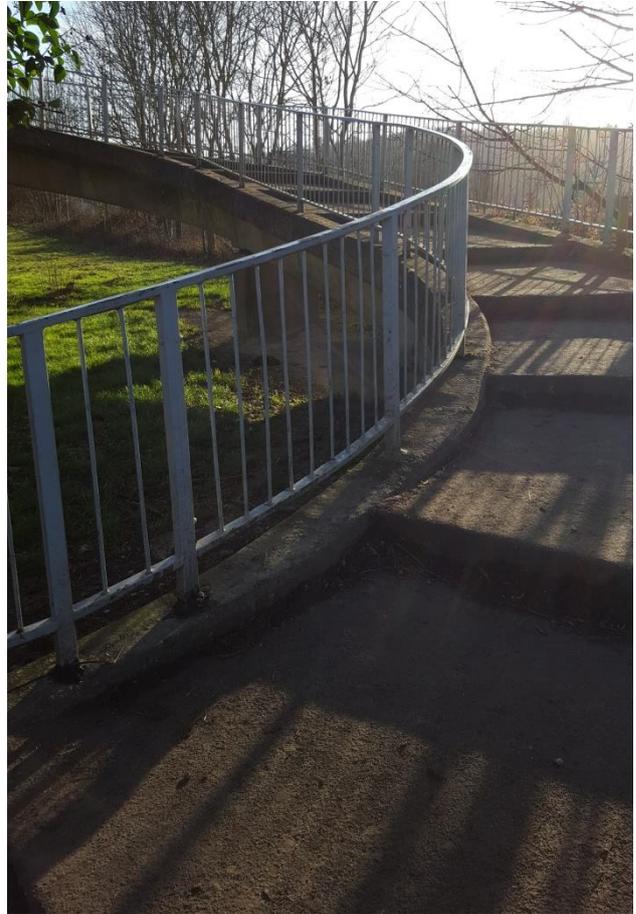


Main Entrance

The main entrance to Tring Park is via the path at the side of the joint Natural History Museum at Tring and Woodland Trust car park. This entrance can usually be accessed and used by visitors with lightweight pushchairs, however does require them to be lifted over the kissing gate at the end.

The path is surfaced but has become uneven and potholed over years of use. There are steps at either end of the footbridge, which crosses above the A41. Both the path and footbridge can become very muddy and slippery in wet conditions so please take extra care.

The bridge and steps have handrails on both sides. Both the path and the footbridge are currently managed by Highways and are not owned by the Woodland Trust.





Hastoe Lane (1) Entrance:

The first entrance along Hastoe Lane requires walking under the A41 instead of over it, and can be accessed directly off the pavement on the left hand side. There are 11 steps that lead to a wooden kissing gate, with handrails on both sides.

This route takes you across one of our adjoining fields and to a metal kissing gate which enters into Tring Park at the same point as the main entrance mentioned above.

The path across the field can get particularly slippery and muddy in wetter weather so please do take extra care.





Photo from Google Maps

Hastoe Lane (2) Entrance:

The second entrance along Hastoe Lane has been modified to allow access for wheelchair and mobility scooter users.

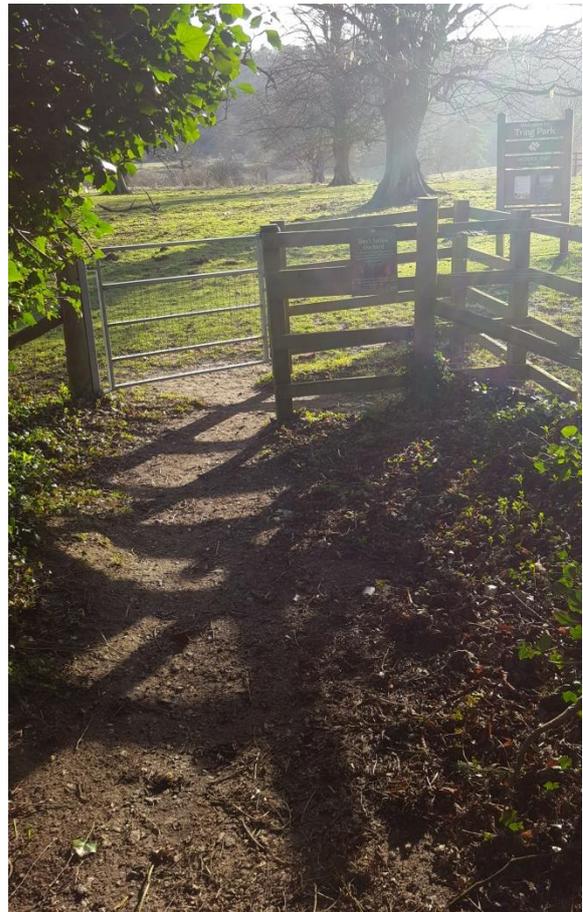
There is no site specific parking at this entrance, but there is an area opposite which you can leave your car should you feel comfortable to do so. This area is very uneven, and is only suitable for raised vehicles such as 4x4's, or vehicles with raised ground clearance.

