

North Pennine Birdwalks

Walk 13: Howden Burn



Landscapes
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NORTH PENNINES
One of the
AONB family

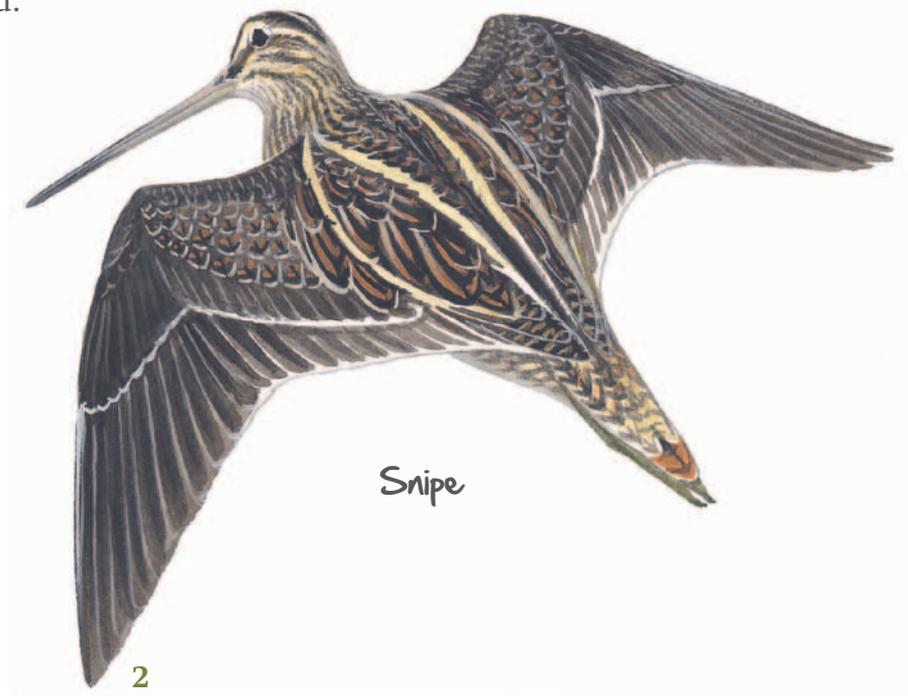
The Birdwatchers Code of Conduct

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 13

Howden Burn



Reservoirs above Howden Burn

Passing through grassland and up onto heather moorland, this walk provides splendid views across the open uplands and down to the Bollihope Burn. It is a fine area to watch wading birds during the breeding season when the air is filled with their songs and displays. Redstart, great spotted woodpecker, tits and warblers can also be seen or heard in the riverside woodland.

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 (Aug 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 92
1:25,000 – Explorer OL31



Public toilet, pub and shop in
Frosterley (3 km)



Linear route. 3 km (1.8 miles)
each way



On roadside at Hill End
(NZ015362)



**Hard. Gradual uphill climb
across heather moorland.**
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



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



On short turf at roadside beside
the Bollihope Burn at NZ005349



Lapwing

Walk Directions

From the parking area, follow the road up the hill (take care!) with the burn on your right and a group of houses on the left. Just after the road bends to the right, follow the clear track leading up hill on the left.

The path runs beside a small field on the right and then traverses open grassland and heather moorland. Keep the Howden Burn on your left and follow the path towards a small enclosure which you pass on your left.

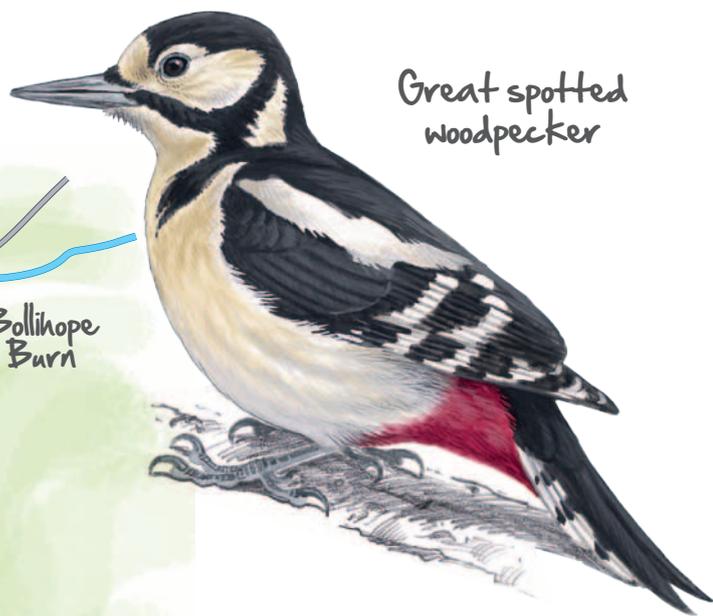
The path then continues in the same direction across the moorland until it reaches the B6278 at NY990325. A finger-post sign marks this point and this, together with a pile of spoil behind it, are clearly visible for much of the walk up. You can walk as far as this or return at any point.



