

## ABOUT THE NORTHERN KITES PROJECT

Northern Kites is a five-year project to re-introduce the Red Kite into the wild in Gateshead's Derwent Valley.

This is the UK's seventh Red Kite project but unlike the others, the setting is semi-urban with about one million people living within close proximity of the release area.

Between 2004-09, up to 80 young birds will be re-introduced to Gateshead from a thriving population centred on the Chilterns in the Home Counties.

Northern Kites is managed by English Nature and The RSPB in partnership with Gateshead Council, Northumbrian Water, the National Trust and the Forestry Commission, with additional funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund and SITA Environmental Trust.



## HOW TO GET THERE

### By Road

The A694 Swalwell-Consett road runs through the Derwent Valley, joining the A69 and the A1 just east of the MetroCentre on the outskirts of Gateshead. There is ample parking at visitor sites throughout the lower valley.

### By Bus

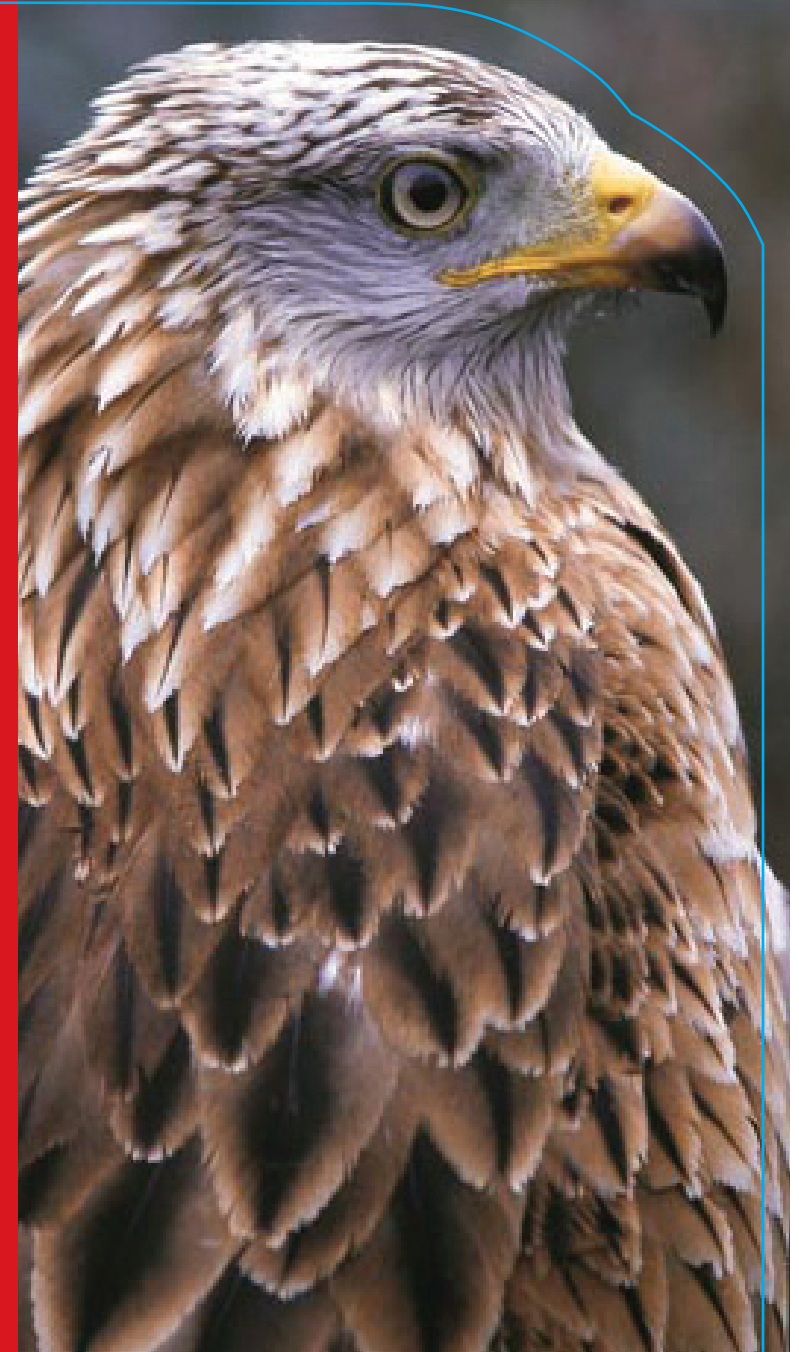
Frequent and regular bus services from Gateshead, the MetroCentre and Newcastle City Centre. For timetable information, contact Go Ahead North East on 0845 60 60 260 or visit [www.gonortheast.co.uk](http://www.gonortheast.co.uk)

### By Rail

The nearest railway station is MetroCentre, served by frequent rail services between Newcastle and Carlisle.

