

# Haresfield Beacon and Standish Woods Outdoor Property Access Statement

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## Introduction

Haresfield Beacon is a prominent local landmark visible from the M5, on the Cotswolds escarpment with extensive woodland, open grassland and an ancient hill fort. The site is not signposted but is well-known locally. The best access points are from Stroud via Whiteshill on 'Main Road'. From Gloucester, access can be gained from the A4173 at Edge. The site is crossed by numerous footpaths and bridleways, including the Cotswold Way which runs the length of the property. The site is regularly used for recreational purposes and is heavily used by mountain bikers and dog walkers. Dog bins are provided. Mobile phone reception is good across the site. Cattle can often be found grazing. Visitors are asked to keep dogs under close control and to clear up after them.



## Arrival & Parking Facilities

Cripplegate, the main car park for the site, can be accessed via the A4173 and can park approximately 20 vehicles; however no designated parking spaces for disabled people are provided. The surface of the car park is compacted limestone, which can be rough and uneven in places. Some unofficial, roadside parking is also available further down the road towards the beacon. From the car park, the beacon can be accessed via a kissing gate which leads to a narrow and uneven pathway.

There is a payment machine at the Shortwood car park. The cost to park is £3, or free for National Trust members.

From the main car park, limited mobility users could gain access to the woods where there are paths following the gradient, and regular benches. The paths within the woods have been recently improved to provide better conditions for walkers. From the main car park there is also access to a wide expanse of grassland known as Shortwood. The terrain here is compacted grass, providing easy access to the topography and views across to Wales. Haresfield Beacon itself is inaccessible to wheelchair users due to uneven and narrow paths and gates. Visitors with limited mobility could still walk to the beacon however the terrain is uneven, the path is narrow in places and can be slippery underfoot when wet.



There is also a welcome and orientation board close to the car park at Shortwood which can be accessed via a livestock gate. The board contains information about local walks.



There is further 'unofficial' parking at the 'bus turning area' in Randwick village, where visitors can access Standish Woods. The path leading from this car park is difficult for manual wheelchair users due to exposed tree roots and loose surfaces within the woodland, but could be accessible to powered mobility users.

A car park at Ash Lane at the southern end of the property provides access to the Cotswolds Way and Standish Woods. This again would not be suitable for manual wheelchair users due to the terrain, but could be accessible to powered mobility users.

**Contact details for more information**

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