Disclaimer: The route on this leaflet was checked in Spring 2007, all routes are on public rights of way or permissive routes. Environmental Alliance takes no responsibility for changes to the route or accidents occurring on the walk. The information in this leaflet was correct at the time of publishing.

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EASY: [Green]
MODERATE: [Blue]
CHALLENGING: [Orange]

DEAN WOOD & BEAUMONT PARK CIRCULAR

GRADE: MODERATE
TIME: 3 HOURS
DISTANCE: 4 MILES

River Corridor Greenways Project
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade:</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance:</td>
<td>4 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start/Finish:</td>
<td>Armitage Bridge – circular walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative:</td>
<td>Start at Berry Brow Railway Station (½ mile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggested direction:</td>
<td>Anti-clockwise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Points of Interest

#### Dean Wood a good example of ancient oak woodland

Dean Wood lies in a steep sided clough. The valley floor is carpeted in mosses, ferns and other plants that thrive in the moist and shady environment. Small waterfalls and flushes spring from the valley side. One of these flushes (between points 11 and 12) gives the woodland a completely different character, where ash trees and elm (mostly dead standing wood) dominate rather than oak. The reason for this difference is likely to be a lime-rich seam of shale which gives rise to a more alkaline soil.

#### Beaumont Park

Beaumont Park is a Victorian park, currently undergoing restoration. It is bordered by an area of mature woodland on the lower slopes. Running through the woodland is the old branch line to Meltham along which the path is routed. In its heyday when steam trains plied the route, the environment would have been much more open – sparks from steam trains often caused fires on embankments which prevented tree growth.

#### Woodland birds – more easily heard than seen!

When trees are in leaf, it can be very difficult to see woodland birds. The best way of finding out what is around is to learn the songs of woodland birds. Like the legacies left from earlier times, even here there are familiar species, like the warblers, which start to arrive in April. With a little time to do this, the birds are more easily seen. Once these are learnt, their songs can be ‘filtered out’ as you listen for other less familiar species first, like the blackbird, robin, wren, chaffinch, dunnock and song thrush. Late winter is a good time to do this, the birds are more easily seen. Once these are learnt, their songs can be ‘filtered out’ as you listen for other less familiar species, like the warblers, which start to arrive in April.

### Context

This walk has been devised as part of an initiative by the River Corridor Greenway Project, which aims to create a better environment for people living and working in the River Colne area.

With funding from Big Lottery under the Transforming Your Space programme, the project has been managed by Environmental Alliance in partnership with Paddock Community Forum, the River Colne Project, Millsbridge Enhancement Group and Longwood Village Group. Projects undertaken in these areas have been designed to link to a wider network of green spaces and greenways being developed along the river corridors. This network can be used in many different ways for recreation, relaxation and, as an environmentally friendly means of travel. It is a safe, healthy and heritage-rich environment.

### Credits

The River Corridor Greenway Project is grateful for the support it received from Kirklees Council and the many volunteers who have contributed to the project.