

Ellerburn Banks, North Yorkshire

Key species :

Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*) in July

Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*) in mid May

Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*) in July

Brown Argus (*Aricia agestis*) in end May early June

OS map : OS OL 27 North York Moors (Eastern Area) **Car Park** Grid Ref SE853850

Description: In the lower Dalby forest. A south-east facing slope on Oolitic Limestone. One of the best examples of a species-rich calcareous grassland flora in the county. The north boundary of the site is a bronze age trench containing amongst others many Primrose and Violets. The Trench extends north into Pexton Moor and is a known Duke of Burgundy site

The Walk: Walk down the slope from the entrance following the path along the drystone wall. This is a good place to see Wall and Dingy Skipper in May and Adders and Lizards also can be seen. Follow the perimeter around the gorse to the south corner and then back to the start close to the ancient Ditch earthworks is a favourite area for Common Blue and Brown Argus.

Keep to the perimeter paths during the nesting season. Expect Hebridean sheep grazing during the autumn/winter. Generally dry and fairly flat.



Entrance to Ellerburn Banks

Additional Information

Getting there : From Thornton-le-Dale take the Whitby road for 1.4 miles and then turn right into Forest Drive. 300m before the Drive entrance a track on the right leads to the site first passing a sawmill. There is no parking by the entrance to the sawmill.

Parking : There is room for two cars in front of the gate on the left hand side at the end of the track just before the entrance to the site. There are also some picnic tables nearby.

Car Park References

GPS: YO18 7LU Grid SE853850 or Lat 54.256583,Long -0.701209 or 485340, 485010

<https://gridreferencefinder.com>

Google maps <https://goo.gl/maps/eb3sFJ4QsCL2>



Best time to visit : May to August

Distance of walk : about 1 kilometre round trip.

Refreshments : There are Tea rooms at Ellerburn or Thornton le Dale (1.5Km)

Additional sites nearby : When you finish think about extending your walk through Pexton Bank directly opposite the entrance and leads you back to a car park on the Dalby Forest drive.