

Watts Wood

Location & Access

OS: 121 • **GR:** TF 041 793 • 3.00ha (7.40 acres) • Freehold 2005
Habitat type: Woodland

The reserve is to the east of Dunholme on Ashing Lane, a green lane that runs from the village bypass. The wood is on the right side after 1.5km (0.9 miles), opposite Pickering's Meadow Nature Reserve. A small car park is available. Please do not block the road.

Description & Management

From humble origins as a cereal field, Watts Wood was been carefully planned and planted by the Watts family and friends over a period of 20 years.

Between 1991 and 2000, 3200 trees were planted including some interesting species to create a site more like an arboretum than a native woodland. The trees were chosen for their benefit to wildlife and to provide colour and pleasure to walkers. Species and varieties planted include alder, ash, beech, birch, wild cherry, sweet chestnut, small-leaved lime, oak and field maple along with the more unusual holm oak, willow-leaved pear, black poplar, wellingtonia and many others. A small group of eucalyptus trees have been planted to commemorate the Australian Airmen who were based at nearby airfields during the Second World War.

As well as the trees, great care has been given to the introduction of wild flowers, the creation of a pond and maintenance of the large hedges that surround the site. Although still in the early stages of its development, the wood and surrounding habitats attract a variety of wildlife. Birds include blackbird, house sparrow, greenfinch,

blackcap, chiffchaff and whitethroat. 23 species of butterfly, 66 species of moth and 12 species of dragonfly have been recorded.

Adjacent to Watts Wood are Pickering's Meadow and Monks Wood.

Pickering's Meadow

Pickering's Meadow is an attractive old meadow with tall hedges which was given to the Trust by Mrs Watts sister, Miss Elsie Pickering, in 1984.

Monks Wood

A local community group, the Nettleham Woodland Trust, began work to create Monks Wood in February 2009. More than 20,000 trees have been planted. The land is owned by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and leased to the Nettleham Woodland Trust.

