

Sites of wildlife interest



2 Monkton Fell

ACCESS

There is a network of mostly level, well surfaced, paths across the area, including four 'health walks' as described in *Walking Works Wonders*. The Bowes Railway Path is a high quality 12 mile off-road route through the site, which leads from Jarrow to deep into the Great North Forest at Tanfield Railway Museum.

TRANSPORT

There is a regular bus service along Mill Lane/Finchale Road (nos 526, 527 and 528) and Campbell Park Rd (nos 521 and 532).



SKYLARK

Monkton Fell forms a 'gateway' from South Tyneside into the Great North Forest. It is an area of rapid change, in which the local community is making impressive strides to help convert an industrial legacy into an attractive, wildlife-rich resource as part of the Forest initiative.

For 50 years, up until the 1980s, Monkton Cokeworks

dominated the area. The late 1990s saw a large reclamation scheme and the planting of over 45,000 native trees. Now, with community involvement, Monkton Fell is being restored and enhanced, as part of a wider Great North Forest initiative which includes the neighbouring Wardley area of Gateshead.

The open nature of the area makes it ideal for seeing birds like the skylark, which delivers its evocative summer song from high in the sky. Look out also for lapwing, kestrel, and grey partridge, the latter often seen flying off in small groups and calling loudly.

There is an interesting new pond with dipping platforms to visit, east of Lukes Lane - and a larger, more mature pond, Pelaw Pond, behind the Cock Crow Inn.

Monkton Fell has three striking new steel sculptures by artist William Pymm - the *Beehive* and *Swarm* at the entrance to the Business Park on Mill Lane and *Green Heart*, where the Bowes Railway Path crosses Monkton Lane.

