

Allenbanks & Staward Gorge Access Statement

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Introduction

With its deep gorge, created by the River Allen, and the largest area of ancient semi-natural woodland in Northumberland, this 250-hectare (617-acre) site provides the perfect setting for an adventure.

Largely created by Susan Davidson, Allen Banks has become a fantastic home for flora, fauna and fungi. It is also well known for its carpet of bluebells and ramsons, commonly known as wild garlic, which covers the woodland floor in spring and early summer.

Footpaths throughout route can be steep and uneven. Dogs, including Assistance Dogs are welcome, they must be kept on leads in the car park and when walking past or through farmers' fields. Mobile phone signal is decent with main providers across site.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

Car Park at Allen Banks is accessed off the A69 close to Ridley Hall, there are brown 'oak leaf' to Allen Banks on the A69. Vehicles need to pass under a narrow railway bridge, which may not be suitable for larger vehicles. Car park is surfaced with loose ground stone. Parking bays are clearly set out with timber divisions. Parking is free for National Trust members, please present your card at the machine to get a ticket. For non-members parking costs £2 for four hours or £4 all day.

WCs

There is one accessible toilet, at the rear the toilet block. It can be opened with a radar key. Toilet is on the right within the cubicle. Grab handles are fitted. No automatic doors. The building has no hot water or electricity. Paper towels are available.

Paths

Paths around Allenbanks and Staward Gorge are uneven, some are steep and have steps in places. There are also significant drops in some places. They are not accessible to wheelchair users.

There are well signed route options on site. The Purple route is a 1.5m walk around Morralee Tarn, a downloadable map is available on our website. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/allenbanks-and-staward-gorge/trails/allen-banks-woodland-walk> The Orange route is a 2m walk woodland walk. The Brown route is a 3m walk around Plankey Mill. The Green route is a 5.5m walk around Steward Gorge.

Contact details for more information

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Map

