

Free

North Pennines Pocket Guide 2008/09

Your comprehensive guide to the AONB and European Geopark

www.northpennines.org.uk

Inside...

- Discover the AONB
- Be a Green Visitor!
- Detailed Maps
- Nature Watching
- Events & Activities
- Green Places to Stay
- Local Products & Services
- Area Guides
- Outdoor Activities

NORTH PENNINES

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty





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, delightful dales, tumbling upland rivers, wonderful woods, 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 UNESCO 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. Please refer to the map on the centre pages (36 & 37) for more detail.

The AONB is split between County Durham and Northumberland (part of North East England) and Cumbria (part of North West England).

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** **A1**. These refer to the map on the centre pages (36 & 37).

Green Tourism Business Scheme



Look out for the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) logos throughout the guide. Wherever you see them you can be sure that the business is committed to looking after the environment. See page 10 for more details or visit www.green-business.co.uk

Know Your North Pennines (KYNP)



Many people working in B&Bs, hotels and attractions are now better able to tell you about the special qualities of the AONB. Through the KYNP training programme, an initiative from Pennine Horizons, many tourism providers have studied a variety of topics ranging from hay meadows to local food and from lead mining to transport ancient and modern. Look out for the KYNP symbol throughout the guide - these establishments have sent people on the course.

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Image credits

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Information in this publication is correct at the time of going to print (March 2008). Every effort is made to ensure that information is accurate. However, the AONB Partnership and its Staff Unit cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions. Please double check critical information before travel.

Edited and compiled by Shane Harris (North Pennines AONB Partnership Staff Unit)

Maps used on pages 36-47 inclusive are based on OS mapping © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Durham County Council. LA 100019779 2008



Introducing the North Pennines

A special place



▲ *The Eastern Fellside*

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 stonewalls and friendly faces – the North Pennines has all this and more!

Beneath your feet

The impressive shapes and forms the land takes in the North Pennines, from High Force on the River Tees to the sweeping U-shaped 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 Britain's first European Geopark and a founding member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network. → pages 20-23



▲ *Discovering High Cup Gill*

Past times

About 12,000 people live in the North Pennines today – less than half the number who lived here 140 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 many chapters in the story of the North Pennines. → page 24



◀ *Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum*

©NPAP/Elizabeth Pickett

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 Pennines 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.



▲ *Cottages at Hunstanworth, near Blanchland*

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. → pages 14-19



▲ *Mountain pansy*

©NPAP/Rebecca Barrett





▲ High Cup Gill

©Natural England/Steve Westwood

Fact file


In the North Pennines you'll find:

- 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
- Peace, tranquility and fabulous night skies
- England's biggest waterfall
- and much, much more!



Who looks after the AONB?

Local communities, landowners, farmers and estate managers look after the 'living landscapes' of 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 22 public, statutory and voluntary sector bodies, also helps to look after the area. The work of the Partnership is carried out by its Staff Unit, based in Stanhope . The Staff Unit takes action to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, to raise awareness of its special qualities and to improve the quality of life for local people.



The Staff Unit holds a Gold Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) award in recognition of its environmental practices at its offices and its wider support of sustainable tourism in the North Pennines. Look out for the GTBS logo – when you see it you'll know that the business is serious about looking after the environment.

➔ Visit www.northpennines.org.uk for more information

A family of protected landscapes

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

There are 40 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales, covering 16% of the land area. The North Pennines covers almost 2,000 square kilometres and is the second largest member of this protected landscape family. In terms of landscape quality, the AONBs are recognised as the equal of our National Parks (www.nationalparks.gov.uk) and are given the same level of protection.

To find out more about other AONBs in the North of England
➔ page 66

To find out more about the family of AONBs
➔ National Association for AONBs: www.aonb.org.uk | www.visitaonb.org.uk

Do your bit

The North Pennines is a fantastic place to enjoy the stunning landscape, wildlife, geology and cultural heritage that the North of England has to offer. During your visit to this nationally and internationally cherished landscape why not do your bit to help keep it special? ➔ To find out how see pages 10-13



▲ Holwick, Upper Teesdale



Accommodation

Staying in the North Pennines

You are sure of a warm welcome when you stay in the North Pennines AONB and European Geopark.

Accommodation providers in and around the North Pennines have joined the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) – green accreditation for quality tourism businesses. When you stay in a GTBS establishment you can be assured that your stay will be a green one! → page 10



B&B

- **Low Cornriggs Farmhouse** 
Cowhill **C2** (Also self-catering) 
www.alstonandkillhoperidingcentre.co.uk | 01388 537600
- **Slack House Farm**  
Ireshopeburn **C2** 
www.fleecewithaltitude.co.uk | 01388 537292
- **Dowfold House** 
Crook **D3** 
www.dowfoldhouse.co.uk | 01388 762473
- **Newlands Hall** 
Nr Frosterley **D2** 
www.newlandshall.co.uk | 01388 529233

Guesthouse

- **Lowbyer Manor Country House** 
Alston **B2** 
www.lowbyer.com | 01434 381230

Hotel

- **Langley Castle Hotel** 
South of Haydon Bridge **B1** 
www.langleycastle.com | 01434 688888

Self-catering

- **Pasture Cottage** 
Nr Wolsingham **D2** 
www.pasturecottage.co.uk | 01388 527864
- **East Briscoe Farm Cottages**  
Baldersdale **C4** 
www.eastbriscoe.co.uk | 01833 650087
- **Bradley Burn Cottages** 
Nr Wolsingham **D2** 
www.bradleyburn.co.uk | 01388 527285
- **Alston Art Apartments** 
Alston **B2** 
Under development | 01434 381906

- **Boot and Shoe Cottage** 
Barnard Castle **D4** 
www.bootandshoecottage.co.uk | 01833 627200
- **Brignall Mill Holiday Cottage** 
Nr Barnard Castle **D4** 
www.brignallmill.co.uk | 01833 637726
- **Beckleshele Cottage** 
Lanehead, Weardale **C2** 
www.beckleshele.co.uk | 01388 537683
- **The Redbrick Barn**  
Nr Rookhope **C2** 
www.prydale.com | 01388 517845

YHA

- **Ninebanks**  
Ninebanks, West Allen Valley **B2** 
www.yha.ninebanks.co.uk | 01434 345288
- **Dufton**  
Dufton **B3** 
www.yha.org.uk | 017683 51236


Bunkhouse

- **Assay House & Mill Cottage Bunkhouses** 
Nenthead **B2** 
<http://npht.com/nentheadmines/activities/bunkhouse> | 01434 382726/382037
- **Cromer House Camping Barn** 
Frosterley
Under development | 01388 526632

Group accommodation


- **Deneholme Conference & Residential Centre** 
Allendale **C1** 
www.deneholme.co.uk | 01434 618579
- **Blackton Grange** 
Baldersdale **C4** 
www.blacktongrange.com | 07891 452228

Youth Hostels

There are six YHA Youth Hostels in the North Pennines: Kirkby Stephen **B4**, Edmunbyers **D2**, Langdon Beck **C3** , Alston **B2**, Ninebanks **B2** and Dufton **B3**. Visit www.yha.org.uk or call 0870 7708868 (customerservices@yha.org.uk)

Baldersdale (Blackton Grange **C4**) is also available as an 'Escape to' (sole use) hostel along with the six hostels above – visit www.yha.org.uk



The Eco Flower represents the toughest environmental tourism standard in the EU 

Finding accommodation

Parts of the North Pennines fall into Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland.

North East England

→ www.visitnortheastengland.com/site/where-to-stay I fill in an online request form at www.visitnortheastengland.com I ring the Brochure Hotline on 08701 601781

County Durham

→ www.visitcountydurham.com – search for accommodation in Teesdale, Wear Valley or Derwentside, complete an online form and request the County Durham Visitor Guide (includes accommodation) I Call 0844 8889897 I durham@responseuk.co.uk I you can also view an e-brochure or download a pdf

• Get hold of a copy of the '2008 Visit Wear Valley Guide'. → www.wearvalley.gov.uk – download a pdf I contact the Durham Dales Centre (page 71) to request a paper copy

→ www.teesdaleiscovery.com/accommodation I call Barnard Castle TIC (page 69) and request an accommodation guide



→ www.derwentside.gov.uk for an on-line listing of accommodation in Derwentside

Northumberland

→ www.visitnorthumberland.com – search for accommodation in the North Pennines I complete online form to request a copy of the 2008 Northumberland Holiday Guide I contact Hexham, Haltwhistle or Corbridge TICs (page 70)

Cumbria

→ www.visiteden.co.uk – search for accommodation I request a 'Where to Stay in Eden Guide' using the online form I contact Alston Moor Information Centre (see page 69)

→ www.golakes.co.uk/accommodation – search for accommodation within Cumbria. Click on www.golakes.co.uk/downloads/brochures.aspx to download a copy of the 2008 Cumbria Holidays and Short Breaks Guide I contact the Brochureline on 0844 8885188

• For accommodation in Carlisle District → www.historic-carlisle.org.uk I call 01228 625600 I tourism@carlisle.gov.uk – request a '2008 Carlisle & Hadrian's Wall Country Holiday and Short Breaks Guide'



▲ Langley Castle



▲ Slack House Farm



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. → pages 26 and 27

Why not also support one of the many local shows that'll you'll find in the area during the summer months? → page 28



▲ Alston

Support businesses that support the environment

Increasingly tourism businesses in and around the North Pennines AONB, from B&Bs and self-catering cottages to conference venues and visitor attractions, hold awards in the nationally recognised Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS). Throughout this guide you'll find businesses with a GTBS award by looking out for the logo.



© Teesdale Marketing

▲ Coach House Bistro, Eggleston Hall

Environmental Performance

To enter the GTBS award holders need to demonstrate that they are: minimising their impact on the environment; communicating their green credentials to their customers; and having a positive impact on their surroundings. To do this they implement practical measures covering business management, communication, energy efficiency, water savings, waste minimisation, green purchasing, transport, and wildlife conservation.

Find out more

- www.green-business.co.uk
- www.northpennines.org.uk (Green Tourism in Exploring)



▲ Moor House - Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve
© Natural England/Charlie Hedley

Follow the Countryside Code and the Moorland Visitor's Code

When you are out and about in the countryside follow these codes to ensure that you get the best out of your visit and to make sure that the countryside is protected for future generations to enjoy



Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs

Even when going out locally, it's best to get the latest information about where and when you can go; for example, your rights to go onto some areas of open land may be restricted while work is carried out, for safety reasons or during breeding seasons. Follow advice and local signs, and be prepared for the unexpected.

Leave gates and property as you find them

Please respect the working life of the countryside, as our actions can affect people's livelihoods, our heritage, and the safety and welfare of animals and ourselves.

Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home

We have a responsibility to protect our countryside now and for future generations, so make sure you don't harm animals, birds, plants, or trees.

Keep dogs under close control



The countryside is a great place to exercise dogs, but it's every owner's duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, wildlife or other people.

Consider other people

Showing consideration and respect for other people makes the countryside a pleasant

environment for everyone - at home, at work and at leisure.

Prevent uncontrolled moorland fires

Smoldering cigarette ends, discarded bottles and dropped matches can all cause uncontrolled fires on moors - particularly during the spring and summer. Serious, deep-seated fires are fatal to important animals and plants and devastating to the landscape.

Following severe wild fires, our unique moorlands can be left black, scarred, prone to erosion and devoid of wildlife for decades.



- Never light fires on moorland - not even gas stoves or barbecues
- During periods of high fire risk respect all warning signs

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.



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. The AONB Partnership and other organisations have produced a wide variety of self-guided walking and cycling guides to help you find your way about.

Consider using public transport to travel to your start point - or try exploring near to where you are staying.



Why not stay overnight rather than making day visits? This will reduce your travel (and carbon footprint). → pages 8 and 9

If you do drive, please **SLOW** down! Sheep (and birds) can be a hazard on the area's moorland roads. Driving more slowly and smoothly will also help reduce your fuel consumption.

Getting around

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? Hire a bike, take a bus or simply go for a walk!

North Pennines Public Transport Guide

Get hold of this leaflet (includes map and timetables) which describes the public transport available in the North Pennines. Send an email to info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk or call 01388 528801 or pick up your copy from a Tourist Information Centre in the area. → pages 69-71



By train

Nearest railway stations to the North Pennines:

- Durham and Darlington on the East Coast main line
- Bishop Auckland on 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

Find out more

→ National Rail Enquiries | 08457 48 49 50 | www.nationalrail.co.uk



By bus

There's a reasonable level of service to many parts of the North Pennines.

For more information:

- Traveline Northeast and Cumbria → www.travelinenortheast.info | 0871 2002233 (7am - 9pm, 7 days a week). Calls cost 10p per min from BT landlines. Call costs from mobiles may vary
- National Express → www.nationalexpress.com | 08705 808080
- Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland County Council websites → www.cumbria.gov.uk | www.durham.gov.uk | www.northumberland.gov.uk

By bike

Bring your own or hire one once you're here. → pages 59-62

On foot

Contact the nearest Tourist Information Centre → pages 69-71 to where you are staying for information on local walk routes. → pages 54-58

Consider offsetting your carbon emissions

Minimising the use of fossil fuels is the most important solution to global warming. However, it is not possible to eliminate all carbon emissions, so the next best thing is to 'offset'. Some of the ways in which this can be achieved are forest restoration and investment in energy efficiency projects.

The North Pennines AONB Partnership is contributing to ensuring that carbon remains 'locked-up' in the area's peatlands by initiating projects to block drains on the moors. This helps by keeping the peatlands wet and thus stopping the breakdown of peat and the release of carbon. When you visit Killhope Museum this year you'll have the opportunity to offset your journey by contributing to a Peatscapes carbon conservation project.

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.





© Val Wilson

Wildlife of the North Pennines Nature watching



© Laurie Campbell



Nature watching Moorlands



The North Pennines is a fantastic place to experience the natural world. If you hanker after the countryside of yesteryear and the opportunity to see a profusion of wildlife that is all but a memory for much of the rest of England then a visit to the AONB should be very high up your list of things to do!

Special plants

The concentration of rare plants in Upper Teesdale is unique to the UK. The Teesdale violet, spring gentian (top left) and Teesdale sandwort can all be found in grasslands on the Moor House-Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve.



© Natural England/Berny Steery

Wonderful woods

The upland oak and ash woodlands in the North Pennines support a range of plants, including bluebells, wild garlic and wood sorrel.

Red squirrels

Conifer plantations in the North Pennines are one of the last refuges for the red squirrel in England. One of the best places to see and find out about red squirrels is at Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum [B2].

→ page 51



© Natural England/Charlie Hedley

▲ Moor House-Upper Teesdale

Moor House-Upper Teesdale NNR [B3]

This is one of England's largest National Nature Reserves. It is particularly well known for the plants that originally colonised the North Pennines after the last Ice Age. The Reserve encompasses an almost complete range of upland habitats typical of the North Pennines, from hay meadows, rough grazing and juniper woods to limestone grassland, blanket bog and the high fells.

