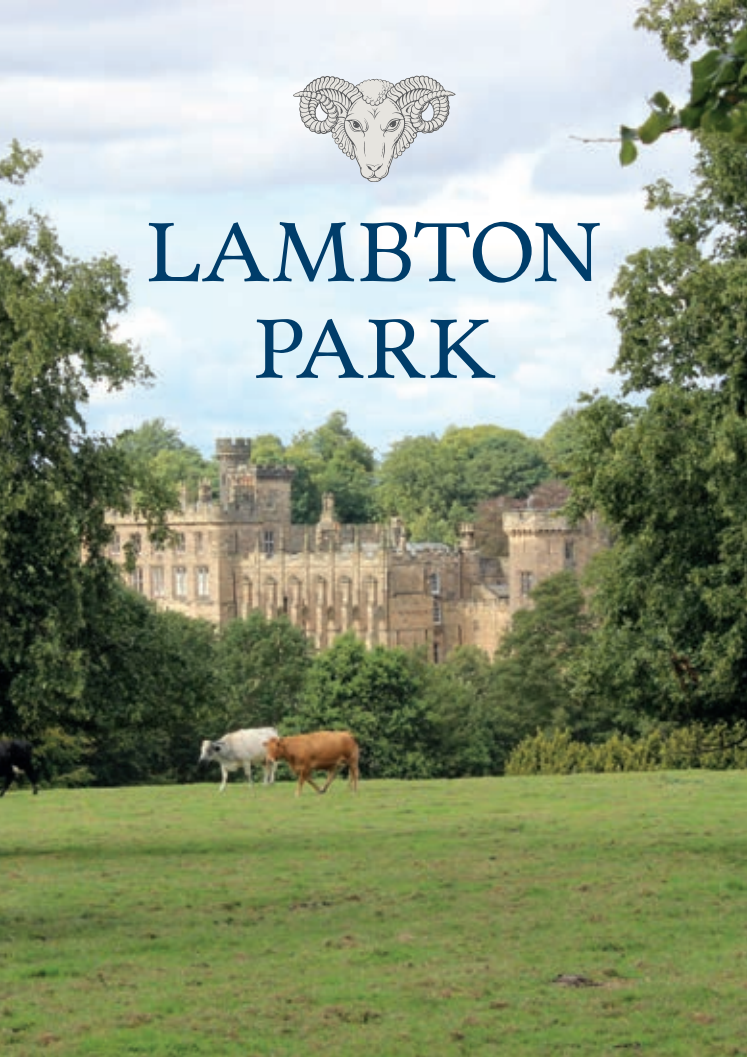




# LAMBTON PARK



## EXPLORING THIS HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

For more information join us at

[lambtonpark.com](http://lambtonpark.com)



## WELCOME TO LAMBTON PARK

**Lambton Park, the ancestral seat of the Earls of Durham, with a heritage stretching back to the 11th Century and a distinct sense of place, is one of the most intriguing historic places in the region.**

Over 1,000 acres of historic park and woodland provides an oasis of calm and tranquillity on the edge of the urban fringe; at its heart the dramatic Lambton Castle, sits a prominent position high above the River Wear gorge.

Having remained relatively private over the years, Lambton Park will now share its wonderful environment, as approximately 11.5 kilometres of permissive footpaths are opened up south of the River Wear, allowing residents and the public to enjoy the nature, landscape and heritage of Lambton Park.

The network of footpaths take in the old Racecourse, ancient woodland and open parkland, providing a variety of accessible routes for all to enjoy.

The Estate is an oasis for nature and wildlife and in springtime the woods are carpeted with daffodils, bluebells and wild garlic. Bird life is varied and the parkland is home to sheep, cattle and horses.

The routes across Lambton Park consist of unmade rural paths, occasionally crossing estate roads and, as can be seen from the map overleaf, can be walked individually or in conjunction with each other.

**Please note the opening dates and times for the footpaths at Lambton Park may vary throughout the year and there will be occasions when the Park will be closed to the public. Please check the website for up to date information.**

## THE RIDGE WALK 3.2km

**The Ridge Walk, set in the heart of the Estate and taking in the attractive River Wear Gorge, is the longest of the footpaths that have been opened up within Lambton Park.**

Meandering through extensive mature woodland, adjacent to open parkland and enjoying panoramic views across to Lambton Castle, the route leads down to Black Drive which heads along the banks of the River Wear from Lamb Bridge to the New Bridge.

