

# Daisy Hill Local Nature Reserve

## What is special?

Daisy Hill is a wonderful nature reserve. It is tranquil, thriving with wildlife and a real example of a successful conservation programme. Looking at it now, it's hard to believe that thirty years ago this site was open cast.

Daisy Hill is one of the few places in County Durham that contains a truly native Black Poplar tree. This is the UK's most endangered and rarest native timber tree and is associated with riversides and wetlands. A combination of habitat loss through drainage and the introduction of foreign poplars that were commercially more productive led to the near extinction of the native poplar.

As part of the Black Poplar Durham Biodiversity Action Plan (DBAP) a number of native trees were confirmed through genetic testing, cuttings were then taken and raised in pots until they were big enough to be planted. Several of these trees are now growing in Daisy Hill, in the wet meadows near the Black Burn very close to the site of the original tree. The trees could eventually reach 30 metres in height.



[more info...](#)

**Contact the Countryside Service**  
telephone: 0191 372 9100  
email: [countryside@durham.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@durham.gov.uk)  
[www.durham.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.durham.gov.uk/countryside)



**Area:** 130 acres (52.6 hectares)

**Grid Reference:** NZ 245 493

**Map:** Ordnance Survey Explorer 308

### Directions:

6 miles north of Durham City centre. From A167 Chester Moor roundabout, turn northwest.

At the next roundabout turn left onto Waldridge Lane.

After 1 mile turn left, heading towards Edmondsley.

The entrance to the site is 0.5 miles along this road on the left. It is accessed via a stile. Nearest postcode DH7 6DA

### Parking:

There is a small lay-by adjacent to the stile.

Alternatively there are a number of car parks at Waldridge Fell, all accessed and signed from the Waldridge to Edmondsley Road

### Public Transport:

Number x25 (Go North East). Bus stops at Edmondsley and Waldridge Fell

### Dogs:

Allowed under control. During bird nesting season (March to August) dogs must be kept on a lead. Please clean up after your dog

### Designation:

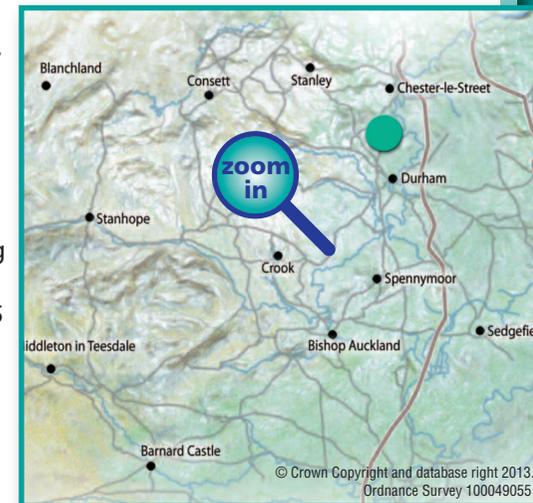
Local Nature Reserve, Local Site, part Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), UK Woodland Assurance Standard certified

### Suitable for:

Walkers

### Habitats:

Lowland heath, wetland, woodland, grassland, ancient woodland



*Whilst every effort has been made by Durham County Council to ensure accuracy of information, the Council cannot accept any liability resulting from omissions or inaccuracies.*

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This site is adjacent to Waldrige Fell, an extensive area of lowland heath and an increasingly rare habitat. We are extending this heath into Daisy Hill by careful management. We have been working with the local community and volunteers to plant heather, juniper and bilberry which are all typical heathland species. Areas of trees and scrub are removed to prevent them from spreading.

During the winter months Exmoor ponies are brought on to graze the site. They eat the longer grass and small areas of scrub and their feet churn up the ground which gives the heather seeds a chance to get established.

Ponds are essential for the survival of invertebrates and amphibians such as dragonflies and Great Crested Newts.

The site is perfect for ground nesting birds. Linnet, skylark and meadow pipit all make their nests in the grass. Disturbance by walkers or dogs can lead to destruction of the nests or birds abandoning their chicks so please remain on the path during nesting season (March - August).

## Accessibility statement

- Please stay on the path marked on the map.
- A number of stiles and kissing gates allow access into the site.
- Medium slope from top of the reserve into main part of the site then gently undulating.
- The majority of paths are grass or bare earth and quite narrow.



