

# **Gosforth Park Nature Reserve**

## **Facilities & Hazards for Visitors**

Gosforth Park Nature Reserve is a 60 hectare site of open water, reedbed, mixed woodland and ditches. The site is managed for wildlife and is therefore kept as natural as possible.

### **Trails & Paths**

There are several trails around the reserve but these do not have any surfacing, they are uneven and have small trip hazards such as tree roots. From October-June or during damp summers paths are likely to be muddy and slippery and walking/wellington boots are recommended.

Wooden boardwalks and bridges are provided to access or cross wetland areas. These have been covered with wire to help 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, so there are no hills. The circuit walk around the reserve is approximately 1-2 miles depending on the route taken.

Please keep to the paths to avoid damaging flora and disturbing wildlife.

### **Toilets**

There is no toilet at the reserve. The nearest toilets can be found at the Garden Centre ½ mile north of the reserve along the A189.

If you feel you will need to clean your hands then we suggest that you bring wipes or disinfectant hand-gel.

### **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.

Visitors are advised to 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.

## **Watching Wildlife**

There are three viewing hides on the reserve. These are kept locked. If you wish to use the hides you will need to obtain a hide key in advance from the Society office.

There is a pond dipping platform that visitors can use to catch and examine aquatic creatures (please return them to the pond). Nets are not supplied.

You may be fortunate enough to encounter wildlife close up but using binoculars will greatly enhance your experience.

## **Shelter**

There are three viewing hides (see Watching Wildlife) and a members hut near the entrance that can provide shelter.

## **Parking**

There is parking next to the reserve entrance for around 20 cars.

## **Dogs & Pets**

Dogs and pets are not allowed in the reserve, even on leads, in order to minimise disturbance to wildlife.

## **In an Emergency**

The Society has a site warden, Paul Drummond, who lives in the house (Lake Lodge) at the entrance to the reserve. He is First Aid qualified and has a First Aid kit. In an emergency he can be contacted at the house or call 07840 341452. Alternatively 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:

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