

## Local Nature Reserves

### Summerhill

Summerhill is located on the western edge of Hartlepool. In 1997 work began to transform the area from a network of 8 fields covering 100 acres into a varied nature reserve and outdoor sports facility. Most of the major work was completed by 2002 and the site now provides an essential link between the town and the country. As the site continues to mature the value to nature also increases.

The 65,000 trees that were planted in the late 1990s are maturing into substantial woodland. Ponds and grassland meadows are now also becoming more established and hedgerows are managed.

Eight key outdoor sports were identified, these included orienteering, cross-country running, archery and rock climbing. There are also major sites of archaeological interest that are preserved and protected.

Summerhill contains a comprehensive network of footpaths within the 100 acre woodlands. The Summerhill team provide activities for schools and community groups - environmental, outdoor activities and historical studies and offers a wonderful location for a range of Forest School activities. The visitor centre provides a base for the Outdoor Activities Team.

An active volunteer group meets every Wednesday to assist with the maintenance of the site and habitats.

The site is open 24 hrs a day and the visitor centre is open weekdays from 9am - 5pm and from April to October on Saturdays 9am - 5pm. You can access Summerhill from Catcote Road and turning into Summerhill Lane. To find out more call the Summerhill team on 01429 284584 or visit our web site.