There is no pavement leading to this entrance so access from the car park would require on-road travel, if you decide that dropping off or parking at this point would not be possible.

The path leading to the kissing gate has been ramped from the road and is semi-surfaced providing a solid base in all seasons.

This entrance will bring you in to Tring Park at the top of the lime avenue. In order to get into the woodland if you are a wheelchair or mobility scooter user, please head towards the Obelisk where our other modified gate currently is. We are working towards installing a second, wider kissing gate in another area of the park as well to allow for a circular route.





Marlin Hill (1) Entrance:

The first entrance off Marlin Hill brings you in to Tring Park at the top of the parkland.

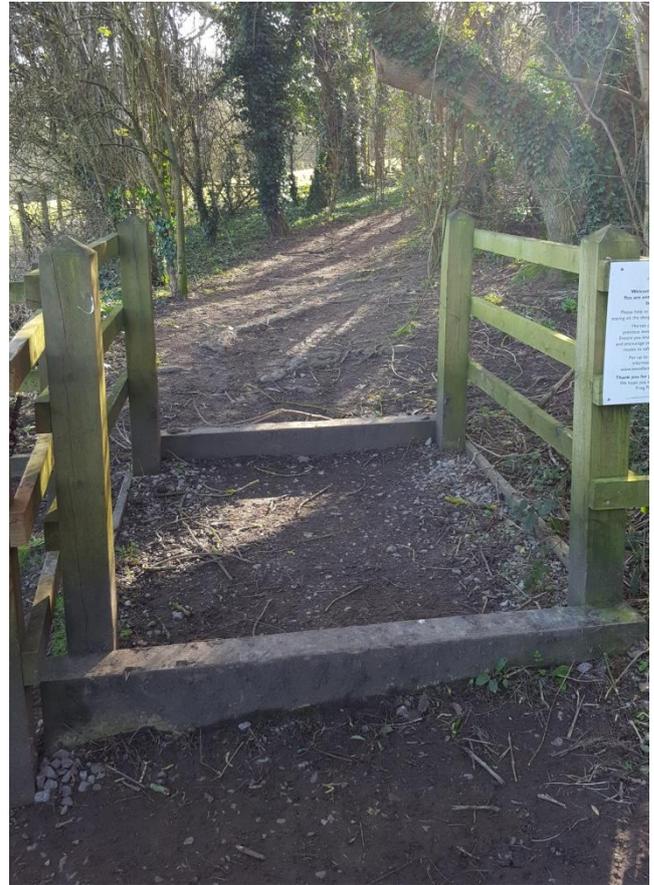
There is a kissing gate which takes you into the parkland, or there is a permissive bridleway which runs directly into the woodland. Cyclists and horse riders are welcome to use this bridleway. There is no kissing gate for this path, but there is a horse hop.

There is no site specific parking at this entrance, but occasionally people do park on the side of the road if you feel comfortable to do this.

There is no pavement leading to this entrance so access from the car park would require on-road travel, if you decide that dropping off or parking at this point would not be possible.

The paths leading from these entrances are unsurfaced and can get muddy and slippery in wet or adverse weather.





