

North Pennine Bird Sites

Site 3: Harwood Beck and Widdybank



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NORTH PENNINES
One of the
AONB family

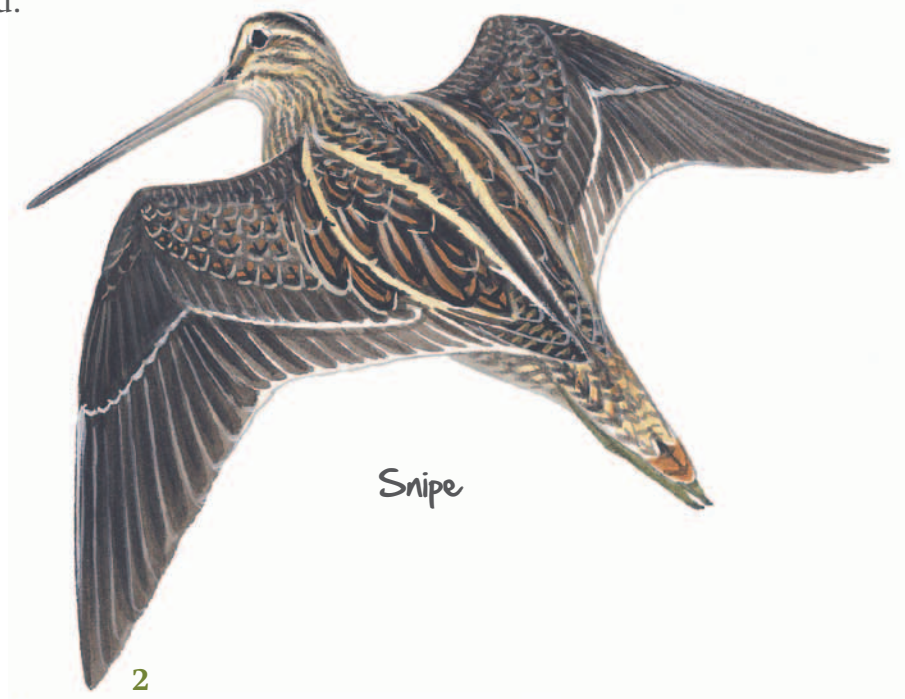
The Birdwatchers Code of Conduct

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.



Site 3

Harwood Beck and Widdybank



Forest-in-Teesdale

The meadows and pastures around Harwood Beck and Widdybank are some of the best places to see breeding waders and black grouse. If you sit quietly in your car you may be rewarded with the sight of a snipe shepherding its chicks through the vegetation or a precocious young lapwing chick pecking for food in the short turf.

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 (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 92
1:25,000 – Explorer OL31



Public toilets and Visitor Centre and cafe at Bowlees (9 km NY908283). High Force Hotel pub (6 km NY885286). Nearest shops in Middleton-in-Teesdale (14 km). Langdon Beck Youth Hostel (2.7 km NY861305)



Static viewing from the car



With care on the grassy verge at NY838311



Harwood (NY828332)

