

# Spring Visitor Guide Wood



Lancashire  
County Council



# The History of Spring Wood



Spring Wood is classed as a semi-natural ancient woodland. This means that there has been a woodland on the site since before 1600. Many woodlands from this period do not exist anymore as they were cleared to make way for agricultural land.

Spring Wood was once owned by the monks of Whalley Abbey and was originally called Oxheywoode, which formed part of a deer park. In the 1530s the monasteries were dissolved and all their possessions were seized by the Crown. A survey was carried out by the Crown on 29 June 1528, stating that Oxheywoode was well plenshed with timber and underwood. The underwood consisted of 'Hassel and Eller' (Hazel and Elder) which was felled once every twenty years.

On 6 June 1553 nearly all the land that belonged to the Abbey was sold by Edward VI to Richard Assheton, Esq. and John Bradyll, Gentleman for the sum of £2,132 3s 9d. This included Oxheywoode. The wood's location was described as 'one bow shot East of the Abbey'.

Over the years the wood has had many owners and a name change. Despite this, its use has remained the same. It is presumed that during the 19th Century rhododendron was planted to provide cover for ground game such as pheasant and woodcock.

In the 1970s the wood was bought by Lancashire County Council and developed into the picnic site that exists today. A pond was constructed by diverting three springs over the edge of a quarry working. Hard surfaced paths were also constructed to make walking easier.

Spring Wood is an excellent base for walking. The picnic site is an ideal position from which to explore Pendle Hill or the historic village of Whalley and its surrounding countryside.

The site itself has ample parking including disabled parking bays. As well as an unstaffed Information Centre, the site has toilet facilities complete with a disabled toilet operated on the RADAR system.

Picnic tables suitable for wheelchair users are provided at various locations close to the car park.

Refreshments are available from the ice cream vendor at the entrance to the site.



## Information Centre Opening Times

Summer	Winter
Wednesday 10am - 4pm	Saturday 10am - 4pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm	Sunday 10.30am-3.30pm

Bank Holidays  
10.30am-3.30pm

**Closed Christmas Day**

Information  
Centre  
Opening  
Times

## Toilet Opening Times

Summer	Winter
Daily 10.00am-5.00pm	Daily 10.00am-4.00pm

**Closed Christmas Day**

**Please Note:** Lancashire Countryside Service reserves the right to alter these opening times without prior notification. Please check up-to-date information by contacting Lancashire Countryside Service (details on the reverse of this leaflet).

# The Friends of Spring Wood

The Friends of Spring Wood is now a registered charity.  
Charity Number 1107473.



The Friends of Spring Wood is a small voluntary organisation that was formed in 2000. The group's aims and objectives are:

- To protect and conserve the ancient semi-natural woodland of Spring Wood.
- Increase public awareness of issues concerning the conservation and management of semi-natural ancient woodlands through education initiatives and events.
- Develop and encourage access to Spring Wood for minority groups such as wheelchair users.
- Provide opportunities for the local community to assist in the management and project development through volunteering.
- To aid and assist Lancashire Countryside Service in the management of the wood through carrying out routine maintenance tasks.

Since the formation of the group, many projects have been carried out, including the planting of an arboretum and 6 new hazel coppices, a willow bird hide, wildflower meadows, an outdoor classroom, two self guided trails and an access for all trail.

The Friends of Spring Wood meet every first Saturday of the month at 10.00am at Spring Wood Information Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please ensure you have a packed lunch and clothing suitable for the weather conditions and the type of work being carried out.

Please let us know if you are planning to come to a workday by ringing 01254 825187 so that we can ensure someone is there to meet you.



Spring Wood's wildlife is very varied and there is something to interest everyone, whether you like wildflowers, animals, birds, trees or even insects.

## Trees

There are twenty four different species of trees within Spring Wood, examples of which can be found in the arboretum. As you walk round the wood it is possible to see examples of different forms of management such as coppicing and pollarding.

