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.
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.
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**

- Blue shading indicates good months to see wintering birds.
- Orange shading indicates good months to see breeding birds.
- Green shading indicates good months to see birds on autumn or winter migration.

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.
Birdwatching in the North Pennines

**Information Point**

1:50,000 – Landranger 92
1:25,000 – Explorer OL31

Linear route. 3 km (1.8 miles) each way

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

On short turf at roadside beside the Bollihope Burn at NZ005349

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

On roadside at Hill End (NZ015362)

Visit [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk) for information on green places to stay

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.
Look for dippers and common sandpipers along the Bollihope Burn.

1. 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.

2. To help keep them warm in winter, red grouse have dense white feathers on their legs.

3. Large numbers of red grouse, golden plover, curlew and lapwing breed here. Take care not to disturb them.
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. Cowshill
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
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.

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

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

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