




Summerhill


Summerhill has got it all. In the 1990s, over 65,000 trees were planted, historic hedgerows restored and ponds and meadows created. These are now developing into an attractive Country Park and Local Nature Reserve. This isn't all that Summerhill has to offer. Make the most of the exhilarating range of outdoor activities plus the extensive events programme for people of all ages and abilities.




 Explore the gentle countryside on a stroll along the network of surfaced paths through young woodlands, meadows, wetlands and hedgerows.

 Keep fit on the trim trail - there are nine apparatus stations on a 2km route.

 Give your BMX a spin on the 400m BMX course - it's one of the longest in the country.

 Test your head for heights on the high rope course or give archery a go (booking required).

 For younger visitors, there are two play parks, one for little ones and a more challenging one for older kids.

 Go climbing on the outdoor boulder park.



Hartlepool Borough Council

Summerhill Visitor Centre, Summerhill Lane,
Hartlepool TS25 4LL

01429 284584

www.sunnysummerhill.com

email: summerhill@hartlepool.gov.uk

Opening hours: Site always open. Car park open 9am-7.30pm (April-October), 9am-4.30pm (November-March). Visitor Centre open 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm, Saturday-Sunday, all year round.

Cost: Free, but costs apply for some activities.



Easy access routes and disabled access throughout Visitor Centre.

Wynyard Woodland Park

Wynyard Woodland Park started life as a working railway, carrying freight to the ports along the River Tees. Now it provides visitors with miles of flat footpaths and numerous circular walks in a wonderful rural setting. Housed in the attractive Victorian railway station, the Visitor Centre has touch screen displays about the area's rich history and wildlife. Its woodland, meadows and wetland habitats are just waiting to be explored on foot or by bike.



-  Follow the sculpture trail and discover works of art including the celestial kitchen and storyteller's chair.
-  Cycle along the old railway line, which is part of a Sustrans' Cycle Route No. 1.
-  Visit the Old Station House Visitor Centre and shop to get information, maps and a range of wildlife gifts, toys and country preserves.
-  Relax with home made refreshments served in the Station Tea rooms.
-  Come back for an evening star show at the nearby Planetarium and Observatory (booking required).
-  Play on the new state of the art adventure playground.



Stockton Borough Council

Wynyard Woodland Park, Station House,
Thorpe Thewles, Stockton-on-Tees TS21 3JG

01740 630011

www.stockton.gov.uk

email: wynyard.woodland@stockton.gov.uk

Opening hours: Site always open. Car park open 8.30am-9pm (April-October, BST), 8.30am-5.30pm (November-March, GMT). Centre open Monday-Friday and Sunday, 10am-4.30pm (4pm November-March), Saturday 10am-3.30 pm.

Cost: Free.

Photos: Stockton Borough Council



More great places to visit

See beautiful wildflowers at coastal Spion Kop cemetery

This historic cemetery is also a Local Nature Reserve. Formed from a combination of sand dunes and ship ballast it now supports a species rich dune grassland with habitat of such quality that it is unique in Hartlepool and rare within the Tees Valley.

Directions: Head towards Hartlepool Headland on the A179 straight across the roundabout onto Cleveland Road/West View Road before turning left onto Old Cemetery Road. On-road parking is available outside the cemetery.

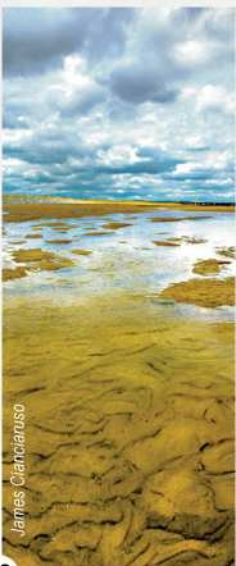


Hartlepool Borough Council

Hunt for Hartlepool's underwater forest at Seaton Carew

Hartlepool Bay now seems an unlikely place for a forest, but thousands of years ago the whole area was covered with trees and peat bog. A few times a year the remains of this underwater forest is revealed when the tide is very low. The forest consists of hundreds of tree stumps that have turned into peat. Animal fossils and prehistoric artefacts can sometimes be found here.

