



# Finglandrigg Wood

National Nature Reserve



## Welcome to Finglandrigg Wood National Nature Reserve

Finglandrigg Wood National Nature Reserve is one of the largest areas of semi natural woodland on the Solway Plain. In addition to the woodland the reserve also offers a range of other important habitats including lowland wet heath, peatland, rough pasture and acid grassland.



Banded Demoiselle

### The Wildlife experience

Due to the mosaic of habitats the reserve offers a varied and interesting visitor experience throughout the year. The diversity of habitats supports a wealth of wildlife species including a plentiful population of invertebrate species with some rarities present. There is also an abundant bird assemblage with migrant species taking up temporary residence throughout the seasons.

Reptiles including common lizard and adders can be seen basking in areas on the heathland on a warm and sunny day. Wet boggy pools across the reserve support good numbers of frogs and toads and damsel and dragonflies during the spring and summer months.

The grassland and woodlands provide food and shelter to some of our larger animals including a small number of roe deer which can often be spotted in the open grassland. Less seen mammals which are present are badgers, foxes, stoats and brown hare.

Not to be forgotten are the plants. Areas of grassland on the reserve support good numbers of the northern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*) and common spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*),



Ragged Robin



Northern Marsh Orchid

creating a lovely pastel haze. In the heathland uncommon plants such as dwarf gorse offer a vibrant splash of colour from July to November.

## Star Species

A recent and welcome sight on the reserve is the marsh fritillary butterfly, previously lost to the reserve in the mid 1990s. Thanks to a captive breeding programme and the re-introduction programme in 2007, it is now thriving and can be seen flying between late May and the end of June. A way marked trail and interpretative panels are available on the site during the flight period, providing further information about the species and leading the visitor to the compartment where the butterflies reside.



Marsh Fritillary Butterfly

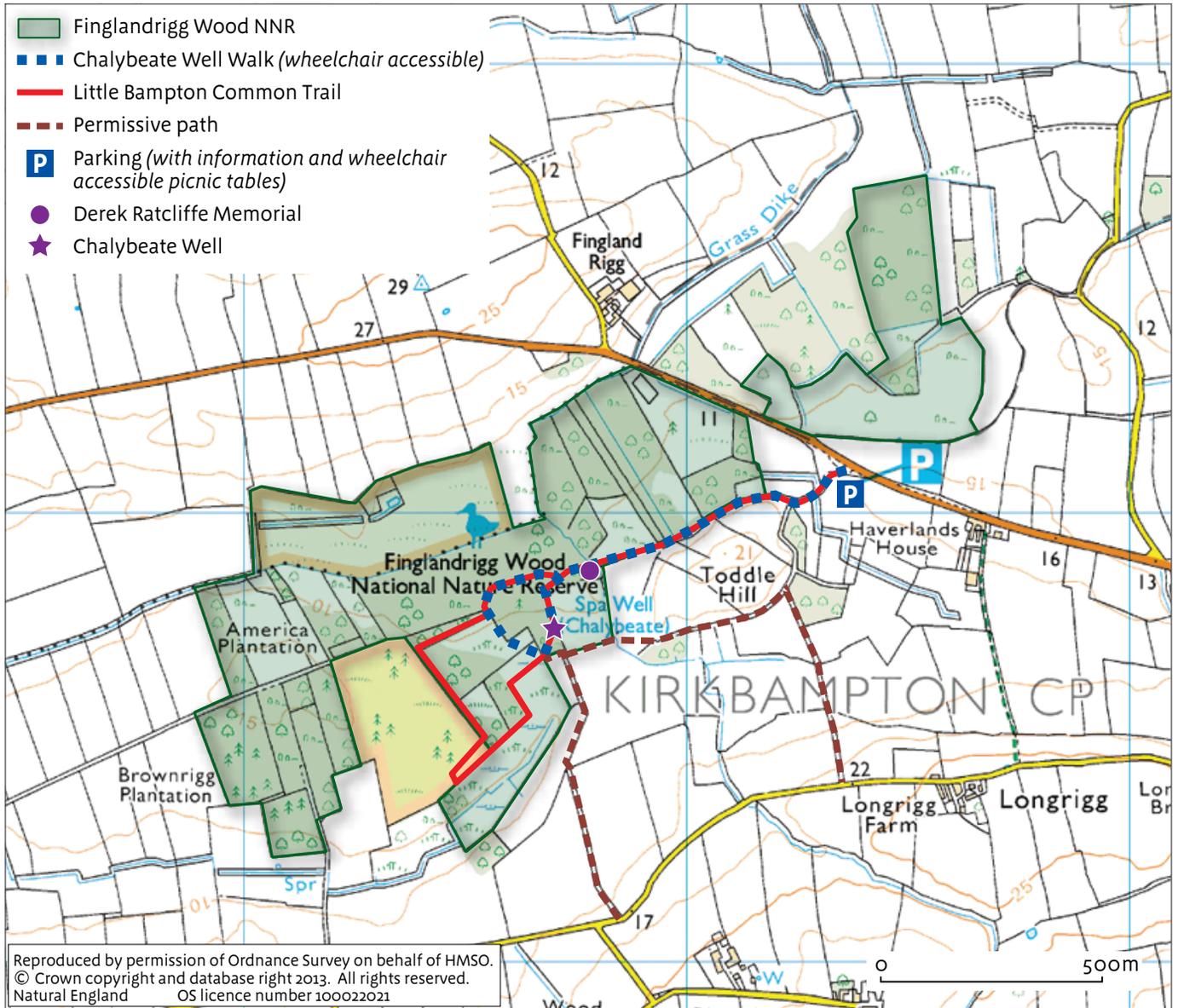
The solitary mining bee (*Ardrena ruficrus*), was found at Finglandrigg Wood in 2011. It has a distinct northern distribution with most records from south Scotland and Yorkshire. This population is one of only three in the North West of England. It is classed as a Red Data Book 3 species.

