

Cocken Wood Picnic Area

What is special?

Cocken Wood is a beautiful woodland nestled into the valley of the the River Wear. It provides a sheltered spot in which to picnic or walk along the riverside path. The woods are well established with a mix of deciduous trees: oak, silver birch, ash, hazel and hawthorn plus yew and holly. There are many woodland plants such as ramsons, wood sorrel, wood anemone and dog violets. The presence of these plant species indicate that the woodland is semi-ancient and has been undisturbed for many years. The open areas are dominated by bluebells, red campion and common vetch. The site has a wonderful array of birds including green and great spotted woodpecker, jay, nuthatch, kingfisher, mallard and grey heron. Fox, grey squirrel and roe deer may be seen and occasionally you may catch a glimpse of an otter.

There is a privately run shop/cafe, toilets and car park on the opposite bank of the river. The site is very popular on sunny days so if you prefer a quiet amble make an early morning or evening visit.

The remains of Finchale Priory, a 13th century Benedictine priory can be seen on the opposite bank of the river. The Priory is managed by English Heritage.

For further details, contact English Heritage on: 0370 333 1181



Contact the Countryside Service
telephone: 03000 264 589
email: countryside@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk/countryside



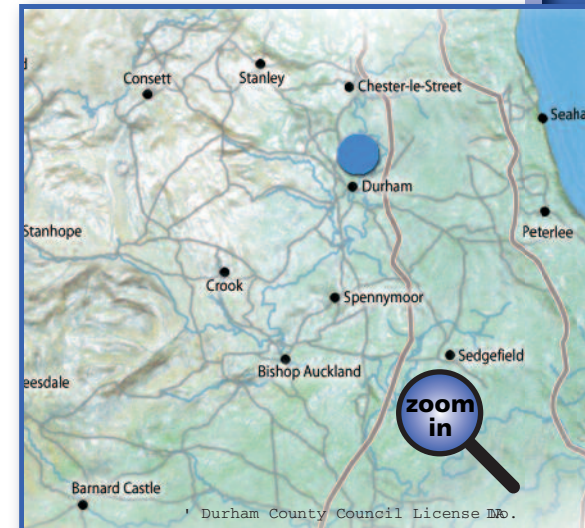
Area: 25.2 acres (10.2 hectares)

Grid Reference: NZ 297 472

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 308

Directions:

5.5 miles northeast of Durham City centre. Located between Plawsworth and Leamside on Cocken Road. Access via A167 northbound to Mill Lane onto Cocken Road, or via Station Road accessed at Rainton Gate on A690. Nearest postcode DH3 4EW



Parking: Lay-by on Cocken Road. No disabled parking bays. Private parking near the Priory (there is a charge)

Public transport: Services 20 and 20a (Go North East) to Leamside then a 1.25 mile walk to the site entrance. Or Numbers 62 and 63 (Arriva) to Frankland Prison then a 1.25 mile walk to entrance.

Dogs: Allowed under control. Please clean up after your dog

Designation: Picnic Area, semi-ancient woodland, Local Wildlife Site, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certified

Suitable for: Walkers. No cyclists or horse-riders

Habitats: Woodland, riverside

Whilst every effort has been made by Durham County Council to ensure accuracy of information, the Council cannot accept any liability resulting from omissions or inaccuracies.

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Accessibility statement

The riverside walk can be accessed in two ways: either down 131 steps or via a path which has some steep gradients. This path is made of a hardened surface with some large stones and is 3m wide. The riverside path is slightly undulating and made of bare earth, it can become difficult to negotiate in bad weather. The riverside path leads to a narrow bridge which crosses the river, with steps either side, which can be used to access the remains of Finchale Priory. The linear path continues downstream along the riverside and stops at a fence which marks the end of the site. This section is narrow and uneven and has some deep ruts in it.

Water Safety

Please be aware, the river can be very deep and have strong currents.



