



ACCESS GUIDE – SIBDEN HILL

Address

Chatsworth Avenue, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, PO37 7NX
There are also entrances from Blythe Way (PO37 7NH) and Silver Trees (PO37 7NL).

What 3 Words for site entrance:

Chatsworth Avenue: ///producers.tensions.transcribes

Blythe Way: ///trouble.hood.inclines

Silver Trees: /// simmer.market.careful

How to get there:

By car and bike

1. Chatsworth Avenue is accessed from Victoria Avenue. The entrance to Sibden Hill is via a drive where Chatsworth Avenue is joined by Orchard Road. There is no signage.
2. There is an entrance to the meadow from Blythe Way.
3. There is an entrance from Silver Trees.

By public transport

1. Westhill Road bus stop (Routes 2, 62, 72) is on Victoria Avenue. From here there is a 35 metre walk to

Chatsworth Avenue. Walk 100 metres to its junction with Orchard Road and walk 60 metres along the unmarked drive. There is a 1 in 10 incline along the drive.

2. Blythe Way Bus Stop (Route 22) 150 metre walk at most in easterly direction and you will see an entrance to the meadow.
3. Silver Trees Bus Stop (Route 22). The site entrance is at the end of a tarmac drive, which is a 1 in 7 incline. The drive will be in a different direction depending on which way you alight. At most it is a 150 metre flat walk.

By foot and bike

Sibden Hill can be reached by footpaths from Carter Avenue and from Chatsworth Avenue. It is linked by footpath SS90 to Batts Copse. Footpaths SS14 and SS99 cross Sibden Hill. The Red Squirrel Trail (NCN 23) passes near the site and has an access track onto Carter Avenue.

Nearest public toilets

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

Car and bike parking

There is no car parking on site. On street parking can usually be found in Chatsworth Avenue, Orchard Road and Blythe Way.

There are two parking places at the end of Blythe Way, from which Sibden Hill can be accessed via a steep climb through the meadow.

There are two cycle racks at the entrance by Orchard Road.

Site entrance

The site is not gated.

1. The entrance from the drive off Orchard Road is not marked. It leads directly to a woodland path with a 1 in 10 incline. 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. 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.
2. The entrance off Blythe Way leads to a meadow. The site is not named. There is a dog bin at this entrance.
3. The site entrance from Silver Trees has some 'do not' signs and a bird box but the site is not named. This entrance leads to woodland paths.

Getting around the site

The site is not suitable for motor scooters, wheelchairs, buggies or for people with accessibility difficulties.

There are no made paths. In the wooded part of the site the paths are earth and can be narrow with tree roots protruding.

The meadow is cut annually and the Right of Way will be mowed. To reach the woodland from the bottom of the

meadow there is a walk of about 120 metres with an incline of 1 in10.

There are two benches with backs at the top of the meadow which have beautiful views across Sandown Bay to Culver.

The site is free from gates and stiles.

What you can see

- There are several viewpoints all with different but super views,
- Count the different types of trees – there is hazel, ash, oak, sycamore, elm, beech and silver birch. There are some dead trees; we leave them because they are wonderful wildlife habitats,
- Look out for the native bluebells in spring,
- We have aliens too – rhododendron needs to be managed,
- You might catch a quick flash of a brightly-coloured jay,
- There was an old reservoir here and you can spot some associated infrastructure,

What you can hear

- Listen to songs written specifically for trees on Sibden Hill – scan the QR codes on the waymarkers around the site,
- The sounds of a seaside resort – you are likely to hear gulls,
- If you here a high-pitched ‘cedar-cedar-cedar’ sound it could be a male goldfinch. The goldfinch is our smallest bird,
- A ‘chi-chi-chi’ and ‘tidit’ is the melodious linnet,

What you can smell

- There is a lot of gorse around and in spring it has a coconut smell to attract pollinators,
- Honeysuckle appears in the more open areas and has a very sweet fragrance,
- Can you smell the bluebells? If so, they will be English ones,

What you can touch

- Hug a tree or go on a leaf hunt! There are so many different types of tree here,
- Get a forager's guide from the library and see what you can find: sheep's sorrel, greater stitchwort and rosebay willowherb can all be used, but follow instructions,
- Help yourself to fruits from the brambles, blackthorn and hawthorn, but please leave plenty for the wildlife.

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