## Birds

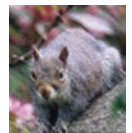
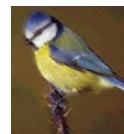
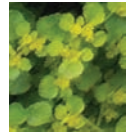
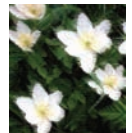
Spring Wood attracts many different types of birds, some of which you may find in your garden, such as the blue tit or robin. The bird feeding station on the car park near to the Information Centre is an ideal place to sit and watch the birds from the comfort of your car without disturbing them.

## Plants

There are over twenty different species of plants that grow in the wood, the most notable being the bluebell and ransoms (wild garlic). They provide a valuable food source for much of the insect life. The plants are easily damaged, therefore it is important to stay to the footpaths and not to pick the flowers.

## Mammals

Most of the mammals that occur in the wood are very shy and not often seen during the day. However, it is nearly always possible to watch grey squirrels at the bird feeding station in the car park.



# Hazel Coppice



Coppices are woodlands which are cut on a short rotation (usually between seven and twenty five years). Coppice comes from the French word couper - to cut.

In most cases, one part of the wood - a coupe - was harvested each year and the wood was used to make charcoal (used in the iron making process) agricultural tools and implements.

Hazel is the ideal coppice tree - every few years it can be cut back to a 'stool' at ground level so that it produces a cluster of straight flexible stems to be harvested.

Coppice woodlands are important because they are cut in rotation with only one part cut each year; they have a wider variety of ages than other woods - from open glades and thickets to close canopy. For this reason they support a wider range of flora and fauna.

The Friends of Spring Wood are developing a number of hazel coppice sites around the woodland - look out for the Hazel Coppice signs.



Hazel Coppice

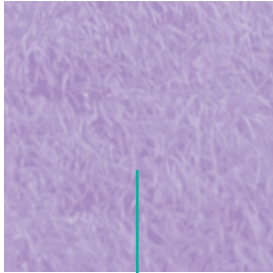


# Projects



The Friends of Spring Wood receiving a Green Partnership Award from the Mayor of Ribble Valley, Councillor Beverley Jones.