## Managing the National Nature Reserve

The reserve is managed by Natural England to maintain the variety of habitats and species present on the reserve, whilst also providing a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors.

Due to the variety of habitats present a number of management practices are required.

Grazing is a key management for many of the habitats as it helps to control tree and scrub invasion, and provides a variation in the grass and flower structure in rough pasture. It helps to generate a diverse age structure of heather on the heathland and helps to suppress rush dominance.



Other management practices that are carried out include the coppicing of gorse to create a diverse age structure which is good for winter roosts and breeding birds such as linnet, blackcap, willow warbler and chiffchaff. It also allows plants such as heather, heath bedstraw, and tormentil to grow in the open areas.

Most of the woodland is not managed except when species such as beech and sycamore need controlling.

## Mans Influence and Historical Features

During the late 1800s the site had a number of practices carried out by man. Land on higher ground was improved for agriculture and forestry but later abandoned during the second agricultural depression. Trees and scrub followed with birch and rowan being the first species to occupy the drier ground, and willow in the wetter areas. Some Scots pine planting took place in the western boundary of the site creating what is now known



Grazing Exmoor ponies

as America and Brownrigg Plantations. Few of the original trees remain, although the original pine has seeded through the natural woodland areas.

Kests (hedge banks) can still be seen throughout the site, which originate back to the late 1700s and early 1800s during the Enclosure Act. Their purpose was to enclose pieces of land delineating ownership boundaries. During this time much of the common land at Finglandrigg was placed into private ownership, apart from an area of heathland which still remains as common land today.

## Chalybeate Well

The well is a small stone structure which is adjacent to one of the waymarked trails on the reserve. The name 'Chalybeate' means containing salts of iron or tasting of iron. In the early 17th century, such water was promoted for its healing and health giving properties.

There are many Chalybeate springs around the UK, one of the most noted being in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, founded by Lord Dudley North in 1606. The spa towns of Bath and Harrogate are famous for sulphate rich mineral waters.



Small Pearl  
Bordered Fritillary



Nuthatch

## Events

Throughout the year we run a number of events catering for a wide range of people and interests. For more information please call 016973 50005. Alternatively look out for posters at Haverlands Green which are displayed near the time of individual events being run.

## How To Get There

### Bicycle and Car

The reserve is approximately 8 miles west of Carlisle. Follow the B5307 Kirkbride road, go through Kirkbampton village and after 1 mile you will see Haverlands Green lay-by on the left. You can park here by the Natural England sign. There are wheelchair friendly picnic tables as well as an information board. There are waymarked paths onto the reserve.

From Wigton, the reserve is approximately 8 miles. Follow the B5307 from the Wigton by-pass. Go through Kirkbride and Fingland and approximately 2 miles further on is the Haverlands Green lay-by on the right.

Cycle racks are available at Finglandrigg Wood. They can be found at Haverlands Green car-park on the right just after the start of the track that leads to the Reserve.

### Bus

From Carlisle the site is served by bus route 71 Silloth/Anthorn - Carlisle (limited service). The bus stops at Kirkbampton, Fingland and Kirkbride and a request stop for Finglandrigg Wood may be possible. It is not a low floor vehicle.

For details of local bus services go to the Traveline website.

### Train

The nearest train station is in Wigton (8 miles to the south) served by Northern Rail, but there is no bus link to Finglandrigg Wood NNR. Taxis are available from outside Wigton train station and town centre.

## Access around the Reserve

### Blue Route

The blue route is a 2km gravel and boardwalk path which is suitable for those of limited mobility, including wheelchair users. On the way you go through woodland and grassland passing a wooden structure hidden in the trees and the Derek Ratcliffe memorial stone. There are resting points staggered along the route, and two picnic tables suitable for wheelchairs located at the entrance to the reserve at Haverlands Green.

### Limited Mobility

A 'Miles without Stiles' leaflet for Finglandrigg Wood NNR is available at:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/544/932/4067495657.pdf>

or via the Finglandrigg Wood NNR webpage on the Natural England website

[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

or for other 'Miles Without Stiles Walks' in Cumbria:

[http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/countryside-access/miles\\_without\\_stiles/Finglandrigg\\_Woods.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/countryside-access/miles_without_stiles/Finglandrigg_Woods.asp)

### Red Route

The red route is a 3km trail through woodland, rough pasture and heathland. This is a flat trail but does include gravel, grass, wood chip and boardwalk paths which take you to Little Bampton Common.

## Dogs

Dogs are welcome on the reserve but must remain on a lead at all times to protect ground nesting birds and cattle that graze the site. We do have adders on the site which could bite if disturbed, possibly with fatal results.



Please also remember that other users may be scared of dogs no matter how small or friendly. There are no dog poo bins on the reserve, so we therefore ask you to be responsible and bag it and

take it home so that other users including those in wheelchairs and with pushchairs do not have to deal with the mess on their wheels and hands.

**Front cover photograph: Finglandrigg Wood**

All photography © Chris Mawby

In Emergencies, contact 0300 060 6000.

For further information on Finglandrigg Wood National Nature Reserve contact the reserve office on 016973 50005 or by post to Natural England, Unit 2, Kirkbride Airfield, Kirkbride, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 5HP.



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