



ACCESS GUIDE – PELHAM WOOD

Address

Undercliff Drive, Lowtherville, St Lawrence, Ventnor, Isle of Wight

Postcode for Sat Nav: PO38 1XJ

What 3 Words for site entrance: [///wealth.cones.than](https://www.wealth.co.uk/wealth.cones.than)

How to get there:

By car

The site can be accessed from Undercliff Drive, just west of the entrance to Inglewood Park. Undercliff Drive is no longer a through road, so enter from Ventnor direction.

By public transport

Use 'Seven Sisters' bus stop (Route 31). From there walk 200 metres in an easterly direction to the site's west entrance. The walk is flat but there are no pavements.

By foot and bike

The site can be accessed from Undercliff Drive, just west of the entrance to Inglewood Park. The site can also be

accessed by footpath / bridleway V 76 and footpath V 117.

Nearest public toilets

There are no nearby public toilets. The nearest toilets are in the town of Ventnor.

Car and bike parking

There is a layby next to the west entrance of the site, on Undercliff Drive. Here there is parking space for two cars. There are two cycle racks just inside the site entrance from Inglewood Park.

Warning

This site is not suitable for any access except on foot, and you need to be reasonably physically fit. There are many trip hazards and the entrances and paths are slippery at all times of the year.

The site has many steps throughout, and sometimes both the path and steps slip in wet weather. There are some steep unfenced drops and therefore the site will also be hazardous for people with impaired sight or balance.

There is access to the site from Inglewood Park which is more gentle, but there are still the same hazards when crossing the site.

Site entrances

There are several site entrances:

1. West entrance from Undercliff Drive – this is closest to the parking. Entrance is across a small culvert and

through 60 cm open gap. Then up several series of steep steps and mud paths.

2. Central entrance from Undercliff Drive – entrance is 60 cm wide and a small flight of steps with handrail on right to lower part of the site.
3. East entrance from Undercliff Drive – bridleway V 73 skirts the east edge of the site. There is a site map on the lower entrance from this path.
4. From Inglewood Drive – there is a flat entrance along a woodland path.
5. From footpath V 76 at the top (north) of the site – access via a stile, the footpath eventually links to Whitwell Road.

Getting around the site

The woodland site paths are variable in terms of width and elevation. There are no surfaced paths. Paths are frequently interspersed with steps of varying construction.

There are two benches. The ‘seat with a view’ is at the centre of the site and is 43 cm high with a back but no arms.

There is another bench close to the central Undercliff Drive entrance at the bottom of the site. This is 48 cm high and without back or arms. 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.

In the south-west part of the site the ground is wet, and a cascade leads to a small pond. Here there is a boardwalk which is 90 cm wide. This leads to a bridge via a 32 cm high step. The bridge is 63 cm wide and has a handrail at both sides at 1 metre high.

What you can see

- There are parts of this site where there are stunning views across the trees and out to the English Channel,
- Look out for lichens growing on trees, they are a sign of clean air,
- Squirrels will most likely be high up in the trees. Stand still and if possible, visit early morning or late afternoon,
- Lords-and-ladies has many other common names, arising from its rather strange look, but 'Cuckoo-pint' is perhaps one of the most widely used. It has large, arrow-shaped leaves, and leaf-like flower heads that curl around a long inner spike carrying tiny, yellow flowers. This spike eventually produces an upright stalk of bright red berries,
- Look out for stones dotted around the site, these date back from previous landscaping, there is even the remains of a building hidden in the ivy,
- Look out for fallen trees – due to ground conditions we get a lot. It's very difficult to remove them, so we make them safe and leave them on the ground where they make excellent habitat,
- Pelham Wood is Hart's Tongue Fern central – it's everywhere, but also look for the more delicate leaves of Maidenhair Fern,

What you can hear

- You are most likely to find your squirrel through listening for it. They can be heard rustling in the treetops,
- If you hear a pitter-patter and it's not raining, it may be a squirrel munching pinecones – this is the noise the leftovers make as they hit the tree leaves as they fall,
- Listen to the water trickling through the cascade at the bottom of the site – it's like a fairy grotto,
- Listen to the bees buzzing – in spring they love Lesser Celandine because it's one of the first flowers to appear after winter. Have you read 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'?,

What you can smell

- Sniff our bluebells! Native ones have a strong sweet smell, Spanish imposters do not,
- Stinking Iris is not so sweet smelling, but it is known as the roast beef plant,

What you can touch

- In late spring Yellow Archangel, it looks like a nettle, but it doesn't sting,
- The pendulous sedge - a useful saying to tell grasses, sedges and rushes apart (although this is not strictly true for all species) is: 'sedges have edges, rushes are round and grasses are hollow right up from the ground',
- Have a leaf hunt – the wide sunken path at the top of the site is good for this, and the path under the tall trees bordering the road.

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

