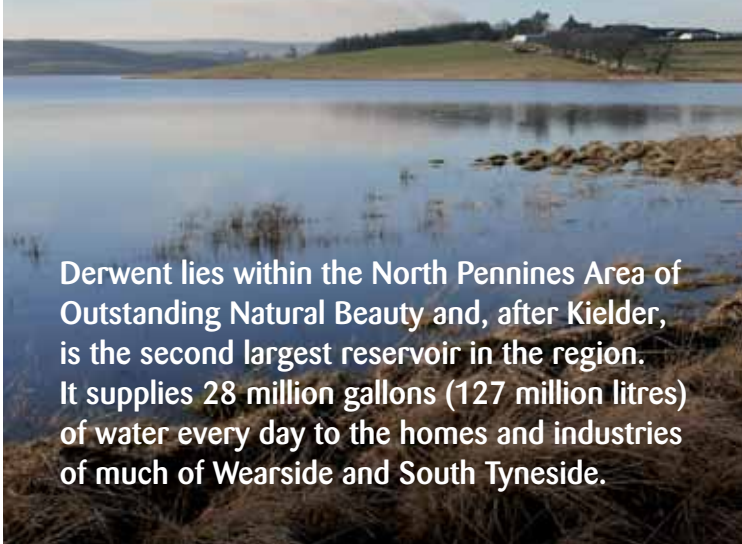



Welcome to Derwent Reservoir...





Derwent lies within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and, after Kielder, is the second largest reservoir in the region. It supplies 28 million gallons (127 million litres) of water every day to the homes and industries of much of Wearside and South Tyneside.


Exploring the lake and shore

There's plenty to do here!

 Multi-user paths lead you to Millshield picnic area on the north shore, or to Pow Hill Country Park on the south shore. You can find out more about the reservoir, its wildlife and its history as you go, on foot or by bike. Cyclists can make a longer circular route around the reservoir by combining the shore path with local roads.

 The reservoir is stocked with trout and attracts thousands of anglers every year. Call in at the visitor centre for a permit.

 A sailing club, for members only, is based on the north shore.

 A bird hide overlooks the nature reserve at the western end of the reservoir. For a closer look at the wildlife there, call in to the visitor centre for a key.

Or, if you don't fancy doing anything much, there are lots of quiet places dotted around the lake to rest, relax, have a picnic and just enjoy the views... Look at the map overleaf and take your pick!

How to get here

Weardale Motors 773 service from Consett to Pow Hill Country Park runs twice a day Monday-Friday.

For more information telephone Traveline 0871 2002233.

Sat Nav users: DH8 9TT gets you close to the visitor centre.

Looking after wildlife

The land surrounding the reservoir is looked after to safeguard the wildlife which finds a home here. As you follow the shore paths you will pass through old pastures, damp grasslands and dry heaths. All of these habitats are increasingly rare in the wider countryside and support declining and threatened wildlife.

Antique grasslands

The most important areas for wildlife are often those which have been left undisturbed or managed in the same way for a long time. Our oldest pastures, which show the characteristic rig and furrow pattern of medieval cultivation, are the best places to find plant rarities. A rich variety of grassland fungi such as waxcaps and earth tongues feed on the decaying matter beneath.

Fertiliser has a big impact on the wildlife in a grassland. When a field is fertilised a few, more competitive, species of plants do very well at the expense of most others. Plant diversity declines and so does the variety of insects and bugs feeding on them.

No artificial fertiliser has been applied to the grasslands around the reservoir for decades – some have never been 'improved' in this way. These unimproved grasslands are the richest in wildlife.



Golden spindles, a type of earth tongue fungus found in our oldest pastures.



Meadow flowers in Millshield pasture.

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.

Walk or cycle along the multi-user path around the shores of Derwent Reservoir and find out more about its wildlife.

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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.

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Derwent Reservoir

Walks, rides and wildlife



Landscapes for life
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NORTH PENNINES
One of the
AONB family



Soay sheep grazing the heathland at Pow Hill.

© NPAP/A Lees

Grazing – the key to conservation

The right amount and type of grazing is important for the conservation of grassland and heaths. Too much grazing and flowering plants are unable to set seed and reproduce. Too little grazing and the flowery heaths and meadows become overgrown with coarse grasses and rushes or bracken and scrub, and eventually woodland.

Here we use Exmoor ponies and Soay sheep, both native breeds which are extremely hardy. Exmoor ponies graze the wet grassland areas at Carricks where they come into their own controlling the spread of rushes. The Soay sheep at Pow Hill help to control the bracken and restore the heathland. As they also need wood in their diets, Soays help control the spread of scrub.



Bracken control: to help our Soay sheep we cut the bracken twice a year.

© NPAP/A Lees

Mire and bog

On the south side of the reservoir a series of burns get bogged down on their way to the reservoir. Look for these wet areas, or 'mires', at Pow Hill Country Park. We use dams and sluices to hold the water back and keep these areas damp.

At Pow Hill you can find unusual plants like lesser skullcap (*below*) or the starry yellow flowers of the bog asphodel (*right*).



