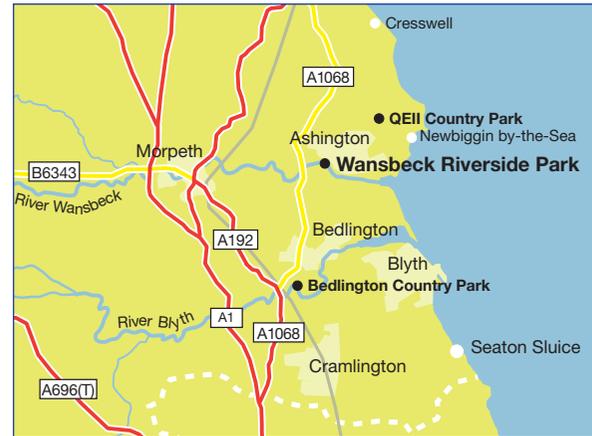


Local school children involved in organised environmental improvement work.



Wansbeck's Country Parks

The Country Parks

All three Country Parks are excellent sites for recreation, conservation and wildlife study and each Park has a different character.

- The Countryside Officer can assist with schools and other group visits helping you gain the most from your time in the Park. Bookings should be made well in advance.
- Swimming is not advised in any Park due to deep mud, weed and other dangers on the river and lake beds.
- Dog walkers are very welcome. Please be considerate to other Park users and keep your dog under close control. Do not allow your dog to foul paths or other publicly used areas.
- Camping is restricted to the Wansbeck Riverside Park Camp Site. Please contact the Caravan Site Warden.
- We encourage recreational activities within the country parks but certain pursuits are subject to fees and charges. Please contact the Outdoor Facilities section for more information.
- There is fishing at all three Parks. For further details of day permits, clubs and types of fishing, contact the Countryside Officer.
- A number of access points to the country parks are fitted with locked gates. Please contact the Outdoor Facilities section for opening and closing times..
- Our Country Parks are important refuges for birds, plants and animals so please follow the Country Code and treat our parks with respect.

For walks outside the Parks the best maps are the Ordnance Survey Pathfinders, numbers 524 and 536 or Explorer 325.

Location map and information

For further information and bookings please contact:

The Countryside Officer, Outdoor Facilities Development Team, Wansbeck District Council, Council Offices, Front Street, Bedlington, Northumberland NE22 5TU.
Tel: (01670) 843444. www.wansbeck.gov.uk

For information about the Woodhorn Northumberland Museum and Archives please contact:

Tel: (01670) 528080. www.experiencewoodhorn.com

For information about the Wansbeck Riverside Park Caravan and Camp Site, please contact:

The Warden at the Caravan Site Office.
Tel: (01670) 812323. www.wansbeck.gov.uk

For information about Furnace Bridge Iron Works Bedlington, please contact:

Community Heritage Officer. Tel: (01670) 829041.

For details of bus services please contact:

The Public Transport Team, Northumberland County Council.
Tel: (01670) 533128.

Newbiggin Bay is also managed by Wansbeck District Council. Newbiggin by the Sea is the ideal location for a day at the seaside.



Wansbeck Riverside Park

Local Nature Reserve and Castle Island Local Nature Reserve

The park stretches for five and a half kilometres along the banks of the Wansbeck from Sheepwash Bridge to the river estuary. The local path and road network affords access to all sections of the park.

The caravan and camping site at the west end of the park is open all year and offers touring and static facilities. Please contact the Caravan Site Warden for bookings and further details.

Water based sports are a particular attraction of the park with fishing, canoeing, rowing all being popular. Such activities are subject to river fees and certain restrictions. Please contact the Caravan Site Warden or the Countryside Officer for further details.



Families are catered for with a well equipped play area, picnic facilities and a shop which is situated next to the caravan site.

There is a good network of paths offering a variety of walks within the park, both along the river and through more secluded stretches. Horse riders are welcome to use certain paths, however restrictions do apply so please contact the Countryside Officer before using the park.

The park has a number of diverse and interesting natural habitats to discover. Newly installed interpretation panels provide the visitor with useful information on exploring and finding out about the natural history of the area.

i Site Interpretation Panels



Bedlington Country Park

Local Nature Reserve

The park covers 57 hectares of woodland and grassland along the north bank of the river Blyth. Visitors and local people have walked through the woods here for many years and the country park was created in 1984 to protect the unique nature of this area. Local Nature Reserve status was gained in 2006.

An established footpath network allows the public access to enjoy the semi-natural woodland of the park. The valley is host to a wide variety of plants and animals, many of which only live in such old woods. The country park is becoming increasingly significant as a refuge for red squirrels, a species whose numbers are in serious decline in other parts of the country.

The picnic area at Humford Mill is especially popular with families in the summer. Here can be found an information board, play area and toilets.

Horse riders are very welcome to use the park although some access restrictions do apply, so please contact The Outdoor Services Section before using the park.