Directions: The forest can be seen at Seaton Carew, towards the south end of the sea-front, near the old fairground car park. Check tide tables for low tide dates and times.



James Charliartuso

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Go on a traffic free rural cycle ride at the Hart to Haswell Walkway

This beautiful disused railway line extends north from Hart Station towards Haswell. The site is managed by Hartlepool's Countryside Team and contains a mosaic of habitats including woodland, butterfly glades and ponds. It forms part of Sustrans National Cycle Route 14 and is accessible by bike or on foot.

Directions: Limited on-road parking is available on Ocean Road in Hart Station, which is located just off the A1086 as you travel north out of Hartlepool. Visitors are asked to park with respect for local residents.



Visit Bowesfield, a developing haven for wildlife in Stockton-on-Tees

This wetland reserve between Ingleby Barwick and Stockton-on-Tees is formed by three loops in the River Tees. Each has its own character and special wildlife. It consists of a series of freshwater pools, lakes and reedbeds on the floodplain of the River Tees served by a network of surfaced paths. It is a great place to see overwintering and migrating birds, with flocks of more than 1,000 lapwings and golden plovers regularly dropping in.

Directions: The reserve is situated alongside the River Tees in Stockton, just one mile south of the A66. At the roundabout on the junction of Bowesfield Lane with Concorde Way, head east on Kingfisher Way onto the new Bowesfield estate. Follow Kingfisher Way down towards the river. A car park is provided on the edge of the nature reserve, immediately adjacent to Archers Law office (TS18 3NB).



Daan Smith

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More great places to visit



Carl Watts

Observe streamside wildlife along Greatham Beck

One of Hartlepool's best-kept secrets is the lovely wildlife corridor that runs along the western edge of the Fens Estate. Rich in plant-life and fringed with deciduous woodland, it provides a rich and varied habitat for many species including kingfisher, great spotted woodpecker and tawny owl.

Directions: From Catcote Road, turn into Mowbray Road then Spalding Road to join Newark Road. Limited on-road parking is available and visitors are asked to park with respect for local residents.

Seabird watching from the Hartlepool Headland

Surrounded on three sides by the sea, Hartlepool Headland is a limestone peninsula. It is a great point to watch seabirds, especially in autumn. Sea watching can be very exciting and, when the weather conditions are right, huge numbers of auk, gannet, shearwater and skua pass north and south along the coast.

Directions: There are several public car parks at Hartlepool Headland and it is close to many bus routes.



James Clancher



Teesmouth Field Centre

Take your group on a wildlife experience to the Teesmouth Field Centre

Are you a group organiser looking for somewhere different for your group or school to visit? Why not try a habitat trail? Or one of the fascinating guided tours of the Tees Estuary, its wildlife and industry, birds or plants? These are led by staff of the Teesmouth Field Centre. Booking is essential. Tel: 01429 264912 www.teesmouth.freeserve.co.uk

Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge

For a unique way to cross the River Tees, a trip on the Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge, either by foot, bike or car, is always a treat. This much loved Tees Valley landmark, built by Edwardian engineers, dominates the Middlesbrough skyline. It is the only working bridge of its kind in England and it can cut miles from your journey.

For information on opening hours, prices and special events telephone 01642 247563. High winds can close the Transporter Bridge, as can heavy rain, fog and essential maintenance. You can sign up for free mobile phone alerts by texting tbridge to 07624 819010.

Main photo: Visit Tees Valley

Travel Information

Many of the wildlife sites can be easily reached by bus. Here is information to help you plan your trip. Or how about cycling? Not only is it a great way to keep fit, but it's also a great way to really experience the countryside. Most venues have cycle parking facilities and there are many routes that take you away from main roads to see a different side of the Tees Valley.

