



	Footpath Only
	Combined Footpath and Cycleway
	Combined Footpath, Cycleway and Equestrian Route
	Future Route
	Welly Walk
	Spine Road (Future Phase)
	Points of Interest
	Bus Stop
	Multi Use Games Area
	Play Park
	Community Centre
	Football Pitch
	Brunton First School
	Brunton Day Nursery
	Parking

Please note: All welly walk routes are correct at time of print (2022)



# Newcastle Great Park Access Guide

This is the first edition of the Newcastle Great Park Access Guide which has been prepared to show current routes and interpret points of interest that are available now and promoted as routes for all to use.

On its completion, Great Park will have delivered around 600 acres of land managed as open space, with over 25km of publicly accessible routes for pedestrians, cyclists or equestrian users. It is proposed that this leaflet be updated on an annual basis as every year more routes are delivered and more strategic and local open space is completed. The land owner and City Council want to actively promote the use of routes that have been designed for residents and visitors to enjoy the expansive open space.

## 01 River Ouseburn

The River Ouseburn runs west to east through the southern end of Great Park and is home to a variety of living creatures. Freshwater shrimp and small fish, including sticklebacks, are a perfect food source for kingfishers, which can be seen flying up and down the river, close to the water. Otters are also known to have returned to this river in recent years, following a long period of absence. These graceful and elusive creatures are a fantastic indicator of the cleanliness and diversity of the river. Recently there has been an increase in hedgehog numbers along the Ouseburn Corridor.

## 02 Ouseburn Valley – West

South of the River Ouseburn, but north of the Greenside Estate there is a meadow area, which was planted as part of the development. Paths, known as ‘Welly Walks’,

are mown throughout the Spring and Summer, along with several circular areas where you can stop and admire the wildflowers and other flora and fauna. At the end of the flowering season, when the seeds have been produced, the whole area is cut and the cycle starts again the following year. This form of management allows the wildflowers to flourish, which in turn attracts insects including butterflies such as meadow browns and skippers.

## 03 Ouseburn Meadows

North of the River Ouseburn, is an area known as Ouseburn Meadows. This area can be accessed via a public footpath, though the ground here can often be quite damp. Mammals such as foxes, roe deer and rabbits have all been seen here.

## 04 SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems)

There are several SuDS (large wetland areas) within the Great Park. Their aim is to reduce surface water flooding from the built environment and to improve the water quality of the local river system. Surface water is stored in the SuDS and slowly released into the Ouseburn, reducing potential flooding further down the river.

Frogs and toads, mallards, herons, dragonflies and damselflies, can all be found in these wonderful wetland areas. The vegetation around the SuDS is also rich in a variety of wildflowers such as vetches, clover and knapweed, all of which are valuable to pollinators including bees and butterflies.

## 05 Ouseburn Valley – East

The young trees planted near the wetland areas are mainly willow and alder. Both these trees thrive in wet conditions and in years to come will add an even greater variety of life to the area. Reed Bunting can be seen all year round amongst the reeds and in the summer Reed and Sedge Warblers can sometimes be heard.

## 06 Waggonway

The former wagon way, now accessible as a public path, runs northwards through the Great Park. The waggonway is bordered by a hedgerow that provides shelter and food for a variety of birds and mammals. This green corridor enables wildlife to move safely around the site. The hedgerow includes traditional species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose and hazel.

## 07 Melbury Wetland

The SuDS here mainly contain common reed, a tall plant that forms extensive stands known as reed beds. This habitat is great for many birds, but especially the reed and the sedge warbler. Reeds help to filter any pollutants from the water and in the past would have been harvested for thatching.

There are some large willow trees at the western end of Melbury estate, along the River Ouseburn. Not only do these trees thrive in wet soils, their roots help stabilise the banks of the river. Of all our native trees, only the oak supports more insects than the willow, which in turn provide food for birds and mammals. Bats, as well as birds, can find homes in the holes and hollows of old willow trees.

