

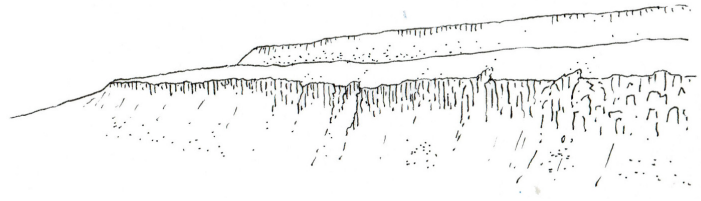
HOW TO DOODLE
THE NORTH PENNINES AONB
AND UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

A green sketching guide



www.northpennines.org.uk

PICK UP A PENCIL



Green sketching is a wonderful way to see and enjoy the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and UNESCO Global Geopark with fresh eyes. This booklet will help you get started by guiding you through a range of simple sketching activities that are suitable for all ages and abilities.

Don't worry if you can't draw. The aim of green sketching is to relax and connect with nature's beauty, joy and wonder. The quality of your sketches is irrelevant and you don't have to show them to anyone if you don't want to. It's the process of sketching that matters and will change what you see, and how you feel.

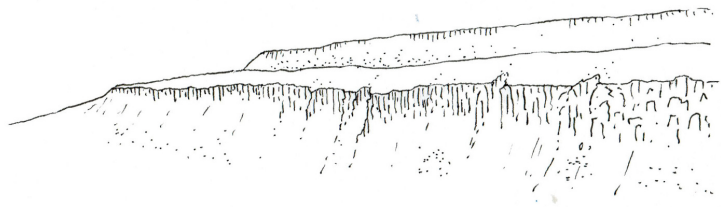
You can use this booklet however you like. Work through it steadily or pick and choose whichever activities appeal. Spend 30 seconds on each sketch or linger for longer. All you need is a pencil, pen, or some coloured pencils and perhaps something to lean on. We've suggested a few locations where you might want to look for particular features in the landscape but keep your eyes peeled for joy wherever you go.

Don't forget to follow the Countryside Code (see www.northpennines.org.uk for details) and do what you can to help protect this special place for all future joy spotters.

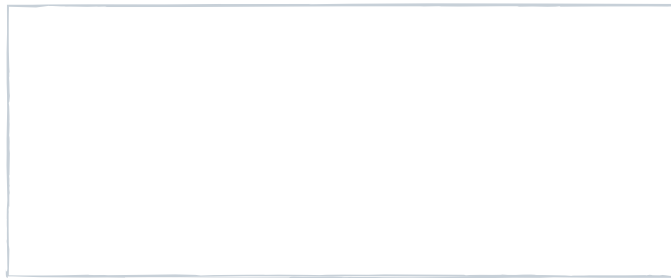
Happy doodling!



