

What is special?

Coal Hill Wood is a broadleaved woodland planted in 2012 that covers over 11 hectares of land reclaimed from Thornley Colliery. The colliery was one of the oldest in the area and opened in 1835, operating until 1968. Cassop Wagonway ran along the northern edge of the site and used to transport coal from collieries at Cassop and Cassop Moor.

Local school children helped plant the trees and name the wood. The trees here are all native species such as oak, birch, willow, holly and alder. 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 reed bunting, yellowhammer, short eared owl and water vole.

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Acorn



Burnet moth



Speckled wood
butterfly



Short eared owl



Meadow brown
butterfly



Hare



Foxglove



Bank vole



Yellowhammer

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

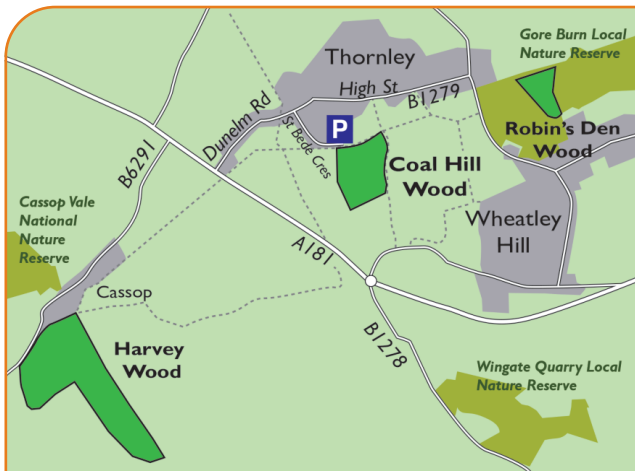
Coal Hill Wood

Enjoying this wood

Coal Hill Wood can easily be enjoyed as part of a circular walk using the extensive network of paths in the area. There are many interesting places to visit such as [Cassop Vale National Nature Reserve](#), [Wingate Quarry](#) and [Little Wood Local Nature Reserves](#).

From Thornley head south west towards Cassop where you can visit Harvey Wood and Cassop Vale and wind back on the footpaths through Old Thornley. Grassy hummocks mark the site of the deserted medieval village of Thornley. A group of well-preserved earthwork enclosures can be seen, as well as fields containing ridge and furrow - the pattern left by ploughing methods in the middle ages.

This new wood is 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: 11 hectares (30 acres)

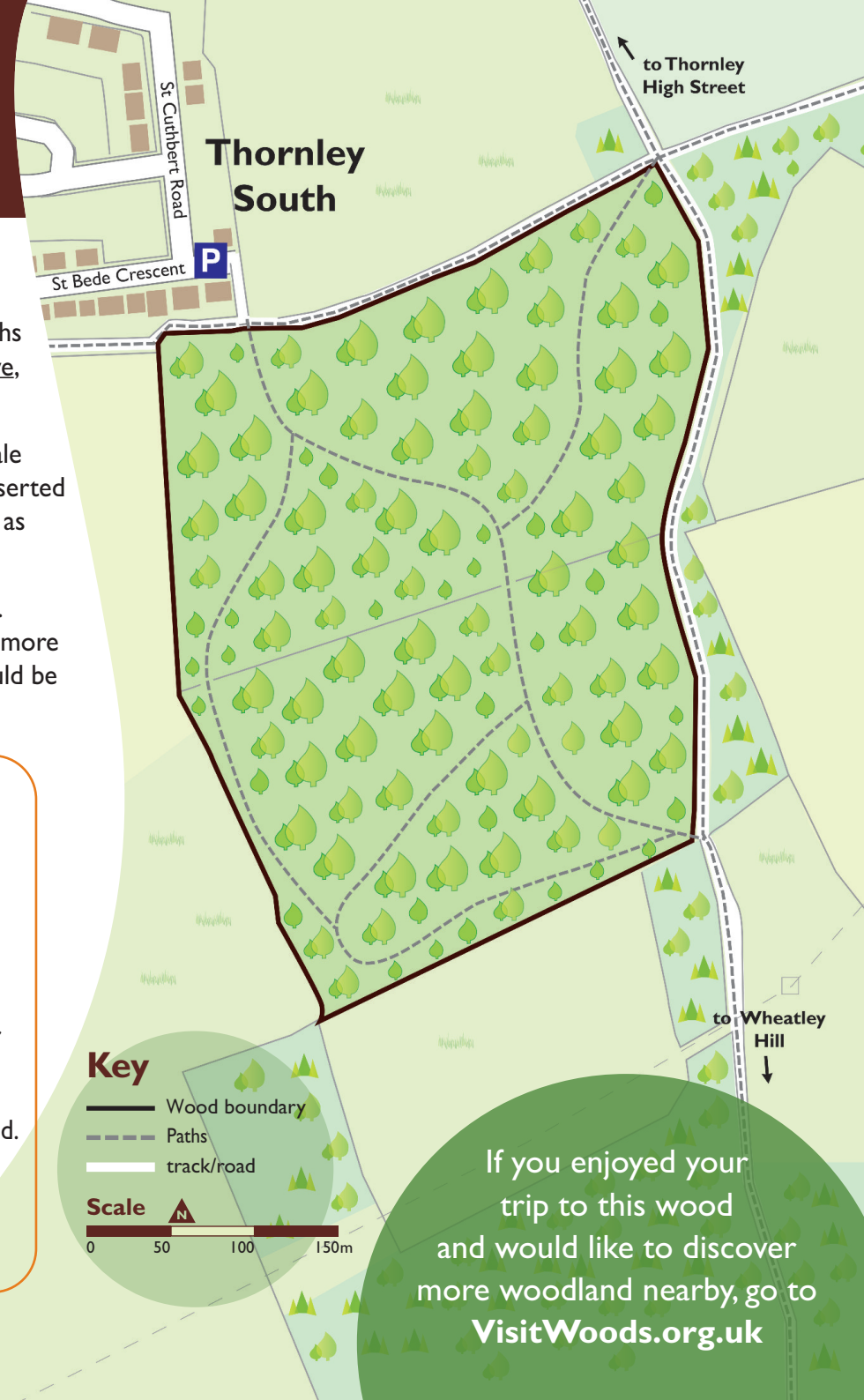
Grid Reference: NZ 363 390

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 305




Directions: The site is about three miles west of Peterlee. Leave the A19 near Wingate and head west for a couple of miles, past Wheatley Hill and straight ahead at the roundabout. After this, take the first right onto Dunelm Road and continue for about half a mile. Turn right onto St Bede Crescent and follow the road to the end. A footpath here takes you to Coal Hill Wood.

Parking: Along St Bede Crescent.

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



Key

-  Wood boundary
-  Paths
-  track/road

Scale



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