

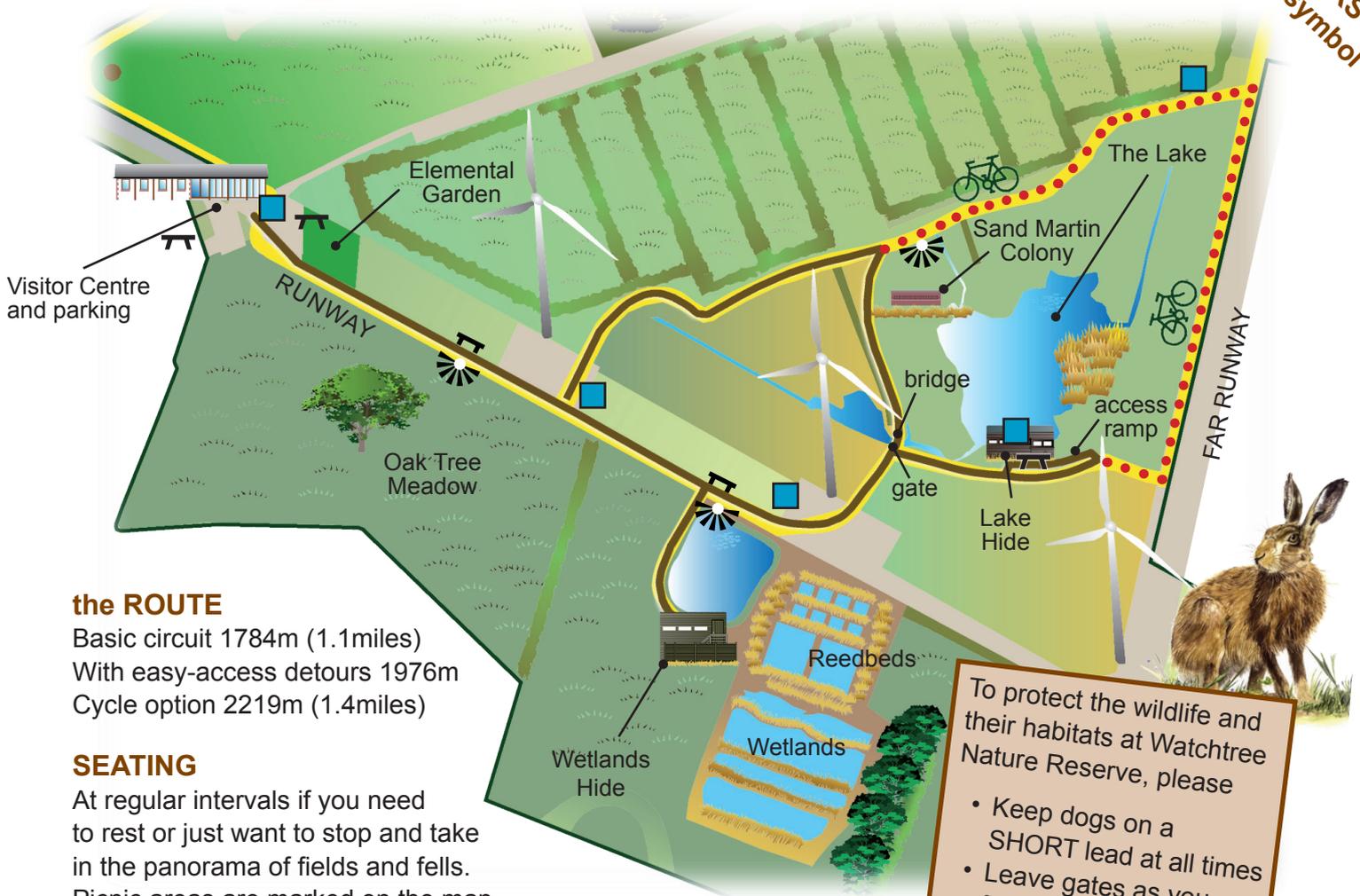
WINTER

a Breath of Fresh Hare



Welcome to Watchtree Nature Reserve's nature trails. If you have limited time or energy, or you're new to exploring the countryside and want to try a 'taster', the Breath of Fresh Hare Trail is for you.

follow WAYMARKERS with a HARE symbol



the ROUTE

Basic circuit 1784m (1.1miles)
With easy-access detours 1976m
Cycle option 2219m (1.4miles)

SEATING

At regular intervals if you need to rest or just want to stop and take in the panorama of fields and fells. Picnic areas are marked on the map.

the PATHS

All are suitable for cycles, wheelchairs and buggies, however, to avoid gates, we suggest cyclists follow the signed trail onto the far runway (see map).

the HIDES

There is ramp-access to the lower level of the Wetlands hide and the Lake hide.

along the WAY

There are waymarkers with icons showing the way. There are also 'rubbing plaques', part of the longer 'Explorer's Trail'.