© J.R. Collins



© NPAP/A Lees

Flowery heath

Heath bedstraw, foxgloves and dog violet live amongst dwarf shrubs like heather and bilberry on the sloping heath above the reservoir. A low level of grazing is the best treatment to keep these areas in good condition.

Working together

Derwent Reservoir, its shoreline and the land immediately surrounding it is looked after by Northumbrian Water. Some of the recent access and wildlife conservation work featured in this leaflet is the result of a collaboration between Northumbrian Water and the North Pennines AONB Partnership through its Living North Pennines Project.

Find out more

For more information about the North Pennines AONB and the natural and local history of Derwent Reservoir, including video and audio downloads, check out our website: www.northpennines.org.uk

Looking for wildlife

Bird hide

A key for this bird hide is available from the Durham Wildlife Trust or the Northumbrian Water visitor centre. A deposit is required. In the winter you have a good chance of seeing the largest common gull colony in North East England.

Great crested grebes are an attractive sight on the water all year round.



© www.northeastwildlife.co.uk

Carrick's Haugh

The grasslands, woodlands and water at the western end of the reservoir are designated as a nature reserve. Ponds have been dug to provide breeding sites for amphibians and invertebrates. Some of the ponds are now 15 years old and teeming with invertebrates including the scarce moorland backswimmer. Half-buried log piles provide hibernating sites for toads, frogs, newts and slow worms.

The blue-tailed damselfly is just one of the larger and more colourful insects you might see in this area.



© www.northeastwildlife.co.uk

Millshield picnic area

Colourful grassland fungi known as waxcaps often stand out in the short grass here in the autumn. Grasslands with several species of waxcap fungi are now rare in the UK. There are some other good examples elsewhere around the reservoir including on the dam wall.

Among the species of fungi that show their heads is the scarlet waxcap.



© Andy McLay

Millshield pasture

This varied pasture is full of flowers and sedges. At least five species of sedge grow in the damp grassland. A large area of wet meadow near the shore side of the path is dominated by tall, robust herbs such as marsh woundwort, meadowsweet, and common valerian.

© Eric Dale



You might find delicate looking plants such as fairy flax on the drier slopes above the path.

Cronkley heath

An area of heathland previously planted with conifers, this south facing slope provides an ideal basking habitat for reptiles. Look out for slow worms on warm days from March to September. If you look closely at the crumbling soil on the sunny banks above the path you will see numerous small holes made by solitary bees.



© Creative Commons/Donkey Shot

Greater broomrape is a rare plant which is a parasite on the roots of broom and gorse. It has not been seen here for a few years. Please let us know if you see it!



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© www.northeastwildlife.co.uk

We are hoping that the green hairstreak butterfly, whose caterpillars live on bilberry, will make a comeback at Pow Hill.

Pow Hill heath

When the reservoir was built and grazing stopped, bracken started to take over this slope which was once an old heath. The heather and bilberry are now shaded out beneath the bracken, but work is underway to reclaim this heathland by cutting the bracken and grazing with hardy Soay sheep.

Pow Hill Country Park

The country park contains a large area of heathland and woodland crossed by several mires which flow slowly down the slope towards the reservoir. They support unusual plants like lesser skullcap and bog asphodel. The largest of these mires is Pow Hill Bog, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Common lizards can sometimes be seen basking on woody debris in the bog. In the conifer plantations which surround the park you might easily spot a red squirrel or perhaps a party of crossbill birds passing through in the winter. The sandy soils, mature heather, bracken and fallen timber in Pow Hill all help make this a good place for adders. The area used to be known as Adder Banks and at the latest count (in 2000) 19 individuals were found.

© John Walters



With luck, you might see the violet oil beetle. It needs flower-rich areas and the help of solitary bees to complete its lifecycle. They are very large beetles about 1" (3cm) long. If you see one please let us know.

Discovering Derwent

There are a range of facilities here to help you enjoy your visit. Some are seasonal, others are open all year round (see key below).

Explore the reservoir from any of the key places highlighted on the map and from the seasonal car parks at the north and south ends of the dam. During the season, call in at the Northumbrian Water visitor centre and shop. We sell a range of fishing accessories as well as outdoor clothing, hot drinks, ice creams and sweets. You can also buy a fishing permit here. Phone 01207 255250 for opening times.

Key to facilities

Open all year


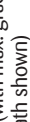



-  Car park
-  Public toilets
-  Layby
-  Picnic area
-  Bird hide
-  Cafe
-  Pub
-  Derwent Reservoir sailing club

Seasonal opening

-  Car park
-  Public toilets
-  Picnic area

Access routes

The 'multi-user' path, with its all-weather, flat surface and gentle gradients, is suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs, buggies and bicycles.

-  Multi-user path (with max. gradient on section of path shown)
-  Public right of way - footpath
-  Public right of way - bridleway
-  Public right of way - byway
-  Permissive path

For more information and latest news, follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

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Visit: www.nwl.co.uk/your-home/leisure/derwent-reservoir.aspx or call 0845 155 0236.

