

# Exploring Hardcastle Crags

Our way marked trails will take you to some of the most beautiful areas of this special place. Choose from paths down by the riverside or high in the woods to take you from Midgehole to Gibson Mill. If you're feeling really adventurous, you can explore on your own the quieter areas in the upper valley with stunning riverside views and woodlands full of tumbling streams. Climb the rocky paths to the hilltops or enjoy a picnic by old weirs. Whenever you visit, there'll be plenty of wildlife to see.



## Railway Trail

3 miles (4.8 km)

2 hours, challenging

Follow purple waymarkers. A strenuous walk over more challenging terrain in the upper valley with some spectacular views. The stations for the railway trestle bridge are all that remain today. The railway once ran from Slack to the Walsshaw Dean reservoirs. It was demolished in 1912. Blakedean is a good half-way rest point to stop for a picnic. This route includes steep steps.



## Estate Track

1 mile (1.6 km)

20 - 30 mins, easy

The shortest and easiest route to Gibson Mill. Suitable for visitors with pushchairs or wheelchairs.



## Crags Constitutional

2 miles (3.2 km)

1 hour, medium

Follow green waymarkers. Explore the valley upstream from Gibson Mill, passing mill ponds, weirs and 'The Crags'. These stacks of millstone grit give the valley its name and make a great stopping off point.

## Mill Walk

3 miles (4.8 km)

1 - 1½ hours, medium

Follow red waymarkers. Take the more strenuous high level option, the low level riverside path or combine into a circular route linking Midgehole car park and Gibson Mill. (Can be done in any direction, but we suggest the riverside section is best for the return leg of your walk).

## Tree Trail

2 miles (3.2 km)

1 hour, medium

Follow the 'green man' waymarker. Spot the markers along the route and learn the names of the trees along the way.



## Access

**Midgehole Car Park, wheelchair access**  
Designated parking (limited spaces) at Gibson Mill. To book a space call 01422 844518 (Estate Office), 01422 846256 (Gibson Mill) or ask staff at Midgehole Car Park to check availability.  
**Clough Hole Car Park - Very Steep Walk**  
Not suitable for wheelchair access.

## Key:

- Café
- Toilets
- Accessible toilet
- Shop
- Picnic Area
- Baby changing facilities
- Viewpoint

## In case of emergency

Please be aware that there is no mobile signal in most areas of Hardcastle Crags. Therefore, in the case of emergency, take note of the casualty's location, and go to Gibson Mill or Midgehole car park and ask the staff to dial 999 or 101, depending on the injuries and urgency.

