

Green Flag

In 2007 & 2008 Haw Park Wood was awarded Green Flag status which recognises and rewards the best green spaces in the country.



Countryside Rangers

The Ranger Service cares for the woodland by carrying out site patrols, practical conservation work and helping visiting schools and other groups to explore and understand the natural environment.

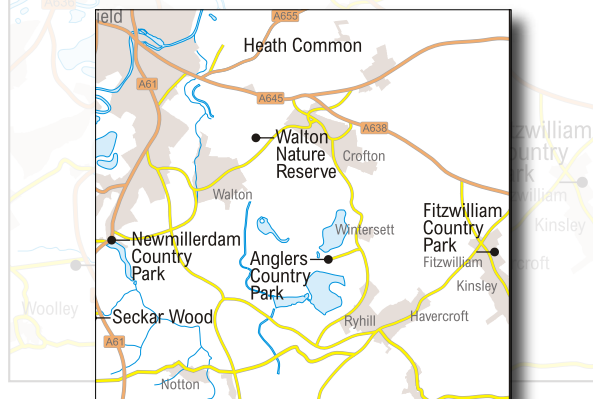
Volunteers such as the Friends of Haw Park Wood help the Countryside Rangers to manage and maintain the site. Recent activities include litter picking and organising a variety of events.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities on this and other sites please contact Natural Environment. If you are interested in becoming a member of Friends of Haw Park Wood please contact them at kalos@fsmail.net or pick up a leaflet from the visitor centre.

Events

Both the Rangers and Interpretative Officers, as well as local enthusiasts, provide free events throughout the year including walks, talks and craft events. The annual 'What's On' events leaflet can be obtained from the visitor centre and other public locations throughout the district. Information about our events can also be found on the Internet.

Where we are



The Countryside Code

“ Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
Leave gates and property as you find them
Protect plants and animals,
and take your litter home
Keep dogs under close control
Consider other people ”

Wakefield welcomes responsible dog owners

For further information please contact:
Natural Environment

Waterton Countryside Discovery Centre
Anglers Country Park, Haw Park Lane,
Wintersett, Wakefield WF4 2EB
Tel: 01924 303980

Email: countrysideinterp@wakefield.gov.uk
Web: www.wakefield.gov.uk Keyword: countryside

The woodland is accessible every day of the year.

Discover....

Haw Park Wood

Wintersett

Natural Environment



Haw Park Wood is a 73 hectare Ancient replanted woodland located 4 miles south east of Wakefield. It is adjacent to Anglers Country Park and is only a short walk from the car park, but access can be gained from other points.



Crossbill

Once part of the much larger Don Forest, the woodland has changed greatly over the past 100 years. The woodland is now dominated by conifers with areas of broadleaved trees.

In 1981 Haw Park Wood was first designated as a Site of Scientific Interest because of its diverse habitat. In 1992 it was designated a Local Nature Reserve.

Historical Interest

Haw Park Wood has heritage and cultural value. The site has historical links with the adjoining Walton Hall Estate (now the Waterton Park Hotel and Waterton Park Golf Club) once owned by Charles Waterton, creator of the world's first nature reserve.

The nine foot high wall, which he built to protect the animals found within the estate and to keep out poachers, can be seen in the north of the woodland.

Within this wall Charles built several watchtowers which he used to observe the wildlife. In 2005 Wakefield Rotary Club obtained Lottery funding and restored the watchtower within the woodland.

Facilities include free car parking with disabled bays, a visitor centre with Interpretative Officers who will provide information on local and national countryside and conservation issues, a **cafe** and **toilets**.

