

Cwmcarn Forest Drive Re-opening

Frequently Asked Questions

When does Cwmcarn Forest Drive re-open to visitors?

Monday 21st June, 10am

What are the opening times throughout the year?

1st March – 31st October, 10am – 6pm (Last entry 4pm)

1st November – End of February, Weekends only, 10am - 4pm (Last entry 2pm)

How much does it cost?

Just £8 per car, which includes access to numerous picnic areas and accessible walks, various adventure playgrounds and storytelling areas and breath-taking panoramic views of the South Wales Valleys and across the Bristol Channel.

The ticket also enables free parking on the valley floor if you fancied a bite to eat in the popular Raven's Café, a visit to the gift shop to pick up a souvenir or a gentle stroll around the lake once visiting the drive.

Cwmcarn Forest Drive is the ideal opportunity to spend the whole day with friends and family, as there really is something for everyone.

Mini bus (1-16 seater) £15

Coach (17+ seater) £30

Motorbike £4

Do I pre-book?

No pre-booking available, please arrive at the barrier and pay for your admission via cash only. Please note, we do not accept card payment at the barrier at the moment. This facility will be available shortly.

I only have card, how do I enter?

Please visit the visitor centre on the valley floor to pay, we will then give you a token to allow you access to the drive.

How long does it take to see the entire drive?

The drive is 7 miles long and takes approximately 30 minutes minimum to complete (If you did not stop at any carparks, adventure play areas or viewpoints) and depending on capacity.

The average visit lasts approx. 2 hours.

Is there a limit to how much time we can spend on the drive?

There is no limit to how long you can spend visiting Cwmcarn Forest Drive. If you wish to spend the afternoon with the family basking in the sunshine and enjoying the panoramic views, you're welcome to stay until closing time (note times above)

I need to pop home as I forgot the BBQ, can I leave the drive and come back later in the day?

Unfortunately, no, once you exit the drive there is no re-entry (unless you pay the admission fee again)

I missed car park 3, can I turn around and go back?

Unfortunately, no, we operate a one-way system along the drive. Once you pass a particular car park or viewpoint, you cannot turn around or reverse, so please plan accordingly using the map provided at the barrier. Alternatively you can download a copy on our website beforehand here: <https://www.cwmcarnforest.co.uk/activities/CWMCARN-FOREST-DRIVE/>

Please note, due to the valley landscape of Cwmcarn Forest Drive, phone signal is intermittent in some locations, so we would advise you download a copy of the map prior to visiting, so as it is saved on your mobile device.

Do you offer season tickets?

Yes, season tickets are available for £60 per vehicle. Vehicle registration is taken at time of booking. Please contact the visitor centre on 01495 272001.

Can I bring a BBQ?

Yes of course. Our car parks have dedicated BBQ areas (Car parks 1, 3, 4 & 6) but please respect our facilities and dispose of your BBQs correctly in the bins provided.

NOTE: Disposable BBQs only. No coal BBQs are permitted.

Is the drive fully accessible?

We're pleased to inform our visitors that all our car parks along the newly improved Cwmcarn Forest Drive are fully accessible with designated disabled parking bays and toilets in car parks 1, 3, 4 & 6.

What facilities are along the drive?

The drive is equipped with toilets and baby changing facilities.

We are appealing to all visitors to avoid parking in disabled bays unless you are authorised to do so.

What if I get locked in after closing time?

Last entry is 2 hours prior to closing time, which will enable you ample time to see the drive. Please ensure you give yourself plenty of time to visit and plan accordingly.

Our rangers will check the drive prior to locking the barriers, however in the unlikely circumstance you are locked in, please contact the visitor centre on 01495 272001.

The weather isn't looking great, are you open?

During inclement weather such as snow, fog, mist or if the drive is particularly icy, we reserve the right to close the drive without notice due to health and safety. Please keep an eye on our social media accounts where we will make any announcements.

I want to avoid crowds, when is the best time to visit?

We're anticipating a high volume of visitors in the coming weeks, so please check our Facebook page before travelling. We will be posting regular updates on the Forest Drives capacity.

We have ample parking for up to 120 cars along the 7-mile route, but if you would prefer a less crowded experience, please arrive early and avoid peak days/times e.g weekends.

I'm at the barrier and there is a queue, are you full?

The drive has a 120-car capacity. Once capacity has been reached, the barrier will operate a one in, one out policy. We're anticipating a high volume of visitors in the first few weeks of re-opening. We would advise you try to visit during weekdays if possible.