When is it open?
At present Acomb Wood and Meadow Local Nature Reserve offers 24-hour access to the public.

Background to the site
In March 2007, the City of York Council designated Acomb Wood and Meadow as a Statutory Local Nature Reserve (LNR). This status was given after close consultation with Natural England, and recognises the importance of the site for nature conservation as well as a recreational and educational resource. The woodland itself dates back hundreds of years whilst the adjacent meadow is even older and is home to many wild flowers and grasses.

What facilities are there?
The woods and meadow are semi-natural environments and as such have no toilet, catering or playground facilities. There is however a free car park, a selection of local shops and a family friendly pub with play area adjacent to the Reserve.

What about disabled access?
There is an informal circular path around the woods which in winter months and following wet weather will prove impassable for wheelchair users and those with prams. The path does not present any large obstacles so may be passable in summer months when it dries out.

What can I do there?
Acomb Wood provides the perfect setting for an easily accessible woodland experience. A stroll around the pathways of the wood could take up to an hour and there are many beautiful species of woodland life to observe on the way. There is also a meadow adjoining the wood, abundant in wildflowers.

A refreshing drink in the neighbouring pub could conclude a lovely afternoon out.

The Parks and Open Spaces Service run an annual programme of walks and events in the woodland there are ample opportunities to participate in woodland management voluntary practical activities. (See section overleaf, ‘Where can I find out more?’).

The Friends of Acomb Wood also have regular meetings and litter picking sessions to help keep the wood and meadow looking good.

For children, there is a full and exciting annual programme of activities run by the Rangers and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Please contact the Wildlife Trust via their web site at www.ywt.org.uk or by calling 01904 613467.

Sights to delight
1. Ever-changing colours of autumnal leaves in Acomb Wood
2. Keep your eyes peeled for Goldfinch – often seen in the woodland
3. The Comma butterfly has occasionally been seen on the woodland edge
4. A view through Acomb Wood in summer (Photo: Peter Reid)
5. Knapweed is one of the many wild flowers growing in the meadow
6. Great Spotted Woodpecker can be heard and seen in the woodland
7. The wood mouse is common both in the hedgerows and the meadow
8. Watch out for pine cones from the mature Scots Pine specimens
9. Birdsfoot Trefoil is a common plant in the old unimproved meadow
10. Rotting Elder branches provide an ideal habitat for Jews Ear fungus
Where can I find out more?
If you would like to find out more about the management of the Reserve, getting involved in public events and activities, or becoming a Friend of Acomb Wood please contact the Rangers on 01904 553392 or email rangers@york.gov.uk
The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust also run regular activities for young people and the Friends group undertake regular litter picks as well as helping with woodland management tasks.

Responsible use of the site
Dog walkers are welcome but please keep your dog under close control and clean up after your friend. Camping, fires and the use of any kind of motorised vehicle are not permitted. Please help to look after the Nature Reserve by taking all your litter home.

How do I get there?
The Reserve is served by several bus routes and has good cycle links with the rest of the city. For bus details contact the First Bus Group direct. Cycle maps are available from Council receptions and from the City of York Council web site. If you are driving, from Tadcaster road enter Moor Lane and then take a right turn onto Alness Drive. Follow the road, bearing right. Take a right turning after the pub into the car park.

Where is Acomb Wood and Meadow Local Nature Reserve?
The Reserve is located south west of the city centre in the Westfield and Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Wards. It is located behind the Quaker Wood Pub off Acomb Wood Drive, where the car park is available for public use.

An urban woodland experience
Acomb Wood and Meadow Local Nature Reserve

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

This leaflet is also available in large print and in black and white.

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Acomb Wood has become fragmented over time and is now split into two separate sites on either side of Acomb Wood Drive. The majority of the area to the west of the road is under the control of the Woodland Trust whilst the larger wood on the eastern side has been under the ownership of the City of York Council since 2002 when it purchased with financial assistance from Yorventure.

The purchase of the wood was viewed as being particularly important since woodland comprises just 3.3% of all land in York as opposed to the national average of 7.7%. Woodland is therefore a very limited and important resource in York, both for nature conservation and as a public amenity.

Acomb Wood is actually an old plantation dating from some point during the 1700’s and the woodland floor shows evidence of broad ridge and furrow indicating that the land was once used for strip farming (pre- c.1700). The adjacent wet meadow also has evidence of ridge and furrow and therefore is likely to pre-date the woodland.

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**The plants of Acomb Wood and Meadow**

Acomb Wood is a mature, even-aged woodland dominated mainly by Oak but with a number of other species adding to the diversity. Silver Birch and Sycamore are common and occasional trees include mature Scots Pine with younger specimens of Beech, Hornbeam, Ash, Hawthorn, Crab Apple, Rowan and Yew. Field layer species include Wood Avens, Hogweed, Cow Parsley and Herb Robert.

Throughout the woodland there is a variety of bracket fungi with an abundance of Birch Polypore on the standing dead and felled Silver Birch trees. Various puffballs are present along with other fungi such as Stinkhorn, Shaggy Ink Cap and Jev’s Ear on rotting Elder.

Acomb Meadow is an example of an unimproved, neutral meadow and is the last remnant of its type in this area of York. For these reasons it is much more ecologically significant than the wood. Abundant wildflowers include Birdsfoot Trefoil, Meadow Vetchling, Meadowsweet, Meadow Buttercup, Tufted Vetch and Knapweed.

**The animals of the Reserve**

Bird records and sightings vary annually but regular sightings can be made of common birds such as Robin, Great Tit, Blue Tit, House Sparrow and Wren. Other sightings include Tree Creeper, Black Cap, Tawny Owl, Sparrowhawk, Goldfinch and both Long Tailed and Coal Tits. Great Spotted Woodpecker can often be heard and several holes from previous years are evident in Scots Pine trees at the western end of the wood.

Mammals include Wood Mouse, Common Shrew, Grey Squirrel and Fox. The meadow itself is especially valuable with good populations of Small Skirper, Common Blue, Small Copper, Gatekeeper, and Ringlet butterflies amongst others.

**Management Plan**

With the implementation of a 5-year management plan, the aims for the Nature Reserve have been set and work continues towards fulfilling those aims. It is intended to increase the structural and species diversity of the woodland and the meadow will be managed by cutting and raking on a two year rotation at a time of year that will be beneficial to native wild flowers and grasses.