Traveline www.traveline.org.uk

Traveline is the national, impartial public transport information service. It provides a service called NextBuses which gives departure information at every stop in the Tees Valley. To use the service:

- Find the bus stop you need to use and you will see an SMS code in brackets (provided in the transport information section of the booklet)
- Open a new text message and type in the unique stop code
- Send it to 84268*
- You will get a message back with the times of the next few buses to arrive at the stop

**Your normal text message charge plus up to 25p for the reply*

Or if you have an internet enabled mobile phone:

- Open your phones browser and navigate to www.nextbuses.mobi*
- In the search box type in the SMS code of your stop and click search
- Select your stop and view the next few departures

**Normal data charges of your operator apply*

*You can speak to a travel advisor by calling 0871 200 22 33**

**Calls cost 10p per minute – calls from mobiles will cost considerably more*

NextBuses.mobi
Live bus times direct to your smart phone



On your bike!

www.sustrans.org.uk

Visit the Sustrans website to plan your route to wildlife sites in the Tees Valley using cycle routes.



Connect Tees Valley www.connectteesvalley.com

This is your one-stop shop for travel information in the Tees Valley! The site provides full downloadable timetables for all bus services in the area, as well as contact information for each of the operators. If you are going to cycle, useful maps are available to help you more accurately plan your trip. There are also links to help you get the most out of cycling in the Tees Valley.

All bus information was correct at the time of print (Nov 2010). Please check Connect Tees Valley for the latest timetables before you travel.



Billingham Beck Valley Country Park

By bus

Buses from Station Road (300m from the Visitors Centre)

Stagecoach on Teesside Service 36
Hartlepool ➔ Billingham Centre ➔ Stockton ➔ Middlesbrough

Up to every 15 minutes Monday to Sunday

Leven Valley Service 45

Wolviston Court ➔ Billingham Centre ➔ Middlesbrough

Every 60 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime

Leven Valley Service 568

Wolviston Court ➔ Billingham Centre ➔ Norton ➔ North Tees Hospital

Every 60 minutes Monday to Saturday evenings and all day Sunday

For buses towards Billingham Town Centre and Hartlepool:

Station Road Stand 1 (SMS: sktdtwj)

For buses towards Stockton and Middlesbrough:

Station Road Stand 2 (SMS: sktdtwm)

By cycle

National Cycle Route 14 provides a dedicated cycle lane in both directions along

Wolviston Road/By Pass Road.

Sat Nav:

By car

The car park is situated off the **A1027**, close to the **Billingham exit** of the **A19**.

OS grid ref:
NZ455227

Post code:
TS23 1RA

Travel Information

Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park

By bus

Buses from Low Grange Avenue (1400m from the Visitors Centre)

Stagecoach on Teesside Service 34
Low Grange ➔ Billingham Centre ➔
Middlesbrough

*Every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday
daytime*

Stagecoach on Teesside Service 52
Low Grange ➔ Billingham Centre ➔
Stockton

Up to every 12 minutes Monday to Sunday

For buses towards Billingham Town Centre, Middlesbrough and Stockton:

Low Grange Club Stand 3 (SMS: sktgagm)

By cycle

National Cycle

Route 14

runs right past the country park linking to Hartlepool and Billingham Town Centres.

Cycle stands are provided.

By car

The car park is situated off the **Seal Sands Link Road (A1185)** between Wolviston and Cowpen Bewley.

Sat Nav:

OS grid ref:
NZ480255

Post code:
TS23 3NF

North Gare

By bus

Buses from A178 Tees Road (150m from the entrance to North Gare, 1500m from the car park)

Stagecoach Hartlepool Service 1

Middlesbrough ➔ Port Clarence ➔ Seaton Carew ➔ Hartlepool ➔ Throston Grange

Up to every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday; hourly on Sunday

For buses towards Port Clarence and Middlesbrough:

Seaton Snook Stand 2 (SMS: hardjpw)

For buses towards Seaton Carew and Hartlepool:

Seaton Snook Stand 1 (SMS: hardjpt)

By cycle

A cycle track is provided on the pavement next to the **A178 Tees Road** from its junction with **Elizabeth Way**

A bridleway taking you to the car park of North Gare is accessed through a gate just opposite the cricket ground

Cycling is permitted on the **A178 Tees Road**, but it is used by lorries and other large vehicles

By car

A public car park (accessed via a minor road) is well signposted from the Seaton Carew Road (A178) to the north of the Hartlepool Power Station. For Seal Sands, parking is available at Teemouth NNR car park, just south of Greatham Creek on the same road (A178).

