

North Pennine Birdwalks

Walk 9: Wellhope Moor



Landscapes
for life
.org.uk

NORTH PENNINES
One of the
AONB family

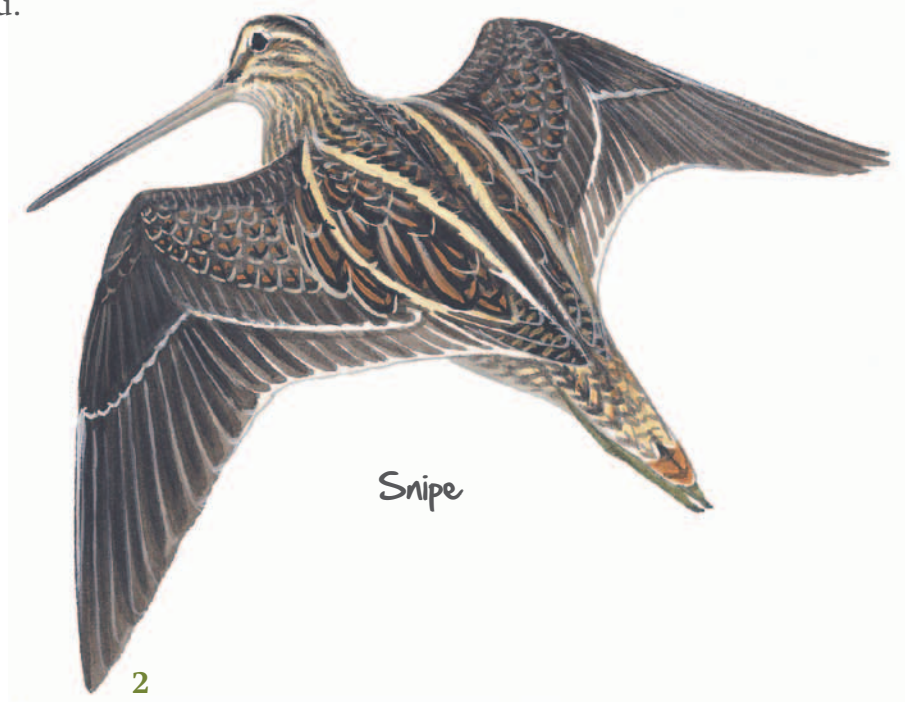
The Birdwatchers Code of Conduct

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 9

Wellhope Moor



Nent Valley

This walk offers both stunning views across the Nent Valley and the opportunity to experience a mix of typical North Pennines upland habitats: hay meadow, pasture and allotment, heather moorland, blanket bog and upland stream. Passing a derelict mine and many old mine shafts, it also typifies the historic lead mining landscape of the area.

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.



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Durham County Council. LA100049055. 2012.



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 OL31



5 km (3 miles). Circular route



Hard. Part of the walk is across blanket bog and is wet and relatively 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 a small lay-by at NY769453



Pub and local shop in Nenthead (2.4 km)



Nenthead (NY781437)



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



Grey
partridge

Walk Directions

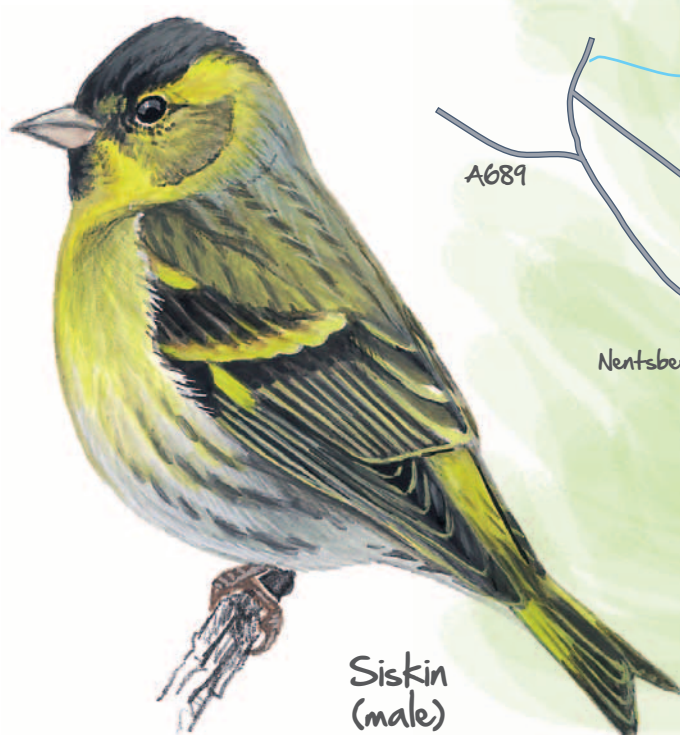
- From the lay-by, follow the well-defined track leading up the hill through two large fields to a gate in the fell wall.
- Go through the gate and bear left to follow the well-defined track across the open moorland for 500m to the derelict remains of Wellhopehead Lead Mine.
- Keeping the mine and spoil heaps on your left, continue beyond the end of the gravel track onto a path. This is clearly marked by waist-high wooden poles at regular intervals.
- The path descends to cross the Wellhope Burn (take care!), stone steps having been provided on both sides. Follow the path up the hill to a waymark post at the junction of two paths. Turn right and then re-cross the stream.
- Follow the path for 650m across the moorland and blanket bog, following the wooden poles until the path re-crosses the fell wall through a gate.
- Descend through a large pasture for 500m to a point where the path forms a T-junction. Turn right and follow the path through a gate in a wall and into a small open conifer plantation.
- Beyond the plantation the path enters another pasture. Walk diagonally down the slope to a waymark post and then turn left, following a track down to meet the road.
- At the road, turn right and walk 300m back to the start of the walk.



