



ACCESS GUIDE – PIG LEG LANE

Address

Rosemary Lane, Ryde, Isle of Wight

Postcode for Sat Nav: PO33 2XA

What 3 Words for Rosemary Lane site entrance:

///crop.rubble.trails

How to get there:

By car

Access from Rosemary Lane is for disabled parking only. Rosemary Lane is off Ashley Road and is unmade. All other vehicular access is via Quarry Lane in Ryde.

By public transport

North Entrance: Via St John's Road Station (Train, Bus Routes 2, 3 and 8) then access the site along Quarry Road. This is a 500 metres flat walk, along pavements and then along footpath R103 for 70 metres.

South Entrance: The nearest bus stop is 'Haylands Primary School' served by Bus No 37. From here a 500 metre walk along pavements via Ashley Road and

Rosemary Lane. Much of Rosemary Lane is unmade and in a poor state.

By foot or bike

North Entrance: via Quarry Lane or Weeks Road (Right of Way R110).

South Entrance: via Rosemary Lane, which is accessed from Ashley Road. Much of Rosemary Lane is unmade and in a poor state.

East Entrance: via Woodlands View and Ryde Village. Weeks Road skirts the west of the site.

From Oakfields: Via Slade Road or Great Preston Road and Rights of Way to Pig Leg Railway Crossing. This path crosses the railway line and users should take care and be aware of approaching trains.

The site is also crossed by two public Rights of Way (R53 and R103).

Nearest public toilets

The nearest public toilets are in Ryde Town in St Johns Road.

Car and bike parking

There is disabled parking at the site via Rosemary Lane (turn into Weeks Road). The car park has a chipped surface and there is space for three cars, but there are no marked bays. There are posts between the parking area and site with a 1.4 m gap.

There is on-street parking in Quarry Road.

There are two cycle racks in the wooded area by the disabled car park.

Site entrance

North Entrance: Via an unmade path from Quarry Road. The site is accessed through a wooden gate which has a 1.3 metre entrance.

South Entrance: Via Rosemary Lane. There are several entry points, all un gated.

Weeks Road: There are several entrances from Weeks Road. One has a handrail on the south side at 90 cm high which leads to a bench with a back in a meadow. This path narrows at one point to 85 cm.

There is an Information Pillar at the access point from Weeks Road by Arethusa Cottage. 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

The site is free from gates and stiles. It has a gradient from west to east of 1 in 13.

Paths through the site are mainly laid to grass. In wet weather parts of this site are muddy. However, we had the site 'road-tested' by a kind lady in a mobility scooter and we are pleased to say it passed!

The paths are unmade and can be very muddy. There are trip hazards throughout.

Much of the open areas of the meadow are accessible with care by most people on foot and the stream can be crossed by people with mobility scooters or buggies. We have, and continue to work to improve year-round access, as some paths can be slippery in winter. Care particularly needs to be taken on the area bordering

Monktonmead Brook which is prone to flooding. In wet weather, access for wheeled users will not always be possible throughout the site, so you will need to be aware of the conditions.

There is a bridge across a small water course – it is 1.1 metres wide with a handrail on one side at 90 centimetres. There is also a boardwalk which is 1 metre wide and has handrails both sides at 96 centimetres.

What you can see

- In spring look out for frogs and newts in the pond
- In winter you can spot ponds along the boundary with Weeks Road – these are ephemeral ponds which disappear in the drier months – they are very good for wildlife,
- There are beautiful common spotted orchids in the meadow in summer,
- Other meadow flowers include ox-eye daisy, common centuary, rosebay willowherb and birds' foot trefoil,
- Spot ferns and lichens along Weeks Road – this is an old Right of Way,
- Red squirrels are often spotted in Pig Leg Lane,

What you can hear

- In the early morning, tap tap tap is the woodpecker – it loves the dead old oak trees,
- You can also hear blue tits, great tits, goldfinches, jays, blackbirds, robins and jackdaws,
- The wren, despite being such a small bird, has a very powerful song, it starts with a sequence of bright, clear tones, before a series of trilling verses,
- Listen to Monktonmead Brook babbling through the site, and also the tributary coming from Weeks Road,
- The train and the hovercraft,

What you can smell

- Stinking iris is by the river – sometimes known as the roast beef plant,
- The sweet smell of blackberries,
- In summer meadowsweet is frothy white with a sweet, pleasant smell,

What you can touch

- The autumn meadow is full of seedheads like teasels,
- Hug the dead oaks – they are home to a host of wildlife,
- Please help yourself to berries, but leave some for the birds.

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