The first Earl of Durham commissioned Lambton Castle and the iconic Lamb Bridge in the early 1800's in the picturesque style of the time. As an extension to the Castle grounds, the Victorian Pleasure Gardens included to the south bank of the river and glimpses of the old pathways remain visible below the ridge.

The restoration of Lamb Bridge is a significant heritage project at Lambton Park, which is being funded by the new housing development. Originally the Bridge had a flat parapet wall, but inward movement of the river banks has forced it up into the arch that is visible today.

## SHEPHERDS GHYLL 2.1km

**Shepherds Ghyll is a delightful medium length walk through woodland and open parkland down to the banks of the River Wear.**

The walk, passes through a mix of attractive woodland and open parkland, culminating along the banks

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of the River Wear at Shepherds Bottoms. This offers glimpses of the old Walled Garden, which supplied Lambton Castle with a huge selection of fruit and vegetables from the now demolished glass houses, that were at their prime in the 1800's.

A short extension can be added to the walk, heading east along the banks of the River Wear and returning back to join Shepherds Ghyll.

For those looking for a longer route, The Ridge Walk, (which takes walkers into the heart of the Estate and the picturesque River Wear Gorge) and the Hedworths walk, can both be accessed from the Shepherds Ghyll loop.

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## HEDWORTHS

1.7km

**Hedworths is believed to take its name from the Hedworth Family who originally owned Harraton Hall. The Hall, which came into the ownership of the Lambton Family in 1688 was extended to create Lambton Castle. This relatively flat, short woodland walk is ideally suited to young families.**

The route, which passes through a mix of mature and open woodland, offers tantalising views of Lambton Castle in the distance. Horse Chestnut, Beech, Oak, Yew and conifers provide a variety of woodland environments along the walk.

Hedworths also links into The Ridge Walk, and can be further extended to take in Racecourse to the west, or returning back along Black Drive onto Shepherds Ghyll to the east.

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## RACECOURSE

2.6km

**For a brief period in the 1800's there was a racecourse at Lambton Park and the First Earl, John Jack Lambton, organised a series of meetings here from 1821 to 1825. Situated at the western edge of the Estate, bounded on two sides by the River Wear; this gave the Racecourse Field its name.**

The walk meanders through mature woodland following the route of the riverbank and the striking River Wear Gorge at Nanny's Frock; views extend over parkland grazed by cattle and sheep at Lamb Bottoms before heading back into woodland.

The Racecourse walk can be accessed independently from the public rights of way south of the Estate or from the Ridge Walk, which in turn creates an extended walk that crosses the Park from east to west, along the south side of the River Wear, taking in the full Lambton Park experience.

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## OPENING TIMES

1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY  
TO 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

OPEN DAILY  
9AM UNTIL 6PM

1<sup>ST</sup> JULY TO  
30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

SUNDAYS ONLY  
9AM UNTIL 6PM

1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER UNTIL 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY  
CLOSED

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**Please be aware that Lambton Park is a working estate with livestock, forestry operations and numerous residential properties.**

To make your visit safe and enjoyable we would ask that you follow a few guidelines:

**Keep strictly to the waymarked routes**

**Pedestrian Access Only - no cycling or horses**

**Keep dogs on a lead at all times**

**Be aware of Estate vehicles and step off the road to let them pass**

**Keep children in sight at all times**

**Take all your litter home with you**

**Respect the privacy and quality of life of the residents**

**Be respectful of other users of the Estate**

**Please clean up after your dog and use the bins provided**

**Do not descend the river bank**

**Camping and fires are prohibited**

**Routes are not suitable for pushchairs/prams or wheelchairs**

**Please be COVID-19 aware and keep your distance from others at all times**







**THANK YOU**

Estate Office contact: [enquiries@lambtonpark.com](mailto:enquiries@lambtonpark.com)



# LAMBTON PARK

## KEY

-  Car Park Access Road
-  Public Rights Of Way
-  Permissive Footpaths (11.5km)
-  Defibrillator
-  The Ridge Walk (3.2km)
-  Shepherds Ghyll (2.1km)
-  Hedworths (1.7km)
-  Racecourse (2.6km)