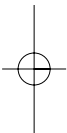
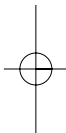
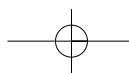
### For Further Information:

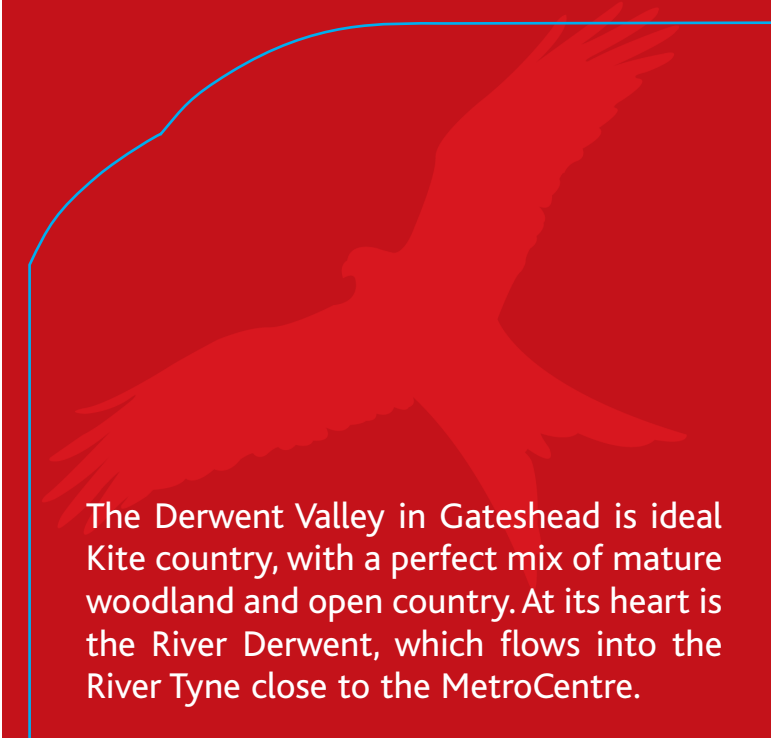
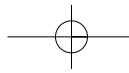
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Northern Kites

In Gateshead's Derwent Valley





The Derwent Valley in Gateshead is ideal Kite country, with a perfect mix of mature woodland and open country. At its heart is the River Derwent, which flows into the River Tyne close to the MetroCentre.



Photo courtesy of Doug Simpson.



Nick Baker at the launch of the schools' Adopt-a-Kite scheme, October 2004.



Red Kites are easy to spot in flight as they are large, have a distinctive forked tail and fly in a buoyant, elegant manner with few wing flaps but much twisting of their tail. In time, it is hoped that Red Kites will be seen right throughout the Derwent Valley and further afield.

In the meantime we suggest you try:

**Derwent Walk Country Park and Derwenthaugh Park:** between Swalwell and Rowlands Gill, especially towards Rowlands Gill. Telephone (01207) 545212.

**Gibside:** National Trust property at Rowlands Gill. Telephone (01207) 541829.

**Barlow:** especially the countryside between the village and Rowlands Gill.

**Chopwell Forest Park:** entrance from High Spen. Telephone (01207) 542231.

To get up-to-date information about the whereabouts of Red Kites in the Derwent Valley, call into the Thornley Woodlands Centre near Rowlands Gill where there is a Red Kite information board with distribution map and souvenirs to buy. Open most days.

Telephone (01207) 545212 for details.

### THE RED KITE

*Milvus milvus*

The Red Kite is one of the most beautiful birds of prey in Europe. A wingspan of nearly two metres and a relatively small body weight means the bird is incredibly agile and can stay in the air for hours with hardly a beat of its wings.

Kites have not bred in the north east of England for almost two hundred years, but would once have been common. They died out largely because of persecution, including shooting and poisoning, by game and farming interests. Many of their usual sources of food, such as middens and rubbish heaps also disappeared.

Red Kites eat mainly carrion (dead animals) but will also take small live prey such as beetles, other large insects, earthworms and some small mammals and birds.