Marlin Hill (2) Entrance:

The second entrance off Marlin Hill brings you in to Tring Park on the main path through the woodland. This is also where the Ridgeway National Trail enters/leaves the site.

There is no kissing gate at this entrance. Instead there is a horse hop to the left hand side of the management entrance and a 'squeeze point' to the right, both of which takes you into the woodland.

This path is a bridleway and as such, cyclists and horse riders are welcome on it. It is semi-surfaced and in good condition.

There is no site specific parking at this entrance, or on the roads surrounding it, so it is suggested that this route is best for local walking. Please do take extra care as there are no pavements around this area either.





Wick Road Entrance

This entrance is accessed off of Wick Road, a private road in Wigginton. Whilst there is no parking or vehicular access to this entrance there is on street parking available nearby if you feel comfortable to park here.

This route is much flatter in comparison to other entrances at Tring Park and the road section is tarmac. The actual entrance to Tring Park is off this road and across an arable field. This section is un-surfaced and becomes particularly muddy and slippery in wet weather.

At the boundary to the woodland edge there is a kissing gate. Once through this the woodland path leads you in to the site. This path is also un-surfaced.



Upper Tring Park Entrance

This entrance is also accessed off a private road. Upper Tring Park leads off of the corner of Highfield Road and Common Field in Wigginton and our entrance is on the right hand side.

There is no kissing gate, horse hop or 'squeeze point' at this entrance, instead there is a chicane fence. The path is semi-surfaced until you get further into the woodland.

This entrance is also a lot flatter than many of the others at Tring Park.

Whilst there is no parking or vehicular access to this entrance there is on street parking available nearby if you feel comfortable to park here. Please note that there is a school on Common Field so the surrounding roads may become increasingly busy at school start and finish times.



Fox Road Entrance

This entrance is our third entrance accessed off a private road. The small unmade road leads directly off Fox Road and whilst there is no parking or vehicular access to this entrance there is on road parking available nearby if you feel comfortable to park here. However, this road can be particularly busy.

This entrance is fairly flat and there is no kissing gate, horse hop or 'squeeze point' and is also where the Ridgeway National Trail enters/leaves the site.

The path leading from this entrance is semi-surfaced, but can get muddy in wet weather around the entrance itself.