Opening times for the visitor centre:

April 1st - October 31st

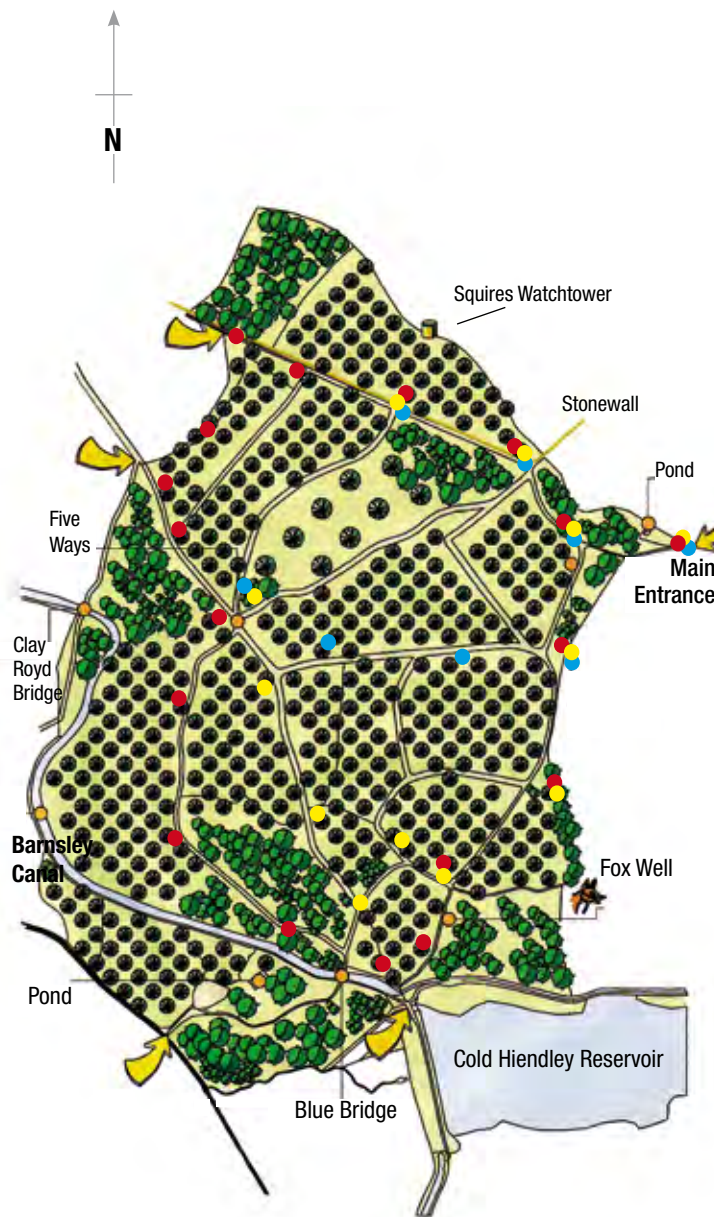
11.00am - 4.00pm

November 1st - March 31st

10.30am - 3.30pm

Open Tuesday to Sunday. Closed Monday (except Bank Holidays)

Haw Park Wood



Key



Outdoor Activities

The footpath network around the woodland provides a series of circular walks varying in distance that can be enjoyed by walkers, joggers, cyclists and horse riders.

The Trans Pennine Trail (part of the National Cycle Network) follows the Barnsley Canal through the woodland, carrying on up to Walton in the north and Royston in the south. Those passing through "Five Ways" should keep a look out for the pixie village. Whilst enjoying the woodland, take time to relax or watch wildlife using the benches which have been located for your benefit. These have been produced from timber sourced in the woodland. Look out for the carved benches and tree stumps!

Interpretation panels throughout the woodland provide information on wildlife and habitats.

Nature Conservation

Between 1940 and 1960 much of the ancient woodland was replaced with fast growing softwoods, including Pine and Larch, in order to supply timber to the coal mining industry. Today however, our aim is to return parts of the woodland to native species such as Birch and Oak.

Over the past couple of years some of the paths within the woodland have been widened. This will increase the biodiversity of the woodland, as the gradual variation in habitats from path edge to mature trees provides homes for a wider range of species.

The woodland is already home to a variety of wildlife including Roe Deer, Crossbill and Great Crested Newt; and important plant species such as the Wild Service Tree.

