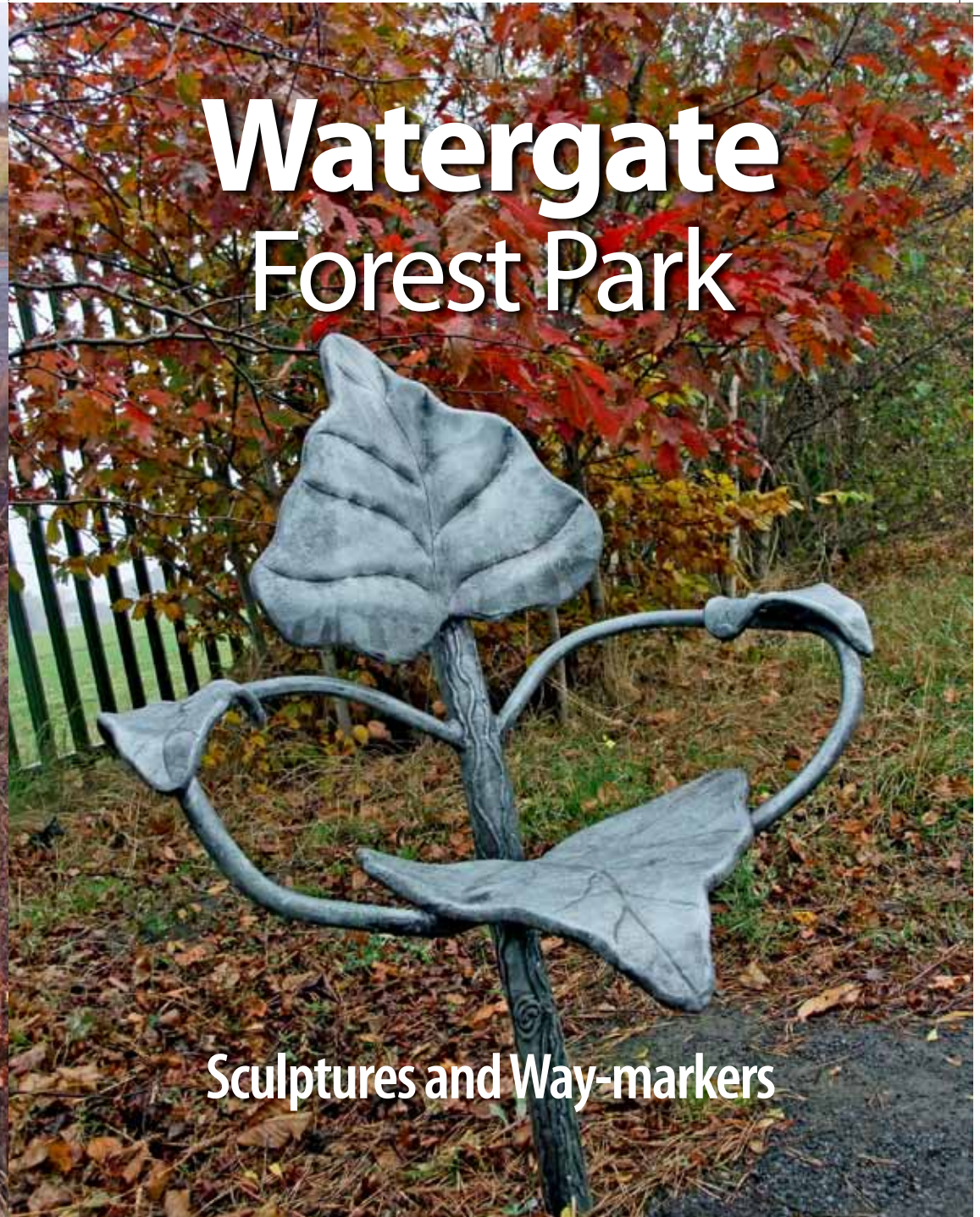


The following organisations have enabled this project to happen;

Gateshead Council's Property Services, Design Services, Public Art team, Countryside team, Gateshead Access Panel (GAP), Sight Services (Gateshead) and staff and pupils at Washingwell Primary School, Lobley Hill Primary School & Emmanuel College.

The scheme was funded by the Gateshead Council to improve access to the countryside in the Borough.



Watergate Forest Park

Sculptures and Way-markers

A new way-marked trail has been developed in Watergate Park around the lakeside to assist with access and improve the overall visitor experience.

Sculptor Jim Roberts was commissioned by Gateshead Council to design and make a signboard, sculptures and way-markers which indicate the routes around the park.



All the artwork produced has a link to either the original industry that occupied the site, Watergate Colliery, or is indeed linked to the flora, fauna or wildlife that can be encountered in the park. The designs were assisted by children who took part in practical workshops led by Jim at three nearby schools. The artworks are made from mild steel, forged and fabricated in Jim's workshop. They have been hot-dip galvanised, etch primed and two pack lacquered giving the sculptures a 'gun metal' finish.

Jim Roberts is a Sunderland based Sculptor who has worked extensively in many parts of the North East region.

'My work involves the design, manufacturing and siting of sculptural steel artwork. It often entails my interaction with various community groups.

I have worked in numerous locations in the North East producing site specific sculptural pieces for various outdoor settings. The history, location and the intended site all inspire the completed artwork. When creating site specific artwork it is important to ensure the work is robust as well as aesthetically pleasing in order to create a more desirable environment.'

www.jimrobertssculptor.co.uk

Further Information

Watergate Forest Park Team
c/o Thornley Woodlands Centre, Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear, NE39 1AU
Telephone: 01207 545 212 • Email: countryside@gateshead.gov.uk

Gateshead Library Tourist Information Centre
Telephone: 0191 433 8420 • Email: tic@gateshead.gov.uk

Other artworks can be seen from the trail

Flames to Flowers

by Graham Hopper is located by the main entrance to the park.



Greenheart

by William Pym can be seen from the route.



Floating Rocks by Colin Rose is adjacent to the easy access route.





Educational work

Jim carried out practical workshops at Washingwell Primary School, Lobley Hill Primary School and Emmanuel College which included constructing wood models, clay carving and casting. Ideas from these sessions contributed to the overall design of the artworks.



Access

'the artist has made tactile artworks which provide an aid to way-finding and orientation for visually impaired and blind persons, as well as creating interesting features for all visitors. These artworks reflect the history of the site as well as the current use by wildlife.'

GAP (Gateshead Access Panel)



WAY-MARKERS

There are five way markers or finger posts to help people navigate the site. These take the form of a frog marker, a snail finger post, a trout finger post, spiders web post and a newt finger post.



OAK LEAF/ACORN SEAT

This work provides seating for three people on bucket seats in the form of oak leaves and acorns.





OUT OF THE DARKNESS

'Out of the Darkness' consists of a series of dissected spheres which give the impression of sections of the spheres being split away revealing items relating to old industry i.e. a miners davy lamp in case of one of the sphere's, I see this as an industrial fossil. Another part of this piece reveals internal plant life.



TRIANGULAR LEAF SEAT

One person triangular leaf seat provides a rest point on a long incline on the way back to the car park.



CRACKET (Single Seat)

This seat is in the form of a cracket, a stool used in many households particularly in the North East.

Mining and shipbuilding families in particular would have owned one. A miner's helmet, boots and armillary sphere (sundial) all appear on this piece.



SCULPTURAL FRAMED NOTICE BOARD

The sculpturally framed notice board has a kingfisher, some bullrushes and other plants. It also includes a miner's helmet and spider's web.

The illustration was created by Dan Powell.

