

## Activities and events

- Self guided walks and trails
- Angling at the mill ponds
- Model boat club
- Sailing club
- School education visits
- Interpretive displays in the Visitor Centre
- Practical community task days
- Themed walks

## Respect for the COUNTRYSIDE

- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Keep to footpaths
- Use gates and stiles
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep all water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Make no unnecessary noise

For leaflets and details of all events and activities, please contact the Visitor Centre.  
Tel: 0161 427 6937

Etherow Country Park & Local Nature Reserve,  
George St, Compstall, Stockport. SK6 5JD  
TEL: 0161 427 6937

A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this information. Please telephone Stockport English Language Service on 0161 477 9000

এই পুস্তিকা/প্রচার পত্রটির ব্যাপারে আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্য সহযোগিতার দরকার হয় তবে আপনার জন্য বিনা বরচাে দো-ভাষীর ব্যবস্থা করা হবে। দয়া করে ই-কোপার্ট ইংলিশ ল্যাংগুয়েজ সার্ভিসে 0161 477 9000 এই নাম্বারে ফোন করুন।

اگر آپ کو اس کتابچے / پمٹ کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مفت ترجمانی کی سروس دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی سٹاکپورٹ انگلش ایئر لیرج سروس کو 0161 477 9000 پر فون کریں۔

如您需要他人為您解釋這份手冊\單張的內容，我們可提供免費的傳譯服務，請致電史托撲英語服務：0161 477 9000

تتوفر خدمة ترجمة شفوية مجانية إذا تطلبت مساعدة في فهم هذا الكتيب/النشرة. نرجو الاتصال بخدمة تعليم اللغة الانجليزية في ستوكبورت على رقم الهاتف: 0161 477 9000

ଆ ପୁସ୍ତିକା/ମାଡ଼ିତୀପତ୍ରିକା ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ଯାଡ଼ି ସହାୟତା ଦାଖଲ କଲେ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ସହାୟତା ଦିଆଯାଏ। ଦୟାକରି ଇ-କୋପାର୍ଟ ଇଂଲିଶ ଲ୍ୟାଂଗୁଏଜ୍ ସର୍ଭିସ୍ କୁ 0161 477 9000 ଉପର ଫୋନ୍ କରନ୍ତୁ।

This information can be made available in audio, braille and large print. Please telephone: 0161 474 4480

**Visitor Centre opening times:** (except Christmas Day)  
We endeavour to open the visitor centre between 11am - 4pm Daily.

A cafeteria and toilets are located next to the Visitor Centre in the pay and display car park. Accessible toilets are operated on a radar key. Motorised wheelchairs are available free of charge by booking in advance.

### How to get to Etherow Country Park:

Buses 383 and 384 between Stockport Central Bus Station and Compstall Village via Marple and Romiley railway stations.

Leaflet Supported By:



