



## Location and information Enjoy your visit



# Explore Chopwell Wood

Enjoy & Discover your forests & woodlands



### Location

The road entrance to the car park is located in the Hookergate area at the south end of High Spen off the B6315. Car park grid reference NZ 136580.

### Public Transport

Buses connect the wood with Newcastle City Centre, Newcastle Central Station and the Metrocentre (service number 47). Visitors from Consett can connect with this bus at Rowlands Gill.

### Contact

#### Forestry Commission England

Chopwell Woodland Park, High Spen, Tyne and Wear NE39 1LT  
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#### Friends of Chopwell Wood

T: 01207 542495.

[www.forestry.gov.uk/northeastengland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/northeastengland)  
[www.friendsofchopwellwood.org.uk](http://www.friendsofchopwellwood.org.uk)

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## Explore Chopwell Wood



## Welcome to Chopwell Wood - a wood for everyone. There are 360 hectares for you to explore.

The **walking trails** will take you on a journey back in time. **Chopwell Wood** has a long industrial past in mining and the production of timber. There are the remains of an ancient oak forest clinging to the steep crags

above the River Derwent and a stroll along the footpath that follows the old colliery railway will remind you of the industrial heritage of this now tranquil woodland.

Keep your eyes peeled. **Chopwell Wood** is home to a diversity of wildlife including deer, bats and otters. If you venture down to the 'Bird of Prey' viewpoint you may see Red Kites soaring over the picturesque backdrop of the Derwent Valley.

**Use the maps in this leaflet to make the most of your visit to Chopwell Wood.**

### What's at Chopwell?

- > 4 walking trails including an Easy Access trail
- > Orienteering
- > Regular Events
- > Ranger led activities & Forest Classroom (bookings only)
- > Cycle Trails
- > Sculptures & Heritage sites
- > Volunteering opportunities with The Friends of Chopwell Wood

## Walking Trails >>

Four walks start from the notice board in the main car park.

### Easy Access Trail

**Easy** Length 0.5km/0.3 miles (sensible footwear)

This is a circular trail through the pine woodland adjacent to the main car park. This trail has a good surface with no inclines, making it ideal for access by wheelchair users and as a starting point for those

taking their first steps into woodland recreation. The grassy clearing in 'The Pines' area is a great area to play games or have a picnic. This trail was jointly funded by the Forestry Commission and The Friends of Chopwell Wood. Of special interest on this walk are the Spirit and Orchid sculptures.



### Old Railway Footpath

**Moderate** Length 2.2km/1.37 miles (stout waterproof footwear)

This trail is perfect for the less ambitious walker looking for a gentle stroll on good surfaced trail with very few hills. The most prominent feature of this

walk is the old colliery railway line that carried coal from the colliery at Chopwell via High Spen to the coal staithes on the River Tyne. A restored example of the railway wagons can be found where the forest road joins the footpath that now follows the old railway line.

### River Walk

**Difficult** Length 5.3km/3.29 miles (hill walking boots)

Of all the trails in Chopwell Wood this is one of the visitors' favourites, passing through both giant Douglas Fir over 40 metres high and semi-natural oak woodland, balanced on the crags of the River Derwent. Relax at the 'Bird of Prey' viewpoint with stunning views of the Derwent Valley and if you are lucky, catch a glimpse of a Red Kite, spectacular birds re-released in 2004 after an absence of over a century from the region. Halfway around the trail you pass through Lintzford

Wood where the landscape gives you an insight into the forces that shaped the area 10000 years ago. The trail here passes along the base of a long, narrow ridge called an esker. This consists of material deposited by a stream that ran under a glacier which covered the landscape of the Derwent Valley during the last ice age. The 'Pitman's Seat', the partly restored 'Old Pit Tub Way' and the 'Settling Tanks' from the old paper mill give an insight into the industrial past of the wood. Despite the 'muscle loosening' climb back up to the car park, this walk is a pleasure from beginning to end.

### Boundary Walk

**Difficult** Length 7.5 km/4.67 miles (hill walking boots)

The boundary walk winds through Chopwell Wood, past conifer and broadleaf woodland, on forest roads and footpaths. The industrial heritage of Chopwell Wood is apparent as you cross the stone bridge over the old colliery railway line, which you will join for a short spell further along the trail. In

the more remote areas to the far North and the Southwest you may glimpse Woodcock, a large rusty coloured bird with a distinct long bill. As you begin the climb from the River Derwent back towards the car park, the trail guides you past a variety of woodland sculptures including 'Chaffinch Eggs', and the popular Chopwell 'Hands', which are at the end of a stunning avenue of Copper Beech trees.

# Explore Chopwell Wood >>

## Follow the Forest Code

- Guard against all risks of fire.
- Protect and respect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Keep dogs under control.
- Take your litter home.
- Make no unnecessary noise.
- Take only memories away.

## Key

- Parking
- Information
- Suitable for wheelchairs
- View Point
- Residential
- Forest Classroom
- Public Road

## Trails

- Easy Access Trail
- Old Railway Footpath
- River Walk
- Boundary Walk
- Footpath to Car Park
- Cycle Trail



## Trail Guide

- Easy
- Moderate
- Difficult

## Special Features

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Insect Seat by David Gross                 | <b>10</b> Restored Coal Tubs                             |
| <b>2</b> Restored Railway Wagons                    | <b>11</b> Bracken Crozier Sculpture by David Gross       |
| <b>3</b> Cruck Frame by Malcolm Lemmon              | <b>12</b> Bird of Prey Sculpture by David Gross          |
| <b>4</b> Sleepy Owl Sculpture by Steve Iredale      | <b>13</b> Guardians Sculpture by Richard Caink           |
| <b>5</b> Orchid Sculpture by David Gross            | <b>14</b> Oak Leaf Sculpture by David Gross              |
| <b>6</b> Woodland Spirit Sculpture by Richard Caink | <b>15</b> Chaffinch Eggs Sculpture by Joe Hillier        |
| <b>7</b> Long-Eared Bat Sculpture by David Gross    | <b>16</b> Settling Tanks - series of dams for Paper Mill |
| <b>8</b> The New Hands Sculpture by David Gross     | (These features are subject to removal or change.)       |
| <b>9</b> Pitman's Seat by Richard Caink             |  |