

Access Guide to the Sound

Manx National Heritage has the guardianship of many ancient monuments in the landscape. A number of these sites are publicly accessible. Please note in most circumstances the land is not in the ownership of Manx National Heritage and visits are made at your own risk.

We recognise that visiting the Island's ancient monuments can present difficulties for people with disabilities. We have prepared an access guide for visiting the Sound to help you plan your visit. This access guide does not contain personal opinions as to suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the environment at the site.

Introduction

Situated over the hills to the south of Port Erin and Port St. Mary, the traditional village of Cregneash provides you a route to the Sound, the area at the southernmost point of the Isle of Man. The Sound, alongside the Sound Café, provide a commanding view of the sea and the Calf of Man, the nature reserve and bird sanctuary. In and around the Sound café, there are plenty of locations that can provide a beautiful spot for lunch or a picnic, or to simply relax and enjoy the scenery.



The Sound Café

Getting to the Sound

Map Reference: SC 1736 6669

By Car: The journey to the Sound from Castletown takes approximately 20 minutes. Travel along the A5 from Castletown to Port St. Mary for approximately 5km. Pass the Shore Hotel at Gansey and continue along Beach Road towards Port St. Mary for 1.5km. Go straight on at Port St. Mary crossroads, up Plantation Road, and on to the (A31) Howe Road, continuing for 4km until you reach the Sound's car park (pictured below). Please note that the Sound's car park is designed to be a one-way loop, please ensure you enter at the correct point.



The Sound's Car Park

By Bus: The Sound is not on a main bus route. Rather, buses travel to and from the area on weekends and bank holidays. Please see www.iombusandrail.im for more information on bus timetables. The bus starts at the Port Erin railway station, before making its way to the Sound. Once you have arrived at the sound, you will be directly outside the café.

Access for Visitors

From the car park, the café, alongside the toilets are easily accessible. With steps and a ramp available for wheelchair access. The Sound Café has an accessible toilet facility. The toilets are open when the café is open. Please see our website for details of opening tome

There are a number of gravel paths leading from the Café into the landscape. Although most of the terrain comprises mostly of uneven grassy area (pictured below).



Some of the grassy areas close to the Sound Café
An example of the gravel path around the Sound Café





Example of the gravel path around the Sound Café with bench

There are benches along some of the paths.

Please note that the vast majority of the coastline accessible from the Sound is not protected by any fence or railing – please ensure that you travel safely and avoid the grass verges.

Further Information

Please observe the Isle of Man Country Code when visiting ancient monuments in the landscape. This is to protect yourselves, the wildlife, farm animals, and to preserve the natural beauty of the Manx countryside.

Please remember that you are responsible for your own safety and for others in your care, so dress appropriately, wear stout footwear, be prepared for changes in weather and other events. We recommend letting someone else know where you are going and when you expect to return. Remember to bring your mobile phone with you, but don't assume you will always get reception at some of the more remote sites.

If you would like to speak to a member of our team about visiting the Sound or other ancient monument sites please email: enquiries@mnh.im. For more detailed information about the site please see 'A Guide to the Archaeological Sites of the Isle of Man up to 1500AD' by Andrew Johnson and Allison Fox (Culture Vannin, 2017), available to purchase from the Manx Museum Gallery Shop and online: www.manxnationalheritage.im