

# Welcome to Gisburn Forest.

**M**ay the sunshine rest on you... hey, and the rain and snow and wind. Truly a forest for all seasons.



Located in the North East corner of Lancashire and within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. All year round, Gisburn Forest offers different experiences for different people. Explore on foot, on horseback, by bike. Find popular trails and quiet glades.

In a country that imports some 80% of the timber products it uses, Gisburn Forest is still an important provider of timber and rural employment. But that's just a part of the scene. The forest plays host to a diverse range of habitats and wildlife. There are newly created "native woods", hidden ancient woods and there is farmland. There are woodland glades, bogs and becks; there are flowers, birds and bugs. There's space to breathe and time to lose...so come explore.

## Walking in Gisburn Forest

A brilliant way to explore the forest and the best way to spot wildlife. There are three way-marked walks for an easy introduction to the forest. These walks start from United Utilities' car park at Vicarage Garden. The adventurous visitor may need a more detailed map to help find their way round the numerous other tracks and paths that wind through the forest.



○ ○ ○ 2.1 kilometres - allow 40 minutes

A gently undulating walk through mixed coniferous and broadleaved woodland, with fine views of Stocks Reservoir.

● ● ● 3.5 kilometres - allow 1 hour

Passing through mixed woodland this route follows, in part, an old farmstead track known as Eggberry Road. There are views over Bottoms Beck to the ancient broadleaved woodland of Park Wood.

● ● ● 5.3 kilometres - allow 1.5 hours

This is the longest route combining many of the best qualities of the two shorter walks. From Birch Hills the route passes over Swinshaw Top before dropping down to Bottoms Beck. The beck is followed downstream, for a while via the course of an old rail track that was used for the transport of stone during the dam construction at Stocks Reservoir, then onto Eggberry Road.

## Cycling in Gisburn Forest

The forest is a great place to try off-road cycling. There are three waymarked loops, following a mixture of forest road and single track, which have been specially designed for cycling. Cocklet Hill is a good place to start the cycle routes.



● ● ● 9 kilometres  
Allow 1 hour - moderate grade

○ ● ● 12.5 kilometres  
Allow 1.5 hours - moderate grade

These two routes pass through mixed coniferous and broadleaved woodland with many fine views of the forest and the upper Hodder Valley. The gradients are mostly gentle, though a couple of short climbs may make you puff or push!

○ ● ● 15.7 kilometres  
Allow 2 hours - difficult grade

Essentially an exciting extension to the green route. You can climb up towards the highest part of the forest at Whelpstone Crag before dropping steeply to cross Dob Dale Beck and pass the wet weather shelter at Martin's Laithe. In very wet weather the ford at Dob Dale Beck may be impassable.

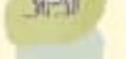
## Horse riding

Gee up! Although there are no routes in the forest that are specially designed for horse riding, you are welcome to explore the forest road network.



# GISBURN FOREST

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-  Footpath
-  Public Road
-  Forest Road
-  Farm Land
-  Forest
-  Walking Trail Waymarker Post
-  Cycle Trail Waymarker Post
-  Orienteering Post



-  Waymarked Cycle Trails
-  Waymarked Walking Trails

73

74

75

76

77

54

Slaidburn

0 1 km

## Local Communities and Facilities

You may like to support the rural communities within the Forest of Bowland by visiting other sites of interest, using local facilities and staying in local accommodation.



**Tosside:** shop and public house. **Slaidburn:** shop, café, public house, youth hostel, public toilets. **Walks around Stocks Reservoir:** leaflets are available from local outlets or United Utilities. Tel: 01200 454400

## Tourist Information Centres

14 Market Place, Clitheroe.  
Tel: (01200) 425566  
Email: [www.tourism@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:www.tourism@ribblevalley.gov.uk)

Town Hall, Cheapside, Settle  
Tel: (01729) 825192

## Useful websites

[www.forestry.gov.uk/northwestengland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/northwestengland)  
[www.forestofbowland.com/visiting/](http://www.forestofbowland.com/visiting/)  
[www.slaidburn.org.uk](http://www.slaidburn.org.uk)

The Forestry Commission manages the public forest estate for the benefit of you and the environment. For further information you can contact the Forestry Commission at:

North West England Forest District	Forestry Commission Bowland
Grizedale	The Old Sawmill
Ambleside	Dunsop Bridge
Cumbria	Clitheroe
LA22 0QJ	BB7 3AZ
Tel: 01229 860373	Tel: 01200 448256

## How to get to Gisburn Forest

### On foot:

From Slaidburn it is about a 2 1/2 mile walk. From Catlow Road, follow public footpath to the Southern corner of the forest.

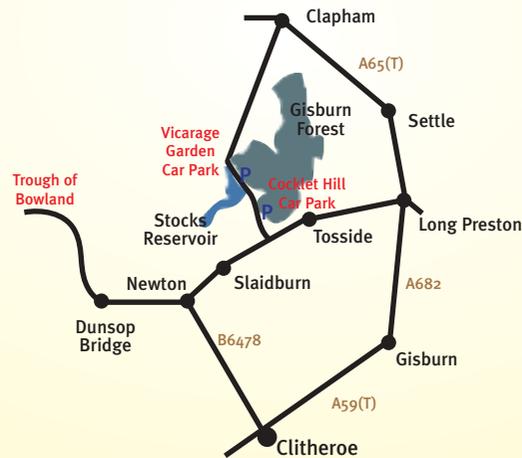
From Tosside follow the gravel track that starts adjacent to the Dog and Partridge public house to reach the south west corner of the forest.

### By bike or horse:

On the B6478 road between Slaidburn and Long Preston is a crossroad junction near to Lower Stoney Bank farm. From here a quiet road heads North through the forest and on to Clapham Station.

### By Public Transport:

There are railway stations at Long Preston (about 5 1/2 miles) and Clitheroe (about 12 miles). Various bus services link the villages of Slaidburn and Tosside to the wider world.



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