

# R A B Y

**River Access Code of Conduct**  
**The River Tees**

## **High Force – Low Force**



### **High Force Hotel & Waterfall**

A traditional country inn set in the picturesque setting of Upper Teesdale, the dog friendly High Force Hotel is a perfect hub for exploring the local landscape. Call in for breakfast before your water activity or enjoy lunch afterwards - food is served all day from 8am until 8pm.



T: 01833 622336

W: [www.raby.co.uk/high-force](http://www.raby.co.uk/high-force)

### **Bowlees Visitor Centre**

The centre is run by the North Pennines AONB partnership. Car parking is available and there is an electric car charge point. There is also a gift shop selling guidebooks and an art gallery onsite, along with a café offering a good selection of cakes and scones. The centre is open daily until the end of October and open weekends only from early November to mid December - check the website for confirmation.

T: 01833 622145

W: [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk)

The River Tees at Low Force offers some of the best river access opportunities in the North of England. Access to the river from the North bank can be gained by purchasing a River Permit from Raby Estates, who own this land.

Permits are only issued between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> September and access to the river is prohibited outside of these times. Fishing is subject to a separate permit system.

Raby Estates are committed to promoting safe use of the river and to protecting this very special Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Those accessing the river must adhere to the code of conduct at all times, and Raby Estates reserves the right to revoke permission.

High Force at Forest in Teesdale offers a good location to start your visit. There is a large, pay and display car park and its perfectly situated to access the water. Permits can be purchased from the hotel or ticket kiosk and if you decide to return to the hotel for a bite to eat, you can claim your parking fee back against your purchase.

Whilst the waterfalls at both High Force and Low Force are truly spectacular sights to be enjoyed, they are also incredibly powerful and dangerous water courses. River users must never enter the river north of High Force and should take care due to the bed rock rapids at Low Force.

It is essential that anyone entering the river checks their route for hazards in advance of launching. The river is unsupervised, and Raby Estates cannot accept any liability for hazards encountered in this natural environment. River users should be experienced and ensure they have adequate insurance and safety provisions in place. Be aware that entering the water without the correct equipment or training can be extremely dangerous and is prohibited.

The areas to both the north and south bank of the river form part of the AONB and areas are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as they benefit from a rich and diverse selection of fauna and flora. Please be respectful of this and adhere to the routes set out within the code of conduct to ensure that this sensitive environment is preserved.

Raby Estates and our partners are committed to ensuring that this fragile environment is protected for future generations to enjoy. This code of conduct is intended to assist you in helping us ensure our objectives are achieved. We ask that you respect this code and enjoy this area in a responsible way.

Raby Estates operate a permit system for river access on the upper sections of the River Tees.