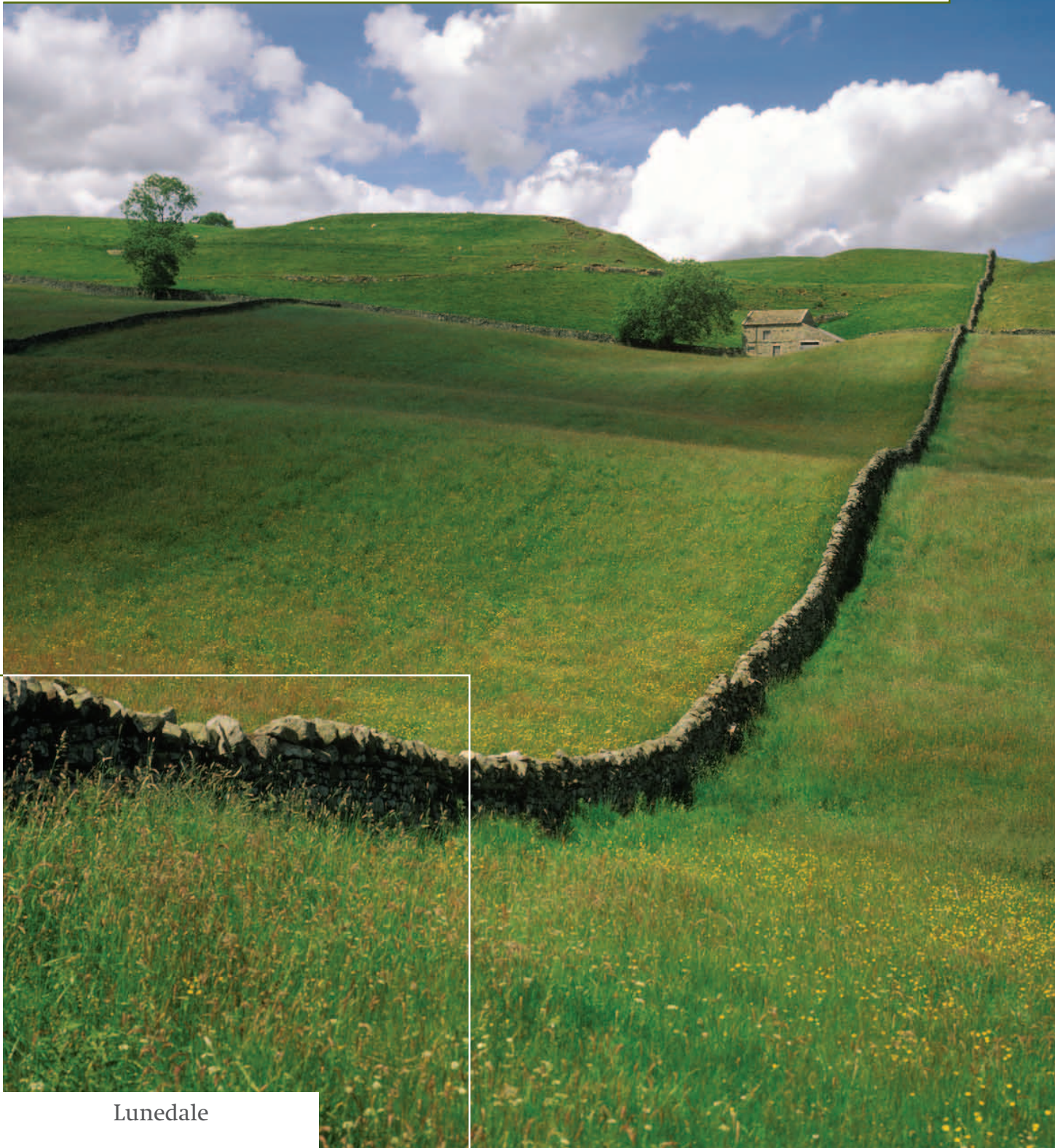


Visit www.northpennines.org.uk for information on green places to stay



Redshank

Site Information



Lunedale

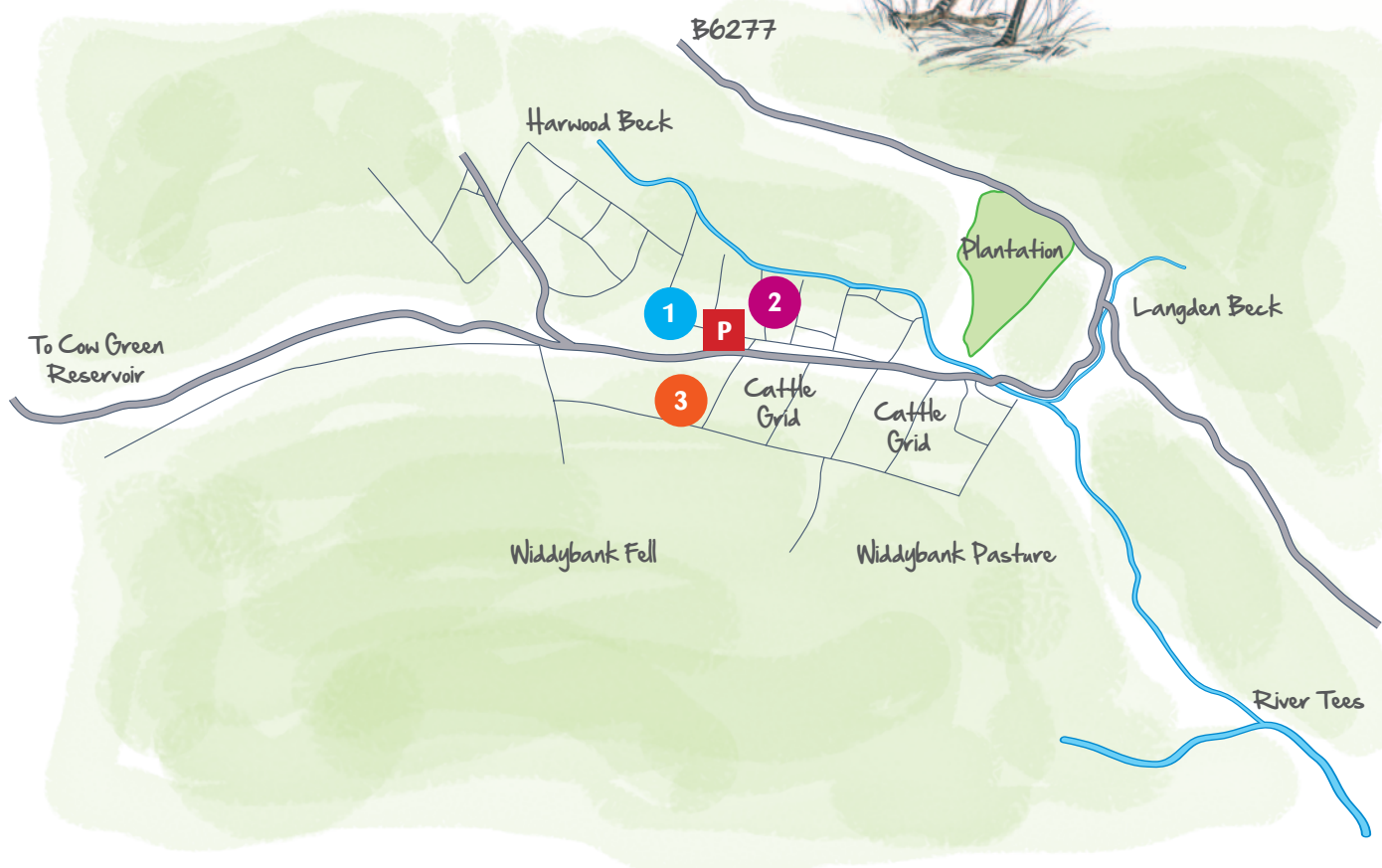
Site 3

Harwood Beck and Widdybank

- 1 Listen for the high-pitched call of the yellow wagtail, often emitted as they walk along a wall between meadows.
- 2 The white fluffy heads of cotton grass indicate areas of wet, peaty soil. These areas are important breeding and feeding grounds for snipe and black grouse.
- 3 In the first few days after hatching, adult snipe feed invertebrates to their chicks 'beak to beak'. After this, the young find food for themselves.



