



ACCESS GUIDE – CASTLE COPSE

Address

Sylvan Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight and
Black Knight Close, East Cowes, Isle of Wight

Postcode for Sat Nav: PO32 6PT for Sylvan Avenue
entrance; PO32 6FS for Black Knight Close

What 3 Words for site entrance:

Sylvan Avenue entrance ///depending.redouble.lied

Black Knight Close entrance ///intervals.protect.seagulls

How to get there:

By Car

There is a council pay and display car park in Maresfield Road. This is some distance away. There is on-road parking in Sylvan Avenue, but if you have mobility problems we recommend the Black Knight Close entrance. Black Knight Close is accessed from Church Path.

By Public transport

Well Road Stop (by Waitrose) (Routes 4/5) then a 5 min walk which is relatively flat and on tarmac paths and pavements. Church Path requires crossing but there are pedestrian lights.

By Foot / Bike

There are four points of access to the site; via Sylvan Avenue, Black Knight Close and two entrances from Consort Gardens. Mobility Scooters may access through Consort Gardens and most will be able to use the main path in the lower part of the site.

Nearest Public toilets

There are no toilets on site. The nearest toilets are in Waitrose, if during opening hours (what3words ///flush.generally.massaged) which is about ten minutes flattish walk away. There are public toilets in East Cowes town centre.

Car and bike parking

There is usually on-road parking available close to the site entrance in Sylvan Avenue. However this is not the recommended entrance for people with mobility difficulties. There is parking available in Black Knight Close. Please make sure you follow the directions on the on-road signs and park in the marked bays, otherwise you will be fined. This is the easiest entrance for people with mobility issues and allows their access to most of the site.

There are two cycle racks near the Black Knight Close entrance.

Site entrance – Sylvan Avenue

There is no site gate. The site entrance is more than 1 meter wide. 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. Immediately within the site the path narrows to minimum 0.5 metres and there is a steep incline. The path is earth and is slippery in winter.

This path leads to the centre of the copse.

Site entrance – Black Knight Close

There is no site gate or official entrance. At the end of Black Knight Close there is a very small patch of amenity grass accessed by a 10 cm kerbstone. The earth site path abuts the grass.

Getting around the site

The path around the site is of a compacted soil surface and varies in width. The main circular path in the central part of the site is 1.5 metres at the narrowest point. There are four seats, three are log benches; one seat has a back and is within 30 metres of the Black Knight Close entrance.

There are a number of informal paths that radiate from the circular path. These are not managed for access and will have tripping hazards. These may be as narrow as 40 cm width.

The site is free from gates and stiles.

What you can see

- The two wooden foxes frolicking,
- The wooden owl only appears when the leaves have fallen.
- Blue tits and great tits will flit amongst the trees, and blackbirds will flit among the ground ivy too,
- Look for the distinctive old oak trees – one is dead and fallen but it is a valuable wildlife habitat,
- There is also hazel, hawthorn, lots of ivy,
- See if you can find Ivy Broomrape – its got spikes of creamy / reddish flowers and is a parasitic plant; it can't exist without ivy,

What you can hear

- Most people will be able to hear the high-pitched 'zee' of goldcrests – they are Britain's smallest birds,
- Chiffchaffs have a distinctive 'chiff-chaff' song,
- The wind in the trees and leaves underfoot,
- The sounds of East Cowes including Red Funnel Ferry announcements and squabbling seagulls,

What you can smell

- We have planted a few fruit trees around the site,
- The blackberries also have a sweet smell,
- Less pleasant is stinking iris, also known as roast beef plant,

What you can touch

- The variety of trees here have different barks and feel quite different, especially the old fallen oaks,
- Please help yourself to edible berries and fruit, but leave a few for the birds,

- The holly and the ivy, and conifers and bay are good for Christmas wreaths,

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