

Portstewart Strand Outdoor property Access Statement

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Introduction

This property is located on the iconic north coast of Northern Ireland. This beach is two miles long of golden sand stretching to mouth of the River Bann as it flows into the North Sea. The beach has been awarded European Blue Flag status for its water quality and beach/dune management. The sand dune system behind the beach is an Area of Special Scientific interest along with the Bann Estuary and contains some of Ireland's largest sand dunes. There are a number of trails in the sand dunes for visitors to use. All dogs are welcome, including Assistance Dogs, we ask that dogs should be kept on their leads between post one and post ten which are marked out on the beach. Livestock, at certain times of the year, do graze in the sand dunes so please be aware of this. Details of grazing times can be found on our the Portstewart Strand Facebook page.

NB - Mobile phone reception can vary across the site. In an emergency, please make contact on the phone number above as soon as you are able.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

The car park entrance is accessible via the Strand Road in Portstewart. There are brown signs from the Portstewart town centre roundabout and Burnside Road roundabout directing you to the site and further signage at the Strand Road roundabout. The road down to the car park is quite steep. The car park is located on the beach but the sand is firm. If visitors are parking further on down the beach please be warned that the sand can be soft and cars can get stuck on occasions. There are marked designated spaces for disabled people at the start of the beach and Blue Badge holders are welcome onto the site and can park free of charge.



There is a charge to park cars on the beach. The cost to park a car on the beach is £8 (April to October) £3.50 (November to March), £16 for a minibus and £20 for a coach or free for National Trust members and blue badge holders .

There are a number of facilities on site for the use of visitors. There is a restaurant, Harry's Shack at the entry point to the beach, but be advised you may need to book in advance.

Visitor toilets, including accessible toilets, parent room and Changing Places (adult changing facilities – key available on request) are located together. There are public toilets behind the restaurant which are free for all visitors.

The toilets are unisex gender neutral .

- 8 cubicals
- 2 cubicals with larger access and a vanity mirror for changing
- Sinks heights are 800mm- to the lip, with two lowered sink at a height of 740mm to the lip

A **unisex wheelchair accessible WC** is provided with dimensions 1.5 m x 3m , this facility is also a baby changing facility

A **unisex Changing Places** facility is provided adjacent the unisex accessible WC. The changing places unit comprises of a peninsular WC, adjustable height changing table, sink, shower and overhead hoist. Access to this facility is only during opening hours and requires a radar key (please check our website for opening hours)

Please note that Portstewart Strand is an inclusive beach, to book the equipment please follow : <https://www.maemurrayfoundation.org/projects/inclusive-beaches/>

There are showering facilities on the beach below Harry's Shack and the RNLI have a station on site which is attended daily during Easter holidays, June to August and weekends between April and the end of November– refer to website for full details of cover.



There are three main walks in the sand dune system ranging from a 30 minute to 2 hours walk. There is a maps available to show these routes which can be obtained at the admissions hut found in the car park. Unfortunately none of the routes are suitable for wheelchair access.

The Hopley Trail

This there and back route leads from the carpark down to one of our first major dunes the Hopley Dune. The total distance is just over $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile. It takes about 30 minutes to complete this walk at a moderate pace.

The walk starts from the car park and continues along the beach until you enter the sand dune system at post 5. From here route has a gradual upward.

The Devil's Hill Dander

This trail takes you to Portstewart Strand's largest sund dune the Devil's Hill, it is a circular route which will bring you back to the carpark. The total distance is around 2 miles long and should take visitors 50 minutes to complete.

The walk starts from the car park and continues along the beach until you enter the sand dune system at post 8. From here route has a gradual upward.

The butterfly and Bann Trail

This walk takes right around Portstewart Strand's sand dune system and to the River Bann Estuary. The total distance of the walk is around $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and should take visitors at least 2 hours to complete.

The walk starts from the car park and continues along the beach until you enter the sand dunes at post 10. From here the walk goes on a circular route around the sand dunes and the Bann estuary, until it brings you back to post 10 where you exit back onto the beach, and make your way back to the car park.



Contact details for more information

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Date March 2023