

What is special?

Miners' Wood is a broadleaved woodland planted in 2012 that covers almost 5 hectares of land reclaimed from Bearpark Pit. The pit operated between 1872 and 1992 and was the smallest colliery on the Durham coalfield. Many years before this, it was part of the medieval estate of Beaufort, which is French for 'Beautiful Retreat'. It sits in the Browney Valley and is an important addition to the rich mosaic of farmland, older woodland, heath and marsh.

Local school children helped plant the trees and name the wood. The trees here are all native species such as oak, hazel, 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 include hare, bank vole, willow warbler, barn owl and ringlet butterfly.

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The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL. 01476 581111.

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Acorn



Burnet moth



Meadow brown butterfly



Barn owl



Hare



Ringlet butterfly



Bank vole



Willow warbler

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

Enjoying this wood

Miners' Wood can easily be enjoyed as part of a longer route from the [Lanchester Valley Walk](#) – part of an extensive network of fantastic paths. The path heads north to Langley Park and on to Lydgetts Junction, where it joins the Waskerley Way and Deerness Valley Railway Paths, and south past Broompark to connect with Brandon-Bishop Auckland and Deerness Valley Railway Paths.

There are also options for shorter circular routes using local paths, including a visit to the remains of Beaurepaire and the adjacent woodland.

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.



Area: almost 5 hectares (11 acres)

Grid Reference: NZ 238 441

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 308

Directions: The site is a couple of miles west of Durham City centre. From the A167 near Durham Johnston Comprehensive School turn at the traffic lights onto Toll House Road and head for Bearpark village. As you are coming into Bearpark follow the sign for

Bearpark Primary School – turn right here onto Bearpark Colliery Road past the school and industrial units and along the track. Turn right then right again onto the semi-metalled track and the site is on your left.

Parking: Bearpark Colliery Road.

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



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