

Serpentine Woods

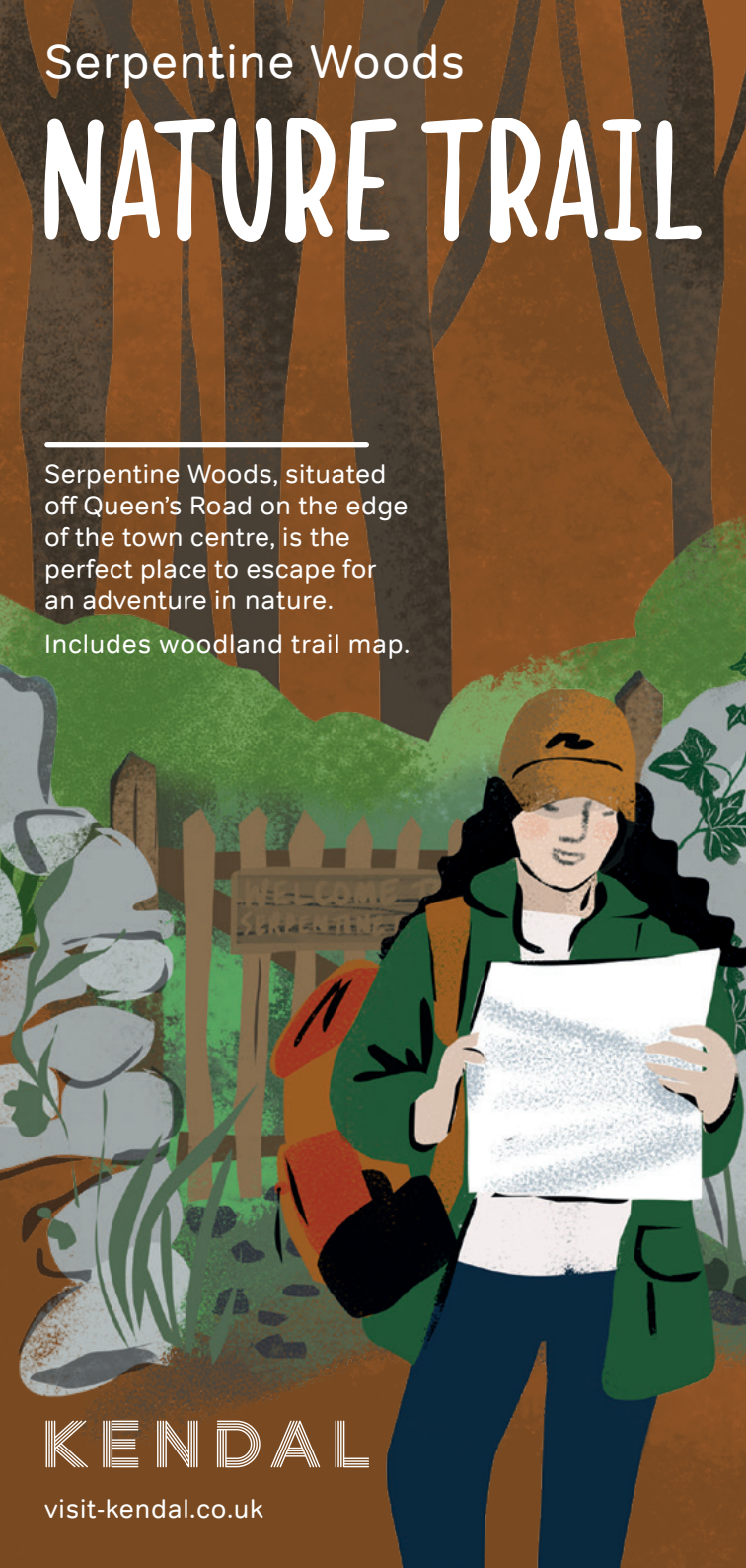
NATURE TRAIL


Serpentine Woods, situated off Queen's Road on the edge of the town centre, is the perfect place to escape for an adventure in nature.

Includes woodland trail map.

KENDAL

visit-kendal.co.uk





Welcome to the Serpentine Woods Nature Trail!



Where Serpentine Woods now stand was once open fell. The woods were planted in 1790, and opened to the public in 1849 as a series of winding pleasure walks, which gave Serpentine Woods their name. The woods provide varied habitats, making them an ideal spot to explore and connect with nature.

Use this map and follow the Nature Trail waymarker posts to find your way and observe the natural wonders of the woods. There are 10 posts with things to see and do at each. Visit through the seasons to notice how the woods and their inhabitants change throughout the year.

Use a smartphone app such as 'Seek' or 'Flora Incognita' to help identify and learn more about the plants, trees and fungi you might find. Apps such as 'Merlin' and 'BirdNET' can identify birdsong and help you know what to look for.

The trail is less than a mile and takes around an hour to complete. Take care on the paths – some are steep and may be slippery if wet.



1 THE FERNERY

This was originally a cottage garden tended by George Whitwell, caretaker of the woods, who resided in Serpentine Cottage between 1875 and 1924.

- How many different types of fern can you spot?
- Remember the different types of flowers you see here. Can you spot any of them elsewhere in the wood?

