Explore the North Pennines

Pocket Guide 2014/15

Inside…
- Things to see & do
- Discover Bowlees Visitor Centre
- Dark Sky Discovery Sites
- Maps & area guides
- Explore North Pennines
- Attractions

Free!
Welcome to
The North Pennines
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a stunning landscape of open heather moors, dramatic dales, tumbling upland rivers, wonderful woods, inky-black night skies, close-knit communities, glorious waterfalls, fantastic birds, colourful hay meadows, stone-built villages, intriguing imprints of a mining and industrial past, distinctive plants and much, much more. As well as being an AONB the North Pennines is also a European and Global Geopark.

Where is the North Pennines?
The North Pennines is a distinctive landscape of high moorland and broad upland dales in the North of England. It shares a boundary with the Yorkshire Dales National Park in the south and extends as far as the Tyne Valley, just south of Hadrian’s Wall, in the north. Parts of the North Pennines AONB are in the three counties of Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland. See the map on the centre pages 26 & 27 for more detail.

How to use this guide

Map references
Throughout the guide many attractions, places and other features have been given a map reference eg D2. C3. These refer to the map on the centre pages 26 & 27.

Green Tourism
Look out for Green Tourism logos throughout the guide. Wherever you see one you can be sure that the business is committed to looking after the environment. See page 8 for more details or visit www.green-tourism.com

Where to stay
The North Pennines has a wide variety of places to stay. To find out more visit websites with accommodation information listed on the area guides pages 16-25.

Cover: Greenleycleugh Crags, Kevelin Moor, Allen Valleys

Information is correct at the time of going to print (Jan 2014). Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate. However, the AONB Partnership and its Staff Team cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions. Please check critical information before travel. Inclusion in this guide is not a recommendation by the AONB Partnership and in itself is not necessarily a guarantee of quality.

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Introducing the North Pennines

A special place

The North Pennines is one of England’s most special places – a peaceful, unspoilt landscape with a rich history and vibrant natural beauty. It was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1988. Tumbling waterfalls, sweeping moorland views, dramatic dales, stone-built villages, snaking stone walls and friendly faces – the North Pennines has all this and more!

Beneath your feet

The impressive landscape of the North Pennines – from High Force on the River Tees to the sweeping valley of High Cup Gill above Dufton – are the product of millions of years of geological processes. The worldwide significance of the geology found here is recognised by the fact that the North Pennines AONB is also a UNESCO-endorsed Global Geopark.

Past times

About 12,000 people live in the North Pennines today – less than half the number who lived here 150 years ago in the heyday of the lead mining industry. The rise and fall of mining has left an indelible imprint on the landscape, not just in terms of the physical remains but also in the pattern of local settlement. The social history of the miner-farmers is also an intriguing element that contributes to the story of the North Pennines.

People and places

The character of the North Pennines landscape is inseparable from the people and places found here. The differing nature of settlements, from the distinctive red sandstone villages at the foot of the North Pennine escarpment to the white farms and barns of the Raby Estate in Teesdale, has a significant impact on landscape character. Local traditions and other intangible elements also come together with wildlife, geology, soils and climate to form the essence of the North Pennines landscape. Past, present and future generations of people are also fundamental to an appreciation of the area’s rich cultural heritage.

Plants and animals

The area is famous for the variety and profusion of plants and animals found here. Eighty percent of the AONB benefits from the continuation of less intensive and more traditional farming practices, which means that large tracts of the area are still a haven for wildlife.

Get involved

Do you care about the North Pennines? The Friends of the North Pennines is a charity specially designed for people who are passionate about looking after, and celebrating what’s special about the area.

Find out how to join and more information

www.friendsofthenorthpennines.org.uk / fotnp@hotmail.co.uk
Who looks after the AONB?

Local communities, landowners, farmers and estate managers look after the North Pennines. These people have helped shape the landscape for centuries and this continues today. Everyone who has an interest in the North Pennines has a responsibility to care for the AONB.

The North Pennines AONB Partnership, an alliance of 21 public, statutory and voluntary sector bodies, also helps to look after the area. The work of the Partnership is carried out by its Staff Team, who are dedicated to maintaining and promoting the natural beauty of the area, to raise awareness of its special qualities and to improve the quality of life for local people.

The aim of AONB designation is to look after our finest landscapes, not just for now, but also for our children’s children to cherish and enjoy.

Follow the work of the AONB Partnership on:

- twitter.com/NorthPennAONB
- facebook.com/NorthPenninesAONB

Fact file

In the North Pennines you’ll find:

- Peace, tranquility and fabulous night skies
- England’s biggest waterfall
- Almost 40% of the UK’s upland hay meadows
- 30% of England’s upland heathland and 27% of its blanket bog
- 80% of England’s black grouse
- Short-eared owl, ring ouzel, snipe and redshank
- 36% of the AONB designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Red squirrels, otters and rare arctic alpine plants
- 22,000 pairs of breeding wading birds

Dark skies

The North Pennines has some of the darkest skies in the country, a result of the area being one of the most remote places in England. It sits away from the large urban cities of the North East making it a great place to make the most of the dark night skies.

The AONB Partnership has worked with partners at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, to designate 13 Dark Sky Discovery Sites across the North Pennines. Sites include Allendale Golf Course in Northumberland, Grassholme, Hurry, Selset, Balderhead and Cow Green reservoirs in Teesdale, Burnhope Reservoir in Weardale and Clesketts Car Park in Cumbria.

Find out more about all our Dark Sky Discovery Sites at www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk | click on Stargazing

Bowles Visitor Centre

With world-famous waterfalls and the Pennine Way as its neighbours, Bowles Visitor Centre in Upper Teesdale is the perfect base for discovering the special qualities of the North Pennines AONB. You’re also sure of a warm welcome at Café 1618@Bowlees.

Surrounded by stunning woodland, alongside the River Tees, our recently refurbished centre is the ideal spot to experience the changing seasons of the beautiful British countryside.

Staffed by the team from the AONB Partnership, it’s a great place to discover more about the North Pennines, where the best walks are and how you can make the most of this fantastic part of England.

Get closer to nature on our events and activities

→ pages 28, 51
Looking after the North Pennines

Be a green visitor!

Whatever you do, and however you do it, you’re sure to have an impact on the environment! By making some positive choices during your visit you can be confident that you are helping to look after this special place.

Stay local, eat local and buy local!

Support local producers and services during your stay in the North Pennines. If you visit farmers’ markets, village shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants you’ll meet local people and help to support the local economy.

Why not also support one of the many local shows that’ll you’ll find in the area during the summer months?

Support green businesses

Tourism businesses in and around the North Pennines AONB, from B&Bs and self-catering cottages to hotels and visitor attractions, hold awards in the nationally recognised Green Tourism Scheme. Throughout this guide you’ll find businesses with the award by looking out for the logo.

Green Tourism businesses are on a journey, they have not reached perfection but they are focused on being sustainable, responsible and green. This is demonstrated through three grading levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Every two years Green Tourism Members are visited and assessed by a qualified professional to ensure that standards are maintained.

Follow the Countryside Code and the Moorland Visitor’s Code

Visit www.green-tourism.com for weblinks with information on places to stay.

Focus on reducing your environmental impact.

