

# Lake District Osprey Project

A partnership project between the Forestry Commission, Lake District National Park and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) with fantastic support from many volunteers.

The partnership aims to ensure the continued success of breeding ospreys at Bassenthwaite, and to provide visitors to the Lakes with the opportunity to see and find out more about ospreys.

The return of ospreys to Bassenthwaite Lake in 2001 was the culmination of several years' hard work to encourage them to breed. The Lake District Osprey Project partners built a nest platform in Wythop Woods overlooking Bassenthwaite Lake and in 2001, all the hard work paid off and a pair of ospreys took to the platform and nested. For the first time in over 150 years, ospreys had been recorded nesting successfully in the Lake District!

## The Old Sawmill Tearoom

The Old Sawmill tearoom is always popular with walkers, bird-watchers and visitors to Mirehouse. Specialising in homemade Cumbrian cooking. Cakes, scones, sandwiches and hot dishes are made on the premises.



## Get a bird's eye view...

**Dodd Wood** is a fantastic place to get some amazing views of the northern Lake District.

The network of walking trails will take you deep into the woodland, and if you are up for it, you can access the paths that lead to the Skiddaw mountain range. Walk to the top of Dodd Summit for spectacular views over the fells and mountains.

You can also see the magnificent Bassenthwaite ospreys from the specially designed viewpoint (April-September). These fish eating birds of prey are protected by the Lake District Osprey Project, whose expert staff show visitors the birds, and educate them about their natural re-colonisation. The Forestry Commission manages Dodd Wood to produce timber and to encourage wildlife.

## Mirehouse & Gardens

Set in stunning landscape between fellside and Bassenthwaite lakeshore, Mirehouse is a privately owned family-run historic house which specialises in a relaxed welcome.

The informal gardens are designed to enhance their natural setting and include the peaceful walled Bee Garden, terraced lawns, the Poetry Walk and rose borders. The walk through the grounds extends to Bassenthwaite lakeside through woods and open farmland. While in the grounds visitors can take in expansive Lakeland vistas and see wildlife such as red squirrels, badgers, deer and woodpeckers. There are four adventure playgrounds, set in the woods, which will delight children of all ages.



## Visitor information Enjoy your visit



### Location

Keswick is the nearest town or village. **By Road:** From Keswick take the A591 towards Bothel. The forest entrance and car park are on the right opposite Mirehouse. **By Rail:** Nearest station Penrith.

For details of public transport visit: [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info)

### The Old Sawmill Tearoom

Open 10am-5.30pm (summer)  
10am-5pm (winter).  
Closed December-January.

### Parking

Start your visit from Dodd Wood car park. A pay and display system operates here. A Discovery Pass is available for great value, year-round parking. No overnight stays. Open all year round for parking.

### Contact

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We are working in partnership at Dodd Wood with:



Forestry Commission  
England

## Dodd Wood

Amazing views,  
fantastic walks & rare wildlife

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[forestry.gov.uk](http://forestry.gov.uk)



## Red Squirrels

**Dodd Wood** is a fantastic place to view the very rare, red squirrel. A feeding station, located at the osprey viewpoint, attracts these native squirrels throughout the year. Once very common, the range of the red squirrel has declined, and now only a few colonies remain. Good numbers can be found at Dodd Wood, and the Forestry Commission is one of a number of organisations working to conserve them.



## Join today

Enjoy Dodd Wood throughout the year with a **Discovery Pass**



Support the forest and get free parking at Dodd Wood car park, as well as other great discounts. Income generated by the pass goes back into maintaining the forest for everyone. Buy online or at Whinlatter Visitor Centre.

[forestry.gov.uk/pass](http://forestry.gov.uk/pass)

Spectacular views await you from the summit of Dodd Wood

# Discover our walking trails...

## Dodd Wood Walking Trails

All trails start from the car park

### Sandbed Gill trail ●●●●

Distance: 2.5km (1.5 miles)  
Time: Allow 2 hours

This trail gently traverses northwards through areas of conifer and broadleaved woodland crossing Sandbed Gill. There are fine views to be seen of the northern end of Bassenthwaite Lake. The trail returns to the car park and tearoom through areas of semi-natural and mixed woodland.

### Skill Beck trail ●●●●

Distance: 2.5km 1.5 miles  
Time: Allow 2 hours

Skill Beck provides water to the Old Saw Mill Tearoom and Mirehouse. The trail climbs over 300 metres crossing the beck and following its course back to the car park and tearoom. Excellent views of Bassenthwaite Lake and surrounding fells can be seen along this trail.