2 THE CLIFF

This shady rockface, left over from quarrying, creates similar conditions to those found in Temperate Rainforest.

- Compare the mosses (look closely to see a miniature forest!). Which are the softest?
- Which fern resembles a deer's tongue? This is called Hart's Tongue Fern.
- Can you find three minibeasts (e.g., woodlice, millipedes or spiders)?

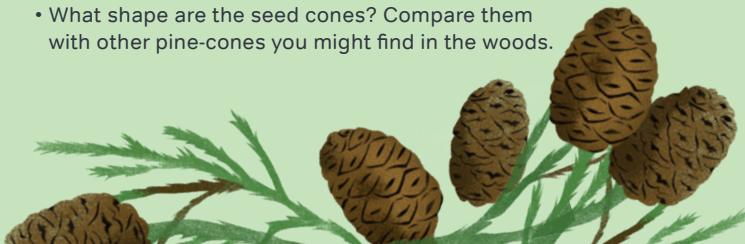
3 THE WISHING WELL

- What birds and animals might drink and bathe here when it is quiet?
- Look up at the tree canopy to see different layers of trees – which are the tallest? Beech, holly, or the new sycamore?
- Which tree species predominates here?

4 THE GIANT SEQUOIA

In its native California its bark serves as a natural protection from forest fires.

- What does its bark feel like?
- Is it taller or shorter than other trees?
- What shape are the seed cones? Compare them with other pine-cones you might find in the woods.



5 THE MIXED SPECIES SCRUB

40 years ago this area was open grassland. This is an example of natural succession from grassland to high forest.

- How many different kinds of young trees can you find growing here?
- Can you identify any plants growing in the understorey?
- Can you hear any birds singing? Use your bird app to identify them.



6 THE COWSLIP MEADOW

- How many different types of flowers can you find?
- Can you spot any butterflies?
- What other pollinators can you see? Look for bees, beetles and hoverflies

Can you find, on the nearby wall, the Darwin Leighton plaque (dating from 1943)? Darwin used to feed the squirrels and birds. "A friend to all living creatures in the wood" – maybe you could be their friend too!



7 THE BEECH FOREST

Old beech trees were felled by Storm Arwen in 2021, and have been left to provide homes for lots of creatures.

- Beech leaves last a long time after falling in autumn – are there any on the ground?
- Look closely! Can you spot any minibeasts? Can you see any birds?
- There are very few plants growing here. Why do you think this is?

On the way to the next stop you'll pass the stand for the time gun which used to be fired at 1pm every day so workers in Kendal knew it was lunch time.



8 THE YEWS

The berries are poisonous – look, but don't touch!
Notice the intense shade beneath them, all year round.

- What colour are the berries when they are ripe?
- How does the shape of the trunks differ from other trees you've seen in the woods?
- Does anything grow under these yews?

These yews are on the Alphabet Sculpture trail.
Can you spot the Umbrella in a yew tree?



9 THE LIMESTONE PAVEMENT

This rock formation was formed 300 million years ago when the whole area was under the sea. Be careful – it is very slippery when wet!

- How many different plants and insects can you find in the 'grykes'?
- Stand still... look and listen for birds singing. Can you recognise any of their calls?



10 THE WOODLAND GLADE

This was once the site of a Victorian gymnasium, and is now home to the Gym-maze-eum. Look for:

- Ox-eye daisies, knapweed, red campion and other plants that you haven't seen in the rest of the wood
- Bramble bushes, with prickly stems in winter, leaves in spring, flowers in summer and blackberries in the autumn.
- Count the tree-rings on the logs in the maze – one ring for every year the tree was growing.

END OF TRAIL



Open up this leaflet to find your trail map and follow the waymarkers to discover the hidden gems this wonderful wood has to offer.



KENDAL GOLF COURSE



START

Take care on the paths – some are steep and may be slippery.

You can find out more about Serpentine Woods via Kendal Conservation Volunteers' website: **kendalcv.org.uk**

SERPENTINE WOODS NATURE TRAIL



Indicates steps



Map not to scale

KENDAL TOWN ↓

SHEEP FIELD

KENDAL



Kendal's spectacular surroundings are here for all to enjoy. Help us to protect our shared living spaces by taking your litter home and leaving no trace of your visit.

You can do this by leaving rocks, plants and trees as you find them and taking care not to disturb wildlife. Enjoy your visit and have fun making memories!

If you enjoyed the Nature Trail, look out for the Alphabet Trail and the Beeson Fields Sensory Trail. Maps are available via [visit-kendal.co.uk](https://www.visit-kendal.co.uk) and at the Town Hall and Library.



See our Courtesy Toilet Scheme leaflet or look out for the symbol to find a loo in the town centre.

[visit-kendal.co.uk](https://www.visit-kendal.co.uk)



All information is correct at time of printing (September 2023). Produced and funded by Kendal Town Council with support from Kendal Conservation Volunteers and original trail creators. Serpentine Woods are owned and managed by Westmorland and Furness Council. Designed by MrLetters. Illustrations by Holly Acland. Copyright Kendal Town Council, Town Hall, Kendal LA9 4ED.