



Northumberland
Wildlife Trust

Hareshaw Dene



What will I see?

A stream that cascades over many waterfalls in a beautiful wooded valley. At the northern end of the walk is the most famous of the waterfalls - Hareshaw Linn. At the southern end of the valley are clues to very different times in the 19th century, when this now peaceful place was the location for iron making on an industrial scale.

How old is it?

The rocks that the stream cuts through are Carboniferous in age; around 335 million years ago. The smelting of iron took place for around a decade in 1840.

Did you know?

The iron working lasted for such a short time because there was no easy way to transport the finished iron to markets and because of the financial problems of the owners. The rail connection to Bellingham arrived just after iron making had stopped, also by then higher quality ore and improved smelting equipment was available elsewhere.

Why it is here?

The rocks in this area are a series of harder sandstones and limestones and softer shales and siltstones. They erode at different rates and form waterfalls. The iron smelting industry exploited ironstone nodules that occurred in the shales in the valley and the other local natural resources of coal, limestone, sandstone, and water for power.

And wildlife?

The steep sides have preserved ancient woodland with special plants like herb Paris, toothwort, wood sanicle and goldilocks buttercup.

Where is it?

Take the bus or drive to Bellingham. You can park in the Northumberland National Park Car Park to the north of Pennine Way [NY841835].



Want to know more?

- NNP Geodiversity Audit
- Onshore GeoIndex
- iGeology
- Geological history of Northumbria
- Carboniferous rocks

