



## **ACCESS GUIDE – NANSEN HILL**

### **Address**

Leeson Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight

**Postcode for Sat Nav: PO38 1QD**

**What 3 Words for car park: [///slips.player.shadowing](http://slips.player.shadowing)**

### **How to get there:**

#### **By car**

There is a council car park (Smugglers Haven) opposite the site entrance, parking is chargeable and contributes to the running of Nansen Hill and Bonchurch Landslip. The entrance is directly across the road.

#### **By public transport**

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

#### **By foot or bike**

Footpaths V109 and V123 cross the site and link it to the adjoining Bonchurch Down. Cycle access is via the main A3055 road.

## **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.

There are two cycle racks are placed between the car park and site entrance to Bonchurch Landsip. They are behind the bus stop.

A dog waste bin is provided in the car park.

## **Site entrance**

There is a flat earth slope to the entrance or two steps. The distance from the road to the site gate is less than two metres.

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.

The site is entered through a kissing gate which is 1.2 metres wide. It is not suitable for mobility scooters.

## **Getting around the site**

Please note that the site is sometimes grazed by cattle. Dogs should be kept on leads, and cattle avoided.

It is steep – the path to the top is 200 metres and rises 60 metres along the length. There are no seats, but there is a fantastic view as you stop to catch your breath.

There are no formal paths. A very wide central path is mown between the gate and the top of the site.

Once inside, the site is free from gates and stiles. There is a kissing gate at the top leading to National Trust land.

### **What you can see**

- A fantastic view that stretches from Culver in the East, pass Red Cliff, Sandown Town and Pier, upper Shanklin and down to Luccombe shore,
- In the channel spot ships and ferries. Sometimes they anchor in Sandown Bay, waiting for dock space, or sheltering in a storm,
- The birds hover on wind currents – often below you.
- Crows will be watching you as you slowly climb the hill – looking for any sign of weakness!
- Look out for our Common Spotted Orchids,
- In summer spot chalkland flowers such as Dwarf Thistle, Eyebright and Devils Bit Scabious. Butterflies love them,

### **What you can hear**

- Whilst we manage Nansen Hill for the chalk flora and fauna, we let some scrub grow too, as it's very important for birds. You will probably hear more bird song from the scrub than from the open land,
- Try bird song identification – the Dartford Warbler sits atop the gorse and has a rattle scratchy song, the Linnet

is more melodious, and the Yellowhammer is famous for its 'a little bit of bread and no cheese' song,

- Listen to the Number 3 bus struggling up the hill from Shanklin

### **What you can smell**

- The coconut fragrance of gorse,
- The highly perfumed flowers of the Common Spotted Orchid are particularly attractive if you are a day-flying moth,
- The sweet-scented pink or white flowers of the Dog Rose appear in June and July,

### **What you can touch**

- Bilberries and Rosehips can be collected in the autumn for jam, but leave some for the birds,
- Feel the spiky teasels - the seeds are very important for birds, such as the goldfinch, which can often be seen alighting on the old, brown flower heads in autumn to 'tease' the seeds from them,

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