# Spring Wood Site Map



## KEY



Boundary



Footpaths



Low Mobility Trail



Information



Parking



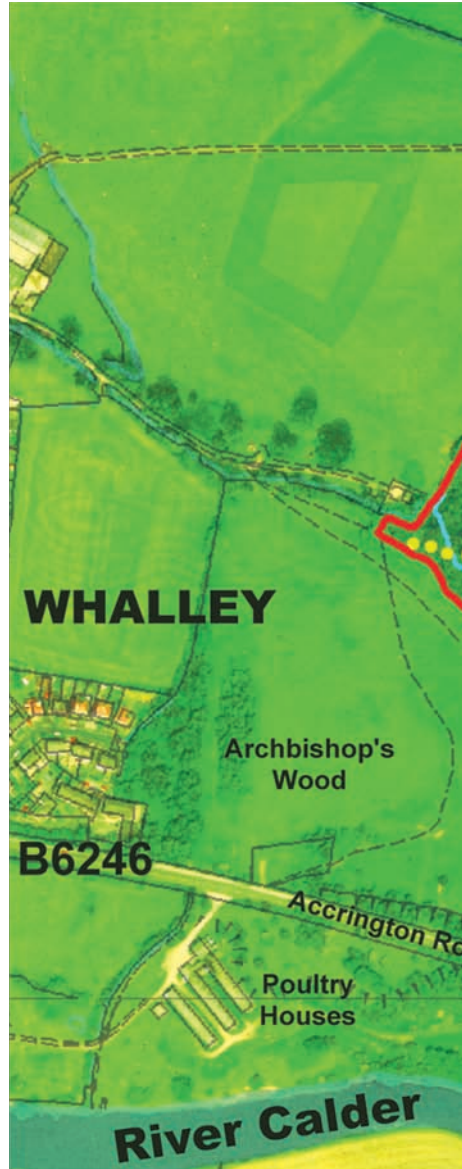
Toilets

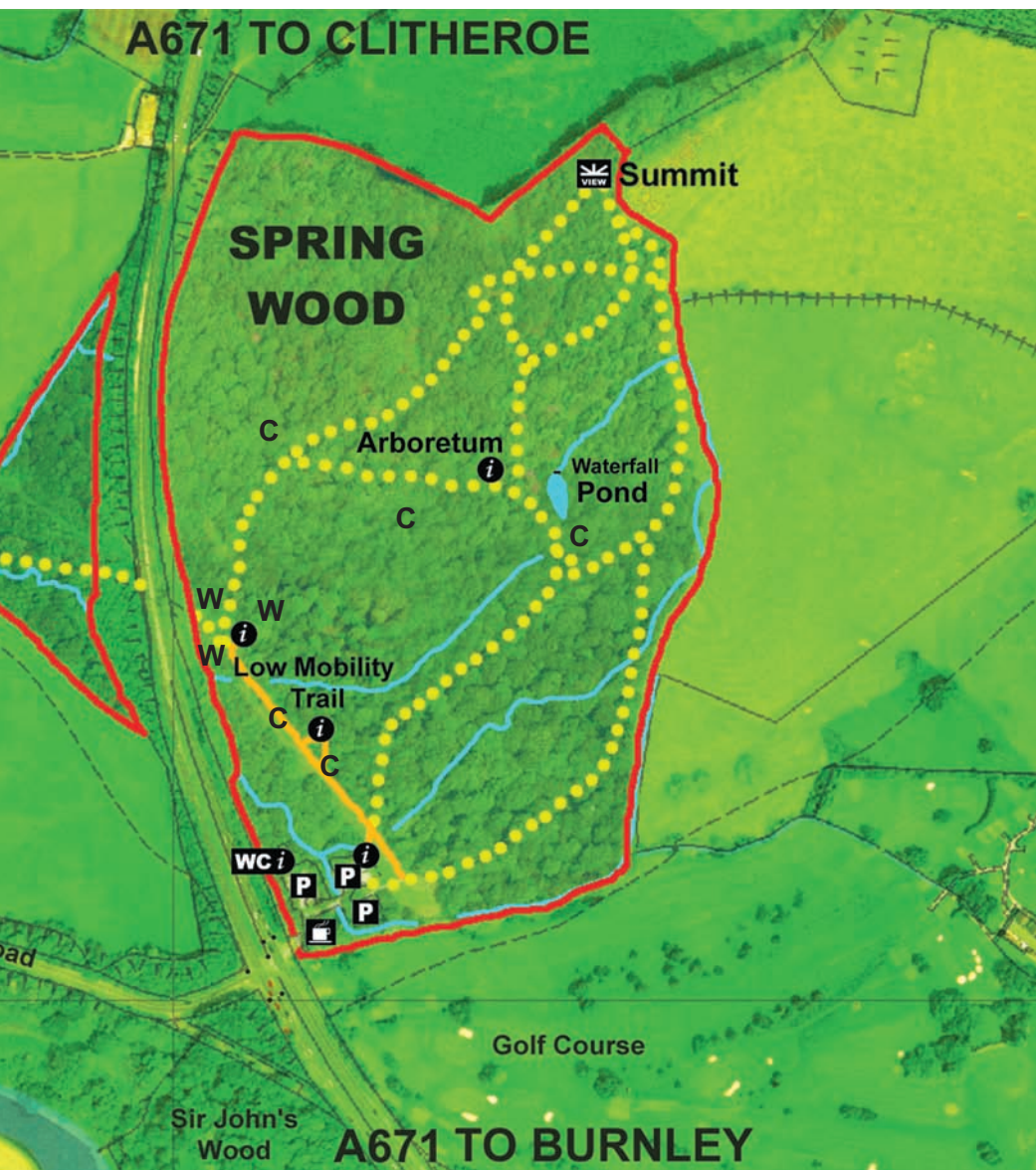


Refreshments

W - Wildflower  
Meadow

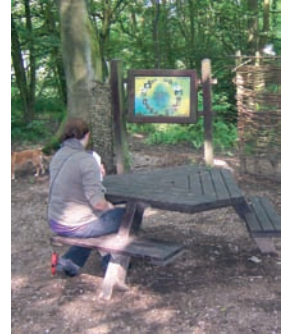
C - Hazel  
Coppice







The self guided walks marked by the round wooden posts, with the purple and yellow stripes near the top. The yellow route is suitable for those with small children, buggies, more restricted mobility or trumper vehicles (when available). The purple route rises to the summit of the wood, the path is steep and uneven, and can be muddy when wet. Please read the information panel on the plinth between the two long stay car parks (under the cherry tree) before you set out.