→ www.naturalengland.org.uk | 01833 622374

Geltsdale RSPB Nature Reserve [B3]

From remote and windswept blanket bog to flower-filled hay meadows, Geltsdale RSPB reserve is a fantastic place for upland birds and wildlife. Visit the information point at Stagsike Cottages and during the breeding season you'll find CCTV trained on nesting birds, such as barn owls and hen harriers. There are also three trails (3-8km) to follow.

→ www.rspb.org | 0191 2334300 | northernengland@rspb.org.uk

The moorland landscapes of the North Pennines are some of England's wildest places. They are home to some of our rarest wildlife and have an unspoilt sense of naturalness and remoteness found in few other places in the country.

The moorland expanses found in the North Pennines are now open access areas. → Pages 57 and 58

The moorland habitats include 36% of England's upland heathland. Dry heath (14% of the AONB), is dominated by heather and bell heather. Wet heath, characterised by cross-leaved heath and/or purple moor grass, occurs in waterlogged valleys, and in association with blanket bog.



© Laurie Campbell

▲ Sphagnum moss

Blanket bog

21% of the AONB is covered by wild expanses of blanket bog. A typical tract of blanket bog in the North Pennines contains heather, cross-leaved heath, hair's-tail cottongrass, bilberry, common cottongrass, cloudberry, deergrass, crowberry and bog asphodel, as well as many species of peat-building sphagnum moss.

Unenclosed moorlands of the North Pennines are also important for a variety of birds including red and black grouse, hen harrier, merlin, short-eared owl, curlew, golden plover, dunlin and twite.

Peaty facts:

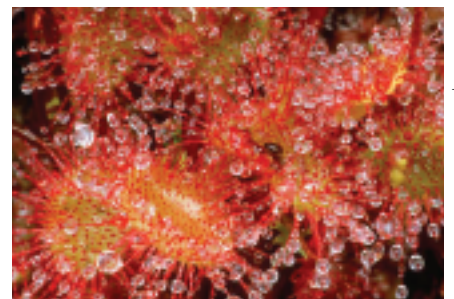
- When peat forms it locks in carbon contained in the plant matter – healthy, wet, peatlands are an important store of carbon and hence are important in mitigating against climate change
- There is as much carbon stored in peatlands in the UK as there is contained in all the forests of the UK, France and Germany combined!

Peatscapes

Peatscapes is a collaborative project that aims to conserve and enhance the internationally important peatlands within the North Pennines.

→ www.northpennines.org.uk (Special Projects)

Request leaflets on our peatlands:
→ pages 67 & 68 | www.northpennines.org.uk
(pdf files available to download)



© Laurie Campbell

▲ Common sundew



Nature watching

Birds

▲ Golden plover

The North Pennines is a wonderful place to watch birds. The rich mix of habitats, wildlife and stunning landscapes in the AONB is unique in England. The thrilling swoop and cry of the lapwing during its breeding display and the ethereal bubbling song of the curlew are just two of the wonders to be found.



Brian Irving © Helm Images

▲ Curlew

Birdwatching in the North Pennines

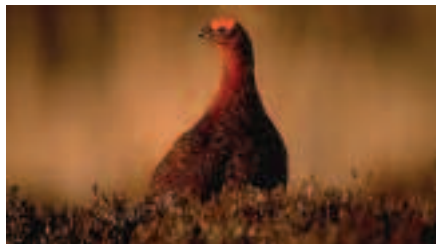
This great full colour book highlighting the fantastic birdwatching opportunities in the area is available from the AONB Staff Unit → pages 67 & 68, Tourist Information Centres → pages 69-71 and other outlets in and around the North Pennines. A free guide to identifying birds that you'll typically see in the North Pennines is also available.

The guide describes the characteristic birds and habitats of the AONB and includes a series of 17 birdwalks and sites – spread across the North Pennines.



Birdwatchers Code of Conduct

- The welfare of the birds must come first. Disturbance to birds and their habitats should be kept to a minimum
- Keep to paths and tracks, especially during the bird breeding season (March-August)
- Avoid disturbing birds or keeping them away from their nests for even short periods especially in wet or cold weather
- Do not try to find nests. All birds, nests, eggs and young are protected by law and it is illegal to harm them
- Keep dogs on a short lead
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Take your litter home with you



© Laurie Campbell

▲ Red grouse

Black grouse

Watching lekking black grouse in the early morning and listening to their distinctive bubbling song is a wildlife watching experience that will stay with you forever. However, black grouse are vulnerable to disturbance and so it is crucial that you take steps to avoid harming these fantastic birds:



© Laurie Campbell

- Avoid looking for black grouse after heavy snowfalls, when birds are under stress.
- View leks from a vehicle. Black grouse pay little attention to stationary vehicles that are at least 100 metres away. Ensure that you do not block access and that your presence will not disturb nearby residents. Avoid approaching a lek on foot, which usually disturbs the birds.
- Arrive before daybreak. A vehicle stopping once it is light can disturb the birds. Stay in your vehicle and watch quietly through binoculars and telescopes.

Don't start the engine until after lekking has wound down, usually about two hours after dawn. Alternatively, consider watching a lek in the evening.

- Keep to footpaths, especially in June and July, when there may be nesting females and young birds present. Do not go looking for black grouse in heather or thick field vegetation, especially in woodland (birds may fly into fences, with lethal consequences, if flushed).
- Do not bring dogs when you're watching grouse.

→ www.blackgrouse.info | www.rspb.org.uk/advice/watchingbirds

Guided birdwatching in the North Pennines

• Real Birder Tours

Join experienced local guide Nick Mason to enjoy special birds, including black grouse, short-eared owl, ring ouzel, snipe and redshank. Half and full day trips to suit individuals and small groups. Transport available with door to door service, group prices from £60 per half day.

→ www.realbirder.co.uk | 07857 200144 | nick@realbirder.co.uk

• The Northern Kites Project runs a variety of Red Kite Days and Red Kite Rambles in Teesdale, throughout the year.

→ www.northernkites.org.uk | 0191 4961555

• Moor House–Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve – Natural England run a programme of events and activities, including black grouse watching, based on this huge upland nature reserve.

→ www.naturalengland.org.uk | 01833 622374



Brian Irving © Helm Images

▲ Lapwing



Nature watching

Hay time

Species-rich upland hay meadows are one of the rarest grassland habitats in the country. Rich in wildlife and steeped in cultural tradition, the North Pennines holds some of the best meadows in the UK. Only 1,000ha of upland hay meadow are thought to remain in the UK and 400ha (or 40%) of this is within the AONB.



Bursting with life

Hay meadows are an important habitat for wildlife. Even though they often may look like just another green field, a closer investigation will reveal a large number of different plant species.

The very best meadows contain over 30 species of flowering plants and grasses per square metre, with up to 120 species per field. The special flowers of North Pennines meadows include wood crane's-bill, globeflower and great burnet.

The richness of flowering plants means an abundant supply of nectar which attracts bees and other invertebrates.

These in turn attract insect-eating birds like swallows and house martins. Even at night the meadows supply important insect food for bats. The meadows also provide important feeding sites for yellow wagtail, twite, grey partridge, black grouse and curlew.

A living link to the past

Hay meadows are thought to have evolved from woodland clearings that Neolithic people began to enlarge by cutting down trees. Over time these clearings grew and farmers began to harvest the long grass to feed livestock. This tradition has continued until the present day and in some cases the same plot of land may have been harvested for its hay for almost 6,000 years!



▲ Hay time in years gone by – a loaded 'pike bogey' Image courtesy of Parkin Raine Collection



▲ Great burnet in a hay meadow at Carrs Farm, near Wolsingham

Sensual!

A walk through a flowering hay meadow is a rich experience for your senses. Delicate and differently shaped flowers bloom in many colours: from the deep reds of great burnet and common sorrel, through the yellows of meadow buttercup and meadow vetchling, to the pinks of red clover and wood crane's-bill. On a warm day the scent of some of these flowers can be intoxicating. Add to this the chatter of swallows overhead and the sound of the wind gently rustling the long grass and you have a feast for the senses!

Quality food

The hay made in our meadows is an important source of winter food for the cattle and sheep kept in the North Pennines. Many farmers regard their hay as their highest quality fodder and believe that their animals are healthier when they are fed on it. This may be because some of the flowering plants dried in the hay have beneficial medicinal properties.

Hay Time North Pennines

In light of the importance of the North Pennines for upland hay meadows and the threatened status of the habitat, the AONB Partnership launched the Hay Time project in May 2006.

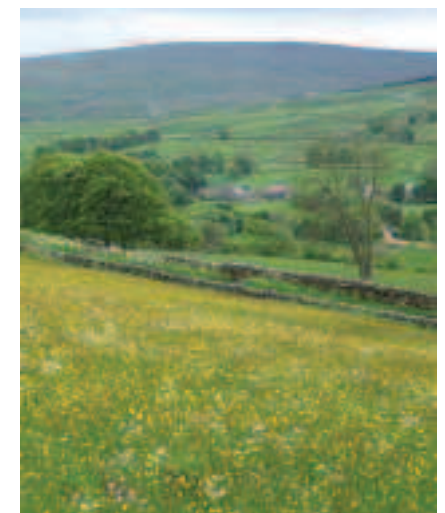
→ www.northpennines.org.uk (Special Projects)

Hay Time Walks

The AONB Partnership has produced a series of three glorious walks from: Allendale [C1]; Ireshopeburn [C2]; and Hury Reservoir, Baldersdale [C4].

The 5km (two hour) strolls will introduce you to some of the best hay meadows in the North Pennines.

→ Available direct from the AONB Partnership (pages 67 & 68) or from Tourist Information Centres (pages 69-71) or as pdf downloads from www.northpennines.org.uk (About Us/Publications)



▲ Hay meadow near Ireshopeburn, Weardale (Hay Time Walk 2)



Moor rocks

Geology and landscape



▲ Roman Fell and Swindale Edge

Rocks are the building blocks of the breathtaking North Pennines landscape. Across the area, the rocks and landscapes have stories to tell, of moving continents and tropical seas, of molten rock and ice sheets and of minerals and the folk who mined them.

Global significance

As well as being an AONB the North Pennines also has the accolade of being Britain's first European Geopark. It's a founding member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network too! This recognises the worldwide significance of the geology found here. Geoparks are places with outstanding Earth heritage where special effort is made to look after geological features and make them come alive!

- www.northpennines.org.uk
- www.europeangeoparks.org
- www.unesco.org
- www.globalgeopark.org

Year of Planet Earth

2008 is the International Year of Planet Earth, as declared by the United Nations. This year of events and activities has the slogan 'Earth sciences for Society' and aims to promote understanding of Earth science and sustainable use of Earth materials. The European Geopark Network is a partner in this International Year and our 2008 Northern Rocks Festival is the North Pennines' contribution to the celebrations.

- www.yearofplanetearth.org

Northern Rocks...

... the North Pennines Festival of Geology and Landscape

Between 24 May and 8 June people will be flocking to the annual Northern Rocks Festival.

- page 30 | www.northpennines.org.uk



Geology and Landscape study programme

Local geologist Brian Young will be leading a series of evening talks and field visits on behalf of the North Pennines AONB Partnership in 2008. Running over eight weeks in the autumn, the course will explore the geology and landscape of the North Pennines.

- North Pennines AONB Partnership
01388 528801 | info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk

The lead legacy

Everywhere you look in the North Pennines you'll see features which hark back to the once huge lead mining industry that dominated people's lives and the landscape. There are obvious remains at mine sites - washing floors and spoil heaps as well as smelt mills and their chimneys, but as you explore you'll also discover that the industry had a much wider influence.

Find out more:

- Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum **B2**
→ page 51 | www.killhope.org.uk | 01388 537505
- Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre **B2**
→ page 51 | www.npht.com/nentheadmines | 01434 382726/382037
- Weardale Museum and High House Chapel **C2**
→ page 52 | www.weardalemuseum.co.uk | 01388 517433
- Bowlees Visitor Centre **C3**
page 48 | www.durhamwt.co.uk | 01833 622292



▲ Bowlees Visitor Centre

The Lead Mining Landscapes of the North Pennines AONB, full colour, 98-page, richly illustrated book gives an excellent overview of the huge impact that lead mining has had on the landscapes of the North Pennines. Find your copy in Tourist Information Centres (see pages 69-71) and other local outlets.



Stanhope Fossil Tree

Imagine standing in a steaming, tropical rainforest, amidst the leaves of giant ferns and horsetails. You are in Stanhope - 320 million years ago! The Stanhope fossil tree grew in this forest and like all fossils it tells a fascinating story of ancient life in the distant past. The AONB Partnership has produced a leaflet which brings the story of the fossil tree to life.



- Discover the fossil tree in front of St. Thomas' Church, Stanhope Market Place.
- Pick up a copy from the Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope, turn to pages 67 & 68 or visit www.northpennines.org.uk

Follow the Teesdale Time Trail

It's difficult to comprehend the vastness of geological time. Many of the processes which have shaped Teesdale have been going on for almost inconceivable lengths of time. Follow the Time Trail and you'll discover how molten rock, topical seas, continental movements and the power of glaciers and water have all played their part in the creation of today's Teesdale.

The Time Trail includes displays, sculptures or panels at: Holwick, Bowlees Visitor Centre, High Force and Hanging Shaw; and three geological trails (Cow Green, Holwick Scar and Wynch Bridge and Tynehead).

→ pages 67-68 to request copies of the leaflets or download pdf files from www.northpennines.org.uk



▲ Sculpture at Hanging Shaw

Feel the Force

The waterfall High Force in Upper Teesdale ^[C3] is one of the most impressive geological features in England. The River Tees has been plunging into this gorge for thousands of years but the rocks it reveals are much more ancient – with origins dating back over 300 million years!

→ page 50



© Teesdale Marketing

▲ High Force

Turn Your Wheels to the Wild!

Discover the spectacular geology and landscape of the North Pennines on this three day (122km) cycle touring route.

→ page 62



© K Gibson

Frosterley Marble

Imagine a shallow tropical sea, alive with bright corals and shellfish. This isn't the Bahamas but the North Pennines – 325 million years ago! Frosterley Marble formed in this sea.

The new Frosterley Marble leaflet, produced by the AONB Partnership, tells the fascinating story of this unique rock – how it formed, why its been prized for centuries and where you can see it today.



→ Pages 67-68 to request a copy, download a pdf file from www.northpennines.org.uk or visit the Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope



▲ Frosterley marble sculpture at the Durham Dales Centre

Explore a while!

The story of the interaction between the North Pennines' geology and landscape will keep you busy for several days!

→ pages 8 & 9

Day one; follow the Teesdale Time Trail to uncover the landscape's story. Walk the Cow Green Geological Trail ^[B3], visit the human sundial at High Force ^[C3] and discover the informative exhibition at Bowlees ^[C3].

