

North Pennine Birdwalks

Walk 2: Tindale Tarn



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NORTH PENNINES
One of the
AONB family

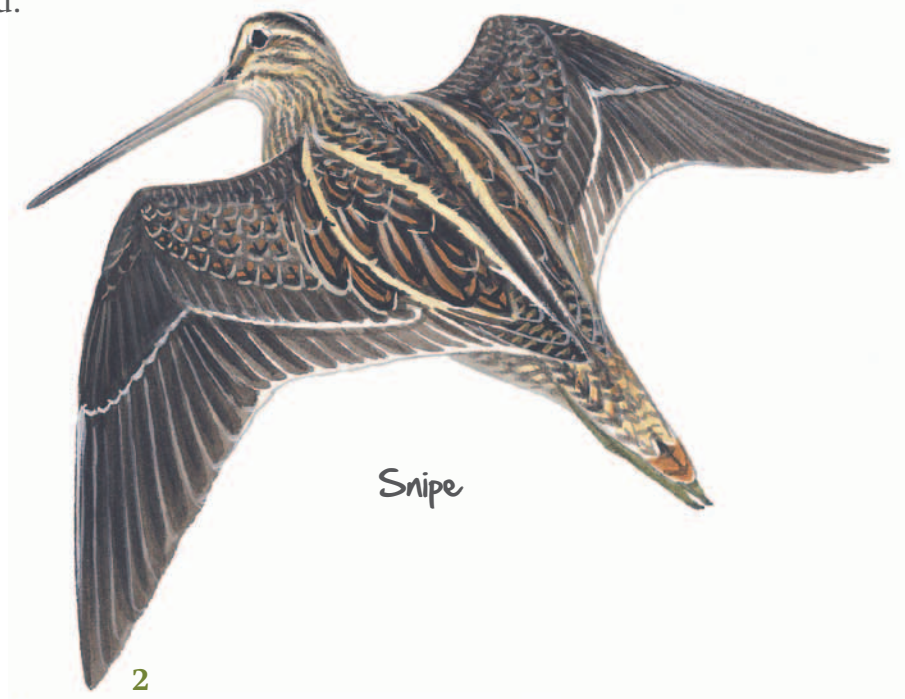
The Birdwatchers Code of Conduct

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 2

Tindale Tarn



Wader habitat near Tindale Tarn

Located in the far north west of the AONB, Tindale Tarn is a good place to bird watch at any time of year in a highly scenic setting. A rich variety of breeding birds can be seen during spring and summer, including waders and black grouse. During the winter months, the Tarn attracts a range of wildfowl including wigeon and whooper swans. Heavily worked for zinc in the past, this area is also rich in industrial archaeology, including the remains of a quarry and smelter. The RSPB manages this site as part of their reserve at Geltsdale. An information centre is located at Stagsike Cottage which is accessible on foot. Disabled access by vehicle can be prearranged by phoning the reserve on 01697 746 717.

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 86
1:25,000 – Explorer OL43



9 km (5.6 miles).
Circular route



Medium. Likely to be muddy
in places. Navigation may be
difficult in misty conditions



Small car park in Tindale
at NY616594



Pub and local shop in
Hallbankgate (5 km). Public
toilets in Brampton (11 km) and
on the route at Stagsike Cottage



In Coanwood at NY681593



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



Wigeon (female)

Walk Directions

Follow the track through the car park a short distance to a gate marked with a blue arrow and go through this. Walk 700m straight ahead across the rushy allotment maintaining a direction parallel to the valley. The path may be indistinct in places.

With Tindale Tarn clearly visible below, cross a wall via a gate and continue for 1 km along the track. Beyond the tarn the path passes to the right of a fenced field. Walk 250m alongside the wall until a gate and stile are reached. Cross the stile and follow the path to a stone walled enclosure marked as 'Thorn' on the OS maps.

Walk to the right of the stone walled enclosure to a wooden stile. Turn right and follow the track for 700m. When you come to a T-junction, turn left and continue on for 1 km to Howgill.

At Howgill take the path leading off to the left sign posted Woodland Bridge via Tarn. This follows the Howgill Beck. Continue ahead and use the footbridges to cross the beck. After 1.2 km, pass Stagsike Cottages and continue ahead.

Continue to follow the path towards the tarn. Where it meets a main track continue straight ahead to pass alongside the tarn on your left.

Pass in front of Tarnhouse Farm and continue on the track, passing through two more gates. The path then crosses a field with the end of the tarn visible below on the left.