Follow the Countryside Code and the Moorland Visitor’s Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people
- Prevent uncontrolled moorland fires

Controlled burning

Carefully planned small-scale heather burning by trained gamekeepers, farmers and shepherds is used to encourage fresh shoots of heather where it has grown old. This light, surface burning ensures food for red grouse and sheep and creates the diversity of habitats that moorland birds rely on. Between 1 October and 15 April controlled burning takes place - so be aware of this. Please report any fires seen on moorland outside these dates to the fire service immediately, and if possible, the nearest dwelling.

Reduce, reuse, recycle

Help the environment by refusing packaging and bags that you don’t need and by using recycling banks in the area. If you can recycle glass, cans, paper and plastics where you are staying then even better.

Switch off

Whilst you are relaxing and getting away from it all in the North Pennines, please switch off lights and standby buttons when you don’t need them. Help reduce water consumption by just using the water that you need.
Give your car a break!

Walking, cycling and horse riding are some of the best ways to discover the splendour of the North Pennines landscape. Try exploring near to where you are staying. Why not stay overnight rather than making day visits?

If you do drive, please SLOW down! Sheep and their lambs (and birds) can be a hazard on the area’s moorland roads. Even if you don’t arrive in the North Pennines on public transport - why not consider giving your car a break for a day or two whilst you’re here?

By train
  • Durham and Darlington on the East Coast main line
  • Bishop Auckland on the branch line from Darlington
  • Brampton, Hexham, Haydon Bridge and Haltwhistle on the Newcastle to Carlisle line
  • Kirkby Stephen, Appleby, Langwathby and Carlisle on the Settle to Carlisle line
  • Penrith on the West Coast main line
  • National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950 | www.nationalrail.co.uk

By bus
  • Traveline Northeast and Cumbria | www.travelinenortheast.info | 0871 2002233 (7am - 8pm, 7 days a week). Calls cost 10p per min, plus any charges your network provider makes
  • National Express | www.nationalexpress.com | 08717 818178 | 24hrs a day, 7 days a week, calls cost 10p a minute plus network extras

By bike
  • Bring your own or hire one once you’re here | www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk | pages 38-39

By foot
  • Contact the nearest information centre to where you are staying for details of local walk routes | www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk | pages 34-37

Finding out more

About the North Pennines

Alston
  Alston Local Links,
  Town Hall, Front Street, Alston, Cumbria CA9 3RF
e: alstonlocallinks@eden.gov.uk
t: 01434 382244
w: www.visiteden.co.uk

Appleby-in-Westmorland
  Moth Hall, Boroughgate, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria CA16 6XE
e: tic@applebytown.org.uk
t: 017683 51177
w: www.applebytown.org.uk

Barnard Castle
  The Witham, 3 Horse Market, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 8LY & The Bowes Museum
  Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 8NP
t: 03000 262626

Bishop Auckland Town Hall
  Market Place, Bishop Auckland Co. Durham DL14 7NP
t: 03000 262626

Brampton
  Moot Hall, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 1RW
e: brampton.tic@gmail.com
t: 016977 343
w: www.discovercarlisle.co.uk

Durham Visitor Contact Centre
 visitor@thisisdurham.com
t: 03000 262626. Text: ‘VISIT’, plus your enquiry, to 80011 (calls are charged at a local rate, mobiles may vary. Texts – standard network charges apply)
  Skype: ThisisDurham
w: www.thisisdurham.com

Corbridge
  Hill Street, Corbridge
  Northumberland NE45 5AA
e: corbridge.tic@northumberland.gov.uk
t: 01434 632815
w: www.visittorthumberland.com

Haltwhistle
  Haltwhistle Library, Mechanics Institute, Westgate, Haltwhistle
  Northumberland NE49 0AX
e: haltwhistle.tic@northumberland.gov.uk
t: 01434 322002
w: www.visittorthumberland.com

Hexham
  Wentworth Car Park, Hexham
  Northumberland NE46 1QE
e: hexham.tic@northumberland.gov.uk
t: 01670 620450
w: www.visittorthumberland.com

Killhope Museum
  nr Cowshill, Upper Weardale, Co. Durham
  DL13 1AR
t: 03000 262626

Kirkby Stephen
  Upper Eden Visitor Centre, Market Street, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria CA17 4QN
e: visit@uecp.org.uk
t: 017683 71199
w: www.visittorthumberland.com

Middleton-in-Teesdale
  10 Market Place, Middleton-in-Teesdale
  Co. Durham DL12 0QG
t: 03000 262626

Penrith
  Middlegate, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7PT
e: pen.tic@eden.gov.uk
t: 01768 867466
w: www.visiteden.co.uk

Stanhope
  Durham Dales Centre, Castle Gardens
  Stanhope, Co. Durham DL13 2FJ
t: 03000 262626

St. John’s Chapel
  Chatterbox Cafe, Market Place, St. John’s Chapel, Weardale, Co. Durham DL13 1QF
t: 03000 262626
There are lots of exciting events across the North Pennines for you to be involved in. Whether you’re interested in the area’s geology, want to learn to identify some of our wild flowers, or want to head off for a long walk, there’s always something to whet your appetite.

2014 Highlights

Rock Weeks
To celebrate our world famous Earth heritage you’ll find lots of geologically themed events in late May and early June:
- Kids geology days at Killhope Museum on 24 May and 7 June
- A walk up to High Cup Nick on 27 May
- Rocks and Romans – a walk combining archaeology and geology at Epiacum Roman Fort on 5 June

Wild about wildlife?
Fancy finding out about the birds or plants of the North Pennines?
- Bumblebee ID courses on 16 and 17 May
- A 3 day wildflower ID course starting on 5 June
- Wildflowers and Waders walk on 7 June
- Find out about hoverflies on 17 July

Batty about Bowlees?
There will be a different event at Bowlees Visitor Centre every month, starting with a willow workshop in April. There will be storytelling in August and September, wildlife days throughout the year and we’ll finish with a Christmas event on 13 December.

North Pennines Walking Festival
- 27 September – 5 October

Booking
Book your place on AONB Partnership events at www.northpennines.org.uk or call 01388 528801. Many events are advance booking only and there is usually a small charge.

As well as events organised by the AONB Partnership there are lots of other organisations running all kinds of events and activities in and around the North Pennines.

