

Visitor Information

# REDBURN COUNTRY PARK

Redburn Country Park is situated on steep slopes with stunning views over Belfast and beyond. The breathtaking scenery, majestic woodland paths and varied wildlife can be enjoyed any time of year.

### Woodland Walks

The beauty and variety of the mixed woodland, the compact distances and ever-changing woodland species make this a wonderful place to explore on foot. Whether you are a serious rambler, trail runner or simply want to take a short stroll, follow the woodland paths and enjoy the wildlife on the way.

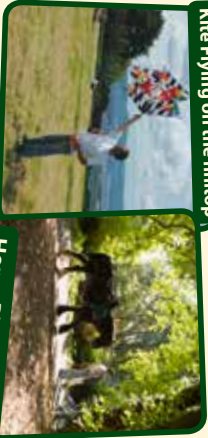
### Horse Riding

For those with an equestrian interest, the woodland trails can be enjoyed on horseback, creating your own unique experience. Recommended bridle paths are marked to ensure you get the best routes through the Park. Permits to use the bridle paths can be obtained from Crawfordsburn Country Park.

Journey to the hilltop and enjoy the panoramic viewpoint. At the top

visitors are rewarded with breathtaking views from Belfast Lough to the south Antrim hills. This area is excellent for bird watching, plane spotting, kite flying or exploring the woodland and grassland habitats.

Kite Flying on the hilltop



Horse Riding



The number of sightings of kestrels has increased in recent years. At Redburn they can often be seen perched on a high tree branch or more often hovering over the hilltop summit on the look out for prey.



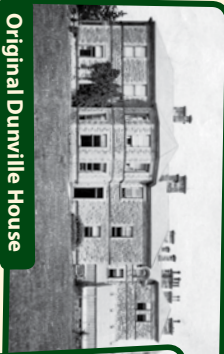
### Dunville Estate

The Park was once the Estate of the Dunville Family. Remains of the old Dunville Estate can still be seen and include the stables, the bear pit and the walled garden with original features. Learn about their past including a world famous whisky business, hot air ballooning and their private zoo at Redburn which held exotic animals like Bruno, a tame North American black bear.

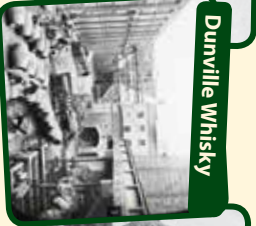
### World Renowned Whisky

Formed by John Dunville of Redburn in 1825, Dunville & Co. was a leading whisky blending business and successful tea merchants in Ireland. By the 1860s it had become one of the largest whisky distilleries in the world. Later, Alcohol Prohibition from 1920-33 caused the Dunvilles to lose their American market. Despite its repeal, they were never able to recover sales which eventually lead to the final closure of the Belfast distilleries.

Original Dunville House



Dunville Whisky



Robert Dunville & Zebra



### Bruno the Bear

After the First World War, Robert Lambert Dunville started a small zoo at Redburn. His collection of exotic animals included a zebra, a panther and a bear called "Bruno" who had a tame nature and was well known for his tricks. Local legend tells how Bruno was once kept in a small quarry known as the Bear Pit. After Robert's death in 1931 the private zoo was donated to Belfast zoological gardens forming the start of their collection when it opened in 1934.

### Other NIEA Country Parks

- Castle Archdale Country Park
- Crawfordsburn Country Park
- Ness Country Park
- Peatlands Park
- Roe Valley Country Park
- Scrabo Country Park

### Get in Touch

Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
Crawfordsburn Country Park, Bridge Rd  
South, Helen's Bay, Co. Down BT19 1JT  
Telephone: 028 9185 3621  
Web: [www.doeni.gov.uk/niea](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea)

### Opening Hours and Access

#### Redburn Country Park

Old Holywood Rd, Belfast BT18 9QS.  
For opening hours please visit  
[www.discovernorthernireland.com/niea](http://www.discovernorthernireland.com/niea)  
or telephone 028 9185 3621

For the most up to date public transportation links visit  
[www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk)

### Horse Riding Permits

To obtain a horse riding permit or for further information contact  
Crawfordsburn Country Park  
telephone 028 9185 3621

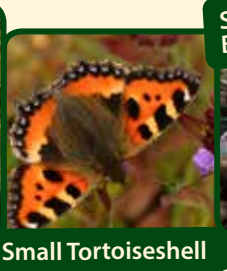


# REDBURN COUNTRY PARK

Covered with native and non native woodland, Redburn Country Park offers great woodland walks and a chance to explore nature. Enjoy bird watching throughout the Park, kite flying on the hilltop or explore the Park on horseback.

## Woodland Biodiversity

Exotic trees and shrubs were procured by plant hunters over 100 years ago and were brought to Redburn to be planted in the Dunville Estate. Native species such as holly, rowan and hazel share the woodland with non natives such as beech, rhododendron and laurel. The woodland carpet is also home to some rare fungi such as the Short-stalked brittle cap *Russula curtipes* which had its first Irish sighting at Redburn Country Park.



## Hilltop Wildlife

Bracken and gorse are widespread on the hilltop. As well as providing colour throughout the seasons they also offer shelter to wildlife. The dense structure of the gorse and quantity of bracken provides important refuge for birds in harsh weather and is essential for their survival in winter.

## Insects

The vegetation, wildflowers and gorse are an essential source of pollen and nectar to bees and allow a wide range of insects to thrive including solitary wasps, butterflies, hoverflies and grasshoppers. This also benefits the various bird species as insects are a very reliable food source all year.

## NIEA Country Park Code

- Visitors to the Park should remember the Park Code—
- Protect all wildlife
  - Ensure dogs are under control at all times
  - Please clean up after your dog
  - No fires
  - Please keep noise to a minimum
  - The Park has natural hazards - supervise children, especially around steep slopes and any open water



'Dreadnought Wood' was planted as part of the Woodland Trust's 2005 commemoration of the oak timbered warships that fought in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, where Admiral Nelson lost his life defeating the French. It was named after one of Nelson's ships with many Irish sailors on board.

Nun's Wood is a mixed woodland with a variety of trees such as beech, hazel, rowan, horse chestnut and Scots pine.



**Site of Original Redburn House**  
The Park was once home to the Dunville Family who built their house here in 1866. Eventually demolished in 1972, remains of various structures from the old Estate can still be seen, including the bear pit where folklore has it that Bruno, the pet bear was kept.



## Bird Watching

The Country Park's beech woods, scrubland and grassland provide both shelter and food for many varieties of birds throughout the year.

- Look out For —**
- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Sparrowhawks  | Tits      |
| Curlews       | Finches   |
| Buzzards      | Warblers  |
| Yellowhammers | Blackcaps |

This area has a small seasonal stream which during periods of very wet weather, becomes a torrent cascading over exposed bedrock on its way downhill.



## Public Paths

**Difficult Path** steps & steep slopes

**Moderate Path**

**Easy Path**

**Suitable for Wheelchairs**

**Bridle Path**

**Recommended Running Trail**

## Map Key

Entrance/Exit

Car Park

Bridle Car Park

Bridge

Hilltop Viewpoint

Bear Pit

Stepped Area