

Get wild at Stonehaugh

Stonehaugh was built for Forestry Commission workers in the 1950s. The area's woodland, meadows and burns offer a variety of habitats which attract a wide range of wildlife. Here are just a few things to look (or listen!) out for.



This forest is one of the few places in England where red squirrels still thrive. Autumn is a good time to look out for them as they're busy gathering nuts and seeds to store for the winter. At any time of year you will almost certainly find nibbled cones like the one above.



The distinctive crossbill is one of our resident birds. They feed on the seeds inside pine cones (hence the unusual bill). Along the Warks Burn listen out for their 'jip-jip' call and scan the tops of Scots pines where you may see small groups of them flitting from cone to cone.

Photo © North East Wildlife

Photo © M Byron

The clear water of the Warks Burn is full of small invertebrates, food for fish and birds such as dippers and grey wagtails. Kingfishers and herons feed on the fish. In summer the banks of the burn are a mass of meadow flowers which attract a wide variety of butterflies and other insects, such as this hoverfly.



How to get there

The walk starts from the parking area and picnic site just west of the village.

OS grid ref NY 789 761

Postcode for sat navs: NE48 3DZ (village centre)



Walk start

Go wild with the app!

You can follow this walk using the Viewranger app. It includes GPS directions, information and audio clips on what to look out for:

www.viewranger.com

Make sure you download before you visit.



web www.visitkielder.com

email info@visitkielder.com

call 0345 155 0236



Thank you to our partner Forestry Commission England for use of the Ordnance Survey based mapping.

All details were accurate at the time of going to print Jan 2019. Please refer to www.visitkielder.com for updates.

WILD WALKS

Stonehaugh

1 2/3 miles / 2.7 km
(or 1 mile / 1.8 km)



Funding raised by
The National Lottery
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Stonehaugh & the Warks Burn

Uneven forest paths and tracks. Exposed roots and muddy in places – not suitable for wheelchairs or buggies.

This pleasant walk takes you along the Warks Burn for the first section before weaving through mixed woodland.

The walk is well waymarked. Look out for the white arrows on an orange background (right). For a shorter walk turn right where marked * on map.

At a couple of places on the walk you cross parts of an earthwork known as the Black Dyke. Its purpose is a bit of a mystery, but it is thought to date from pre-Roman times, possibly to defend tribes in the North Tyne area from tribes in the west of the country. It runs for several miles from the west of Bellingham, through Wark Forest, to Sewingshields near Hadrian's Wall.



The Black Dyke



There are lots of good bramble bushes along the way. In summer the flowers are a favourite nectar plant of the ringlet butterfly and in autumn the berries are food for birds and mammals as well as hungry walkers!

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