



Surprise View

Chevin Forest Park



Surprise View is recognised as one of the finest panoramic views in Yorkshire, with views of up to 60km on a clear day.

Background information

Grid Ref. SE 203 442

Parking: Surprise View Car Park, or one of the 3 car parks on East Chevin Road if you want to try the walks highlighted below

Toilets: The Royalty Public House on York Gate – only available to pub customers

Refreshments: The Royalty Public House on York Gate

Special features: View

Getting there

Surprise View can be reached from a number of starting points. The easiest way is to park at the Surprise View Car Park off York Gate, almost opposite the Royalty public house, and take the very short walk to the edge of the escarpment where there is a geological interpretation panel. Don't pick a foggy day though! Access by wheelchair is possible to Surprise View from this car park.

If you'd prefer more of a challenge, pick one of the following routes. Each is approximately 1km long and very steep and bumpy in places. The return journey to the start point may be the same route or a combination of the routes described, or you could arrange for someone to pick you up at Surprise View Car Park.

Route 1

Park opposite the Ramblers Tea Rooms on East Chevin Road at Upper or Lower Shawfield car parks and walk down a path next to Lower Shawfield car park (following a Walkers Are Welcome sign) through the woodland. Care must be taken when crossing East Chevin Road as it is very busy and has no pavement. A rough track alongside Danefield House (known as Miller Lane) leads up to a gate with a narrow access gap (approx. 45cm). Beyond the gate, continue straight ahead to Surprise View.

Route 2

Alternatively, park in East Chevin Quarry Car Park and take the footpath past the information board. The first part is very steep, but the view is well worth the effort. Picnic tables at the top of the slope provide a well earned rest with great views. From here the path continues along a gentle slope, sheltered by massive rock outcrops to one side and pleasing countryside views on the other.

Beyond a water trough the route meets another path in the wood. The junction is guarded by a sculpture figure. (A right turn here takes you down to the White House). Continue to the summit by turning left at the figure, up the hill, crossing another path before bearing right onto a flagstone path near the summit and following the path towards Surprise View.

Photos by Chris Tomkins and Jo Hennessey