

North Pennines News

Spring & Summer 2012

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Landscapes
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NORTH PENNINES
One of the
AONB family



Near Kirkcarrion, Lunedale © Natural England/Charlie Hedley

A letter from the Chairman

Welcome to the Spring & Summer 2012 edition of North Pennines News. In these pages you'll be able to read about some of the work of the AONB Partnership team and its many partners and how we are working together to conserve the environment, boost tourism, help people explore and enjoy the countryside, to support community projects and to create jobs and skills training opportunities.



Cllr Eddie Tomlinson

Our peatland work goes from strength to strength and on page 4 you can read how our peatland programme earned national recognition by winning a Climate Week award. Our successful pilot project, Altogether Archaeology, has led to a 'stage one pass' from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a three-year follow-on project, working with the 400 volunteers who have signed up so far; find out more about this work, and how you can get involved, on page 3. Our WildWatch project, helping local people record, conserve and understand our rich wildlife, is now well underway thanks to a £300,000

grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. I'd urge anyone with an interest in wildlife to get involved (see page 5).

At an earlier stage of development we've just submitted a bid for a £2.5 million project in the Allen Valleys and on page 10 you can see what new activities might be coming out of this to support the environment, community and economy.

These are challenging times, and though we think it's crucial to share with you what we're doing – and more importantly give you a chance to get involved – we can only print and distribute one annual edition of North Pennines News in future. An alternative way to stay in touch is to subscribe to our regular e-newsletter; see page 5 to find out how you can do this.

With historic structures conserved, new projects underway and in development, awards won, new publications to enjoy and a wealth of events and activities to look forward to, this is an exciting time as well as a challenging one.

I hope you enjoy North Pennines News and I hope to meet you at some of the team's many events and activities.

Cllr Eddie Tomlinson, Chairman, North Pennines AONB Partnership

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

info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk
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Front cover image: A species-rich meadow in Upper Teesdale © NPAP/Rebecca Barrett

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

PROJECT ABOUT THE PAST COULD HAVE A GREAT FUTURE...

The AONB Partnership's Altogether Archaeology pilot project finished on a high note with a conference at St John's Chapel Town Hall – and the hope of much more to come.

The pilot project – funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), English Heritage and Natural England – was designed to investigate public demand for a larger-scale project to enable local volunteers to participate in the investigation and celebration of local archaeology. More than 400 volunteers, ranging in age from eight to over 80, have registered, so demand is definitely there!

The pilot concentrated on a range of archaeological sites in the North Pennines through a programme of fieldwork modules. Emphasis throughout was on volunteer participation and learning, but the results of the project will also make a contribution, through improved knowledge and understanding, to the long-term conservation of the historic environment.

Some of the results of the fieldwork modules have been spectacular, making a genuine contribution to our understanding of past lives in the North Pennines. Highlights have included the excavation of Westgate Castle in Weardale, where substantial remains of the Bishop of Durham's 13th-century hunting lodge, including a spectacular spiral staircase, were uncovered.

Excavations at the Prior of Durham's Muggleswick Grange, near Consett,



Excavation of the 13th-century spiral staircase at Westgate Castle © NPAP/Paul Frodsham

similarly uncovered impressive medieval masonry. At the opposite corner of the North Pennines, the investigation of a 2,000-year-old 'Roman signal tower' on Appleby Golf Course proved it to be nothing of the kind; it turned out to be a 4,000-year-old Bronze Age burial monument, showing how little we know about some aspects of our archaeological landscape.

Another module investigated mysterious Neolithic (5,000-year-old) rock art at Tortie, near Hallbankgate, while others focused on the Maiden Way Roman road near Alston and the 19th-century Little Engine House at Shildon near Blanchland. One of the most popular modules was the landscape survey at Holwick, Upper Teesdale, where volunteers recorded several prehistoric and medieval settlements along with ancient field systems and other features.

The AONB Partnership, working in consultation with the volunteers, has

submitted an application for an HLF Heritage Grant to work with numerous partners to run an expanded three-year Altogether Archaeology project which we hope will start later this year. This project has received a 'stage one pass' from the HLF, and a final decision is expected in June. In addition to the 400 volunteers who have registered during the pilot project, we hope many more will participate in the new project, should the necessary funding be secured.



In addition to its fieldwork modules, the Altogether Archaeology project ran many popular events, such as this guided walk around Whitley Castle © NPAP/Paul Frodsham

If you would like to register as an Altogether Archaeology volunteer with a view to participating in the new project from August this year (subject, of course, to the outcome of our HLF application), then please send an email with your name, address and a contact telephone number to Nic Cullens at the AONB office (nicola@northpenninesaonb.org.uk). We will then keep you up to date with news about the proposed new project.

Altogether Archaeology volunteers excavating the Maiden Way Roman road, near Alston © NPAP/Paul Frodsham





NATIONAL CLIMATE AWARD FOR PEAT PROGRAMME

The North Pennines AONB Partnership has won a top national award for the part it is playing in tackling the effects of climate change.

The Partnership's Peatland Programme won the category 'Best Initiative by a Local or Regional Body' in the Climate Week Awards announced in London in March.

The AONB Partnership has restored over 6,800 hectares of blanket bog in the North Pennines. Degraded peatlands account for about 10 per cent of the world's total annual carbon dioxide emissions. Peatland restoration is a simple and sustainable way of reducing global carbon dioxide emissions. The North Pennines AONB Partnership's current research effort is a National Peat Depth Survey which is pulling together existing data on peatland depth and carbon content and

developing a simple survey method that will allow a better understanding about how much carbon is stored in our peatlands.

Climate Week is a national campaign to inspire a new wave of action on climate change. Showcasing real, practical ways to combat climate change, the campaign aims to renew the desire to create a more sustainable, low-carbon future.

Paul Leadbitter, the AONB Partnership's Peatland Programme Manager, said: "It is a huge honour to have been chosen for this award from so many inspiring entries. Peatland restoration has long been overlooked as a cost-effective sustainable climate change mitigation technique and we're thrilled to be recognised for our work."

Matthew Shepherd, Senior Environmental Specialist – Soil Biodiversity from partners Natural



Taking peat core samples high up on moorland above Killhope © NPAP/Andy Lloyd

England said: "We're thrilled to have won this award with our partners at the North Pennines AONB Partnership – it really shows that the importance of our peatlands as valuable and vulnerable carbon stores is becoming recognised and appreciated, alongside their value for wildlife."

4 HURRAY FOR HAY!

The AONB Partnership has won an accolade for its work in improving the area's special upland hay meadows - and encouraging local volunteers and schoolchildren to learn about and look after them.

The AONB Partnership won the Natural Environment and Countryside Improvement Section of the County Durham Environment Awards 2011 for its Hay Time project. Hay Time was launched in 2006 and is supported by the County Durham Environment Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Action to restore meadows has focused on harvesting seed from flower-rich meadows and then spreading it on nearby fields. A hard-working team of volunteer botanists has been working with Partnership staff to monitor the impact of this work and around 570 children from 19 local primary schools have been involved in a wide range of hay meadow activities.



