

## Make a difference with us

Looking for something unusual to do at the weekend? Want to improve your local countryside? Join us at a Community Conservation event.

We do simple tasks such as wildflower planting, removing vegetation or picking litter and you don't need any experience at all. These are drop-in sessions so you can stay for 5 minutes or a few hours - it all helps. These are really informal and let you meet your local Countryside Ranger and give us a helping hand.



Perfect for popping in with the family or while you're out walking the dog



sign up for e-news

## Get in touch today

Countryside Service, Culture and Sport,  
Durham County Council, County Hall DH1 5UL  
Tel: 03000 264 589

[www.durham.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.durham.gov.uk/countryside)

 Follow us on Twitter @durhamcouncil

 Facebook/Durham-Countryside-Volunteers

Images: [www.wildstock.co.uk](http://www.wildstock.co.uk), Stuart Priestley, Countryside Service, Graeme Peacock, Neville McDonnell, front cover Richard Liggins.

The iconic Temple of Minerva



## Hardwick Park

a Country Park with a difference

This 18th century park has been lovingly restored and is a great day out to spend with the family, as a group or on your own.

Stroll through the fully accessible park and admire the remains of the original buildings and the natural beauty of the lake, woodland and wildlife. There is a Visitor Centre, with interactive displays, café and toilets. Throughout the year there are a variety of events, activities, walks and workshops.

Hardwick Park, Sedgefield,  
County Durham. TS21 2DN  
Tel 01740 621 505

[www.durham.gov.uk/hardwickpark](http://www.durham.gov.uk/hardwickpark)

 Facebook/Hardwick-Park



Relax with coffee and a cake

Calling all teachers

get in touch to find out about our education sessions



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

[countryside@durham.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@durham.gov.uk)  
03000 264 589

Durham's Countryside Service

# Discover Durham's Countryside

Explore, Enjoy, Get involved



Durham County Council





County Durham's countryside is beautiful and varied. It includes the wild beauty of the moors, mysterious wooded dales, sweeping coastal scenery and wildlife havens nestled amongst towns and villages.

**We have a huge mix of plants and animals, plus fascinating history and geology.**

**Durham's Countryside Service looks after our countryside estate for people and wildlife. It's our job to balance access and recreation for people with the protection of wildlife and habitats.**



## Nature's playground

Have fun in the great outdoors - play, run, ride, fly a kite, climb a tree ...the possibilities are endless



You can pick litter or balsam while walking your dog



## Volunteer with us

Make new friends, learn new skills, get fit, have fun!

You can:

- help with walks, events, education sessions and birthday parties
- check sites and footpaths
- help us plant trees, build fences and pick litter
- help us at Hardwick Park Visitor Centre
- complete wildlife surveys and much more

We have something for everyone: individuals, community groups and corporate groups. Contact us to see how you can get involved.



## Where can I visit?

It all depends on what you want to do!

- **Country Parks** larger sites with walking routes, easy access routes, a variety of wildlife and picnic spots
- **Picnic Areas** ideal places to get some fresh air, have a well-earned break and eat your sandwiches
- **Nature Reserves** places to go to watch wildlife and see conservation in action
- **Railway Paths** 120km/75 miles of traffic free linear routes which are perfect for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders

## Wild places

woodland, heath, ponds, meadows - great homes for wildlife

## Did you know?

Over 4 million people visit Durham's countryside estate every year

Our website has information about our sites, including access information for visitors with limited mobility.

## Walk with us

County Durham has some of the most scenic countryside in Britain so come and explore with us. Walking gets you healthier, fitter and happier.

We have short easy strolls to longer hikes and everything in between. We have walks about local history, geology, nature, art, writing and photography. No need to book, just turn up and enjoy.

**Download the latest guided walks programme, featuring six months of fantastic walks.**

**Download it at [www.durham.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.durham.gov.uk/countryside) or call us on 03000 264 589 for a copy.**

Our walks are great value for money



"I've lost weight, made friends and always have fun on your walks"