CHOOSE A ROCK

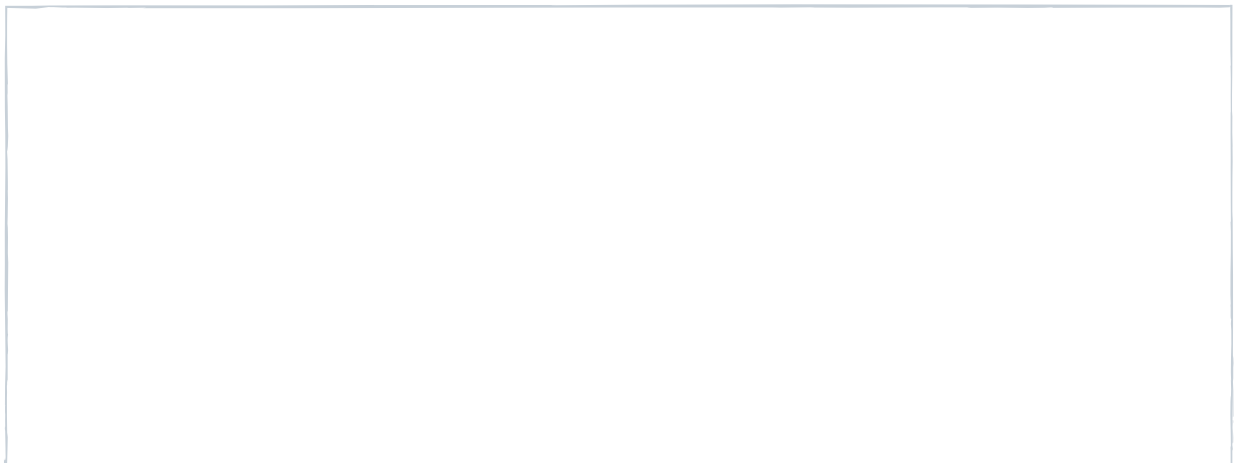


The North Pennines is covered in stone walls made out of local rocks. You've probably noticed them but have you ever really looked at them? Find a wall and spend a few minutes looking carefully at the different rocks. Then pick one particular rock and sketch it in the box below



Why did you pick the rock you did? Is it covered in colourful moss or lichen? What shape is it? Do you think it was quarried and cut or rounded by rivers or glaciers? What about the colour? Is it a dull grey, mottled or red and slightly sparkly?

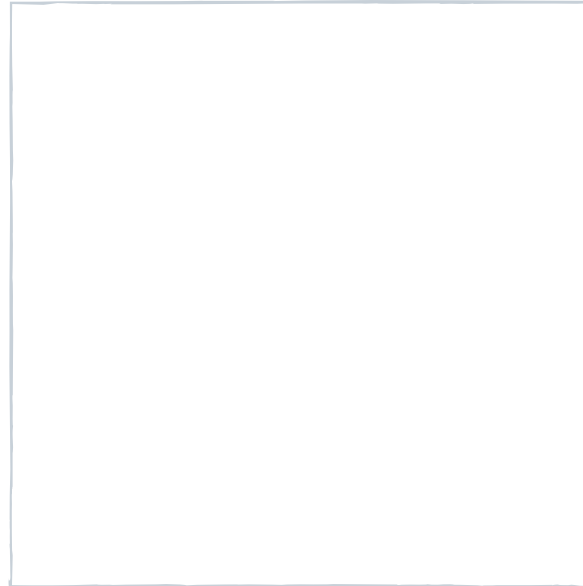
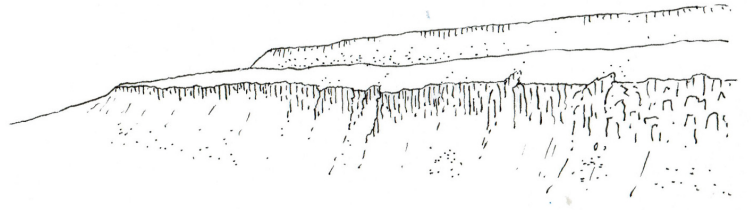
WONDER AT A WALL



Take a step back and look at the dry stone wall as a whole. How many layers of rocks are there? How are the top layer of rocks laid? Neatly, at an angle, or just randomly? Use the box above to have a go at sketching a small section of the wall - - just pick a few rocks or a thin vertical sliver. Notice the variety of shapes. Also notice the gaps between the rocks. Do you think any animals live in your wall?



SEARCH FOR A FOSSIL



Fossils certainly aren't as easy to find as dry stone walls but the North Pennines is a great place to look for them, especially on exposed rocks beside streams or sometimes even on the tops of hills.

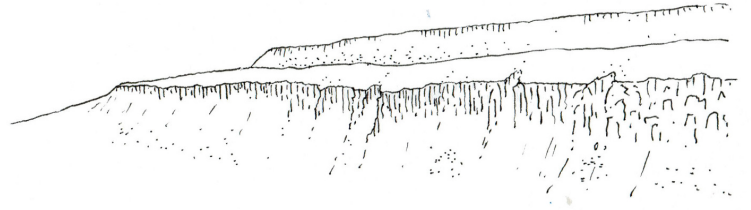
If you're lucky enough to find one, don't just take a photo. Have a go at sketching it in the box above. Don't worry about making a perfectly accurate sketch. Instead, relish the awe-inspiring thought that you're doodling something that's over 300 million years old!

