



ACCESS GUIDE – DODNOR CREEK AND DICKSONS COPSE LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Address

Near Stag Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight

Postcode for Sat Nav: PO30 5TR

What 3 Words for site entrance: [///suckle.photos.interview](http://suckle.photos.interview)

How to get there:

By Car

There is no road access to this site. The nearest road is Stag Lane.

From Stag Lane the site entrance is 0.1 miles south (right) along path number NCN 23. The path is a shared, flat path with a 1 in 7 incline up and is surfaced with loose chippings. The site entrance is on the left.

By Public transport

Route 1 bus using the Stag Inn Stop.

Then a 0.8 mile walk to then end of Stag Lane which has good pavements and a 1 in 26 decline. Turn south (right).

From Stag Lane the site entrance is 0.1 miles along path number NCN 23 on the left. The path is a shared, flat path with a 1 in 7 incline up and is surfaced with loose chippings.

By Foot / Bike

The Red Squirrel Trail (path number NCN 23) goes right over the site on a former railway viaduct. This is a shared path. Access into the site is from the footpath leading from the north side of the viaduct as described above.

Nearest Public toilets

There are no public toilets anywhere near this site. They are in the towns of Newport or Cowes. However, within opening hours you may be able to use the toilets in the Stag public house which is at the other end of Stag Lane.

Car and bike parking

There is no site car park. Limited on-street parking is available at Stag Lane near the junction with the cycle track where the approximate code for your sat nav is PO30 5TR or what3words ///hindering.imprints.fevered.

However, particularly on weekdays it is very full and be prepared to have to walk some distance.

Alternatively, park at Medina Riverside Car Park (PO30 5WT or what3words /// servicing.toward.competent) and walk 1.0 mile along the shared path NCN 27.

The concrete sculpture outside the site provides cycle parking (not lockable) or bikes can be attached to the perimeter fence.

Site entrance

There is no site gate. The site entrance is 1 meter wide and the path dog legs and drops to 0.8 meters width.

There is a map at the entrance to the site.

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.

Getting around the site

This statement is limited to the paths that consist of the site nature trail. There are a number of informal paths within the site that are narrow, can be muddy and have numerous tripping hazards,

The nature trail around the path is bare earth and is marked by pillars with an acorn on top. There is a small section of boardwalk which consists of wood partially covered with wire. All of the paths can be muddy at all times of the year.

The path is narrow (Minimum 0.5 m), undulating, and has two sets of wooden steps and a small wooden bridge. Vegetation

does encroach. The path slopes steeply under powerlines and at this point the surface is cracked.

There is one set of six steps near the woodland pond, and one set of seven steps leading to the bridge. Neither have handrails. The wooden bridge is 0.9 m wide and has a handrail at 0.9m on one side.

There is a log seat by the pond.

There is no access to the historic cement kilns.

Path to causeway

There is a path from the site entrance that skirts the outside of the nature reserve and leads to the causeway. None of this is part of the reserve, however it offers great views of the reed bed and river. It has a loose earth surface and there are tree roots and encroaching vegetation. At its narrowest it is 0.6m wide.

The causeway itself has a flat concrete surface, but there are tripping hazards. The causeway is unfenced and there is water on either side.

What you can see

Within the woodland you should be able to see:

- Dragonflies and damselflies at the woodland pond in late spring and early summer. At this time it should also have lots of water lilies.

- Butchers broom, lords and ladies, red campion wood spurge, primrose and violets are all indicators of ancient woodland and can be found alongside the paths.
- Stand under the cycle-track bridge and you get one of the best views of the reedbed.

On the causeway Look out for:

- Pink Sea thrift bursting through the concrete and fuzzy brown heads of reed mace that turn to seed in autumn.
- Peregrine falcons nest in the boxes on the factory, and are sometimes sitting on the overhead electric cables
- Shells broken by seabirds
- The dog paw marks
- Watch swans in the river and creek, and the ducks and wading birds in the creek
- Spot the many different lichens on the concrete path and posts

What you can hear

The noises of wind turbines being manufactured and vehicles in the anaerobic digestion plant.

In the woodland:

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

- Bike crossing over the viaduct – does it remind you of trains?
- In autumn the rustling of leaves underfoot.
- Woodpeckers – green and greater spotted.

In the reeds:

Chiffchaff and willow warbler

On the causeway:

The squabbling seagulls and ducks.

What you can smell

In the woodland:

The sweet sickly smell of the neighbouring anerobic digestion plant.

Stinky iris with its distinct whiff of roast beef

On the causeway:

The whiff of the river and seaweed.

What you can touch

The blade sculpture outside is tactile. Feel the names engraved.

Within the woodland:

- The damp lichen on trees
- The sharp leaves of butchers broom

- Touch the acorns on top of our trail posts
- The damp brick and iron work that are remains of the Victorian railway bridge
- The spiky teasels that provide sustenance for bees and birds

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