

Peace in Our Time

This trail is named after **David Peace** (1970-2018), one of our former colleagues and dragonfly, butterfly, bird, bat and all-round nature enthusiast. The work was supported by his partner **Sue Wood**.



Following completion of an Open University degree, David made what he saw as the leap from poacher to gamekeeper – having previously worked for BP – by taking his first steps in a new career with a two-year lottery funded post at Durham Wildlife Trust in 2008. Less than ten years later, having gone on to work for Sheffield Wildlife Trust, followed by his dream job with the Land and Water Team at the Environment Agency, David died aged 47, after a brief illness.

We lost a man who, like this Trust, was dedicated to the love, preservation and betterment of natural environments and wildlife for future generations. An independent, free thinking, music lover, David worked for an ecologically balanced, sustainable world in harmony with itself.



As such, the Peace in Our Time Trail is the perfect dedication to his life and interests, being named after a song by his fellow Scots, Big Country, espousing an outlook that may one day realise such a vision.

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Low Barns Nature Reserve

**PEACE IN
OUR TIME
SCULPTURE
TRAIL**

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PEACE IN OUR TIME SCULPTURE TRAIL

1. Kingfisher

If you are lucky you may catch a glimpse of one – a streak of turquoise blue darting low across the water. Sometimes seen perched on a branch overlooking the ponds or river, its head perfectly still as it watches a fish below. Then, suddenly, diving into the water at great speed to spear its unsuspecting prey.

This sculpture sits on the branch of an alder by the pond's edge, ready to swoop!

Finding it difficult to spot? Try [what3words///harmony.ourselves.ripen](https://www.what3words.com/harmony.ourselves.ripen)



KINGFISHER © ENID JOSEFSON



2. Curlew

The curlew is Europe's largest wading bird, with a characteristic long curved bill and eerie 'cur-lee' call. In the spring curlews nest in Durham's uplands and in the autumn they flock together and can be seen feeding and roosting in the meadows and around the lake edges at Low Barns.

Our curlew has adopted a classic curlew pose – perched on top of a post in a wet pasture.

Finding it difficult to spot? Try [what3words///eternally.marker.installs](https://www.what3words.com/eternally.marker.installs) – for an excellent vantage point.



CURLEW © JANTURNER



Look out for our sculpture on the trunk of a willow tree between the path and riverbank.

Finding it difficult to spot? Try [what3words///aliens.breakaway.uproot](https://www.what3words.com/aliens.breakaway.uproot)



TREECREEPER © BOB ROBSON



4. Willow tit

Almost identical to the marsh tit, which also can be found at Low Barns. Both species have grey-brown wings and back, a black cap and bib and a pale underside. There is one reliable way to be certain that you are looking at a willow tit – its very distinctive nasal 'chay chay' call.

Where else would our willow tit sculpture be than on a branch in a copse of willows?

Finding it difficult to spot? Try [what3words///between.quoted.printing](https://www.what3words.com/between.quoted.printing)



WILLOW TIT © DENIS FOWLER



3. Treecreeper

A small brown bird with white belly feathers and a narrow downturned beak. Treecreepers are often spotted flying to the base of a tree and then scurrying in a corkscrew fashion up the trunk, picking insects and spiders from the bark as they go. They then fly to the bottom of the next suitable tree and start the process again.

Look out for our sculpture on the trunk of a willow tree between the path and riverbank.

Finding it difficult to spot? Try [what3words///aliens.breakaway.uproot](https://www.what3words.com/aliens.breakaway.uproot)

5. Nuthatch

You will often hear a nuthatch before you see it, with its distinctive, loud 'chup, chup' call. This is a chunky bird, similar in size to a great tit, with a blue-grey back and orange-brown flanks and throat, with a dark line through the eye. They are hole-nesters, enjoying the nesting holes available in the old alder woodland at Low Barns.

Appropriately our sculpture is on an alder tree by the side of the path.

Finding it difficult to spot? Try [what3words///newsprint.helps.jiffy](https://www.what3words.com/newsprint.helps.jiffy)



NUTHATCH © CHRIS WHITE





Take your time, enjoy the peace

As you walk around Low Barns, slow your pace a little, tune in your ears and eyes and start to notice and hear the birds, insects and other wildlife around you.

Many things in nature leave subtle clues that show what has been – an owl pellet below a perch, a scattering of feathers, a print in the mud or hairs caught on a fence. To read the signs you need to take the time to look.

Our sculpture trail at Low Barns reflects nature. Like the birds which these similar-to-life-size sculptures are modelled on, you sometimes have to look carefully to see them, but when you take the time to look who knows what else you might see.

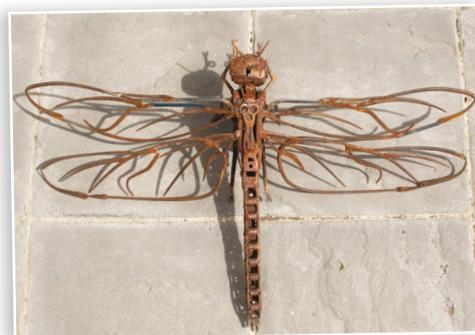
The map shows where the sculptures are located and what you are looking for. There are five sculptures across the site, all of birds found at Low Barns. You can find out more about each bird by following the QR codes. If you can't spot a sculpture, don't worry – the map has a clue and a what3words location. Take a look at what3words.com to find out more.

Low Barns Art Works

In the centre

Start your exploration of Low Barns from the visitor centre. There you can see our magnificent dragonfly by sculptor **Harriet Mead**, who specialises in wildlife subjects. Dragonflies are important species at Low Barns and in the summer months they are a common sight around the wetlands and darting along the paths. Think of the dragonfly as the start of your journey around the site.

The centre also features work by **Sara Cox**, the local artist who created the sculptures for our trail. Sara produced a series of works titled Blueprints of Low Barns showing the site's hidden habitats. There are textile works in the centre and works on wood displayed outside by the patio area. Sara's work, both at the centre and the sculpture trail, was made possible thanks to funding from Northern Heartlands – find out more at northernheartlands.org



The sculpture trail

Durham Wildlife Trust worked with Sara to create the sculpture trail. The five bird species are formed from wire and celebrate the wildlife that can be found at Low Barns. The sculptures are placed around a circular route to encourage you out onto the site to explore the natural world.



Northumbrian Water Hide

On your way around the sculpture trail take a detour and head along the path by the river up to the Northumbrian Water hide. Situated on a mound overlooking the site, the hide commands fantastic views across the wetlands. The Trust worked with local schools and **Daisy Arts**, a Durham based community arts organisation, to create a new look for the interior of the hide. The work with Daisy Arts was supported by the Arts Council and County Durham Community Foundation.