On day two head over to the Weardale Museum ^[C2] to discover the stories behind the lead-miner/farmer families. Then explore Killhope Museum ^[B2] to see what life was like for lead miners staying in a 'mine shop', as well as taking a mine tour and possibly seeing red squirrels!

Day three could see you at Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre ^[B2] exploring one of the largest Victorian mining and smelting sites in England and peering down the 328 foot deep Brewery Shaft!



▲ Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre

© NPA/Elizabeth Pickett



Discover the past

Historic environment

The human story in the North Pennines began approximately 9,000 years ago, leaving a landscape full of archaeological interest.

Historic buildings and settlement

The settlement pattern in the North Pennines is basically an agricultural one, overlain by the industrial activities and mineral workers settlements developed mainly over the last 250 years. The pattern of rural building existing today varies from the scattered farmsteads of the Strathmore and Raby Estates in Teesdale to the more dense lead mining and subsistence smallholdings of the Nent and Allen Valleys and Weardale.

The legacy of lead

The remains of past human activity range from prehistoric stone tools and medieval charcoal pits to the smelt mills and flue systems of the post medieval lead industry. Lead mining dominated the economic life of the area from the 17th century until its decline at the end of the 19th century. There are few places in the North Pennines where you are not within sight of evidence for this industry. Mines, smelt mills, railways, spoil heaps and hushes are the most obvious legacy.



© NPA/Elizabeth Pickett

▲ Rookhope Arch

The many historic chapels of the area are also a legacy of the population expansion associated with lead mining. With this increase in population settlements and smallholdings were established by miners, who as part-time farmers, extended agriculture to the top of the dales.



▲ Walled mine shaft

Find out more

Visit **Allenheads** → pages 46 & 47, **Killhope - the North of England Lead Mining Museum** → page 51, **Nenthead Heritage Centre** → page 51, **Weardale Museum & High House Chapel** → page 52 and **Middleton-in-Teesdale** → pages 38 & 39



An inspirational place

Art and the landscape

The landscapes of the North Pennines have a rich association with people – past, present and future – as well as works of art, poetry and great literature.

Inspirational

Visit the North Pennines and you'll be following in the footsteps of some of the country's finest artists and writers. WH Auden, one of the central figures of 20th Century poetry, loved the lead mining landscapes of the area. The poet Phillip Larkin was a frequent visitor to the Tar Bar'ls Ceremony in Allendale Town → pages 46 & 47. Dickens also explored Teesdale in the 1840s whilst researching Nicholas Nickleby.

JMW Turner was inspired by the North Pennines landscape, producing some of his best works in Upper Teesdale. He painted several scenes around Bowes before travelling to Cotherstone and Middleton-in-Teesdale. Following the route of the Pennine Way he made his way across the moors to Dufton, via High Cup Nick. On his way he immortalised many North Pennines scenes – not least High Force waterfall (top left).



Artists and local crafts today

Art isn't only in the past in the North Pennines. There is a wealth of quality painters, and craft workers – pottery, textiles, candles, metal work, jewellery to name a few – in and around the North Pennines.

- Made in Teesdale → www.madeinteesdale.co.uk
- Alston Craftworkers → www.alstoncraftworkers.co.uk
- Eden Arts → www.edenarts.co.uk
- The Allen Valleys community website has a section called 'creative industries' → www.allenvalleys.co.uk

Do you like a story?

If the answer is yes, then head for the 2008 North Pennines Storytelling Festival (provisionally 17, 18 and 19 October).

→ www.nppenninesstorytelling.org.uk | 0845 3454463 | 01229 861325





Buy local

and help the North Pennines

Buying locally produced food or crafts is a great way to help the North Pennines prosper. By shopping in the area during your stay you are directly contributing to the viability of local economies and communities, as well as reducing the distances over which food and other goods are transported.

There's lots of local products and produce to choose from...moorland lamb, speciality sausages, dry cured bacon, candles, mustard, game, cheeses, organic soups, jams, jellies, chutneys, speciality breads, bespoke furniture, chopping boards...and much, much more!



▲ Blanchland Village Shop and Post Office

Useful websites

- www.made-in-northumberland.co.uk
- www.northumbria-larder.co.uk
- www.madeincumbria.co.uk
- www.teesdalefarmersmarkets.co.uk
- www.madeinteesdale.co.uk



© FERLEX

Market days

The following towns have local markets:

Monday: Kirkby Stephen, Stanhope (April - October)

Tuesday: Hexham, Penrith

Wednesday: Barnard Castle, Brampton

Thursday: Haltwhistle

Saturday: Appleby

Weardale Quality Meat

Weardale Quality Meat is a collaboration of communities and businesses, which aims to give farmers a fair price, while offering customers the opportunity to buy great value, local meat. The scheme offers a range of excellent Swaledale lamb and native breed beef for sale, by order direct, or through the Bradley Burn Farm Shop & Cafe near Wolsingham, Weardale. [D2](#)

→ www.bradleyburn.co.uk, 01388 527280, 10am-5pm daily, except Tuesdays.



Farmers' markets

Whilst on holiday in the North Pennines why not go along to one of our farmers' markets and sample some tasty local fare? Meet local farmers, growers and producers and discover the products which they themselves have grown, reared, caught, brewed, pickled, baked, smoked or processed!

Barnard Castle

1st Sat every month (10am-3pm)

On the cobbles, Market Place, Barnard Castle [D4](#)

t: 01833 631870

e: admin@teesdalemarketing.co.uk

w: www.teesdalefarmersmarkets.co.uk

FARMA Certified (www.farmersmarkets.net)
Vegetarian Society's "Best Farmers' Market for Vegetarians Award" 2007

Stanhope

4th Sat every month (10am-3pm)

Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope [C2](#)

t: Alex McCoy or Tom Carver on 01388 765555

e: t.carver@wearvalley.gov.uk

FARMA Certified (www.farmersmarkets.net)

Brampton

Last Sat every month (9.30am-1.30pm)

In front of the Moot Hall, Brampton [A1](#)

t: Made in Cumbria, 01539 732736

e: office@madeincumbria.co.uk

w: www.madeincumbria.co.uk

Brough

3rd Sat every month (9.30am-1pm, Jan-March; 9.30am-2pm, April-Dec)

Inside Brough Memorial Hall, Brough [B4](#)

t: Dave Williams, 01768 342135

e: brough.farmersmarket@virgin.net

w: <http://freespace.virgin.net/brough.farmersmarket>

FARMA Certified (www.farmersmarkets.net)
FREE hourly bus service from King's Head, Ravenstonedale to Brough via Kirkby Stephen (and return) until Sep 08



© Frederick Wilson

▲ Penrith Farmers' Market

Hexham

2nd and 4th Sat every month (9am-1.30pm)

Market Place, Hexham [C1](#)

t: 07963 426932

e: info@hexhamfarmersmarket.co.uk

w: www.hexhamfarmersmarket.co.uk

FARMA Certified (www.farmersmarkets.net)

Penrith

3rd Tues every month (9.30am-2pm)

Market Square, Penrith [A3](#)

t: Eden District Council, 01768 212147

e: markets@eden.gov.uk

w: www.eden.gov.uk

FARMA Certified (www.farmersmarkets.net)

Greenhead

2nd Sun every month (10am-2pm)

Greenhead Village Hall, Greenhead [B1](#)

t: 016977 47448

e: wendybond@onetel.com



▲ Middleton Farmers' Market

Out and about in the North Pennines Events and activities

There is a huge variety of events, festivals and activities on offer in the North Pennines. From May Day celebrations, village fairs and carnivals to walking festivals, leek shows and horse fairs – there's plenty to suit all tastes. The best way to find out about them is to contact Tourist Information Centres. → page 69-71
Many of the websites on page 71 also include events listings.

Show time!

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!

26 May	Northumberland County Show	D1
6-9 June	Appleby Horse Fair*	B3
5 July	Alston Gala	B2
26 July	Penrith Agricultural Show	A3
2 Aug	Middleton-in-Teesdale Carnival	C3
9 Aug	Slaley Show	C1
14 Aug	Appleby Agricultural Show	B3
16 Aug	Allendale Show	C1
21 Aug	Brough Agricultural Show	B4
25 Aug	Blanchland and Hunstanworth Show	C2
25 Aug	Garrigill Gala	B2
30 Aug	Dufton Agricultural Show	B3
30 Aug	Weardale Agricultural Show (St John's Chapel)	C2
6 Sep	Alston Agricultural Show	B2
6-8 Sep	Wolsingham and Wear Valley Agricultural Show	D2
7 Sep	Whitfield Show	B1
13 Sep	Bowes Agricultural Show	C4
13-14 Sep	Stanhope Agricultural Show	C2
20 Sep	Eggleston Agricultural Show	D3
27 Sep	Langdon Beck Show	C3

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

Find out more about these shows and fairs from Tourist Information Centres → pages 69-71



▲ Middleton-in-Teesdale Carnival

Other events in the North Pennines

As well as events organised by the AONB Partnership – see page 30 for details on the Northern Rocks Festival and pages 31-35 for information on the 2008 North Pennines AONB Events Programme - there are other organisations also running events and activities exploring the stunning landscape, wildlife and history of the North Pennines, including:

- **BTCV** run week-long and weekend conservation holidays throughout the North Pennines.
→ www.btcv.org | t: 01388 529022 (Stanhope) or 01434 618388 (Allendale)
- **Durham County Council's Countryside Group.** Request a copy of their programme of guided walks and countryside activities
→ www.durham.gov.uk | t: 0191 3834144 | e: rangers@durham.gov.uk
- **East Cumbria Countryside Project.** Series of walks and events.
→ www.eccp.org.uk | t: 01228 561601
- **Flora of the Fells Festival.** This festival runs between March and October 2008 with over 120 events across Cumbria.
→ www.floraofthefells.com | t: 01539 733187
- **Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum.** Find out what's going on at this award winning museum in Upper Weardale
→ www.killhope.org.uk | t: 01388 537505.
- **North Pennines Storytelling Festival.** Provisional dates 17, 18 and 19 October.
→ www.nppenninestorytelling.org.uk | t: 0845 3454463/01229 861325
- **The Northern Kites Project** runs a series of Red Kite Days and Red Kite Rambles in Teesdale
→ www.northernkites.org.uk | t: 0191 4961555
- **Haltwhistle Partnership** are running two **Walking Festivals** in 2008 (26 April-5 May and 11-19 October).
→ www.haltwhistle.org | t: 01434 321242 | e: info@haltwhistle.org
- **Harehope Quarry.**
→ www.harehopequarry.org | t: 01388 528633/528599
- **Moor House-Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve.** Natural England run a programme of events and activities.
→ www.naturalengland.org.uk | t: 01833 622374
- **Natural History Society of Northumbria** run a series of field meetings, some in the North Pennines.
→ www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk | t: 0191 2326386 | e: nhsn@ncl.ac.uk
- **Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre.**
→ www.npht.com | t: 01434 382037/382726
- **Slackhouse Farm, Ireshopeburn (Weardale)** run a series of felt making and other rural skills courses.
→ www.fleecewithaltitude.co.uk | t: 01388 537292 | e: slackhousefarm@fleecewithaltitude.co.uk
- **Teesdale Events Guide.** Get hold of a copy of this comprehensive guide to what's on in Teesdale – contact Barnard Castle Tourist Information Centre:
→ www.visitteesdale.com | t: 01833 690909 | e: tourism@teesdale.gov.uk
- **Upper Teesdale Botany Group** runs occasional specialist plant identification workshops.
→ Contact Dr Margaret Bradshaw
e: mebilltop@btinternet.com
- **YHA – Youth Hostels** in the area (Alston, Dufton, Edmundbyers, Kirkby Stephen, Langdon Beck and Ninebanks) offer 'Special Interest Breaks'
→ www.yha.org.uk



▲ Haltwhistle Walking Festival



Northern Rocks 2008...

The North Pennines Festival of Geology and Landscape



North Pennines AONB

Events Programme 2008



Northern Rocks 2008, running between 24 May and 8 June, is the fifth annual festival of North Pennine geology and landscape. The two weeks are full of over 30 events and activities to help you discover the geological secrets of the North Pennines.

Join a themed walk and see the North Pennines through fresh eyes; sign up for a geological short break; 'touch the rock' with a qualified climbing instructor; explore old lead mines with expert guides; have a go at underground photography and try your hand at felt making!

With tantalising event names like Element-ary My Dear Watson, Lead Pipes, Brass Knobs and Toothpaste, Make Your Own Fossil, Killhope Rocks, On Top of the World, Fossil Foray and All that Glitters is not Gold there is a wide variety of events for all ages.



European Geoparks Week

The Northern Rocks Festival is part of European Geoparks Week, an annual summer celebration aimed at promoting the geology and landscapes of the 32 UNESCO European Geoparks. European Geoparks are regions with outstanding geological heritage where this is being used to support sustainable development. European Geoparks are part of a wider network of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

→ www.europeangeoparks.org | www.worldgeopark.org

Find out more

Get hold of a Northern Rocks 2008 programme by:

- Visiting a Tourist Information Centre in the area → pages 69-71
- → www.northpennines.org.uk and download a pdf file of the programme
- Contact the AONB Partnership Staff Unit → t: 01388 528801 | info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk

Explore the North Pennines in the company of expert guides and uncover the area's special qualities. Find out about the birds, peatlands, hay meadows, woodlands, landscape history, mines and moors, rocks, minerals and mineshops!

How to book

Pre-booking is essential for many events. Look out for the **B** symbol. Telephone the AONB Partnership Staff Unit for more information and to make bookings (unless otherwise stated):

- **AONB Partnership Staff Unit – Tel: 01388 528801** (Mon to Fri during normal office hours, answer phone at other times)
- Events with a charge are either 'pay on the day' or 'pay in advance'. When you book through the Staff Unit we will advise you on payment details. Unless otherwise stated events are booked and paid for through the Staff Unit
- Once you've booked, please refer to the listing for event start times and locations. We will not send out confirmation letters
- If you haven't booked for an 'Advance booking only' event please don't turn up on the day

Public transport

Some of the events in the programme are accessible by public transport. Call Traveline on 0871 2002233 or visit


www.traveline.org.uk. See pages 10-13 for more information on being a 'green visitor'.

Guided walks

The walks in the programme have been graded:

- **Easy** – suitable for most people. Easy, comfortable walking, may be some stiles
- **Moderate** – typically a country walk with some hills, stiles and muddy paths. Boots advisable
- **Hard** – hill walks with steep, strenuous climbs. Rough moorland. Boots essential

Events for families/age guide

Events specifically designed for children are marked with the  symbol. You will find further information on ages that specific events are aimed at (in relation to content) in the 'Age' section. The symbol **16+** is used for events that are considered too strenuous for under 16s – principally longer hill walks. If in doubt please ring the North Pennines AONB Partnership Staff Unit on 01388 528801 for further advice.

Events listing...

