

Outdoor property Access Statement

Introduction

Leigh Woods is a National Nature Reserve on the outskirts of Bristol. The site is predominantly woodland with grassy rides and open areas. There are way-marked trails through the woodland, some of which are steep in places as part of the property includes a valley. There is an unmarked play trail with equipment made from natural products. All dogs are welcome, including Assistance Dogs. Livestock do graze in some areas so please be alert to this and put dogs on leads in these areas.

NB - Mobile phone reception is not very good across the site.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

There is no official car park. There is 1 designated space for accessible parking by the Reserve Office on Valley Road (BS8 3PZ) and 4 other spaces that are marked for staff, volunteers and accessible use. These spaces are free to park. There is some paid on street parking available on North Road. The entrance on North Road has a slightly steep and uneven walk up to the main site.



Access from the accessible parking space (see picture) to the start of the walks is 20 meters and flat. There are currently no toilet facilities available at Leigh Woods.

In autumn and winter there is a general covering of leaves and mud on the ground.



There are no refreshment facilities available.

Trails

There are three way marked walks ranging from 1.2km – 2.5km in length. There is a map available to show these routes on the noticeboard at the Reserve Office and on the website. Way marked posts around the site indicate the direction of the routes. The easiest route which avoids steep slopes, is the Purple Trail.



The Purple Trail

This circular route can be picked up close to the Reserve Office or from the Forestry Commission car park on Coronation Avenue. The total distance is about 2.5km. It takes around 45 minutes to complete this walk at a moderate pace. There will be the sound of birdsong to accompany you on your way and, as you approach the lookout points keep your eyes peeling for our resident peregrine falcons. You may well encounter some of our cattle grazing the land to the South of the site too.

The route is on mostly level paths with a few gradual slopes. The paths are a mix of soil and some surfaced paths, all paths can get muddy and covered in leaves in Autumn and Winter and do have the occasional large muddy puddles.



There are plenty of seats along the trail, set back from the main thoroughfare. These are bench seats which will allow an opportunity to rest and take in the view of the surrounding trees.



Start the walk from the Reserve Office, head down the path following the old parish boundary wall. You will start to see some of the wooden play equipment nestled in the woodland edge. After around 200 meters you will turn left following the Purple Trail markers and cross through an opening in the parish wall. Continuing to follow the purple way marked signs you enter the Forestry Commission side of Leigh Woods and end up at Coronation Road (their driveway entrance). Turn right following the purple arrows and walk a short section of the Forestry Commission drive until you get to the purple trail signage further down that takes you turning right back into the woodland. The trail then takes you down and then turning left towards the gorge edge path. Here you will see one of the lookout points before eventually a gradual slope up towards the parish wall again.

Crossing back over the wall you are now in the grazed area. Due to grazing the gate needs to be kept closed at all times, it is weighted to close automatically and fitted with a bridal way handle. The path then leads to the pond and then turns right back towards the Reserve Office. Passing the Iron-Age hillfort on the left. The path then takes a final right turn and then you are back at the gap in the parish wall that you passed through at the start of the walk.

When you arrive here you have reached the end of the Purple Trail. Continue retracing the first section back up the boundary wall (keeping it on your right) and you will end up back at the Reserve Office.



Further information about trails around the property is available on our main website.
<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leighwoods>

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Map

Available on website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leigh-woods/features/visit-leigh-woods>