

## Ambleside & Windermere Outdoor Properties Access Statement.

Windermere, Cumbria.

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### Introduction

- The National Trust in Ambleside & Windermere provide the majority of public access points to the eastern lakeshore of Windermere. These range from the accessible area of Cockshott Point in Bowness with its striking views up and down the lake, to the ruins of the Roman Fort at Borrans Field at Ambleside, with its amazing backdrop of the fells.
- There are no National Trust car parks in the Windermere & Bowness area, though there is a small National Trust car park (6 cars) at Stagshaw Gardens, just outside Ambleside. This is suitable for access to Stagshaw Gardens and the 'Tall Tree Trail' in Skelghyll Woods.
- Mobile phone reception is generally good. Vodafone generally has the best reception across the area.
- Dogs are welcome in all areas, but should be kept on leads or under close control due to livestock in surrounding fields.
- If you are looking for access information for Fell Foot or Wray Castle & Windermere's western shoreline, please visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/fellfoot](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/fellfoot) or [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wray-castle](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wray-castle) and click on the Facilities & Access pages.

The following are suggestions for more accessible routes or destinations within NT ownership in the Ambleside and Windermere area. We are aiming to improve accessibility across our sites, and will review this document annually to reflect any changes or improvements that we implement.

We are always open to ideas and suggestions as to how to improve access at these sites, so please do not hesitate to get in touch (via the contact details above) if you feel that simple changes could help.

### Cockshott Point

Point 1 on map:

The main route following the shoreline from Bowness to Ferry Nab and the Windermere Car Ferry is a wide well surfaced track. This route is suitable for walkers, families with buggies and prams or off-road mobility scooters, who want to visit the lake or just access the ferry across to the west shore by a route that avoids the road.

**Key features:** spectacular views up and down the lake and across to Belle Isle. There are ten benches to stop and admire the view and the shoreline is a great place for picnics with the family (though please remember to keep barbecues off the grass and on the gravel areas). There are litter bins at Ferry Nab and on the approach from Bowness at Glebe Road.

Cockshott Point is accessed by gates at either end that are 1.5m wide.

**Surface:** crushed slate surfaced path. After areas of heavy rain, particularly after the storms of December 2015, areas of the path are prone to puddling. This can have an effect on the surface and cause some potholes.

**Gradient:** level throughout on the main track. Slight incline on short grass to the point and beach areas.

**Parking:** there are no National Trust car parks. Parking is available at the following:

Glebe Road SLDC pay & display car park LA23 3HE.  
There is designated disabled parking for eight cars in this car park (charged).  
No electric vehicle charge points.  
No toilet facilities.

Braithwaite Fold SLDC pay & display car park LA23 3EX.  
There is designated disabled parking for eight cars in this car park (charged).  
No height restriction.  
No electric vehicle charge points.  
Council-run public toilets (no disabled access) at car park entrance.  
These toilets are closed from 1st November until March 31st.

Ferry Nab SLDC pay & display car park LA23 3JH.  
There is designated disabled parking for nine cars in this car park (charged).  
No height restriction.  
No electric vehicle charge points.  
Council-run public toilets  
Public toilets, 20p charge at Ferry Nab. Automatic hand driers are fitted.  
Disabled Toilet facility accessed by RADAR key and fixed hand rail on the left hand side.  
(viewed seated).

**Facilities:** Teas, coffees and snacks at Dan's Shack and Slipway facility for boat launching. Kayak hire available from Windermere Kayak centre.

**Distance:** 650m of linear path between Glebe Road and Ferry Nab.



*View of Belle Isle House from Cockshott Point*

## Millerground & Queen Adelaide's Hill

Point 2 on map.

A popular place for swimming and picnicking, and an escape from the hustle and bustle of nearby Bowness and Windermere.

**Key features:** access to the lake for wild swimming, kayaking, picnicking, stunning views of the Langdale Pikes and surrounding fells. Amazing historic viewpoint on the summit of Queen Adelaide's Hill.



*Looking North into the Troutbeck Fells from the summit of Queen Adelaide's hill*

**Surface:** level, crushed slate surface. Some sections can be a rougher surface, especially after heavy rain. Wheelchairs and pushchairs may find the surface a little bumpy at times.

**Gradient:** Lakeshore path is generally level, but be aware of some narrow sections and some drops to the lake shore. The access for wheelchairs to the lakeshore is currently via SLDC land from their car park on Rayrigg Road.

Route to Low Millerground is steep but with a good surface.



*Main access point to Low Millerground.*

**Parking:** SLDC pay & display car park Rayrigg Road. LA23 1BP.

There is designated disabled parking for five cars in this car park (charged).

No height restriction.

No electric vehicle charge points.

A small layby can accommodate approx. 8 cars (free) at the roadside by the gate to Low Millerground.