- Guided walk
- Rockwalk
- Puppet show
- Archaeology Walk
- Art/craft activity
- Exhibition
- Holiday/residential
- Advance bookings only
- Suitable for children
- 16+ Adults only
- Sorry, no dogs
- Bring a packed lunch
- Important information
- Wear suitable clothing
- Strong footwear essential

May

Thurs 1 May 10am-6pm

Across to the Nick

North Pennines AONB Partnership
Discover geology, landscape and wildlife between Cow Green Reservoir and Dufton, via the spectacular High Cup Nick. Enjoy this fantastic, linear, high-level expedition. Includes minibus transport from Dufton to start of walk at Cow Green.

Start **Dufton village car park** NY690250

Distance/duration/grade 11 miles (17km)/8hrs (inc. travel)/Hard
Cost £6 (inc. travel). Pay in advance

Once started the full walk must be completed – there is no short cut! Full hill walking kit required

Sun 18 May 2pm-4pm

It Rocks!

North Pennines AONB Partnership
Enjoy an original puppet and animation show and short walk (half a mile there and back) based on the area's rocks and landscape, followed by a puppet-making workshop.

Venue **Bowlees Visitor Centre** NY907283

Cost £5 per family (up to 5 people £1 for each extra person)

Dress to get messy

June

Sun 1 June 10.30am-3pm

Behind the Scenes on a Grouse Moor

North Pennines AONB Partnership & Yad Moss Estate
Join the owner and gamekeeper of Yad Moss Estate high in the South Tyne Valley on a great fun day out learning more about the management of grouse moors and seeing the fantastic wildlife the landscape supports. The event includes a wonderful picnic lunch.

Start **Car park just off the B6277** (Alston to Middleton-in-Teesdale), 5km SE of Garrigill NY777362

Distance/duration/grade 5 miles (8km)/4.5hrs/Hard
Cost FREE

Dogs are allowed but they MUST be on leads at all times



© Moorland Association



© Neil Diment

Sat 14 – Sun 15 June

10.30am-4pm

Hay Time History Weekend

North Pennines AONB Partnership & Beamish – the North of England Open Air Museum
The annual cycle of hay making has shaped not only the landscape of the North Pennines but the lives of those who have lived and work here. With experts on hand, this weekend event will be packed with activities to help celebrate and learn about the history of hay making in the North Pennines: Displays & oral histories; Hay time tools & 'farm artefacts/tools roadshow'; Children's activities and competitions. Why not come along and share your memories or learn about your ancestors!

Venue **St John's Chapel Town Hall** NY885379

Cost FREE

No need to book – just turn up! Refreshments will be available

Fri 20 June 10am-4pm

Make a Silk Paper Meadow!

Lapwing Crafts & North Pennines AONB Partnership
A hay meadow in bloom is full of colour and life. Taking a nearby meadow as inspiration, join local textile artist Caroline Mann and create your own meadow using silk fibres, yarns and synthetic materials. No previous experience is necessary. This event has been supported through the North Pennines AONB Partnership's Hay Time Project.

Start **Ireshopeburn Village Institute** NY866386 . Small hall in Ireshopeburn next to telephone box on minor road where A689 bends sharply.

Cost £15 per person – payable in advance. In addition please bring £7 per person for materials on the day
Age 5 years+. All children must be accompanied by an adult

Short visit to a nearby hay meadow (car sharing; no walking). An iron will be used during the silk paper-making process. Please bring needles & sharp scissors and any fabrics or other materials you would like to use. Tea and coffee provided



Fri 20 - Sun 22 June

Reading the Landscape – Part 1

Ninebanks Youth Hostel & Dr Stu Clarke – Keele University
Tropical seas to freezing ice – Part 1!
Join an expert geologist for a weekend residential break to find out how to read and interpret the landscape of the North Pennines AONB and European Geopark – a story millions of years in the making!

Venue **Ninebanks Youth Hostel** NY771514

Cost £105 per adult (£160 for full package inc. Part 2: 22-24 June). Student discount rate £80 (£150 for full package)
Age Adults and older children

Contact YHA Ninebanks to book on 01434 345288 or ninebanks@yha.org.uk

Full outdoor clothing, waterproofs, walking boots and reasonable fitness required

Sun 22 – Tues 24 June

Reading the Landscape – Part 2


Ninebanks Youth Hostel & Dr Stu Clarke – Keele University
Building on Part 1, this course explores the links between geology, landscape and people in the North Pennines. Suitable for anyone, but content is especially aimed at those who have attended Part 1, or have a basic understanding of geology.

Venue **Ninebanks Youth Hostel** NY771514

Cost £105 per adult (£160 for full package inc. Part 1: 20-22 June). Student discount rate £80 (£150 for full package)
Age Adults and older children

Contact YHA Ninebanks to book on 01434 345288 or ninebanks@yha.org.uk

Full outdoor clothing, waterproofs, walking boots and reasonable fitness required

Sat 28 June 10.30am-2.30pm 
From Sphagnum to Globeflowers

North Pennines AONB Partnership
 Join Nick Mason and Rebecca Barrett on a journey through blanket bogs to hay meadows! Taking in open moorland, blanket bog, pasture and hay meadow, this walk will explore some of the most important and characteristic habitats of the North Pennines. Accompanied by the songs of larks and waders, join us and hear about the practical work taking place to conserve and restore our peatlands and meadows.
 Start **Cow Green Reservoir car park** NY811309 **B3**
 Distance/duration/grade 5 miles (8km)/4hrs/Hard
 Cost FREE Age 12 years +



Sun 29 June 2pm-4pm 
Hannah's Meadow

North Pennines AONB Partnership
 A two mile, easy walk taking in a beautiful, species rich upland meadow, calling in at Blackton Grange for a cuppa and returning via Balderhead Dam.
 Start Car park at North end of Balderhead Reservoir Dam NY928187 **C4**
 Distance/duration/grade 2 miles (3km)/2hrs/Easy
 Cost £1 per person for refreshment (pay on day)



Sat 28 June 9.30am-5pm 
Across the Pennines: Greg's Hut and Cross Fell

East Cumbria Countryside Project
 High level linear walk visiting Cross Fell, the highest hill in the North Pennines, and Greg's Hut, as we walk from Blencarn to Garrigill. A fabulous walk to discover the glorious landscape and rich heritage of the high Pennines. Includes minibus transport from Garrigill to start of walk at Blencarn.
 Start Garrigill, outside village pub NY745415 **B2**. Please park considerably
 Distance/duration/grade 12 miles (19km)/7.5hrs (inc. travel)/Hard
 Cost £6 (inc. transport)

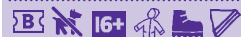


⚠ Once started the full walk must be completed – there is no short cut! Full hill walking kit required. Rough moorland walking in places.

July

Sun 13 July 10am-5pm 
Discover Scordale


Brian Young - Local Geologist
 A rare opportunity to visit this beautiful valley on the Pennine escarpment. In the company of geologist Brian Young find out about the underlying rocks and minerals, explore old lead mines and discover some of the minerals that made this location world famous.
 Start **Hilton Town Head**, by start of Scordale track NY735208 **B3**. Please car share if possible and park considerably
 Distance/duration/grade 5.5 miles (9km)/7hrs/Moderate



⚠ Thanks to the MoD and Defence Estates for permission to hold this walk




August

Sat 9 Aug 2pm - 5pm 
Whitley Castle: A Walk through Time

North Pennines AONB Partnership & English Heritage
 Join archaeologists Stewart Ainsworth (English Heritage/Time Team) and Paul Frodsham (AONB Partnership) for a walk around the remarkably well-preserved but little-known Roman fort of Whitley Castle. We will focus on the fort, but will also discuss the development of the local historic landscape from the end of the Ice Age through to the present day.
 Start Castle Nook Farm 2 miles NW of Alston NY695489 **B2**
 Distance/duration/grade 2-3 miles (3-5kms)/3hrs/Moderate.
 Cost FREE



⚠ Dogs allowed but must be on a lead at all times


Sat 30th Aug 10am-5pm 
The Nine Standards Stone Cairns

North Pennines AONB Partnership
 Join us for a great walk on the southern edge of the North Pennines. Passing the spectacular Ewbank Scar and exploring geology and landscape as we go, we'll ascend to the summit of Nine Standards Rigg to admire the recently restored stone cairns of this much-loved local landmark.
 Start **Kirkby Stephen Tourist Information Centre** NY775087 **B4**
 Distance/duration/grade 8.5 miles (13.5km)/7hrs/Hard
 Cost FREE



⚠ Full hill walking kit required


September

Sat 6 Sept 10am-3pm 
How Deep is our Peat?

North Pennines AONB Partnership & RSPB
 Join the RSPB in a unique science project to measure the amount of carbon locked in the bogs of Geltsdale. High on the RSPB Geltsdale Reserve, we will work together to measure the depth of peat across the landscape, using navigational and measurement equipment.
 Start Car park outside the Belted Will Pub just off the A689 in **Hallbankgate village** NY581559 **A1**
 Distance/duration/grade 5 miles (8km)/5hrs/Hard
 Cost FREE



⚠ Dogs are allowed but they must be on leads at all times


Sun 14 Sept 2pm-6pm 
Slitt Wood: A Walk through Time

North Pennines AONB Partnership & Natural England
 Join archaeologists Tom Gledhill (Natural England) and Paul Frodsham (AONB Partnership) for a walk through Slitt Wood, discussing geology and the archaeology of the local mining and quarrying industries. Truly a walk through time, we will cover several centuries of archaeology and hundreds of millions of years of geology!
 Start **Westgate**: lay-by beside A689. NY906380 **C2**
 Distance/duration/grade 3-4 miles (5-6.5kms)/4hrs/Moderate
 Cost FREE



⚠ Some short steep climbs



Sun 28 Sept 10.30am-4pm 
Rookhope – Famous the World Over!

Brian Young – Local Geologist
 Join geologist Brian Young on a walk round Rookhope to discover what the local rocks can tell us about long-past times. See how the rocks and minerals have been worked over the centuries and find out why Rookhope is so famous!
 Start **Rookhope Village Hall car park** NY937429 **C2**
 Distance/duration/grade 6 miles (10km)/5.5hrs/Moderate
 Cost FREE
 Age 11 years +



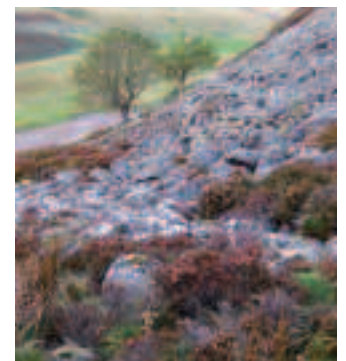
October

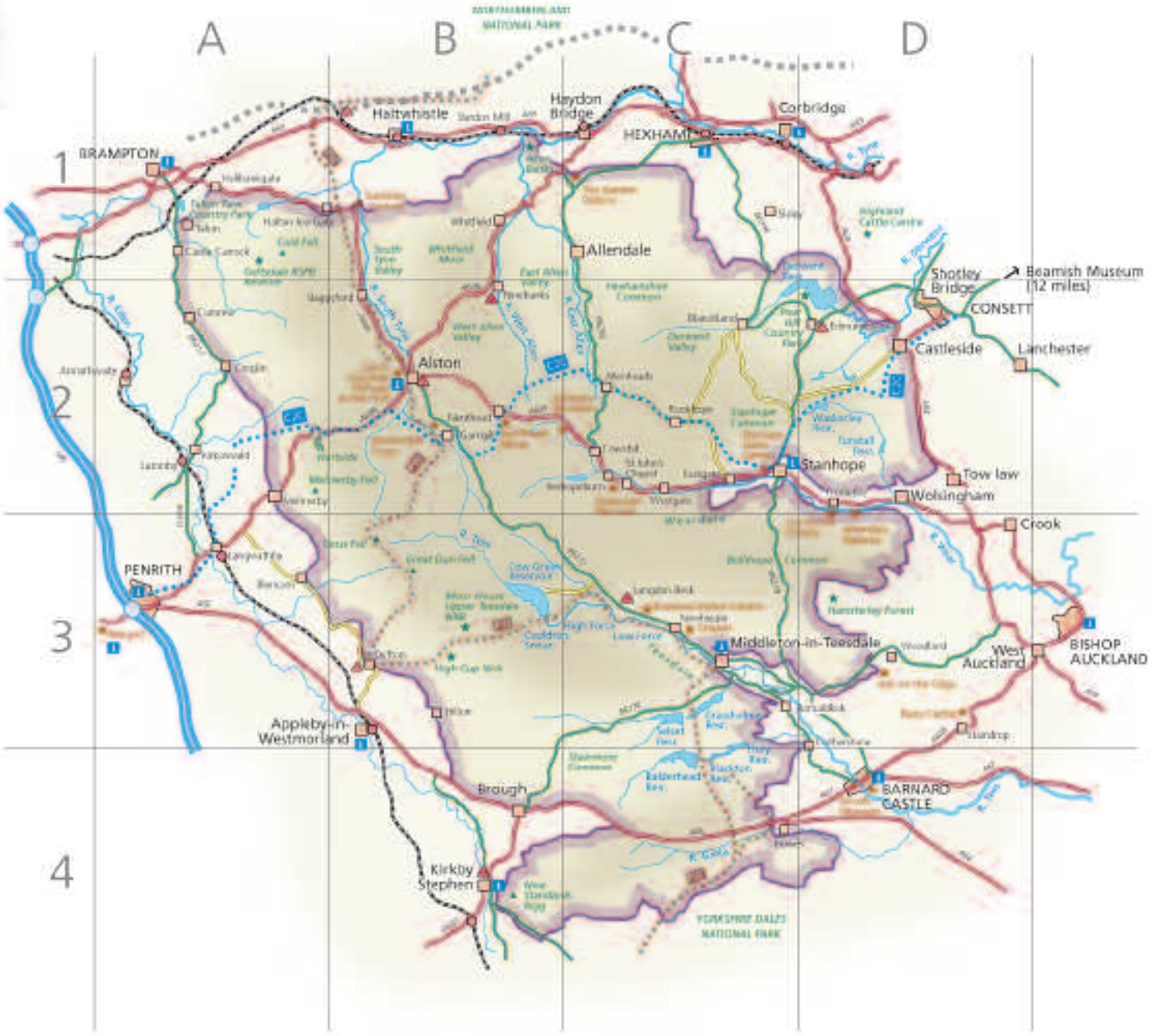
Sun 5 Oct 10am-4pm 
Rocks and Landscape in Fabrics and Fibres

Lapwing Crafts & North Pennines AONB Partnership
 Using the North Pennines landscape and its rocks, fossils and minerals as inspiration, join local textile artists Caroline Mann and Cheryl Jackson for a creative day interpreting the landscape with felt, silk paper-making and the traditional craft of hooky & proggy.
 Venue **Ninebanks Youth Hostel** NY771514 **B2**. Please car share if possible and park considerably.
 Cost £15 (pay in advance) plus £7 for materials (pay on the day)
 Age 5 years + (children must be accompanied by adult)



⚠ No previous experience necessary. We will be using an iron and detergent. Please bring an old towel (for felt-making), and if you have any fabrics you'd like to use for hooky & proggy please bring these along, with needles, thread and sharp scissors if you have them. Tea and coffee provided.