(L-r): Terry Collins, Chair of the Durham County Environment Partnership, the AONB Partnership's Rebecca Barrett, Ruth Starr-Kedde and Neil Diment, Maria Barrett and Coun Dennis Morgan, Chairman of Durham County Council

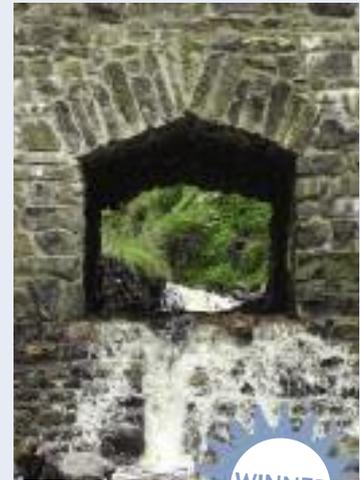
'PACKHORSE' BRIDGE PRIZE

Restorers of an ancient North Pennines bridge have won an award for the sensitive way the project has been carried out.

The centuries-old bridge which spans the Ricker Gill Burn near Hartside, Cumbria was once used by drovers and packhorses transporting goods the length and breadth of England.

Now people will be able to follow the trail of the packhorses and use the bridge once again, thanks to a grant of over £70,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and £25,000 from Cumbria County Council. The bridge was commended by the judges of the Institution of Civil Engineers' Historic Bridge and Infrastructure Awards.

Ricker Gill Bridge lies on one of the five routes that the AONB Partnership has developed as part of its Living North Pennines Packhorse Trails project (see page 14).



'WILDWATCHERS' RISE TO THE REPTILE CHALLENGE

Volunteers on the AONB Partnership's new wildlife project will be putting North Pennines reptiles right on the map when they start helping to record the area's lizards, adders and slow worms.

The North Pennines AONB Partnership's three-year WildWatch project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, attracted more than 120 people to launch events in Weardale in County Durham, Allendale in Northumberland and Melmerby in Cumbria, where audiences heard from some of the local wildlife experts helping with the project.

Project Co-ordinator Andy Lees said he was delighted with the interest shown in the new website created especially so that people could log their own wildlife sightings: "Even before the launch, more than 250 people had registered with WildWatch on the website and after only a month of the website going live, more than 500 new records for the North Pennines have been gathered."

To make sure that reports of sightings are accurate and to increase the amount of good

quality data, a series of free training courses will run in different parts of the AONB. Early courses include a bat survey, an introduction to invertebrate identification and identifying woodland birds by sight and sound.

Andy said that a priority for 2012 is to gather as much information as possible on reptiles: "Postcard survey forms are being distributed around the North Pennines to supplement records through the website, and we're hoping that this big push will help us get a really good idea of the important places for lizards, adders and slow worms in and around the AONB."

Next steps for the project might include carrying out a 'health check' on the North Pennines' adder populations by setting up annual counts for adders emerging from hibernation. As the project grows many more opportunities to get involved with wildlife and habitat

Join in

You can start recording wildlife by registering with WildWatch on our website, where you will also find useful information on wildlife identification, and all our latest training and survey information. Once registered you will receive regular updates about events, new training courses, survey opportunities and more. For even more regular news snippets, including some of the more interesting wildlife sightings and wildlife news, follow WildWatch on Facebook or Twitter.

www.northpennines.org.uk/WildWatch

 WildWatchNorthPennines

 @NorthPennWild

survey work will be developed, from botanical survey of important Local Wildlife Sites to regular butterfly or bat survey transects to occasional moth or small mammal trapping.

WildWatch North Pennines is open to anyone regardless of previous experience or knowledge. People can

start recording wildlife straight away by registering with WildWatch on the website, where there are also useful tips on identifying wildlife, and all the latest training and survey news.



Adder © Terry Coult



Common lizard
© www.northeastwildlife.co.uk



Slow worm © Terry Coult

KEEP INFORMED WITH OUR E-NEWSLETTER

Many readers have told us over the years how much they love to receive North Pennines News and enjoy reading about the work we and our many partners do to ensure the AONB remains a special place to live in, work in and visit. You will have read on page 2 that we're going to be publishing North Pennines News just once a year from now on.

But you needn't lose touch with us altogether during the colder months; if

you visit our website at www.northpennines.org.uk you can sign up to receive our regular e-newsletter, sent direct to your email inbox. Our website has recently been refreshed and is now much easier to navigate. It's packed with news about our projects, events, and volunteer activities as well as things to see and do in the North Pennines. We're also on Facebook and Twitter – details on page 2.



Why not sign up now – go to www.northpennines.org.uk and register by completing the e-newsletter box on the left of the screen.

TESTING TIMES FOR WALLING TRAINEES

Two more trainees will be learning the skills of the dry stone waller this summer as part of the AONB Partnership's four-year Heritage Landscape Skills project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Lee Hope of Gateshead and Dale Pattinson of Tow Law will be training with professional wallers in Weardale to take the Lantra- and Dry Stone Walling Association-accredited Level 2 test. The test demands that trainees understand all aspects of building a field wall – stripping out dilapidated walls, digging and laying foundations, building up the wall, packing with smaller stones (the hearting) and putting 'through stones' or 'thrufts' in place to 'tie' the two faces of the wall together. The wall is then finished off with top or 'cope' or 'cap' stones. This walling specification ensures properly built walls that should stand for at least 100 years.

Lesley Silvera, the AONB Partnership's Project Development Officer managing the scheme, said: "Since the 1890s and the crash of the North Pennine lead mining industry, the hills that once rang with the sounds of heavy industry saw many highly skilled rural workers including wallers leave the area for the cities where there was work.

"Dry stone walls have become an integral aspect of the North Pennines landscape, providing shelter for stock as well as creating structure in the uplands. We are working with



Lee Hope (left), from Gateshead, and Dale Pattinson (right), from Tow Law, are training with Peter Dent (centre) to become dry stone wallers on a 'Skills for the Future' training programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund © NPAP/Lesley Silvera

local wallers in a bid to sustain this rural craft with the hope that some trainees will stay on and work in the area."

For more details on dry stone walling, please contact Lesley on 01388 528801.

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SURVEY WORK IS JUST THE JOB

In addition to six dry stone walling trainees over the four years of the Heritage Landscape Skills project, two university graduates will be trained in conservation and land management. Alistair Lockett from Stockport in Cheshire is the first and here he gives a brief account of his experiences...

Ten months ago I upped sticks and moved to the North Pennines to start with the AONB Partnership as a trainee, grant-aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was a bit daunting starting somewhere new, and being called a 'southerner' in my first week didn't help settle the nerves! I was soon getting into my stride though - being out in the sunshine surveying hay meadows through the summer was fantastic. Measuring peat depth on the moors above Killhope in torrential rain was not so nice but worthwhile all the same.

Over the last 10 months the bulk of the work has been surveying, either hay meadows or on the moorland. I have also been involved in much of the other work that the Partnership does including interpretation, education and access work to name a few.

A big part of the traineeship was to work with some of the members of the AONB Partnership to gain a range of skills. Managing a river restoration project with the Wear Rivers Trust has been a fantastic experience and I still get involved in practical conservation whenever I can as a volunteer with the National Trust and the Durham Wildlife Trust.

