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North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of the finest landscapes in the country. It was designated in 1988 and at almost 2,000 sq. kilometres is the second largest of the 40 AONBs and is one of the most peaceful and unspoilt places in England. It is nationally and internationally important for its upland habitats, geology and wildlife, with much of the area being internationally designated. The North Pennines AONB became Britain's first European Geopark in 2003 in recognition of its internationally important geology and local efforts to use it to support sustainable development. A year later it became a founding member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

For more information about the AONB, call 01388 528801 or visit www.northpennines.org.uk.

Public Transport

Bus services 73, 95 and 96 serve the Mid Teesdale area. For route and timetable information contact Traveline on 0870 608 2 608, or at www.traveline.org.uk.



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Mid Teesdale sits between the two market towns of Middleton and Barnard Castle. The area is defined by the communities which form the Mid Teesdale Project Partnership (Romaldkirk, Cotherstone, Mickleton, Lartington, Eggleston, Hunderthwaite, Lunedale). The River Tees meanders its way through this beautiful valley, which is surrounded by the high moorland of the North Pennines. The area has a wealth of history and nature waiting to be explored, with attractive villages from which to base your visit.

This leaflet will help you to discover the area and its main settlements at a leisurely pace, with routes for walking, cycling and horse riding.

Middleton-in-Teesdale

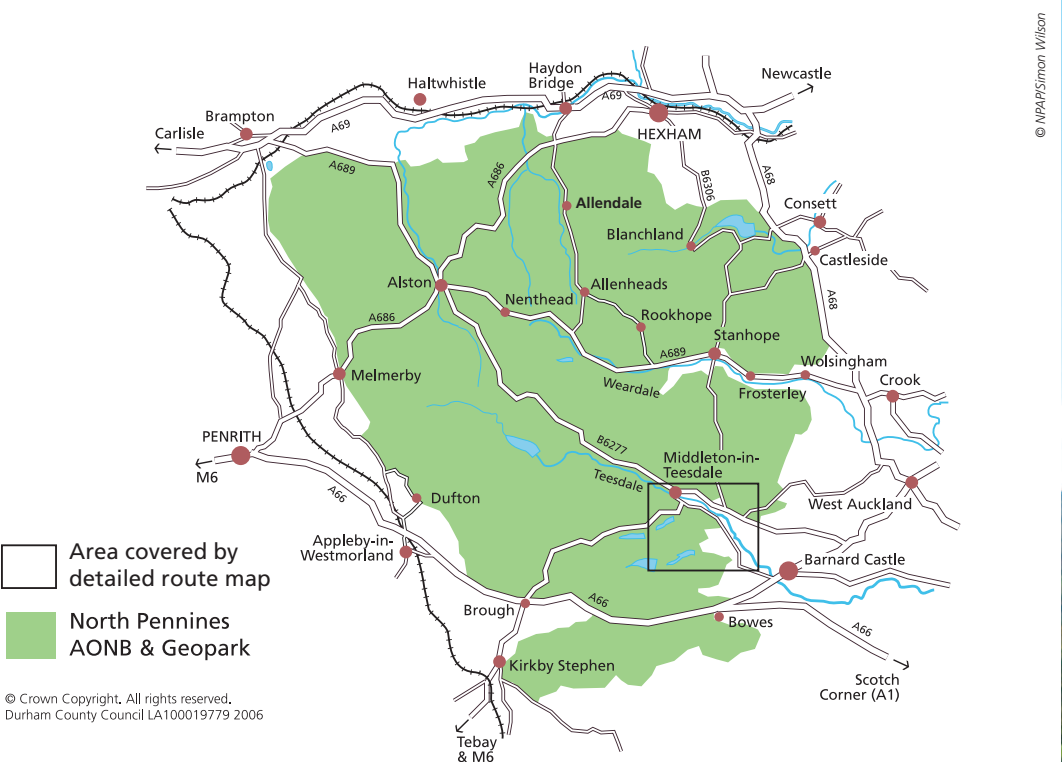
With a population of around 1500, Middleton is the area's main service centre and is a busy market town. In 1815, the London Lead Company made its northern headquarters in the town and the grand architecture is testament to the prosperity of that time.

Middleton is an excellent base from which to explore the area further, with a selection of good shops, accommodation and pubs.



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Middleton-in-Teesdale drinking fountain erected by Mr Bainbridge of Middleton House (manager of the Lead Mining Co) in 1877



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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.

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Eggleston

The village of Eggleston probably derives its name from Eghiston (the homestead of Eghis). The village looks down on the River Tees and towards upper Teesdale.

There has been a main house in Eggleston since the 17th century. Eggleston Hall, designed by the architect Ignatius Bonomi, is a fine example of a country manor house. The hall is now more famous for its nursery gardens and as a venue for parties, conferences and as the setting for television programmes.