Sat Nav:

North Gare:
OS grid ref:
NZ62427

Seal Sands:
OS grid ref:
NZ509246

Photo: Carl Watts

Portrack Marsh

By bus

Buses from the Tees Barrage on Princeton Drive (800m from the Marshes)

Arriva Service 12/12A

Middlesbrough ➔ Stockton ➔ Yarm or Durham Tees Valley Airport & Darlington
*Every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday
daytime*

Compass Royston Service 66

Stockton High Street ➔ Teesside Park
*Every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday
daytime*

For buses towards Middlesbrough and Teesside Park:

Tees Barrage Stand 1 (SMS: sktgpda)

For buses towards Stockton High Street:

Tees Barrage Stand 2 (SMS: sktgpdg)

Buses from Portrack Lane (500m from the Marshes)

Stagecoach on Teesside Service 13/13A
Hemlington ➔ Middlesbrough ➔ Stockton
*Every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday
daytime*

Leven Valley Service 505/506

Stockton ➔ Elton Park ➔ Portrack
*Every 60 minutes on Monday to Saturday
evenings and all day Sunday*

For buses towards Middlesbrough:

Malleable Works Stand 1 (SMS: sktdmwa)

For buses towards Stockton High Street:

Malleable Works Stand 2 (SMS: sktdmwd)

By cycle

You can cycle along **National Cycle Route 1** on the south side of the River Tees crossing the Barrage to reach the Marshes

A cycleway is also provided on either side of the river from the centre of Stockton.

Portrack Lane and Marston Road also have dedicated cycleways.

By car

Head along the **A66** for **Teesside Park and the Tees Barrage**. Follow the signs for the **Tees Barrage** over the railway lines and over the bridge across the river. After the roundabout turn right onto **Whitewater Way** and follow this road around to the **Talpole Hotel** where there is public parking.

Sat Nav:

OS Grid ref:
NZ462194

Post code:
TS17 6QB

Travel Information

Saltholme

By bus

Buses from Seaton Carew Road (500m from the Visitors Centre)

Stagecoach Hartlepool Service 1
Middlesbrough ➔ Port Clarence ➔
Seaton Carew ➔ Hartlepool ➔
Throston Grange
*Up to every 30 minutes Monday to
Saturday; hourly on Sunday*

For buses towards Seaton Carew and Hartlepool:

RSPB Saltholme Stand 1 (SMS:
sktdwpm)

For buses towards Port Clarence and Middlesbrough:

RSPB Saltholme Stand 2 (SMS:
sktdwpt)

By cycle

Cycle paths run alongside the **A1046 Haverton Hill Road** to Port Clarence.

There is a dedicated cycle path into Saltholme from Port Clarence.

A cycleway is provided both sides of the Transporter Bridge.

Transporter Bridge costs 60p per person.

By car

Situated on the A178 Seaton Carew Road between Port Clarence and Seaton Carew. Sign posted from the A19

Sat Nav:
OS grid ref:
NZ506231

Photo: Carl Watts

Seaton Common & Dunes

By bus

Buses from Seaton Carew Bus Station (400m from Seaton Dunes)

Stagecoach Hartlepool Service 1
Middlesbrough ➔ Port Clarence
➔ Seaton Carew ➔ Hartlepool ➔
Throston Grange

*Up to every 10 minutes Monday to
Sunday*

Stagecoach Hartlepool Service 4B

Marina ➔ Hartlepool Centre ➔
Owton Manor ➔ Seaton Carew
*Every 60 minutes on evenings
and Sundays*

For buses towards Port Clarence and Middlesbrough:

Seaton Carew Bus Station Stand 1 (SMS: hardjmp)

For buses towards Hartlepool Town Centre and the estates:

Seaton Carew Bus Station Stand 6 (SMS: hardjpd)

By cycle

Leave **National Cycle Route 14** in Seaton Carew at the junction of **A178 The Front** and **B1276 Seaton Lane**

Follow **A178 The Front/Tees Road south** until you are just past the Bus Station

Turn into the car parking area

Cycling is permitted on the **A178 Tees Road**, but it is used by lorries and other large vehicles.

