

Wray Castle Outdoor Access Statement

Wray Castle, Low Wray, Ambleside, LA22 0JA

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Introduction:

Wray Castle is located on the West shore of Windermere approximately 3 miles south of Ambleside. Dogs are welcome in the grounds; however in parts livestock do graze so please be alert and be prepared to put dogs on leads, as well as in busier areas such as the car park. There is a play trail with play equipment made from natural materials; this site is not fully accessible due to an uneven and woodchip surface. There are sign posted paths down to the lakeshore as well as to Low Wray campsite.

NB: There is limited mobile phone reception; during the summer opening periods a member of staff will be present in the castle. The nearest pay phone is at Low Wray, in an emergency dial 999.

Arrival and Parking:

The car park is located 450 metres off the Wray to Ambleside road. This road joins the B5286 which heads north to Ambleside and South to Hawkshead, sign posts to Wray castle can be found on the B5286. Parking is free for National Trust members or £5 for up to 2 hours, £6.50 for 2-4 hours or £7.50 for the whole day. The pay and display machine is located on the lower level of the car park. The car park is of a firm gravel surface. Refreshments are available in the castle during visitor opening times. Toilets including an accessible toilet can be found to the rear of the castle.

Path heading south towards High Wray Bay:

Note this is a footpath, cycling is not permitted.

From the lower level car park exit south through a wooden gate onto a firm gravel path. The path follows a gentle decline to a metal gate; which opens in both directions. The path continues on the same gradient until a cross in the path is reached. The level access path to the right, which is steep in places or gravel steps with wooden edging straight ahead. Both paths re-join at the bottom of the hill.



Level access path to right, or stepped section straight ahead, both paths re-join further down.

The rest of the path to the High Wray Bay is fairly flat with the path now following the lake shore. A stone boat house is on the left just before the wooden gate which marks the end of the footpath, going through this gate marks the start of a bridleway, where bikes and authorised vehicles are allowed. Re-trace your route or turn right through the gate along the bridleway to head back to Wray Castle.



Gate marking end of path and start of the bridleway

Path heading North towards Wray Jetty:

Again this is a footpath and cycling is not permitted.

Head north out of the lower level carpark onto a firm gravel path. For the first 10 metres the path is very steep, to avoid this steep section head up the road (remaining vigilant of cars) to the pedestrian crossing, turn right onto a gravel path, both paths re-join. This path is uneven in places. There are 6 slate drains to cross before reaching the jetty some of which protrude more than others. The path has a gentle but constant decline all the way to the jetty. Roughly 40 metres from the jetty the path has some tree roots crossing it again with some protruding out more than others.

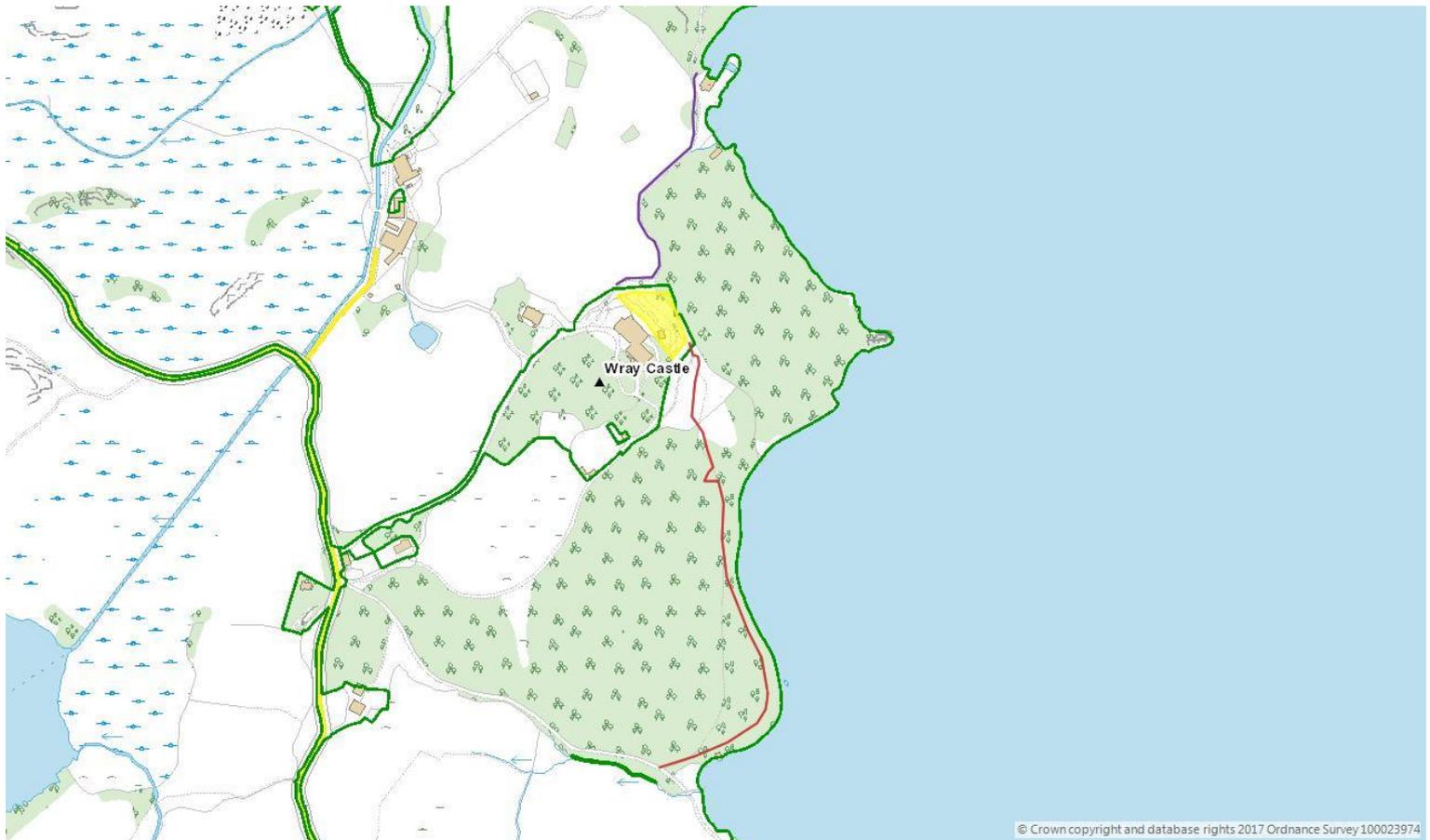


Steep section at start of path, to avoid this head up the road to pedestrian crossing and turn right.

Path through woodlands around Watbarrow point:

To access this path head south out of the lower level carpark; the same path as used for accessing Wray Bay. Go through both the wooden and metal gate and at the cross in the path turn left towards the woods where a larger metal field gate can be seen, go through this gate. At present this path is not accessible due to large boulders and tree roots crossing the path.

There are other paths in the Wray grounds however these can have an uneven surface and be steep in places. The most accessible path in the Wray grounds is the path to High Wray Bay, which has been specially created.



Red line showing path down to High Wray Bay. Purple line showing path to Wray Jetty. Both paths being accessible. Yellow shading giving the location of the pay and display car park.