

Welcome to Bellever Forest

Enjoy the tranquility of a picnic by the East Dart River or an exhilarating walk up to Bellever Tor to take in the stunning views. Explore the forest itself and discover a wealth of wildlife, archaeology and grazing Dartmoor ponies.

A working forest

We've been growing timber here since 1931, and Bellever now produces some of the best softwood available in the South West. It is widely used, from the construction industry through to chipboard manufacturing, fence posts and firewood.

All Forestry Commission timber is sustainably produced, balancing the needs of visitors and wildlife with the demands of modern commercial forestry.

Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust

The trust is a registered charity dedicated to the preservation of the Dartmoor pony breed. Their pure-bred ponies graze the forest, helping to keep the vegetation down and create diverse grassland areas for wildlife. It is important to **keep all gates shut** in order to prevent cross-breeding with ponies from the surrounding area.

Please do not feed the ponies. You can find out more at www.dpht.co.uk

Location and information Enjoy your visit



Location

At Postbridge, on the B3212 Yelverton to Moretonhampstead road, take the turning signposted for Bellever. After 1½ km, you will enter the village. Turn left at the triangle of grass, and after 130m you will see the entrance to Bellever Forest on the right.

Parking charge applies.

For more information about Dartmoor National Park visit www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk or visit the High Moorland Visitor Centre at Princetown.

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Explore Bellever Forest

Enjoy & discover your forests & woodlands

Walking trails»

Disabled Access Trail ●●●●●

240m. Easy.

A short path leading from the car park down to the East Dart river. Suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Bellever Trail ●●●●●

4km (2½ miles). Moderate.

Take a peaceful meander through the forest and stumble across silent hut circles occupied by grazing ponies and secretive wildlife. Some gentle slopes, but well surfaced.

Postbridge Trail ●●●●●

4½km (3 miles) Strenuous in places.

Branch off from the Bellever Trail and make your way to the edge of the forest to take in stunning views from Bellever Tor. Makes up a 5½ mile route in total, with some steep slopes.

The Lich Way — — —

A long distance bridleway starting in Bellever. In the 13th century residents of the small farmsteads in the surrounding area had to make the 12 mile journey across the moor to bury their dead at Lydford parish church. The word 'lich' has its origins in Old English, meaning 'body'.



Cyclists are welcome, but please stay on the stoned forest roads.



With the exception of bridleways, horse riding is by permit only.

Clues to an ancient way of life

Bellever is bursting with archaeology, from the clapper bridge and the Lich Way, to the more subtle but abundant stone cists, burial cairns, and field boundaries. There are over 30 hut circles within Bellever Forest, just a hint that there were many more people living on the high moor during the Bronze Age (4000–2600 years ago) than there are today. Excavations in the 1890s found flint knives, scrapers and sherds of pottery, some of it highly decorated.

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