• Allendale Bakery. Bread making courses
  www.allendalebakery.com

• Allen Valleys Folk Festival. 3-5 Oct
  01434 683049

• Durham Country Walks
  page 36

• The Garden Station, Langley
  page 29

• Geltsdale RSPB Reserve
  www rspb.org.uk l 01697 746717
  geltsdale@ rspb.org.uk

• Killhope Museum & The Yurt @ Killhope
  page 31

• Haltwhistle Walking Festivals
  page 36

• Harehope Quarry Project
  page 30

• Gordon Lamb. Watercolour art courses
  www gallery-upstairs.co.uk l 01434 675415

• Make Recycled Craft Workshop, Whitfield Village Pantry
  www makerecycledcraftworkshops. bigcartel.com

• Moor House–Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve
  www naturalengland.org.uk l 01833 622374

• Natural History Society of Northumbria
  www nhsn.ncl.ac.uk l 0191 2326386

• North Pennines Wool Group
  www northpennineswool.org.uk

• Northern Experience Wildlife Tours
  www northernexperiencewildlifetours.co.uk l 01670 827465 l enquiries@newtltd.co.uk

• Pennine Painting courses, Garrigill
  www.penninepainting.co.uk l 01434 381092

• Slack House Farm, Ireshopeburn (Weardale)
  01388 537292

• Upper Teesdale Botany Group
  www.fleecewithaltitude.co.uk

• Wild North Discovery
  www.natureholiday.co.uk l 01388 529154 l enquiries@natureholiday.co.uk

Artists and Galleries

• Highlights Rural Touring Scheme
  www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

• Alston Craftworkers
  www.alstoncraftworkers.co.uk

• Alston Artists
  www.alstonartists.co.uk

• Eden Arts
  www.edenarts.co.uk

• Teesdale Open Studios
  www.teesdaleopenstudios.co.uk

• Alex Clark@Lime Tree (Stanhope) & @Corbridge
  www.alexclarkshops.com

• Network & The Art Tour
  www.networkartists.org.uk

• NeST (gallery, studios, digital hub & cafe)
  www.barnardcastlenest.org.uk

• Allendale Forge Studios and Cafe
  www.allendaleforgestudios.co.uk
Agricultural shows and other fairs are an excellent day out for the whole family, as well as being an opportunity to find out more about the rural way of life in the North Pennines.

You’ll find stalls selling local produce and crafts; rural skills demonstrations; animals from sheep, cattle and poultry to goats, guinea pigs and ducks; as well as programmes of events from sheep dog trials to pony fancy dress!

### Shows and fairs

10 May  Nenthead Gala
26 May  Northumberland County Show
1 June   Eastgate Sheep Show, Weardale
5-11 June Appleby Horse Fair
7 June   Alnwick Show
14 June  Roman Wall Show (Twice Brewed)
28 June  Alston Gala
26 July  Penrith Agricultural Show
2 Aug    Middleton-in-Teesdale Carnival
3 Aug    Gilsland Show
9 Aug    Slaley Show
16 Aug   Appleby Agricultural Show
21 Aug   Brough Agricultural Show
25 Aug   Blanchland and Hunstanworth Show
25 Aug   Garrigill Gala
30 Aug   Dunton Agricultural Show
30 Aug   Weardale Agricultural Show (St John’s Chapel)
6 Sep    High Forest Show, Allendale
6 Sep    Alston Agricultural Show
6-7 Sep  Wolsingham and Wear Valley Agricultural Show
13 Sep   Bowes Agricultural Show
13-14 Sep Stanhope Agricultural Show
20 Sep   Eggleston Agricultural Show
27 Sep   Langdon Beck Show

* The Horse Fair is a traditional gypsy gathering and NOT an organised event. People attend at their own risk.

### Market days

The following towns have local markets:
- Monday: Kirkby Stephen, Stanhope (Apr-Oct)
- Tuesday: Hexham, Penrith
- Wednesday: Barnard Castle, Brampton
- Thursday: Haltwhistle
- Saturday: Appleby

### Useful links

- Farmers’ markets in the North Pennines
  - North Pennines Farmers’ Market (www.madeincumbria.co.uk)
  - Love Food (www.lovefood.me)

- Penrith
  - 3rd Tues monthly March-Dec 9.30am-2.30pm Market Square, Penrith
  - Eden District Council, 01768 212150 markets@eden.gov.uk
  - www.eden.gov.uk

- Useful links
  - www.madeincumbria.co.uk
  - www.lovefood.me
Area Guides

Allen Valleys

Allendale, lying at the heart of the Allen Valleys, is a former lead mining settlement. It’s the largest community in this part of the North Pennines and with its central market square and its pubs, cafes, shops, art gallery and walking/cycling opportunities is well worth a visit!

The South Tyne Valley is a gloriously undiscovered place – the tumbling river fringed with ancient woods, leading the eye to the wide, open moorland beyond. In the past the East and West Allen Valleys were amongst the busiest in the North Pennines, supporting a population almost ten times greater than today.

Places to visit, things to do:

- **Allendale**
  This welcoming settlement is a great base for the Allen Valleys

- **Allendale Forge Studios and Cafe**
  → www.allendaleforgestudios.co.uk | 01434 683975
  Centre for arts, crafts and media

- **Allen Mill**
  → www.allenmill.co.uk | 01434 683953
  Culture and countryside – a unique mixture of shops, attractions and services

- **Allen Valleys Folk Festival**
  3-5 October | 01434 683049

- **Allen Banks & Staward Gorge, National Trust**
  → www.nationaltrust.org.uk | 01434 321888
  Spectacular wooded gorge at Allen Banks. Relaxing waymarked woodland walks

- **Allenheads**
  A peaceful village with a nature trail, cafe and pub. See the famous Armstrong water powered engine and visit the Old Blacksmith’s Shop and exhibition

- **South Tynedale Railway**
  → page 32

- **South Tyne Trail**
  → www.northpennines.org.uk

- **The Garden Station**
  → page 29

- **Whitfield Village Pantry**
  → www.whitfieldvillagepantry.co.uk | 01434 345709

- **Greenhead Farmers’ Market**
  → page 15

- **Isaac’s Tea Trail**
  → www.northumberlandlife.org/teatrail
  Circular 36-mile long distance walk linking Allendale and Alston

Further afield:

- **Hadrian’s Wall**
  → www.visithadrianswall.co.uk | 01434 609700

- **Northumberland National Park**
  → www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk | 01434 605555

Find out more and places to stay:

- www.northpennines.org.uk • www.exploreallenvalleys.org.uk •
- www.allenvalleys.com • www.visithadrianswall.co.uk •
- www.visitnorthumberland.com

Call or visit information centres in Haltwhistle or Hexham → page 11
The countryside around Alston, England’s highest market town, provides some of the area’s finest walking country – including the lofty Cross Fell – the highest English hill outside the Lake District. The striking North Pennines escarpment is a dramatic backdrop to the attractive, red sandstone-built, fellfoot villages.

Alston is well worth a visit – a wealth of small, independent shops await you, unspoilt street scenes and a choice of quality eateries to while away an hour or three!
**Blanchland and the Upper Derwent**

The Derwent Valley is sometimes an overlooked corner of the North Pennines. The small village of Blanchland, with its honey-coloured cottages, is perhaps the most attractive settlement in the whole of the North Pennines. Blanchland means the ‘white lands’ – almost certainly a reference to the white habits of the Premonstratensian monks of the old Blanchland Abbey. Today the village, abbey and surrounding countryside (accessible on an easy access path) are well worth a visit.

Downstream from Blanchland the flow of the River Derwent is interrupted by the three mile long Derwent Reservoir. It was built in 1967 and is the second largest reservoir in Northumberland. There is a choice of three excellent picnic sites on the banks of the reservoir – with trails (including easy access paths on both the south and north shores), bird hides, nature reserves and fishing opportunities to entice you to stay a while longer.

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**Places to visit, things to do:**

- **Blanchland** – former Abbey and village.
  Don’t miss the easy access path, created by the AONB Partnership, in Blanchland. Visit Shildon Engine House.

