

Dovedale Access Statement

Dovedale, near Ilam, Ashbourne, DE6 2AY
Telephone: 01335 350503 (White Peak Area Office)
Email: peakdistrict@nationaltrust.org.uk

Introduction

Dovedale is a steeped sided valley, with a riverside footpath. The footpath is approximately 3 miles in length, from the Stepping Stones to Milldale. There are no waymarked trails along the river. There is a waymarked route to the summit of Thorpe Cloud. All routes are rocky and uneven and prone to flooding in the winter. Dogs on leads are welcome. Livestock graze throughout. Dovedale is a National Nature Reserve.

NB - Mobile phone reception is very poor across the site. In an emergency, please use the emergency telephone button located outside the toilets in the car park.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

The car park entrance is located at the end of a narrow road, 500m from a T-junction on Thorpe Road. There is a brown sign from this junction. The road down to the car park is narrow with passing places. The car park surface has a top layer of loose limestone grit. There are 9 designated accessible parking bays.



Example of accessible parking bay

There are 2 payment machines in the car park, located at either end. The cost to park is £4.50 for up to 4 hours, £6 for over 4 hours or free for National Trust members. Blue badge holders park for free. Payment machines are coin only. In the summer months the car park is staffed by a Welcome Team, who can provide information and payment can be made using a chip and pin card (not contactless).

Access from the car park to the start of the walk is via a choice of 2 routes. The path on the right-hand side of the toilet block (nearest the river) has a cobbled section and is uneven in places. The path on the left-hand side of the toilets is level tarmac. These paths join after approximately 100 metres.



Gate located on the tarmac path to the Stepping Stones

The tarmac path continues next to the river for approximately 600 metres and ends at the Stepping Stones. The only way across the river at this point is via the Stepping Stones.

The alternative path on the other side of the river is accessed via a wooden bridge. There are 3 steps up to the bridge and 3 steps on the other side. The alternative path is not surfaced and is very rocky underfoot. It is usually flooded through the winter and early spring.

This is the alternate path from the car park to the Stepping Stones, which is rocky and uneven.



This is the level tarmac path from the car park to the Stepping Stones. This path ends at this point.



Beyond the Stepping Stones the path continues for approximately 1 mile to Lover's Leap. There are limestone steps to the summit and back down the other side, which are uneven and slippery when wet.

From here the path continues for 2 miles. It passes 2 caves and several rock features. The path is undulating and rocky in places. At the end of the path is Viator's Bridge, a stone bridge which leads into the village of Milldale.

Thorpe Cloud

There is a blue waymarked route to the summit of Thorpe Cloud. It takes approximately 45 minutes to climb up. It is loose limestone rock underfoot and is slippery at all times of year. The walk is challenging, and appropriate footwear is essential.

Refreshments

There are takeaway refreshment facilities available in the car park. Opening times are seasonal. The toilet facilities, including an accessible toilet, are owned and maintained by the Peak District National Park Authority. There is a 20p fee to access the toilets.

Seating

There is a wooden bench near the bridge. There are no other seats in the valley, but there are various logs which you may perch upon.

Further information about trails around the property is available on our main website.
<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dovedale-ilam-park-and-the-white-peak>

Date October 2022

Ilam Park Access Statement

Address: Ilam Park, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2AZ

Telephone: 01335 350503

Email: peakdistrict@nationaltrust.org.uk

Introduction

Ilam Park is located in the picturesque village of Ilam, on the Derbyshire / Staffordshire border. There are 158 acres of parkland and a terraced garden, surrounded by limestone hills with magnificent views. The present Ilam Hall was built in 1826 and is now a Youth Hostel, (therefore the Hall is not open to general visitors). Ilam Park is open every day and the tearoom and shop are open every day except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The property was not built on level ground and so there are steps and slopes to contend with. The toilets, second-hand bookshop and grab and go food and beverage outlet are located in the stable yard, approximately 100 metres from the car park. The tearoom is accessed via a gravel path and steps. Alternative food and beverage access arrangements are in place, see below for details.

There is no mobile phone reception at Ilam Park. In an emergency, the second-hand bookshop has a landline telephone which you can use.

Dogs on leads are welcome throughout the parkland and garden. Dogs on leads are also welcome in the second-hand bookshop and grab and go food outlet. Assistance dogs are welcome in the tearoom. There are water bowls for dogs located in the stable yard. There are waste bins which can be used for dog waste in the main car park and stable yard.