0 2 4 6 8 10 km
0 2 4 6 8 10 miles

↑
N

- AONB boundary
- A road
- B road
- Minor road
- railway & station
- Tourist Information Centre
- Pennine Way
- Coast to Coast Cycle Route (C2C)
- YHA Youth Hostel
- Hadrian's Wall

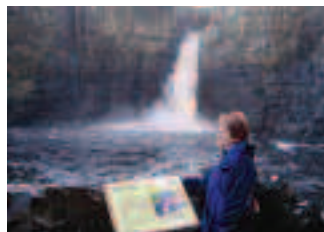
Please note that not all roads and settlements are included on this map

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Durham County Council. LA100019779 2008

Area Guides Teesdale

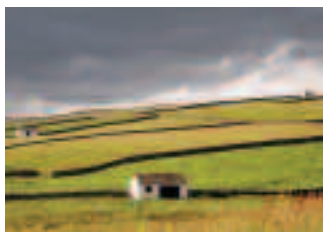
Teesdale is perhaps the best known of the North Pennine dales. The sweep of the moors and crags of the upper dale have an unrivalled drama which many visitors come back to savour time and time again. Raby Estate's white farmhouses and barns are a distinctive and memorable element in the landscape of 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. The Tourist Information Centre is an excellent place to plan a trip to the upper dale. Be sure to explore the rest of the village, which was the headquarters for the London Lead Mining Company in the middle of the 19th century.



© D Cameron

▲ High Force



▲ Whitewashed field barns in Upper Teesdale

Places to visit, things to do:

- **Teesdale Time Trail** **C3** **B3** → page 22 | www.northpennines.org.uk
- **High Force** **C3** → page 50 & **Low Force waterfalls** **C3**
- **Bowlees Visitor Centre** **C3** → page 48
Displays on the area's geology, wildlife & landscape
- **Eggleston Hall Gardens** **C3** → page 49
- **Newbiggin Methodist Chapel** **C3** → page 51
- **Moor House-Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve** **B3** → page 14 | www.naturalengland.org.uk | 01833 622374
- **Grassholme, Cow Green and other Northumbrian Water reservoirs** **B3** **C3** → page 17 | www.nwl.co.uk
- **Barnard Castle Farmers' Market** **D4** → page 27
- **Walks on the Teesdale Way and Pennine Way National Trail** → page 54
- **Hannah's Meadow nature reserve** **C4** → www.durhamwt.co.uk | 0191 5843112
- **Ark on the Edge** **D3** → page 48



▲ Bowlees Visitor Centre



Further afield:

- **The castle at Barnard Castle** **D4** → www.english-heritage.org.uk | 01833 638212
Set on a high rock above the River Tees, imposing Barnard Castle was the stronghold of the Balliol family. Taking its name from Bernard de Balliol, who rebuilt it in the 12th century, it includes a fine great hall and a dominating round-towered keep
- **Raby Castle** **D3** → page 51
- **Hamsterley Forest** **D3** → page 50
walks, traffic-free cycle tracks, visitor centre, orienteering
- **Bowes Museum** **D4** → page 48
- **Egglestone Abbey** **D4** → www.english-heritage.org.uk
The charming ruins of a small monastery of Premonstratensian 'white canons', picturesquely set above a bend in the River Tees near Barnard Castle

© Bowes Museum



▲ Bowes Museum

Find out more:

- www.northpennines.org.uk • www.teesdalediscovery.com •
- www.visitnortheastengland.com • www.visitcountydurham.com •

Call or visit Middleton-in-Teesdale or Barnard Castle Tourist Information Centres → pages 71 & 69

Weardale

Weardale was once the hunting ground of County Durham's Prince Bishops. Eastgate and Westgate ^{C2} marked the boundary of the Stanhope Deer Park where the famous 'Great Chases' were held. Weardale is also famous as the source of a unique form of marble – known as Frosterley Marble. It's actually a type of limestone and when highly polished the fossilized remains of corals are plain to see.

Stanhope is the largest settlement in Upper Weardale and is a good spot to spend a while planning your next move as you explore the North Pennines. Don't miss the spectacular fossilized tree stump (originally from a quarry near Edmundbyers ^{D2}) in the churchyard. Take a walk by the River Wear and find out more about the area, including local walk routes, at the Durham Dales Centre.

The poet WH Auden loved the North Pennines, especially the area around Rookhope ^{C2}. It was here in the lead mining landscapes of Weardale that he first felt his creative juices flowing. Visit the arch to the northwest of Rookhope – a reminder of the area's lead mining past and the inspiration that Auden drew from this fascinating part of the North Pennines.



Places to visit, things to do:

- 
Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum ^{B2} → page 51
 Multi-award winning museum with many opportunities for hands on experiences of what life was like in the lead mines. Gift shop, café, impressive underground tour, waterwheels, dazzling mineral/spar box exhibition, woodland trails & red squirrel hide
- 
Weardale Museum and High House Chapel, Ireshopeburn ^{C2} → page 53
 Independent folk museum telling Weardale's story. Catch a glimpse of home life for lead miners a century ago
- 
The Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope ^{C2} → page 49
 Information, tearooms, shops and grounds
- The Weardale Railway**
 Runs between Wolsingham ^{D2} and Stanhope ^{C2} → page 53
- Stanhope Farmers' Market** ^{C2} → page 27
- 
Harehope Quarry Project ^{D3} → page 50
- Swimming Pools**
 Weardale Open Air Swimming Pool, Stanhope ^{C2} →
www.woaspa.co.uk | 01388 528466; Wolsingham Community Pool ^{D2} → www.wolsinghampool.co.uk | 01388 528198



▲ Fun at Killhope



▲ Weardale Museum



▲ Weardale Railway

Find out more:

- www.northpennines.org.uk • www.durhamdales.co.uk •
- www.visitnortheastengland.com • www.visitcountydurham.com •

Call or visit Stanhope Tourist Information Centre at the Durham Dales Centre → page 71

Derwent Valley

The Derwent Valley is sometimes an overlooked corner of the North Pennines – but if you venture into its hidden depths you won't be disappointed! The small village of Blanchland ^{C2}, 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 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, bird hides, nature reserves and fishing opportunities to entice you to stay a while longer.



▲ Blanchland

▲ River Derwent

▲ Pow Hill Country Park



Places to visit, things to do:

- **Blanchland – former Abbey and village** ^{C2}
- **Derwent Reservoir** ^{D2} → pages 64 and 65 | www.nwl.co.uk
- **Pow Hill Country Park** ^{D2} → www.durham.gov.uk



▲ Blanchland Abbey

Further afield:

- **Tanfield Railway** → www.tanfield-railway.co.uk | 0191 3887545
Working steam railway – see the world's oldest surviving railway bridge, Causey Arch
- **Highland Cattle Centre** ^{D1} www.thehighlandcattlecentre.co.uk | 07968 865591
- **Beamish, the North of England Open Air Museum** → page 53
An unforgettable insight into life in the North East in the late 1800s and early 1900s – includes a colliery, drift mine, pit cottages, working farm, railway station and town
- **Hexham Abbey** ^{C1} → www.hexhamabbey.org.uk | 01434 602031
- **Hexham Old Gaol** ^{C1} → www.tynedaleheritage.org | 01434 652349
- **Hexham Farmers' Market** ^{C1} → pages 26 and 27
- **Hadrian's Wall** ^{A1 - D1} → www.hadrians-wall.org
- **Northumberland National Park** → www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk



▲ Tanfield Railway



▲ Hexham Abbey

Find out more:

- www.northpennines.org.uk • www.blanchland.org •
- www.derwentside.gov.uk • www.visitnortheastengland.com •
- www.visitnorthumberland.com •

Call or visit a Tourist Information Centre in Hexham, Haltwhistle or Corbridge → page 70

Alston Moor & East Fellside

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 imposing North Pennines escarpment represents an unmistakable western frontier for the North Pennines and 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!



▲ Dufton



▲ Alston



Places to visit, things to do:



• **Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre** **B2** → page 51
A great day out awaits you at Nenthead Mines

• **South Tynedale Railway** **B2** → page 52
Steam train rides along the gorgeous South Tyne Valley from Alston

• **High Cup Nick** **B3**
A classic walk from Dufton up to this stunning U-shaped valley

• **The Hub Museum, Alston** **B2** → page 50
Vibrant local history and transport museum

• **Brough Castle** **B4** → www.english-heritage.org.uk

• **Hartside Viewpoint** **A2**

• **Thortergill Forge & tearooms, Garrigill** **B2** → page 52
Watch a blacksmith at work and enjoy the waterfall walk

• **Talkin Tarn Country Park** **A1** → www.eccp.org.uk | 01228 561601



• **Geltsdale RSPB Reserve** → page 14

• **The Poetry Path, nr Kirkby Stephen** **B4** → www.eccp.org.uk | 01228 561601

• **Farmers' Markets at Brampton** **A1**, **Brough** **B4** and **Penrith** **A3** → page 27



▲ Nenthead Mines



▲ South Tynedale Railway

© Natural England/Charlie Hedley



▲ The Hub museum



▲ Talkin Tarn Country Park

Find out more:

- www.northpennines.org.uk • www.visiteden.co.uk •
- www.hiddentreasurescumbria.com/eden_valley.html

Call or visit Tourist Information Centres in Alston, Appleby, Kirkby Stephen, Penrith or Brampton → pages 69-71



South Tyne Valley & the 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 (www.pebblesartcafe.com) and walking/cycling opportunities is well worth a visit! Allendale is also the 2008 Calor Village of the year.

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.



▲ Allendale Gift Shop



▲ Lambley Viaduct



▲ West Allen and Mohope Valleys

Places to visit, things to do:

- **Allendale** ^{C1}
This welcoming settlement is the geographical centre of Britain or is it nearby Haltwhistle? ^{B1}
If you come on New Years Eve you'll witness the Tar Bar'ls Ceremony where people in costume parade through the streets with flaming tar barrels balanced on their heads!
- **Allen Banks & Staward Gorge, National Trust** ^{B1} → www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Just before joining forces with the South Tyne the East and West Allen Rivers come together and flow through the spectacular wooded gorge at Allenbanks. Relaxing woodland walks await you here – good displays of bluebells and wild garlic in the spring
- **Allenheads** ^{C2}
The lead mine here was the largest in the North Pennines. Now you'll find a peaceful village with a nature trail, café and pub – and see the famous Armstrong water powered engine
- **South Tynedale Railway** ^{B2} → page 52
- **South Tyne Trail** → www.eccp.org.uk | 01228 561601
- **The Garden Station** → page 49
- **Lambley Viaduct** ^{B1} → www.npht.com | 01434 382726/382037
- **Greenhead Farmers' Market** ^{B1} → page 27

Further afield:

- **Hadrian's Wall** ^{A1 - D1} → www.hadrians-wall.org
- **Northumberland National Park** → www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk

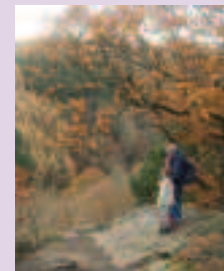


▲ The Hemmel Coffee Shop, Allenheads



▲ Hadrian's Wall

© David Hatley



▲ Autumn colours at Allen Banks and Staward Gorge

Find out more:

- www.northpennines.org.uk • www.visitallenvalleys.com •
- www.visitnortheastengland.com • www.hadrianswallcountry.org •

Call or visit Tourist Information Centres in Haltwhistle, Hexham or Alston
→ pages 69 & 70



Out and about

Attractions in the North Pennines



Discover the area's lead mining heritage at Killhope Museum, at the Nenthead Heritage Centre and in the Weardale Museum. Wonder at the geological marvel that is High Force and take a ride on the Weardale Railway or the South Tynedale Railway. Explore Hamsterley Forest, visit the Forge at Thortergill and relax awhile in the Garden Station or Eggleston Hall Gardens.

- The grid references eg **D3** refer to the map on the centre spread → pages 36 & 37

Ark on the Edge **D3**

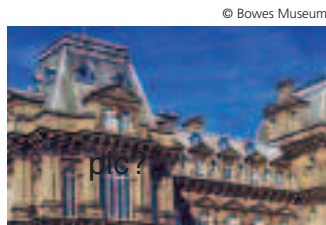
Ark on the Edge is an animal rescue centre and sanctuary. They have recently received funding from the Big Lottery and have opened a Wildlife Education Centre and Nature Trail (almost a mile). The centre offers courses in animal care and group visits are welcome. It is open for the public to visit, see the animals, walk the nature trail, or you can do a spot of pond dipping.

Woolley Hill Farm, Woodland Co. Durham DL13 5RX
t. 01833 630505
e. pat.kingsnorth@btinternet.com
w. www.arkontheedge.org.uk



- Opening times**
- Normally open all week
 - Ring to check if travelling far
 - Group visits can be arranged at any time

- Entrance fees**
- Free entry - donations welcome



© Bowles Museum

The Bowles Museum **D4**

The Bowles Museum with its wonderful history and outstanding treasures contains something to inspire and entertain everyone. Enjoy one of the country's greatest collections of European fine and decorative arts alongside a varied exhibition and events programme. Visit the popular Café Bowles and shop and explore the beautiful gardens and parkland.

The Bowles Museum, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham, DL12 8NP
t. 01833 690606
e. info@thebowlesmuseum.org.uk
w. www.thebowlesmuseum.org.uk



- Opening times**
- 01/03/08-31/03/09: 10am-5pm (4pm - 01/11/08-28/02/09)

- Entrance fees**
- Adults £7, concessions £6, children free (under 16), carers free
 - Free access to Café Bowles, shop and grounds
 - Admissions are donation inclusive and can be Gift Aided

Bowlees Visitor Centre **C3**

Bowlees, run by the Durham Wildlife Trust, is a fantastic base for exploring Upper Teesdale, with footpath links to Low Force, High Force, Newbiggin and the Pennine Way. There are lively displays on the landscape, wildlife, geology and people of Upper Teesdale, and the work of the Trust and the AONB Partnership. Refreshments are available and the shop sells books, maps and souvenirs. There is car parking, a picnic area and toilets nearby. Accessible parking in front of the centre.

Newbiggin, Bowlees, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Co. Durham DL12 0XF
t. 01833 622292 (Centre)
0191 5843112 (Durham Wildlife Trust)
e. jspence@durhamwt.co.uk
w. www.durhamwt.co.uk



- Opening times**
- 19/03/08-30/09/08: Daily 10am-5pm (including Bank Holidays)

- Entrance fees**
- Free - donations welcome



Durham Dales Centre **C2**

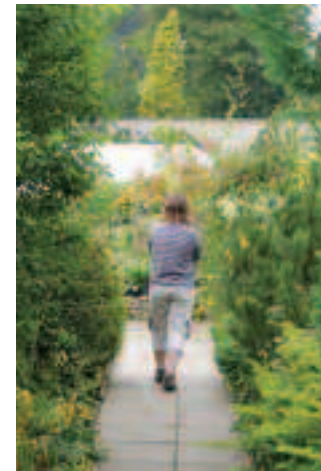
Visitor centre in Weardale with a tearoom, specialising in home baking and a well stocked Tourist Information Centre. Gift and craft shops are set within a courtyard offering a wide range of cards, gifts and crafts. On site facilities include the Durham Dales Garden and interpretation throughout the grounds. Coaches welcome.