- **Derwent Reservoir**
  Easy access path, created by the AONB Partnership and Northumbrian Water, from Pow Hill Country Park to the dam and along the north side of the reservoir. Great traffic-free family cycling opportunity.

- **Pow Hill Country Park**
  Easy access path, created by the AONB Partnership and Northumbrian Water, from Pow Hill Country Park to the dam and along the north side of the reservoir. Great traffic-free family cycling opportunity.

**Further afield:**

- **Tanfield Railway**
  Working steam railway – see the world’s oldest surviving railway bridge, Causey Arch.

- **Beamish, the Living Museum of the North**
  Woodland adventure park and ropes activity centre.

- **Beamish Wild**
  Woodland adventure park and ropes activity centre.

- **Hexham Abbey**
  Visit the mobile museum.

- **Hexham Old Gaol**
  Historic building.

- **Hexham Farmers’ Market**
  Local produce.

- **Hadrian’s Wall**
  Roman wall.

- **Northumberland National Park**
  Nature reserve.

**Find out more and places to stay:**

- [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk)
- [www.exploreblanchland.org.uk](http://www.exploreblanchland.org.uk)
- [www.blanchland.org](http://www.blanchland.org)
- [www.visitnorthumberland.com](http://www.visitnorthumberland.com)
- [www.thisisdurham.com](http://www.thisisdurham.com)

Call or visit the information centres in Hexham, Haltwhistle or Corbridge.
Teesdale is the most southerly of the Durham Dales. The sweep of the moors and crags of the upper dale have an unrivalled drama which many visitors come back to savour time and time again. Raby Estate's white farmhouses and barns are a distinctive and memorable element in the landscape of Upper Teesdale and the stunning spectacle that is England's biggest waterfall – High Force – adds a vibrant natural beauty to the mix.

Middleton-in-Teesdale is the ‘capital’ of the upper dale and is an excellent base from which to explore the area. A few miles further up the dale you’ll find Bowlees Visitor Centre, which is run by the AONB Partnership as a discovery centre for Upper Teesdale and the wider North Pennines.

Further afield:

- The castle at Barnard Castle
  - www.english-heritage.org.uk | 01833 638212
  - Set high above the River Tees – includes a fine great hall and round-towered keep

- Raby Castle
  - www.english-heritage.org.uk | 01833 638212
  - Visitor centre and gardens

- Hamsterley Forest
  - www.northpennines.org.uk | 01833 622374
  - Walks, traffic-free cycle tracks, visitor centre, orienteering

- Bowes Museum
  - www.english-heritage.org.uk | 01833 638212
  - The charming ruins of a small monastery set above a bend in the River Tees

Find out more and places to stay:

- www.northpennines.org.uk
- www.exploreateesdale.org.uk
- www.teesdalediscovery.com
- www.thisisdurham.com
Weardale, one of the Durham Dales, was once the hunting ground of County Durham’s Prince Bishops. Eastgate and Westgate marked the boundary of the Stanhope Deer Park where the famous ‘Great Chases’ were held. Weardale is also the source of a unique form of marble – known as Frosterley Marble. It is actually a type of limestone and when highly polished the fossilised remains of corals are plain to see.

Stanhope is the largest settlement in Upper Weardale. Don’t miss the spectacular fossilised tree stump (originally from a quarry near Edmundbyers) in the churchyard. Take a closer look into Ashes Quarry, above Stanhope, by following the 2-mile self-guided walk.

The poet WH Auden loved the North Pennines, especially the area around Rookhope. It was here in the lead mining landscapes of Weardale that he first felt his creative juices flowing.

Weardale, one of the Durham Dales, was once the hunting ground of County Durham’s Prince Bishops. Eastgate and Westgate marked the boundary of the Stanhope Deer Park where the famous ‘Great Chases’ were held. Weardale is also the source of a unique form of marble – known as Frosterley Marble. It is actually a type of limestone and when highly polished the fossilised remains of corals are plain to see.

Stanhope is the largest settlement in Upper Weardale. Don’t miss the spectacular fossilised tree stump (originally from a quarry near Edmundbyers) in the churchyard. Take a closer look into Ashes Quarry, above Stanhope, by following the 2-mile self-guided walk.

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Out and about
Attractons in the North Pennines

Discover the area’s lead mining heritage at Killhope – the North of England Lead Mining Museum and in the Weardale Museum. Wonder at High Force and take a ride on the Weardale Railway or the South Tynedale Railway. Explore Hamsterley Forest, discover the Bowlees Visitor Centre and the Hub Museum or relax awhile in the Garden Station or Eggleston Hall Gardens.

• The grid references eg [3] refer to the map on the centre spread

Ark on the Edge
Ark on the Edge is an animal rescue centre and sanctuary and has a fully equipped wildlife education centre and a mile-long nature trail. The centre offers courses in animal care and group visits are welcome. It is open for the public to visit, see the animals, walk the nature trail, or you can do a spot of pond dipping. Ark on the Edge welcomes disabled visitors, call for details.

The Bowes Museum
This fabulous French style château has had a £12m makeover, bringing it singing and dancing into the 21st Century. Stunning new galleries contain an amazing collection of fine and decorative arts, complemented by exhibitions, a varied programme of activities, fine dining and shopping, all making for a wonderful day out.

Bowles Visitor Centre
Run by the AONB Partnership, this is the perfect base for exploring the natural beauty of Upper Teesdale. Close to the Pennine Way and both Low and High Force waterfalls. You’ll find advice and displays on walks, wildlife, geology and other local attractions. Cafe1618@bowlees has a varied menu perfect for walkers. Car park, accessible parking, an electric car charge point, toilets, local art, gift shop, a picnic area, woodland trails and events.

Durham Dales Centre
A large tearoom provides an extensive menu of hot and cold meals. Speciality craft and gift shops offer unique individual pieces as well as OS maps and local books. A visitor information point offers an array of leaflets. Coaches welcome.

Eggleston Hall Gardens
Four acres of gardens and nursery, 16th century churchyard with ruined chapel and rare plants, moorland stream, winding paths, and many interesting plants... 14 days per year) at which many rare and unusual plants are kept for propagation and collection throughoout the country.

The Garden Station
Woodland garden and beautifully restored wooden Victorian railway station on the former Haxham - Allendale railway. Enjoy; a garden of beauty and peace; a lovely muddy woodland walk; artworks inside and outside the station; a fabulous earth-friendly Fairtrade cafe; and a wide range of day courses.

© Mike Kipling, The Bowes Museum

© The Garden Station
Out and about
Attractions in the North Pennines

Hamsterley Forest
County Durham’s largest forest, Hamsterley has a mixture of deciduous woodland, meadows and coniferous woods. It combines commercial forestry with a variety of natural habitats. You’ll find walking, cycling and horse riding trails. Additional facilities include toilets, café, adventure play area, cycle hire and a downhill mountain bike course.

Harehope Quarry Project
The Harehope Quarry Project aims to demonstrate and promote a more sustainable way of living. The project runs an eco-classroom, from which it runs environmental education, field studies and education for sustainable development, a small holding and a nature reserve with permissive access for the public. There is an annual events programme of courses, celebrations and environmental activities for children and families. The eco-classroom can also be hired for meetings, events and other activities.