Where to look

- Scoberry Bridge in Teesdale
- Harehope Quarry near Frosterley
- The polished rock sculpture outside the Durham Dales Centre

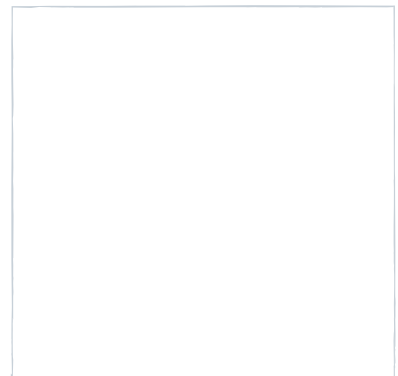
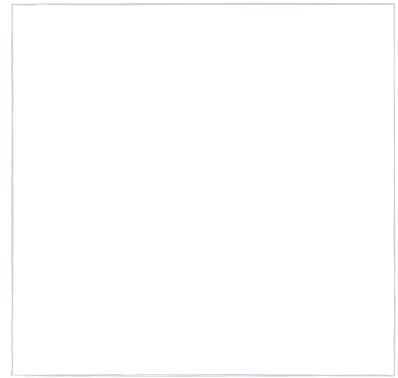
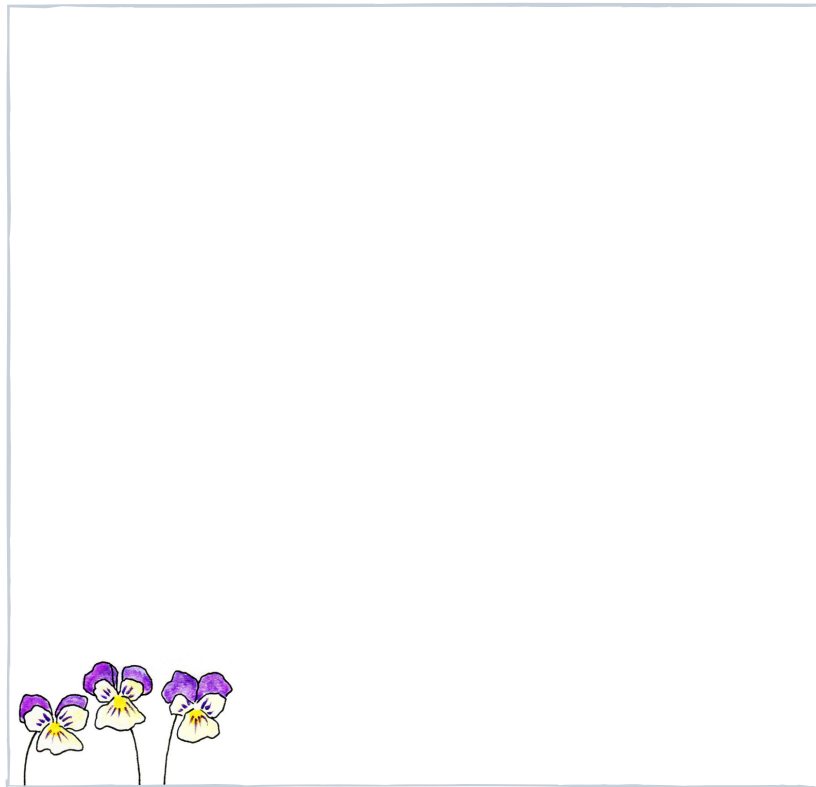
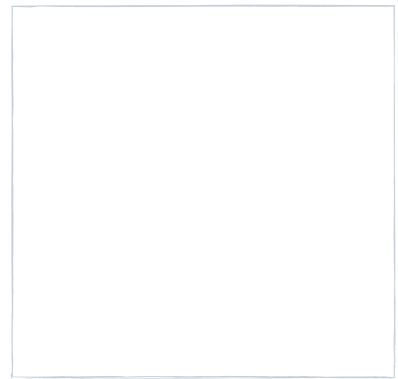
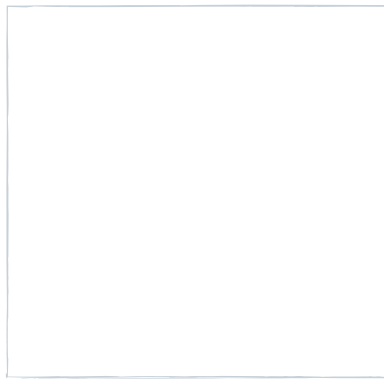
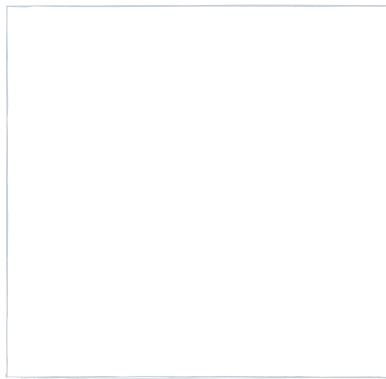