I can't decide whether the highlight of the traineeship has been all of the learning or just having the North Pennines as the backdrop for my first job in conservation. The main aim of the traineeship was to give me the skills to continue my career in conservation, and the AONB Partnership has recently agreed to extend my traineeship for another year to enhance my skills in peatland conservation. This is an excellent



Graduate trainee Alistair Lockett works with the AONB Partnership's Hay Time Project Officer Ruth Starr-Keddle surveying the variety of plants in a Teesdale meadow © NPAP/Rebecca Barrett

opportunity and I am very excited to be working in the area for another 12 months.

SECURING A LEAFY FUTURE FOR THE AONB

Trees have played a vital role in Britain's landscape for thousands of years and the completion of a four-year AONB Partnership project will ensure they remain a feature of the North Pennines for generations to come.

Native woodlands consist of tree species that were present after the last ice age occurred, slowly spreading to Britain from southern Europe before the land bridge connecting Britain to mainland Europe was cut off, around 8,000 years ago. They're perfectly adapted to the environmental conditions found in Britain, and provide shelter and food for native wildlife.

In upland regions like the North Pennines, ash and wych elm dominated on the richer soils typically found around stream sides, rivers and valley bottoms, with oak and birch tolerating the thinner acidic soils of the fells.

Over the last 100 years many of the native woodlands in the North Pennines have become smaller and less sustainable; since 1919 many native woodlands have been felled and commercial conifer plantations established. Where woodlands had been grazed, natural regeneration often failed to establish, leaving only aged remnants of fragmented tree cover to show where woodlands once flourished.

In 2008 the AONB Partnership launched its Living North Pennines project. Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and SITA Trust, the Partnership was able to provide additional financial support and professional advice to anyone wanting to create new native woodland. This funding, together with available grants and financial support from the Forestry Commission and The Woodland Trust, has literally changed our view of the North Pennines landscape. The most ambitious scheme of the project is on MoD land at Warcop, Cumbria, where 166 hectares of native woodland has been planted in a mosaic of copses, wood pasture and woodland linking existing mature woodlands.



Future secured... native trees like this young birch will remain in the North Pennines landscape © NPAP/Lis Airey

A number of the woodlands have been strategically planted to create habitat for black grouse, a rare upland bird found on moorland margins. Eighty per cent of England's black grouse population lives in the North Pennines. Recent severe winters have decimated the breeding population, but research shows that scrubby upland woodlands can reduce winter mortality due to the food and shelter they provide.

For the past four years the AONB Partnership's Woodland Officer Lis Airey has worked with landowners, farmers, communities and schools. Out of 52 sites that were assessed as potential new woodland sites, 31 sites have been planted, making new native woodlands a reality. With 282 hectares of woodland created and 28 hectares of conifer plantation restructured (felled, or part-felled, and replanted with native broadleaved species), it all adds up to 339,900 trees planted!

Enthusiastic volunteers have helped to plant trees on 13 of the sites, spanning all three counties of the AONB, where every tree will make a difference!

WILDLIFE FAN HAS DESIGNS ON ANCIENT WOODLAND

A precious fragment of ancient woodland in the North Pennines is set to be rescued by an enthusiast inspired by wildlife.

Noelle Wright, who runs her own graphic design business in Newcastle upon Tyne, bought four-hectare Chapel House Wood near Allendale, Northumberland, six-years ago. But now the woodland desperately needs some tender loving care. Native trees like oaks are being shaded out by faster growing foliage, rye grass blown in from nearby fields is overwhelming wild flowers and general under-management following major timber felling in the 1990s has left the wood a

shadow of its former self.

The AONB Partnership teamed up with the Forestry Commission to work with Noelle to reinvigorate the wood by removing non-native sycamore, replanting other tree species and controlling the rye grass.

Noelle Wright said: "It's the wildlife that motivates me and the chance to create a better habitat. Woodcock and tawny owls live in the wood and green woodpecker and cuckoo are summer visitors. This place is more than a possession – it's a passion. With oak, ash and juniper, there are some lovely trees to work with and this is about giving nature a sporting chance."



Noelle Wright enjoying a walk in the reinvigorated Chapel House Wood

NORTH PENNINES AONB EVENTS PROGRAMME 2012

Book your place on an event at www.northpennines.org.uk/Events or telephone 01388 528801

Event bookings For the first time this year you can book events online at www.northpennines.org.uk – simply click on Events in the sidebar and choose the event you'd like to book on the electronic calendar. Follow the prompts to complete the secure electronic booking form and confirm your places. Any cheques in payment of events should be made out to 'Friends of the North Pennines'. You can still contact the AONB Partnership office in the normal way to make bookings on 01388 528801.

Most events are advance booking only  to ensure enjoyment and safety for each group – leaders will not accept you without a booking. Please only book on events when you fully mean to attend; you may prevent someone else taking part if you don't turn up. And if you need to cancel – let us know! Please note that dogs are not allowed on any of our events.

Public transport At the time of printing North Pennines News events with the symbol  are on public transport routes. You

can get up-to-date travel information from www.travelinenortheast.info or by contacting 0871 2002233.

Walk grades

- **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

Families/age guide

Events specifically designed for families are marked with the  symbol. You find further information on age suitability next to the  symbol. If in doubt, please ring the AONB Partnership on (01388) 528801.

Sat 28 April 7.30pm–9.30pm



Batty about bats

Join us and the bats for a moonlight walk along the River Tees. There will be a short presentation tackling the myths and misconceptions about bats and then a short walk to do some bat detection! Don't forget to bring a torch.



Venue and start: Newbiggin Village Hall NY914266

Distance/duration/grade: 1m (2km)/2hrs/moderate as it will be dark

Cost: £3

Tue 29 May 7pm–9pm



Minerals of the North Pennines

An illustrated talk about the fabulous range of minerals found in the North Pennines AONB. Local geologist Brian Young will show you some stunning images of the minerals that the lead industry was built on. Includes coffee and cakes. No need to book – just turn up.

Venue: High Forest Community Centre, Sinderhope, Allendale NY846521

Cost: £3

Sat 12 May 10am–4pm



Walling taster day

An opportunity to try your hand at dry stone walling with Peter Moorhead of the Dry Stone Walling Association. You will need to be physically fit and prepared for a rigorous day of lifting stone and digging foundations. Work gloves and clothes required.



Venue: Allendale Golf Course NY845536

Cost: £45

Sat 26 and Sun 27 May



Allendale rocky weekend

Saturday: Bus transport to Allenheds and walk back to Allendale (moderate, 9 miles) with AONB Partnership geologist Elizabeth Pickett. **Saturday evening:** Meal at Allendale Forge Studios and talk on local lead mining by Ian Forbes, former Director of Killhope Lead Mining Museum.

Sunday: Circular walk from Allendale (easy to moderate, 4-6 miles) with local geologist Brian Young. Full details, including times and locations, will be provided after booking.