To protect the wildlife and their habitats at Watchtree Nature Reserve, please

- Keep dogs on a SHORT lead at all times
- Leave gates as you find them
- Bring your litter back to the Visitor Centre for recycling or disposal
- Don't approach any creatures you see, or pick the wildflowers

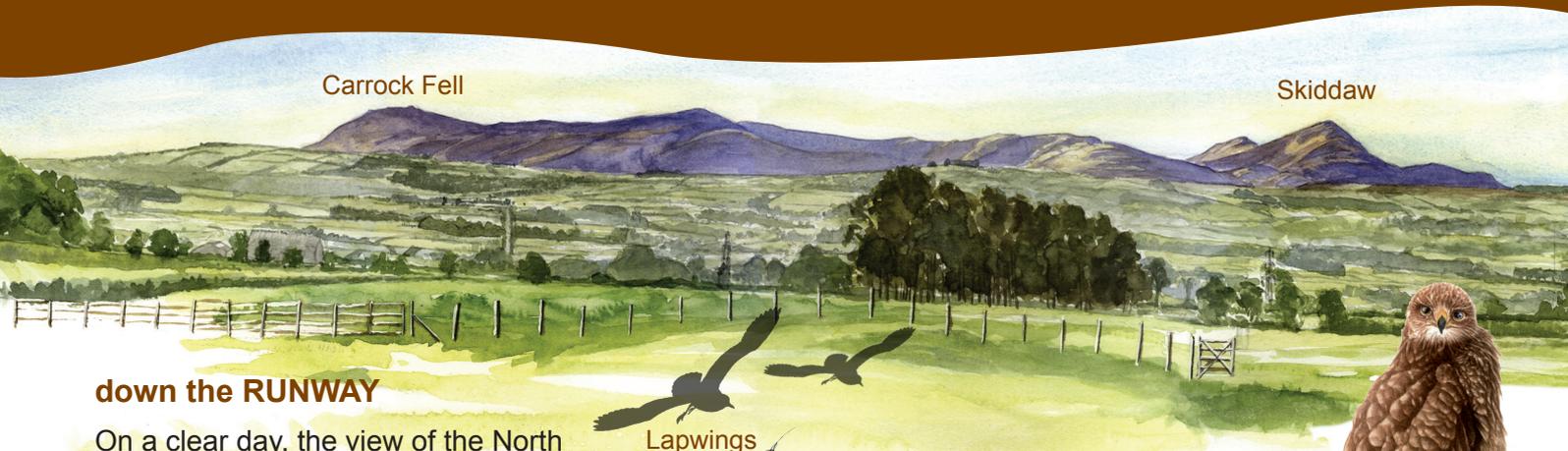
THANK YOU
ENJOY YOUR VISIT!

LOOK OUT FOR

a Breath of Fresh Hare Trail	Cycle option	Viewpoint
Explorer's Trail	Rubbing plaque	Picnic table
		Seat



Don't let winter get you down! The days may be short and cold, but the Breath of Fresh Hare Trail will warm you up and lift your spirits. There are excellent photo opportunities in winter too, so wrap up well and off you go!



Carrock Fell

Skiddaw

down the RUNWAY

On a clear day, the view of the North Lakeland Fells is spectacular in winter, especially if they have a covering of snow. On the large meadows, you may see a small flock of Lapwings, sometimes with Golden Plovers.

Lapwings



in the HEDGEROWS

Since 2002, 6 km of hedgerows have been planted at Watchtree. In winter, the bare branches provide scant cover for small mammals against vigilant Kestrels, but reveal last season's empty nests to keen-eyed nature-lovers.



Kestrel

Reeds



among the REEDS

Reedbeds play an important role in Watchtree's water treatment processes. During the winter, the thicket of stems provides shelter for small mammals, amphibians and birds.

Snipe



in and around the WATER

If the water isn't frozen, look for birds of passage such as Teal, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye and Mallard. Snipe can sometimes be seen at the margins of the lakes. The tracks of foxes and hares may be visible if there's frost or snow on the ground.

Tufted Duck



Goldeneye



Fox and tracks

beside the BRIDGE

A mound of logs and stones on the bank of the ditch has been created for hibernating Great Crested Newts.

Great Crested Newt



in the MEADOWS

There are no cattle at Watchtree in the winter, but sheep are likely to be grazing the meadows, especially in February.

Brown Hare and tracks