Common darter



Skylark



Great crested newt



Wildflowers



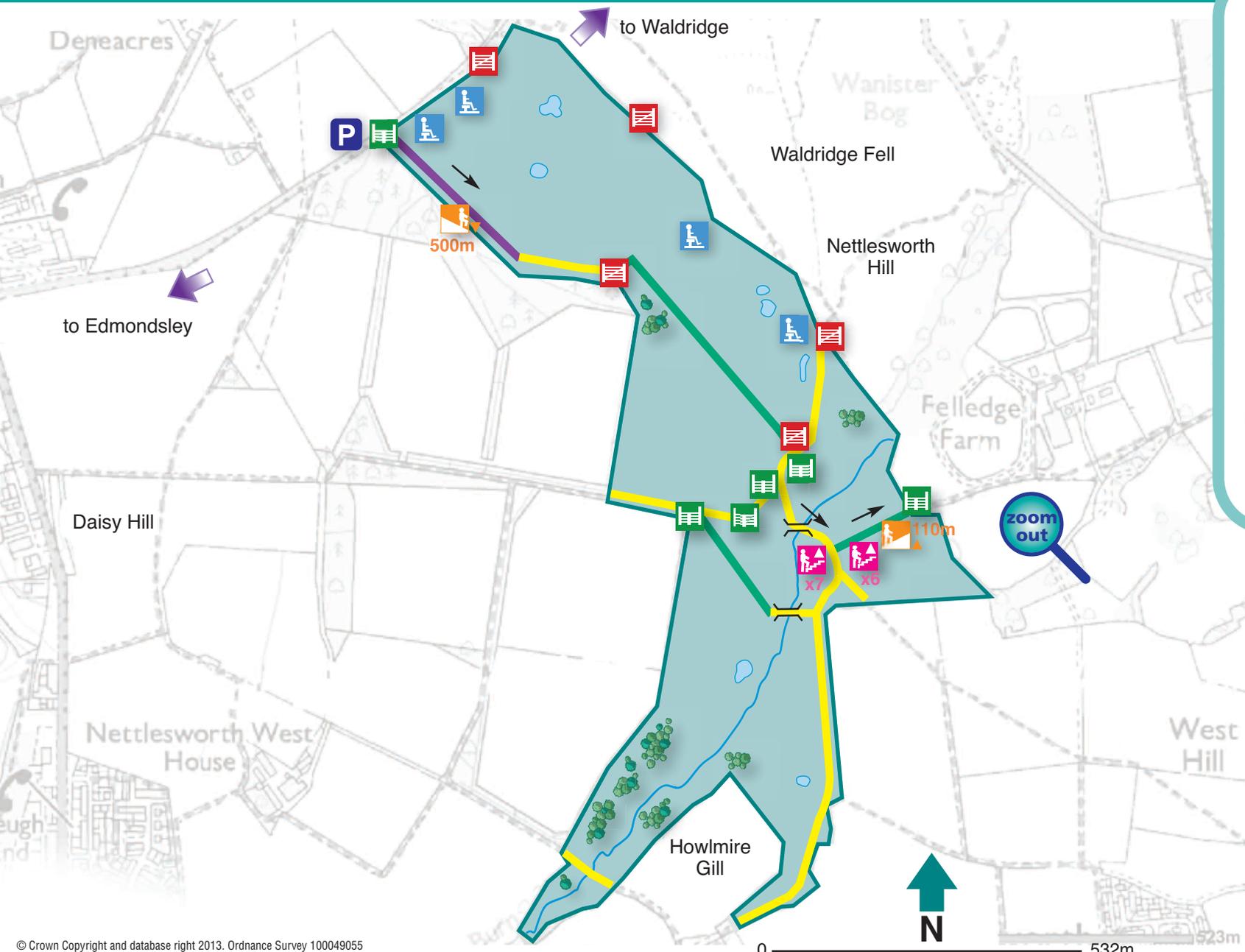
Black poplar

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## KEY

- Parking
- Kissing Gate
- Stile
- Seat
- Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
- Medium Slope Down 1:20-1:10
- Steps Up
- Hard Unsealed Surface
- Bare Earth
- Grass
- Direction of Travel

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