



Derwent Walk Country Park

Including Derwenthaugh Park & Thornley Woods

www.gateshead.gov.uk/countryside

 **Gateshead**
Council

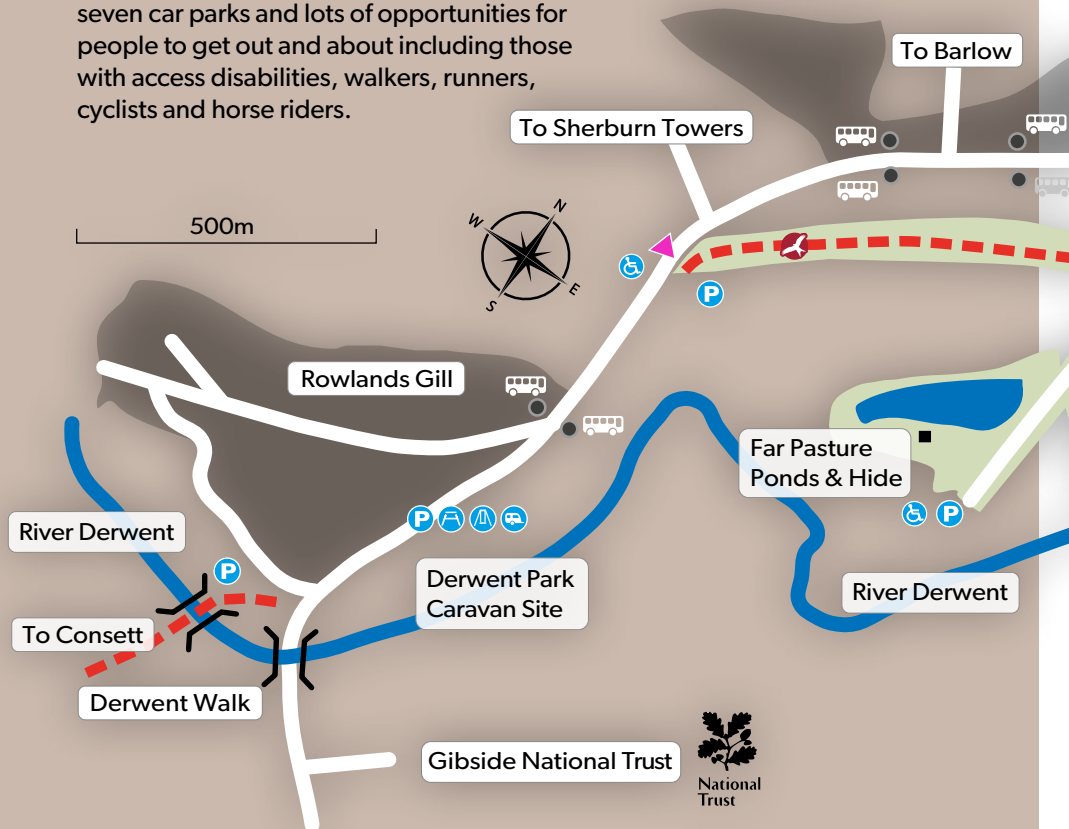
Welcome to the Derwent Walk Country Park

The Derwent Walk Country Park is an area of countryside which runs between Swalwell and Rowlands Gill. It is about 175 hectares in size and includes meadows, woodlands, wetlands and riverside all linked by a series of waymarked paths.

The Country Park, which is owned and managed by Gateshead Council, includes The Derwent Walk, which follows the route of the former Derwent Valley Railway, and Derwenthaugh Park, the site of the former Derwenthaugh Coke Works, which was reclaimed to countryside over 20 years ago.

The Coast to Coast Cycle Path (C2C) National Cycle Network No 14 also runs through the Country Park.

There are three visitor centres, two cafes, two bird hides, seven car parks and lots of opportunities for people to get out and about including those with access disabilities, walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders.



The Butterfly Bridge

The original Butterfly Bridge was built in 1842 by stone mason John (Lang Jack) English who also worked on the original Scotswood Bridge. The existing bridge was built following flooding in 2008.

Hollinside Manor

Hollinside Manor is a 13th century manor house. It was the home of the Harding family for 200 years during which time it became known as the Giants Castle.



Clockburn Lonnen

Cromwell's army of 16,000 men passed this way to the Battle of Dunbar on the 15th July 1650 when the route was the main highway between the north and Durham.



Wildlife

The Northern Kites Project saw the reintroduction of red kites between 2004 and 2006. This beautiful bird with its distinctive forked tail and red plumage, is regularly seen soaring above Rowlands Gill and the Derwent Valley.



WAYMARKED TRAILS

- Sculpture Trail (1 mile)
- Clockburn Circular (4 miles)
- Riverside Trail (2.5 miles)
- Hollinside Extension (0.5 miles)
- Thornley Wood Wander (1 mile)
- Kite Hill Viewpoint (1.5 miles)
- Derwent Valley Explorer (6 miles)
- The Red Kite Trail (11 miles)

KEY

- — — Multi-user route
- - - - Footpath
- ▶ Entrance
- Building



Today in the woodlands you may spot fox, roe deer and badger tracks. Watch out for birds including green and great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch, bullfinch, blackcap, whitethroat, sparrowhawk and common buzzard. Along the riverside kingfisher, grey heron and dipper can be seen.



Plants growing include those found in an ancient woodland such as wood anemone, lords and ladies and dog's mercury. In the summer the meadows are full of common blue and meadow brown butterflies feeding on plants such as knapweed and field scabious.



More Information

Please help us by following the Country Code

Cyclists please give way to walkers and horse riders.

Horse riders please give way to walkers.

Dog owners please keep dogs on leads or under close control, especially in areas grazed by farm animals and 'scoop the poop'!

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.

No camping or fire making is allowed in the Country Park.

Water safety - please be aware of dangers!

Whilst rivers and ponds may look safe they can be dangerous.

Hazards include hidden currents, deep water, sudden drops, rubbish, vegetation and thin ice.

To ensure the safety of people and wildlife we request that visitors do not enter water in the Country Park.

Angling

Angling Fishing rights in the Derwent Walk Country Park are leased to the Axwell Park and Derwent Valley Angling Association. For more information see www.apdvaa.co.uk

Permits available from the Land of Oak Heritage Centre

Public Transport

Buses - Go North East

Newcastle to Consett numbers: X45, X46, X47

From Gateshead Interchange numbers: 49, 49A

For public transport information contact www.nexus.org.uk
0191 2020 747.



VISITOR CENTRES

Thornley Woodlands Visitor Centre and Café

Lockhaugh Road, Rowlands Gill, Gateshead, NE39 1AU, 01207 545 212

Volunteer Countryside Rangers are on hand daily to provide help between 10am - 4pm.

Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre, shop and café shrub

Spa Well Road, Winlaton Mill, Blaydon upon Tyne, NE21 6RU.

Swalwell Visitor Centre

Hexham Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 3BN

Located off the B6317 beside Blaydon Rugby Club.

Gateshead Council

Gateshead Council, Regent Street, Gateshead

NE8 1HH, 0191 433 3000

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