

North Pennine Birdwalks

Walk 7: Burnhope Head



Landscapes
for life
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NORTH PENNINES
One of the
AONB family

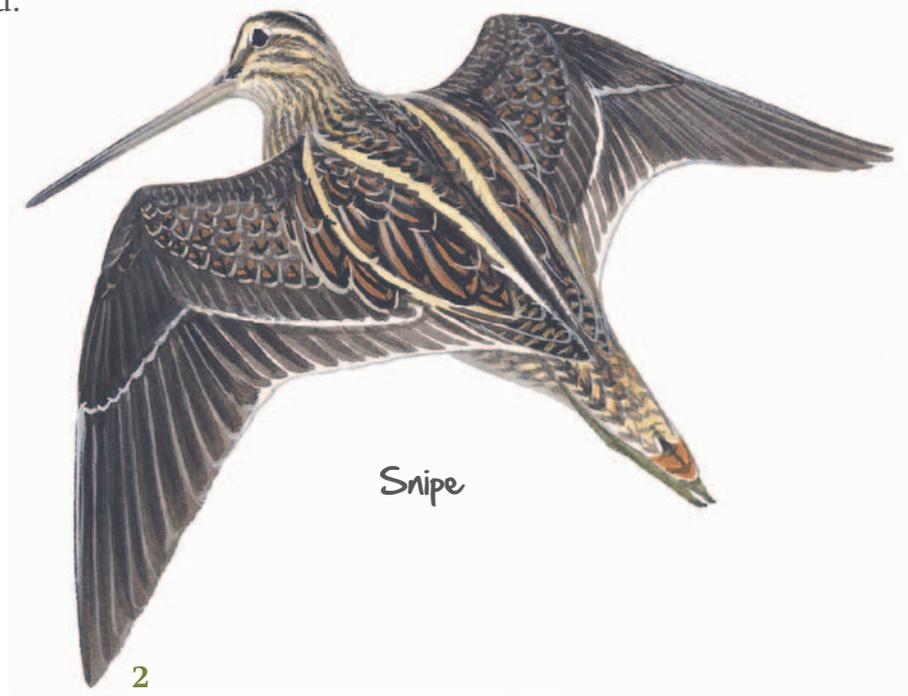
The Birdwatchers Code of Conduct

Birds are very vulnerable to disturbance, especially during the breeding season. It is all too easy to inadvertently harm a bird or its young while trying to watch them.

For example, if an adult bird is prevented from returning to its nest, eggs or chicks may quickly chill and die. Straying from a footpath towards a nest site may also leave a scent trail that a predator is later able to follow.

To ensure that you enjoy watching birds without harming them or their young, please always follow this 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 footpaths, 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.



Walk 7

Burnhope Head



Heather moorland
near Stanhope

Even in the depths of winter the heather moorland at Burnhope Head is home to large numbers of red grouse. Seeming to catapult from the heather in display whilst giving their loud “get back, get back” call, red grouse are a dramatic sight. During spring and summer their numbers are swelled by a multitude of breeding waders and the moorland seems to burst with life. With sweeping views all round, this is always an impressive walk.

Keys

Easy Grade Walk

Suitable for most people: easy, comfortable walking, may be some stiles.

Medium Grade Walk

Typically a country walk with some hills, stiles and muddy paths.
Boots advised.

Hard Grade Walk

Hill walk. May have steep or strenuous climbs. Rough moorland.
Boots essential.

A guide is also provided to indicate the best times of year to see key bird species. This can be interpreted as follows:

BEST TIME TO VISIT



Please be aware that the weather can change rapidly in the North Pennines. Always carry suitable wet weather clothing with you and remember that visibility will be poor at higher altitudes in low cloud conditions.



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Front cover illustration and all bird illustrations are by Mike Langman. Other images are © Natural England/Charlie Hedley or © North Pennines AONB Partnership.



Information is correct at the time of production (Oct 2012). Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate. However, the AONB Partnership and its Staff Unit cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions. Please check critical information before travel. Inclusion is not a recommendation by the AONB Partnership and in itself is not necessarily a guarantee of quality.