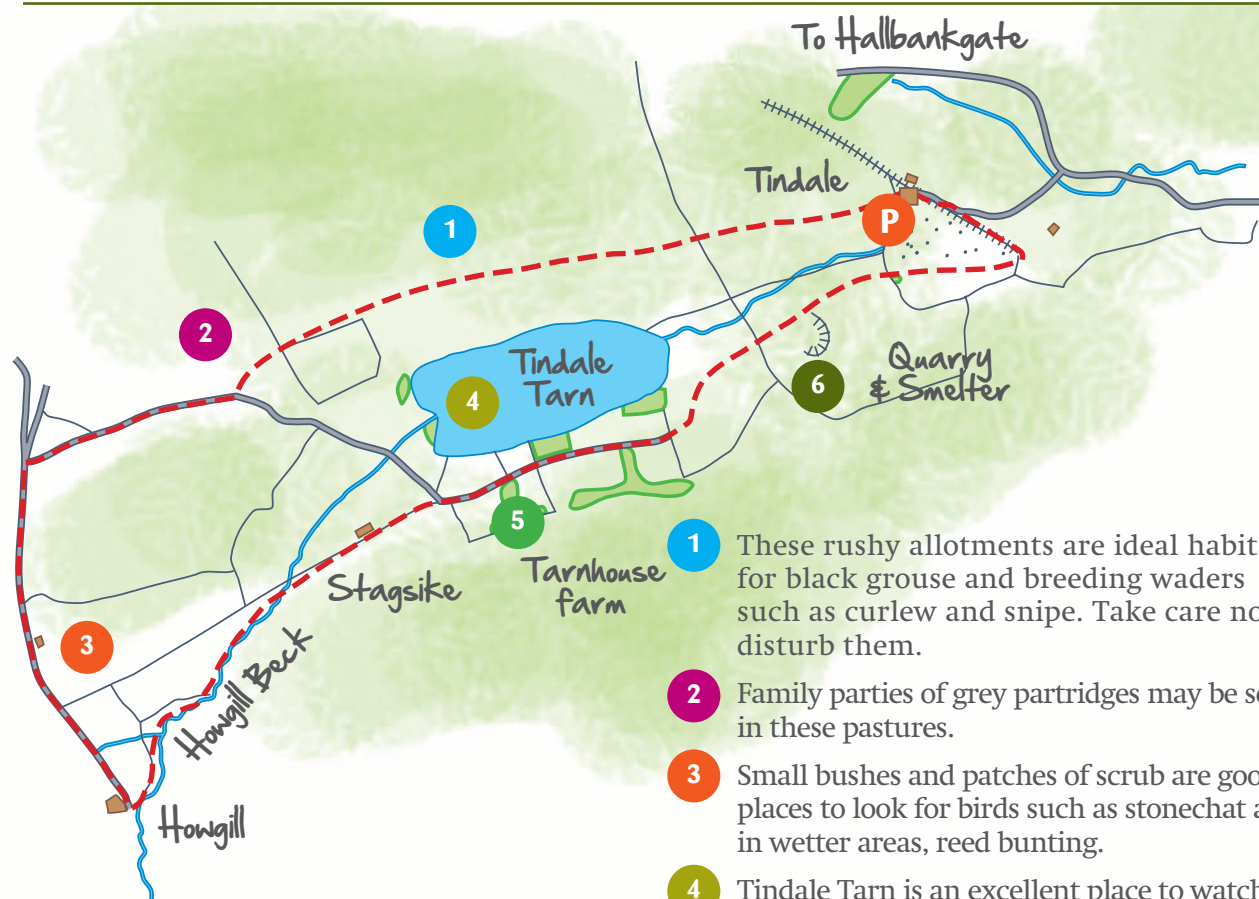
Tindale Tarn

Go through a gate by some tin sheds and continue across the field. The path then passes beside a derelict quarry and zinc smelter. Continue through another gate and pass a cottage on the right. Keep straight ahead passing an extensive area of spoil heaps on the left.

Beyond the spoil heaps, ignore the stile and turn sharp left to follow the disused railway line back to Tindale.

Walk 2

Tindale Tarn



Reed bunting

- 1 These rushy allotments are ideal habitat for black grouse and breeding waders such as curlew and snipe. Take care not to disturb them.
- 2 Family parties of grey partridges may be seen in these pastures.
- 3 Small bushes and patches of scrub are good places to look for birds such as stonechat and, in wetter areas, reed bunting.
- 4 Tindale Tarn is an excellent place to watch wildfowl such as teal, tufted duck, mallard and little grebe. Listen out for the distinctive whistling call of wigeon and the honk of whooper swans in winter.
- 5 Tarnhouse Farm is thought to date from the late 16th century and is an example of a 'Bastle house'. These small thick-walled farmhouses were built by farmers to protect themselves and their possessions from hostile raiders, often from the next dale.
- 6 A zinc smelter was built at Tindale in the mid 17th century and during its lifetime produced approximately 40,000 tons of zinc. The waste from the smelter occupies the triangular piece of land north of the site. Look out for northern marsh orchids in this area in the spring.