High Force Waterfall
One of England’s largest waterfalls, the River Tees suddenly and spectacularly drops 70 feet (21m) into a plunge pool below. A woodland walk leads you to this breath taking sight. With picturesque picnic areas and car park. High Force is surrounded by stunning scenery in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Hub Museum
Vibrant local history and transport museum, packed full of bygone forms of transport and delightful snippets of local history. Next to South Tynedale Railway in Alston.

Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum
Killhope is a multi-award winning Victorian mining museum, offering a grand day out for all the family. One of our guides will take you on an unforgettable mine tour of Park Level Mine. Find your own minerals as you work as a washerboy. Working water wheels. Coming in 2014 brand new exhibitions in the visitor centre and budle house and water play. Walk the woodland trails to see our red squirrels. Visit the shop and cafe to complete your great day out.

Raby Castle
One of England’s finest medieval castles and home to Lord Barnard’s family since 1626, Raby Castle is surrounded by beautiful countryside. Discover fabulous interiors, artworks and history. Explore the 200 acre deer park, walled gardens and woodland play area. Visit the tearoom and gift shop or one of many family events.

Staindrop
Co. Durham DL2 3AH
T. 01833 660202
E. admin@rabycastle.com
W. www.rabycastle.com
Opening times
- 1904 onwards, May and June and September: Sun to Wed (guided tours Mon to Wed)
- July and August: Daily except Sat
Entrance fees
- Castle, park and gardens: Adults £10, concessions £9, children (5-15yrs) £4.50
- Park and Gardens: Adults £6, concessions £5, children (ages 5-15) £2.50

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Killhope Museum
Believed to be the world’s oldest Methodist Chapel in continuous use, from 1759. Methodism and local history displays. Exhibition to be confirmed.

Newbiggin
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© Killhope Museum
South Tynedale Railway

Enjoy a scenic ride through the stunning South Tyne Valley from Alston to Kirkhaugh or Lintley. Leave the train for a walk on the South Tyne Trail. Bring a picnic or sample our cafe at Alston Station where there is free parking and a gift shop just minutes from the town centre. Visit web for special events in 2014.

The Railway Station, Alston
Cumbria CA9 3JB
Phone: 01434 381696
01434 382828 (Talking Timetable)
E: enquiries@south-tynedale-railway.org.uk
W: www.south-tynedale-railway.org.uk
Opening times
• 5/04-21/12/14 (not every day, check web/timetable for details):
  Alston depart: steam days 10.45am, 12.15pm, 2.15pm & 3.45pm; diesel days 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm
Fares
• Return to or from Lintley: Adults £10, children £4, family (2 adults & up to 3 children) £24
• All return tickets include all-day travel
• Show this ad at the ticket office and claim a 10% discount

Weardale Museum & High House Chapel

This highly commended volunteer-run museum is packed with fascinating new displays and stories of Weardale’s heritage including The Weardale Tapestry, a beautiful 16ft free-style embroidery. Adjoining the museum is the historic High House Chapel. Built in 1760, it is the oldest Methodist Chapel to have held continuous weekly services. The museum tells the story of Weley’s many visits to Ireshopeburn and provides access to the Chapel during Museum hours. The Museum also holds a vast Weardale genealogy resource - ring first to avoid disappointment.

MLA Accredited Museum

Ireshopeburn, Co. Durham DL13 1HD
Phone: 01388 517433
E: dhatherington@ormail.co.uk
W: www.weardalemuseum.co.uk
Opening times
• Open 2pm-5pm
• Easter and Bank Holidays: 2pm-5pm
• 01/05/14-31/10/14: Wed-Sun, 2pm-5pm
• Jul & Aug 2014: Daily, 2pm-5pm
Fares
• Adult £3, child 50p

Weardale Railway

Trains meander through the stunning Weardale countryside, alongside the River Wear between Bishop Auckland and Stanhope. A range of themed special events are planned for 2014, including: Premium dining trains; Afternoon tea trains; Wild West adventures; an Ales and Rails Festival; Country and Western Ho-Downs; the Polar Express; Murder mystery dinners on the train; and Royalty on the rails. Car parking, cafe and gift shop are available at Stanhope Station, just a short walk from the town centre.

MLA Accredited Museum

Stanhope Station, Stanhope, Weardale, Co. Durham DL13 3TS
Phone: 01388 526203 & 08000 232383
E: stanhope@weardale-railway.com
W: www.weardale-railway.com
Opening times:
• Visit website or call for details
Fares
• Visit website or call for details

Attractions further afield

Beamish Museum

In 300 acres of beautiful countryside, Beamish Museum vividly brings the senses alive. See for yourself what life was like during Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian times and visit the houses, shops and other buildings that have been rebuilt and furnished as they once were for an eye-opening experience. You’ll find Beamish just 12 miles east of Castleside.

Rheged Centre

Just off M6 (J40) at Penrith. Rheged is housed under a unique grass roof. It is home to a leading Gallery with art and photography exhibitions, giant 3D models, and an Adventure Centre. The centre offers a range of children's events including children’s theatre, cookery workshops, outdoor lectures and live streaming of theatre, ballet and music.

Do you care about the North Pennines? Why not join the Friends – a charity specially designed for people who are passionate about looking after and celebrating the special qualities of the area.

Membership benefits:
• Members only events and volunteering opportunities
• Three e-newsletters a year
• Opportunities to meet like-minded people
• 50% discount on AONB Partnership publications

More information & how to join:
W: www.friendsofthenorthpennines.org.uk
E: fotnp@hotmail.co.uk
T: 07816 123841

Out and about
Attractions in the North Pennines
The North Pennines is excellent for walking, from the wide open, rolling views of the moorlands to pleasant riverside, meadow and woodland routes, there is something for all to enjoy.

There are thousands of kilometres of rights of way, quiet lanes and other routes along with tens of thousands of hectares of open access land. Self-guided trail publications, festivals and events all help you get out to discover our stunning wildlife and heritage.

There are great self-guided walking trails available that will allow you to explore the North Pennines and find out more about this wonderful landscape, including geology, hay meadows, birds and flowers. Most of the guides are free and can be requested by post or downloaded from www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk.

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Explore North Pennines

Discover our mobile friendly, outdoor activity portal – www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk – which helps you to create your own North Pennines adventure!

Activities
The Explore North Pennines website is packed with detailed information about activities and things to do in and around the North Pennines.
You can search for walking, cycling and horse riding routes, the best places to see our stunning landscapes and spectacular wildlife, attractions and numerous sites of geological and historical interest. Categories also include food trails, bird watching, climbing, fishing, stargazing and kayaking. You can also search by location, facilities available, terrain and accessibility.

Interactive map
The results of your search are displayed on a useful interactive map. Just click on an icon and a window will open, providing you with information to help you go and explore. Free downloads are available for some routes direct to your GPS device or smartphone.

Landing pages
Individual landing pages allow you to quickly check out exploring opportunities, activities and routes in different parts of the North Pennines AONB:

Allen Valleys  www.exploreallenvalleys.org.uk
Alston & the Cumbrian North Pennines  www.explorealstonmoor.org.uk
Blanchland & the Upper Derwent  www.exploreblanchland.org.uk
Teesdale  www.exploreteesdale.org.uk
Weardale  www.exploreweardale.org.uk

Explore North Pennines

Outdoor activities

Walking

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Always follow the Countryside Code and Moorland Visitor’s Code.