DOODLE THE FLOWERS

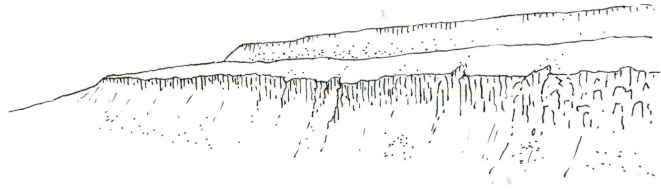


There's more to the North Pennines than fascinating rocks. The region is a flower-lover's dream with sweeping hay meadows and rare arctic-alpine plants that thrive on the mineral-rich soils. See how many different flowers you can find and doodle in the boxes below.

Did you spot any flowers you've never seen before? Which are your favourites? Do you prefer big showy flowers or tiny gems hidden within the rocks? Don't worry if you don't know what a particular flower is called. You can always look it up later if you want.



FOCUS ON THE HORIZON

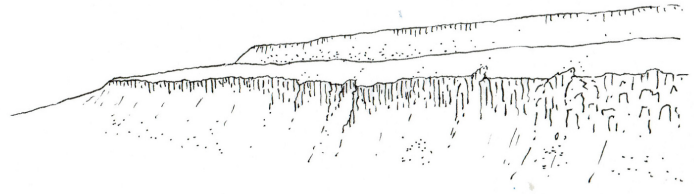


Sketching a vast landscape like the North Pennines might seem intimidating but you'll be surprised how much information you can capture with just one line. By sketching the horizon -- the line where the land meets the sky -- you'll soon notice how many of the North Pennine hills have flat tops. You'll also notice, that where there are slopes, there are often step-like changes, due to the changing layers of rocks in the hills. Keep an eye out for conical hills, bumps, nooks and U-shaped valleys.

Try sketching a few different horizons in the boxes below. Take your time and pay attention to all the subtle changes in gradient. Where is your favourite horizon in the North Pennines?

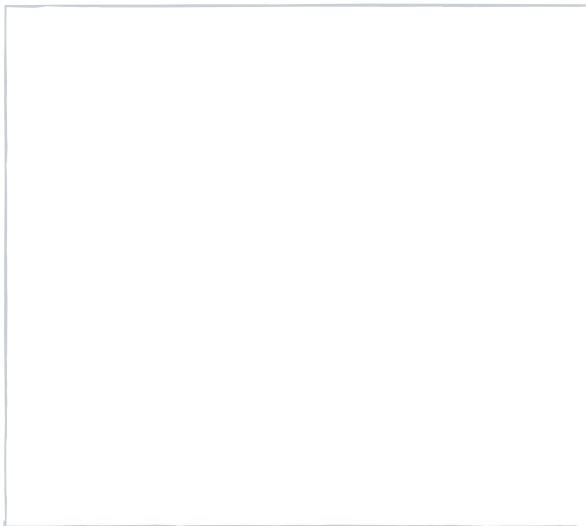
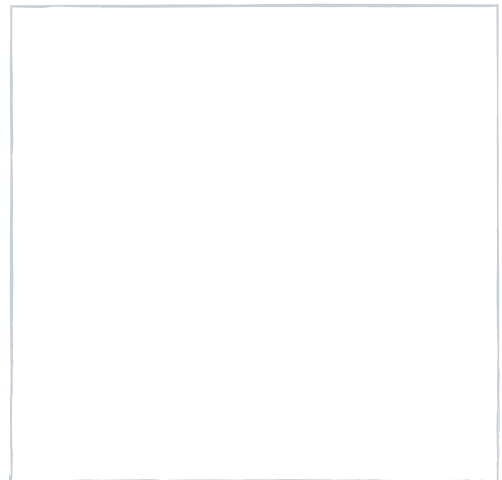