Cost: £45 – includes two walks, Sat morning bus from Allendale to Allenheds, Sat evening meal and talk, but does not include packed lunches, overnight accommodation or breakfasts



Sat 2 June 10am–4pm



Explore the Nent Valley

Explore the way the different rocks of this high North Pennine valley have created its scenery. Geologist Brian Young will talk about the many and varied minerals, some rare, that have been dug from the hills and see how everything from the shape of the fields and houses and even the colourful flowers along the way, depend on the underlying rocks.

Start: Nenthead Mines Car Park NY781436

Cost: £7.50 (includes bus to start of walk)

Distance/duration/grade: 6.5m (10km)/5.5hrs/hard



Thur 7 June 10am–4pm



Geltsdale Reserve rocks

Explore the north-west corner of the North Pennines in this walk across the fells of the RSPB Geltsdale Reserve. Find out about the local geology and discover evidence of an industrial past.

Start: Car park at Clesketts (at end of track to Tindale Tarn) NY588584

Cost: £3

Distance/duration/grade: 7m (11km)/6hrs/moderate



KEY  Guided walk
 Art/craft activity

 Family-friendly
 Minimum age

 Study workshop
 Take outdoor clothing

 Strong footwear
 Take a packed lunch

Sun 10 June 10.30am–4pm



At the head of the Tyne

Find out how warm seas and huge rivers millions of years ago created the rocks and landscape we see today. Along the way geologist Brian Young will show you how to read the evidence of this long and fascinating history from the shape of the hills and the valleys around you.

Start: Garrigill Village Centre NY744415
Distance/duration/grade: 9m (15km)/5.5hrs/hard
Cost: £3



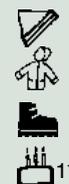
Sat 14 July 10am–4pm



Out of bounds – Little Fell

Little Fell is one of the English hills over 2000ft which you can't usually climb up as it's in the restricted area on the MoD-controlled Warcop Training Area. This is your chance!

Start: Murton Car Park NY736208
Distance/duration/grade: 10m (16km)/6hrs/hard
Cost: £3



Sat 16 June 2pm–5pm



Hay time tea and tales

Get close to the traditional wild flower meadows of Upper Teesdale and meet a 'meadowkeeper' – interpreter Neil Diment – to hear about the work going on to look after these rare and special sites over a delicious hay time tea.

Start: Bowlees Car Park NY908283
Distance/duration/grade: 3m (5km)/3hrs/easy
Cost: £7.50



Sat 23 June 10am–4pm



Walling taster day

An opportunity to try your hand at dry stone walling with Peter Moorhead of the Dry Stone Walling Association. You will need to be physically fit and prepared for a rigorous day of lifting stone and digging foundations. Work gloves and clothes required.

Venue: Killhope Lead Mining Museum NY845536
Cost: £45



Sun 24 June 2pm–5pm



Meadow magic, memories and management

Your chance to get up close to hay time past and present! Explore some of the best flower-rich meadows in the East Allen Valley with wildlife aplenty – and meet a 'meadowkeeper' – interpreter Neil Diment – to hear about the work going on to look after these rare and special sites.

Start: Allendale Village Square NY838559
Distance/duration/grade: 3m (5km)/3hrs/easy
Cost: £3



Sat 30 June 2pm–6pm



10,000 years in Holwick

Join archaeologists Paul Frodsham (AONB Partnership) and Jamie Quatermaine (Oxford Archaeology North) for an afternoon's exploration of the extraordinary archaeological landscape around Holwick, including examination of prehistoric and medieval settlements. Also, find out how you can join in with archaeological research in the area.

Start: Bowlees Car Park NY908283
Distance/duration/grade: 3m (5km)/4hrs/moderate
Cost: £3



Book your place on an event:
www.northpennines.org.uk/Events
or telephone 01388 528801

Profits from these events will support the work of the Friends of the North Pennines (registered charity number 1137467) www.friendsofthenorthpennines.org.uk

Sun 5 August 10.30am–4pm



Slitt Wood: a North Pennine valley

Join geologist Brian Young for a great walk through 320 million years of geological time exploring how the rocks under your feet were formed and the way they make the valley look the way it is today. Find out how the rocks influence the valley's wildlife and hear about some of the mineral treasures that have been dug from within them.

Start: Car park on north side of A689, west of Westgate NY906381
Distance/duration/grade: 6.5m (10km)/5.5hrs/medium
Cost: £3



Sun 19 August 2pm–6pm



Romans across the hills

Join Archaeologists Paul Frodsham (AONB Partnership) and Dave Went (English Heritage) for an afternoon exploration of the extraordinary archaeological landscape around Whitley Castle Roman Fort, and find out how you can join in archaeological research in the area.

Start: Castle Nook Farm, 2 miles NW of Alston on A689 NY695490
Distance/duration/grade: 3m (5km)/4hrs/moderate
Cost: £3



Sat 8 and Sun 9 September



Bowlees rocky weekend

Saturday: Bus from Bowlees to Cow Green and walk back (moderate to hard, 10 miles, including a steep, rocky descent at Cauldron Snout) with AONB Partnership geologist Elizabeth Pickett. **Saturday evening:** Meal at Bowlees and talk by AONB Partnership archaeologist Paul Frodsham. **Sunday:** Circular walk (easy to moderate, 4 miles) from Bowlees (in the footsteps of Teesdale lead miner-poet Richard Watson) with interpreter Neil Diment. Full details of events, including times and locations, will be provided after booking.

Cost: £45 – includes two walks, Sat morning bus transport from Bowlees to Cow Green, Sat eve meal and talk, but does not include packed lunches, overnight accommodation or breakfasts



Starts on public transport route

Illustrated talk

Booking essential on northpennines.org.uk/Events or 01388 528801 during normal office hours

Sat 15 September 10am–4pm



Cow Green to Milburn

A linear walk between Cow Green and Milburn in Cumbria including Cross Fell and the North Pennines escarpment, where Dr Iain Boulton unearths the history, mining and use of barium and its minerals, along with a exploration of its connections between oil drilling, explosives, nuclear reactors and having most healthy bowels! Includes bus travel from Milburn to the start of the walk at Cow Green.

Start: Milburn Village Hall NY655293

Distance/duration/grade: 8m (12km)/6hrs/hard

Cost: £7.50 – includes coach from Milburn to start of the walk



Fri 28 September 10am–5pm



North Pennines wool day

A day-long celebration of all things wool organised by the North Pennines Wool Group at St Johns Chapel in Upper Weardale with demonstrations, hands-on activities, displays, trade stands, teas and coffees (and a variety of sheep breeds) from the North Pennines area.

Venue: St John's Chapel Town Hall, St John's Chapel NY885379

Cost: £2 (supports the work of the Wool Group) No need to book – just turn up and pay on the door!



Sat 6 and Sun 7 October



Dufton rocky weekend

Saturday: Circular walk (fairly hard 10-mile hill walk) from Dufton, up Great Rundale and down past High Cup Gill, with AONB Partnership geologist Elizabeth Pickett. **Saturday evening:** Meal at High Cup Winery and talk by invited speaker (tbc). **Sunday:** Circular walk (easy to moderate, 4-6 miles) from Dufton with freelance countryside ranger David Nightingale. Full details of events, including times and locations, will be provided after booking.