## Post 1

The 'Access for all trail' was funded by the Local Heritage initiative and opened in October 2002. Proceed along the trail to the left towards post 2.

## Post 2

As you look across the grass to the clearings you can see two small areas of hazel coppice planted by the friends of Spring Wood. The first area (closest to the car park) was planted in December 2005, the second area was planted in 2001/02. The hazel will be ready to harvest when it is 7 to 10 years old. Coppice is an ancient woodland management technique, where multi stemmed trees are planted, and cut to near the base on a rotation of several years, this forms a large 'stool' which can live for many years longer than the original tree. Continue along the trail to post 3.

## Post 3

The bird hide is made from willow, and provides an area to watch many species of bird feeding on the bird tables. This area also has several bird boxes so during the breeding season it is possible to see parent birds collecting nesting materials, and youngsters fledging. The area is also full of bluebells in the spring. Rejoin the main path, and walk towards post 4.



## Post 4

Here you see three distinct areas of wildflower creation or repopulation, completed by volunteers in 2004. The two areas to the left of the path have had some locally sourced seed planted, the small area on the right has had the dense bramble cleared and left to nature. Continue along the main path to post 5.

## Post 5

This is the end of the access for all trail, this area is dominated by wildflowers, on the trees as well as on the woodland floor. Continue up the main path to post 6.

## Post 6

To the left is the wellie walk, this is an alternative route to the summit of the wood, however it is often wet and slippery and is quite steep, if you choose to take this route please take care. To the right is a large multi stemmed specimen of hazel, which has probably been used in the past for coppice products. If you are following the purple route carry straight on up the hill to post 7, but please be careful, the path is very steep. If you are following the yellow route, take the path to the right which goes through the centre of the wood to the pond (post 12). The path is uneven and does require some care.

## Post 7

This is the arboretum, planted by the Friends in 2000, the board shows where the different species of tree are situated, every species of tree that occurs in the wood is represented here. To the left and ahead are some magnificent beech trees, at least 150 years old. Follow the path on the right hand side of the arboretum, up the hill through the rhododendron bushes to post 8.





## Post 8

The large beech tree to your right is probably the tallest tree in Spring Wood. Follow the path and steps upward to post 9.

## Post 9

On the left hand side of the path is a natural stone outcrop that has beech tree roots around and through it. Continue up the steps to the right of the tree, to the summit of the wood and post 10.

## Post 10

Take a moment to sit on the benches and admire the view, the A671 is in the foreground, just behind is Oakhill College. Straight ahead, the hill with trees on is Kemple End, there is a distant view of the Bowland fells. Follow the edge of the wood, and down the steps to the right, to begin the descent to post 11.

## Post 11

The unusual gaps in the top of this dry stone wall are deer leaps, for the visiting population of roe deer. Follow the path downwards, keeping the wood on your right, and the perimeter of the wood on your left. At the junction follow the right hand side path towards the pond and post 12.

