

Toad Grove, Clarence Wood and Well House Grove

What is special?

Toad Grove, Clarence Wood and Well House Grove are all broadleaved woods planted in 2013 that cover 68 hectares of land reclaimed from the Dean and Chapter Colliery. Coal mining in this area can be traced back as far as the 14th Century. It existed side by side with agriculture for centuries prior to the colliery, much of the land being given over to ox pasture.

Local school children helped plant the trees and name the wood. The trees here are all native species such as oak, silver birch, wild cherry, hazel 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 hare, roe deer, field vole, toad, chiffchaff and speckled wood butterfly.

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Acorn



Speckled wood
butterfly



Kestrel



Fly agaric



Roe deer

Common toad



Hare

Chiffchaff



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

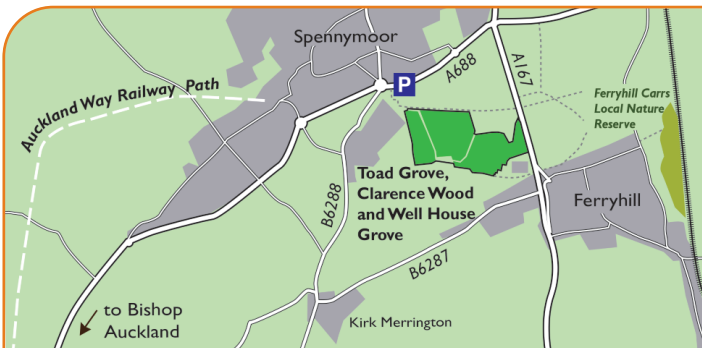
Toad Grove, Clarence Wood and Well House Grove

Enjoying this wood

Toad Grove, Clarence Wood and Well House Grove can be enjoyed as part of a longer route using the extensive network of paths and old railway lines. Heading west through Spennymoor near Rosa Street Primary School is the start of the Auckland Way Railway Path which runs south to Bishop Auckland through countryside with extensive views across the Wear Valley. The route passes near Binchester Roman Fort and Auckland Park

Winding east using the footpaths you can reach Ferryhill Carrs Local Nature Reserve, a wonderful mix of fen, open water, ancient semi-natural woodland, calcareous grassland, marshy grassland and scrub habitats. The reserve is a haven for a number of bird species including linnet, willow warbler, reedbunting, blackcap, lesser white-throat, sparrowhawk, yellow hammer and various other birds.

These new woods are 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: 68 hectares (169 acres)

Grid Reference: NZ 277 331

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 305

Directions: The site is situated between Ferryhill and Spennymoor. From the A167 travel west at Thinford roundabout onto the A688 and park in the lay-by just before the main roundabout at Thinford. Follow the path through the allotments to the site.

Parking: The lay-by just before the main roundabout at Spennymoor near the allotments.

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



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