View of the Italian Garden, with the stable yard facilities on the right

Arrival & Parking Facilities

There are brown tourist signs for 'Ilam Country Park' in Ilam village. The property is accessed via a driveway off Ilam Moor Lane. There is a large sign and 2 stone pillars at the entrance. The driveway is 370 metres long and leads to the car park. The driveway to the car park is made of tarmac and the entrance to the car park is up a short steep slope. The car park surface is tarmac. The additional parking area is tarmac with loose gravel in the parking bays. There are 4 designated accessible spaces in the car park. These bays are approximately 100 metres from the toilets and shop, along a tarmac path, with a slight downward slope. On some bank holidays there may be an overflow car park on a grass field. Parking cost is £4.50 for up to 4 hours, £6 for over 4 hours. The pay and display machine takes cash only. If needed you can pay for your parking by credit or debit card in the second-hand bookshop or tearoom. Parking is free if you are a National Trust Member or have a Blue Badge.

The second-hand bookshop, toilets and grab and go food outlet are all located in the stable yard, which is approximately 100 metres from the car park, on a tarmac path with a slight downward slope. The centre of the stable yard is cobbles. There is a flat stone path around the edge, which is suitable for a for wheelchair, if you use one.



Vehicle entrance to Ilam Park



Footpath from car park to stable yard

Toilets

The accessible toilet is located in the stable yard, which is 100 metres from the car park. The doorway is 80cm wide and the door opens outwards. The accessible toilet facility measures 245cm x 160cm and has an emergency alarm operated by a pull cord. The accessible WC has hand rails located on both sides. The lighting is artificial, with a fluorescent bulb. There is an electric hand drier which is operated by a push button.

The male and female non-accessible toilets are located in the stable yard and are accessed via 1 step. The hand driers are operated by sensors and there is natural light and artificial light produced by fluorescent bulbs. There are baby change facilities located in all the toilet facilities.

Changing Place Facility

Accessed with a radar key and located on the ground floor of Ilam Hall, next to the archway. It is signposted with the blue changing place symbol. It is open everyday, 24 hours a day. Spare radar keys are located in the second-hand bookshop and tearoom if needed. The changing place facility has a centrally placed peninsular toilet with room either side for a wheelchair user. There are also grab rails and drop down support rails. There is a privacy screen beside the toilet. There is a height adjustable, adult sized changing bench and a ceiling track hoist which can be used throughout the room.



Entrance to the changing place



Changing place doorway



Inside the changing place

Second-hand Bookshop

The bookshop has a level entrance and the door is 94cm wide. Staff are happy to offer assistance accessing items on shelves. There is an induction loop at the till point. There are displays about Ilam Park's history. There are 4 small tables and you are welcome to eat inside, either your own picnic or food and drinks from the tearoom. The bookshop is open 10am - 3pm.

Tearoom

You can access the tearoom via a rough gravel path which slopes uphill. There is a handrail on the right-hand side as you walk uphill towards the tearoom. There is a gateway in the wall, which is 100cm wide. The tearoom is accessed via 3 steps, then a short walk, then 5 steps. There is a handrail on both sides of the steps. The tearoom lawn has wooden benches and chairs and can be accessed via a rough gravel path or upward grassy slope. There are accessible wooden seating and tables available in the stable yard, under the cover of the arches. If you are not able to access the upstairs tea room but would prefer to order from there, staff will be happy to bring your order to the indoor or outdoor seating areas in the stableyard. Paper straws are available from the tearoom, as is free drinking water. The menu is displayed on handwritten chalkboards above the counter. The tearoom is open 10am - 5pm in the summer and 10am - 4pm in the winter.

Grab and Go Outlet

During the summer school holidays and summer weekends, the Grab and Go Food and Beverage offer is available in the stableyard. There is level access into the building (there is a small lip in the doorway, marked with hazard tape). The doorway is 76cm wide, or 158cm if both doors are open.



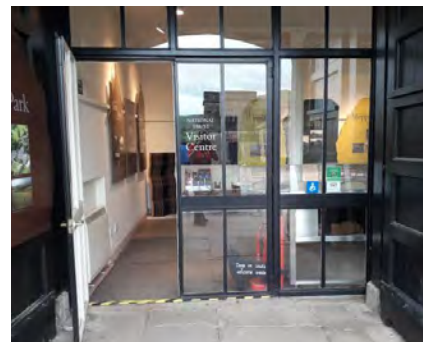
Uphill sloping path to tearoom



Entrance to the tearoom



Entrance to tearoom lawn



Entrance to the grab and go

Garden

The garden is terraced with steps and slopes. Many of the paths have gravel surfaces. The steps onto the Italian Garden do not have handrails, however there is a drystone wall on the right-hand side as you step down 4 steps into the garden. (*photo of Italian Garden on page 1*).

There are 5 benches in the Italian Garden. The gravel path to the Battlestone slopes 200m downhill from the tearoom and has 1 bench located approximately halfway along. There is 1 shallow step at the end of this path, near the Battlestone.

