

Gosforth Park Nature Reserve Facilities & Visitor Information



Gosforth Nature Reserve is a 60-hectare site of open water, reedbed, woodland, grassland, and ditches. It is managed for wildlife and is kept as natural as possible, and also as a place of learning and nature observation for people across the North East.

Covid-19

The reserve is managed in line with current government guidance. Please look out for posters on site, including on hides and by the entrance. These explain current measures implemented to keep yourself and other visitors safe.

Trails & Paths

There are several unsurfaced trails around the reserve. They are uneven and have small trip hazards such as tree roots. From October-June or during damp summers, paths may be muddy or slippery and walking/wellington boots are recommended.

Wooden boardwalks and bridges are provided to access or cross damp areas. Some of these have been covered with wire to provide grip but they can still be slippery when wet and care should be taken. There are no handrails on these structures and visitors should take care.

The site is flat. The circuit walk around the reserve is approximately one to two miles depending on the route taken. Please keep to the paths to avoid damaging flora and disturbing wildlife.

Toilets

There are two toilets at the reserve. A portaloo, complete with baby-changing facilities, can be found near the reserve entrance. Mid-way along the boundary ride, to the Western edge of the reserve, is the eco-loo. Disinfectant hand gel is provided in all toilet facilities.

Plants & Insects

During summer months stinging plants such as nettle grow alongside some paths and vegetation may hang down across paths. Also during summer, biting insects such as mosquitoes and deer ticks are present, especially in the wooded areas.

Please wear long trousers and long sleeves and, if necessary, use insect repellent.

Wooded Areas

The woodland is managed to support as much wildlife as possible. For this reason, there are a lot of dead branches in the trees. During high winds, after heavy summer rain and during heavy snow there is a risk in the woodland from falling trees or branches. In these conditions we recommend that you only use the South Lakeside Path.

In exceptional weather conditions the reserve may close. This will be advertised on the NHSN website.

Watching Wildlife

There are three hides and a viewing screen. These are kept open during visitor hours.

There is a pond dipping platform that visitors can use to catch and study aquatic invertebrates. Nets can be supplied to educational groups.

You may be fortunate enough to encounter wildlife up close. Binoculars will greatly enhance your experience, making it easier to spot some of the reserves more iconic inhabitants.



Shelter

There are three viewing hides (see posters on site in respect of Covid-19) and a canopy, located near the reserve entrance, that provide shelter.

Parking

There is parking next to the reserve entrance for around 20 cars. If the layby parking is full, free street parking is available at the northern end of Gosforth Park Way.

Dogs & Pets

Dogs and pets are not allowed in the reserve to minimise disturbance to wildlife. Guide dogs are permitted.

In an Emergency

To report a minor incident, please contact staff and volunteers present on site. Reserve Ranger, James Dodsworth, can be contacted by phone at 07765 447086. NHSN Volunteer Rangers can also be found at the information hut by the reserve entrance.

If a serious incident occurs, please call 999. The nearest A&E hospital is Royal Victoria Infirmary, Queen Victoria Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 4LP Tel: 0191 233 6161

If you have any questions please contact us:
Email: nhsn@ncl.ac.uk