## 08 Warkworth Woods

The woodland here is well established, having been planted over 20 years ago. Fencing is there in places but had been flattened for unofficial access. Birds will benefit from shelter and nesting sites within the tree canopy, whilst fungi and damp-loving insects will take advantage of the dark woodland floor. The rough vegetation along the woodland edge also provides another valuable habitat. This wooded area provides cover for roe deer and the open area closest to Brunton Lane and the A1 are great for seeing orchids – Northern Marsh, Common spotted and Early Purple.

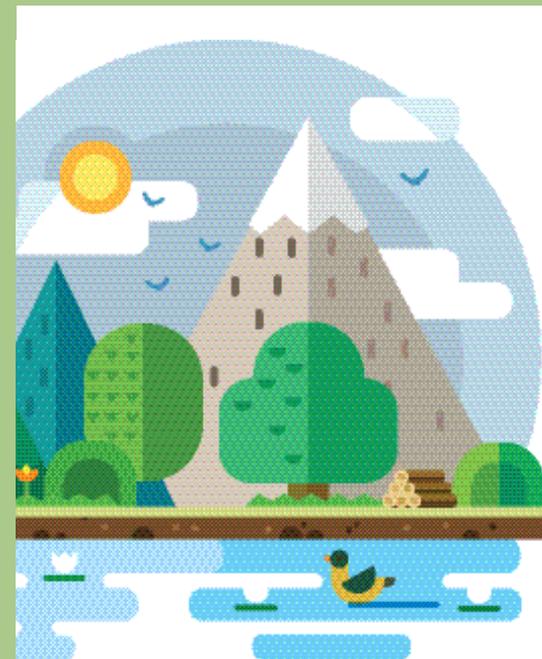
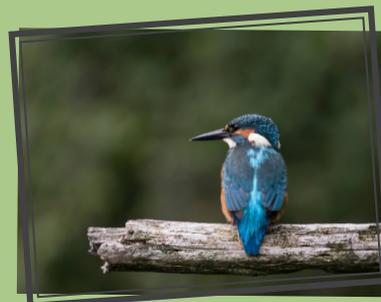
Ash trees grow along the edges of the circular meadow, which itself contains large amounts of the aptly named meadowsweet along with scabious, thistles and knapweed.

## 09 The Letch Plantation

The Letch Plantation is dominated by oak, ash and beech and follows part of the Letch, a small water channel at the northern end of the Great Park. The plantation contains mature trees, some over 200 years old and some at, or near the end of, their natural life.

Dead and dying wood is part of a healthy and diverse woodland. A fifth of woodland creatures rely on it as part of their life cycle as it provides food and shelter for a huge variety of organisms. As the deadwood breaks down, valuable nutrients are returned to the soil. Woodpeckers and bats may also take advantage of the large quantity of standing deadwood for nesting or roosting and feeding on the insects that live therein.

Many species of birds can be found here including the chiff chaff, black cap, bullfinch, song thrush, whitethroat and willow warbler.



## The Countryside Code

**Respect. Protect. Enjoy.**

Even when going out locally, it's best to obtain the latest information about where and when you can go. For example, your rights to go onto some areas of open access land may be restricted to particular places and times. Find out as much as you can about where you are going, plan ahead and follow advice and local signs.

### Remember respect other people

Please respect the local community and other people using the outdoors. Remember your actions can affect people's lives and livelihoods. Please do not litter, or allow dogs to foul.

The Countryside Code applies to all parts of the countryside in England and Wales and aims to help everyone respect, protect and enjoy the outdoors.

## Welcome to Newcastle Great Park access guide 2022

**The land that forms Newcastle Great Park is owned by a consortium of developers, some of the open spaces are managed for public access and recreation, whilst others are managed for wildlife, drainage, or in some cases, to provide noise mitigation or to limit impact on residential amenity.**

**Within Great Park there is a mosaic of habitats including wetlands, woodlands, woodland edge, open grassland and meadows. This leaflet has been designed to promote public access and set out points of interest along the footpaths, cycle routes and welly walks.**



Welly walks, by their nature, can sometimes be wet and muddy so please wear suitable footwear. Please take care to ensure that the resident wildlife is not disturbed by your walk or ride by keeping to these routes and by taking your litter home with you.