

# Family Activity Trails

# WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK Hyde

**Feel like being on top of the world?  
Enjoy a wonderful wild and windswept adventure,  
high on the hills, with spectacular views.**

This place is great for blowing off the cobwebs and for exploring. Around Lower Higham Visitor Centre there is an orchard, herb garden and picnic area -so make a day of it.



**Werneth Low Country Park is an area of hillside about a mile long and half a mile wide, yet only 1½ miles from Hyde town centre. A mixture of woodland, wildflower meadows and moorland, the Park is criss-crossed by footpaths and riding tracks for horseriders and cyclists. You can park and walk from Baron Road in Gee Cross, Quarry car park on Werneth Low Road, or the small car park at Lower Higham.**

The Park is permanently open for people to enjoy and day to day park management is in the hands of the Joint Management Committee and Tameside Greenspace. Werneth Low Country Park is managed by the Country Park Joint Management Committee (Tameside Council and the Hyde War Memorial Trust). The day to day management of the Park is the responsibility of Tameside Greenspace.



Photo © David Dixon (cc-by-sa/2.0)

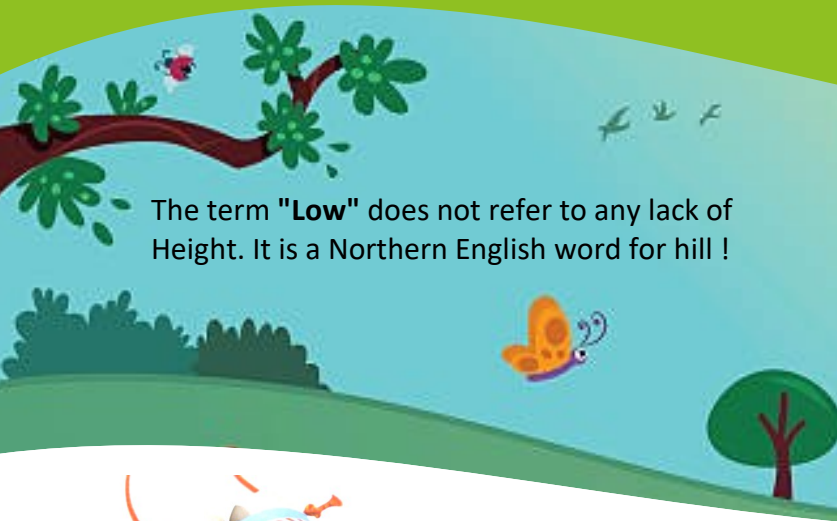
## Werneth Low Country Park

**Lower Higham Visitor Centre, Higham Lane, Hyde. SK14 5LR**

**culture**  
Tameside



# Fun activities around WERNETH LOW



The term "Low" does not refer to any lack of Height. It is a Northern English word for hill !



## What a view!

Before you visit, why not make some 'Binoculars' out of cardboard tubes.

## Lets go fly a kite!

Werneth Low Country Park is a marvellous place to enjoy flying kites. Single line kites are allowed, but due to disturbance and public safety, stunt kites are not.

Make your own, experiment with different shapes. Have fun watching things blown by the breeze. Try flying seeds from sycamore trees or dandelion clocks, or feathers. Make a wind chime by tying sticks on lengths of string and listen to them knocking together. Find a windy spot. Make your coat your wings and fly!



Take a look at the plants and trees around the Cenotaph... here are some that love the windy hills.



## Whimberry or Bilberry.

Look closely at the small shrub near to the ground and you may see the small fruits ripening... can you spot the cogwheel in the berry?



## Common Gorse

Is a large evergreen shrub with sharp needle like leaves and yellow flowers that smell of coconut in the sun.

## Heather

This low growing plant with Woody stems and small pinky purple flowers can make windy hills look magical