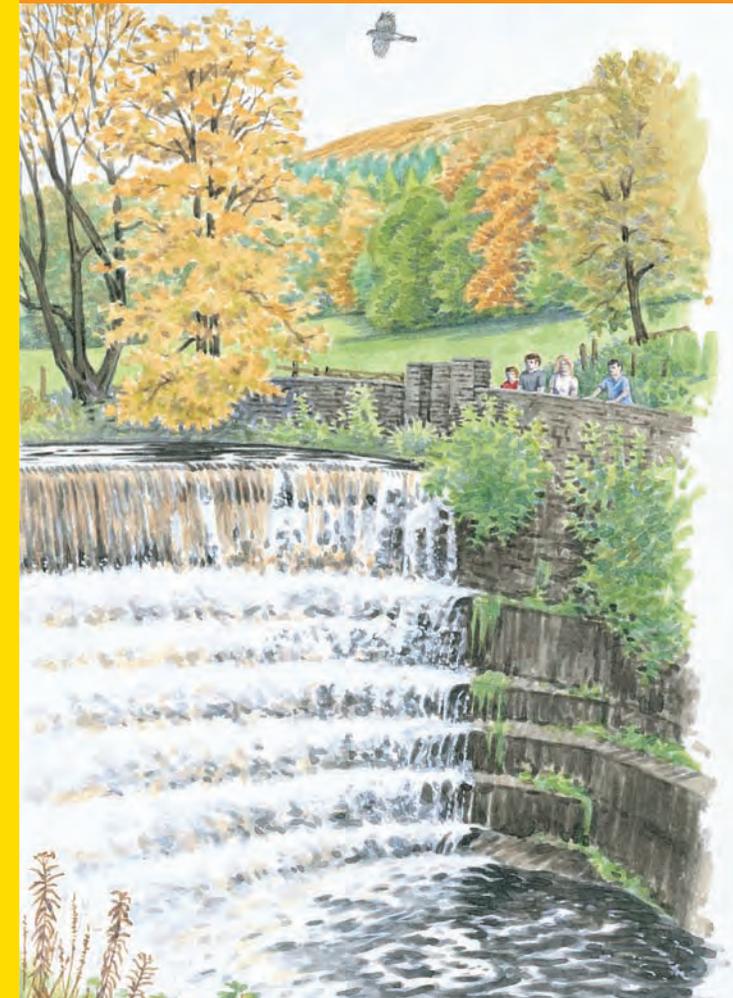
Heritage Lottery Fund



self guided  
**naturetrails**

# ETHEROW

Country Park and Local Nature Reserve



## What is a Local Nature Reserve?

In urban areas, access to the peace and beauty of natural surroundings is essential to human well-being and quality of life. In Stockport, Local Nature Reserves are able to provide for this by giving people special opportunities to see, enjoy and learn about wild plants, animals and natural features.

At the same time they can protect the most important places locally for wildlife and natural features, increase people's awareness of the importance of nature and help to forge partnerships between local people, wildlife organisations and local authorities.

Local Nature Reserves are a nationally recognised, statutory designation, established under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.



## A Short History of Etherow

### A rural retreat

Etherow Country Park is now owned and managed by Stockport Council and is an award winning Green Flag Park. It was established in 1968 as one of Britain's first Country Parks and is a popular retreat from urban living. Over a quarter of a million people now visit the Park each year to enjoy the natural beauty of ancient woodland walks along the Etherow river valley, in the foothills of the Peak District National Park.

The Park was once part of the estate of George Andrew who built Compstall Mill in the 1820s. Operation of the cotton mill required a large workforce and in the tradition of mill owners of the day, George Andrews built the village of Compstall, the church and school.

The mill was powered by 50 million gallons of water per day, collected from above the weir. That's enough water to fill 150 swimming pools! Held back by the weir, the River Etherow broke its banks upstream to create valuable wetland habitats. The water then passed down the feeder canal and across what is now the car park to drive the water wheel, 'Big Lily'.

### User Groups

The park attracts many different interest groups including, Etherow Model Boat Club, Etherow Sailing Club and Stockport & District Anglers Federation who all make use of the lake and canal feeder facilities.



## A haven for Wildlife

Friends of Etherow, Etherow Community Council and members of the local community with an interest in the Park are involved in its continuing development through formal consultation, a range of small projects, wildlife monitoring, practical action and assisting with funding applications.

### Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Compstall SSSI supports rare plants and animals that are of national importance. It is very sensitive to disturbance and being remote, has limited access. If you would like to visit this area of the Park, a permit may be obtained from the Visitor Centre. Please remember to keep disturbance to a minimum.

### Discovering Nature

Despite its industrial past, the ancient Keg Woodland 'cloughs'\* survive on the valley slopes, and Ernocroft Wood and the wetlands of Keg Pool and Marsh have gradually been reclaimed, both by man and by nature.

The importance of these areas for wildlife was officially recognised in 1969 by the declaration of a Site of Special Scientific Interest, now managed by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and in 2000 by the designation of all three areas as a Local Nature Reserve.

\*Cloughs - steeply incised small valleys.

### Foreign invaders

Rhododendron, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed were introduced to Britain for ornamental reasons but have become aggressively dominant, displacing native plants and seriously reducing wildlife interest. Here at Etherow, site management focuses on trying to minimise their impact on native species.