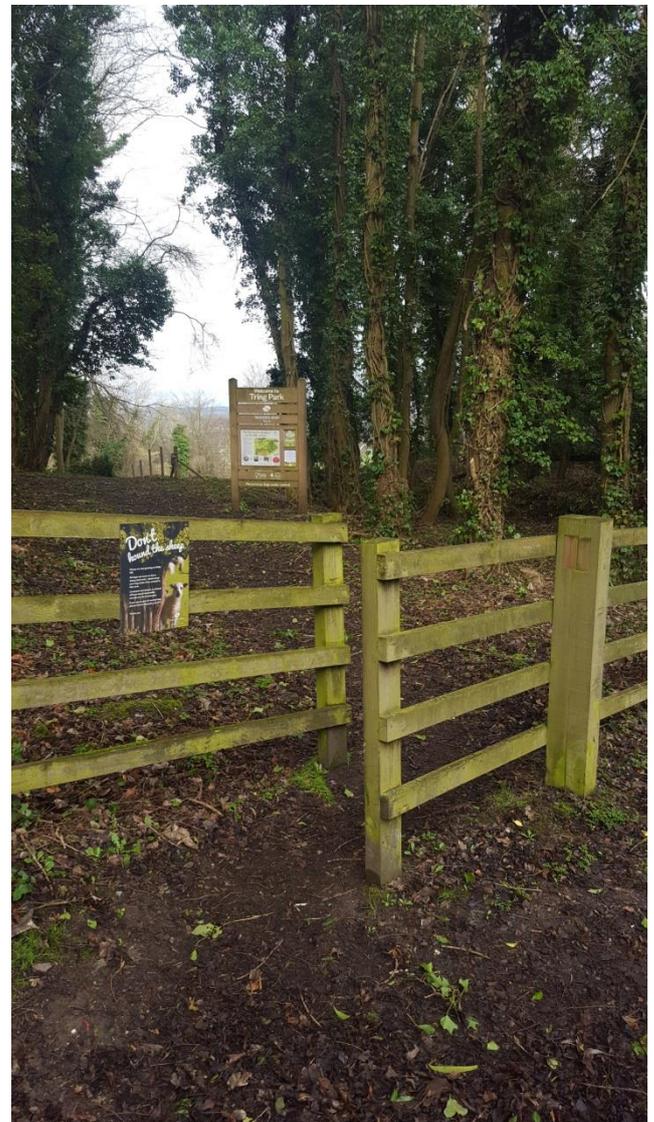
Oddy Hill Entrance

This entrance is directly off Fox Road and enters the site next to our small isolated chalk grassland area known as Oddy Hill.

Whilst there is no parking or vehicular access to this entrance there is on road parking available further up the road if you feel comfortable to park here. However, this road can be particularly busy.

This entrance is off of a fairly steep hill and there is no kissing gate or horse hop, instead there is a 'squeeze point'. There is a pavement that leads to this entrance; however there are small sections further along the road where there is none.

The path leading from this entrance is unsurfaced and can get particularly muddy in wet weather. If you continue straight on this path, it becomes a steep downhill route so please take care on here.





5. Paths

The paths at Tring Park are a variety of surfaces and gradients.

The main path through the woodland (King Charles Ride) is also a bridleway and is the only path cyclist's and horse riders are permitted on. This path is semi-surfaced, firm under foot and is in good condition.

Other woodland paths are unsurfaced and can become extremely muddy and slippery in wet and adverse weather conditions.

The parkland paths are typically grass and can become particularly slippery in wet weather. During prolonged wet periods they can also become very muddy.

Majority of the parkland walks do include a relatively steep incline.

Keeping to marked paths helps us care for and protect the parkland and woodland. Visitors and dogs should avoid creating and using 'desire line' paths that can often disturb ground nesting birds and

rare plants. This also helps us to protect the areas where species lay dormant until the spring or summer.

6. Obstacles

You will encounter some obstacles at Tring Park which are listed below:

Steps – There are steps to 2 of our site entrances as mentioned above. There are also steps at our viewpoints if you wish to take the steep paths directly back into the park.

Kissing gates – Four of our entrances use kissing gates to access the site. One of these has been modified to allow for a mobility scooter to fit through (as mentioned in the more in depth entrance information above). Due to having livestock on site for management reasons, there are also kissing gates between the parkland and the woodland to prevent their escape. The one leading towards the Obelisk has been modified to allow for a mobility scooter, however all others are currently unsuitable for this use. **Please do ensure that you close all gates behind you.**

Livestock – Livestock are on site for the majority of year and are carrying out important conservation work for our chalk grassland management. Cows can be found in the main parkland area and sheep can be found grazing on our smaller more isolated Oddy Hill area.

For more general information about visiting a site with livestock please visit the NFU website [here](#).

Pregnant ladies are advised to stay away from livestock and to wash their hands as soon as possible after leaving site and before eating.

7. Additional access information

Benches - There are a number of benches around Tring Park, with the closest a 10- 15 minute walk from the car park.

Dogs - Dogs are welcome guests at Tring Park. The vast majority of the site allows dogs off lead – however we do ask that you have dogs under control and preferably on lead near livestock. We ask that you walk no more than four dogs at once and please pick up after them and take the bags home with you.

Horses - Horses are welcomed on the public bridleway through the woodland (King Charles Ride) and the recently installed permissive bridleway off Marlin Hill. Horses are not permitted on any other footpaths, including the other paths through the woodland and parkland. The bridleways are also used by pedestrians and cyclists.

Bicycles - Bicycles are welcomed on the public bridleway and the recently installed permissive bridleway off Marlin Hill. Bridleways are also used by pedestrians and horse riders. All other footpaths are not accessible for bicycles and horses and are intended only for pedestrian use.

Medical care - While there may be Woodland Trust employees or Volunteers on site who are trained in First Aid (particularly during events), if you require immediate medical attention we advise you visit the nearest hospital, Stoke Mandeville, Mandeville Rd, Aylesbury HP21 8AL.