

Pow Hill Country Park

What is special?

Pow Hill is set in moorland overlooking the Derwent Reservoir. The word Pow comes from Old English and means 'slow moving stream' which refers to the waterlogged boggy area in the north of the site. Rain falling on the surrounding moors is absorbed into the peaty ground. Water then seeps downhill into basins and shallow valleys, creating bogs. Over the years many upland bogs have disappeared through drainage but at Pow Hill it has survived.



Bog Asphodel



Cotton Grass

The bog contains specialised plants such as bog asphodel, cotton grass, ragged robin and marsh thistle and has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - this designation is only given to the best wildlife habitats.

Heather moorland, grassland and coniferous woodland is home to animals such as red squirrels, adders, common lizard, slow worm and the green hairstreak butterfly. There are secluded glades for a quiet picnic and a number of seats which give panoramic views across the Derwent Reservoir towards Castleside and the Hownsgill viaduct.

Access is permitted to the shores of the reservoir where fishing and sailing are available. The path is closed during winter to prevent disturbance to ground nesting birds.

Fishing, contact - Northumbrian Water: 0191 383 2222, www.nwl.co.uk

Sailing, contact - Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club: 01434 675 258, www.drsc.co.uk

[more info...](#)

Contact the Countryside Service
telephone: 0191 372 9100
email: countryside@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk/countryside



Area: 45.5 acres (18.5 hectares)

Total length of Easy Access route: 0.3 mile (500 metres)

Grid Reference: NZ 010 512

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 307

Directions: Approximately 20 miles northwest of Durham City centre. Sited on the B6306 Blanchland Road on the banks of the Derwent Reservoir, just over 1 mile north of Edmundbyers. It is signposted from the road. Nearest postcode for GPS purposes DH8 9NU

Parking: There are three parking areas (open 8am-8.30pm). Two disabled parking bays

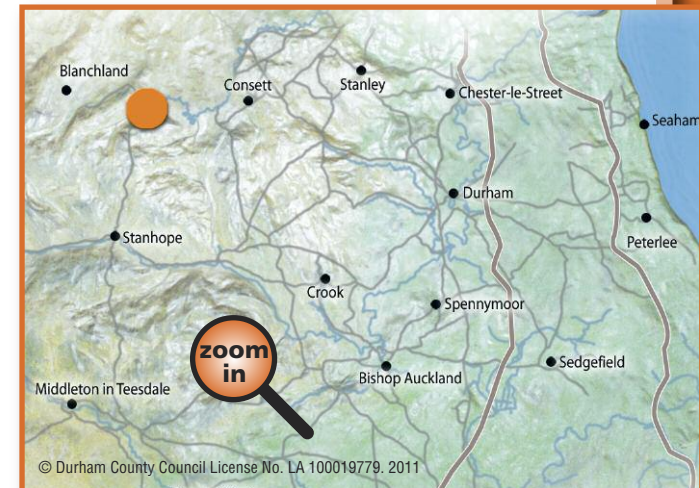
Public transport: Service number 773 (Classic). Bus stop next to entrance. Timetable is limited and may vary, call 0191 415 1818 for details

Dogs: Allowed under control and on a lead during bird nesting season (March to August). Please clean up after your dog

Designation: Country Park, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certified, part of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Suitable for:
Walkers and wheelchair users. No cyclists or horse-riders

Habitats:
Moorland, wetland, woodland



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.

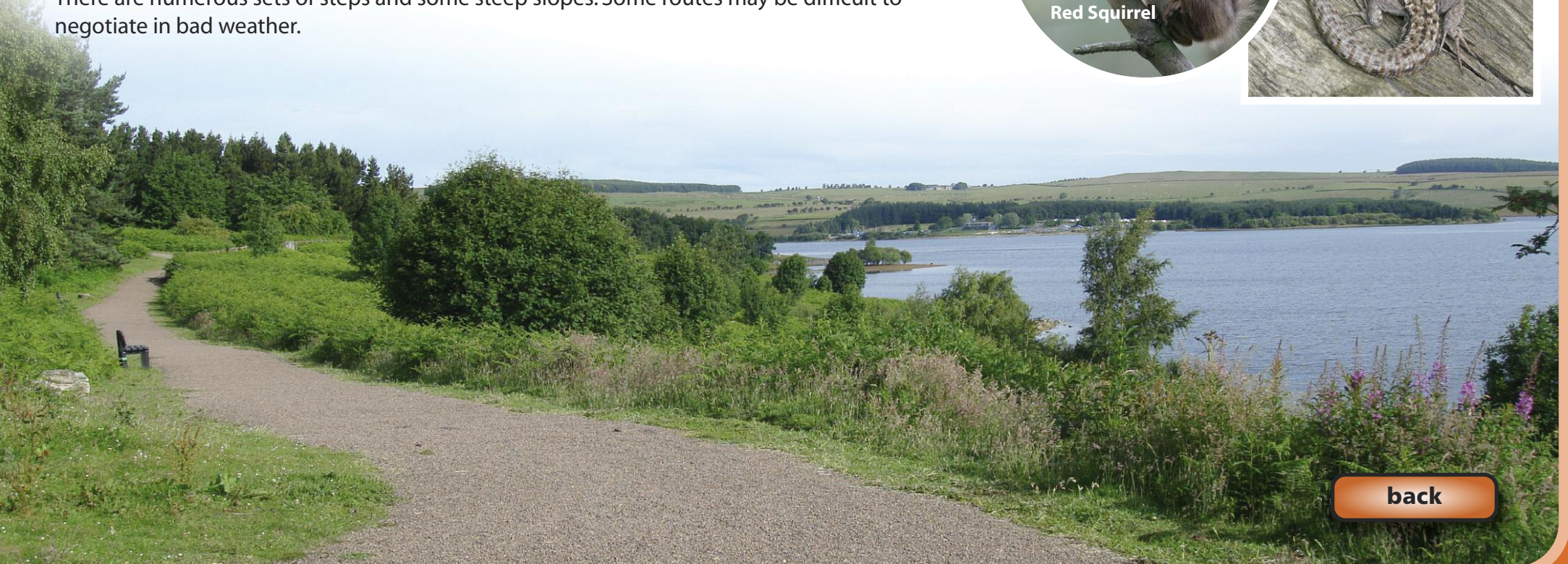
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Help us to protect this rare habitat