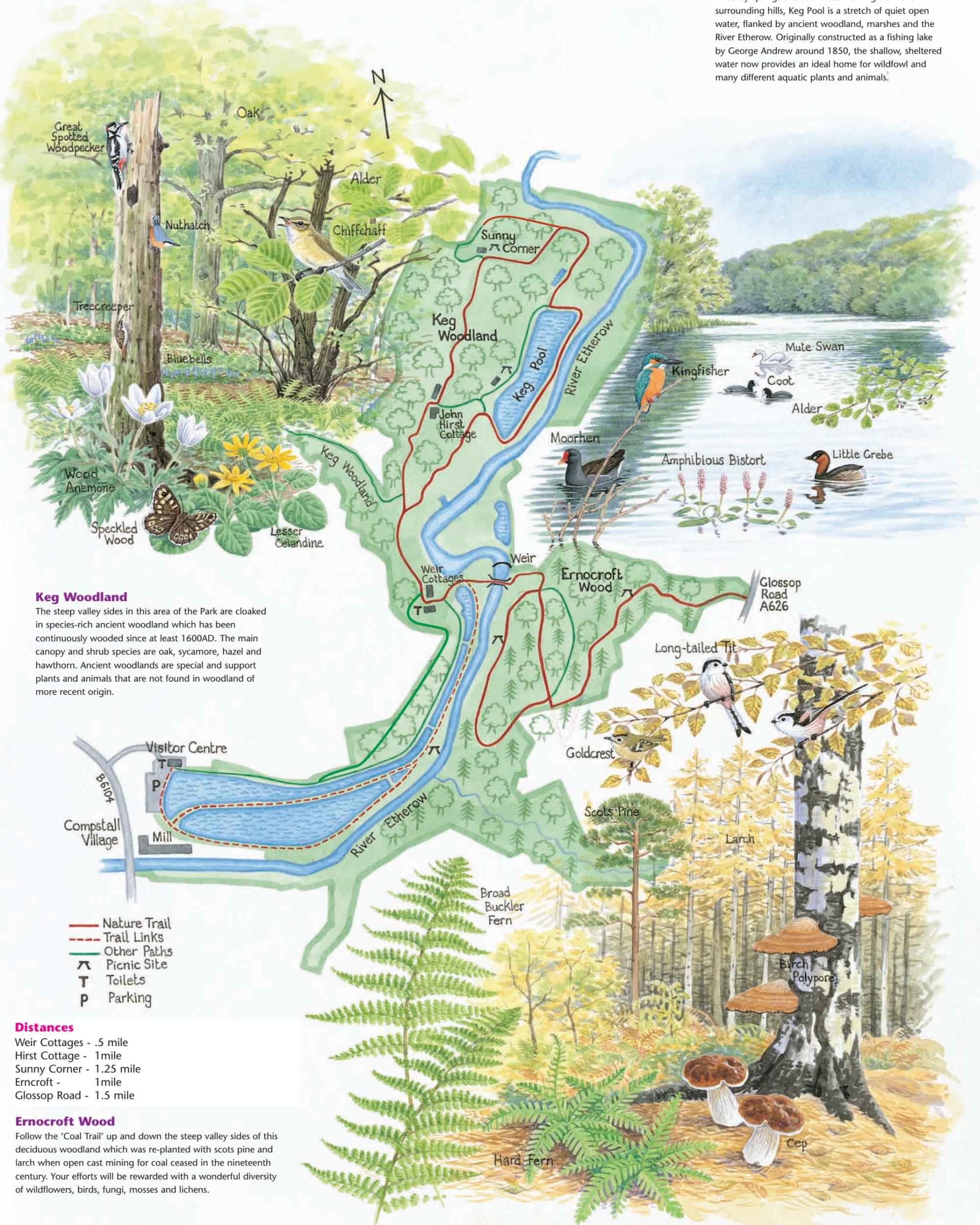


# ETHEROW

Country Park and Local Nature Reserve

## Keg Pool

Filled by springs and rain water flowing from the surrounding hills, Keg Pool is a stretch of quiet open water, flanked by ancient woodland, marshes and the River Etherow. Originally constructed as a fishing lake by George Andrew around 1850, the shallow, sheltered water now provides an ideal home for wildfowl and many different aquatic plants and animals.



## Keg Woodland

The steep valley sides in this area of the Park are cloaked in species-rich ancient woodland which has been continuously wooded since at least 1600AD. The main canopy and shrub species are oak, sycamore, hazel and hawthorn. Ancient woodlands are special and support plants and animals that are not found in woodland of more recent origin.

## Distances

- Weir Cottages - .5 mile
- Hirst Cottage - 1 mile
- Sunny Corner - 1.25 mile
- Erncroft - 1 mile
- Glossop Road - 1.5 mile

## Erncroft Wood

Follow the 'Coal Trail' up and down the steep valley sides of this deciduous woodland which was re-planted with scots pine and larch when open cast mining for coal ceased in the nineteenth century. Your efforts will be rewarded with a wonderful diversity of wildflowers, birds, fungi, mosses and lichens.