



ACCESS GUIDE – SANDOWN COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Address

Longwood Lane, Lake, Isle of Wight,

Postcode for Sat Nav: PO36 0HL

What 3 Words for site entrance: [///degrading.link.effort](#)

How to get there:

By car

The site is accessed from Longwood Lane. It is opposite the Southern Water site.

By public transport

There are no nearby bus stops. The nearest bus and train stop is Sandown Station. From here there is a ½ mile walk along a footpath and Golf Links Road. This is a narrow road without pavement.

By foot / bike

The Red Squirrel Trail (path number NCN 23) goes right by the north side of the site, and bridleway SS47 goes by the south side of the site. There is access from both.

Nearest public toilets

There are no public toilets anywhere near this site. They are in the centre of Sandown.

Car and bike parking

There is no formal car parking for this site. There is usually room to park a car nearby on Longwood Lane and there is also a parking space on SS47.

There is a cycle rack within the site.

Site entrance

There are three site entrances.

Longwood Lane. This site entrance has a gate that is accessible for buggies and mobility scooters.

Red Squirrel Trail. Access is via a metal bridge with railings either side. This bridge is 1 metre wide. The site is then accessed via an earth path and boardwalk.

Bridleway SS47. There are four shallow and wide earth steps into the site. There is a handrail at 1 metre high on one side.

Getting around the site

This is a complex site. The orchard is much more accessible than the wetland area.

There is a chipped limestone path minimum 1 metre wide leading from the Longwood Lane entrance to two picnic tables.

There is an information pillar halfway along this path. 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.

One of the picnic tables has wheelchair access. There are no other formal paths in the orchard area. The orchard is separated from the wetland area by an earth slope and a wooden bridge which is not wide enough for buggies or wheelchairs.

The wetland area is crossed by a series of boardwalks and connecting pathways. There is a bench and dipping platform by the main pond.

The wetland area, including the paths, can be underwater for several weeks in wet periods.

What you can see

- Look out for dragonflies and damselflies in late spring and early summer,
- Butterflies include red admirals and meadow browns,
- Bright yellow flag irises can be seen in the pond May-July,
- Look out for a tree creeper in the orchard,
- We often spot red squirrels here.

What you can hear

- The wind rustling the reeds and trees,
- Dragonflies make a noise like a football rattle,

- Birdsong – long-tailed tits love this site and they are quite chatty,
- Something plopping in the water!

What you can smell

- The sweet smell of meadowsweet in summer,

What you can touch

- The wooden fruit,
- Feel free to help yourself to fruit from the orchard,
- Have a pond dip - stick your net in and you may find sticklebacks, water scorpions, diving beetles and whirlygigs.

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