Top picks
Best spots to visit

See the best of our wetland wildlife
Use the numbers with the map overleaf

1 Experience wild whooper swans up close
Watch during autumn and winter months from the heated Sir Peter Scott observatory.

- Visit our swan talk and feed by the warden at 11am and 2pm daily, October to March.
- Look out of the large windows to see the swans and ducks feeding, preening or sleeping.
- Use the touchscreen to find out more about the individual whooper swans outside.

Walk on the Wildside – May to August

2 Go bug hunting and learn about wildflowers and insects.

- Visit the Wildlife garden where there is a bug B&B, Millipede mansion, Amphibian amphitheatre, and lots of wildlife-friendly flowers.

3 Look out for thousands of barnacle geese visiting from Svalbard
Visit our hides during the autumn and winter months.

- From our different hides you will see the flooded fields. **Can you find which fields the geese are feeding in?**

- **What sounds can you hear them making?**
- These geese have travelled a long way. They nest in the Arctic Circle, such as on the Norwegian islands of Svalbard.

4 To spot some of our wild woodland birds visit our Peter Scott trail and feeding station
From here you can see a mix of woodland birds including robins, blackbirds, goldfinches, greenfinches, blue tits, great tits, house sparrows and tree sparrows.

- You may be lucky to see a shy water rail under the feeders in winter.
- Use our ID signs to identify the common birds.

5 Get a bird's eye view across the centre and reserve
Take the steps to our Farmhouse tower.

- From here you can see panoramic views across the reserve and the Solway Estuary.

- Use the huge binoculars brought back from the South Pacific during World War Two by Sir Peter Scott, to count the barnacle geese.

- Best done in small groups.

6 To see the latest wildlife action up close, see our live big screen in the Cathan coffee shop. Features an osprey nest in the summer and whooper swans in the winter.

7 Visit the Paddock and wildlife garden for a wild walk and explore our ponds for amazing underwater life.

wwt.org.uk/**learningzone**

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust registered charity in England & Wales, no. 1030884 and Scotland, no. SC039410

Map and guide

For schools and learning groups

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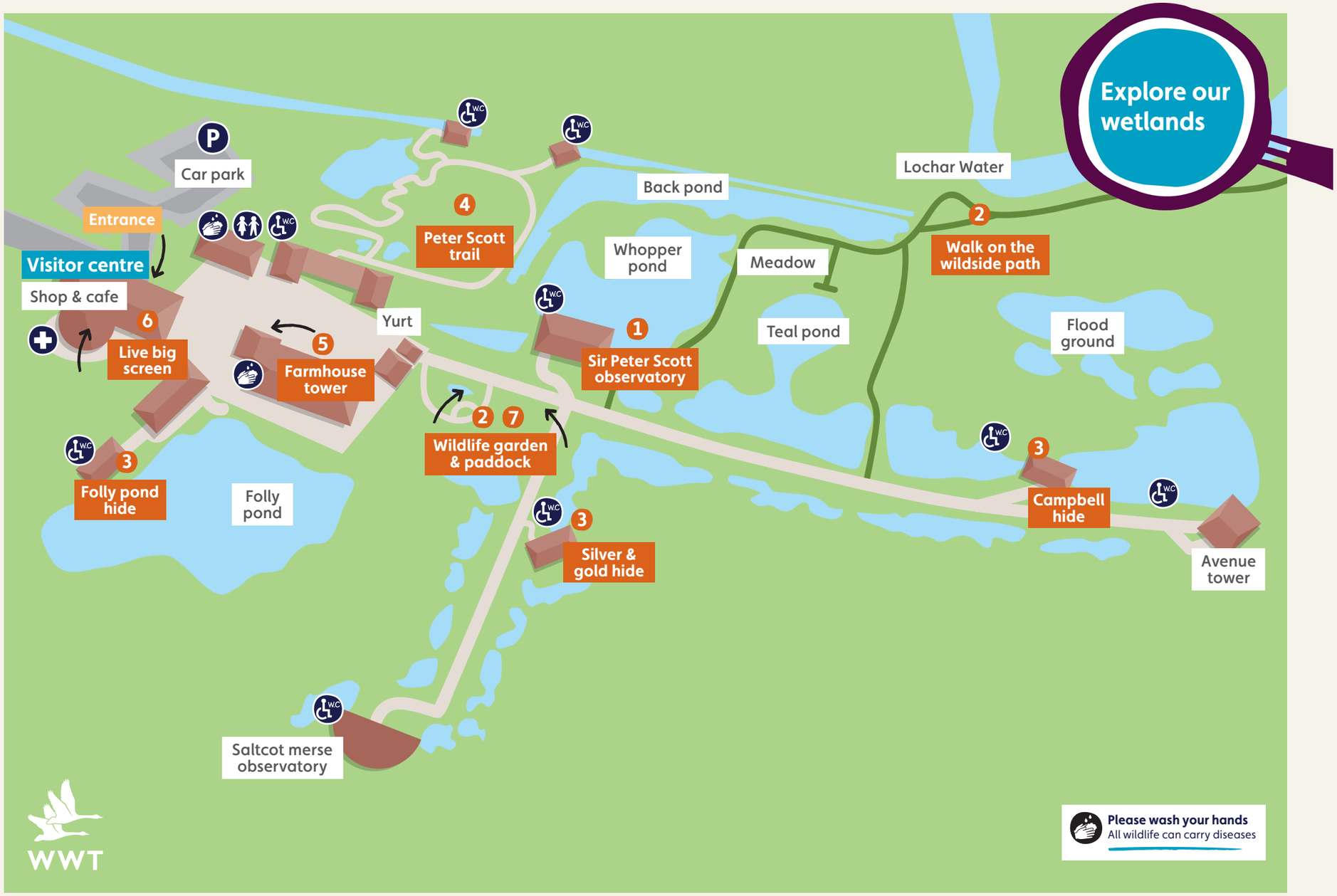
WWT

Caerlaverock Wetland Centre



Answers to questions pupils love to ask

How many birds do you have?

We have up to 250 whooper swans and usually 8,000 to 10,000 barnacle geese a day during the winter.

Where do the swans and geese migrate from?

Whooper swans fly in family groups from Iceland, 800 miles (1,287km) away. They can cross the sea from Iceland to Scotland in one day. The record is 12 hours at up to speeds of 113km per hour (70 miles per hour).

Barnacle geese fly from Svalbard in the Arctic, travelling 2,000 miles (3,218km), and also fly in family groups.

How do you catch the swans to ring them?

We put special colour identification rings, called Darvic rings, on the legs of the swans so we can identify them from a distance. We read the rings daily at the swan feeds during the winter.

To catch the swans we feed them in a special swan pipe where the swans are safely trapped and handled. Once they have been ringed and measured they are quickly released.

What do ducks, geese and swans eat?

Ducks eat a variety of different foods including weed, fish and insects. Our barnacle geese eat grass in the local fields while the whooper swans like to eat pondweed, grain and grass.