Cost: £45 – includes two walks, Sat evening meal and talk, but does not include packed lunches, overnight accommodation or breakfasts



Thur 11 October 10am–4.30pm



Rocks and railways in the South Tyne Valley

This walk is part of the Haltwhistle Autumn Walking Festival and will explore part of the lovely South Tyne Valley. The AONB Partnership's Geodiversity Officer Elizabeth Pickett will show how geology shapes the landscape and discover relics of an industrial past.

Start: Coanwood car park NY679595

Distance/duration/grade: 8.5m (13.5km)/6.5hrs/moderate-hard

Bookings: Further details, including cost and how to book, will be available in August on haltwhistlewalkingfestival.org – this walk is not bookable through the North Pennines AONB Partnership



Thur 18 October 7pm–9.30pm



Time matters

Exploring the link between peatlands, time and the universe itself, with an evening of night sky wonders from local astronomer Graham Relf and Pete Edwards from Durham University. If the weather permits there will be a chance to watch the stars afterwards. Bring binoculars, telescopes and warm clothes.

Venue: St John's Chapel Town Hall, St John's Chapel NY885379

Cost: £3

Distance/duration/grade: mostly seated/0.5km/2.5hrs/easy



ALLEN VALLEYS BID

If all goes well there could be a huge injection of new resources into the Allen Valleys. The AONB Partnership has submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme initiative for a £2.5 million programme of work on nature conservation, historic building restoration, education, tourism and energy efficiency projects. The proposals have been submitted with the enthusiastic support of local community groups, the Parish Council and Allendale Estates.

Examples of work in the project include peatland and hay meadow restoration, a grant scheme for energy efficiency measures in heritage buildings, the provision of electric bike hire and charging points and plenty of opportunities for local people and visitors to get involved in supporting their local environment and economy.

Jon Charlton, Programme Development Manager with the AONB Partnership, and manager of the team's previous Landscape Partnership Scheme, Living North Pennines said: "We think this project has some really strong links between nature conservation, tourism, and local communities. The competition will be very strong but we hope that in July we'll be able to celebrate a 'stage one' approval from HLF that will give us another 12 months to work the project up in fine detail."

A BRIGHT FUTURE ON THE HORIZON FOR BOWLEES

The North Pennines AONB Partnership is working closely with Durham County Council and The Raby Estate to ensure that Bowlees Visitor Centre re-opens in 2012. Jon Charlton, Programme Development Manager who is leading the project for the AONB Partnership said: "We see Bowlees Visitor Centre as playing a key role in letting people know how special this part of the North Pennines is and what it has on offer. We're incorporating some of the latest digital technology into our refurbishment which will include a window mounted touch screen that will inform visitors of local services, places to visit and things to do in Upper Teesdale and beyond".

Plans for the building include an enlarged first floor, an extended food preparation and serving area and improvements to the existing interpretation. Outside, the building will have new toilets a newly resurfaced level terrace and, for the first time, designated disabled parking adjacent to the building. Once opened the centre will create several new jobs. "This is a tremendously busy site to which we know many local people are regular visitors and we will be trying our best to have it open before the end of the summer season," said Jon. The North Pennines AONB Partnership will be looking for a local catering business to help make a success of the newly refurbished centre; if you are interested in finding out more information then please contact Jon on 01388 528801.

STRENGTH IN TIES

The AONB Partnership has joined forces with Nidderdale AONB, Northumberland National Park and the Yorkshire Dales National Park to take an innovative approach to a new Government initiative called Local Nature Partnerships (LNP). The idea of LNPs draws on John Lawton's influential report 'Making Space for Nature', which strongly influenced the 2011 Natural Environment White Paper. This report highlighted the urgent need to increase the resilience of our natural environment by linking fragmented habitats at a whole landscape scale. Whilst this has been the focus of the four Protected Landscape bodies for some time, the LNP process provides new impetus to link this work at an even bigger scale across the northern uplands.

The LNP will be a strategic body that (based on consultations to date) is likely to focus on accessing more resources for conservation, influencing the thinking of other bodies at a strategic level, developing large-scale joint initiatives across the whole area and improving research and monitoring. It doesn't replace the local bodies that do things on the ground, but it should make their operations better-resourced and more joined-up.

At the time of North Pennines News going to press, the partners are still working with others to define the structure of the LNP, to ensure that there will be close working with neighbouring LNPs in other parts of County Durham, Northumberland, Cumbria and North Yorkshire, and to begin to draft an action plan. All of the proposed LNPs will be making their submissions to Defra in late spring.

New ideas for big joint projects have already emerged, but the ultimate test of the LNP's success will of course be whether it really creates benefits for nature conservation at a local level through supporting the existing bodies to do more, and do things even better. The involvement of a range of interests, including business people, farmer/landmanagers and those from the tourism industry will be crucial to the LNP's success.

FRIENDS CONTINUE TO GROW

With more than 100 members already, the Friends of The North Pennines has made some excellent progress in its first year of existence and has some exciting prospects (including the Dukesfield Arches project below) ahead.

As well as developing projects the Friends are working on a programme of events for members, details of which will be available on the Friends' website friendsofthenorthpennines.org.uk

The first event saw around 30 people gathered on a glorious autumn afternoon in Weardale for a tour of abandoned farmsteads between Stanhope and Eastgate. The walk, led by local architectural historian and Friends member, Martin Roberts, began by the remains of East and West Bewdley



Farms on the Stanhope to Rookhope road in Weardale and encompassed several strangely-named abandoned farmsteads and locations including Spains Field, Thrush Nest and Lark's or Laverock's Seat. Along the way, Martin imparted fascinating details about the previous inhabitants of the farms and how the patterns of ownership had changed over the years.

Founder life member and volunteer events co-ordinator, Colin Hardy, will be working hard during the spring to arrange the programme. If you would like to know more about the Friends of the North Pennines, or have an idea for an event that you feel might be of interest to members, then please contact Colin and the trustees on fotnp@hotmail.co.uk.

DUKESFIELD SMELTERS AND CARRIERS

Greg Finch, of the Friends of the North Pennines, describes one of the charity's latest projects

At the northern edge of the AONB, beside the Devil's Water in Hexhamshire lie two large and graceful stone and brick gothic-style arches, the only visible remains of the Dukesfield lead smelting mill which was one of the largest in the region during the 18th century. Now obscured by vegetation and with the masonry showing signs of deterioration, they are ripe for conservation.

The local community, led by Hexhamshire Parish Council, came to the Friends of the North Pennines with



Dukesfield Lead Smelt Mill arches in woodland by the Devil's Water, Hexhamshire

plans for a project to reveal, preserve and celebrate the area's lead industry heritage. This is centred on the physical remains of the mill site, but also takes in the lead ways which connected the mines of the high Pennine dales, through Dukesfield mill and onwards to the markets of Tyneside, and also the life and work of the carriers as well as the smelters.