Paradise Walk is a flat, wide path with a wall alongside one side. On the opposite side are 8 benches, spaced at regular intervals. The path beside the river is partially made of stone, which becomes grass as you approach St Bertram's Bridge.



Zigzag pathways in the garden



Paradise Walk

The River Manifold flows through the property and access to the river is possible in some places. St Bertram's Bridge, used to access Hinkley Woods, has a hard, smooth surface and a significant slope on both sides. The main path through Hinkley Wood is flat and made of stone. This leads to stone steps which go steeply up the hillside.

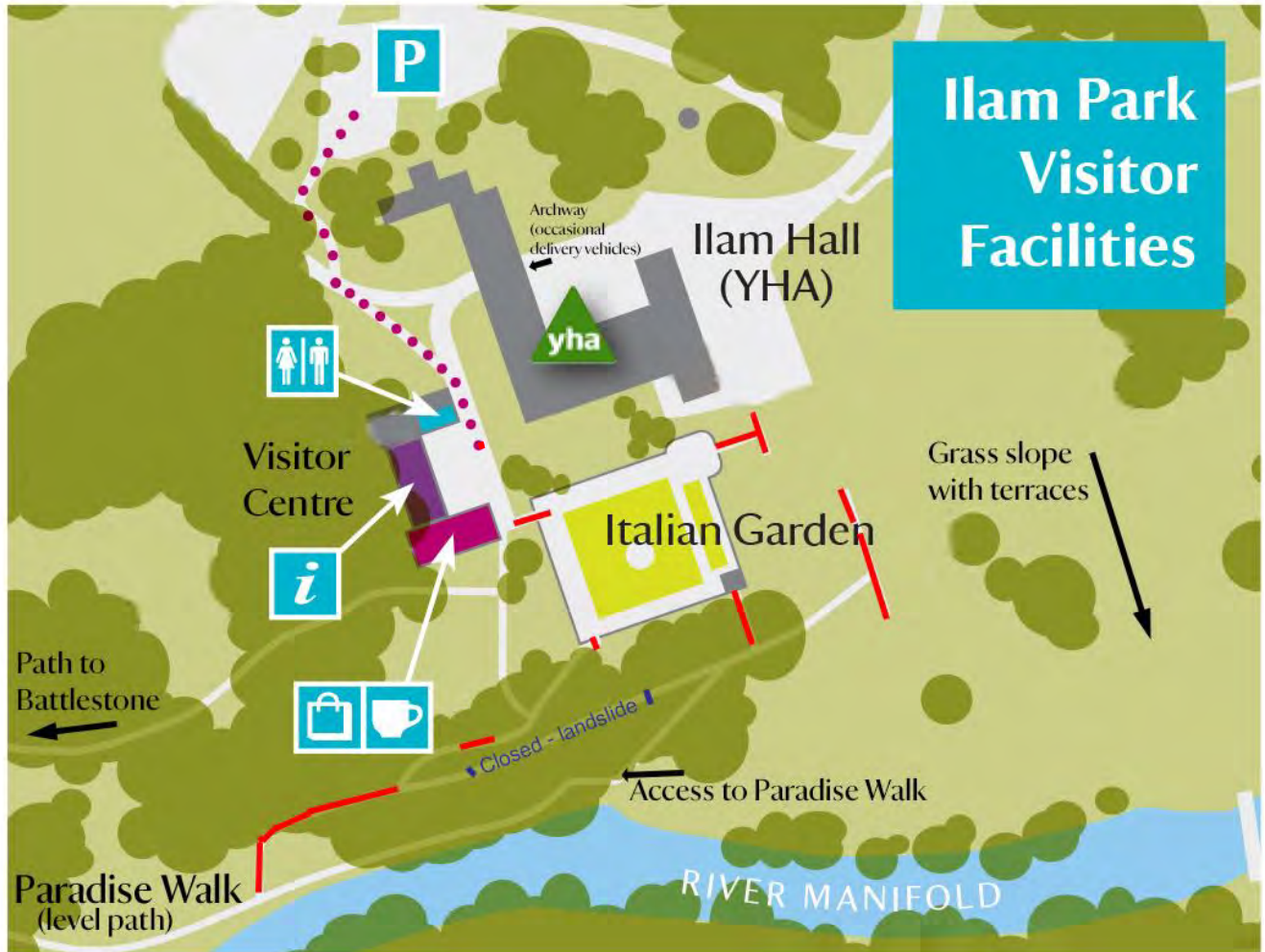


St Bertram's Bridge



Path in Hinkley Wood

Map



●●●● Step free route to shop, visitor centre and toilets

— Steps

Date Written: May 2022