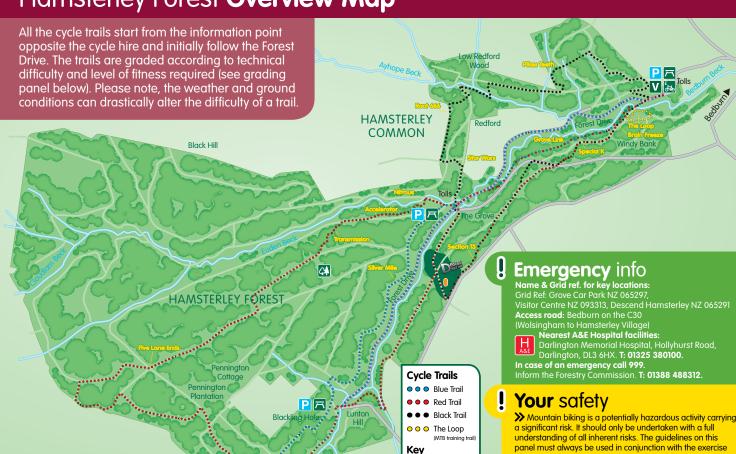


# Hamsterley Forest **Overview Map**



a significant risk. It should only be undertaken with a full understanding of all inherent risks. The guidelines on this panel must always be used in conjunction with the exercise of your own experience, intuition and careful judgement. >>> Routes may change owing to tree felling and other

>> No motorbikes, quadbikes, dogs or horses are allowed on the MTB trails.









# Blue **Moderate**

Suitable for: Intermediate cyclists/mountain bikers with basic off road riding skills. Mountain bikes or hybrids. Trail and surface types: Relatively flat and wide. The trail surface may be loose, uneven or muddy at times and include small obstacles of roots and rock. Specially constructed single track. Gradients and technical trail features (TTFs): Most gradients are moderate but may include short steep sections. Includes small TTFs. Suggested fitness level: A good standard of fitness can help

#### Red Difficult

Find the right trail for you!

Suitable for: Proficient mountain bikers with good off road riding skills. Suitable for better quality off-road mountain bikes. Trail and surface types: Steeper and tougher, mostly singletrack with technical sections. Expect very variable surface types. Gradients and technical trail features (TTFs): A wide range of climbs and descents of a challenging nature will be present Expect boardwalks, berms, large rocks, medium steps, drop-offs, cambers, water crossings. Suggested fitness level: Higher

level of fitness and stamina.

### Black Severe

Suitable for: Expert mountain bike users, used to physically demanding routes Quality off-road mountain bikes.

Trail and surface types: As 'Red' but with an expectation of greater challenge and continuous difficulty. Can include any useable trail and may include exposed open hill sections. Gradients and technical trail

features (TTFs): Expect large. committing and unavoidable TTFs. Sections will be challenging and variable. May also have 'downhill' style sections. Suggested fitness level:

Suitable for very active people used to prolonged effort.

### Forest road and similar

Parking

Picnic Area

V Visitor Centre

Bike Park

Bike Hire

Suitable for: A wide range of cyclists. Most bikes and hybrids. Ability to use maps helpful. Routes may or may not be waymarked. Trail and surface types: Relatively flat and wide. The trail surface may be loose, uneven or muddy at times. These roads may be used by vehicles and other users, including horse riders and dog walkers. Gradients and technical trail features (TTFs): Gradients can be variable and may include short steep sections. Occasional potholes may be present. Suggested fitness level: A good standard of fitness can help.

## Orange Bike park

Suitable for: Riders aspiring to an elite level of technical ability. incorporates everything from full on downhill riding to big-air jumps. Trail and surface types: Severe constructed trails and/or natural features. All sections will be challenging. Includes extreme levels of exposure and or risk. Jumping ability obligatory. Gradients and technical trail features (TTFs): Will include a range of small medium and large TTF's, including downhill trails, freeride sections and mandatory jumps. Suggested fitness level: A good standard of fitness, but technical skills more important.

## Location & information enjoy your visit

#### Location

Signposted from the A68 at Witton-le-Wear. There is no direct public transport service to the Forest.

#### **Parkina**

There is a charge for using the Forest Drive and car parks, payable on entry via pay and display machines or foll staff. Annual parking permit (Discovery Pass) is available onsite or online at www.forestry.gov.uk/pass.

#### **Forest Operations**

Hamsterley Forest is a working forest. All forest users should look out for vehicles, timber lorries, and other machinery. Please respect all warning signs.

#### **General Facilities**

Visitor Centre/Shop and Hamsterley Forest Tearoom open daily from Easter to the end of October. Tearoom also open weekends in winter (t: 01388 488822)

#### **Our Partners**

#### **Hamsterley Trailblazers**

The Trailblazers are a charitable organisation run by volunteers who work to promote and develop mountain biking in Hamsterley Forest. For further information, visit www.hamsterlev-trailblazers.co.uk

Wood n Wheels Cycle Hire Centre and Bike Shop On site children and adult bike hire, repairs, servicing and bike wash. The shop has a selection of spares and accessories. Qualified leader can be hired to lead groups t: 01388 488222 e: shop@woodnwheels.co.uk

#### **Descend Hamsterley Bike Park**

This specialist facility caters for the more extreme end of mountain biking and is very technically demanding. A daily permit is required to ride these courses. Contact Craig Hunter on 07795 514251 or visit www.descendhamsterlev.co.uk

#### **Forestry Commission England**

Eals Burn, Bellingham, Northumberland, NE48 2HP t: 01434 220242

e: enquiries.kielder@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Hamsterlev Visitor Centre t: 01388 488312

Further information about cycling in Northeast England is available on www.visitnortheastengland.com/mtb

>> www.forestry.gov.uk/northeastengland





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