



# Elba Park – Wildlife Wander

**Discover multiple wildlife habitats amongst this former industrial site**



**1.6 mile/2.5km**

Approximately 45 mins at a leisurely pace.  
3,400 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

**This trail will take you across multiple different habitats. There will be some inclines and use of desire lines (paths created by users, wearing down and flattening the grass)**

1. Start at the main car park off the Chester road, walk down the main path by the information boards, turning left taking you to the pond. You can either take the lower path that goes onto the board walk so you can see what lives in and around the pond. Or the high path that gives you a good view over the pond. You should be able to see swans and mallards swimming on the pond, as well as coots, moorhens, and reed warblers all hiding in the reeds.
2. Follow the path around to the right, where you will go past the Miners Memorial statue on your right, designed by local artist Colin Wilbourn it depicts the working condition of the miners.

## 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:



3. Just past the statue take the path left down to Herington Burn, and over the Pic-axe Bridge. This stream is the perfect habitat for Newts, Sticklebacks and Tadpoles, as well as a fantastic place for the Heron, who hides by the water's edge. Sightings of Otters and Brown Trout have all been recorded at Elba Park.
4. Just after the bridge, as the path curves to the left, follow the desire line to your right, that takes you along the edge of Elba Park. The mature trees that border Elba Park play host to House Martins and Pied Wagtails who swoop down into the grass for insects.
5. Follow this path up to the top of the hill, through the acid grassland. This acid grassland is a great habitat for many species of invertebrate, many of whom are specialists for the conditions. Increasingly, acid grasslands are under threat due to agriculture and mismanagement of the land. Solitary wasps, bees, butterflies and grasshoppers all benefit from the acid grassland here at Elba Park.
6. Reaching the top of the hill, follow the desire line through the trees until you meet up with the Skylark Trail. Follow this around to the left; it will take you through the woodland plantation and back down onto the path by the stream.
7. Head back over the bridge and look back towards the Miners Memorial. Follow the gravel path going behind the Miners Memorial; this will take you over the top hill at Elba Park.
8. Walk up the path and on your left, you will pass the Banners designed by local primary schools and assembled by Craig Knowles. At the top of the hill is a large meadow area; in the summer months the field is bursting with colourful flowers, attracting bees and butterflies. The long grass of the meadow also creates perfect homes for ground nesting birds like Skylarks and Pheasants. There is a bench at the top of the hill, a perfect place to sit and watch the wildlife fly about you. Both kestrels and Oyster catchers can be seen flying over Elba Park.
9. At the top of the hill, by the large boulder, the path splits into two. Take the left path that will take you down the hill. At the end of this go to the right and follow the main path along until eventually the spilt into two again by the way marker. Straight in front of you will be the Lambton lane entrance into the Park, take the gravelled path on the right, which will take you through the low meadow. Roe deer have been spotted here, coming in from the surrounding countryside.
10. A little way along this, there will be a gravel path to the right, which will take you into the Speckled Wood Trail through the woodland area. This area has a mixture of young saplings through to adult trees. Local primary schools, uniformed groups and other volunteers have all helped plant these trees, and given it a really community feeling. All trees are British native and provide fantastic habitats to British birds. Chaffinches, Sparrows, Starlings, Robins and many more besides can be spotted in the branches. While in the woodland, stand still for a moment and hear all the different bird songs.
11. Walk along the Speckled Wood Trail, until you reach the end of the path. Turn right at the end and this will lead you back to the car park off Chester Road, and conclude your walk.



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