



ACCESS GUIDE – BONCHURCH LANDSLIP

Address

Leeson Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight

Postcode for Sat Nav: PO38 1QD

What 3 Words for car park: [///slips.player.shadowing](https://www.what3words.com/slips.player.shadowing)

How to get there:

By car

There is a council car park (Smugglers Haven) close to the site entrance, parking is chargeable and contributes to the running of Nansen Hill and Bonchurch Landslip. The walk to the site entrance is approximately 20 metres.

By public transport

Bonchurch Car Park Stop (Route 3) is right outside the entrance to the car park.

By foot or bike

Footpaths V65a and V65b are part of the coastal path that runs through the site. Linking this to the main road and the car park is V65, V65c and V65d. Cycle access is

via the main A3055 road. You seriously will not want to ride a bike on this site, but you can park at the top and walk down.

Nearest public toilets

The nearest public toilets are in the town of Ventnor. In opening hours you may wish to visit Smugglers Haven Tea Room for refreshments and facilities. This is very close but not open all year around.

Car and bike parking

The car park has a hard surface with some loose stones. Parking is unmarked with no disabled bays and there is space for approximately 20 cars. Parking is chargeable, and when paying please bear in mind how long it may take to exit the nature site.

The cycle racks are placed between the car park and site entrance. They are behind the bus stop.

A dog waste bin is provided in the car park.

The path from the car park is wide, with loose chippings and is boggy in wet weather. There is a 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.

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 entrance and paths are slippery at all times of the year.

The site has many steps throughout, and some are natural stone and may be missing. There are very steep unfenced drops and therefore the site will also be hazardous for people with impaired sight or balance.

Once in the site, there is no gentle access out.

Site entrance

The site entrance is via Footpath V66, also known as 'The Chink'. It is a series of flights of steps totaling 140 steps in all. The first flight are stone, and the path narrows to a width of 70 cm. There is a seat halfway down. There is a handrail on one side or the other for the most part. These steps are slippery and some are erratically placed or missing. After descending the chink, the path continues descending on steps made of a variety of materials.

There is another access via rock steps further to the west. This is called the Devil's Chimney and access is no easier.

Getting around the site

The initial 140 steps deposit you in the upper part of the landslip. Here there is access to the east and west, but to reach the lower part of the site there are several more flights of steep steps of varying materials and trickiness.

There are formal and informal paths throughout the site, but at all times expect to find steps, tree roots and stones within the

pathways. Fallen trees also cause hazards and block paths at varying heights.

What you can see

- For botanists, there are rare bryophytes and lichens,
- In places there are spectacular views of the English Channel,
- Particularly in the lower part of the site there are some grand old oak trees,
- Throughout the site there are a variety of trees,
- This site was once a pleasure garden and you can spot remains of path and path edging,
- Look out for the rock formations – particularly in the lower part of the site,
- Many of the paths are sunken, so you will be eye level with tree roots. There are lots of fairy hollows,
- The site is so steep it is very difficult for us to remove fallen trees, so we leave them safely down there, and they form excellent habitats,

What you can hear

- Listen to the waves,
- The wind in the trees,
- The bird song is best in the upper part of the site,

What you can smell

- Stinky Iris – otherwise known as ‘roast beef plant’,

What you can touch

- Sit on the Wishing Seat and make a wish,

- Collect the different leaves and seeds from the many different trees,
- Feel the shiny leaves of Hart's Tongue Fern, it's all over the site,
- Sharp leaves of Holly and Butcher's Broom,
- Feel the warmth of the microclimate of the Undercliff and contrast with the cool damp rocks – you can touch the rockface in the lower part of the site,

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