**Sedges** have edges and **Rushes** are round, **Grasses** are hollow right down to the ground!



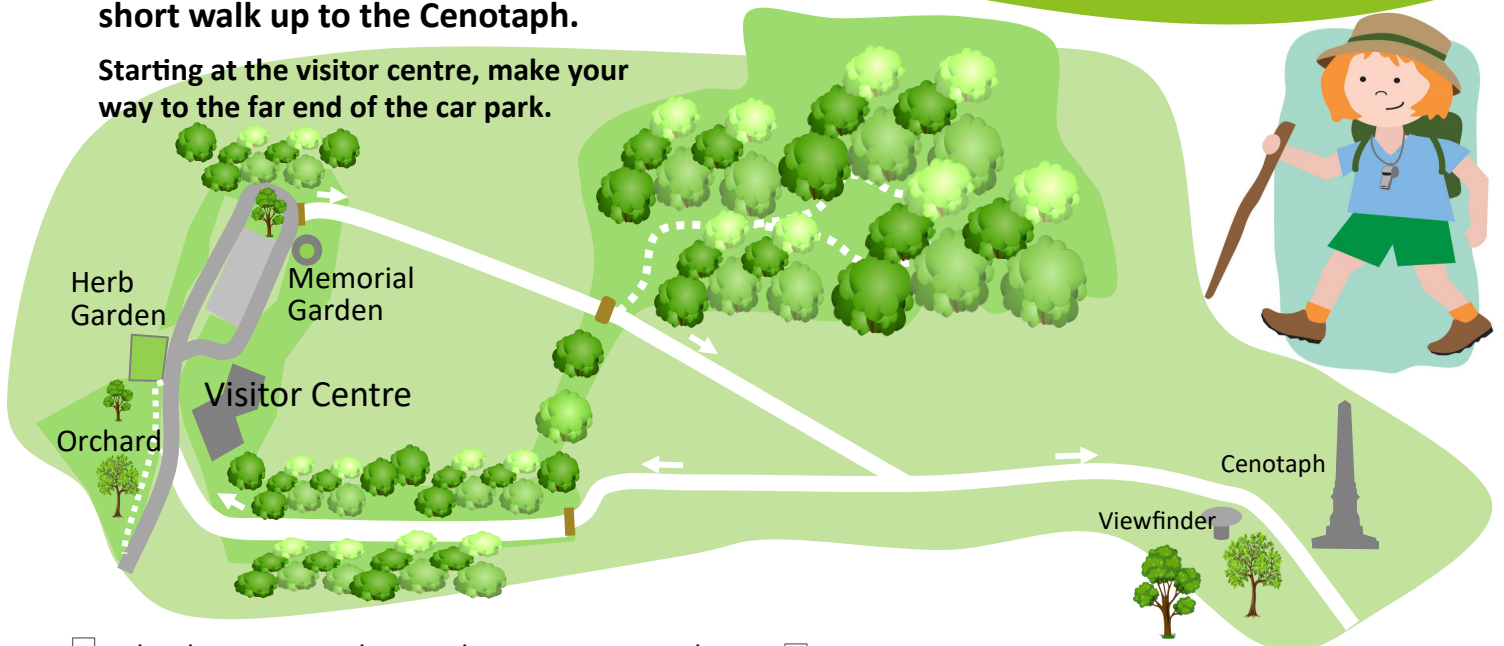
Although sometimes its not that straight forward!!



# Werneth Low Discovery Walk

How about trying to find the answers to the questions below on the short walk up to the Cenotaph.

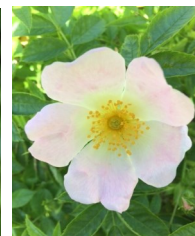
Starting at the visitor centre, make your way to the far end of the car park.



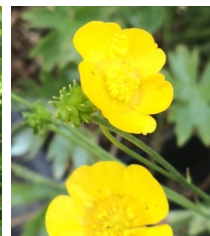
- Who do we remember on the two stones under the Alder tree?
- How old were they both?
- Towards the gate how many yards to the Cenotaph?
- Up the track to the next gate. Where will you find Happy days?
- Here on the left is a small track that leads into the woodland. **A great place for our twig and leaf ID activities**, hide and seek and carefully looking for 'wee folk'!  
*Sorry there is no den building here and remember to be careful not to disturb any wild flowers or habitat piles.*
- Follow the path again up the hill and to the viewfinder.
  - Can you spot the wind farm in the distance?
  - the TV station mast at Holm Moss?
  - The floating solar panels in Godley?
  - And what direction is IKEA?
- On to the Cenotaph, a memorial to those who gave their lives in war. How many Hyde soldiers is it in memory of?
- Can you spot the Hyde coat of arms?
- Can you see the shuttle, 2 miners picks, Davy lamp, pack of cotton, hatters bow, cog, sprig of cotton tree?-all objects relating to Hyde.
- There are some great hills and hollows for running up and down, fabulous picnic spots with amazing views.
- If you carry on further towards the gate to the golf course here you can spot Mottram church and Discovery Academy School in Hattersley
- Make your way back down to the visitor centre this time a different route. Can you spot these wildflowers



Red Campion



Dog Rose



Buttercup



Red Clover

Back to visit the orchard and herb garden.