With the involvement of Slaley Parish Council, we have submitted an initial Heritage Grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which, if successful, will allow us to start an 18-month project next spring. Our ideas include documentary and archaeological research (the latter we hope in conjunction with the AONB Partnership's Altogether Archaeology programme), a digital animation of the smelt mill at work, a host of community interpretation events, as well as physical conservation and improved access to the site. If we are able to carry this through we believe Dukesfield will make a great addition to the network of lead industry heritage sites in the North Pennines.

JOIN US ON A PENNINE JOURNEY

By Mike Ogden of Durham County Council and Chair of the AONB Partnership's Access and Recreation Working Group

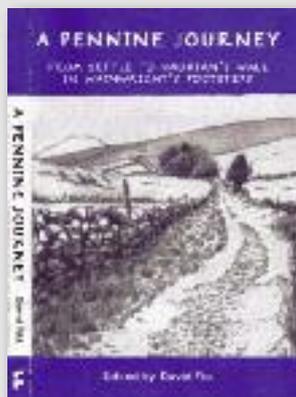
In September 1938, Alfred Wainwright made a solitary walk through the Pennines, and then wrote an account of his trip which remained in a desk drawer until 1986. Over those intervening years he became one of the best-loved authors of walking guidebooks, particularly for the Lake District.

Long-distance walker David Pitt has now recreated the route for the modern public rights of way and road network and a new guidebook was published in 2010 (£13.99, published by Frances Lincoln Limited).

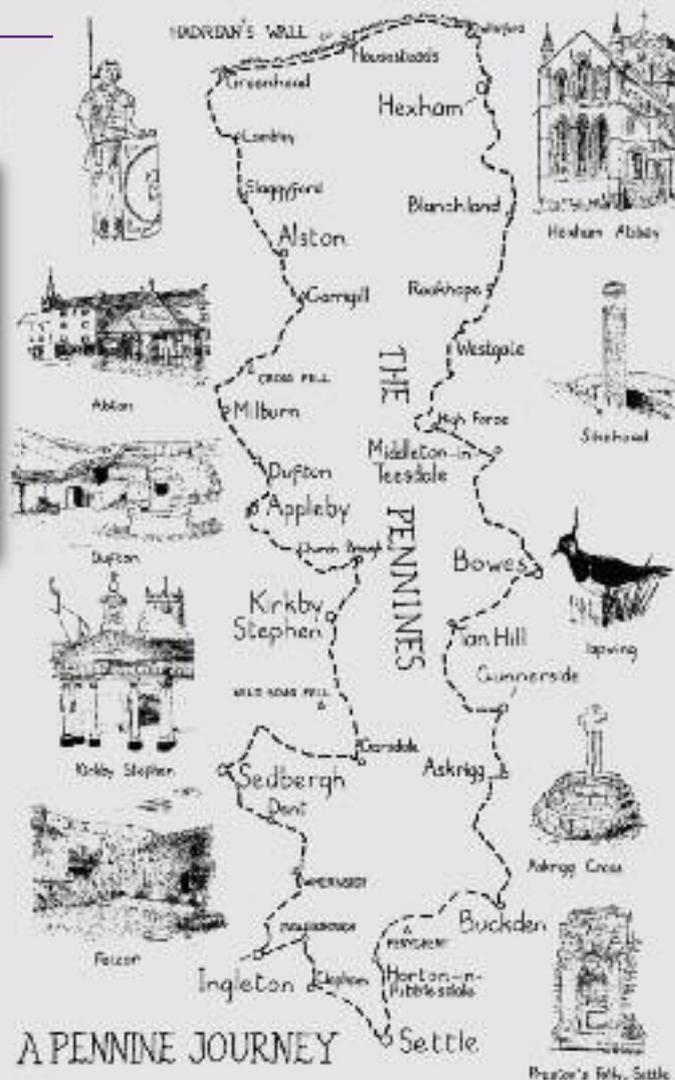
The route is 247 miles long, and takes the form of a large circuit from Settle in the Yorkshire Dales to Hadrian's Wall and back. Approximately 110 of those miles are within the North Pennines AONB, with the northbound route from Tan Hill to Slaley Forest and the southbound from Lambley to Kirkby Stephen.

The Wainwright name is sure to attract some new visitors to the area, and with a route that includes parts of the Pennine Way, the Weardale Way, the C2C Cycle Route and the South Tyne Trail it showcases many of the highlights of the North Pennines, such as Bowes Castle, Low Force, High Force, Blanchland, Lambley Viaduct, Alston, Cross Fell, Dufton, High Cup Nick and Kirkby Stephen. The route includes wild moorland sections and riverside walks, and explores the lead mining heritage of the area. The benefits to sustainable tourism are obvious, and can only help in the economic survival of a number of towns and villages. There will be some people who will do the whole route as a continuous journey, and they will need overnight accommodation, food, drink and other supplies; other people prefer to do such long-distance walks as a series of shorter routes, enabling them to get to know an area better, and hopefully spending more money in the process!

David Pitt has worked closely with the three Highway Authorities in the North Pennines AONB, resolving issues such as specific waymarking, and has reported regularly to the AONB Partnership's Access and Recreation Working Group. The support and advice given by the Working Group is helping David to develop such things



Wainwright's Pennine Journey of 1938... with illustrations by Colin Bywater and route maps by Ron Scholes



as an accommodation guide for A Pennine Journey, and there is a great opportunity for businesses offering accommodation, particularly bed and breakfast or campsites, to get their details to a potential new market. Full details of the route and how to register a business can be found at www.penninejourney.org.uk, along with an order form for the book and lots of useful information.

David has already recruited a group of volunteers to keep an eye on the whole route, and the Pennine Journey Supporters' Club is being established. There is scope for more exciting developments, including some physical improvements to gates and stiles along the route, and potential links with the Friends of the North Pennines, so a journey that began in 1938 is not yet complete!



Colourful floral displays in Blanchland, Northumberland © NPAP/Shane Harris. Low Force, Teesdale © NPAP/Simon Wilson. Alston, Cumbria © Judith Mashiter

RESERVE CELEBRATES ITS VERY OWN DIAMOND JUBILEE

By Heather McCarty of Natural England

It may be a little less well-known than one particular diamond jubilee being celebrated this year, but 2012 is also the 60th anniversary of the declaration of Moor House National Nature Reserve (NNR) – and a series of events throughout the summer will mark the occasion.

Shortly after the end of the Second World War, the Nature Conservancy was empowered to establish, maintain and manage nature reserves under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. This led to the declaration, in 1952, of the first seven English National Nature Reserves, and Moor House NNR was one of these.

Moor House was purchased as a study area for moorland ecology and management, for £5,000, by the Nature Conservancy at an auction following the break-up of the Appleby Estate. It takes its name from the remote Victorian shooting lodge high above the infant River Tees. It has been described as a 'barren sweep of moorland and bog, enlivened only by streams and broken crags'; however evidence of human use is apparent in the remains of lead and barytes mines scattered across the area. The reserve is 3,895 hectares, the eastern two-thirds being blanket bog dissected by burns or sikes, and the west a series of windswept summits. The National Air Traffic Systems radar station stands on Great Dun Fell, and dominates the skyline from many directions.

