



Welcome to Hamsterley...
the largest forest in County Durham.
Explore right into the heart of beautiful wooded valleys on foot, bike or horse with our extensive trail network.

Explore on foot...

Bedburn Walks

Riverside Walk ●●●

Easy, 1.5 miles circular route
White arrows on blue background
The first ¾ mile is a level trail that follows the Bedburn Beck to Low Redford Picnic Site and is suitable for unassisted wheelchair users. The terrain on the second half of the trail is steeper but is useable by wheelchairs with assistance. On the way, look out for the beautiful wildflower meadows and the Green Man and Gruffalo character sculptures.

Bedburn Valley Walk ●●●●

Moderate, 2.5 miles.
Black arrows on yellow background



This walk follows the Riverside Trail along the Bedburn Beck for a short distance before crossing the beck and climbing through beautiful mixed woodland high above the valley floor. The route rejoins the Bedburn Beck at Low Redford, returning to the start through an oak wood that was planted in 1937 to commemorate the coronation of George VI. The walk has some steeper inclines than the Riverside Trail and has a narrow bridge crossing.

Three Becks Walk ●●●●●

Moderate, 4.5 miles.
White arrows on orange background
This is the longest and most rewarding of the Bedburn Walks. Initially following the same route as the Bedburn Valley Walk, the trail descends into the valley near the Grove and picks up the line of an old drover's road. This road passes the ruins of Meicalf's House, once an

old coaching inn with stables. Once back on the forest drive, watch out for the 'Green man', a sculpture showing the faces of the three ages of this mythical forest dweller. The route has several narrow, rougher sections as well as some steeper ascents and descents. The trail also crosses two roads with vehicular access.

Viking WildPlay

if you love climbing, scrambling, balancing, hiding and generally having a great time, then this trail is for you. Looping around the Bedburn beck, this ½ mile trail has loads of fun play opportunities. From balance trails to boulder scrambles, along with plenty of trees to climb, dens to build and beaches to play on! Please keep your dogs on a lead on this trail.



HAMSTERLEY
COMMON



The Grove Car Park



Visitor Centre

HAMSTERLEY
FOREST

Blackling Hole

Lunton Hill



Blackling Hole
Car Park

- Parking
- Toilets
- Cafe
- Picnic area
- Walking trails
- Horse trails
- Emergency telephone
- Shared use trail



Trail etiquette...

Hamsterley Forest is a busy forest and chances are you will meet other walkers, cyclists and horse riders somewhere out on the trail network. Please show respect for other users. Cyclists should give way to walkers and both should give way to horse riders. Remember, horses can be easily spooked so it is important you let the rider see you before proceeding past.



Forest operations

Hamsterley Forest is a working forest, producing 20,000 tonnes of timber and replanting over 50,000 trees each year. All forest users should look out for vehicles, timber lorries and other machinery. Please respect all warning signs.

Trails starting at The Grove Car Park



Spurswood Walk ●●●

Moderate 4.5 miles.
White arrows on green background.

This trail has several features of interest, including wood ant nests, and offers scenic views of the wider forest. At the far end of the trail, the route passes close to Blackling Hole – a deep pool and picturesque waterfall – and returns following the Spurswood Beck.

Horse Trails

The forest has two horse riding trails which start and finish in the Grove Car Park. There is a mounting block, tether post and ample space for parking a horse box or trailer. Both trails are on forest road and offer the opportunity to explore deep into the quieter areas of the forest. Once you get to know the forest, set off and explore the many miles of unwaymarked forest road and trail.

Redford Horse Trail — — —

7 miles.
White arrows on purple background.

Pennington Horse Trail — — —

12 miles.
White arrows on brown background.

Emergency info

Name & grid ref. for key locations:

Grove car park: NZ065297
Visitor Centre: NZ093313
Access road: Bedburn on the C30 (Walsingham to Hamsterley Village)

Nearest A&E hospital facilities: Darlington Memorial Hospital, Hollyhurst Road, Darlington, DL3 6HX.
T: 01325 380100

In case of an emergency call 999.

Inform Forestry Commission: Please inform us of any accidents on: **01388 488312**

Forest code

- Protect and respect wildlife, plants and trees
- Guard against all risks of fire
- Keep dogs under control & clean up after them
- Take your litter home
- Make no unnecessary noise
- Take only memories away

