

11 HIGH WOOD

The 2.5 Ha woodland was clear-felled in 1988 and is now dominated by regenerating birch and larch with a good hazel understorey.

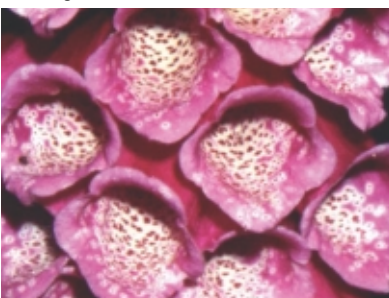


High Wood and Harry Collinson Memorial Stone



Tawny Owl

Foxglove



The current woodland structure is dominated by young Birch and the remaining Larch that were planted after the felling, with several mature Sycamore and Ash. The shrub layer containing Holly, Hazel and Elder is slowly developing. The ground flora contains species such as Wood Sorrel and Bluebells, indicating that ancient woodland once covered the site. Species such as Common Spotted Orchid and Yellow Rattle can be found along the edges of the pathway at the northern entrance to the site.

A small stream bisects the reserve with marshy grassland margins containing plants such as Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage and Figwort. The reserve is in close proximity to both Byerside Wood and Chopwell Wood and so provides a useful green corridor for many animals including Red Squirrels, Roe Deer, Badgers and Foxes. Several species of birds, including ground nesting species such as Pheasant and Willow Warbler are common, and along the open rides several species of butterfly including Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Wall and Large Skipper can be seen.

Best seen – Spring time for woodland flora and birds



Small Tortoiseshell butterfly





Larch cones

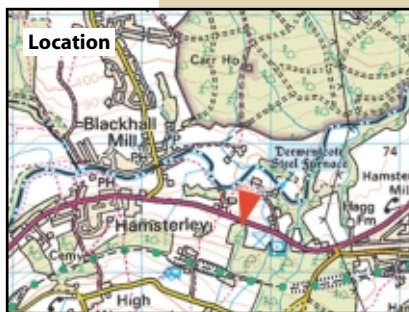


HIGH WOOD

High Wood, or Harry Collinson

Memorial Reserve was purchased in 1992 by the Harry Collinson Memorial Fund following the tragic death of the Derwentside District Councils Principle Planning Officer in 1991. He was killed while at work issuing a demolition order. Harry Collinson was a keen naturalist and it was decided that a nature reserve would be a fitting memorial. The reserve was donated to Durham Wildlife Trust in 1993.

-  Reserve boundary
-  Parking
-  Reserve entrance
-  Footpaths



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General Information

Ownership:

Durham Wildlife Trust

Area: 2.5 hectares

Grid Reference: NZ 128 564

Explorer Map No: 307

Parking and access to site:

County Council's Derwentcote Car park.

Public transport:

Regular bus service from Consett to Rowlands Gill/Blaydon

Dogs: Dogs are permitted on site

Accessibility: ▲▲▲▲

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Management

The management of the woodland is primarily concerned with the removal of non-native species such as Sycamore and Larch and thinning dense Birch cover in order to encourage the development of a mixed deciduous woodland. Clearance of overhanging vegetation promotes species diversity along the stream-sides and ride edges.



Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage

Willow warbler (©RSPB)



Location

The reserve is on the south side of the A694, about 2 miles west of Rowlands Gill and 1 mile east of Hamsterley. Cars can be parked at the County Councils Derwentcote car park which is about 250 m east of the reserves entrance. The footpath is accessed easily from the main road, however there are a number of steps and a boardwalk at the south eastern end of the site making it unsuitable for wheelchairs.

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