Heather moorland

Walk 13

Howden Burn



Great spotted woodpecker



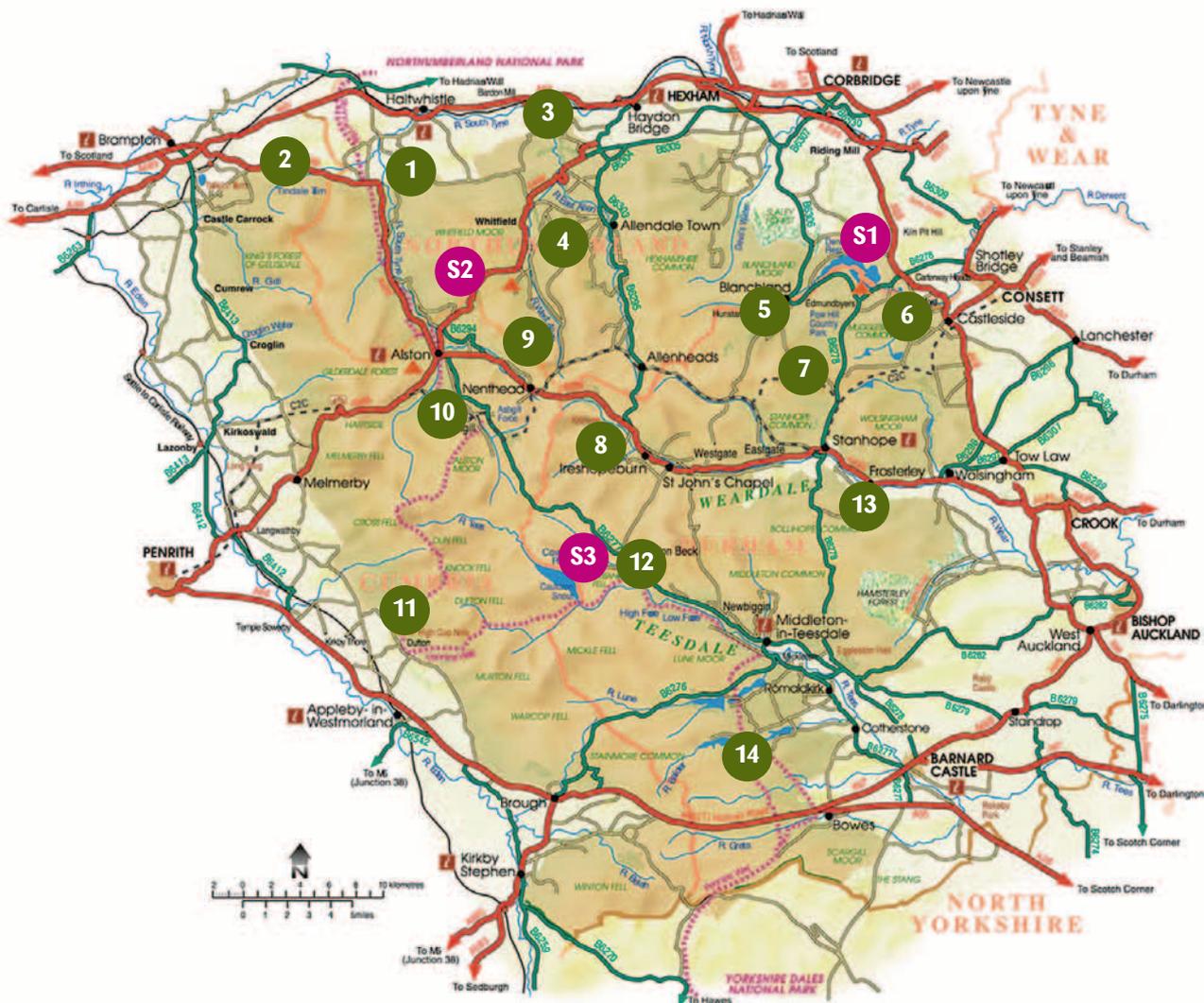
- 1 Look for dippers and common sandpipers along the Bollihope Burn.
- 2 Cuckoos are often heard calling on the moorland edge in early summer. Meadow pipits are their main host here. The female cuckoo removes an egg from the meadow pipit's nest then lays her own. The young cuckoo is then fostered by the unwitting pipit.
- 3 To help keep them warm in winter, red grouse have dense white feathers on their legs.
- 4 Large numbers of red grouse, golden plover, curlew and lapwing breed here. Take care not to disturb them.

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



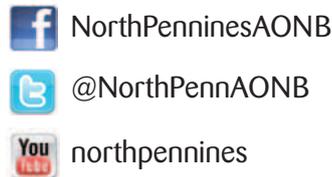
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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.

This 3.6 mile (in total) linear route passes through grassland and up onto heather moorland and you'll be treated to splendid views across the open uplands and down to the Bollihope Burn. It's a great area to watch wading birds in the spring and summer.

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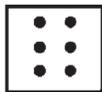


The AONB Partnership has a Green Tourism award for its corporate office

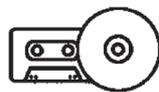


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