LOOK FOR THE LAYERS



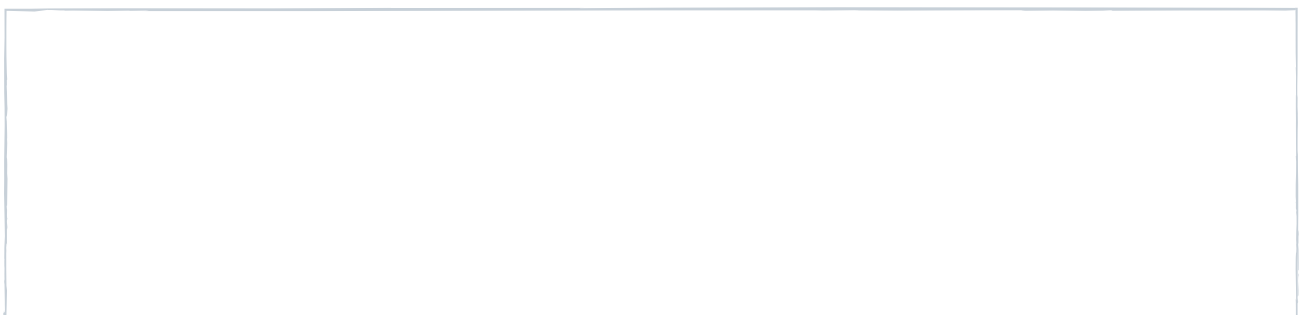
The more time you spend in the North Pennines, the more you realise the landscape is full of layers.

You can see dramatic layers of different rocks most easily behind waterfalls or beside streams. You can also see layers of exposed rock in the hillsides and in the many quarries (active and disused) that are dotted across the region.



You don't have to be able to distinguish between limestone, sandstone and mudstone to enjoy and appreciate these layers. You just have to see them!

It can be overwhelming (and time-consuming) to try and sketch a whole waterfall or rock face, so use these boxes to doodle small sections that catch your eye. Notice how rock layers are rarely as even or horizontal as you first think.

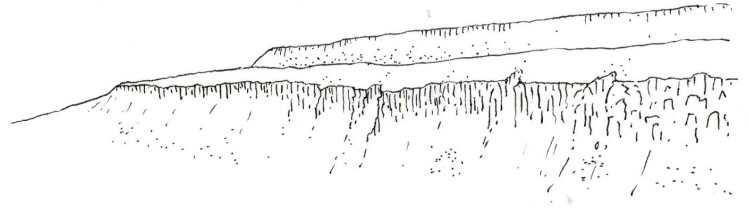


Where to look

- Ashgill Force
- High Force
- Summerhill Force (near Bowlees Visitor Centre)
- Slitt Wood (near Westgate in Weardale)



ADMIRE THE COLUMNS

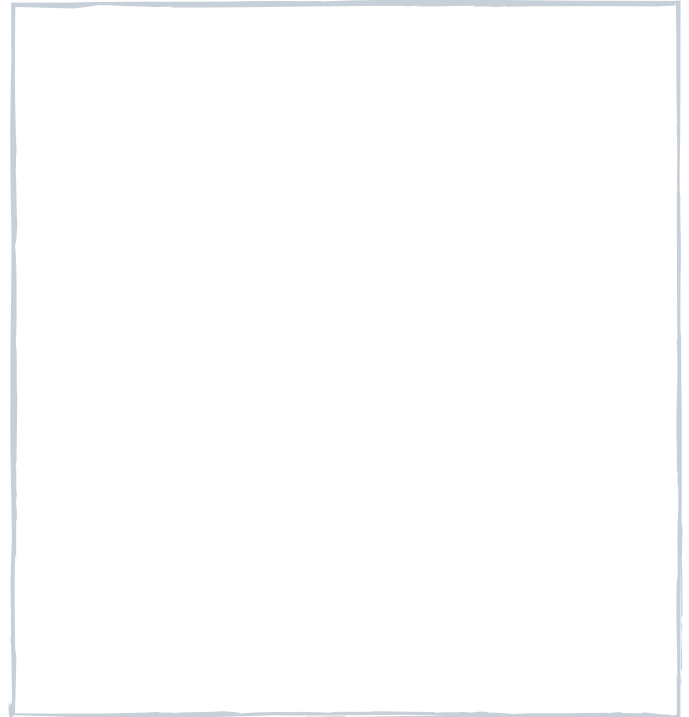


There's one particular layer of rock in the North Pennines that is definitely worth a doodle. The Whin Sill is the most famous rock in the region, a layer of what was once molten magma that juts out from surrounding softer rocks.