Above Nenthead

Walk 9

Wellhope Moor



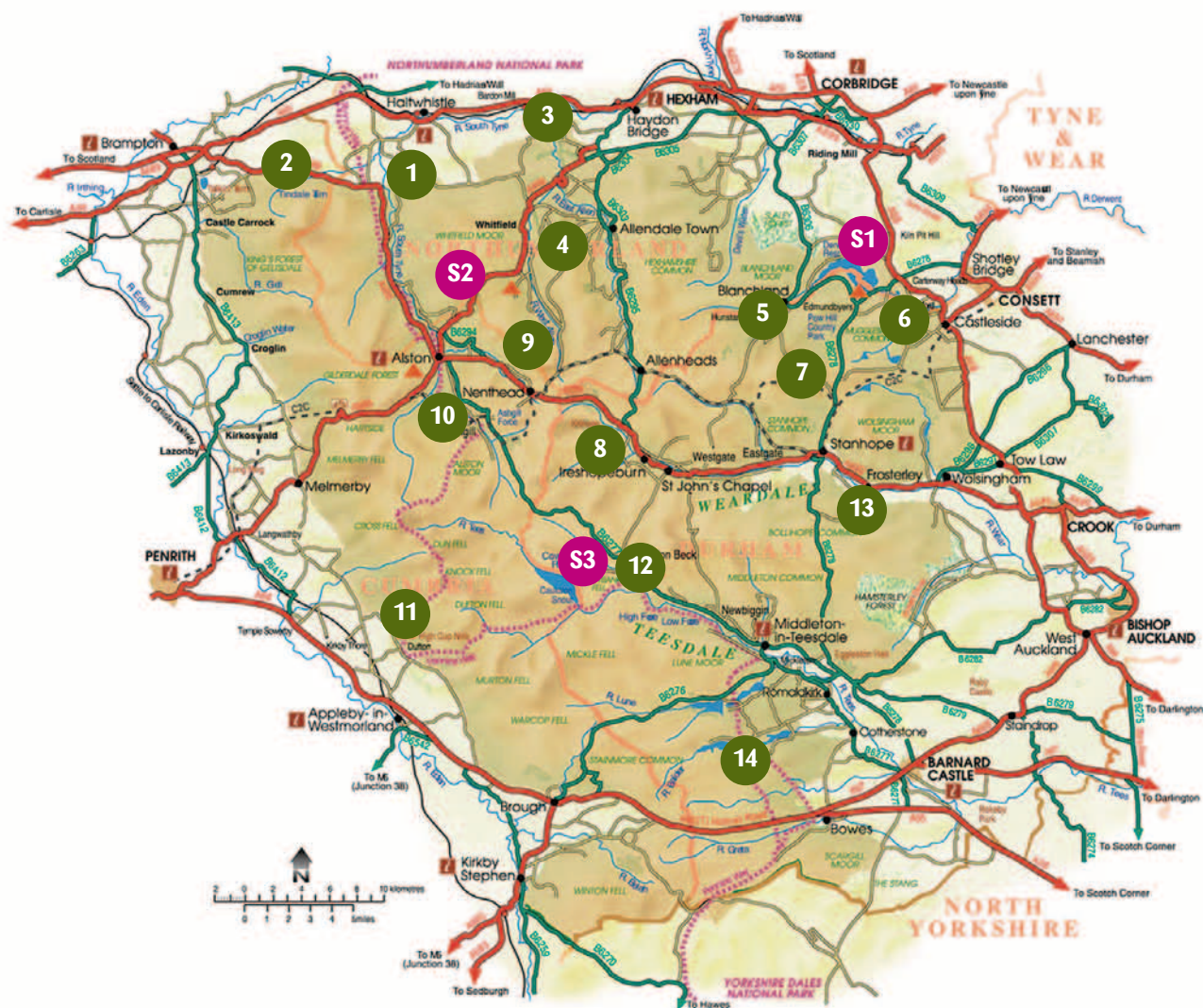
- 1 Grasslands fringing the heather moorland are excellent habitat for species such as meadow pipit, skylark and grey partridge.
- 2 Golden plover and red grouse are easy to see in this area. Take care not to disturb them.
- 3 The buds of cotton grass are an important source of food for black grouse in early spring.
- 4 Peat cut from North Pennine blanket bogs is thought to have been an important source of fuel for the early lead mining industry.
- 5 Open areas of plantation are good places to watch birds such as linnet, greenfinch, siskin and redpoll. Roe deer may also be seen here.

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 | 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 Cowhill | 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.

Set off on this glorious 3 mile, circular route, and you'll be greeted by stunning views across the Nent Valley and the chance to experience a mix of typical North Pennines upland habitats – hay meadows, pasture and allotment, heather moorland, blanket bog and upland streams.

North Pennines AONB Partnership
www.northpennines.org.uk
+44 (0)1388 528801
info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk

 NorthPenninesAONB

 @NorthPennAONB

 northpennines

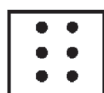


The AONB Partnership has a Green
Tourism award for its corporate office

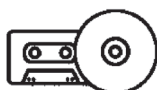


**Please ask us if you would like this document
summarised in another format.**

**info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk
01388 528801**



Braille



Audio



**Large
Print**

This pdf download has been funded by:



...as part of their support for the North Pennines AONB Partnership