

Lake District Osprey Project



A partnership project between the Forestry Commission, Lake District National Park and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) with fantastic support from many volunteers.

The partnership aims to ensure the continued success of breeding ospreys at Bassenthwaite, and to provide visitors to the Lakes with the opportunity to see and find out more about ospreys.

The return of ospreys to Bassenthwaite Lake in 2001 was the culmination of several years' hard work to encourage them to breed. The Lake District Osprey Project partners built a nest platform in Wythop Woods overlooking Bassenthwaite Lake and in 2001, all the hard work paid off and a pair of ospreys took to the platform and nested. For the first time in over 150 years, ospreys had been recorded nesting successfully in the Lake District!

The ospreys have returned every year and used different nest sites, successfully raising at least one chick each year.

The project is funded by visitor donations, and support from other partners, but operates at a loss which is shared by the Forestry Commission, RSPB and Lake District National Park.

If you would like to find out how you could help in the funding of the project, please contact Nathan Fox. The project would like to thank the BBC, Viking Optical, and Nurture Lakeland for their continued support.



The Old Sawmill Tearoom

The Old Sawmill tearoom is always popular with walkers, bird-watchers and visitors to Mirehouse. Specialising in homemade Cumbrian cooking. Cakes, scones, sandwiches and hot dishes are made on the premises.



Get a bird's eye view...



Dodd Wood is a fantastic place to get some amazing views of the northern Lake District.

The network of walking trails will take you deep into the woodland, and if you are up for it, you can access the paths that lead to the Skiddaw mountain range. Walk to the top of Dodd Summit for spectacular views over the fells and mountains.

You can also see the magnificent Bassenthwaite ospreys from the specially designed viewpoint (April-September). These fish eating birds of prey are protected by the Lake District Osprey Project, whose expert staff show visitors the birds, and educate them about their natural recolonisation. The Forestry Commission manages Dodd Wood to produce timber, to encourage wildlife and for people to enjoy.

Mirehouse & Gardens

Set in stunning landscape between fellside and Bassenthwaite lakeshore, Mirehouse is a privately owned family-run historic house which specialises in a relaxed welcome.



The informal gardens are designed to enhance their natural setting and include the peaceful walled Bee Garden, terraced lawns, the Poetry Walk and rose borders. The walk through the grounds extends to Bassenthwaite lakeside through woods and open farmland. While in the grounds visitors can take in expansive Lakeland vistas and see wildlife such as red squirrels, badgers, deer and woodpeckers. There are four adventure playgrounds, set in the woods, which will delight children of all ages.

Visitor information Enjoy your visit



Location

Keswick is the nearest town or village. **By Road:** From Keswick take the A591 towards Bothel. The forest entrance and car park are on the right opposite Mirehouse. **By Rail:** Nearest station Penrith.

For details of public transport visit: traveline.info

The Old Sawmill Tearoom

Open 10am–5.30pm (summer)
10am–5pm (winter).
Closed December-January.

Parking

Start your visit from Dodd Wood car park. A pay and display system operates here. A Discovery Pass is available for great value, year-round parking. No overnight stays. Open all year round for parking.

Post code

CA12 4QE

Contact

t: 017687 78469
e: Whinlatter@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

forestry.gov.uk/visit

For alternative formats, please get in touch:
0300 067 4000
fe.England@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council®



Planting Sustainable Forest Management



QUALITY ASSURED VISITOR ATTRACTION

We are working in partnership at Dodd Wood with:



Dodd Wood

Amazing views,
fantastic walks & rare wildlife



forestry.gov.uk/visit

Red Squirrels

Dodd Wood is a fantastic place to view the very rare, red squirrel. A feeding station, located at the osprey viewpoint, attracts these native squirrels throughout the year. Once very common, the range of the red squirrel has declined, and now only a few colonies remain. Good numbers can be found at Dodd Wood, and the Forestry Commission is one of a number of organisations working to conserve them.



Join today!



Support your local forest and get free parking, plus other great discounts with an annual Discovery Pass. For more info or to buy, visit: forestry.gov.uk/pass

Spectacular views await you from the summit of Dodd Wood

Discover our walking trails...

Dodd Wood Walking Trails

All trails start from the car park

Sandbed Gill trail ●●●●

Distance: 2.5km (1.5 miles)
Time: Allow 2 hours

This trail gently traverses northwards through areas of conifer and broadleaved woodland crossing Sandbed Gill. There are fine views to be seen of the northern end of Bassenthwaite Lake. The trail returns to the car park and tearoom through areas of semi-natural and mixed woodland.

Skill Beck trail ●●●●

Distance: 2.5km (1.5 miles)
Time: Allow 2 hours

Skill Beck provides water to the Old Saw Mill Tearoom and Mirehouse. The trail climbs over 300 metres crossing the beck and following its course back to the car park and tearoom. Excellent views of Bassenthwaite Lake and surrounding fells can be seen along this trail.

Dodd Summit trail ●●●●

Distance: 4.75km (3 miles)
Time: Allow 3 hours

The summit of Dodd Wood gives unrivalled panoramas which encompass Derwentwater, Bassenthwaite Lake, the Solway Coast and even the hills of Dumfries and Galloway. This steep circular trail passes through wooded slopes, dramatic open hills and spectacular scenery.

