

# CORAL ROOT ORCHID

## VIEWING AREA

A wet area of woodland is home to a colony of a very rare species of orchid, the Coral Root Orchid (*Corallorhiza trifida*) so named because its underground rhizomes look like branches of coral.

The colony of Coral Root Orchids in Gosforth Park is very important. This orchid is only found in small numbers in a few other locations and the population in the reserve is the second largest in England.









The orchids are very small and live in a very sensitive habitat that is easily damaged by trampling. In order to allow people to see the orchids without damaging them and their habitat we have installed a small temporary boardwalk (see map for location), which is approximately 10 metres from the main path.

### **PLEASE REMAIN ON THE BOARDWALK AT ALL TIMES**

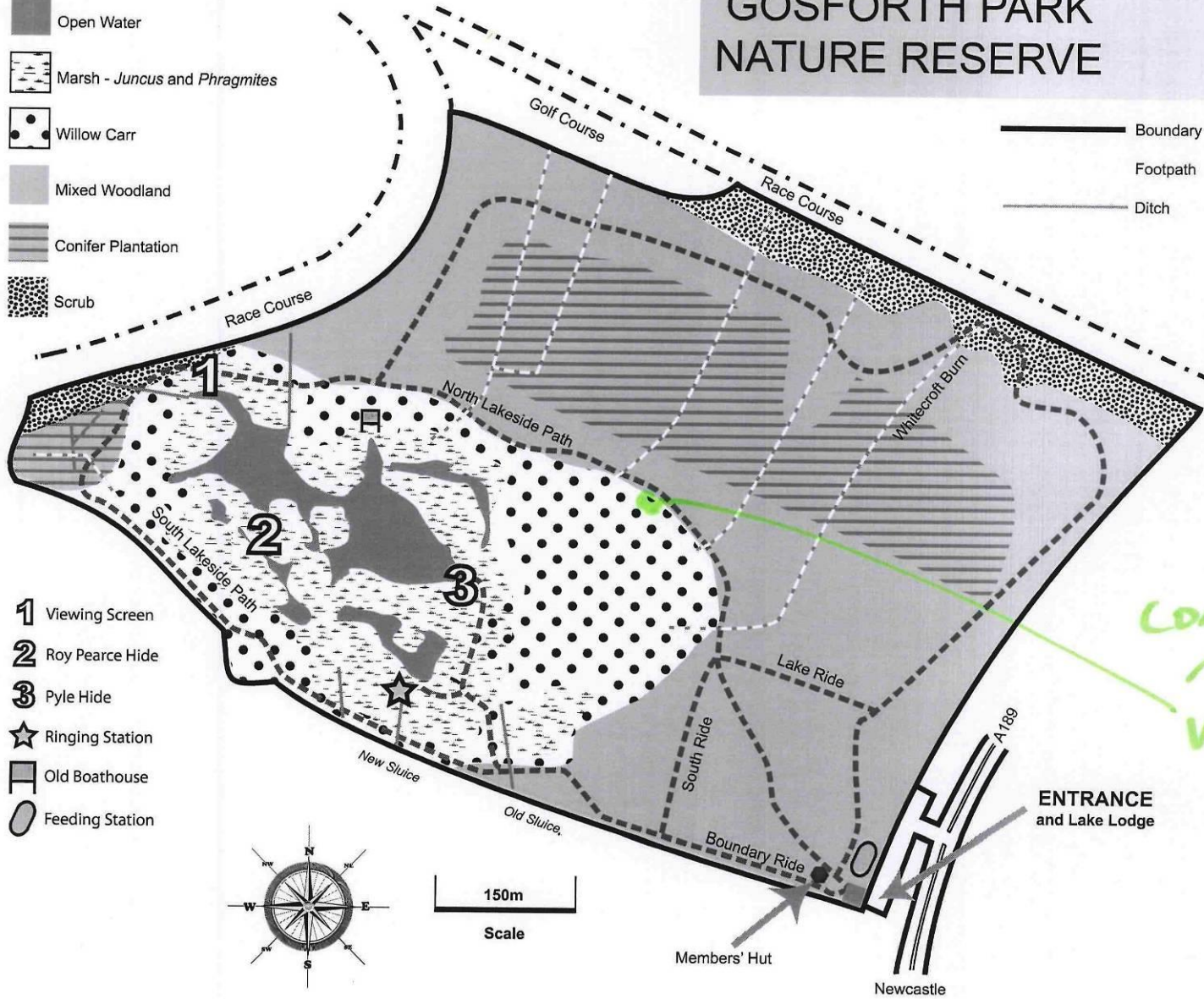
The Coral Root Orchid spends most of its life underground, but between May-July, it produces flowers on 10-30cm stems with up to 12 greenish-white flowers with reddish brown spots.

While it is capable of some photosynthesis, the orchid relies on association with a fungus in its underground rhizomes for much of its nutrition. The fungus absorbs food from dead plant material in the soil, eventually passing it to the orchid. The fungus originates from the roots of the Birch trees which are also found in this area.

# GOSFORTH PARK NATURE RESERVE

-  Open Water
-  Marsh - *Juncus* and *Phragmites*
-  Willow Carr
-  Mixed Woodland
-  Conifer Plantation
-  Scrub

-  Boundary
-  Footpath
-  Ditch



- 1** Viewing Screen
- 2** Roy Pearce Hide
- 3** Pyle Hide
- ☆ Ringing Station
-  Old Boathouse
-  Feeding Station

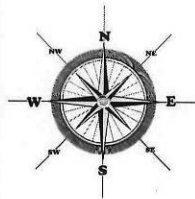
Coral root Viewing

ENTRANCE and Lake Lodge

Members' Hut

Newcastle

A169



150m  
Scale