

CHAILTY THE PRESEND

Supported by Natural England through West Durham Rural Pathfinder.

Working together for the North Pennines

NORTH PENNINES AONB PARTNERSHIP

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The North Pennines AONB Partnership holds a Gold GTBS Award for its corporate office and tourism activities.



We can provide the information contained in this leaflet in large print, different formats and other languages on request. Please call 01388 528801.

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This is one of a series of walks leaflets to help you discover the North Pennines AONB. Why not try one of the others?



nedgerow or a stone wall.

Or maybe you'll feel the adrenalin buzz of a buzzard riding high on the thermals without a wing flap, preparing to strike live prey such as rabbits, pigeon or duck... or simply settling for a worm in the field.

When passing through this managed landscape, you might be lucky enough to see examples of wildlife benefiting from agri-environment schemes. You might see a weasel

Farmer and wildlife – hand in hand (or paw or claw!)



Eazor strop fungus

Ju.oo.alilbliwteasthon.www @ AZZNZ

Witches broom, although a more sinister-sounding fungus is far friendlier and doesn't damage birch trees; you'll see it in the form of twiggy clumps on their branches.

peeking curiously from a

Humungous fungus!

Razor strop fungus (so called because in Victorian times the poor used it to sharpen their cut-throat razors) is a parasite and can spread quickly through a plantation where all the trees are the same species, causing brown rot and weakening of the tree.

r wildlife.

This woodland has arisen naturally alongside the burn and consists of native broadleaf species such as alder, ash and oak. You can see the difference between this woodland and the birch plantation where all the trees are of a similar age. The trees in both of these woodlands provide shelter

Semi-natural woodlands



## Blanchland!

This is a varied walk that begins with a climb up from the village of Blanchland. The walk passes through woodland and pasture with magnificent views of the Derwent Valley and Edmundbyers Common, finally dropping down to the river and returning to the village.

Look for the START on the directions overleaf and follow the trail for new things to see in each season...

Walk Distance: Approx 5.5km (3.5 miles)

Walk Length: 2 hours

**Start/Finish:** Blanchland car park (donations welcome)

Grid Reference NY964505

Public Transport: For journey and timetable information

freephone 0871 200 2233

Facilities: Blanchland has public toilets, a Post Office,

shops, a hotel and a tea room

Please follow the Countryside Code: Leave gates as you find them and keep your dog under close control (and on a lead on farmland)





### Farming past...

Looking south from the pastures approaching Cowbyre Farm you may be able to make out a series of ridges and furrows in the fields (at this point you may also notice that you are walking over these bumps too). These are the remains of post-medieval farming systems. The older examples of these are shown as back-to-front S shapes, resulting from a method of farming crops used throughout the medieval period (1066-1540) and later. The shapes were made by ox-drawn ploughs as they cut and turned the soil over. An ox team needed plenty of space to turn at the end of each furrow and by ploughing in a slight curve, the plough could start to turn before the furrow had been completed.







© Abi Wylde/NPAF



upland sheep grazing heather moorland on Newbiggin Fell

### ... and farming today

Sheep are used to help manage the heather moorland for red grouse. In the winter the sheep are brought down off the moor and into the pastures in the areas through which this walk passes.

Parts of the walk described in this leaflet has been opened up to walkers with the support of Defra's agrienvironment schemes. For more information see http://countrywalks.defra.gov.uk/.







# Over the hill to Cowbyre Farm



**Route Description - start here!** 

marked track between stone walls. The

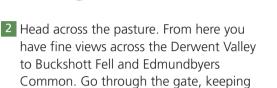
immediately left. Bear left along the

1 Turn right out of the car park and

Roe deer

3 Cross another stile to reach the road and turn left. 

There are some fine traditional farm buildings to the left and a good view of the Derwent Reservoir ahead. Walk along the road for 200m before taking the ladder stile on the right and the permissive path which follows the burn before crossing at a way marker. Follow the stream keeping between a fence and the remains of an old field boundary before veering left near a gate, to drop down to the burn and a footbridge.



a fence and then a wall on your left, until you reach a stile and go through a stand of young trees. Continue over another

stile to Cowbyre Farm.









© Marcus Byror

#### What a view!

Derwent Reservoir is the second largest reservoir in the North East. The south-western area of the reservoir has been managed as a nature reserve since 1967 for its breeding birds and wildfowl.

The surrounding farmland is used as a breeding ground by a host of waders. Species such as lapwing, redshank, curlew, oystercatcher and snipe can regularly be seen in spring and summer. Look out for the bright red beak of the oystercatcher and the green metallic sheen of the feathers of peewits (lapwings) an obvious name when you hear their call - peeee...wit!

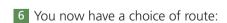


4 Go right and carry on along the edge of a lovely birch wood with a fence to the right, until you reach a footbridge and ladder stile. This brings you to the River Derwent at Carrick Bridge.



5 Go right and follow the path along the river. There are several stiles and a diversion which avoids an eroded riverbank. Eventually you come





Blanchland

i) Take the green lane to your right. This brings you to the road which enters the village. The hedgerows along this bridleway are covered in sloe berries and rosehips in the autumn.

Common valerían

ii) Follow the river back to the village and go up through the village to the car park. Along the river near the mast, you can see a good outcrop of shale and thin layers of sandstone. For more information on the geology of the area contact the AONB Partnership.



Rosehips

Blanchland Bridge and the River Derwent