Douglas Fir trail ●●●●

Distance: 1.5km (1 mile)
Time: Allow 1 hour

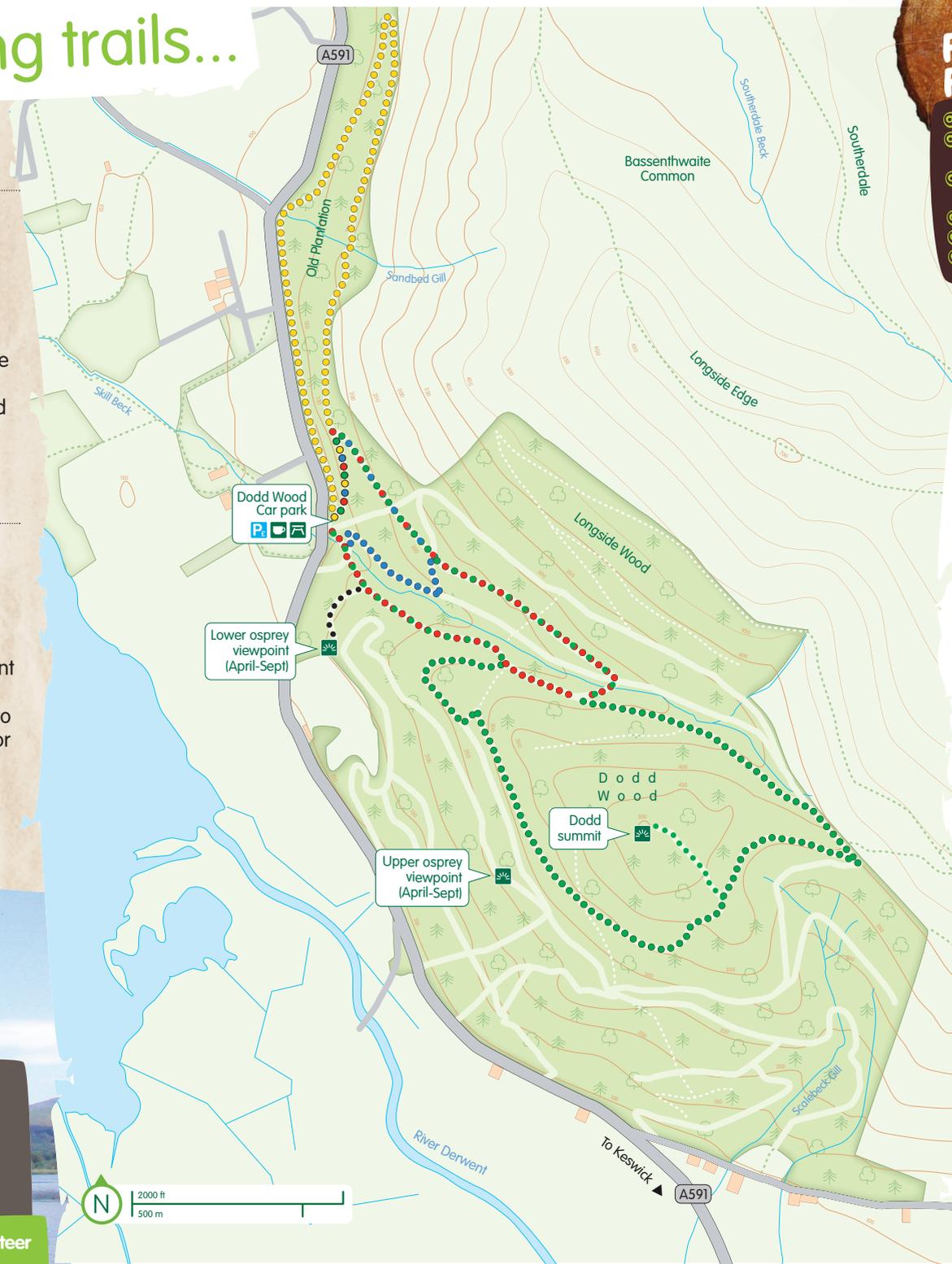
The magnificent Douglas Fir trees on the lower slopes of Dodd Wood are the prominent feature of this trail. These trees are selectively thinned to create gaps on the forest floor so that natural regeneration of Douglas Firs takes place. This is called continuous cover, which means there is no clear felling required.

Follow the Forest Code

- ⊙ Guard against all risks of fire.
- ⊙ Protect and respect wildlife, plants and trees.
- ⊙ Keep dogs under control & tidy up after them.
- ⊙ Take your litter home.
- ⊙ Make no unnecessary noise.
- ⊙ Take only memories away.

Key to map

- Pay & display
- Cafe
- Viewpoint
- Picnic area
- Road
- Forest road



Grizedale

Whinlatter

Enjoyed your visit?

Explore our other forests in the Lake District; Grizedale and Whinlatter.

Get in touch

Whinlatter Forest:
Braithwaite Keswick,
CA12 5TW.
t: 017687 78469

The Forestry Commission looks after Dodd Wood.

We care for forests and woodlands throughout England. For more information, sign up at: forestry.gov.uk/more-info or visit:

forestry.gov.uk/visit

Love your forest?

Volunteer

for the Forestry Commission

Enjoy the forest, learn new skills and meet new people...

Find out more online at:

forestry.gov.uk/england-volunteer