



Cedars Nature Centre accessibility guide – general zoo visits

Contents

- How to find us – public transport, parking and finding us in the park
- Arrival at the zoo – queues, zoo entrance, carers tickets and accessible toilets
- Zoo layout – animal enclosures, sensory map and general accessibility of zoo
- Daily talks – what happens in our talks?

Last updated: September 2025

Any questions not answered in this guide?

Please email us at

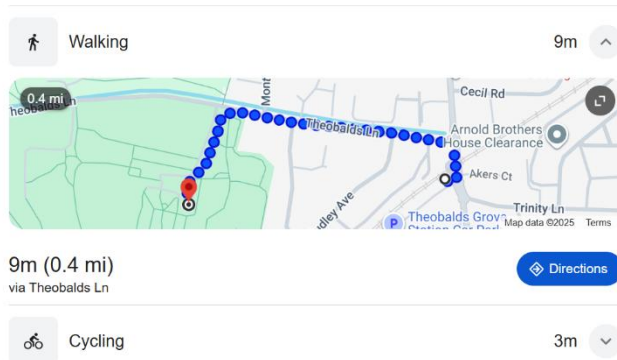
info@cedarsnaturecentre.co.uk and we will
be happy to assist you

How to find us

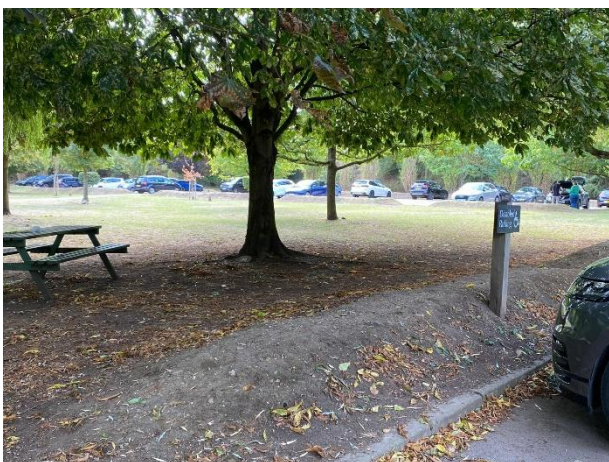
By train - nearest train station: Theobalds Grove (approx. 9 minute walk to zoo)

Located on the Weaver Line. Passenger assistance is available however no step-free access or lifts at this station. Staff are available to help even without pre-booked assistance between 05:04-00:35 Monday-Saturday and 07:19-00:05 Sundays according to the National Rail website.

By bus – nearest stop is Theobalds Grove Railway Station (approx. 9 mins as above). Bus lines that pass near Cedars Park are the 242, 310, 251 and 217.



By car – Cedars Park (in which the zoo is based) has a free public car park. At weekends and during school holidays, spaces can fill up quickly, and there is no parking on the side roads around the zoo, so please bear this in mind. In the car park, there are 5 blue badge spaces available. There is also parking available at Theobalds Grove train station.

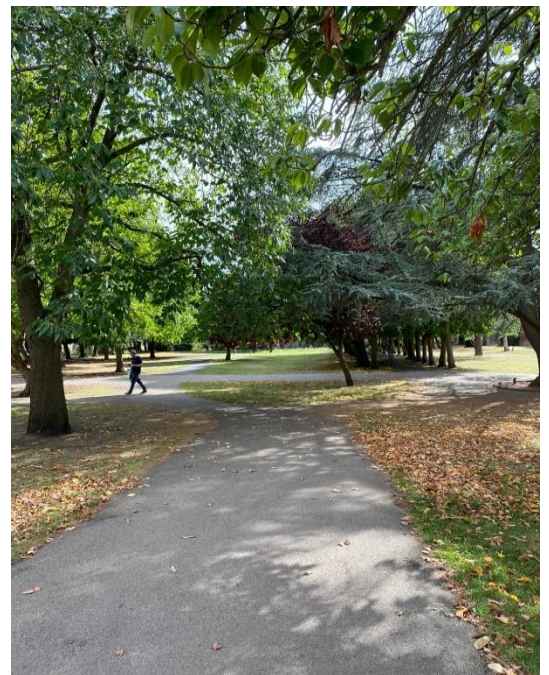


How to find us in the park - Once you've found Cedars Park, the next step is to find the zoo.

First take the pathway from the car park



Then through the palace ruins and turn right. You will then come into the park



You will see the café on your left. Go past the café and you will see the zoo entrance.



There are signposts and maps to help you if you get lost, or most people in the park will be happy to direct you.



Arrival at the zoo

This is the zoo entrance. When you go inside, on the right you will see our rat and chinchilla enclosures.



Just to note, our shop is also placed in our entrance. We only have one way in and out of the zoo so you will exit the same way you came in, past the shop.