Castle Gardens, Stanhope, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL13 2FJ
t: 01388 527650
e: durham.dales.centre@durham.gov.uk
w: www.durhamdalescentre.co.uk



- Opening times**
- 01/03/08-30/03/08: Daily 10am-4pm
 - 31/03/08-26/10/08: Daily 10am-5pm
 - 27/10/08-31/03/09: Daily 10am-4pm

- Entrance fees**
- Free entrance



Eggleston Hall Gardens **C3**

Four acres of gardens and nursery. 16th century churchyard with ruined chapel and rare plants, moorland stream, winding paths, and many interesting plants for sale. Malcolm Hockham & Gordon Long, who run the gardens, are two of the best known horticulturalists in the North of England. In addition to these gardens Malcolm also has a small private nursery (open 14 days per year) at which many rare and unusual plants are kept for propagation and collections throughout the country.

Eggleston, Barnard Castle Co. Durham DL12 0AG
t. 01833 650115
e. mbhock@btinternet.com
w. www.egglestonhallgardens.co.uk

- Opening times**
- All year 10am-5pm

- Entrance fees**
- £1 adults, children free, dogs must be on leads

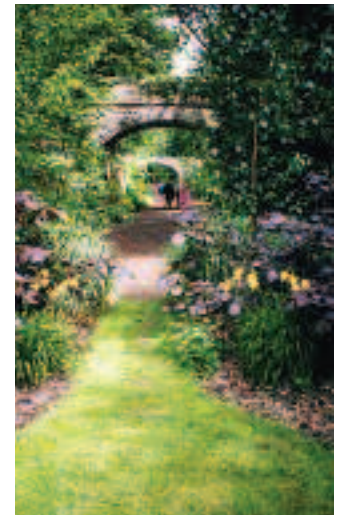
The Garden Station **B1**

Atmosphere and tranquillity are part of the experience at the Garden Station, developed along the former railway track of the Hexham-Allendale line on the edge of the Allen Valleys. The Garden Station is a restored Victorian railway station framed by a woodland garden, enhanced by sculptures and a water cascade. At the Garden Station you'll find a cafe with fresh local food, a wide range of day courses and art exhibitions.

Langley, Hexham Northumberland NE47 5LA
t. 01434 684391
e. welcome@thegardenstation.co.uk
w. www.thegardenstation.co.uk

- Opening times**
- March-December: Daily 10am-5pm

- Entrance fees**
- Free entry, various charges for courses



Attractions in the North Pennines



Hamsterley Forest D3

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, a tea room, cycle hire and a downhill mountain bike course.

Hamsterley Forest Visitor Centre
Redford, Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland,
Co. Durham DL13 3NL
t. 01388 488312
e. neil.taylor@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
w. www.forestry.gov.uk/northeastengland

Opening times

- Forest: Winter 8am-Sunset; Summer, 8am-8pm
- Visitor Centre: 21/03/08-31/10/08: 10am-4pm weekdays, 11am-5pm weekends

Entrance fees

- £3 per car



© Harehope Quarry Project

Harehope Quarry Project D2

The Harehope Quarry Project aims to promote a more sustainable way of living. The project has developed an organic carp farm and smallholding, a nature reserve with public access and an eco-classroom built entirely by volunteers. The project has a community events programme and delivers environmental education, field studies and education for sustainable development. The eco-classroom can also be booked for meetings, green birthday parties and other events.

Harehope Quarry, Frosterley, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL13 2SG
t: 01388 528599 or 01388 528633
e: jill@harehopequarry.org.uk
w: www.harehopequarry.org

Opening times

- Permissive paths to the east and west ends of the quarry are open at any time
- The project runs a community events programme and the eco-classroom can be booked for events and activities
- Visits are strictly by prior arrangement

Entrance fees

- Costs of events and activities vary



© K. Gibson

High Force Waterfall C3

High Force, England's biggest waterfall, spectacularly drops 70 feet (21m) into a plunge pool below. The woodland walk leads you to this breathtaking sight. The muffled rumble suddenly turns to a roar and the sight astounds you. The waterfall walk must be treated with care and children should be supervised at all times. Picnic area and parking.

Upper Teesdale - on B6277, 4½ miles NW of Middleton-in-Teesdale
t. 01833 640209
e. teesdaleestate@rabycastle.com
w. www.rabycastle.com

Opening times

- Open throughout the year. During adverse weather conditions parts of the falls may not be accessible.

Entrance fees

- Adult (16+) £1.50, Children (under 16) free with paying adult, over 60/concessions £1
- Car Park £2
- Coach parking fees for School Parties apply - please book in advance.

The Hub Museum B2

Vibrant local history and transport museum, packed full of bygone forms of transport and delightful snippets of local history.

Alston Goods Shed Trust
Alston, Cumbria CA9 3HN
t: 01434 382272

Opening times

- April, May and October: Weekends and Holidays 11am-5pm
- June - September: Daily 11am-5pm

Entrance fees

- Free - donations welcome

Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum B2

Come to Killhope and see how North Pennine lead mining families lived. Accompany one of our friendly, knowledgeable guides on an underground tour of Park Level Mine. Find galena and fluorspar as you work as a Victorian washerboy. 2008 exhibitions include 'Molecules, Minerals, Matter' and 'Out of this Earth'. Come and see the National Collection of Spar Boxes. Explore the woodland and see red squirrels. A visit to the gift shop and cafe will complete your day out!

Nr Cowshill, Upper Weardale
Co. Durham DL13 1AR (A689)
t: 01388 537505
e: info@killhope.org.uk
w: www.killhope.org.uk

Opening times

- 01/04/08-31/10/08: 10.30am-5pm (includes Easter Weekend 2008)

Entrance fees

- Surface price (Valid 3 consecutive days): adults £4.50, child £1.50, concessions £4
- Surface price + guided mine trip: adults £6.50, child £3.50, concessions £6
- Family tickets available



© Killhope Museum

Newbiggin Methodist Chapel C3

Believed to be the world's oldest Methodist Chapel in continuous use, from 1759. Methodism and local history displays.

Newbiggin, Middleton-in-Teesdale
Co. Durham DL12 0TY
t: 01833 641001 (Middleton TIC)
e: keith@pearce638272.fsnet.co.uk

Opening times

- Weds (2-4.30pm)
May Bank-Aug Bank hol

Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre B2

An adventure in silver and lead at one of the largest Victorian mining and smelting sites in England. Underground mine tours into original workings that are over 250 years old. Interactive waterwheels that you can control. Restored buildings with interpretive displays. Fun activities such as panning for fool's gold. A variety of trails and walks around over 200 acres of woodland and moorland. Café and gift shop.

Nenthead, Alston
Cumbria CA9 3PD
t: 01434 382726/382037
e: mines@npht.com
w: www.npht.com/nentheadmines

Opening times

- 21/03/08-02/11/08: 11am- 5pm

Entrance fees

- With mine tour: adults £7, child £3, concessions £6
- Site only: adults £4, child free, concession £3.25
- Various family tickets and weeklong passes available

Raby Castle D3

This 14th century castle has been home to Lord Barnard's family since 1626. Highlights include an impressive gateway, a vast hall, a medieval kitchen and a Victorian octagonal drawing room. The rooms display fine furniture, artworks and elaborate architecture. Enjoy the deer park, walled gardens and carriage collection. Stable tearooms. Events take place throughout the summer.

Staindrop
Co. Durham DL2 3AH
t. 01833 660202
e. admin@rabycastle.com
w. www.rabycastle.com

Opening times

- Easter Weekend: Sat to Mon
- May, June and September: Sun to Wed (guided tours Mon to Wed)
- July and August: Daily except Sat, also open Bank Holiday Sat

Entrance fees

- Castle, park and gardens: Adults £9.50, concessions £8.50, children (5-15yrs) £4
- Park and Gardens: Adults £5, concessions £4, children (12-15yrs) £3*

*Under 12s free (park and gardens) with a paying adult. Top up fee applies if visiting the castle



© Teesdale Marketing



Out and about

Attractions in the North Pennines



South Tynedale Railway B2

Take a ride through the South Tyne Valley. The trains are hauled by steam and diesel engines from Britain and abroad. The return trip to Kirkhaugh takes about 50 minutes. Why not ride in our buffet car and enjoy refreshments during the journey? Stay and explore the footpaths around the station at Kirkhaugh, enjoy a picnic, and then catch a train back. Alston Station - gift shop, free car and coach parking and toilets. There is also a café.

The Railway Station, Alston
Cumbria CA9 3JB
t: 01434 381696
01434 382828 (Talking Timetable)
e: strps@hotmail.com
w: www.strps.org.uk

Opening times
• 21/03/08-30/10/08: Trains depart Alston at 11am, 12.15pm, 2.15pm and 3.30pm
• Different times may apply on special event days

Fares
• Return fares: Adults £5.50, Child (3-15yrs) £2.50, Family (2 adults, 3 children) £15
• Other ticket types are available

Thortergill Forge & Tearooms B2

Thortergill is a family run attraction offering a tearoom with a large selection of teas, 11 coffees and homemade snacks! You can watch the blacksmiths at work (and maybe buy a finished product) and then enjoy the waterfall walk (half a mile). See red squirrels and other wildlife as you while away an afternoon in this wonderful spot.

Thortergill, Garrigill
Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3DH
t: 01434 381936
e: info@thortergillforge.co.uk
w: www.thortergillforge.co.uk

Opening times
• Early March-Early November:
Daily 10am-5pm (closed Mon)
• Open Bank Holiday Mondays

Entrance fees
• Parking and entry to the tearoom is free to customers
• The forge can be viewed for £2.50 per adult and £1.50 per school age child, which includes the waterfall walk



Weardale Museum & High House Chapel C2

This volunteer run museum is packed with stories about the lead-miner/farmer families of Upper Weardale. Discover the fascinating story of the early Methodists and the many visits of John Wesley to Ireshopeburn. Visit also the historic and beautiful High House Chapel, the oldest Methodist Chapel to have held continuous weekly services since it was built in 1760. The Museum also holds a vast Weardale genealogy resource - ring first to avoid disappointment.

MLA Accredited museum

Ireshopeburn,
Co. Durham DL13 1HD
Post address: 7 Windyside,
Westgate-in-Weardale,
Co. Durham DL13 1NR
t: 01388 517433
e: dttheatherington@gmail.co.uk
w: www.weardalemuseum.co.uk



Opening times
• Open 2pm-5pm
• Easter and Bank Holidays: 2pm-5pm
• 01/05/08-30/09/08: Wed-Sun, 2pm-5pm
• August 2008: Daily, 2pm-5pm

Entrance fees
• Adult £2, child £0.50

Attractions further afield



© Beamish

Beamish Museum D2

This open air museum vividly recreates life in North East England in the early 1800s and early 1900s. Step back in time and explore this 300 acre museum. Enjoy unlimited free rides on the restored trams and replica buses. Visit exciting attractions including an authentic town street, colliery village, working farm manor house and steam locomotives. You'll find Beamish just 12 miles east of Castleside.

Beamish Museum, Beamish
Co. Durham DH9 0RG
t: 0191 3704000
e: museum@beamish.org.uk
w: www.beamish.org.uk



Opening times:
• 15/03/08-02/11/08 (Summer): Daily 10am-5pm.
• **03/11/08-03/04/09 (Winter): 10am-4pm (closed Mon and Fri)
• Closed 08/12/08-02/01/09 inclusive
**Visits centred on The Town and tramway only. Other areas of the museum are closed and admission charges are reduced

Entrance fees:
• Summer - adult £16, child £10, 60+ £13
• Winter £6 per person
• Family tickets and annual memberships also available

Weardale Railway D2 C2

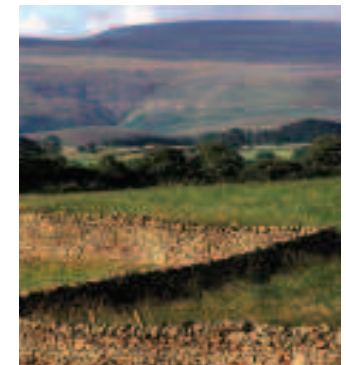
The only heritage railway based on part of the Stockton & Darlington Railway. Train services operate between Wolsingham and Stanhope, with a request stop at Frosterley. Refreshments and car parking are available at Wolsingham and Stanhope stations.

Stanhope Station, Stanhope, Weardale
Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL13 2YS
t: 01388 526203
0845 6001348 (Reservations/Enquiries)
e: info@weardale-railway.org.uk
w: www.weardale-railway.org.uk



Opening times:
• Contact Weardale Railway for details

Fares:
• Contact Weardale Railway for details



Rhedeg Discovery Centre A3

The Rhedeg Centre just off the M6 (J40), is a great family day out, with so much to do, including: imax style large format screen; Discovering Cumbria Exhibition and Cumbria information Centre; Rhedeg's rather special shops reflect the region, its activities, crafts people and producers; fresh food with a distinct Cumbrian emphasis; and let off steam with our indoor soft play, creative workshops and our fantastic outdoor play area for under 12s! There's even a dedicated area for under 5s.

Redhills, Penrith
Cumbria CA11 0DQ
t: 01768 868000
e: enquiries@rhedeg.com
w: www.rhedeg.com



Opening times:
• 01/03/08-31/03/09: Daily 10am-5pm

Entrance fees:
• Free parking and entry to centre



Walking



Walking in the North Pennines will suit you if you are looking for solitude and a place where you can walk all day without seeing more than a handful of other people, or even crossing a road! If you crave big skies and the wide open, rolling views typical of moorland landscapes then the North Pennines is for you.

The AONB has a large network of footpaths and bridleways for the keen walker to explore, as well as extensive areas of open country. → pages 57 & 58

Promoted routes abound, including:

- **Hay Time Walks** 3 miles
Three glorious walks from Allendale [C1], Ireshopeburn [C2] and Hury Reservoir, Baldersdale [C4]. Each two hour stroll introduces you to some of the best hay meadows in the AONB.

→ AONB Partnership (pages 67 & 68) | TICs (pages 69-71) | pdf downloads at www.northpennines.org.uk

- **Discover mid Teesdale** 4½-12 miles
Routes to walk, cycle and ride around Mickleton, Romalldkirk & Middleton-in-Teesdale [C3].

→ AONB Partnership (pages 67 & 68) | TICs (pages 69-71) | pdf downloads at www.northpennines.org.uk

- **Pennine Way** 268 miles
Some of the best bits of this National Trail are in the North Pennines. Starts in Edale and finishes in Kirk Yetholm, Scotland.