Walking your dog
There are great places to walk your dog in the North Pennines and the law requires you to keep them under close control at all times. All public footpaths, bridleways and other rights of way are available to dog walkers. In addition, there are rights to walk dogs on some access land. Don’t forget to use a fixed lead no more than 2m long between 1 March and 31 July to limit breeding bird disturbance. A large area of access land, in the North Pennines, has permanent dog restrictions due to management as grouse moors.

Dogs and cattle
Cattle may be inquisitive and approach you if you have a dog. Avoid walking through a herd of cattle and NEVER come between a cow and her calf. If you have a dog with you and feel threatened by cattle, let it go and retreat. In any other circumstances, dogs should be kept on a short lead near livestock.
The North Pennines has some fantastic cycling. Routes vary from car-free level trails suitable for families to challenging moorland single track and steep minor road routes for experienced road cyclists.

- **Packhorse Trails**: Five do-in-a-day routes for mountain bikers through the spectacular scenery of the area following old lead packhorse routes, in a handy high quality pack. [More details](pages 49 & 50)

- **Wheels to the Wild Cycle Route**: Discover the geology and landscape of the North Pennines on this 3 day (122km) cycle touring route. Includes three mountain bike/hybrid day rides. [More details](pages 49 & 50)

### National Cycle Network

- **C2C Cycle Route**: The UK’s most popular challenge cycle route passes through the heart of the North Pennines. The 140 mile (79 traffic-free) route can be undertaken with a number of tour operators who will arrange accommodation and transfer your bags. [More details](www.c2c-guide.co.uk)

- **Walney to Wear (and Whitby)** and the **Pennine Cycleway** also pass through the North Pennines. [More details](www.cyclingw2w.info) (Pages 49 & 50)

#### 2014 events

- **The Haydon Hundred**: 7 June. 100km sportive starting from Haydon Bridge, taking in some of the highest roads in the North Pennines. Also a 60k and a 20k family route. [More details](www.haydonhundred.co.uk)

- **Tour of the Reservoir**: 12 & 13 April. A competitive road race around Derwent Reservoir – one of the British Cycling Premier calendar events through the spectacular North Pennines landscape. [More details](www.c2c-guide.co.uk)

- **Wiggle Hell of Hexham Sportive**: 9 August. Three routes – 99, 86 and 52 miles – starting from Hexham. [More details](www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk)

- **Etape North Pennines**: 20 July. 78 mile traffic free (closed road) sportive route that runs in the Durham Dales and the North Pennines. [More details](www.etapepennines.co.uk)

### Cycle hire

- **Allen Valleys Electric Bikes**: Electric bike hire is coming to the Allen Valleys in Summer 2014. Contact AONB Partnership for details.

- **Appleby Electric Bike Hire**: Wild Rose Park, Ormside, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria CA16 6J
  - Contact: reception@wildrose.co.uk
  - Website: www.wildrose.co.uk
  - Hire: Electric bikes, 1 childrens trailer

- **Becks Bikes**: Deneholme Country House, The Dene, Allendale, Hexham, Northumberland NE47 9PX
  - Contact: Linda or Tony Becks
  - Website: www.deneholme.com
  - Hire: Mountain

- **Inspiring Cycling**: Eden Valley, Cumbria
  - Contact: Jason Taylor
  - Website: www.inspiringcycling.co.uk
  - Hire: Hybrids, delivery possible

- **North Pennine Cycles**: Old Post Office, Nenthead, Cumbria CA9 3PF
  - Contact: David & Pat Raeside
  - Website: www.northpenninecycles.co.uk
  - Hire: Mountain, kids, tandem

### Shops & servicing

- **ActivCycles – Corbridge**: 01434 632950
- **Arragon’s Cycle Centre – Penrith**: 01768 890344
- **C2C Bike Repairs – Nenthead**: 07776 098915 & 01434 382194
- **Spitfire Cycles – Barnard Castle**: 01833 690640

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**Contact details**

- **Wood 'N' Wheels**: Contact: Martin Stout
  - Address: Hamsterley Forest Cycle Centre, Redford, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL13 3NL
  - Website: www.woodnwheels.org.uk
  - Hire: Mountain – adults and children (down to 16” wheel), tagalongs

- **Pedalpushers**: Contact: Nick & Maggie Davis
  - Address: Lonnings End, Sandy Lonning, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 1RA
  - Website: www.pedalpushersbram@aol.com
  - Hire: Range of bikes available for road and moderate off-road use. Children’s bikes and a tandem also available. Helmets, locks and puncture repair kits included in hire.

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**Outdoor activities**

**Cycling**

- **South Tyne Valley Packhorse Trails**: Five do-in-a-day routes for mountain bikers through the spectacular scenery of the area following old lead packhorse routes, in a handy high quality pack. [More details](pages 49 & 50)

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The North Pennines boasts some of the finest upland reservoirs and rivers, renowned for the quality of their fishing. Whether you want an almost guaranteed catch on stocked water, or want to pit yourself against wild salmon, brown and sea trout – the North Pennines could be the fishing destination for you.

**Reservoirs**

Northumbrian Water looks after lots of well stocked (rainbow and brown trout) and attractive upland reservoirs, with average catches of between four and five fish. There are opportunities for coarse, fly and multi-bait fishing at Derwent, Cow Green, Selset, Grassholme, Balderhead, Blackton and Hury reservoirs across the North Pennines.

Find out more...

Request your free Northumbrian Water ‘Go Fishing Guide’: 0845 1550236 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) | go-fishing@nwl.co.uk | www.nwl.co.uk

Have a go...

If you fancy an introduction to the world of fly or multi-bait trout fishing for trout why not sign up for a ‘Try it day’ at Derwent Reservoir?

• Three-hour fishing lesson – all tackle provided
• Call Derwent Reservoir Lodge on 01207 255250 for details and to book

Family fishing

• Bessy Beck Trout Fishery, near Kirkby Stephen | 015396 23303 | www.bessybecktrout.co.uk
• New Mills Trout Farm, near Brampton | 016977 41115 | www.newmills troutfarm.net

**Rivers and lakes**

Rivers and lakes in the North Pennines offer some of the best brown trout, sea trout and salmon fisheries in the country:

**River South Tyne**
(Alston to Langley Viaduct)
Alston and District Angling Association
Fly and spinning only
Day and week permits from:
Alston Post Office, Angel Inn (Alston) & Kirkstyle Inn (nr Slaggyford)

**River Tees**
(Upper Tees North Bank)
Raby Estate
Fly only
Day permits from:
Raines Ironmongers/Raby Estate Office in Middleton-in-Teesdale or shop at High Force

**River Eden**
Day fishing beats on the Eden and its tributaries (voucher system)
http://gowild.edenriverstrust.org.uk | 01768 866788

**River Tyne: Tyne Angling Passport**
Voucher system for day fishing beats on the Tyne and its tributaries
www.tynefishingtrust.org

**River Wear**
(Stanhope Gauging Station to Rookhope Burn, Eastgate)
Weardale Fly Fishers Club
Fly until 1 Sept then also worm and spinning
Day permits from:
Stanhope Newsagents, Front Street, Stanhope

**Langley Dam**
(14 acre lake, off the A686 near Haydon Bridge)
Fly only
Stocked regularly with rainbow, brown, blue and tiger trout
Various day permits and boat hire available
www.langleydam.co.uk | 01434 688846

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For further information on river fisheries, including regional guides

Environment Agency on 03708 506506 or visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk

**Rod licences**

Any angler (12 years and over) fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels must have an Environment Agency rod licence. Your licence fee helps fund work to look after fisheries. If you don’t get one you risk a fine of up to £2,500.

