

This is **durham**

Hawthorn



A walk around the dene...
...through woodland and meadow



Location...

Hawthorn Village is located on the B1432 road between Easington and Seaham in County Durham.

Public Transport Information

For information on getting to the coast using public transport, please go to www.traveline.info, or telephone 0871 200 22 33.





Hawthorn Cycling Club, early 20th century



Bridge At Hawthorn Dene



Hawthorn Towers, late 19th century

Kinley Hill Tower

Introduction

Hawthorn Dene is the second largest dene in the county with unspoilt semi-natural broadleaved woodland and species rich Magnesian limestone meadows. There is a pub in the village for refreshments at the start or end of the walk.

Hawthorn Village developed in the Medieval period with farming providing the main economy. The village is therefore notably different in character to the other settlements along the coast, which were built in response to the booming coal industry in the late 19th/early 20th century.

The dene is managed by Durham Wildlife Trust and the coastal edge is owned by the National Trust. The Dene is of special interest and in need of protection because it is one of the few areas of relatively undisturbed woodland in East Durham.

Hawthorn Village, Dene and Hive contain an abundance of natural and archaeological features which all have a part to play in telling the story of the area.



Preparing for the walk

Please take care on this walk. It is advisable to wear walking shoes/boots as the routes could become muddy in places. Be prepared for changing weather conditions and wear or carry appropriate clothing and a map.

Our coastal village walk leaflets have been designed as a guide to help you in your discovery and exploration of the East Durham Coast with routes linked to the Durham Coastal Path.

Starting point

Start/finish: End of road at the north end of Hawthorn Village

Grid reference: NZ424459

Length: 2-3 miles / 3-5 kms

Time: 2 - 2½ hours



The Countryside Code

Respect, protect, enjoy!

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Follow advice and local signs.





The walk

- S** This starts and finishes at the end of the road beside a red bricked bungalow. Look out for the sign for Hawthorn Dene on the left opposite the bungalow, follow the track into the Dene.
- 1**
- 2** Follow the main track as it bears along to the right then left towards the sea. Some of the woodland has existed here for over 400 years, although parts of it have been managed as a 19th Century plantation during the time of the Hawthorn Estate. Nearly 200 different plants, trees and animals have been recorded in the dene. Ash, sycamore and oak are found in abundance, whilst on the lower slopes, yew woodland can be found which is considered rare in Britain. The shrub layer includes hazel and hawthorn. Roe deer can sometimes be seen wandering through the woodland. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, jays, tree creepers and blue tits are among the many birds found in the woodland. Mammals include roe deer, fox and badger.
- 3** As the main track bears left there is another footpath to the right signposted Hawthorn Dene. This track takes you through the middle of the dene, however there are some steps on this section of the route and it can be slippery after periods of heavy rain. There

is a Durham Wildlife Trust interpretation panel a few steps along this track with more information about the dene. If you follow this path it will eventually meet up with the main route.

Keeping to the main track carry on ahead towards the sea with agricultural fields to the right. There are some impressive Horse Chestnut trees along this section.

- 4** Eventually we arrive at Hawthorn Meadows. This is an outstanding example of species rich calcareous grassland. In the summer months of July and August this area is awash with colour. Look out for the purple flowers of the meadow cranesbill and several species of orchids amongst these beautiful grasslands. In late spring the area is covered with a blanket of cowslips.

- 5** Follow the path towards the railway line. The footpath now links into Durham's section of the England Coast Path National Trail. This area was once the site of Hawthorn Towers where the Pemberton family resided from 1836. It was demolished in 1969 but a few building stones from the 'Towers' remain scattered around the area as a reminder of times past. The estate included tennis courts, gardens and orchards. Close to here

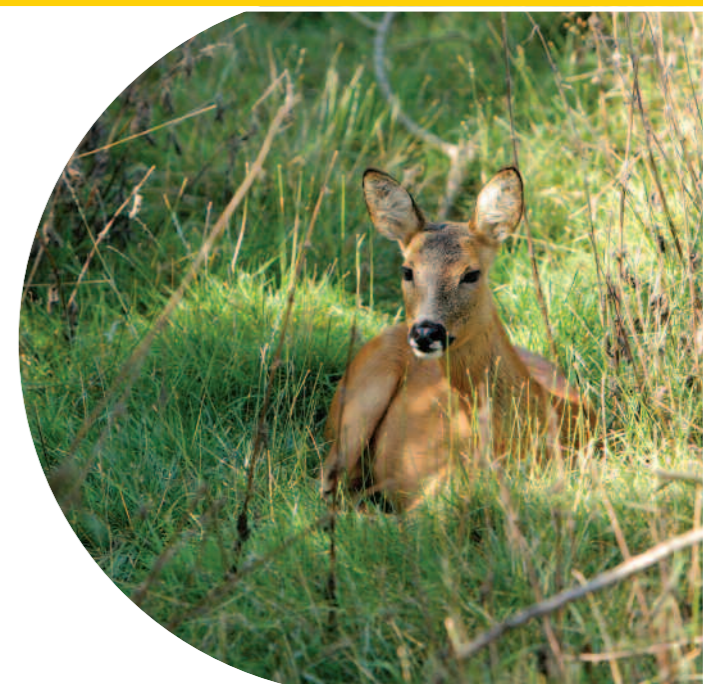
Key:

- main route
- alternative route
- England Coast Path National Trail
- 1** reference point
- S** start point



was Hawthorn Halt, the Pemberton family's private railway station. Just before the stile at the railway line turn left then continue along the path up several steps. Follow the track until almost the end of the trees. Turn left at the waymarker heading away from the sea.

- 6** Follow the track through the woodland. In May, June Dogs' mercury, wild garlic and bluebells dominate the woodland floor. In early spring this area is a great site for snowdrops.
- 7** Continue straight along the path until it reaches an avenue of trees predominately sycamore. This track eventually returns to the road where the walk began.





County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UQ

Telephone: 03000 268 131
E-mail: heritagecoast@durham.gov.uk
Visit: www.durhamheritagecoast.org
www.thisisdurham.com

Sunderland Tourist Information Centre (0191) 553 2000
Hartlepool Tourist Information Centre (01429) 523 408

We have a number of village walks leaflets to download from our website. They are in PDF format but are also compatible to be read through the BLIO App on smartphones and tablets.



Heritage Coast
Durham



Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

03000 268 131
heritagecoast@durham.gov.uk

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Mike Smith, Geoff Perry, Jim Perrie,
Colin Forster, INCA

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Guy Tritton

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