→ www.nationaltrail.co.uk/PennineWay
Look out for the 'Flora of the Fells Landscape Guide – Number 3' (www.floraofthefells.com) which follows the Pennine Way from Langdon Beck to Alston.

- **Teesdale Way** 90 miles
Starts in the North Pennines and follows the River Tees as it winds its way to the sea.

→ A guidebook by Martin Collins and Paddy Dillon is available - www.cicerone.co.uk

- **Weardale Way** 73 miles
Traces the route of the River Wear from Killhope Museum → page 51 to the sea at Wearmouth. Circular day walks, linked to the route, are being developed, eg Rookhope Fields & Fells - 3 & 5 mile walks from Rookhope [C2].

→ www.weardaleway.com | A guidebook by Alistair Wallace is available from the Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope.

- **South Tyne Trail** 23 miles
Enjoy this spectacular walk (or cycle) from the stone sculpture at the source, down the South Tyne Valley to Haltwhistle [B1]

→ www.eccp.org.uk

- **Isaac's Tea Trail** 36 miles
A circular trail (from Ninebanks YHA [B2]) following in the footsteps of Isaac Holden

→ www.teatrail.info

- **The Poetry Path, Kirkby Stephen** 2½ miles
Celebrate the hill farmer's relationship with the landscape. 12 poems carved into blocks along a circular route. [B4]

→ A £2 guide is available from Kirkby Stephen TIC (page 71) | www.eccp.org.uk

- **Take a Walk in the Woods** 1½-10 miles
Five walks in the National Trust woods at Allen Banks and Staward Gorge [B1].

→ AONB Partnership (pages 67 & 68) or TICs (pages 69-71) | pdf download at www.northpennines.org.uk

Self-guided walks

A large number of self-guided trails and books, produced by lots of organisations and individuals, are available for walks across the North Pennines – the best way to find out about them in the area you plan to visit is to contact the nearest Tourist Information Centre. → pages 69-71

Lace up your boots - Festivals and Guided walks

Northern Rocks Festival

This festival, running between 24 May and 8 June, includes lots of themed, guided walks. → pages 30, 67-78 | www.northpennines.org.uk

Haltwhistle Walking Festivals

The Haltwhistle Partnership is running two walking festivals in 2008 (26 April-5 May & 11-19 October). The walks are led by experienced local leaders exploring the landscape and heritage around Haltwhistle [B1] - walks are in the North Pennines AONB, Northumberland National Park and around Hadrian's Wall.

For details and to request Festival Programmes:

→ www.haltwhistle.org | 01434 321242 | info@haltwhistle.org

Durham County Council walks

Durham County Council's Countryside Group runs a programme of guided walks and countryside activities, many within the North Pennines.

For more details:

→ www.durham.gov.uk | 0191 3834144 | rangers@durham.gov.uk

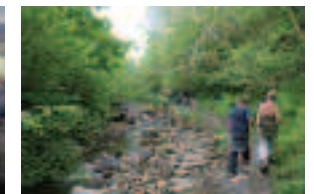
For further details of other organisations running events and activities, including guided walks, in the North Pennines → page 29 .



▲ South Tyne Trail



▲ Cow Green, Teesdale



▲ Slit Wood, Weardale



Outdoor activities

Walking and dogs

Please keep dogs under close control at all times. The North Pennines is thought to host up to 22,000 pairs of breeding wading birds. These birds nest on the ground and are extremely vulnerable to disturbance by dogs. Also in the spring time moorland sheep are lambing - another reason to be careful with your dog.

Dogs on Public Rights of Way

Public footpaths, bridleways and other public rights of way provide many opportunities in the North Pennines for you to walk with your dog. The law protects your right to walk these paths at any time and also requires you to take simple steps to prevent harm to wildlife, farm animals and other people - please always follow the Countryside Code and the Moorland Visitors' Code → page 11

Dogs in Open Country

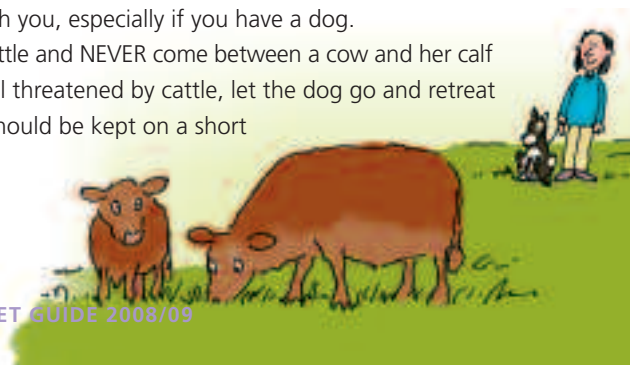
The rights on access land extend to walking with dogs. However, they must be on a fixed lead no more than 2m long between 1 March and 31 July to limit disturbance to ground nesting birds. They must also be on a short fixed lead at any time near livestock and nesting birds. Please follow local information signs.

- On access land used for the rearing and shooting of grouse, there is likely to be a total exclusion on dogs. → www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk | 0845 1003298
- Dogs may also be excluded for up to six weeks a year on land used for lambing and in areas important for ground nesting birds
- Dog restrictions do not apply to trained guide/hearing dogs and dogs on the land with the landowner's permission
- Your rights to take dogs on public rights of way are unaffected by access land restrictions, but dogs must be kept under close control on public rights of way, preferably on a fixed short lead

Dogs and cattle

Cattle may be inquisitive and approach you, especially 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 the dog go and retreat
- In any other circumstances, dogs should be kept on a short lead near livestock



Walking

Open Access



Open Access has made large swathes of the North Pennines accessible for the first time. Walking on access land is a very different experience to following public rights of way, principally because you are able to make up your own route and explore freely.

On access land you can walk, sightsee, picnic, birdwatch, climb and run. But there is no right to ride a cycle or horse, camp, drive vehicles, hanglide, paraglide, use a metal detector, use boats, collect stones, plants or wood, light or cause fires or swim.

Across the North Pennines there is an almost complete restriction on taking dogs onto access land. Please note that this does not apply to public rights of way crossing open country – where you should keep your dog under close control ie preferably on a lead.

Open Access Guides

Three leaflets are available to help you find out about open access in the North Pennines:

- Discover Open Country in the North Pennines, includes circular routes from Youth Hostels in the AONB
- Open Access in the North Pennines includes five suggested routes across open country, a map showing access land in the AONB and lots of guidance and advice
- Treading Carefully - Birds and Access Land in the North Pennines

To get copies:

→ local TICs (page 69-71) | www.northpennines.org.uk & download pdf files





Outdoor activities Cycling



With rights... ...come responsibilities

You are welcome to explore access land in the North Pennines but please remember that most of the area is privately owned, is internationally important for wildlife and is also a home and place of work for many people. Please observe local signs and follow the Moorland Visitor's Code:

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

Find out more:

- OS Explorer maps published after May 2005 show access land
- Visit www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk for information on restrictions to walk on access land and for general information
- Call the Access Helpline on 0845 1003298
- Visit a Primary Information Point – locations on OS Explorer maps
- Contact the County Councils: Cumbria – 01228 601022; Durham – 0191 3706000; Northumberland – 01670 533000



▲ Primary Information Point at Bowlees

The North Pennines offers a host of opportunities to discover the area by bike. Routes vary from car-free level trails suitable for families to more challenging moorland single track and steep minor roads for experienced mountain bikers, cycle tourists and road cyclists.

A wide range of guides are available and there are excellent accommodation and cycle services especially linked to some of the UK's premier long distance cycle routes, which pass through the area. Accommodation providers who display the VisitBritain Cyclists Welcome logo are specifically set up to cater for cyclists.



National Cycle Routes

- **C2C Cycle Route.** The UK's most popular 'challenge' cycle route (from Whitehaven or Workington to Newcastle or Sunderland). The 140 mile (79 traffic-free) route passes through the northern Lakes before entering the AONB and descending to the railway paths of Co. Durham. → www.c2c-guide.co.uk | www.sustrans.org
- **Walney to Wear and Whitby Cycle Route.** Inspired by the pioneering C2C, the W2W route passes through a variety of stunning countryside. It stretches between Walney Island, on Cumbria's Irish Sea coast, and both Wearmouth in Sunderland (151 miles) and Whitby (176 miles) on the North Sea coast. The route passes through the southern part of the AONB. → www.cyclingw2w.info | www.sustrans.org
- **Pennine Cycle Way** runs for 335 miles between Derby and Berwick upon Tweed, passing through the North Pennines on its way. → www.cycle-routes.org/penninecycleway | www.sustrans.org

Other routes and guides

There are many excellent publications promoting cycle routes within the AONB, available from local TICs → [pages 69-71](#), including:

- **Cycling Opportunities in the North Pennines.** Comprehensive leaflet highlighting routes (inc map), cycle hire and services and guides
- **Wheels to the Wild.** Multi-day circular route (and three day routes) exploring the geology and landscapes of the North Pennines AONB and European Geopark. → [page 62](#)



- **Bike Bowes.** Mountain bike routes centred on the ancient parish of Bowes C4 in the south of the AONB
- **Beyond Hamsterley.** A folder of weatherproof mountain bike routes (priced £12.95), inc 15 rides in the AONB
 → www.beyond-hamsterley.co.uk | Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope | Parkhead Station Tearooms (www.parkheadstation.co.uk) | Barnard Castle TIC | Hamsterley Forest Visitor Centre and Wood 'N' Wheels
- **South Tyne Trail.** 36.5km route following the River South Tyne from source to Haltwhistle, includes family-friendly sections. Map and guide - £2
 → [Alston TIC \(page 69\)](#) | www.eccp.org.uk
- **The National Byway** is a 4000 mile signed cycle route using the quiet roads of Britain. It passes north to south through the AONB → www.thenationalbyway.org
- **Walking & Cycling in Wear Valley.** Spiral-bound guide which includes routes in Upper Weardale. → [Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope \(www.durhamdalescentre.co.uk\)](http://www.durhamdalescentre.co.uk)

Traffic-free routes

The Waskerley Way (Weardale), Tees Railway Walk (Teesdale) → www.durham.gov.uk and parts of the South Tyne Trail → www.eccp.org.uk are traffic free, easy gradient, cycle routes ideal for families. Hamsterley Forest is also a great place to find traffic-free routes.

Mountain biking in the forest

Hamsterley Forest D3 has excellent terrain for mountain biking, offering routes for a range of abilities - including: The Loop – skills area; downhill for experienced riders; and four, colour coded, waymarked trails (Green – 3 miles, Blue – 9 miles, Red – 10 miles and Black – 7 miles). Don't miss Hamsterley Tearooms, mountain bike friendly, open between Feb and Sep, call 01388 488822 for details.



© K. Gibson

▲ Hamsterley Forest

→ www.forestry.gov.uk | www.hamsterley-trailblazers.co.uk | www.descendhamsterley.co.uk

Cycle hire and shops

Cycle Force 2000 Ltd

Contact Ian Lamb
 Address 87 Claypath, Durham City, Co. Durham DH1 1RG
 T. 0191 3840319
 Open Mon-Tues, 9am-5.30pm; Sat, 9am-5pm
 Hire Mountain
 Other Bikes sales, repairs and accessories

Pedalpushers A1

Contact Nick & Maggie Davis
 Address Lonnings End, Sandy Loning, Capontree Road, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 1RA
 T. 01697 742387
 E. pedalpushersbram@aol.com
 Open All year round (8am-8pm)
 Hire Range of bikes available for road and moderate off-road use. Childrens' bikes and a tandem also available
 Other Helmets, locks and puncture repair kits included in hire

Dale Bike Hire D2

Contact Peter Cook, Richard Wigham
 Address Denecroft, 35 Uppertown, Wolsingham, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL13 3ES
 T. 01388 527737; Peter Cook – 07811 321947; Richard Wigham – 07814 324444
 E. dalebikehire@btinternet.com
 W. www.dalebikehire.co.uk
 Hire Mountain (adults & children), tagalongs, trailer bikes, childrens' seats
 Other Delivery of bikes can be arranged (charge for over 20 miles). Individual & group hire, leader available. Helmets included in hire



The Bike Shop C1

Contact John Swan
 Address 16 St Mary's Chare, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1NQ
 T. 01434 601032
 E. johnswan@thebikeshop.fsnet.co.uk
 W. www.thebikeshophexham.com
 Open Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm
 Hire Mountain and hybrids
 Other Sales, repairs, parts and accessories

Kirkby Stephen Cycle Centre B4

Contact Stephen McWhirter
 Address Unit 1, Station Yard, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria CA17 4LA
 T. 017683 71658
 E. exploreoutdoor@aol.com
 Open Mon-Sat, 8am-6pm
 Hire Mountain, comfort, hybrids by prior arrangement
 Other Sales, repairs, spare parts

Arragon's Cycle Centre A3

Contact Sarah or Phil
 Address 2 Brunswick Road, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7LU
 T. 01768 890344
 E. sarah@arragonscycles.com
 W. www.arragonscycles.com
 Hire Mountain, hybrids
 Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Frid, 9am-5.30pm; Wed, 9am-2pm; Sat, 9am-5pm; Easter-Sep, Sun, 10am-2pm
 Other Sales, service, repairs, parts, accessories

Wood 'N' Wheels D3

Contact Martin Stout
 Address Hamsterley Forest, Redford, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL13 3NL
 T. 01388 488222
 E. shop@woodnwheels.co.uk
 W. www.woodnwheels.co.uk
 Hire Mountain – adults and children (down to 16" wheel), child seats and tagalongs
 Open Summer, 10am-6pm; Winter, 10am-dusk (approx. 4pm)
 Other Sales (new & ex-hire), repairs, accessories & parts, groups catered for with trained guide, bikes can be delivered to your accommodation – call for availability and details, light hire on winter Wed nights, cycle repair courses



© K. Gibson



Outdoor activities

Cycling

Turn your Wheels to the Wild!

By following the rides in the Wheels to the Wild Cycle Route you can explore some of the best cycling the area has to offer and discover the geology and landscapes of the AONB and UNESCO European Geopark.

The route is 122km long and provides an excellent way to discover what's so special about the North Pennines landscape.

Short break

The route fits into a leisurely three-day short break giving you the time to appreciate the unique North Pennines landscape and enjoy some of its special attractions along the way. If you decide to ride the route in three days (48km, 42 km and 33 km) you'll find suitable overnight accommodation in and around Wolsingham **D2**, Alston **B2** and Middleton-in-Teesdale. **C3**

Guide available

The guide comes complete with an Accommodation and Services booklet which includes detailed information on places to stay on the route as well as cycle holiday providers; support services and cycle hire and shop information.

Route sections are described with OS map extracts, directions and explanations of some of the geological and landscape features you'll pass on the way. Altitude profiles of the main route and day rides also give you a clear indication of the ups and downs you'll encounter.