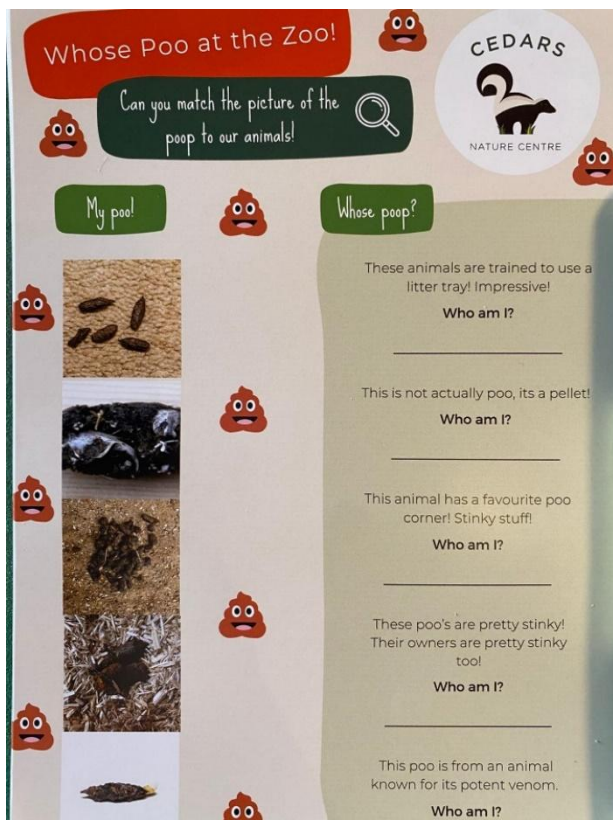


Someone may be on the till already when you arrive, if there isn't please wait and someone will come to the door to serve you. Our prices are £2.40 per person, under 2s and carers free. No booking is necessary and generally there is no queue for the zoo. Our quietest hours are often Sunday mornings and weekdays, and busiest time is Sunday afternoon.



When you go to the till, the person serving you will first take payment for entry. They will then offer you a stamp to let us know you've paid and to allow re-entry to the zoo throughout the day. This is useful as we run talks every 45 minutes (see our talks section for more information) so you can interact with a variety of animals, however, if you are not comfortable with this then this is not a problem.

In the holidays, we often have trails running in the zoo for children to take part in – they will receive an activity sheet and can get a sticker for completing this. See an example below of our popular 'Whose poo at the zoo' trail. Staff will let you know at the door if a trail is available or you can check our social media beforehand.



Zoo layout – see map below

General layout The zoo is structured in one big loop of enclosures with a tropical house on one side. There is only one way in and out so you can generally see your group within the zoo at any time.

Quiet/rest areas The quietest areas of the zoo are generally by the butterflies, in the outdoor classroom (when not a talk taking place) and the wildlife area. There are benches around the zoo including in the outdoor classroom and wildlife area.



Busy/loud areas Generally the entrance is the busiest area and can become loud when there is many people in and out. The tropical house can also become busy and warm in the holidays when multiple families are in there but often its only a short amount of time before it becomes clearer again. If the kookaburras are making their laughing sound this can become quite loud but this is not often. In the holidays, the stage area can become busy during talk times, however, there is plenty of space to move away from the crowds whilst still hearing the talks as the keeper will be wearing a microphone headset.