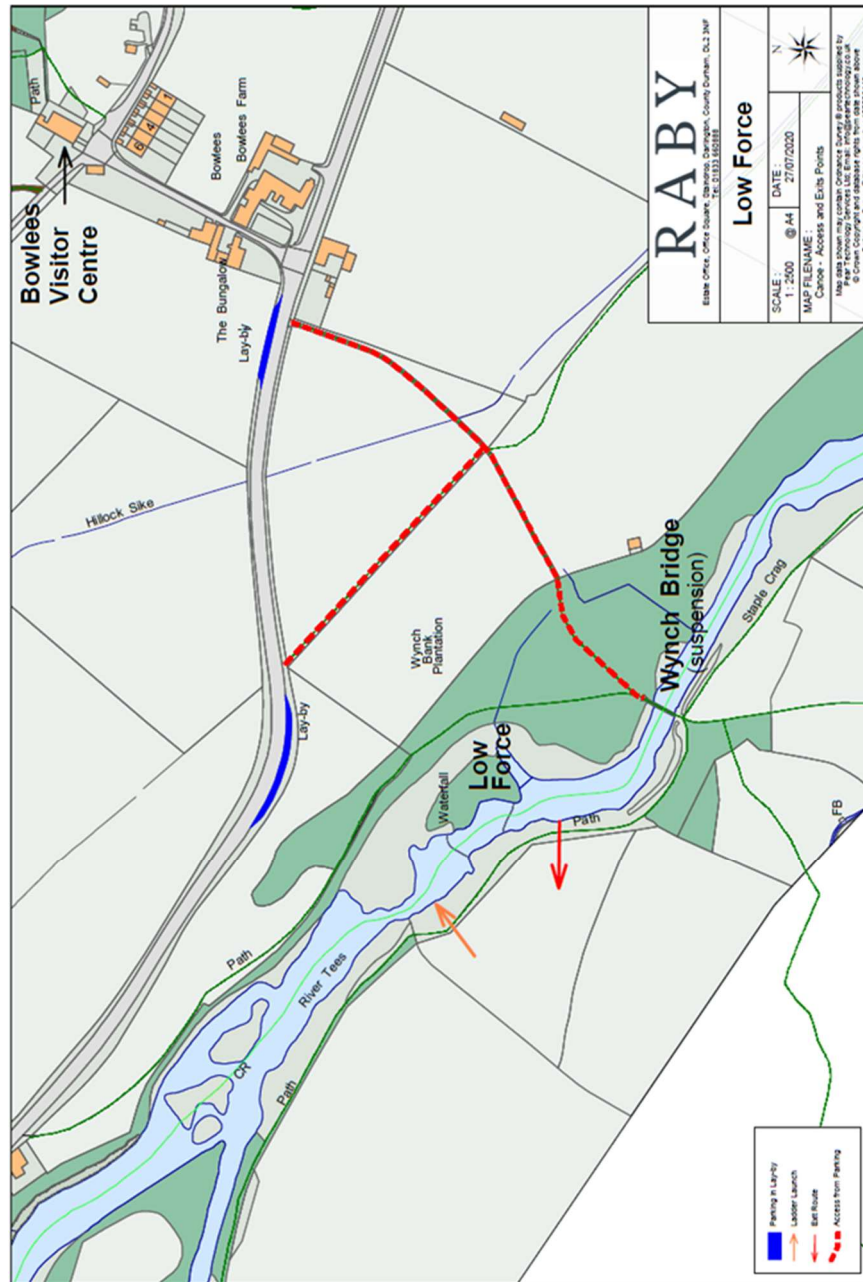
Permits are available from the Raby Estate Website or alternatively from The High Force Hotel and The Bowlees Visitor Centre.

Commercial operators are not permitted to access the River Tees from the Raby Estate without express prior permission and a commercial permit.

Code of conduct and permit terms and conditions must be observed by permit holders at all times.

*\*\*It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) for any person, without reasonable excuse, to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy any of the features of Special interest of a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), or to disturb the wildlife for which the site was notified.*

## Code of Conduct



- Access to the River Tees only via land owned by Raby Estates between 01 April and 30 September.
- Raby Estate reserves the right to revoke access at any time.
- Permit holders are only to access the river across land and launch at points set out in the code of conduct and avoid vegetated areas
- Permit holder is to be aware that the river is unsupervised and enters the water at own risk.
- Raby Estates cannot be responsible for hazards such as fallen trees and all users of the River Tees should walk their route in advance and be generally aware of their surroundings.
- If launching from Holwick Head Bridge or the upper section, avoid exiting before Low Force.
- If entering at Low Force, use the timber ladder launch at the location shown on the map.
- Do not launch from grass and vegetated areas.
- Do not access the water from Wynch Bridge.
- Only exit the falls at the location shown on the map:
  - Do not exit at Wynch Bridge.
  - Exit only on the North Bank at Scoberry Bridge approx. 1km further downstream.
- Do not enter roped or fenced off vegetated recovery areas.
- Be sure to follow the Countryside Code and the British Canoe Union Code of Conduct.
- Take all litter home – do not leave anything behind.
- It is not permitted to camp, have BBQ's or light fires in any of the areas on the Raby Estate.
- Park only in designated locations: High Force, Bowlees Visitors Centre or in the official laybys.
- Keep to public rights of way.
- Permits are only issued to adults. Anyone under the age of 18 should only access the water under qualified supervision.
- Permit holders should have their own insurance in place for any water activities.
- Commercial permit holders to provide a copy of public liability insurance cover for duration of permit.