## Post 12

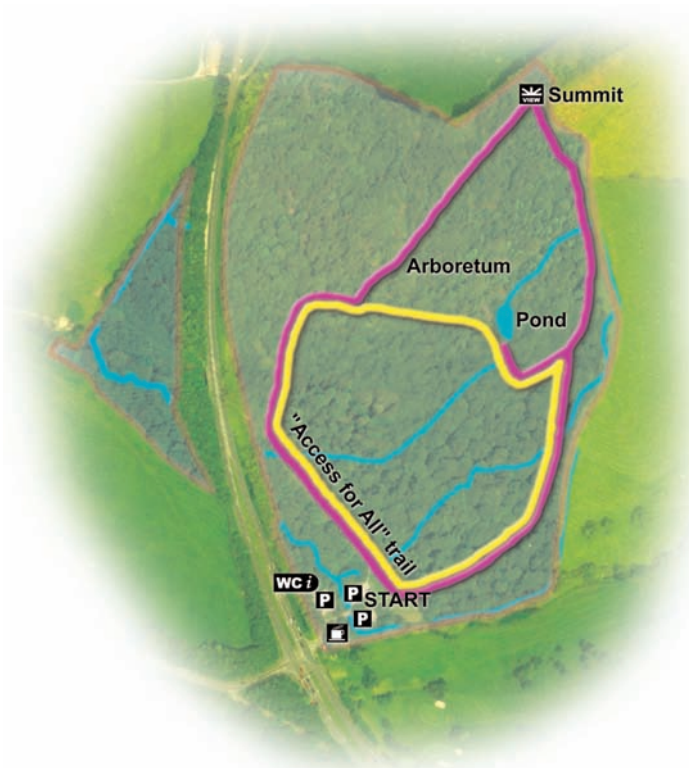
The pond was deepened in 2002, there is a small waterfall at the back of the pond, best seen after rain!! The area of hazel coppice was planted in 2003. In spring there is usually plenty of frog spawn and some toad spawn, the best time to see the young froglets & toadlets is after a rain shower in late May or June. Both the yellow and purple routes take the path to the left, then right to follow the path down to post 13. Note the bluebells and ransomes (wild garlic) to either side of the path in May & June.



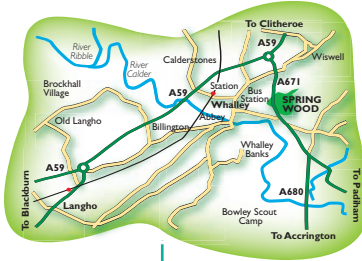
Post 13

On the left is the willow classroom created in 2004.  
The path has been upgraded to allow disabled access.

You are now back at the start and the car park, we  
hope you enjoyed your walk.



# How to get to Spring Wood



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Funding and support was contributed by Lancashire County Council's Countryside Service.



Managed by the Community Development Foundation  
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector

## By Car

Spring Wood is located off the A59, along the A671 Accrington Road, about 1/2 mile to the east of Whalley and 5 miles to the north-east of the centre of Blackburn.

## By Bus

There are regular bus services into the centre of Whalley from Clitheroe, Burnley, Blackburn and the surrounding area. Bus leaflet number 100. Nearest Bus Stop 100 yards from site.

## By Train

Whalley also has a railway station on the Ribble Valley line with trains from Blackburn, Settle and Skipton.

Lancashire Countryside Service,  
Environment Directorate, PO Box 9,  
Guild House, Cross Street, Preston,  
Lancashire, PR1 8RD  
Tel: 01772 534709. Fax: 01772 533732  
Please read, share, and recycle this booklet

If you would like more information on the Friends of Spring Wood or the Access For All Trail, please contact us by one of the following methods.  
**Spring Wood Picnic Site: Tel/Fax: 01254 825187**  
**Email: [countrysideservices@lancsc.gov.uk](mailto:countrysideservices@lancsc.gov.uk)**  
**Website: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside)**

Web Page/Suite: [www.friendsofpringwood.org](http://www.friendsofpringwood.org)  
Email address: [info@friendsofpringwood.org](mailto:info@friendsofpringwood.org)

What method of transport did you use to come to Spring Wood?

Car  Bus  Train  Walk

How frequently do you visit Spring Wood?

First Time  Daily  Once a week

Once a month  Within last 6 months

Within last year  Infrequently

Why have you come to Spring Wood?

General Walk/Stroll  History  Picnic

Walk the dog  Wildlife  Visitor Centre

Event  School Visit

Did you find this visitor guide useful?  Yes /  No

Do you have any suggestions for improvements/enhancements to the site?

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Do you have any further comments good or bad about the site?

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How did you find out about Spring Wood?

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BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE  
Licence No PR 844

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**The Friends of Spring Wood**  
Spring Wood Picnic Site  
Accrington Road  
Whalley  
Lancashire  
BB7 9TD