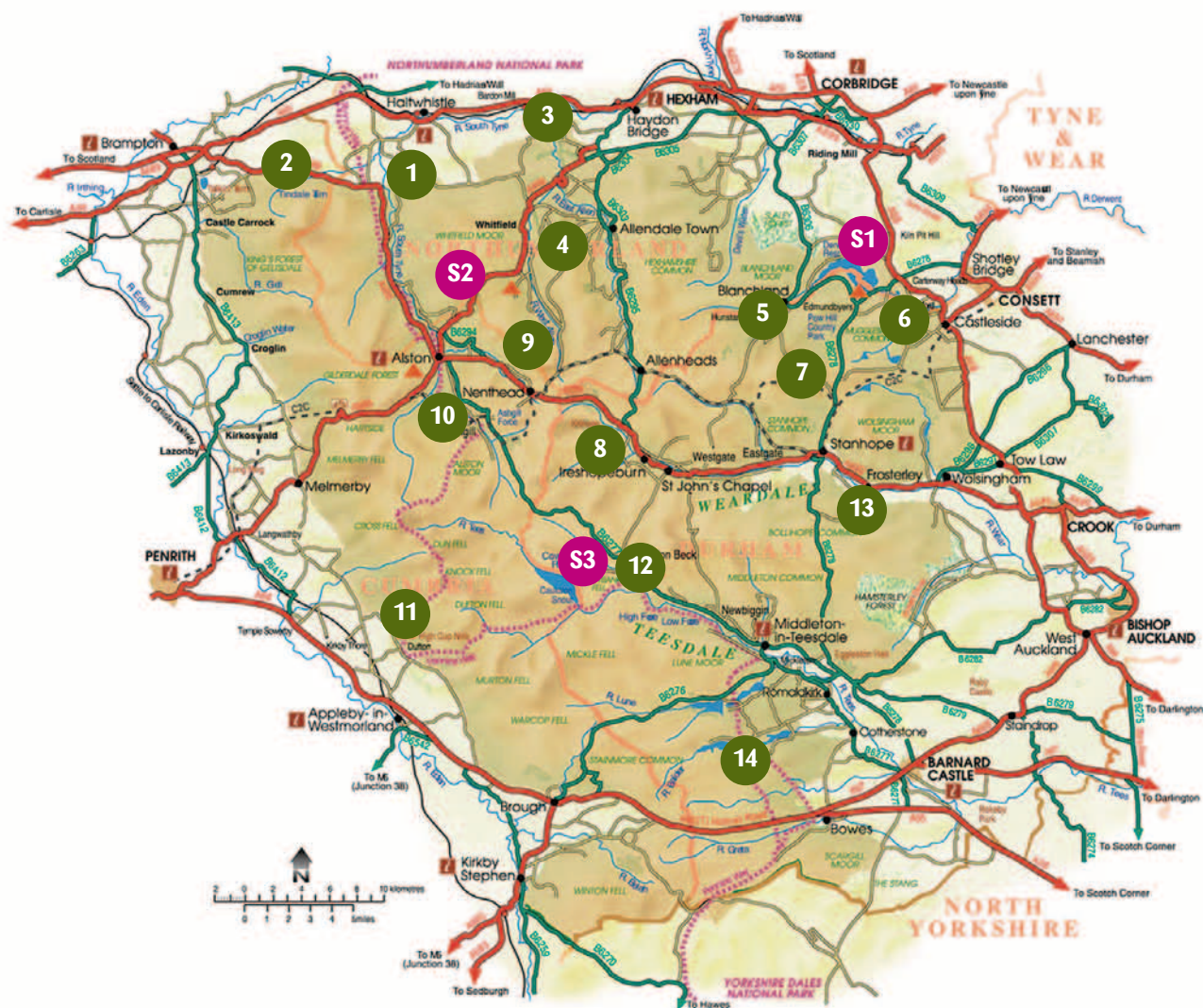
BEST TIME TO VISIT



A telescope may be useful for viewing the tarn



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



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

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 5.6 mile circular walk takes you to Tindale Tarn in the far north west of the North Pennines. Here you'll find a rich variety of breeding birds in the spring and summer and a range of wildfowl during the winter months.

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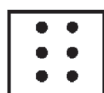


The AONB Partnership has a Green
Tourism award for its corporate office



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