

Points of interest

See pages 24-25 in the booklet for full details.

- A** Hamsterley Forest
- B** Eggleston Moor
- C** Managed moorlands



Controlled burning of the moor produces a mosaic of different aged heather – ideal for red grouse

- D** Remains of an old smelt mill flue



On the right hand side of the track you'll find the old flue from the Blackton smelt mill

Funded by:



This trail has been upgraded by the North Pennines AONB Partnership in collaboration with Durham County Council's Countryside Access Team.

- E** Eggleston Saddle House



This small stone building is thought to have been built by the London Lead Company to store spare saddles for packhorses

- F** The Hett Dyke



These hills were formed by a combination of the underlying rocks and the action of glacial meltwater

- G** Drove road

- H** Ark on the Edge – animal rescue centre and sanctuary



Route 4: Hamsterley

A ride of contrasts - in the forest and out over the open moor. You'll follow an old drove road on the return to the forest from Eggleston.



Climbing back up onto the fell after a brief foray into Teesdale

Fact file

- Length: 26km (16 miles)
- Off-road: 75%
- Ascent: 846m (2,775ft)
- Terrain: Varied route following stony forest tracks and unsurfaced moorland stretches. Steep descents both on tarmac and loose stone tracks
- Start: Grove car park (NY 066 298) on the Hamsterley Forest Drive
- There is a mounting block in the Grove car park for horse riders
- Horse watering point at Ark on the Edge (Point of interest H/Direction 18)
- OS maps: Explorer OL31/Landranger 92
- This route is promoted as a horse riding and a mountain biking trail. Please ride carefully and be aware of other users, including walkers



Exploring the forest on the Hamsterley Packhorse Trail

Key

- L – left
- R – right
- TL – turn left
- TR – turn right
- SA – straight ahead
- SP – signposted
- Xrds – crossroads
- Tj – T-junction

Directions

- 1 Leave the car park and TR on the Forest Drive
- 2 Just before the barrier TR on the uphill track
- 3 TL at Xrds
- 4 Just as the climb gets steeper TL on the level track
- 5 TL to follow the slightly downhill track – SP Brown Horse Riding Trail
- 6 At the junction with the bridleway continue SA and round to the R on the track
- 7 SA
- 8 SA at the Xrds
- 9 SA – continue uphill. Continue SA at the next 2 junctions
- 10 At Xrds of 5 tracks take first L (SP bridleway). Continue SA at next junction to the edge of the forest
- 11 At the forest edge when the track turns to the R, bear L through a gate opposite a bench. Follow the bridleway across the moor. The route is rutted and rough in places

Between directions 11 and 12 you'll cross the Quarter Burn. Take care as this crossing could be tricky in high water

- 12 TR onto the stone track
- 13 TL onto the road. (There is an alternative route which avoids some of the road – Go SA for 0.5km, cross the bridge and TL along the Teesdale Way. Cross 2 fords and continue SA – uphill. TL when you reach the road and R, at the top of the climb back onto the road)
- 14 Take first L after the Moorcock pub – SP Neamour Road
- 15 At the top of the road follow the bridleway track SA
- 16 At the top of the steep climb continue SA – SP bridleway. Follow the SP bridleway across the moor – wet and rough in places
- 17 Go through the gate, bear L across the moor (CARE – this is a very rough section) and through another gate. Continue ahead with the fence on your L
- 18 SA through Woolly Hill Farm (Ark on the Edge Wildlife Sanctuary). TL at the road
- 19 TL at the junction – SP Hamsterley Forest
- 20 TL after about a km – SP with a blue National Byway (Route 20) sign. Take care on the steep descent down to the Forest Drive
- 21 TR onto the Forest Drive and return to the Grove car park

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