Yellow Wagtail

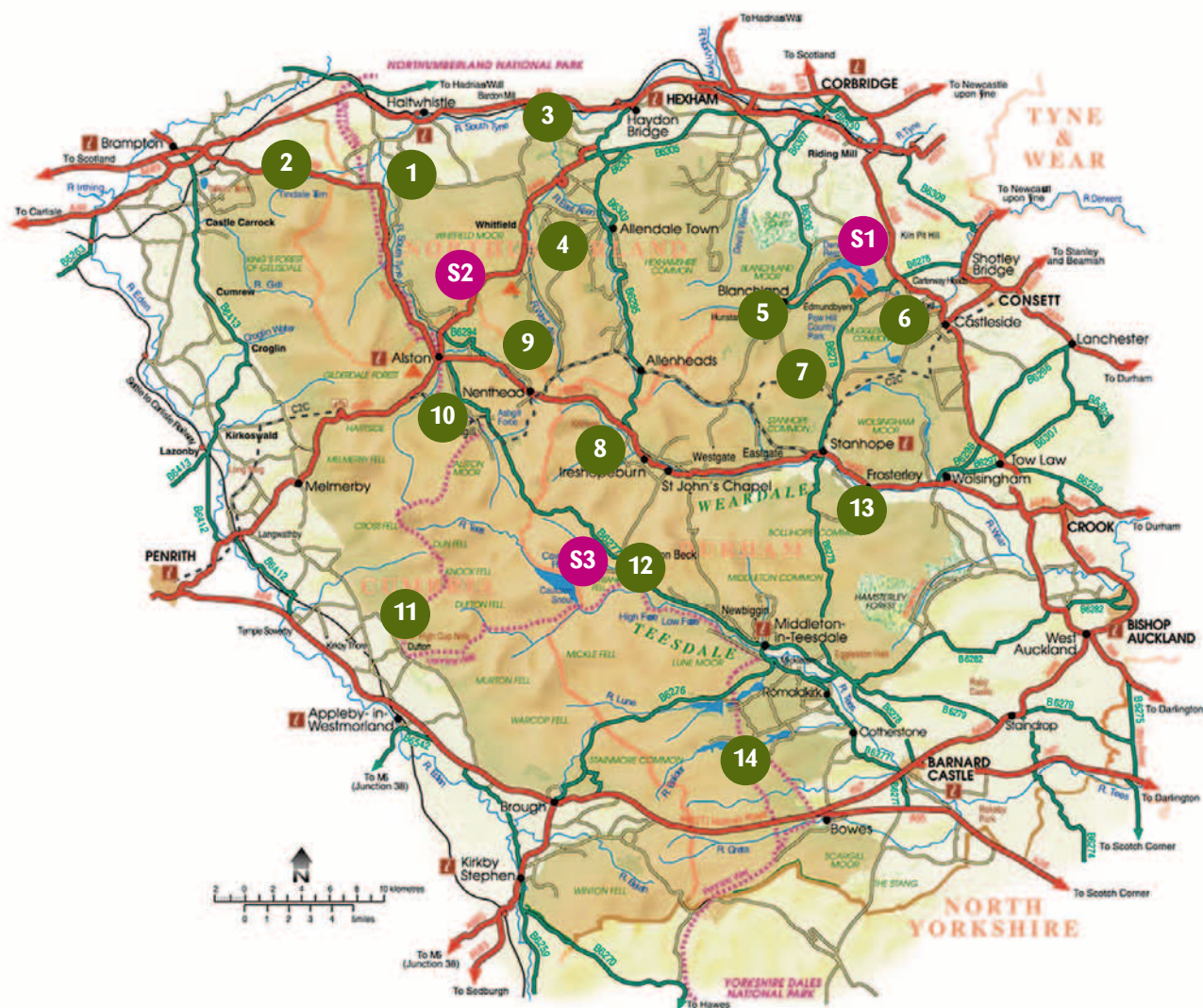


BEST TIME TO VISIT

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 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 site, in Upper Teesdale, is one of the best places in the North Pennines to see breeding waders and black grouse. It's also ideal viewing from the comfort of your car.

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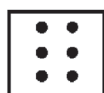


The AONB Partnership has a Green
Tourism award for its corporate office



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Audio



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