### Dodd Summit trail ●●●●

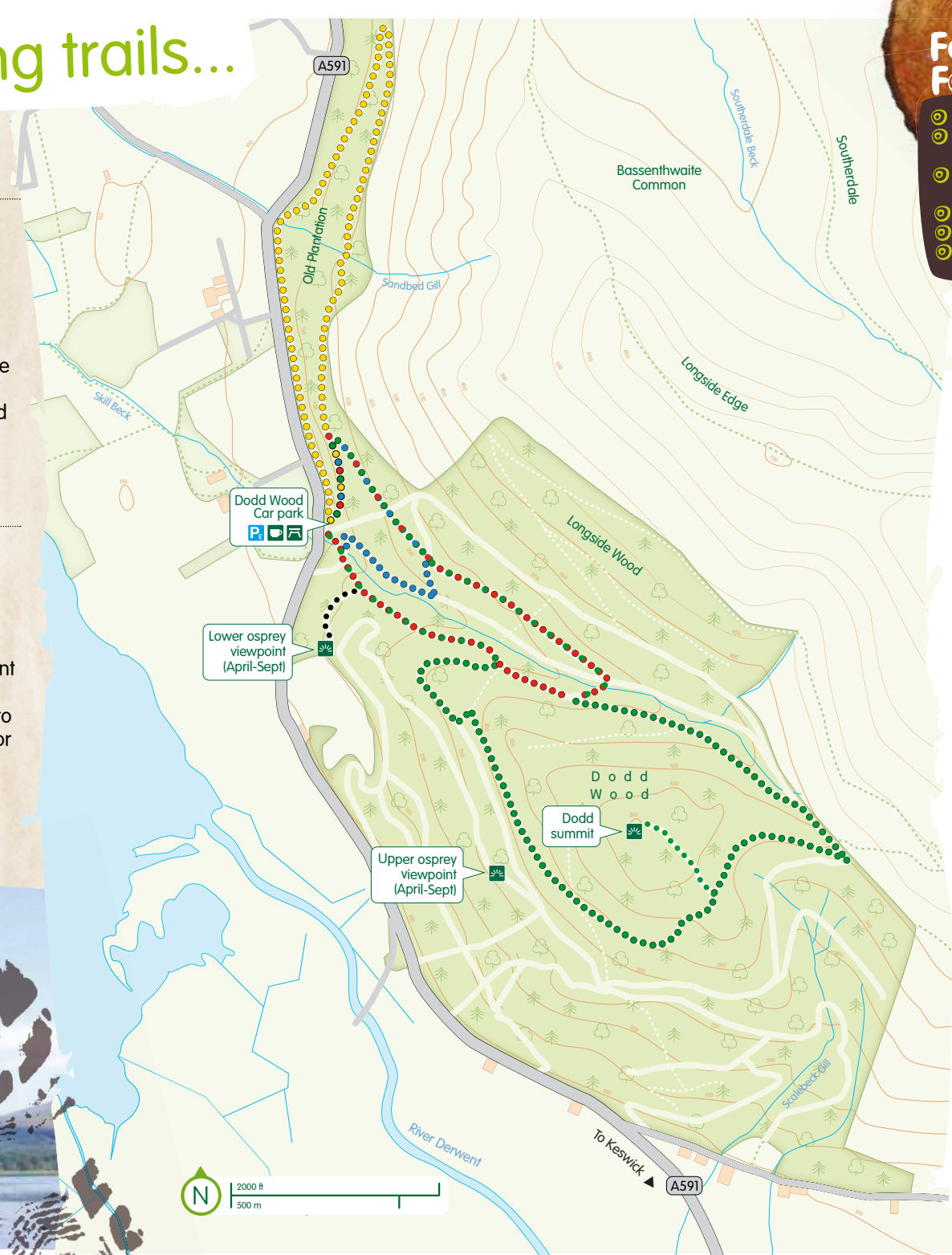
Distance: 4.75km 3 miles  
Time: Allow 3 hours

The summit of Dodd Wood gives unrivaled panoramas which encompass Derwentwater, Bassenthwaite Lake, the Solway Coast and even the hills of Dumfries and Galloway. This steep circular trail passes through wooded slopes, dramatic open hills and spectacular scenery.

### Douglas Fir trail ●●●●

Distance: 1.5km 1 mile  
Time: Allow 1 hour

The magnificent Douglas Fir trees on the lower slopes of Dodd Wood are the prominent feature of this trail. These trees are selectively thinned to create gaps on the forest floor so that natural regeneration of Douglas Firs takes place. This is called continuous cover, which means there is no clear felling required.



## Follow the Forest Code

- Guard against all risks of fire.
- Protect and respect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Keep dogs under control & tidy after them.
- Take your litter home.
- Make no unnecessary noise.
- Take only memories away.

## Key to map

- Pay & display
- Cafe
- Viewpoint
- Picnic area
- Road
- Forest road

## Grizedale

### Whinlatter

## Enjoyed your visit?

Explore our other forests in the Lake District; **Grizedale** and **Whinlatter**.

## Get in touch

**Whinlatter Forest:**  
Braithwaite Keswick,  
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The Forestry Commission looks after Dodd Wood. We care for forests and woodlands throughout England. For more information, sign up at: [forestry.gov.uk/moreinfo](http://forestry.gov.uk/moreinfo) or visit:

[forestry.gov.uk](http://forestry.gov.uk)