



Four-spotted Chaser

May - August

Description: An uncommon dragonfly to our area; look out for other dragonfly and damselfly species resting or hovering in search of food.

Habitat: Boggy pools and ponds.

Where is Hetton Bogs Local Nature Reserve?

Hetton Bogs is between Hetton-le-Hole town centre and Rainton Bridge. Main entrances: opposite the Hetton Centre, off the A182 Houghton Road, grid reference NZ351476 or off the B1284 North Road, NZ 341486. For information on local bus services please phone Traveline North East on 0870 608 2608.

Paths, gates and seats

There is open access to the site. Hetton Park has tarmac paths with some steep and very steep slopes (up to A5 on the Break Free scale). A compacted stone path runs through the Bogs, with a few steep slopes (B4) and widened kissing gates; it can be muddy in places. Other rough, earth paths lead off the main route, some via stiles and steps. Occasional bench seats.

Would you like to know more?

For more information or to report sightings of wildlife please see our website or contact:

Countryside Team
Development and Regeneration Services
Civic Centre
Sunderland
SR2 7DN
Tel: 0191 553 8773
Email: countryside@sunderland.gov.uk

www.sunderland.gov.uk/countryside

Photographs by www.northeastwildlife.co.uk, Laurie Campbell and the Wildlife Trusts.



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Go wild...

Hetton Bogs Local Nature Reserve



Go wild and explore Sunderland's green spaces and easy-to-visit countryside places. Sunderland City Council helps you enjoy the breath of fresh air on your doorstep with this useful guide.

Hetton Bogs Local Nature Reserve comprises two main parts, the more formal Park and the wilder Bogs and Black Wood. They are an intriguing mix of parkland and ancient woodland, wetlands and wildflower meadows.

The variety of mature trees such as sycamore, ash, oak, willow and birch provide habitat for birds and bats. Hetton Burn runs through the Park into the Bogs and on to Rainton Bridge. The banks of the burn provide homes for water voles and are used by birds such as kingfisher. An invasive weed Himalayan balsam has colonised most of the banks, competing with existing waterside plants. The City's Countryside Team and Environmental Services carry out regular control of this weed.

The wetlands and meadows are at their best during May and June. Look out for common spotted orchid, water avens, cuckooflower and meadowsweet.

The remains of an old mill pond also gives a clue to human history behind Hetton Bogs.



Water Vole

All year round

Description: Like a brown rat but with a flatter face, shorter hairier tail and hidden ears.

Habitat: Pond, stream and river banks.



Kingfisher

All year round

Description: Brilliant blue, rich orange and white plumage.

Habitat: Rivers, streams and ponds.



Wood Anemone

March - May

Description: White spring flowers, often with pink tinge.

Habitat: Deciduous woodland and hedgerows.



Himalayan Balsam

July - October

Description: Tall annual with pale to dark pink flowers.

Habitat: Stream banks and wet woodland.



Fly Agaric

August - November

Description: Classic (poisonous) toadstool with a bright red cap and loose white scales.

Habitat: Birch (and coniferous) woodland.