


Travelling Tales explore Kielder Forest Drive

Welcome to England's longest and highest Forest Drive, which winds through the working forest between Kielder Castle and Blakehopeburnhaugh on the A68.

Use this guide to help you discover the secrets of our wild border country. What will you see here today?

 Please return this guide to one of the toll points at either end of the Forest Drive when you leave.



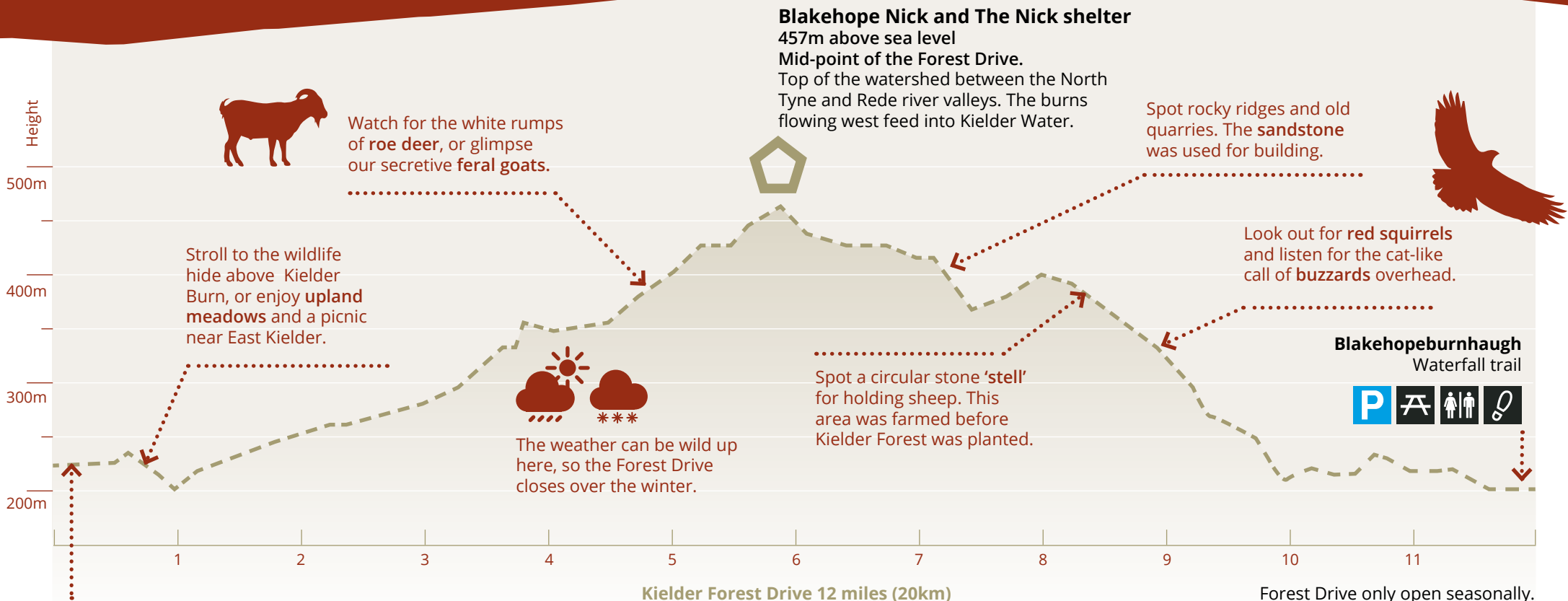
West
To Kielder Water & Forest Park



North
To Scotland



East
To Redesdale and the Cheviot Hills




Kielder Castle

Connecting communities

Kielder Forest Drive opened in 1973. It was built by Forestry England for planting and harvesting trees high on these hills. The Drive gave local people a valuable shortcut between Byrness and Kielder, and some foresters drove along here every day to get to work. Today it also offers visitors an exciting high level perspective on Kielder Forest.



Celebrating 100 years of Forestry 1919-2019

Forest Drive only open seasonally. Please check forestryengland.uk for details.

Travelling Tales

enjoy the views from Blakehope Nick

Welcome to The Nick, which stands on the highest point of the Forest Drive. Take a moment to stop, look, and enjoy the drama of this wild and remote spot.

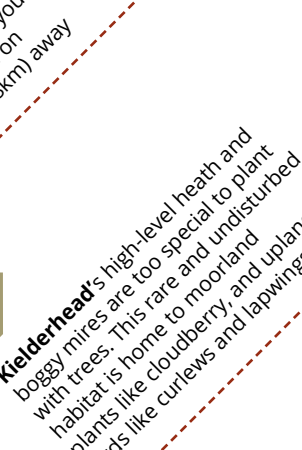
Whatever the weather, there's something extraordinary to see. Use this guide to orientate you when you're standing inside The Nick.



Look closely to spot **Kielder Observatory** on the far hillside. Kielder's dark skies make this one of the best places in the world for stargazing.

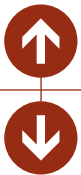


Aspectacular view into the North Tyne valley. On a clear day you see the circular radar station on **Deadwater Fell**, 5 miles (8km) away



Kielderhead's high-level heath and boggy mires are too special to plant with trees. This rare and undisturbed habitat is home to moorland plants like cloudberry, and upland birds like curlews and lapwings.

West
To North Tynedale and Kielder Water & Forest Park



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Across the road is an old **quarry** - take care! The bright yellow sandstone quarried here was used to build the Forest Drive.

The Nick is made from larch

Larch is the only European conifer that loses its needles in the autumn. Look out for larches along the Forest Drive turning golden-yellow in September, then standing bare until spring. Larches grow quickly and produce very useful wood, so they are popular trees for working forests like Kielder. The red squirrels who live here are also very partial to the seeds!



Carter Bar, the road crossing into Scotland, is just beyond these hills. It's only 6 miles (10km) away, as the crow flies.



In early summer, look out for the white fluffy seed heads of **cottongrass**, the emblem of boggy ground and wide open spaces. In late summer, the hillsides flush purple with **heather**.



Follow the line of cairns on the ridge to spot rocky **Ellis Craig**. Out of sight beyond it is the Otterburn Ranges military training area.

Entrance to The Nick



Don't forget to sign the **Visitors' Book!** You'll find it in the box on the back of the stone sign.