



ACCESS GUIDE – MEDINA RIVERSIDE PARK

Address

Manners View, Newport, Isle of Wight

Postcode for Sat Nav: PO30 5FA

What 3 Words for car park: [///mash.skidding.cabbages](http://mash.skidding.cabbages)

How to get there:

By Car

The car park is accessed from the east end of Manners View.

By Public transport

There are no bus stops close by. The nearest bus stop is Newport Bus Station from which there is a relatively flat 15 minutes walk along pavements via Newport Quay.

By Foot / Bike

The site is near the Newport end of the Red Squirrel Trail (NCN 23). This is a shared path connecting Cowes and Newport. There are main entrances to the site and one from the car park from this route. The site can also be

accessed from central Newport along NCN 23 although this part of the journey involves crossing several roads.

Nearest Public toilets

There are no toilets anywhere near this site. The nearest toilets are in the town of Newport.

Car and bike parking

There is a car park with a small charge payable at a parking meter. Only vehicles under 2 metres in height can enter this. For vehicles over 2 metres there is very limited on-road parking.

There are 4 cycle racks near the site entrance from the cycle track.

The car park has sloping gravel surface with some loose stones. There are approximately 16 spaces but these are unmarked. There is a space marked with a disabled badge nearest to the entrance. The car park is rarely full.

Site entrances

Entrance from Car Park

There is a flat ungated entrance 1 metre wide leading into the site. The area adjacent to this is compacted grass.

Gate from Shared Path 'Red Squirrel Trail'

There is a gate with a 90cm width. This meets a 1 metre wide path of limestone chippings.

Steps from Shared Path 'Red Squirrel Trail'

There are six wooden steps 1.2 metres wide with a 1 in 3 incline. There is a hand rail on each side.

Getting around the site

Once in the site there are no gates, stiles or steps.

There is a 1 metre wide path from the cycle track entrance which leads to two picnic tables (one with wheelchair access). There is an Information Pillar at this point. The site Information Pillar has a QR code that links to an audible description creating a mind's eye view of the area to allow a visually impaired person to enter with confidence. The information pillar also has a QR code that links to a map and activities. There is also a site map on the Information Pillar.

The path then goes to the river edge path.

The river edge path is 1 metre wide at its narrowest and traverses the site. Some of this path is part of the sea wall and there is also a wooden bridge with handrails on both sides. The majority of this path is soft soil and can be muddy in wet weather. It is flat.

There is a wide grass path circling the site which is at least 2 metres wide. This path is mown, but the grass will not always be short.

There are a number of narrow paths within the woodland to the north. Tree roots and vegetation may cause tripping.

There are 8 picnic benches grouped around the site:

- 2 are near the car park entrance – the one nearest the entrance is suitable for a wheelchair user
- 4 are grouped near the centre of the meadow – two of these are suitable for wheelchair users
- 2 are at the water's edge – one is suitable for a wheelchair user

What you can see

- There are four stone sculptures within the site and one on the foreshore – please say hello to Bettina,
- Search for the five carved wooden posts that form a sensory trail, each featuring a species that you may find on site,
- There are an amazing variety of trees and shrubs here – originally ever species native to Britain was planted. Unsurprisingly not all have survived,
- The flowers and insects in the hay meadow knapweed, ox-eye daisy, clover, buttercup, creeping thistle and fleabane; honeybees, bumble bees, hoverflies, meadow brown and gatekeeper butterflies,
- Look in the brackish lagoon by Bettina. You may spot small fish, shrimps and a variety of water insects. In late summer and early autumn you will also see purple Michaelmas daisies here,
- Look at the mud – usually there is a variety of bird footprints – some webbed, and a doggy paw or too. The mud is full of creatures that provide food for the wading birds you may see,
- Look out for swans, gulls, oyster catchers, little egrets,

What you can hear

- The bees and crickets in the hay meadow,
- A variety of song birds from both sides of the river,
- The squabbling gulls,
- On a summer's evening you may hear shouts from the coxes from Newport Rowing Club and the splashing of the oars in the river. Other times you can hear the school children at break, or games in Seaclose Park – both the other side of the river.

- Once a year you will hear acts from around the world performing at the Isle of Wight Festival,
- The noises of a working harbour, the nearby wind turbine factory and bells from the cycle track,
- In late summer and autumn, the rustling of the fallen leaves underfoot,
- Occasionally you will hear a helicopter landing or waiting at nearby St Mary's Hospital,
- Sit by Bettina and listen to the trickling of the water as it reaches the Medina River,

What you can smell

- In spring and early summer – the glorious hay meadow,
- The whiff of seaweed on the foreshore,
- The slightly salty smell of the saline lagoon,
- In spring, the smell of hawthorn and blackthorn blossom,

What you can touch and feel

- Explore the carvings on the sensory posts,
- The laid hedge on the eastern site boundary,
- The shade in the woodland, and in the riverside avenue of trees,
- Feel the wind on your face along the river's edge,
- In late summer and autumn the hay meadow is full of seed heads – the tall majestic teasel and dock, and smaller thistles and wild parsnip.
- The variety of different tree barks – some with lichens – a sign of good air!
- The acorns – ones from trees, and our carved ones too,

We look after Medina Riverside Park for the benefit of the plants and animals that live here and for you as visitors...we hope you enjoy your visit.