The reserve boasted England's highest occupied house and the



Cow Green Reservoir © Natural England/Charlie Hedley

earliest upland weather station. Gordon Manley had used the weather station in the 1930s to undertake the first scientific investigation of the climate of Britain's uplands. This revealed that the climate at Moor House is similar to Iceland – almost perpetually cold and windswept, with deep frozen winters and dull, wet summers. It is probably the harshest climate in England.

The house was converted into laboratories and accommodation for staff and visiting scientists and became a hub of activity. More than 400 scientific papers were published about the reserve up to 1993, making it one of the most thoroughly studied moorland reserves in the world! It is now one of the 'lead sites' for the Environmental Change Network to study the effects of climate change and air pollution.

The house was closed down in 1980, due to the extremely high costs of maintenance and improved access by 4-wheel drive

vehicles. When the building became unsafe it was demolished. The scientific work continues though, with projects being run by The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology at Lancaster University, Aberdeen, Durham, Leeds, Manchester, Portsmouth and UCL Universities among others.

In 1999 Moor House NNR and Upper Teesdale NNR were amalgamated and are now administered as one National Nature Reserve from the reserve base in Upper Teesdale.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, Natural England (successor to the Nature Conservancy) is holding a series of events on the reserve, including an exhibition in Garrigill Village Hall on Saturday 19 May, to which all are welcome.

The spring gentian... thrives in the upland climate © NPAP/Elizabeth Pickett



George Manley's climate data weather station in the 1930s

For events details visit naturalengland.org.uk/moorhouseupperteesdaleNNR or pick up a leaflet from local Tourist Information Centres

SPEND A ROCKY WEEKEND IN THE NORTH PENNINES

New for 2012, the AONB Partnership is running three 'Rocky weekends' to help you discover the secrets of the North Pennine landscape. Based at different locations, each weekend will comprise a 10-mile walk on the Saturday with AONB Partnership geologist, Elizabeth Pickett, followed by an evening meal and talk. A five- to six-mile walk on the Sunday rounds off the weekend. Exact details have yet to be confirmed but Saturday's walk will run from about 9am to 5pm and Sunday's will start about 10am and finish by 4pm. Here's a flavour to whet your appetite!

In Allendale (26 and 27 May) you'll explore the geology and landscape of the East Allen Valley. Discover the area's mining heritage on a Saturday walk from Allenheads to Allendale, followed by a talk by Ian Forbes, former Director of Killhope Lead Mining Museum. On Sunday enjoy a circular route from Allendale with local geologist Brian Young.

At Bowlees, in Teesdale (8 and 9 Sept), walk from Cow Green to Bowlees, past the waterfalls of Cauldron Snout, High Force and Low Force. On Saturday evening, AONB Partnership archaeologist Paul Frodsham will talk about discoveries at nearby Holwick, and on Sunday follow in the footsteps of Teesdale lead miner and poet, Richard Watson, with interpreter and local expert Neil Diment.

From Dufton (6 and 7 Oct) you'll ascend the Pennine escarpment via Great Rundale, and descend past the spectacular High Cup Gill. On Saturday evening enjoy a talk (speaker tbc) at High Cup Winery and on Sunday join freelance countryside ranger David Nightingale for a gentle



The Whin Sill at Cauldron Snout © NPAP/Chris Woodley-Stewart

exploration of the countryside round Dufton.

The weekends cost £45 each and booking is through the AONB Partnership (see the Events Programme on pages 8 and 9 for more details and how to book). Packed lunches, overnight accommodation and breakfasts are not included.

ON THE PACKHORSE TRAILS

Mountain bikers and horse riders looking for great ways to explore the spectacular North Pennines are in for a treat on these five new trails, based on 18th-century packhorse routes.

The guides – one for horse riders and one for mountain bikers – include five waterproof route cards. A companion booklet identifies: route basics; places to eat and drink; information on what makes the North Pennines so fantastic; points of interest on the routes; cycle hire and repair/livery, stabling and horse riding (depending on guide); and GPS waypoints.

- Alston – a stunning 29 km (18 miles, 30% off-road) gently undulating circular ride through the Nent and South Tyne Valleys.
- Baldersdale – travel 18 km (11 miles, 60% off-road) along Baldersdale, with woodland, moorland and a

superb stretch along Hury and Blackton Reservoirs.

- Blanchland – a 21 km (13 miles, 70% off-road) ride high up and over the moors above the beautiful Derwent Valley.
- Hamsterley – enjoy a 26 km (16 miles, 75% off-road) tour of spectacular open moorland, before dropping down to Eggleston and returning to the forest.



- Hartside – a challenging 11 km (7 miles, 75% off-road) of steep climbs and descents starting at the Hartside Café.

Get your guide!

- Mountain bike or horse riding – £7.50 inc p&p (£4.50 for Friends of the North Pennines)
- Special offer for 2012 - Buy the 'Packhorse Trails – for mountain bikers' guide together with the 'Wheels to the Wild Cycle Route Guide' for £9.80 inc p&p – saving almost £4
- For 2012 the Wheels to the Wild Cycle Route guide (which includes three challenging day rides suitable for mountain bike and hybrids), is available at the specially discounted price of £2 (reduced from £5).
- Cheques should be made payable to 'Friends of the North Pennines' and sent to 'Packhorse Trails Offer' at the North Pennines AONB Partnership's office (see page 2 for address details).

500 MILLION YEARS IN 50 PAGES

Discover the remarkable story of the North Pennine landscape in the AONB Partnership's latest book, 'Reading the Rocks: exploring the geology and landscape of the North Pennines'.

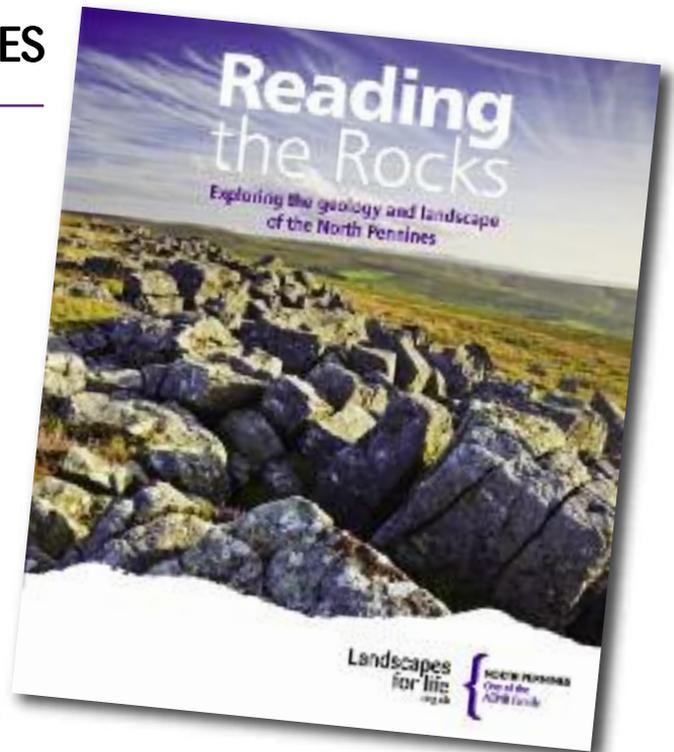
The book explains how the rocks reveal dramatic evidence of a deep ocean and violent volcanoes, colliding continents and molten rock, tropical seas and lush rainforests, hot water and minerals, desert dunes and vast ice sheets. And in the last few thousand years – just the blink of an eye in geological terms – North Pennine people have further shaped the landscape with settlements, mines, quarries and farms.

