

The Great North Forest

8 OR 3 MILES
4½ OR 1½ HOURS
MODERATE

1 START

Leave Eden Place car park past low metal gate on surfaced path. At minor road turn L and immediately R on footpath leading to Hell Hole Wood. Continue ahead on track for 800m (half a mile) and where path turns R towards golf course keep ahead following carved oakleaf symbol along earth path. At wooden stile, enter Carrickshill Wood. At large beech fork L, along slightly larger path which exits through wall on to minor road.

2 1½ MILES

Turn R, following road (short route: take minor road R which leads back to Beamish museum entrance and car park) uphill 400m (437 yards), then take first L (sign missing) downhill to reach Coppy Mill picnic area. Exit car park at far side over wooden sleepers, between trees. Turn immediately L to cross footbridge, signed Causey 1½ miles, and up wooden steps to grassy paddock. Follow sign L in front of farmhouse, over stile into field. At end of hedge on R climb steps to main road.

3 2 MILES

Cross road and go up grassy track between fields. After 400m (437 yards), bear R for short climb with trees on L then downhill to

waymarked stile on edge of wood. Take care crossing railway. After sign to Causey Arch, route goes L towards footbridge. After bridge turn R up rising gravel path.

4 3 MILES

Path crosses top of Causey Arch. At far side follow 'To Car Park' signs next to old wooden wagon, then continue beside railway before going L downhill. At bottom of steps follow rising path to R. Entering Causey Arch picnic area, follow 'No Exit' painted signs on road on to country lane. Turn immediately L. At bottom of hill turn R on to bridleway through gate. If track ahead is flooded, detour slightly to L and rejoin rising track in open field, continuing through gate at top, signed Tanfield Railway.

5 4 MILES

Reaching Station Road, take cobbled bridge over railway to road, ignoring Tanfield Railway sign to L. Cross road to surfaced track signed Bowes Railway Path. Continue ahead. Ignore track to L. In a shallow cutting steps rise either side; take R flight marked Sculpture Trail.

6 4½ MILES

Path passes R of carved wooden seat and goes downhill to grassy lane between young trees, emerging on minor road. Turn R then L through Hedley Hall community woodland car park. Route continues ahead past

'Welcome' sign and information board. Ignore crossing paths. Bearing R, head towards Ridley Gill woodland then at top of next rise turn L towards sculptured seat in open grassy area. Head downhill through gap in shrubs then R through trees to pond, following L edge until rejoining wider pathway once again and turning R. Path diverges at low wooden post announcing Post Office Grove. Take L fork and descend wide ride. Bear R past carved storyteller's seat and continue downhill through wooden gate.

7 6 MILES

Descend narrow path, following wooden markers through conifers to stony track and take L, signed Beamish Burn. Bridleway crosses small stream before rising to metal gate ahead and R. Take track to R, not signed. Immediately beyond gate, climb wooden steps up L bank, following orange spots on trunks along woodland edge. At field corner bear L down slope to rejoin woodland edge. A little further on, path turns sharp R and goes downhill to meet track at bottom. Turn L and, reaching clearing,

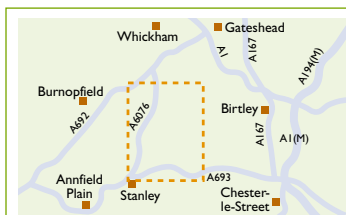
bear R to join lane. Turn R, passing sculptured wooden bench on bend, and follow to minor road.

8 7 MILES

Turn L uphill for 50m (55 yards), taking signed footpath R into Ousbrough Wood. Where beech turns to pine ignore L uphill route, continuing along path marked 'Walkers Welcome', descending to river. Turn L along wooded valley track. Shortly after two stone cairns on R, descend wooden steps to footbridge below. (To avoid steep climb ahead, turn R at 8, following minor road to Shepherd & Shepherdess inn.)

9 7½ MILES

Once across river, look for Tyne & Wear Trail sign leading straight uphill, ignoring path branching L. A flight of steps assists this steep climb (10–15 mins). At top, turn R signed Beamish Wood. Path bears L through gate, emerging shortly on country lane. Ahead is Shepherd & Shepherdess inn. Follow pavement ahead and then L, away from Beamish museum entrance. After 20m (22 yards), cross to car park.



TERRAIN

Mostly surfaced paths, tracks and country lanes through undulating countryside; few sections crossing open fields; occasionally muddy. There are 6 stiles.

PARKING

Eden Place picnic area (grid reference NZ220536)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Regular bus services to Beamish: 709 from Newcastle, 720 from Durham, 775/778 from Chester-le-Street. Times from Northeast Traveline on 0870 608 2608. National Cycle Network route 7 (C2C) links to Durham railway station via route 14. Free public transport leaflet available from tourist information centres (see right)

REFRESHMENTS

Shepherd & Shepherdess, near entrance to Beamish museum (grid reference NZ221539; telephone 0191 370 0349)
 Beamish Park Hotel, Marley Hill, near Causey Arch picnic area (grid reference NZ208562; telephone 01207 230 666)

ACCOMMODATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION

Durham City Tourist Information Centre (telephone 0191 384 3720)
 Nearest YHA: Edmundbuyers (telephone 0870 770 5810)
 Beamish Park Hotel (see above)
www.greatnorthforest.co.uk

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 308, Landranger 88 (see page 7 for special offer)

OTHER WOODS TO VISIT

See the Our Woods section on the Trust's website at www.woodland-trust.org.uk and the forthcoming *Exploring Woodland* guide to Yorkshire and the North East (early 2004).