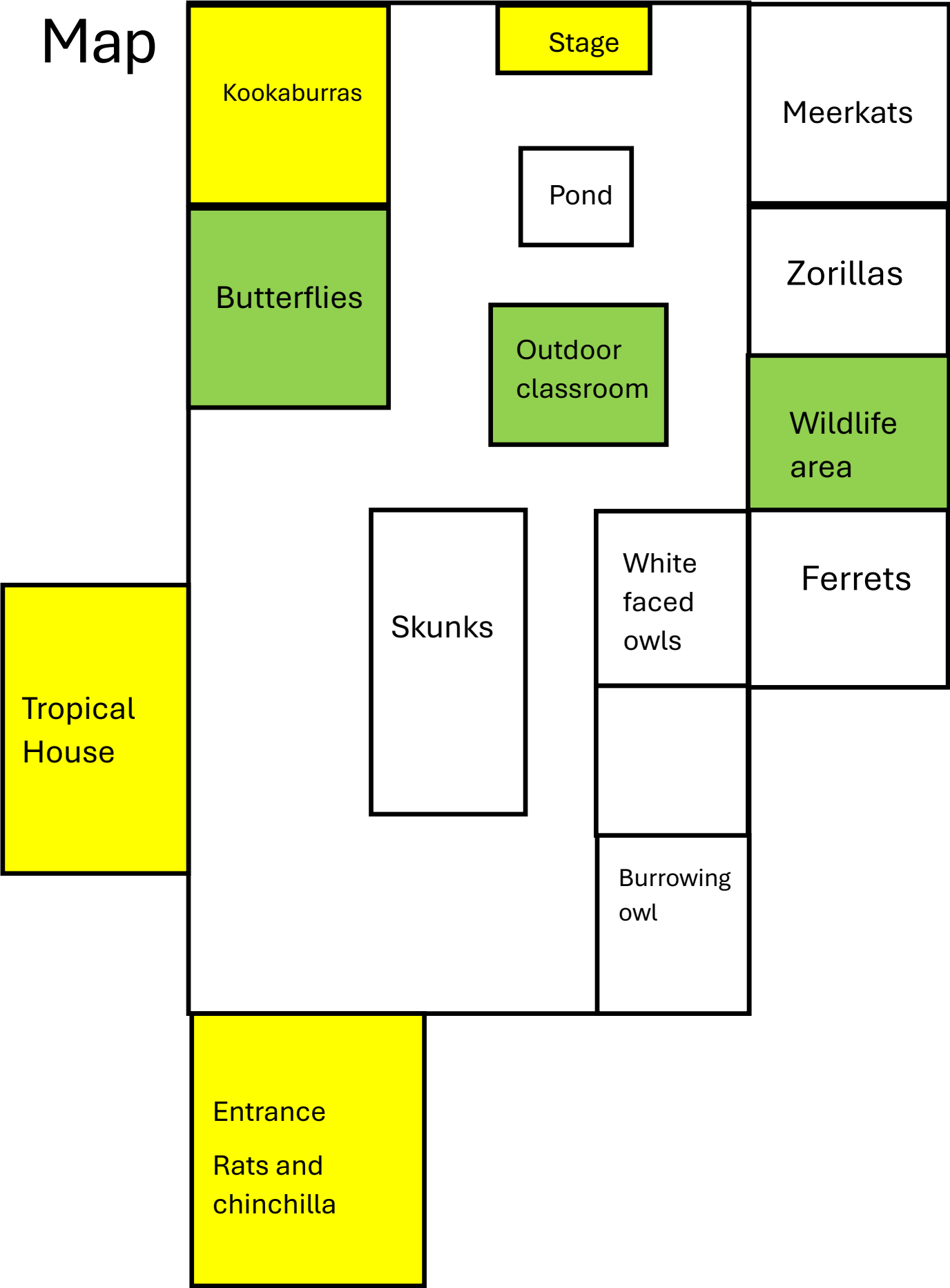
Toilets There are no toilets directly within the zoo, however they are located within short walking distance just past the café. There is an accessible toilet and baby changing facilities available here, the accessible toilet is usually locked via a RADAR key, we have one on site for you to borrow if needed.

Wheelchair access The zoo has step free access and is designed to be wheelchair friendly. The pathways are smooth and cover the whole zoo and there is lower viewing panels for all of our enclosures. As a small zoo, all distances between enclosures is very short also.

We have a tropical house at the zoo. Although there are two doors allowing wheelchair entry when both open, in winter they may be closed to help keep the animals warm. If they haven't already, please don't hesitate to ask a member of staff to open both doors to allow access.



Map



Daily talks

At Cedars we have a daily schedule of talks, a winter and summer schedule based around our opening times. The same talks will happen at the same time each day within these periods providing consistency for your visits. Please check our social media or send us an email to confirm talk times for the date of your visit. With a stamp, you can come in and out of the zoo the whole day to see the different talks.

Meerkat feed and talk 10.45am (+4pm in summer hours)

Our most popular talk. In this talk, the keeper will tell you all about our friendly group of meerkats and their diet. We will open one of the enclosure windows and the public are able to throw some of the meerkats' food through the window under direction from the keeper. This is usually a mix of fruit, veg and occasionally cat biscuits however in an afternoon talk you may also get the option to feed their protein – this could be eggs or insects. We have a sink to wash your hands afterwards.





Fish feed 11.30am

The keeper will tell you about the fish in our pond in the middle of the zoo. Everyone will given some fish food to put in the pond and then you can watch the fish eat. You can then wash your hands at our sink.

Mystery animal meet and greet 12.15pm (+2.30pm in summer hours)

You will get to hear about one of our animals with the chance to stroke them. We rotate our reptiles (blue tongued skink, several tortoise species, royal pythons, bearded dragon), armadillos, tenrecs, rats and ferrets for this talk usually. We are normally unable to confirm which animal will be on which day as it depends which animals are not on a rest day. However, occasionally we run specific weekends eg 'tenrec weekend' when our mystery talks are confirmed to be that specific animal in advance.



Skunk meet and greet 1pm

The keeper will start within the enclosure telling you about our skunks. Then, weather and behaviour permitting, the keeper will bring a skunk out for you to stroke.

Minibeast meet and greet 1.45pm

Similarly to our mystery talk we will rotate our minibeasts for this talk. The usual options include a tarantula, scorpion, several stick insect species, giant African land snails and a praying mantis. The keeper will tell you about them and may have some items to show you such as insect moults and eggs. Depending on the species and crowd size, you may be able to touch the minibeast however many are delicate so you may only be able to look. The keeper will give you clear directions on this.



Kookaburra talk 2.30pm in winter, 3.15pm in summer

You will hear all about our two kookaburras in this talk and then see them have their dinner. They are carnivores so will be eating insects, mice or chicks during this talk but generally the keeper will give you a heads up before they bring out the food in case you are squeamish.