**(Take a look at the Herb spotting sheet )**



# Werneth Low LEAF SPOTTING



Take a walk to the woodland area and see how many different kinds of tree you can spot from their leaves.



Silver Birch



Hazel



Elder



Horse chestnut



Hawthorn



Sweet Chestnut



Rowan



Holly



Oak

What others can you find? You can download tree Id information from:  
[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/tree-id-app/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/tree-id-app/)



# Werneth Low BIRD SURVIVAL HUNT

This is a good game to play as a family and Werneth Low is a great place to spot all kinds of birds. Each imagine you are a small bird and must find enough food to survive.

Here is a typical menu.

How many can you find.

Each item is worth 1 point.

- Small Spider
- Small creature on tree bark
- Snail
- Caterpillar
- Centipede
- Ground beetle
- Pine cone
- Earthworm
- Small seed
- Flying insect
- Berry
- Maggot or grub
- Fruit tree bud

**Total score:**

**10-12** = Your sharp eyes and determination mean you will survive.

**7-9** = You will probably survive.

**4-6** = Your survival is doubtful.

**0-3** = Oh dear! You haven't found enough.

## Did You Know?

The collective name for a group of jackdaws is a 'Clattering' and it's a 'Murder' of crows!



Can you spot any of these birds?

Carrion crow



- White on underwing
- Low crown on head like a flat cap

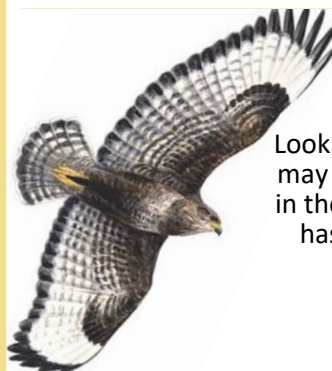
Jackdaw



- Black above and below with grey nape
- Pale staring eye

## The Buzzard

Look high in the sky and you may see a large bird circling in the distance. The Buzzard has a distinctive pattern under its wings.



## Lapwing

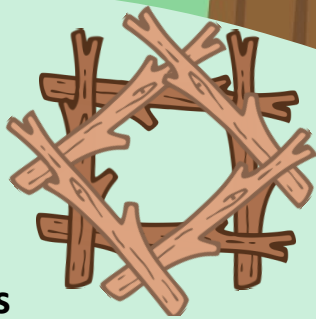
This ground nesting bird is common in the park during the Spring and Summer



# Stick games at WERNETH LOW



Use twigs, leaves or stones to play woodland 'Noughts and Crosses'



## Twig Towers

Gather some twigs and create a twig tower. It doesn't have to be very big... It could have a square base or triangular base.. or design your own. How tall can you build it? Remember to never break twigs off living trees and always dismantle and return twigs.

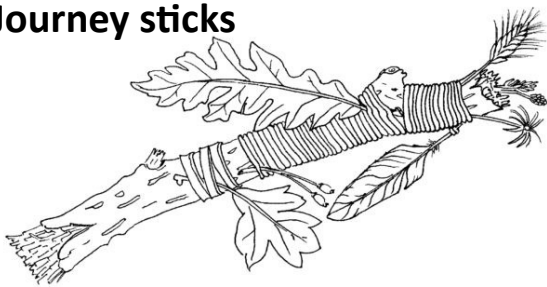
## Tracks and trails

This is great fun if you and your friends make 2 teams. One team sets off and lays a trail of arrows and signs for the other team to follow. You can use twigs and stones or whatever is available. You can invent your own signs, but make sure everyone agrees them before you set off.

## Make a nine square grid

With a friend collect 6 pairs of objects e.g. 2 stones, 2 leaves, etc. Make a 9 square grid each out of twigs. Decide who is the boss. The boss picks up an object and places it in his/her grid and describes to the other where it is e.g. Top right, one to the left and two up. The friend must place the identical object in the same place on their grid. At the end, look at the grids, are they the same?

## Journey sticks

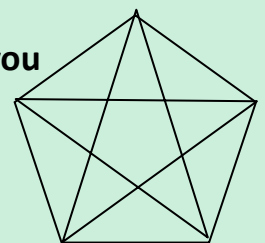


Make a 'map' of your trip as you walk. Collect interesting things that you find as you go around to remind you of the day and tie them to a stick with grass stems. Look for colourful leaves from a wood or clover from a grass field.

## For older children...

### How many triangles can you make with 10 sticks?

(The sticks don't have to be the same length)



# Werneth Low **SCAVENGER HUNT**

**The whole park is great for a scavenger hunt.  
How many things can you find?**

Why not set a time limit?