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

Information Point



1:50,000 – Landranger 87
1:25,000 – Explorer 307



Large lay-by at Dead Friar's Stone
(NY973453)



5 km (3 miles). Circular route



Public toilets, pubs/cafés and
local shops in Blanchland (6 km)
and Stanhope (8.5 km)



Hard. Likely to be wet in places
Some areas of tall heather and
rough terrain. Navigation may be
difficult in misty conditions. This
walk passes across an actively
shot grouse moor so care should
be exercised during the period
August 12th to December 10th



In Crawleyside (NY993402)



Visit www.northpennines.org.uk
for information on green places
to stay



Merlin
(Female)

Walk Directions

(The final section of this walk passes across an area of tall heather. If you wish to avoid this, continue straight along the track at X to meet the road at Y. Turn right and walk for 2 km back to the start.)

- Follow the track leading to the left away from the lay-by and keep on this track for 1.5 km.
- Before the track takes a major bend to the left, turn right off it and walk towards a stile over a fence. This requires walking across an area of pools filled with Sphagnum moss.
- Cross the stile and walk straight ahead, keeping the fence line on your right until it takes a turn to the right. Continue straight ahead for 500m towards a distant wooden post with a yellow waymarker. The path follows the line of a dismantled railway but all that remains is a linear mound with a ditch alongside.
- On reaching the post, turn right and follow the path towards a lone pine tree. Keep on this path for a further 400m, walking beside a line of grouse butts.
- Go through a kissing gate next to the shooting butts and after c50m turn right and walk along the left hand side of Burnhope Dam. From here continue to pass a sheepfold on your left.
- Cross a small valley and stream and then continue for 500m up hill keeping a small tributary stream on your right. Follow this line to meet the road at a kissing gate. Turn right and follow the road (take care!) for 650m back to the start.