© NPAP/Simon Wilson

Eggleston village has a large central green and has two cosy inns.

Romaldkirk

Romaldkirk has changed little since the 18th century. The beautiful village has a central village green. The church of Saint Romald is mainly Norman, though older parts can be seen in the Chancel Arch.

In the Great Plague of 1644, one third of the residents of the village died. Legend has it that Grace Scott built a mud hut on the fell a mile from the village, where she lived away from the risk of infection. The farm built later on the site is called Gracie's Cottage.

Today Romaldkirk is a peaceful village, with excellent inns.



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Discover mid Teesdale

Including routes to walk, cycle and ride



NORTH PENNINES
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Cotherstone

The village of Cotherstone lies at the confluence of the Rivers Tees and Balder. Many of the buildings in the village date from the 17th and 18th centuries. There was an 11th century castle at Cotherstone, which was one of a number that surrounded the entrance to Teesdale.

Cotherstone has a strong tradition of cheese-making which continues today.

A recent community initiative to plant trees around the parish has received great acclaim.



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Mickleton

Mickleton village is surrounded by fertile pastures, which still have medieval ridge and furrow patterns. Industry in Mickleton has probably always centred on agriculture, with an associated classic linear village development.

Mickleton today has a strong community, responsible for developing the new village hall and the impressive Becksones Wath footbridge.



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Self-guided Routes

The routes shown on the map and described here have been devised to allow you to explore mid Teesdale responsibly and with confidence.

Grading the Routes – the routes have been graded so that you can choose those which suit your abilities:

Easy – *suitable for most people: some gates, no stiles, good surface*
Moderate – *comfortable routes with some gates (stiles on footpaths), mixed surface.*
Hard – *typically a country route with some hills, gates (stiles on footpaths) and muddy surfaces. Boots advised*

Each of the routes shows the type of use allowed, (walk, cycle and horse ride).

When you are discovering the area, always follow the Countryside Code:



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

Route 1: Teesdale Railway Path



Grade/distance: Easy, linear 17 km 10½ miles
P Mickleton Station (suitable for horse boxes)

The route follows the old railway line from Lonton near Middleton to Cotherstone. There is limited wheelchair and pushchair access from Mickleton Station towards Lonton.



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Route 2: Mickleton to Middleton



Grade/distance: Moderate, circular 8.5 km 5¼ miles
P Mickleton Station (suitable for horse boxes)

Start at Mickleton Station car park and walk into Mickleton. Turn left then right across the main road to a T-junction beyond the village. Turn right and then left onto a footpath after 200 metres. Follow the footpath across fields to the footbridge over the River Tees. Turn left and follow the riverside path to Middleton. Return via the footpath on the south side of the river to Lonton and join the railway path back to Mickleton Station.



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Route 3: Mickleton Grassholme Reservoir (extension to Middleton)



Grade/distance: Hard, circular 10.5 km 6½ miles (22 km 13¾ miles, Pennine Way option)
P Mickleton Station (suitable for horse boxes)

From the car park walk along the railway path to the Lune viaduct. Turn left along the minor road and follow the public footpath opposite Westfield Farm across meadows to the road and continue to Grassholme Reservoir Visitor Centre. Walk around the reservoir and return along the same route, or follow the Pennine Way from the top of the reservoir to Middleton and return via Route 2.

Route 4: Mickleton – Romaldkirk – Eggleston



Grade/distance: Moderate, circular 7.5 km 4½ miles
P Mickleton Village Hall

From the car park, walk across the main road to Mickleton Station. Turn left and follow the railway path to Romaldkirk. Turn left into and through Romaldkirk village. Follow the public footpath (signed Teesdale Way) across the meadows to Eggleston Bridge. Cross the bridge over the River Tees and follow the roads to the top of Eggleston village. Turn left on a minor road and follow the public footpath (still the Teesdale Way), crossing the main road to Eggleston farm. Follow the public footpath to the River Tees and turn left to Beckstones Wath footbridge. Follow the public footpath and minor road back to Mickleton.



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Route 5: Mickleton – Romaldkirk Moor



Grade/distance: Moderate (no stiles), circular 11 km 7 miles
P Mickleton Station (suitable for horse boxes)

From the car park, follow the railway path towards Romaldkirk. Turn right and follow the road up to and over Romaldkirk Moor. Turn right at the T-junction through Botany Farm. Follow the minor roads back to Mickleton.



© NPA/Marcus Byron

Route 6: Mickleton – Romaldkirk – Cotherstone – Hury Reservoir



Grade/distance: Hard (no stiles), circular 19 km 12 miles
P Mickleton Station (suitable for horse boxes)

From the car park, follow the railway path beyond Romaldkirk to Cotherstone. At Cotherstone follow the road to Barningham Moor. Follow the public bridgeway and minor road to Briscoe. Continue on minor roads to Hury, turning right to Botany Farm and returning along route 5.

