VISITING ROE WOOD & LITTLE ROE WOOD

Access to the two woods is free and unencumbered at all times. At the main entrance points, there is a well-developed network of footpaths through the wood. Because both woods are very steeply sloping with steep sides cut by waterways, flowing streams the footpaths are stepped in places.

There are entrances to the wood from the surrounding residential area (shown on the map opposite). For those coming to the wood by car there is a car parking on Norwood Road. For those coming by bus, Norwood Road is on the 8 bus routes: 6, 20, and 96.

The woods can be enjoyed throughout the year. Late winter is the best time to look at the shapes and texture of trees. In spring and summer woodland flowers are at their best and biodiversity is at its height. Autumn and early winter flocks of birds are attracted to the woods to feed on the seeds and berries.

To get the most out of this leaflet, use it together with your choice of natural history identification books when you visit the wood. You can be even more interesting if you have a pair of binoculars with you.

The shrub layer is poorly developed with occasional hawthorns, hazel, holly and guilder rose. The trees present today in Little Roe Wood are heavily influenced by man’s presence there of a nursery and associated gardens. There are many non-native species including many sycamores and occasional common lime, poplar, beech, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut and weeping ash. Among the well-developed shrub layer of Little Roe Wood are the non-native red currant and cherry laurel. The ground flora is varied and patchy and includes in Roe Wood a large patch of heather. Indicators of ancient woodland include bluestem (which is locally abundant in both woods) and in Little Roe Wood the more sparingly distributed dog’s mercury, golden saxifrage and yellow archangel.

The bird population of the two woods is very varied. In winter there are mixed parties of tits and flocks of mistle thrushes, redwings, fieldfares and bramblings. In summer the song of migrant warblers such as chiffchaffs and blackcaps can be heard in the woods. Other species likely to be seen or heard include common species such as wood pigeon, redbreast, green finch, siskin and siskin and less common species such as nuthatch, sparrowhawk, lanny owl, treecreeper, grey spotted woodpecker, yellow spotted woodpecker and green woodpecker.

ROE WOOD & LITTLE ROE WOOD
Ancient woodland sites

Pistillate balls may be seen on a dusk visit to either of the two woods in warm weather. The Pistillate is our smallest bat and it forages and roosts in old trees in both woods. Twenty-six bats were erected on mature trees in Roe Wood in the year 2000.

FUELLING A REVOLUTION
The woods that founded the steel country
The two woods were further reduced in size in the early part of last century through armed incursions and the expansion of allotments.

As part of the fueling a Revolution and the Burngreave Community Forest Projects, renewed management is taking place in both woods. The emphasis is on sensitive thinning and group-felling to encourage regeneration and a diverse and underused woodland structure, favouring native species of trees and shrubs. Invasive species are being controlled and signs of neglect such as litter and vermin are being reduced and the immediate site being maintained, being improved and maintained clearly and strongly.