

Hunting Hall's Guide to North Northumberland

A holiday at Hunting Hall offers a wonderful diverse landscape to explore.

The Holy Island Causeway, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is only five miles away and there are long stretches of deserted sandy beaches with several dramatic castles along the coast.

Inland, towards the Cheviot Hills, the countryside becomes much wilder and there are some breathtaking walks through valleys and over heather topped hillsides.

This leaflet contains some of our favourite wild places, walks and cycle rides. A more comprehensive guide can be found at the farm.



On the Holy Island of **Lindisfarne** you can discover the land of St. Aidan and St. Cuthbert. In the stillness of an evening the voices of seals resting on sand banks, drift eerily across the water to the island.

Northumberland has the most dramatic coast - sandy beaches, rugged cliff tops and mud flats teeming with wildfowl. Long ago the huge castles of **Bamburgh**, **Holy Island** and **Dunstanburgh** defended these shores.



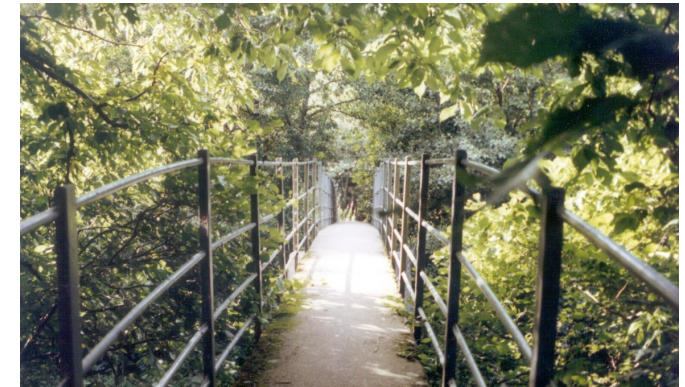
A boat trip to the **Farne Island** to see puffins, seals and seabirds is an exciting day out. Enthusiastic birdwatchers may enjoy training their telescopes on the sands of **Budle Bay** or taking a boat around **Coquet Island** to see nesting Roseate Terns.

After fleeing the Viking raids on Lindisfarne with the body of St Cuthbert it is said that the monks sheltered at **St Cuthbert's Cave** near Belford. This is a beautiful site in peaceful woodland and one of our favourite places for an afternoon ramble.

Just a over a mile from the farm is **Kylloe Wood** with some lovely footpaths. At its heart the trees are majestic, sunlight dapples onto the pine needle floor and the wood is full of birdsong.



Blawearie is an old ruined farmhouse on the top of the moors where the wind 'blew wearily'. A long-gone tenant created a garden, sheltered by rocks and boulders on this bleak hillside. Now all that remains are a few overgrown shrubs and roughly hewn stone steps, but it is a wonderfully atmospheric place.



Rivers run through the beautiful Cheviot valleys where dippers flit amongst the dappled rocks. From the **Harthope Valley** paths climb steeply up **Cheviot** or lead through **Happy Valley** (pictured above).

This is an area rich in archaeology and there are remains of prehistoric hill forts, burial mounds and evidence of ancient farming techniques high up in these exposed hills.

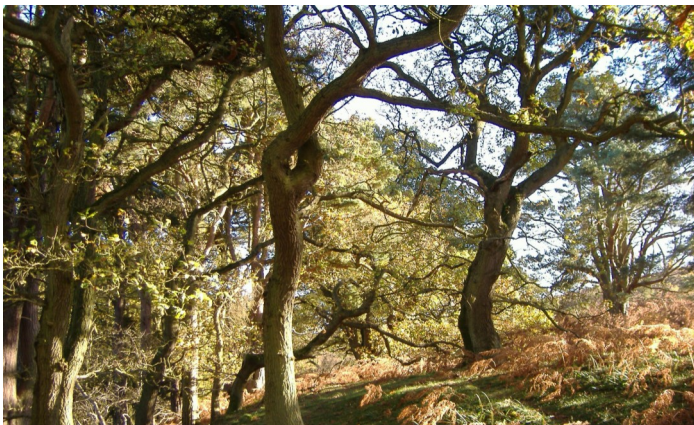
The **Cheviot Hills** provide exhilarating walks across wild moorland with stunning views.



There are several villages a gentle bike ride from the cottage. The old school in the pretty estate village of **Ford** is decorated with beautiful biblical murals by Lady Waterford. In **Etal** village there is a ruined castle and an unusual Northumbrian thatched pub. There is an example of a working watermill at Heatherslaw and a light railway.



Alnwick is a pretty market town. The Alnwick Gardens are very popular and include a tree house restaurant and an impressive water feature.



The Northumberland Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve **Ford Moss** is a peat bog, bordered by old woodland. Once a busy mining site this area is now a silent, natural haven for wildlife. On the heather covered hillside above there are ancient cup and ring markings.

Go Green! Leave your car behind and enjoy these activities.

Bird watching - The farm has a diverse wild bird population.

Cycling - This is a great way to explore the area. There are many quiet country lanes and so much to see within cycling distance!

Fishing and pond dipping - Children will enjoy fishing for tiddlers in the burn or using the farm's pond dipping platform.

Paddling at the causeway - This was one of our young family's favourite occupations! The causeway is a bike ride away from Hunting Hall. Please check the tides.

Painting - Sitting quietly in the sunny countryside painting a picture is a lovely way to spend an afternoon.

Photography - There are some beautiful scenes, just waiting to be captured by your camera.

Picnic in the Dene - with art materials and/or a good book!

Star gazing - On a clear evening the starry sky can be spectacular.

Walking - Take a packed lunch and spend the day exploring local footpaths or walk the Newts' Farm Trail.

Wildlife watching - Early morning is a good time to see wild mammals.

Seasonal Activities.....

Spring

Feed a lamb - Sometimes we have orphaned lambs that need bottle feeding.

Summer

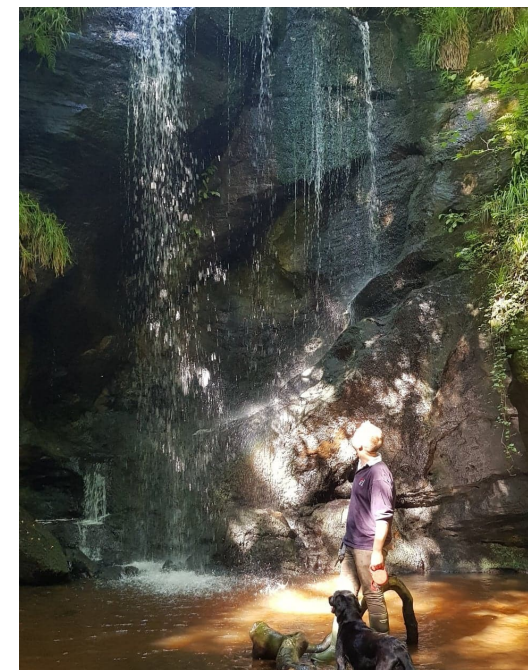
An evening bat walk - There are several species of bats on the farm.

Autumn

Gather nature's harvest: blackberries, sloes, mushrooms...

Winter

Plant a tree - Occasionally there are trees to plant on the farm. Ask Tom!



The waterfall at Roughtinglinn

For more information about any of these places or activities contact:

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Photographs by members of the family and kind guests.