**Facilities:** council-run public toilets (no disabled access) 20p charge, at Rayrigg Road car park. These toilets are closed from 1<sup>st</sup> November until March 31<sup>st</sup>.

No less able toilet.

Kayak and sailing courses are available at Millerground from NCL. Tel 015394 47183 for details.

**Distance:** Varies depending on routes taken. 750m of shoreline path available.

150m of steep linear path to the summit of Queen Adelaide's Hill from Rayrigg Car park.

## Jenkyn's Field

Point 3 on map



*View from Southern entrance.*

A valuable place for visitors to be able to gain access to the lakeshore. This field is part of a local farm, so please keep dogs on leads when stock is in the field.

**Key features:** Informal lakeshore access with seat on viewpoint. Great access for wild swimming and family picnics. Stiles have been replaced with gates, but there are still small steps to deal with at both access points due to the height difference with the road.



*Access point onto Jenkyn's field at Waterhead.*



*Looking North onto Jenkyn's Field from the Southern access.*

**Surface:** grassy footpaths, narrow in places, steps (no handrails) at access points

**Gradient:** fairly level and suitable for buggies and prams if dry.

**Parking:** Nearest public car park is at Waterhead, Lake District National Park Authority, Pay on Exit. LA22 0EP.

**Facilities:** Public toilets at Waterhead car park.

Ambleside YHA café & bar, Water Edge Hotel and Waterhead Hotel and other smaller providers offer refreshment and toilet facilities.

Canoe and Kayak hire available from the YHA.

**Distance:** 600m of linear path alongside lakeshore.

## Stagshaw Gardens

Point 4 on Map



This comparatively modern woodland garden, renowned for fine displays of hydrangeas and rhododendrons, was created by former National Trust Director, Cuthbert Acland in the 1950s. There is no charge for entry but we do ask for a small donation to help towards its upkeep.

**Key features:** springtime is the best time to visit, when hydrangeas and rhododendrons are at their peak. The 'Tall Tree Trail' through Skelghyll Woods is available to explore from the same car park.

**Surface:** crushed slate surface, rough woodland path with some steep steps in places. Narrow paths in places.

**Gradient:** generally steep paths that work their way up both sides of the stream.

**Parking:** limited car parking at site (6 approx.) sign posted off the main road, LA22 0HE.

Nearest Public Car Park is at Waterhead, Lake District National Park Authority, Pay on Exit. LA22 0EP.

Facilities: Public toilets at Waterhead car park.

Ambleside YHA café & bar, Water Edge Hotel and Waterhead Hotel and other smaller providers offer refreshment and toilet facilities.

Canoe and Kayak hire available from the YHA.

**Facilities:** no facilities on site. Nearest toilets (including less able, at Waterhead LA22 0EP).

**Distance:** approx 1km of trails around the garden.

## Borrans Field (Galava)

Point 5 on Map



*Ambleside Roman Fort from the air*

**Key Features:** A popular area for visitors and locals alike.

The main attraction is the ruined Roman Fort of Galava.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ambleside/features/ambleside-roman-fort>

The site also is the access point for the wild flower hay meadows at Birdhouse Meadow and the permitted footpath that follows the riverside towards Ambleside at Rothay Bridge (impassable after heavy rain!)



*Main interpretation panel at Galava Roman Fort Entrance.*

Please note that the area is grazed by cattle from spring to autumn. Please keep dogs on leads and close all gates behind you.

**Gradient:** level throughout



*Access gate with RADAR key from Borrans Park.*

**Surface:** Grassy paths, can be muddy after rain.

**Parking:** Some limited parking is available at the Ambleside Rugby Club. Payment via honesty box.

There is also a Lake District National Park Authority car park at Waterhead at LA22 0EP

**Facilities:** There are toilets and various businesses offering refreshments at Waterhead. The public car park has disabled parking spaces.

**Distance:** Borrans Field is approximately 400m from the car park at Waterhead.

It is also possible to walk into Ambleside via the permitted riverside path from Borrans Field to Rothay Bridge (1.3km).

## Bridge House

Point 6 on map

One of the most recognisable and photographed buildings in the Lake District, Bridge House was built over 300 years ago as a bridge to cross Stock Ghyll, with a room above to store apples. Over the course of its history it has had many uses, and at one point is believed to have been home to a family of six! It is now open to the public every day from 30<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 11:30am – 4:15pm.

**Key features:** one downstairs room and one upstairs room, both open to the public when the property is open. A

member of staff is located in the downstairs room, who can give a detailed history of the property. There are 8 external stone steps winding up to the upper floor, with a vertical handrail. The steps are quite steep and can be slippery when wet.

**Parking:** the nearest parking is Rydal Road (council run), LA22 9AN. Disabled parking spaces are available. The car park is around 200m from Bridge House, and also a short distance into the centre of Ambleside.

**Facilities:** council run public toilets are available in Rydal Road car park.



## Contact details for more information

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## Map