Wood anemone



Dog violet



Fox



Kingfisher



Heron



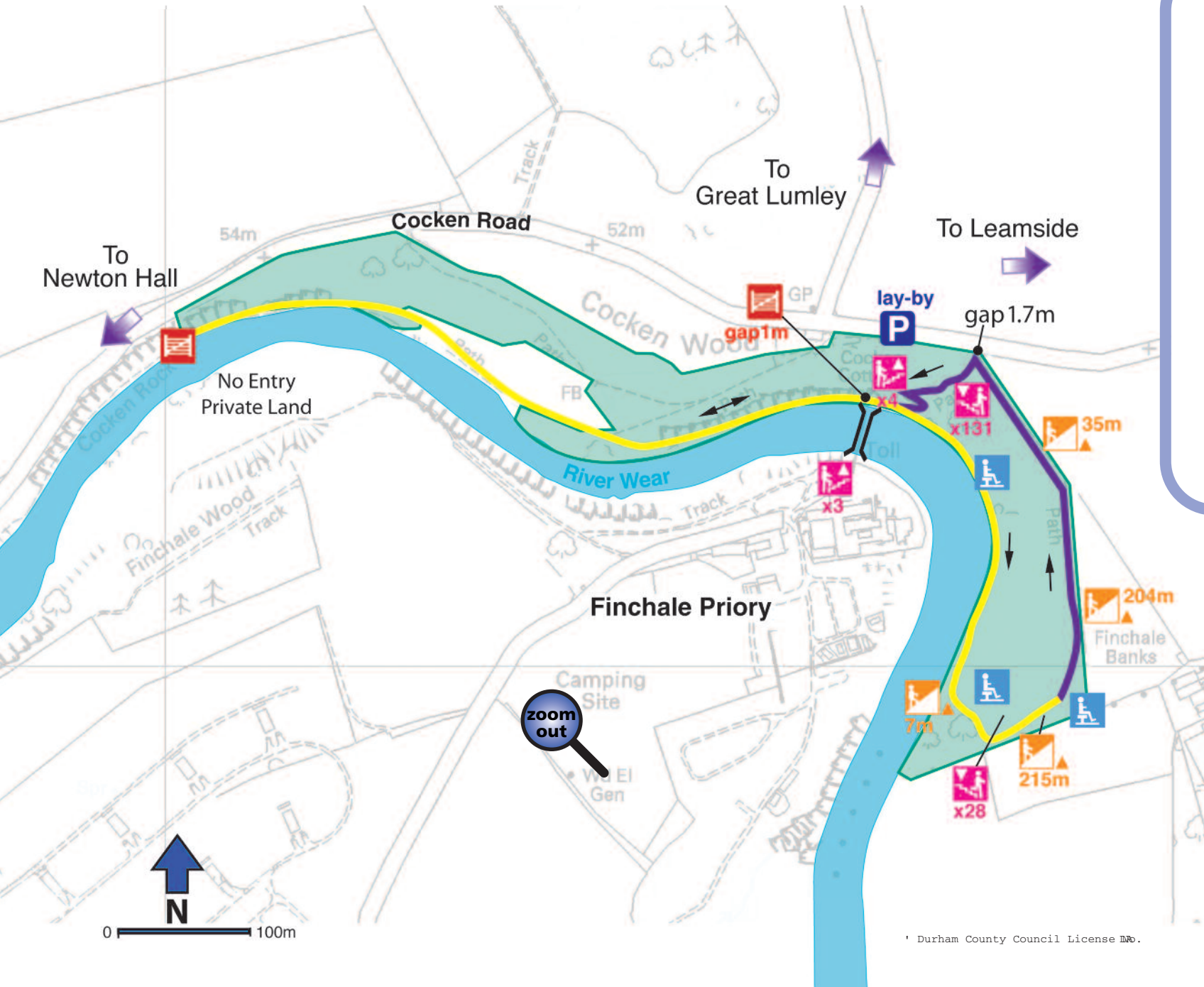
Ramson

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KEY

-  Seat
-  Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:10
-  Steps Up
-  Steps Down
-  Parking
-  Gate
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Bare Earth
-  Direction of Travel
-  Bridge

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