- The bog is a very sensitive habitat and we ask visitors not to walk across it. It can easily be viewed from the Easy Access path.
- Keep your dog on a lead during the bird breeding season (March to August).
- Clean up after your dog.

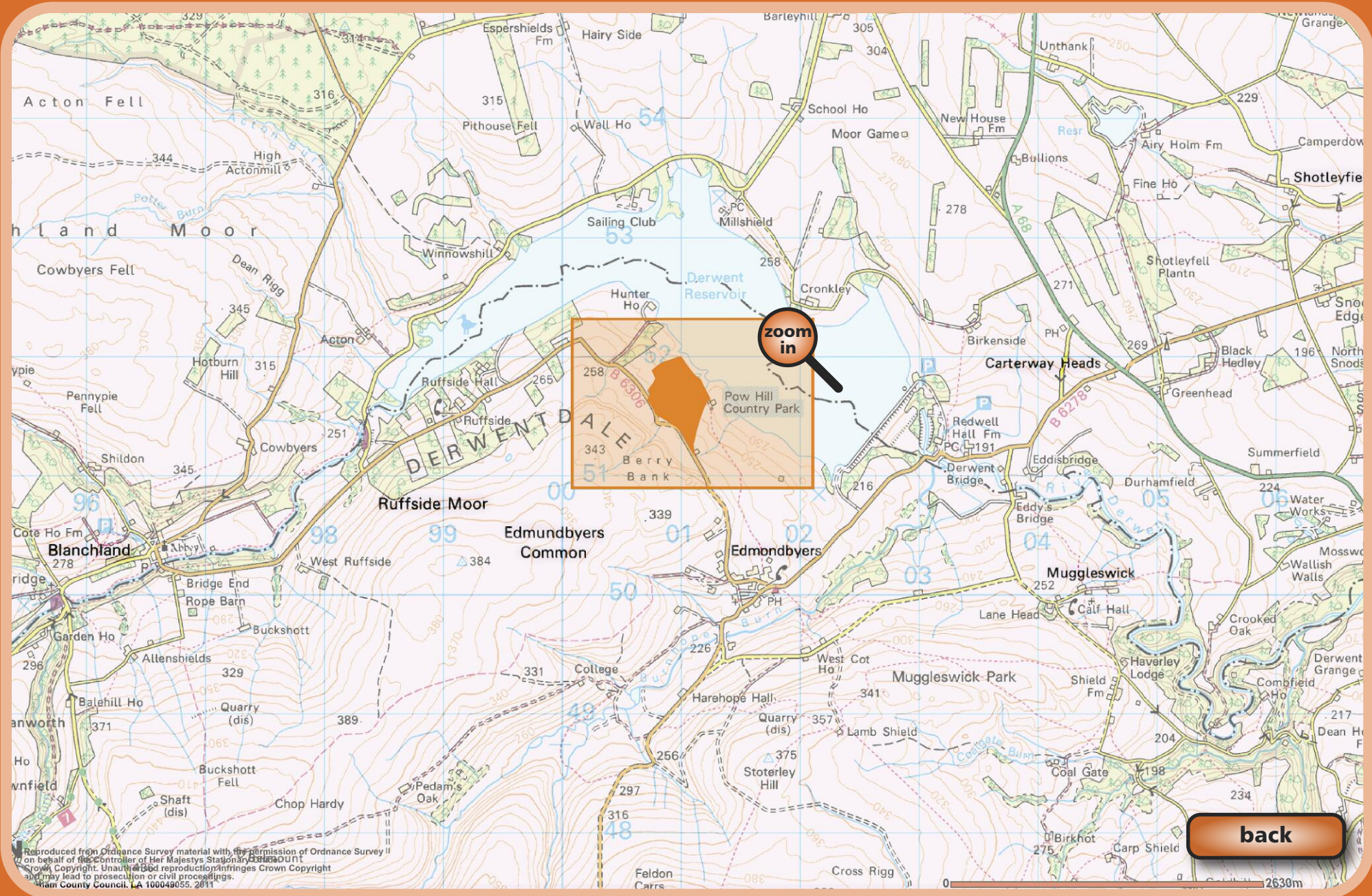
Accessibility statement

Pow Hill has a linear Easy Access route which is gently undulating and rises gradually uphill from the car park. This route has a 2 metre wide sealed surface and has seats at regular intervals. There is a network of paths and tracks throughout the site. These can be narrow and are made of a mixture of unsealed surface with some large stones and tree roots, bare earth and mown grass. There are numerous sets of steps and some steep slopes. Some routes may be difficult to negotiate in bad weather.



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KEY

- Picnic Area
- Seat
- Steps Down
- Gate
- Steep Slope Down 1:10-1:10
- Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
- Medium Slope Down 1:20-1:10
- Parking
- Disabled Parking
- Bus Stop
- Road/Tarmac
- Easy Access Route
- Bare Earth
- Hard Unsealed Surface
- Direction of Travel

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