



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.

The trails start at various car parks along the **Forest Drive**, a 4 mile (6km) vehicle route that winds its way up the valley providing plenty of opportunities to stop off along the way to walk in the forest or have a picnic. Access to the **Forest Drive** can be gained with a valid car park ticket.

Did you know? During the 1930s and 40s, **Hamsterley Forest** was used first as a venue for a Ministry of Works labour camp and latterly as a prisoner of war camp.



Discover the freedom of the forest...

...and support Hamsterley Forest

Buy an annual Discovery Pass for a whole year of savings!

Join now at the Forest Cafe, information point or join online: forestry.gov.uk/pass



Explore on foot...

Bedburn Walks

Three walks start from the notice board in the main car park and from the Visitor Centre. These trails are signed in a clockwise direction.

Riverside Trail ●●●

Easy - 1.5 miles circular route (linear all-ability trail to Low Redford 0.75 miles)
Markers - White arrows/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 and the path surface rougher but is useable by wheelchairs with assistance. On the way, look out for the beautiful wildflower meadows (best time for flowering season is May-June) and the Gruffalo and Green Man sculptures.

Bedburn Valley Walk ●●●

Moderate - 2.5 miles
Markers - Black arrows/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
Markers - White arrows/orange background
This is the longest and most rewarding of the Bedburn walks. Initially following the same route as the Yellow Walk, descending into the valley near The Grove and picking up the line of an old drover's road. This road passes the ruins of Metcalf's House, once a coaching inn with stables. Once back at 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. Of course, nothing beats nature's own playground with plenty of trees to climb, dens to build and beaches to play on (yes, beaches!). **Please keep your dogs on a lead on this trail.**



Hamsterley

The Durham Forest

