Durham Coast Outdoor property Access Statement

Durham Coast
Oakerside Dene Lodge
Stanhope Chase
Peterlee
County Durham
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Introduction
The Durham Coast is well known for its spectacular wildflowers. Some of the fields at Blast Beach are among the best places to enjoy them, with plants like bloody cranesbill, dyer’s greenweed and devil’s-bit scabious creating a riot of colour in the summer. The patches of scrub that intersperse the grassland provide shelter for birds like grasshopper warblers. Listen out for their insect-like song.

While the flowers are at their best in spring and summer, the fabulous cliff-top views can be enjoyed year-round. These views are quite different now to how they looked at the end of the last century.

This stretch of the Durham Coast was once home to the biggest coal mine in Europe, and to some of the worst coastline pollution in the world. Buried under no less than two and a half million tonnes of colliery waste every year, the beach was a no-go area for people, animals and birds.

Thanks to a massive clean-up project involving the National Trust and 13 partner organisations the vast majority of the waste has now been removed and wildlife and people are able to use the coast again.

The grid reference for the car parking at Nose’s Point is NZ436478. The nearest postcode for satnav is SR7 7PS.

The magnesian limestone that underlies this area has given rise to a spectacular landscape of cream-coloured cliffs intersected by steep-sided wooded valleys, or gills.

In summer the coastal grasslands are awash with rare and colourful wild flowers, which provide habitat to some very special wildlife such as the iconic Durham Brown Argus butterfly.

All dogs are welcome, including Assistance Dogs. Livestock do graze in some areas so please be alert to this and put dogs on leads in these areas.

NB - Mobile phone reception is not very good across the site. In an emergency, please make contact on the phone number above as soon as you are able.
Arrival & Parking Facilities

At the Northern end of The National Trust property stands Noses point, a car park just to the south of Seaham village. Grid reference NZ 43637 47854
There are no toilets. These can be found next to the shops in Seaham, approx. 1km to the north. There are also cafes, pubs and takeaways in the village.

The car park (not NT) is free and houses a number of informative panels. Following the tarmacked path (suitable for wheelchairs) to the south and west brings you to the most northern end of the National trust ownership on the Durham Coast.

Following the path south leads you to a pond and a route down to the beach. Grid ref NZ 43546 47164.
This is a steep path and not suitable for wheelchairs. It is stone pitched and quite rough in places. This is the official route on and off Blast Beach. The route nearest the car park belongs to the council and should no longer be used.
Route to Blast beach. The official route.

The main path runs all the way south and is part of the English Coast path. It runs the full length of the NT ownership and where the surface is generally very good. The areas through the denes are very steep with lots of steps on either side. Access points on to the Coastal path are numerous but can involve a long walk in.
A long walk from Hawthorn village (parking on roadside Grid ref. NZ 42400 45956), through fields and woods provides a flat but sometimes muddy alternative route. There is a pub in the village of Hawthorn.

Further to the south lies Easington Colliery. A large car park sits next to the old mine site. Grid ref. NZ 43951 44075. No toilet facilities. There are cafes on the main street approximately 0.5 km away.

From the car park a number of circular walks can be undertaken. These vary in quality from tar mac, gravel and grass. The obvious route is under the rail way bridge where paths criss cross north and south.
Access to the beach is possible via a set of steep steps 0.5 km from the car park heading in a South East direction.
Continuing south the next easy access point is at Fox Holes between Easington and Grant Houses. The car park can be found at Grid ref. NZ 43952 43448. It is a small carpark and offers no facilities. The nearest being back in Easington. The path under the bridge leads north and south on mostly tarmacked surfaces. There is some information on the locale.
Accessed via the B1283

Following the B1283 south another accessible point is at Warren House Dene. A small remote car park past the recycling and refuse site, along a potholed track can be found. No facilities. The nearest facilities are 2 km away in Peterlee. Grid ref of the car park is NZ 44112 42567.

The path from the car park goes under the railway. A number of paths branch from it but heading straight on the beach can be accessed via a smooth descent through the Dene. The path can be muddy nearer to the sea and after excessive rainfall.
Further south through the town of Peterlee lies the most southerly point of NT ownership. Known locally as Cotsford Fields, access is through Horden along Cotsford Lane. The lane leads down towards the sea where a small car park for 6 cars can be found. There are no facilities. These must be found back in Peterlee. The car park lies at Grid ref. NZ 45433 40816.

Disabled access at Cotsford Fields, Horden.
Back up the road 150m, there is an entrance designed for wheelchairs into Cotsford Fields. The road part is relatively steep but once in the fields it is much easier going and offers a nice circular route with views of the sea and the Tern statue.

Car park along Cotsford Lane known as Limekilns car park.
The sea can be reached quite easily from this car park across the old coal spoil waste. Here is a great place to see what it was like with the spoil and how the sea is helping to clean it up. There is a drop of about 1m from the spoil down to the sea. The path is a good surface with a slight slope back up to the car park.
More information about trails around the property is available on our main website.

https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/durham-coast

Contact details for more information

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Date Sept 2016

Map
Moorhouse Woods Outdoor property Access Statement

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Introduction
Moorhouse woods is situated to the East of West Rainton village, just off the A690. The A1 motorway splits the wood in two. The Western part known as Raintonpark Wood and the Eastern, as Mallygill Wood. There is no access from the A1. There is little access other than on foot with Raintonpark wood accessible over an access bridge that crosses the A1. The woods are of archaeological importance with remains of bell pits and of biological interest with old beech trees and a diverse species of birds and plants. The Western side of the wood is bounded by the River Wear, which adds to the diversity of species. All dogs are welcome, including Assistance Dogs. Livestock do graze in some areas so please be alert to this and put dogs on leads in these areas.

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Arrival & Parking Facilities

There is limited parking in Leamside village, just to the west of west Rainton but no facilities. These are found in West Rainton itself. There is a layby on the A690 which can offer parking but it lies a mile away. Closest facilities remain in West Rainton.

Trails

There are a number of circular walks through both woods that are linked by the access bridge. These are not waymarked but are easy to follow. They are rustic and narrow in nature so not suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. In Raintonpark wood the path drops down to the River so is steep with steps in places. After the river has been in spate the lower paths can be very muddy.
Further information about trails around the property or other nearby sites is available on our main website.

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Contact details for more information

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