



## **ACCESS GUIDE – HAYLANDS WOOD**

### **Address**

Upton Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight

The site is accessed from a path on the east side of the road between No. 83 Upton Road and the Alfred Street Allotment site.

**Postcode for Sat Nav: PO33 3JG**

**What 3 Words for site entrance: [///blows.slips.tour](http://blows.slips.tour)**

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

#### **By car, foot and bike**

The site is accessed from a path on the east side of the road between No. 83 Upton Road and the Alfred Street Allotment site. There is no car park, so park on the road.

#### **By public transport**

Windmill Close stop (Route 37) is 100 metres or less away from the site entrance depending on which direction you are travelling. There is a flat walk along a pavement. There is only a pavement on the west side of this road. There is a drop curb immediately opposite the site

entrance. There is a 2 inch curb to access the path to the site from the road.

The site is signed from the road. The path to the site is 2 metres wide with 50 cm of gravel at the centre. Beyond this central part is grass.

### **Nearest public toilets**

There are no public toilets anywhere near this site. They are in the town of Ryde.

### **Car and bike parking**

There is no car park. On-road parking is usually possible. The nearest parking is on the north side of the site but is limited. There is more parking to the south.

There is a cycle rack in the meadow area of the site, close to the entrance.

### **Site entrance**

There is no gate. The site entrance is 1 metre wide and leads to a mown meadow area. 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. There is also a map of the site and another QR code that links to activities. A dog waste bin is provided.

### **Getting around the site**

There is an accessible picnic bench within the meadow area, which can accommodate wheelchair users. The nearby interpretation panel gives details of the site including a sensory trail, which comprises three carved posts.

Mown paths within the meadow area lead to woodland paths. There are a number of formal and informal paths. These vary in surface and width from 2 metres wide chipping paths to 50 cm wide earth paths. It is possible to take a loop through the woodland.

Vegetation does overhang some paths. The site is small, about 1.5 hectares, so you are never far from the meadow area.

There are no stiles or gates within the site.

### **What you can see**

- Most of the trees within this site were planted within the last 20 years. There was a variety of natives species used. Look out for young Hazel and Hawthorn,
- There are also some old coppice trees. These were coppiced some time ago and now have numerous stems reaching for the sky. In times past these would have been cut about every 5 years to provide poles etc. Trees grow quickly on the Island as we do not have deer,
- Squirrels love the Hazel and as the trees are young and small the squirrels can be easily spotted. But you do need to stop and stand still,
- Look out for butterflies. Speckled Woods love this site and you will see them dancing in the glades, but you will find a variety of butterflies bathing on the woodland paths on a sunny day,

## **What you can hear**

- The sound of silence! Or at least lack of human noise. However, close your eyes and sit quietly and you will soon here wildlife all around,
- You may find your squirrel through listening for it. They can be heard rustling in the branches,
- Tap-tapping will probably be a woodpecker,
- The trees seem to talk in this woodland. Even on a still day you can hear branches creaking,
- The woodland is close enough to the sea for gulls to be heard, and of course there are always pigeons cooing,
- In winter listen to the leaves underfoot.

## **What you can smell**

- The sweet smell of blackberries in late summer, please help yourself to them
- Stinking Iris – also known as Roast Beef Plant,

## **What you can touch**

- Explore the carvings on the sensory posts,
- You may wonder what the man-made black surfaces are in the meadow area. Touch them and they should be warmer than the surrounding soil and grass. We were going to remove them and then we found it was Toad Central underneath. They must like the warmth,
- Feel the different temperatures as you walk through the site. The young trees have a dappled effect on the paths and woodland floor,
- In autumn there are lots of seed heads to gather. Teasels are sharp and used to be used to 'tease' or brush wool. Now goldfinches 'tease' the seeds from them.

- And for something prehistoric, search out Mare's Tail, this is an invasive plant

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