

Floaters Wood

What is special?

Floaters Wood is a broadleaved woodland planted in 2013 that covers almost 3.5 hectares of land reclaimed from Lumley 6th Pit. Mining in the area dates back to the 1600s, prior to this the land was in agricultural use. Maps from 1844 show old field names and that the woodland is planted on 'House Pasture' and 'Corn Close' – probably linked to the nearby former corn mill which is now Floaters Mill pub.

Local school children helped plant the trees and name the wood. The trees here are all native species such as oak, hazel, holly, birch and rowan. These are most suitable for this area and an excellent way to help local wildlife, providing sources of food, places of shelter and safety from predators.

Native woodland is one of our richest habitats for wildlife, supporting everything from plants, lichens and fungi to insects, butterflies, small mammals and birds. Although the trees are just small saplings and it may not feel and look like woodland yet, it is still an important haven for wildlife. Wildlife most likely to be found here includes speckled wood butterfly and great spotted woodpecker with otters and pipistrelle bats in the older woodland next door.

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Acorn



Speckled wood butterfly



Otter

Foxglove



Great spotted woodpecker

Pipistrelle bat



Bank vole



The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. For further details about our work, including how to become a member, please visit: woodlandtrust.org.uk

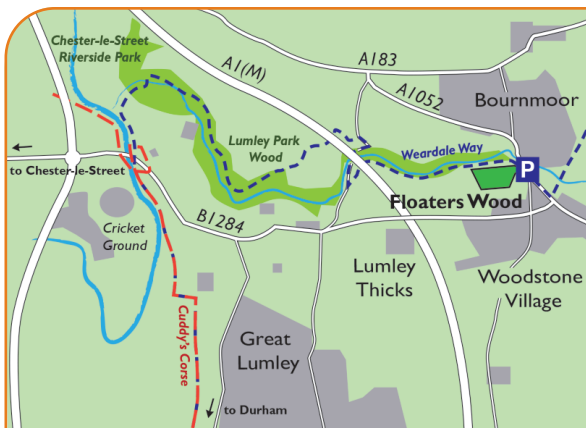
Floaters Wood

Enjoying this wood

Floaters Wood can be enjoyed as part of a longer woodland walk using the extensive network of paths in the area. Lumley Park Wood is next to the site and is ancient woodland – land continually wooded since at least 1600AD. Some ancient woods may even link back to the original wildwood that covered the UK around 10,000 years ago, after the last Ice Age. You can meander through this wooded valley which follows the banks of Lumley Park Burn to the River Wear at Chester-le-Street Riverside Park. The paths here follow a section of the Weardale Way, a 74 mile route from Cowshill in upper Weardale to the mouth of the River Wear and coast at Sunderland.

You can also join Cuddy's Corse at Great Lumley and follow in the footsteps of Saint Cuthbert's Community on their final journey from Chester-le-Street to Durham Cathedral, carrying the body of Cuthbert, the Patron Saint of the North; and Saint Cuthbert's book, The Lindisfarne Gospels.

This new wood is part of a unique group created in honour of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. Long after the celebrations, the trees will continue to grow and the wood will become richer and more diverse with each passing season. Sixty years from now children involved in planting the wood could be showing their children and grandchildren the trees they planted.



Dogs: Do not allow your dog to foul the paths and please pick up after your dog.

Area: 3.4 hectares (8.4 acres)

Grid Reference: NZ 308 507

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 308

Directions: The site is a couple of miles east of Chester-le-Street. Leave the A1 at junction 63 at Chester-le-Street and head south east on the A183. Before you reach Bournmoor take a right hand turn on the A1052 towards Houghton-le-Spring. Continue along here for about a mile – the entrance to the wood is opposite Floaters Mill pub.

Parking: There is room for one car in the entrance way to the site, otherwise please park with consideration locally.



If you enjoyed your trip to this wood and would like to discover more woodland nearby, go to VisitWoods.org.uk