

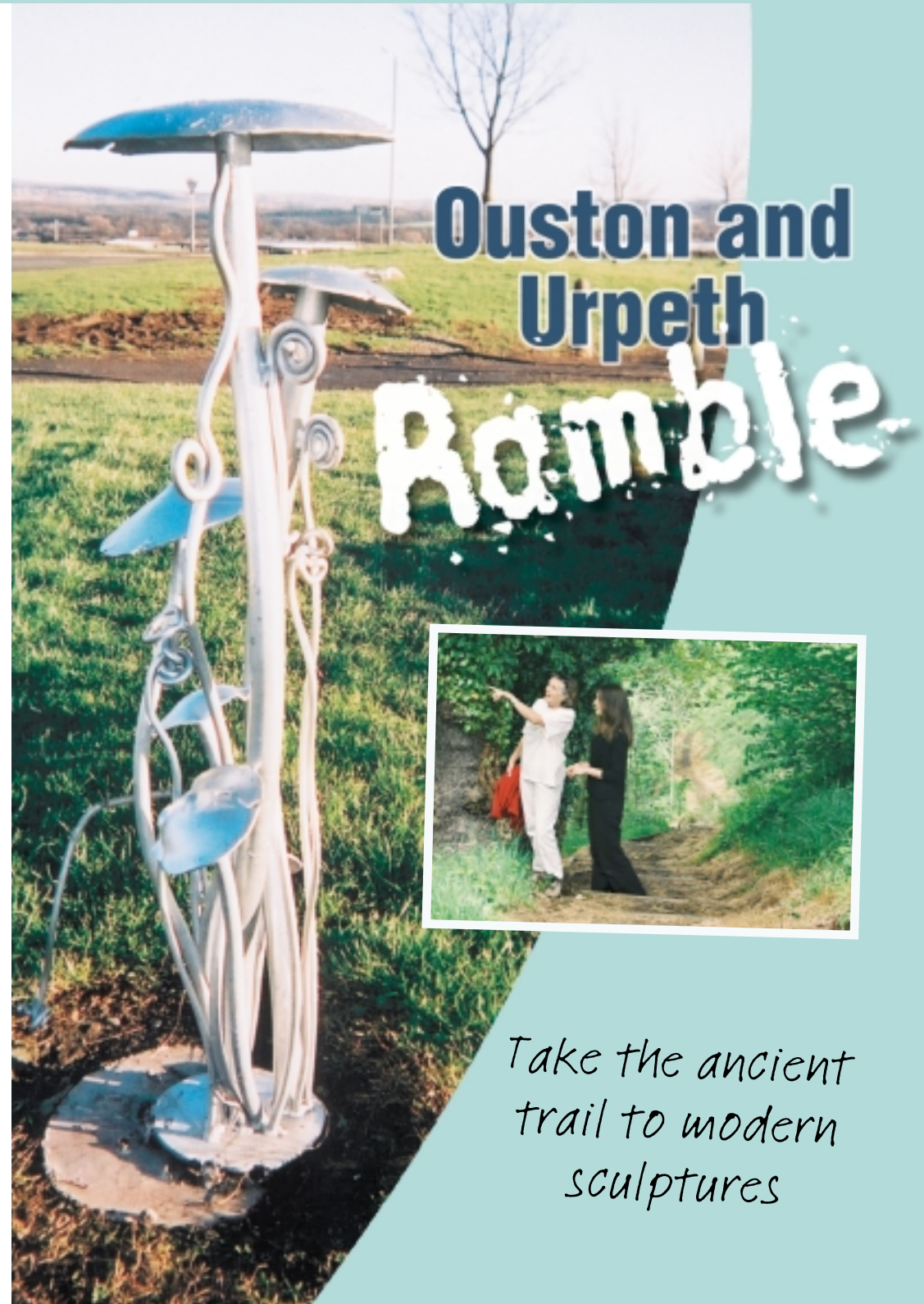


This leaflet has been produced by the Ouston and Urpeth Conservation Volunteers (OUCV) with the support from Durham County Council's Parish Paths Partnership (P3), the Great North Forest (GNF), the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and local landowners.

If you have enjoyed the walk and would like to find out more about the OUCV come along to a monthly meeting at Ouston Community Centre the first Monday of every month at 7pm.

If you require this information in other languages or formats such as Braille or talking tapes, please contact us on: 0191 383 3355

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Take the ancient trail to modern sculptures

This is a **3 ½ mile circular walk** around Ouston and Urpeth. The ramble takes you through a number of wildlife habitats including farmland, hedgerows, ancient woodland, young plantations and riverside.


The latter part of the walk takes you along an **Anglo-Saxon** trail, from which it is believed Urpeth derives its name: **UR** being saxon for bison and **PETH** meaning path. The route is suitable for most abilities but it does include stiles and some steep inclines.

Allow 2 ½ hrs for the walk. You can begin the ramble from the mushroom sculpture opposite St. Benet's school and walk west along the grass verge to the first farm gate on your left.

Farmland

 The first part of the ramble takes you over a working landscape, with arable crops and remnants of hedgerows. This is a good area for butterflies which include Orange Tip, Common Blue and Peacock. Birds to watch out for are the Yellowhammer and the Kestrel. The latter can be seen hovering for small mammals.

Wooded Valley

 Having left High Urpeth the route drops down a stepped bank into a beautiful wooded valley, through which flows the River Team. You are now half way round the walk. This is a lovely place to stop for a picnic!

The woodlands here are varied but include substantial areas of Scots Pine, Oak and Birch with Willow and Alder in the damper areas. Wildlife is abundant in this area. At this point keep an eye out for Red Squirrels, Roe Deer, Foxes and Bats. Birds in the area include Wrens, Cuckoos and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers. Further down the valley around the ponds and the River Team itself look out for Kingfishers, Herons and Mallard Ducks. Also of interest are the Damselflies and Dragonflies.


As the valley opens out, Gorse is very much in evidence, as are Red Campion, Dogs Mercury, Oxeye Daisy and Greater Stichwort.

Peacock Butterfly

Greater Spotted Woodpecker

Roe Deer

Walter's Wood





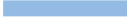


 The final section of the route goes through an old woodland consisting of Oak, Elm and Beech. Birds found here include Chaffinches, Blue and Great Tits.

Moving out of Walter's Wood you encounter a number of woodland plantations of various ages, the youngest of which were planted by local children.

Explore your Great North Forest

This walk is within the GNF, one of twelve Community Forests in England which aims to regenerate and revitalise urban fringe countryside. It aims to promote the long-term evolution of an attractive, well-wooded and ecologically diverse landscape offering an extensive range of environmental, social and economic benefits to improve the quality of life of local people.

KEY

-  **Ramble Route**
-  Roads
-  Woodland
-  Buildings
-  River Team
-  C2C Route
-  Linking paths

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Follow the OUCV waymarks



Graeme Hopper, sculptor, created the sculptures after consultations with OUCV.