Get your licence at local post offices, by calling 0844 800 5386 or visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk
The North Pennines offers a range of opportunities for horse riding, from leisurely, guided pony rides for beginners to technical upland hacks across historic packhorse trails (pages 49 & 50) for the more experienced.

Riding centres & services

**Bank House Equestrian**
- Contact: Ray and Nancy Atkinson
- Address: Bank House, Little Salkeld, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 1NN
- T: 01768 881297 / 07878 536892
- E: bankhouse@iol.com
- W: www.bankhousequestrian.co.uk
- About: Lessons, indoor/outdoor arena hire, livery, rider accommodation, overnight stabling

**Hamsterley Riding School**
- Contact: Judy Dennis
- Address: Dixon Carr Farm, Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL13 3NH
- T: 01388 488328 or 07774 971423
- About: Trekking, lessons

**Raygill Equestrian Centre**
- Contact: Adam Wall
- Address: Raygill Farm, Lartington, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 9DG
- T: 01833 690118 or 07740 072709
- E: adamrobertwall@yahoo.co.uk
- W: www.raygillemc.co.uk
- About: Livery

**Sinderhope Trekking Centre**
- Contact: Lisa or Robert Philipson
- Address: High Sinderhope, Sinderhope, Allendale, Northumberland NE47 9SH
- T: 01434 685266
- E: theponytrekkingcentre@btconnect.com
- W: www.sinderhopeponytrekking.co.uk
- About: Trekking, lessons, indoor arena hire

**West Hoppyland Trekking Centre**
- Contact: Carole or Bill Atkinson
- Address: West Hoppyland Farm, Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL13 3NP
- T: 01388 488196 or 07738 269134
- E: westhoppyland@hotmail.com
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- About: Trekking, livery

Sinderhope Trekking Centre

Hamsterley Packhorse Trail

Rocks are the building blocks of the wonderful North Pennine landscape. The area’s fells and dales, and the rocks, minerals and fossils of which they are made, tell a fascinating story – one which stretches back hundreds of millions of years.

**Stories in stone**

Over the past 500 million years the North Pennines has travelled over the surface of the globe and been shaped by many environments and processes. Volcanoes, tropical seas, rainforests, molten rock, deserts and ice sheets have all helped create today’s landscape. By exploring the fells and dales, you’ll discover the North Pennines’ remarkable journey through time, and a rich industrial heritage linked to the area’s rocks and minerals.

**Reading the Rocks**

Find out more about this fascinating story and the way people have used the area’s rocks and minerals in a colourful 48-page book: ‘Reading the Rocks’. We also have a range of geologically themed leaflets and ‘geotrail’ leaflets to help you explore North Pennine geology and landscape. (Pages 49-50)

**World-class!**

As well as being an AONB the North Pennines is Britain’s first European Geopark and a founding member of the Global Geoparks Network. The area was awarded UNESCO-endorsed Geopark status in 2003. The North Pennines is one of seven Geoparks in the UK. Geoparks are places with outstanding geology where special effort is made to make the most of Earth heritage through interpretation, education, conservation and tourism.
Geological highlights

The North Pennines has a wealth of wonderful geological features to discover. Here are just ten suggestions for places where you can explore some of the area’s fantastic rocks, fossils, minerals, mining heritage and glacial landscapes.

1. Explore Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum and admire superb local minerals — page 31
2. Allenheads is full of reminders of a mining past. Visit the displays in the Blacksmith’s Shop — page 17
3. Hike up to High Cup Gill, a stunning valley ringed by cliffs of the Whin Sill. High Cup Winery at Dufton has a geology display — page 19
4. High Force and Low Force are dramatic waterfalls over the Whin Sill. Find out more about Teesdale’s landscape at Bowlees Visitor Centre — page 28
5. At Allen Banks sandstone cliffs tower over a lovely wooded gorge — page 17
6. Talkin Tarn formed from a huge chunk of ice which was stranded after the ice age — page 19
7. Discover the ‘Sugar Limestone’ near Cow Green Reservoir. Find out more in the Geology Room at Langdon Beck Hotel — page 22
8. Visit Harehope Quarry to see Frosterley Marble — page 30
9. The fossil tree stump in Stanhope Market Place is 320 million years old
10. God’s Bridge near Bowes is a natural limestone bridge which is probably the relic of a collapsed cave system.

The North Pennines supports an unusual and special type of flower-rich grassland – upland hay meadow. To enjoy our meadows at their best, time your visit between June and July.

Ancient origins

These meadows have evolved through generations of traditional farm management. Their ancient origins lie rooted in the woodland glades of the prehistoric wildwoods that once shrouded our landscape. As early people established settlements and began to harvest forage for their livestock, these glades were gradually opened up and converted into large meadows. This long history is evident today in the names of some of the most characteristic plants of our upland hay meadows like wood crane’s-bill and wood anemone.

Kaleidoscope

A North Pennines meadow in full bloom is a feast for the senses. Each year as spring and summer progress the different plants create a subtly shifting kaleidoscope of colours. The white of pignut blends into the yellow of meadow buttercup; this then slips through to the pink of red clover, wood crane’s-bill’s deep magenta and the soft lemon of hay rattle; the season ends with the blood-red blooms of great burnet and the delicate dancing heads of the grasses.

Distinctive

Less than 900ha of upland hay meadows remain in the UK. Despite this, in the North Pennines they are still a distinctive feature of the landscape with 40% of the UK’s remaining upland meadows found here (350ha). The very best meadows can support 30 different plant species within just one square metre and this diversity of flowers in turn provides a rich and varied source of food for nectar-feeding wildlife like bumblebees.
In spring and summer our moors, pastures and woodlands are alive with bird songs and displays. Even in the depths of winter you can spot hardy species like the red grouse, snipe and dipper.

The landscape of the North Pennines is an intricate mix of semi-natural habitats, all of which support their own special birds. Look out for...

**High moors:** golden plover, red grouse, meadow pipit, dunlin, merlin, short-eared owl

**Grasslands:** curlew, lapwing, redshank, snipe, skylark, wheatear, grey partridge

**Woodlands:** pied flycatcher, redstart, wood warbler, woodcock

**Rivers and streams:** dipper, goosander, grey wagtail, common sandpiper, oystercatcher

**Scrubb, scree and crag:** ring ouzel, peregrine, whinchat

One of our most iconic species, the black grouse, relies on a variety of North Pennine habitats at different times of year, including heather moorland, scrubby woodland, cottongrass bog and species rich pastures.

The North Pennine moorlands cover over 90,000 hectares of wind swept and remote landscape, making them the biggest continuous peatland in England. The deepest Pennine peat formed over 7,500 years ago making moorlands some of England’s oldest ecosystems.