How many can you fit in a tiny box?

Just remember to take care and not collect living creatures,  
pick a petal not a whole flower and careful of anything sharp.



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something shiny     | <input type="checkbox"/> Something with stripes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A heart shaped leaf | <input type="checkbox"/> Something round        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something soft      | <input type="checkbox"/> Something red          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something hairy     | <input type="checkbox"/> Something pink         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something manmade   | <input type="checkbox"/> Something bright       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A chewed leaf       | <input type="checkbox"/> Two kinds of leaves    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A piece of bark     | <input type="checkbox"/> A round stone          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A white stone       | <input type="checkbox"/> A seed                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A yellow flower     | <input type="checkbox"/> Something prickly      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Something blue      | <input type="checkbox"/> A bendy twig           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A 'y' shaped twig   | <input type="checkbox"/> Something beautiful    |



# Lower Higham Herb Garden



Take a walk around the Herb Garden and see how many you can spot ... you may have to take a small leaf and rub it between your fingers to get the aroma!



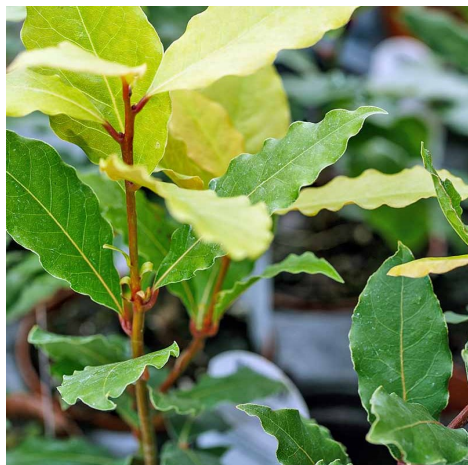
**Oregano or Wild Marjoram**  
Leaves are opposite each other. A sniff of a crushed one will remind you of pizzas!



**Rosemary**  
Has needle like leaves and blue flowers and is used in cooking .



**Lavender**  
Its lovely scent relieves stress and the flowers can be used to flavour salads



**Bay Laurel**  
A small, aromatic evergreen tree. It has shiny, dark green oval-shaped leaves that are used as a kitchen seasoning



**Sage**  
The smell of this will remind you of Sunday chicken dinners!



**Lemon Balm**  
Part of the mint family and if you crush a leaf in your hand its scent is really strong and lemony





# Werneth Low HISTORY

## Werneth Low is an area rich in history and interest.

The story of this special place begins over 4,000 years in the Bronze Age when the Low was used as an outdoor Cathedral for worship and burials.

Tribal Britons were defeated in a great battle fought on Werneth Low as the Roman occupation of Britain spread north. A Romano-British fort was built which included a system of ditches and earthworks.

Werneth is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as **Warnet** where it is described as waste, containing woodland three leagues long and two leagues wide and was assessed at 1 Virgate. It was held before 1066, by a free man as a manor, and probably formed part of the Anglo-Saxon Lordship of Longdendale. By 1086 it was held directly by the Earl of Chester.

The manor of Werneth is first recorded as belonging to the Higham family as early as 1330. This family were referred to as freeholders in Werneth by 1445 when a John Higham was listed amongst the knights, gentleman and freeholders of Cheshire.

For the Medieval period the survival of extensive ridge and furrow earthworks, coupled with early field boundaries and farm sites, make the Werneth Low landscape one of the best surviving medieval areas in Greater Manchester.



The best known landmark on Werneth Low is the stone Cenotaph commemorating the 710 lives lost in the Great War 1914 -1919.

The majority of those killed were in the Cheshire Regiment in the years 1916 and 1917. The loss of so many from such a small town as Hyde was devastation.

At a council meeting in the Mayor's Parlour at Hyde Town Hall on 3rd March 1920 it was decided to remember those fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen from Hyde by purchasing by public subscription the Lower Higham Farm Estate. The land to be kept open and free for the **"health and recreation of the people of Hyde"**.

The Hyde War Memorial Committee reported to the townspeople of Hyde **"Those who lived through the war will not forget but those who come after us should be reminded of the sacrifices which have been made"**

The appeal for public subscriptions raised by the end of May 1920, £14,013 14s. 8d.

The Lower Higham farm and land was purchased for £4,000 and the memorial cenotaph was erected at a cost of £2,000.

**The Cenotaph was unveiled on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1921 by Mrs Evelyn Welch. Built of Grey Cornish Granite, the total weight is 34 tons. It was designed by Messrs J. Whitehead & Sons of London.**



Opening Day 25th June 1921

