



# Elba Park – Heritage Hunt

Discover the rich heritage of the former colliery



**1.25 mile/2km**

Approximately 30 mins at a leisurely pace.  
2,700 steps



**Opening hours:** All year round



**FREE entrance**



**Car parking:** For 10 cars



**Toilets:** No



**Café:** No, but perfect for picnics



**Dogs:** To be kept under constant control please



**Accessibility:** Some narrow trails through wooded areas. Varying gradients. Most trails 1.5m+ wide. Disabled parking & motorised buggy access.

## Step by step walking route

Elba Park was built on the old Lambton Coke works; it provided employment for men from the local area. This walk will take you past all the areas of interest that reflect the history of the site.

1. Start at the main car park off Chester Road. Walk down the main path into the park, passing the information boards. Over on the left, behind the housing development, is the site of the old golf course that would have been used by the miners years ago for recreation. Unfortunately no pictures survive of the golf course, but it would have been a great social area for families, sandwiched between the heavy industrial coal mining site and the Dangerous Infection Hospital.

## The countryside code

### Respect - Protect - Enjoy

#### Respect other people:

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

#### Protect the natural environment:

- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control

#### Enjoy the outdoors:

- plan ahead and be prepared
- follow advice and local signs

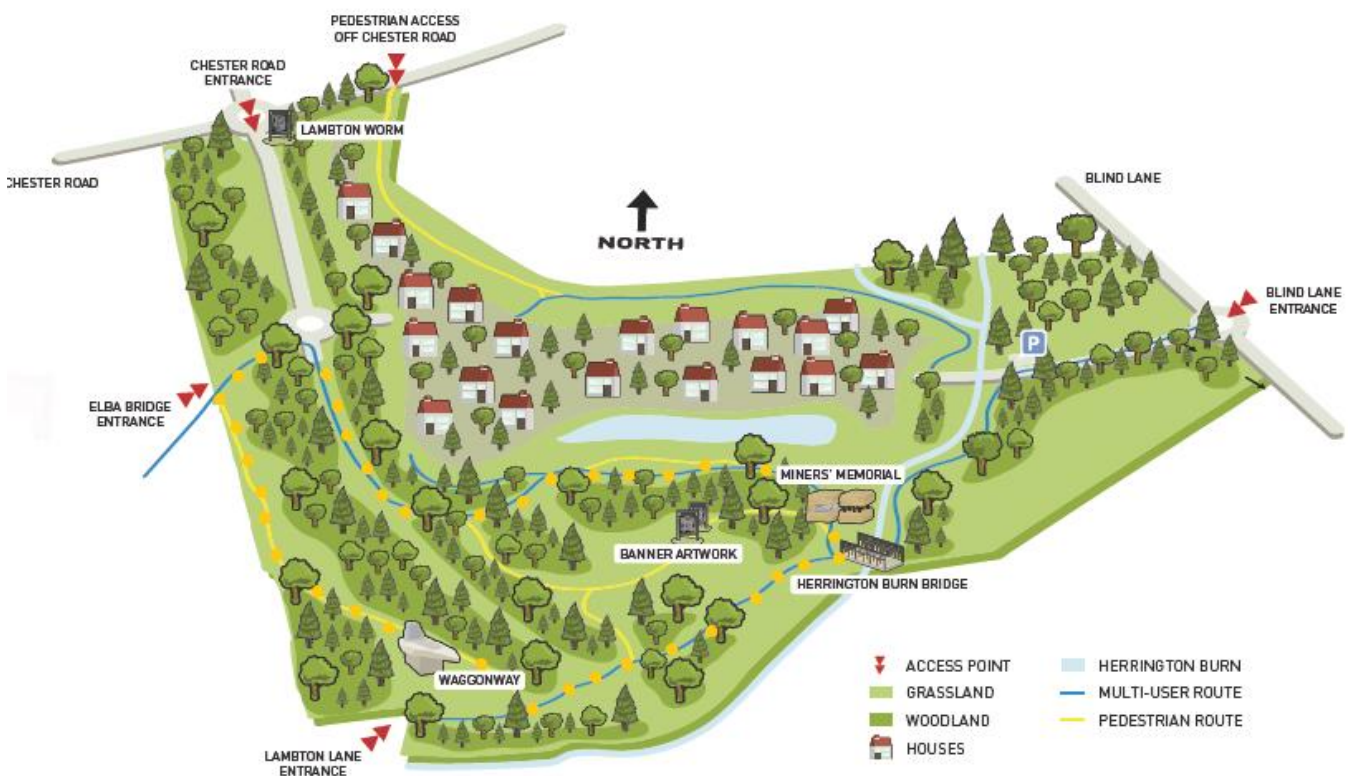


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Elba Park  
managed by:



4. Follow the path around to the left with the large boulder to your right. This will take you to the pond; you can either follow the lower path that takes you onto the board walk so you can examine the wildlife in and around the pond, or follow the high path that gives you great views over the pond and surrounding landscape. To the left you get good views over Penshaw monument, a folly built by Lord Lambton in 1844.
5. From here, follow the path up and around as it bends to the right, this will take you past the Miners Memorial Statue. Designed by local artist Colin Wilbourn. It depicts the working conditions of the miners' right up until 1986 when the mine closed. This gives you an idea of how dangerous working conditions in the coal industry were. 150 deaths were recorded on this site, the biggest disaster being in 1766 when 6 men died from a gas explosion.
6. Carry on along the path, with Herrington Burn and the Pick-axe Bridge to your left. Designed by local blacksmith artist Craig Knowles the bridge represents the tools of the trade for the miners. All miners had to pay for their own tools and equipment out of their own wage.
7. Follow the path along for about 500 meters, where the path splits into two. Straight ahead will be the entrance from Lambton Lane. Follow the path to the right; this will lead you to the Waggon Way Sculpture and Panel. Designed by local artist Colin Wilbourn, it shows the location of the old railway tracks that lie underneath the soil. When rejuvenation of the site began in 1996 these tracks were discovered 2 meters under the soil. The fine dust from the coke and coal works had created a protective barrier for these tracks from the elements. After being excavated, recorded and preserved, the tracks were put back under the soil for future generations. It is the most extensive and complete example of this type of railway found in Britain.
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