The guide includes three day routes suitable for mountain and hybrid cycles:

- Waskerley Round (33.5km)
- Swinhope High Challenge (38km)
- Killhope Round (32km)

Why not combine the main route with the three day rides and enjoy a full week of cycling in the AONB?

How to get hold of the guide

Costing £5 the guide is available from the North Pennines AONB Partnership (pages 67 & 68) and from local Tourist Information Centres (pages 69-71) and other outlets.

The Wheels to the Wild Cycle Route was funded by:



and Neighbourhood
Renewal Unit



Outdoor activities

Horse riding



The North Pennines offers a range of opportunities for horse riding, from leisurely, guided pony rides for beginners to technical upland hacks across historic pack-horse trails for the more experienced. You can discover networks of bridleways and quiet lanes, allowing you to see the splendour of the North Pennines AONB and European Geopark from the saddle.

One of the best ways to enjoy horse riding in the North Pennines is with one of the area's riding centres.

General horse riding information

→ British Horse Society website at www.bhs.org.uk

Riding Centres/Livery

Hamsterley Riding School **D3**

Contact Judy Dennis
Address Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland,
Co. Durham DL13 3NH
T. 01388 488328 or 07774 971423
Open all year

Trekking available along a quiet single track country lane. Beginners welcome. 30 minute (£10) and one hour rides (£16) available

Raygill Riding Centre **D4**

Address Raygill Farm, Lartington, Barnard Castle,
Co. Durham DL12 9DG
T. 01833 690118 or 07703 338006
E. via form on w.
W. www.raygillriding.co.uk

Open all year

Raygill offers a variety of riding holidays, including: Learn to ride in a Week, Trekking Holidays with Experienced Leaders, Improve your Riding Holidays, and Fun and Learn Weeks for Kids. The centre has 60 ponies and horses or you can bring your own. Visit w. or call for prices and further details

Sinderhope Trekking Centre **C2**

Contact Lisa or Robert Philipson
Address High Sinderhope, Sinderhope, Allendale,
Northumberland NE47 9SH
T. 01434 685266
W. www.sinderhopeponytrekking.co.uk

Open all year

Trekking suitable for all types of riders over moorland and along country roads: 1hr (£12.50); 1½hrs (£18); 2hrs (£24); and 3hrs – experienced riders only (£35). Lessons in indoor arena also available. Min age 4 for lessons and 6 for trekking. Arena also available for hire from £15 per hr

West Hoppyland Trekking Centre **D3**

Contact Carole or Bill Atkinson
Address West Hoppyland Farm, Hamsterley, Bishop
Auckland, Co. Durham DL13 3NP
T. 01388 488196
E. westhoppyland@hotmail.com
W. www.geocities.com/westhoppyland

Open all year

West Hoppyland offers trekking over the high moors and along tree-lined tracks in Hamsterley Forest. Group of up to three experienced riders can be taken for treks of 1, 1½ or 2 hours. Three/four hour rides with picnic lunches and livery services are also available

Middle Bayles Livery **B2**

Contact Gill Munro
Address Middle Bayles Farm, Alston, Cumbria CA9 3BS
T. 01434 382426
E. aimshaugh@cybermoor.org.uk

Full or part livery with exercise arena, one mile of scenic gallop track and round pen. Tuition is available for resident horse owners



▲ Sinderhope Trekking Centre



Outdoor activities

Fishing

The North Pennines boasts some of the finest upland reservoirs and rivers, renowned for the quality of their fishing. You can choose to fish in some of England's most spectacular landscapes and opportunities abound for complete beginners as well as experts.

Reservoirs

Northumbrian Water looks after lots of well stocked 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 [D2](#), Cow Green [B3](#), Selsset [C3](#), Grassholme [C3](#), Balderhead [C4](#), Blackton [C4](#) and Hury [C3](#) reservoirs across the North Pennines AONB. See the map on the centre pages (36 & 37) for locations.

Find out more...
→ Call Northumbrian Water on 0870 2403549 to request your free 'Go Fishing Guide' or visit www.nwl.co.uk/gofishing

Have a go...

If you fancy an introduction to the world of fly or multi-bate fishing for trout why not sign up for a 'beginner day' at Derwent Reservoir [D2](#)?

- Three-hour sessions between April and September
- Call Derwent Reservoir Lodge on 01207 255250 for details and to book



▲ River Tees



▲ Derwent Reservoir

© Northumbrian Water



▲ Cow Green Reservoir

Rivers and Lakes

There are several excellent opportunities to fish on rivers and lakes in the North Pennines:

River South Tyne

(Alston to Langley Viaduct) [B2](#)

Alston and District Angling Association

Fly and spinning only

Day and week permits from:

Hughes News and Alston Post Office

River Tees

(Barnard Castle) [D4](#)

Barnard Castle Angling Club

Day and week permits

Details from:

Barnard Castle TIC - 01833 690909

→ page 69

River Tees

(Upper Tees North Bank) [C3](#)

Raby Estate

Fly only

Day permits from:

Raines Ironmongers and Raby Estate Office in Middleton-in-Teesdale or the shop at High Force

River Wear

(Stanhope Gauging Station to Rookhope Burn, Eastgate) [C2](#)

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) [C1](#)

Fly only

Stocked weekly with rainbow trout

Various day permits and boat hire available

01434 688846 for details and to book



For further information on river fisheries, including regional guides

Environment Agency on 08708 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 0870 1662662 or visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk



Other Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty...

...our finest landscapes

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are just that! They contain our country's finest landscapes and countryside and are home to some of our most charismatic and unusual wildlife as well as containing fascinating historic environments and geological wonders.

Find out more:

→ The National Association for AONBs,
The Old Police Station, Cotswold
Heritage Centre, Northleach,
Gloucestershire GL54 3JH | 01451
862007 | www.aonb.org.uk or
www.visitaonb.org.uk

Other AONBs in the North of England

- The Northumberland Coast AONB
→ www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org
- The Solway Coast AONB
→ www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk
- Nidderdale AONB
→ www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk



© David Haffey

▲ Dunstanburgh Castle, Northumberland Coast AONB

AONB Fact File

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are just that!
- AONBs are national treasures to be shared and cherished by the nation
- AONBs are designated by Government and are part of a worldwide family of protected landscapes (IUCN Category V)



© Natural England/Charlita Hedley

▲ Solway Coast AONB

- Arnside and Silverdale AONB
→ www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk
- The Forest of Bowland AONB
→ www.forestofbowland.com
- The Howardian Hills AONB
→ www.howardianhills.org.uk
- Lincolnshire Wolds AONB
→ www.lincswolds.org.uk

Publication request form

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, together with two first-class stamps, to the address below:

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

Your details

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Day time tel: Email address:

Please tick this box if you would like to be added to a mailing list for future information about things to see and do in the North Pennines

Publications are FREE unless otherwise stated

Walking

- Discover Open Country
- Open Access in the North Pennines
- Treading Carefully...Birds and Access Land
- Allen Banks & Staward Gorge Walks ('Take a walk in the woods')
- Discover mid Teesdale (walking, cycling & horse riding routes)

Cycling

- Wheels to the Wild Cycle Route:
£5 Cheques payable to 'Durham County Council'
- Cycling Opportunities in the North Pennines

Public Transport

- North Pennines Public Transport Guide



Geology and Landscape

- Northern Rocks 2008...the North Pennines Festival of Geology and Landscape (24 May–8 June)
- Teesdale Time Trail - Introduction
- Cow Green Trail
- Holwick Scar & Wynch Bridge Trail
- Tynehead Trail
- Stanhope Tree
- Frosterley Marble
- Blanchland

Birdwatching

- Birdwatching in the North Pennines:
£4.50 Cheques payable to 'Durham County Council'
- Bird Identification Guide

Peatlands

- From Peat to Global Warming
- Land Management & Water Colour
- Living History

Hay Meadows

- Allendale Hay Time Walk
- Weardale (Ireshopeburn) Hay Time Walk
- Baldersdale Hay Time Walk
- Hay Meadow Grasses and Flowers Identification Guide

General

- The North Pennines...an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- North Pennines...Looking after it Together
- North Pennines News: Spring and Summer 2008
- North Pennines News: Autumn and Winter 2008/09
- Please add me to the North Pennines News mailing list
- Please add me to the Pocket Guide 2009/10 mailing list

- Visit www.northpennines.org.uk - click on 'About Us' and visit our Publications pages to access pdf downloads of the above publications

- Other geological publications are planned this year. Visit the website to keep up to date!



About the North Pennines

Finding out more

Information Centres in and around the North Pennines

Tourist Information Centres (TICs) are great places to find out more about the North Pennines. Knowledgeable and friendly staff are on hand providing a wide range of services. You'll find lots of information on places to visit and local events, including a range of publications, as well as where to stay and public transport options.

-  Book-a-bed-ahead service
-  Wheelchair accessible
-  Wheelchair accessible toilets
-  Loop system
-  Internet access
-  Photocopying
-  Local theatre tickets
-  Cafe
-  CentreParcs booking

Alston

Alston Moor Information Centre,
The Town Hall, Front Street, Alston
Cumbria CA9 3RF
e: alston.tic@eden.gov.uk
t: 01434 382244
w: www.visiteden.co.uk

Opening times:

- 01/03/08-17/03/08: Mon-Sat 10am-3pm, Sun closed
- 17/03/08-20/10/08: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm
- 20/10/08-16/03/09: Mon-Sat 10am-3pm, Sun closed
- 16/03/09-31/03/09: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm

-      Conference booking facility



▲ Alston

Appleby-in-Westmorland

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

Opening times:

- From Easter Day (2008)
- Mon-Sat: 9.30am-5pm
- Sun: 11am-3pm



Barnard Castle

Woodleigh, Flatts Road
Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 8AA
e: tourism@teesdale.gov.uk
t: 01833 690909
w: www.visitteesdale.com

Opening times:

- 01/03/08-31/03/08: Mon-Sat 10am-3pm
- 01/04/08-30/10/08: Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm
- 01/11/08-31/03/09: Mon-Sat 10am-3pm



Bishop Auckland

Town Hall, Market Place, Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham DL14 7NP
e: bishopauckland.touristinfo@durham.gov.uk
t: 01388 604922
w: www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk

Opening times:

- 01/03/08-31/03/09: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm; Sat 9am-4pm
- Closed Bank Holidays



- * When Café is open (Mon-Fri)
- * Town Hall & Darlington Civic Theatre
- * Inc. local and family history resources in library (10am-7pm Mon, Tues, Thurs; 10am-5pm Wed, Fri; 9am – 4pm Sat)

Brampton

The Moot Hall, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 1RW
e: tourism@carlisle.gov.uk
t: 016977 3433
w: www.historic-carlisle.org.uk

Opening times:

- Easter 08-Sep 08: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
- Oct 08: Mon-Sat 10am-4pm



Corbridge

Hill Street, Corbridge
Northumberland NE45 5AA
e: corbridgetic@btconnect.com
t: 01434 632815
w: www.hadrianswallcountry.org

Opening times:

- 17/03/08-12/05/08: Mon-Sat 10am-1pm, 2pm-5pm; Sun 1pm-4pm
- 13/05/08-30/09/08: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 1pm-4pm
- 01/10/08-31/10/08: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
- Closed for winter



© Teesdale District Council

▲ Barnard Castle

Haltwhistle

Station Road, Haltwhistle
Northumberland NE49 1QE
e: haltwhistle@btconnect.com
t: 01434 322002
w: www.hadrianswallcountry.org

Opening times:

- 17/03/08-12/05/08: Mon-Sat 9.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm
- 13/05/08-30/09/08: Mon-Sat 9.30am-1pm, 2pm-5.30pm, Sun 1pm-5pm
- 01/10/08-31/10/08: Mon-Sat 9.30am-1pm, 2pm-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm
- 01/11/08-03/09: Mon-Sat 9.30am-12noon, 1pm-3.30pm



Hexham

Wentworth Car Park, Hexham
Northumberland NE46 1QE
e: hexham.tic@tynedale.gov.uk
t: 01434 652220
w: www.hadrianswallcountry.org

Opening times:

- 01/03/08-12/05/08: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm (Sun 10am-5pm from 23/03/08)
- 13/05/08-30/09/08: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm
- 01/10/08-03/09: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm. Closed Sun



Also:

- Fishing Permits for River Tyne at Hexham
- Hadrian's Wall Bus tickets

Kirkby Stephen

Market Street, Kirkby Stephen
Cumbria CA17 4QN
e: ks.tic@eden.gov.uk
t: 017683 71199
w: www.visiteden.co.uk

Opening times:

- Easter 08-31/10/08: Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm, Sun 10am-4pm
- 01/11/08-03/09: Mon-Sat 10am-12noon, 2pm-4pm on Mon. Closed Sun



Also:

- 24hr 'through window' interactive information screen

Middleton-in-Teesdale

10 Market Place, Middleton-in-Teesdale
Co. Durham DL12 0QG
e: tic@middletonplus.myzen.co.uk
t: 01833 641001
w: www.middletonplus.org.uk

Opening times:

- 01/03/08-31/03/09: Daily 10am-1pm



Penrith

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

Opening times:

- 03/08-10/08: Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm, Sun 1pm-4.45pm
- 10/08-03/09: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10.30am-4pm



* Theatre by the Lake (Keswick), Penrith Players

Also:

- Next to Penrith & Eden Museum



© Eden Tourism

▲ Kirkby Stephen

Rheged

Redhills, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0DQ
e: tic@rheged.com
t: 01768 860034
w: www.rheged.com

Opening times:

- 01/03/08-31/03/09: Daily 9.30am-5.30pm



Stanhope

Durham Dales Centre, Castle Gardens
Stanhope, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham
DL13 2FJ
e: durham.dalescentre@durham.gov.uk
t: 01388 527650
w: www.durhamdalescentre.co.uk

Opening times:

- 01/03/08-30/03/08: Daily 10am-4pm
- 31/03/08-26/10/08: Daily 10am-5pm
- 27/10/08-31/03/09: Daily 10am-4pm



* Darlington Civic Theatre

Also:

- UK Holiday Information Service
- Welcome to Excellence

Surf the web...

Visit the AONB Partnership's website at www.northpennines.org.uk for a wide range of information on the North Pennines AONB and UNESCO European Geopark

The AONB is split between Cumbria (in North West England) and County Durham and Northumberland (in North East England). Visit these sites for information on various parts of the North Pennines:

- www.visitnortheastengland.com • www.visitcountydurham.com • www.visitnorthumberland.com • www.hiddentreasurescumbria.com/eden_valley.html • www.visiteden.co.uk • www.historic-carlisle.org.uk • www.derwentside.gov.uk • www.teesdalediscovery.com • www.durhamdales.co.uk • www.hadrianswallcountry.org

We can provide a summary of the information contained in this publication in large print, different formats and other languages on request. Please call 01388 528801 for details

After you have finished with the Pocket Guide please give it to someone else to read, or recycle it



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www.northpennines.org.uk



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