By car

A public car park (accessed via a minor road) is well signposted from the **Seaton Carew Road (A178)** to the north of the Hartlepool Power Station.

Sat Nav:
OS grid ref:
NZ525282

Seal Sands

By bus

Buses from A178 Tees Road (400m from Greatham Creek Bridge)

Stagecoach Hartlepool Service 1
Middlesbrough ➔ Port Clarence ➔
Seaton Carew ➔ Hartlepool ➔ Throston
Grange

*Up to every 30 minutes Monday to
Saturday; hourly on Sunday*

For buses towards Port Clarence and Middlesbrough:

Greatham Creek Bridge Stand 1 (SMS:
haramdm)

For buses towards Seaton Carew and Hartlepool:

Greatham Creek Bridge Stand 2 (SMS:
haramdp)

By cycle

There are no cycle routes to this location

Cycling is permitted on the **A178 Tees Road**, but it is used by lorries and other large vehicles.

By car

A signposted public car park is situated on the **A178**, just south of Greatham Creek.

Sat Nav:
OS grid ref:
NZ525282

Summerhill

By bus

Buses from Catcote Road (600m from the Visitors Centre)

Stagecoach Hartlepool Service 3
Bishop Cuthbert ➔ Hartlepool
Centre ➔ South Fens

*Up to every 30 minutes Monday
to Sunday*

For buses towards Owton Manor and The Fens:

Elwick Road Stand 1 (SMS:
harajgt)

For buses towards Hartlepool Town Centre:

Elwick Road Stand 2 (SMS:
harajgw)

By cycle

Cycle lanes are provided in both directions along **Catcote Road** and on **Summerhill Lane** directly to the Visitor Centre.

There is also a network of cycle paths through the park.

Cycle stands are provided.

By car

The Activity Centre car park is at the end of **Summerhill Lane** which is off **Catcote Road** on the western edge of Hartlepool. Look out for brown tourist information signs.

Sat Nav:
OS grid ref:
NZ490316
Post code:
TS25 4LL

Travel Information

Wynyard Woodland Park

By bus

Buses from Durham Road, Thorpe Thewles village (1.1km from the Visitors Centre)

Arriva Service 69

Stockton ➔ Thorpe Thewles ➔ Sedgfield ➔ Bishop Auckland

Every 60 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime

For buses towards Stockton High Street:

Thorpe Thewles Stand 1 (SMS: sktgtd)

For buses towards Sedgfield and Bishop Auckland:

Thorpe Thewles Stand 2 (SMS: sktgtg)

By cycle

Castle Eden Walkway, which runs through the park is part of **National Cycle Route 1**.

Cycle stands are provided.

By car

Visitor Centre car park is signposted from the **A177 Stockton-Sedgfield Road** near the village of **Thorpe Thewles**.

Sat Nav:

OS grid ref: NZ403242

Post code: TS21 3JG

Background photo: Hartlepool Borough Council

Local information

Visit Tees Valley

Your guide to spending time in the Tees Valley

www.visitteesvalley.co.uk

Tees Valley Tourist Information Centres

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Guisborough | 01287 633801 |
| Hartlepool | 01429 869706 |
| Middlesbrough | 01642 729700/729729 |
| Redcar | 01642 471921 |
| Saltburn-by-the-Sea | 01287 622422 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 01642 528130 |

Countryside Events

A wide range of informal walks and events take place throughout the year. Whatever your age, interests or level of ability, there is something for everyone.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Hartlepool Countryside Team | 01429 853325 |
| Stockton Park and Countryside Team | 01642 527751 |
| Tees Valley Wildlife Trust | 01287 636382 |
| RSPB Saltholme | 01642 546625 |

Tide Tables

www.bbc.co.uk/weather/coast/tides

Be safe and check the tide timetables if you are planning a coastal trip, especially around rocks and cliffs. They are also useful for planning a seal watching trip.



James Clark/PA

Local Info on Local Birds

www.teesmouthbc.com

Visit the Teesmouth Bird Club website for up to date information on birds and bird watching in the Tees Valley.



Carl Watts



Teesmouth Bird Club

