



Walk 11: Saltburn Gill

by Martin Allen

A short walk into a hidden valley of ancient woodland carpeted with woodland wildflowers. The walk is linear, the return following the outward route. The woodland is managed by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. Please keep to the path.

From Cat Nab Car Park cross over the road-bridge at the bottom of Saltburn Bank and follow the signs to Saltburn Gill Nature Reserve. The grey gravelled path takes you over a footbridge to the gate at the start of the Reserve.

Greater Stitchwort (1) with white flowers and grass-like leaves can be seen growing amongst the grass just before the entrance to the reserve. Once in the reserve **Dog's Mercury (2)**, with its tiny green flowers, is found in large areas along both sides of the path, with clumps of **Red Campion (3)** here and there.

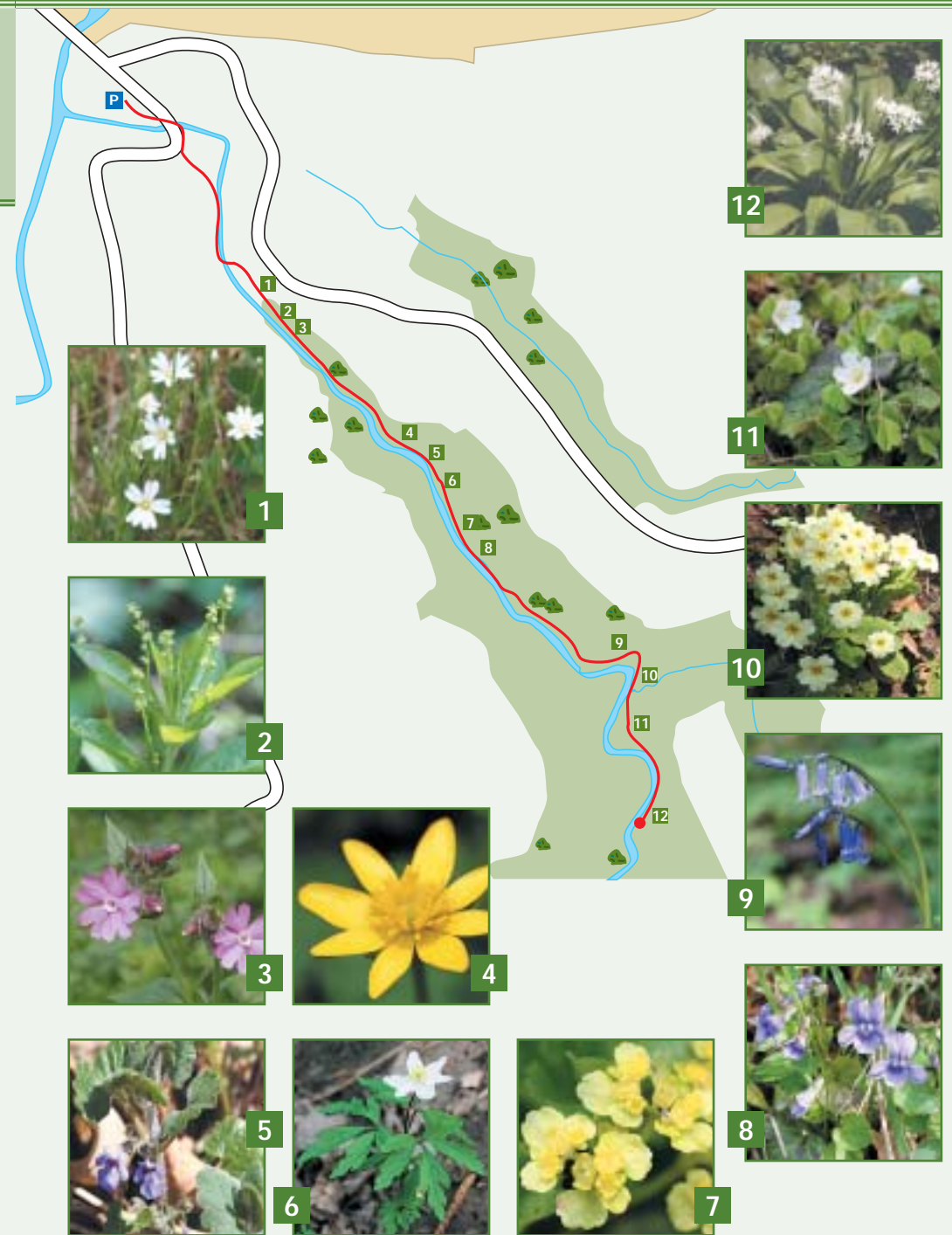
After a while the footpath becomes a boardwalk passing over wet ground.

As the boardwalk begins look for the cheery yellow flowers of **Lesser Celandine (4)** that open up in the sun. The boardwalk passes a rock face at the base of which the small blue flowers of **Ground-ivy (5)** can be seen. At the end of the boardwalk **Wood Anemone (6)** grows on the right of the path and is found again a little further along. Follow the footpath as it winds its way through the wood at the side of the beck. **Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (7)** is found along here growing in its favourite habitat, damp soil. In the same area, **Dog Violet (8)** is dotted here and there.

The path climbs up a steep slope with steps and the first flowers of the native **Bluebell (9)** will be just showing. As the steps turn and go down the soft yellow flowers of **Primrose (10)** can be seen on the left of the path. Descend the steep steps down to the valley bottom and cross the footbridge. Look out for **Wood Sorrel (11)** growing on a moss covered tree stump to the left.

When the path reaches a narrow gap in the fence look out for **Ramsons (12)** carpeting the ground on the right of the path before turning round and retracing the route back to the car park.

The return route provides the opportunity to spot more of the wildflowers in different locations. Look out for more Ramsons growing on the opposite side of the beck.



fact file

Season	Mid-late April	Parking	Cat Nab Car Park
Distance	1.5 miles	Paths	Uneven, some steep slope
Time	1hr 30mins - 2 hours	Toilets	Car Park
Start	Cat Nab Car Park	Public Transport	Arriva NE Service X4 from Middlesbrough
Grid Ref.	N668215		