The AONB Partnership's Geodiversity Officer, and author of Reading the Rocks, Elizabeth Pickett said: "The area's fells and dales, and the rocks, minerals and fossils of which they are made, tell a fascinating story – of how the North Pennines has travelled over the surface of the globe and experienced many different environments and climates."

Reading the Rocks is priced at £8 (£4 for Friends of the North Pennines members) and is available in local bookshops, visitor attractions and tourist information centres.

The book has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England and the charity 'Friends of the North Pennines'. Proceeds from the book will help support the Friends of the North Pennines.

To order copies by post, send a cheque (made payable to Friends of the North Pennines) for the book or books (plus postage and packing of £1.80 for one book, £2.35 for two or



three) to the North Pennines AONB Partnership address on page 2. Please include a note with your payment giving your postal address, your home phone number and/or an email address. If you have any queries, please phone the North Pennines AONB Partnership Office on 01388 528801.

You can see all the North Pennines AONB Partnership's publications at www.northpennines.org.uk – click on Publications in the side bar.

HIKE ROUND THE PIKE!

Nearly 500 million years of Earth history comes to life on this lovely 3¼-mile circular walk round Dufton Pike. The latest in the AONB Partnership's series of geotrails is based at the foot of the dramatic Pennine escarpment and follows a circular route into the hills, starting and finishing in the village of Dufton.

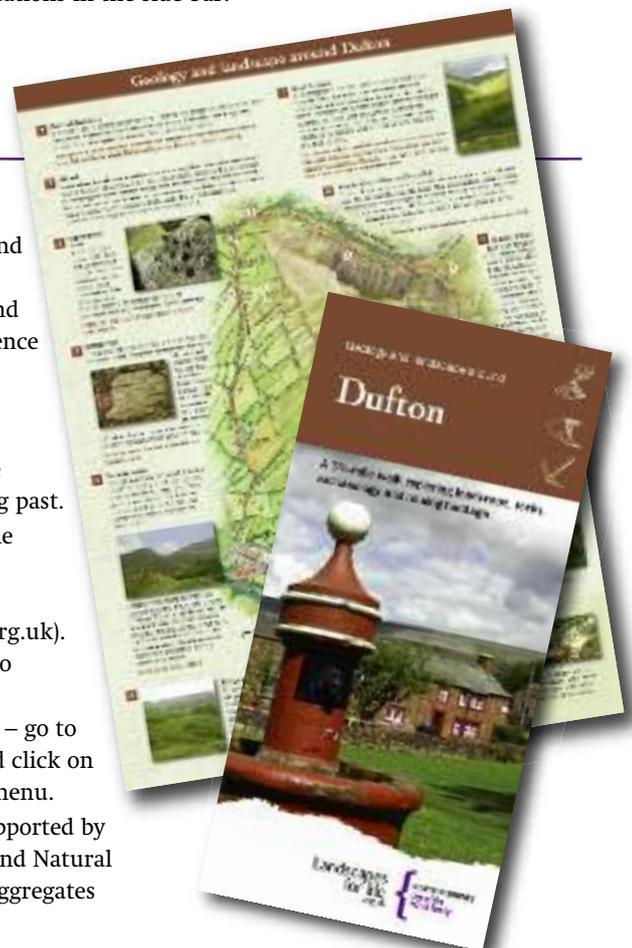
On the walk you'll discover that the local red building stone formed from desert sands, and that Dufton Pike is made of ash erupted out of long-vanished volcanoes. Look up the sweeping valley of Great Rundale to limestone crags where lead ore and barytes were once mined, and find the 'Dufton Microgranite' in a dry stone wall.

This distinctive landscape of 'pikes' and gills has been shaped over millions of years by movements along cracks, or faults, in the Earth's crust.

In the more recent geological past, ice sheets and glacial meltwater have further sculpted the hills and valleys. You'll also see evidence of human influence on the landscape, from an ancient 'cup-marked' stone to old farmsteads and relics of the area's mining and quarrying past.

The free leaflet is available from the AONB Partnership (01388 528801 or info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk). It is also available as a pdf to download from www.northpennines.org.uk – go to the Publications section and click on Geology in the drop-down menu.

This geotrail has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Natural England (through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund).



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.

ACCESS ALL AREAS AT DERWENT

A new easy-access path, suitable for walkers, cyclists, wheelchair users and pushchairs, at the Derwent Reservoir in County Durham and Northumberland means more people will be able to explore the North Pennines this summer. The new route – created by the North Pennines AONB Partnership and Northumbrian Water Ltd – runs for around two miles along the northern shore of the reservoir, starting from the Millshields Car Park (the car park is open March to October and closed for winter) and joining a similar south shore path over the dam to Pow Hill. The route is one of three easy-access paths in the area, including the south shore path and a circular walk in Blanchland. All three were created under the AONB Partnership's Heritage Lottery-funded Living North Pennines Project.

Jon Charlton, who managed the project for the AONB Partnership said: "The terrain of the North Pennines can be a barrier to those people who require easier access to the countryside. We have used a natural crushed stone surface that should provide a clear route for all and have included a number of seats for people to sit and soak up the tranquillity of the Derwent Valley. The route will be looked after by



Cyclists enjoy the improved track around Derwent Reservoir © Ted Little

Northumbrian Water Rangers, who do a great job of providing a warm welcome to visitors."

In addition to the improved access, new woodlands and wildlife habitats have been created and interpretation installed so that visitors can learn about the history of the reservoir and the animals, birds and insects it supports.

GOLD AWARD FOR OFFICE

The North Pennines AONB Partnership Staff Unit has again won a Gold Award for the sustainable operation of its premises in the Old Co-op building in Stanhope.

The Green Tourism Business Scheme recognises businesses that are run in an environmentally sustainable way, in respect of energy consumption, waste recycling and raising awareness of environmental issues. The GTBS report praised staff for their commitment to sustainable working, saying: "The team takes a creative and progressive approach, continuously developing sustainable ideas for the benefit of the community and the environment."

Fiona Knox, the AONB Partnership Staff Unit's Green Coordinator said: "We all try to be 'green' in everything we do. We're delighted to have again reached the 'gold standard'.

ON THE MAP

A new free leaflet giving visitor information on attractions, places to stay, things to do and where to shop, really puts Weardale on the tourism map.

Discover Weardale has been published by the Weardale Visitor Network with support from the Weardale Area Action Partnership and is packed with information on travel, outdoor activities and all types of accommodation for visitors to the area. It also includes a map of Weardale which shows useful facilities for visitors such as places of interest, public toilets and long-distance cycle and walking routes. The leaflet is available from the Durham Dales Centre in Stanhope and other outlets. You can also download a pdf version from our website at www.northpennines.org.uk/Pages/Weardale.aspx