ACCESS GUIDE – BRADING DOWN LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Address
Brading Down Road, Brading, Isle of Wight

Postcode for Sat Nav: PO36 0ER

What 3 Words for main car park: ///language.shares.lousy
What 3 Words for disabled car parking:
///upon.void.digestion

How to get there:

By car
There are six car parks accessed from Brading Down Road.

By public transport
Brading Bull Ring Stop (Routes 2/3), then a 800 metre walk on tracks via Little Jane's Quarry - walk along The Mall, turning right onto footpath B39.

By foot and bike
The site can be accessed from various points along Brading Down Road.

Nearest public toilets

There are no public toilets near this site. The nearest public toilets are in Brading Car Park.

Car and bike parking

There are six car parks off Brading Down Road with parking for approximately 200 cars in total. The west-most car park (Newport end) is the smallest but has a disabled bay and a gate that is suitable for access by mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

The other car parks have no marked bays and have a chalk surface that can be slippery in cold and wet weather. There are bins along the parking area and seating. There are interpretation boards with site maps.

For Nunwell Down and Bulleys Quarry the most eastern car park is the closest.

The cycle racks are located within west-most car park but elsewhere there are ample places to lock bikes.

Site entrance

The south side of Brading Down is occasionally grazed so the site is fenced and accessed through kissing gates. There is no main site entrance. There is an Information Pillar at the west-most entrance from this disabled car parking spaces. 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 north side of the Down (Nunwell Down) is not fenced and does not have a specific entrance. It is accessed by crossing the road from the east-most car park. 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.

Getting around the site

Brading Down Local Nature Reserve is dissected by Brading Down Road which is a fast road, and care needs to be taken when crossing.

Throughout the reserve there are steep slopes and paths are earth or grass.

Brading Down is the main part of the site and is accessed directly from the car parks. It is mainly open chalk downland and is sometimes grazed by cattle. There are several seats and picnic tables and super views of the south of the Island. There is an accessible picnic table at the western most end. There is an average slope of 1 in 5 but some parts are steeper than others.

Bulleys Pit is accessed from the east end of Brading Down by a footpath from the eastern most car park. There are steps from the Down and into the quarry. A wooded walk leads to an open glade.

The areas north of Brading Down Road are Nunwell Down and Little Jane Quarry. There is chalk grassland, some seats, great views of Brading, Bembridge and the Solent and the gently sloping downland until it dips steeply to Little Jane

Quarry, which is a woodland area. The path drops by 42 metres within a 100 metre distance.

Munns Pit is accessed from Upper Adgestone Road. It is a quarry with very steep sides. There is no seating or infrastructure in it.

What you can see

- Look at the East Yar, Bembridge Harbour and the Solent from Nunwell Down,
- Look at Sandown, Shanklin and the Channel from Brading Down. Can you spot Brading Roman Villa below?
- Can you spot a cross-channel ferry? Boats often moor in Sandown Bay as protection from inclement weather, or when waiting for a berth in Portsmouth or Southampton,
- Look at the interpretation boards in the car park, they explain why this is a scheduled monument,
- Look out for the chalkhill blue butterfly and six spot burnett moth in the summer,
- Go on a butterfly hunt in the quarries, they like the warm chalk walls,
- There are so many plants to see. In spring look for common dog violets and primroses, the dandelion is a great early food source for bees,
- In late spring and early summer look for ox eye daisy, creeping thistle, bird's foot trefoil, harebell and common mouse ear,
- Early purple, bee, common spotted and pyramidal orchids all appear at different times of year,

What you can hear

- The buzzards mew overhead,
- Birds heard include robins, great tits, goldfinches and blackbirds
- The linnet was once very popular as a cage bird because of its melodious song. It has an undulating flight, usually twittering as it flies,
- The noisy gulls from Sandown Bay,
- Brush through the meadows at the height of summer and you'll hear the tiny seeds of yellow-rattle rattling in their brown pods, hence its name,
- The train as it weaves its way through the Island's countryside,

What you can smell

- In spring the gorse has a coconutty whiff,
- In summer, the 'frothy' flowers of lady's bedstraw can carpet the grasses of the meadows with yellow and fill the air with a sweet, honey-like scent,
- There's stinking iris in Bullys Pit. Sniff it and you will realise why it got its name,

What you can touch

- This is great space for kite flying. Why not take a picnic with you?
- Have a song and dance on our community stage in Bulley's Quarry,
- Have a chat with the man by the barbecue in Bully's Quarry – please feel free to use the barbecue but take home all rubbish,
- In autumn collect some seedheads such as teasels and opium poppies to make a seasonal display.

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