**Blanket bog**

The North Pennines AONB contains 27% of England’s blanket bog. This is an internationally protected type of peat habitat, found only in cool, wet regions. Since it began to form at the end of the last ice age, blanket bog has helped shape the landscape of the North Pennines and is now one of its principal ecosystems. Some of the special sights are swathe of white cottongrass in June and the iconic purple of flowering heather in August into September.

North Pennine moorlands are an important habitat for many types of birds and animals, including: dunlin, golden plover, red and black grouse, curlew, common lizard and adder.

**Peaty facts:**
- When peat forms it locks in carbon contained in the plant matter – healthy, wet, peatlands are an important carbon store that mitigates against climate change
- Peatlands in the UK store as much carbon as the forests of the UK, France and Germany combined!
- Peat is a record of our past, recording changes in vegetation and climate and preserving archaeological remains

The AONB Partnership’s Peatscape Programme is restoring and conserving the internationally important peatlands within the North Pennines.

**Birds**

**Nature watching**

Birdwatchers Code of Conduct

Birds are very vulnerable to disturbance, especially during the breeding season (March-August). It is all too easy to inadvertently harm a bird or its young while trying to see them, so please follow our birdwatchers code of conduct:

- Keep to paths and tracks
- Keep dogs on a short lead
- Avoid keeping birds from their nests, especially in cold or wet weather
- Don’t look for nests. All birds, nests and eggs are protected by law

If you’re planning to watch black grouse lekking, please follow the additional advice at [www.blackgrouse.info](http://www.blackgrouse.info)

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

Request our peatland leaflets:

- [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk)
- pages 49 & 50 [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk)
  (pdf files available to download)
Historic environment
Discover the past

Current research, much of it by volunteers, is demonstrating that the North Pennines landscape contains many fascinating clues to the lives of our ancestors over the past 10,000 years.

Past times

The North Pennines landscape includes a range of fascinating archaeological sites, ranging in date from enigmatic 5,000 year-old Stone Age rock carvings, through extensive late prehistoric and Roman agricultural landscapes to the remnants of the internationally important post-medieval lead industry. The Roman fort of Epiacum, near Alston is a particular highlight. Many North Pennine villages can trace their origins back to medieval times, when vast tracts of the uplands were managed as great hunting forests.

Lead, silver and other resources have been exploited here since Roman times, if not earlier, leading eventually to the great post-medieval lead industry which has left an extensive legacy of abandoned mines, smelt mills, railways, reservoirs, leats and farmsteads within what is now referred to as a ‘miner-farmer landscape’.

Archaeology today

Today, volunteers are studying many aspects of this heritage through the AONB Partnership’s Heritage Lottery funded Altogether Archaeology project. Recent work has included survey and excavation of prehistoric landscapes, a Roman fort, an Anglo-Saxon chapel, a medieval castle, and several post-medieval industrial sites. Getting involved with the project is open to anyone with an interest in the past.

Publications requests

To help you get the most out of your visit to the North Pennines you can order the selected publications listed below. Simply tick the relevant boxes and return the order form, with any payment required, to the address below:

North Pennines AONB Partnership
Weardale Business Centre
The Old Co-op Building
1 Martin Street
Stanhope, Bishop Auckland
County Durham DL13 2UY

Your details

Title  First name  Surname
Address
Postcode
Day time tel  Email address

Please tick if you would like to receive information about things to see and do in the North Pennines, the work of the AONB Partnership, Bowlees Visitor Centre, and how to get involved and we’ll be in touch (note that we will not share your details with any other organisations)

Publications are FREE unless otherwise stated

Walking

- Over the hill to Cowbyre Farm (Blanchland)
- Newbiggin and the Carriers’ Way (Blanchland)
- Forest-in-Teesdale Storywalk
- Derwent Reservoir – walks, rides and wildlife

Geology and landscape

- Stanhope Fossil Tree
- Allenheads Geotrail
- Duffton Geotrail
- Ashes Quarry Geotrail (Stanhope)
- Low Force Geotrail (Teesdale)
- Richard Watson Trail (Teesdale)
- Allen Banks Geotrail

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www.epiacumheritage.org
www.northpennines.org.uk
Cycling
- Biking around Alston
- Cycling in the South Tyne Valley
- Wheels to the Wild Cycle Route
  Free, but £1.50 p&p cheques payable to ‘Durham County Council’

Peatlands
- Moorland Flowers, Grasses, Shrubs, Mosses and Lichens
  Identification Guide

General
- What’s Special about the North Pennines?
- North Pennines News – Spring and Summer 2014
- Water Voles in the North Pennines
- Young person’s guide to the wildlife of Upper Teesdale

Visit www.northpennines.org.uk and visit our Publications pages to access pdf downloads of the above leaflets. You’ll also find lots of them available on www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk

Paid for books and guides
- Reading the Rocks: Exploring the geology and landscape of the North Pennines
  £8 (+£1.80 p&p) cheques payable to ‘Friends of the North Pennines’
- Slitt Wood and West Rigg Geotrail
  £2 (free postage) cheques payable to ‘Friends of the North Pennines’
- Packhorse Trails – for horse riders
  £6 (+£1.50 p&p) cheques payable to ‘Friends of the North Pennines’
- Packhorse Trails – for mountain bikers
  £6 (+£1.50 p&p) cheques payable to ‘Friends of the North Pennines’
- The Quarrymen DVD
  £9.99 (+£1.50 p&p) cheques payable to ‘Durham County Council’
- ‘No five o’clock on our calendars’: A history of hay time in the North Pennines
  £6.99 (+£1.50 p&p) cheques payable to ‘Durham County Council’

We’ve got a range of exciting events planned for 2014 to capture the imagination of children and adults, alike.

Last year we ran an array of events attracting people from near and far to the wonderful wilds of Upper Teesdale. We had batty bats, baking contests, butter churning, bird box building and the Great Bowlees Conker Competition, to name a few.

Springing into action
From the beginning of March we are open seven days a week. This is when our events calendar will spring into action, with a strong focus on the landscape of the North Pennines and the wildlife that finds a home here.

Events
The Partnership Staff Team will be pulling out all the stops to put on some really special events. And we’ll also be working alongside a host of partners, including people from RSPB Saltholme and Moor House-Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve.

Highlights for 2014, include:
- Willow Workshop – Sat 12 April
- First Signs of Spring – Sat 17 May
- Bowlees Birthday Bash & The Great Nature Biohunt – Sat 28 June
- Harvest Celebration – Sat 20 Sep
- Wild Autumn – Sat 15 Nov

Butter making with Jon Dunn from Café 1618@Bowlees

www.visitbowlees.org.uk | Call 01833 622145 during opening times or 01388 528801
The North Pennines is one of England's most special places – a peaceful, unspoilt landscape with a rich history and vibrant natural beauty. In recognition of this it is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The area is also a Global Geopark – an accolade endorsed by UNESCO.

Your handy guide providing information on things to see and do in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Global Geopark.

North Pennines AONB Partnership
www.northpennines.org.uk
+44 (0)1388 528801
info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk

The AONB Partnership has a Green Tourism award for its corporate office

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another format.

info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk
01388 528801

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