West Allen Valley

Walk 7

Burnhope Head



Red grouse

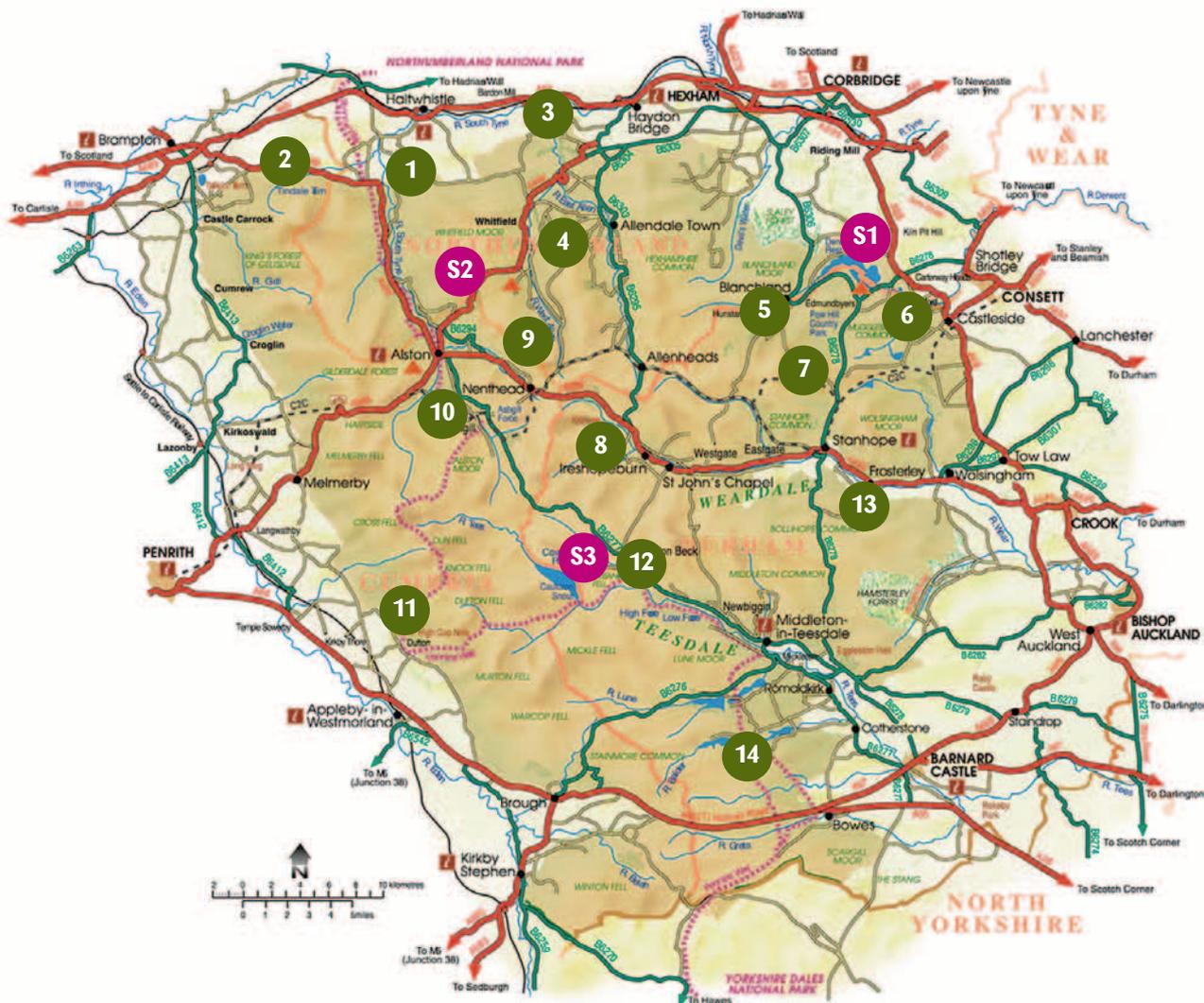
- 1 This heather is carefully managed to provide ideal conditions for breeding red grouse. Regular burning of small patches ensures a constant supply of young shoots for them to feed on.
- 2 Golden plover favour nest sites with very short vegetation to give them a good view of approaching predators. They regularly select patches of burnt heather to nest in.
- 3 Watch out for merlin or short-eared owl hunting over the moorland.
- 4 Burnhope dam was excavated to provide water for the lead mining industry operating in the valley below. Complex systems of dams and waterways were built to provide a source of water to wash the mined minerals and power ore-crushing equipment.
- 5 In spring and summer watch the displays of curlew, lapwing, snipe and golden plover.

BEST TIME TO VISIT

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC



Map of the North Pennines AONB showing location of Walks and Sites



- 1 Lambley and the South Tyne
- 2 Tindale Tarn
- 3 Allen Banks and Staward Gorge
- 4 Chimneys on Dryburn Moor
- 5 Blanchland
- 6 Derwent Gorge
- 7 Burnhope Head
- 8 Cowhill
- 9 Wellhope Moor
- 10 Garrigill
- 11 Dufton Pike
- 12 Upper Teesdale
- 13 Howdon Burn
- 14 Blackton Reservoir
- S1 Derwent Reservoir
- S2 Ouston Fell
- S3 Harwood Beck and Widdybank

NORTH PENNINES



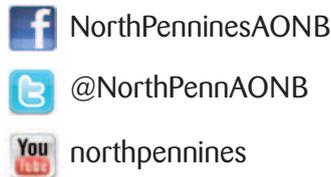
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



The North Pennines is one of England's most special places – a peaceful, unspoilt landscape with a rich history and vibrant natural beauty. In recognition of this it is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The area is also a Global Geopark – an accolade endorsed by UNESCO.

Take this 3 mile circular route, in the Derwent Valley, and discover the area's characteristic heather-clad moorland. You'll (on a clear day) be greeted with impressive sweeping views. In misty conditions navigation may be tricky.

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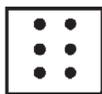


The AONB Partnership has a Green Tourism award for its corporate office

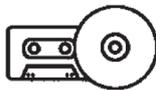


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