From a distance, it looks like great scar on the hill side. Up close, you can see impressive vertical rock columns.

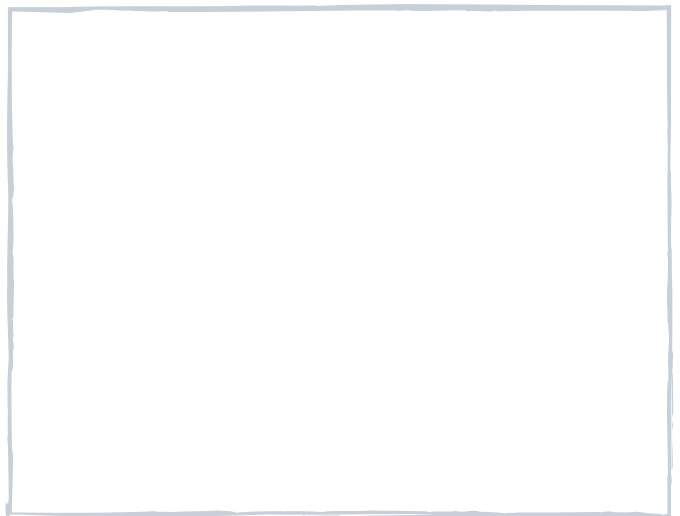
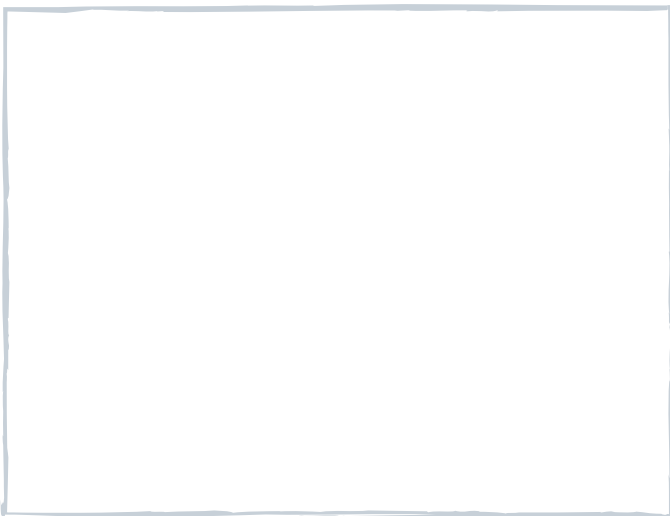
The Whin Sill is a fascinating formation that has influenced geological science around the world. But you don't have to study it to appreciate it. You can get to know it on your own terms by doodling little sections of it. Try sketching it up close and from a distance.

How does it make you feel to sketch something so awesome? What do the patterns in the rocks remind you of?

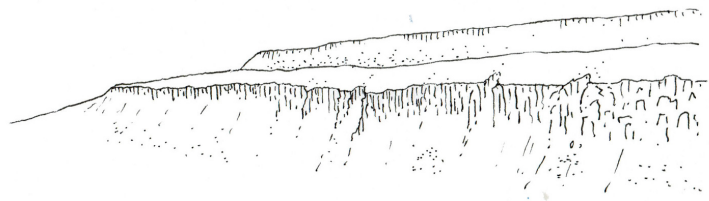


Where to look

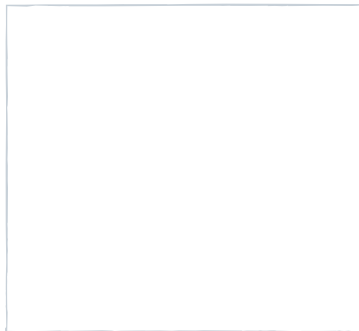
- High Force (top layer of rock)
- Low Force
- Holwick
- Cauldron Snout by Cow Green Reservoir
- High Cup Nick



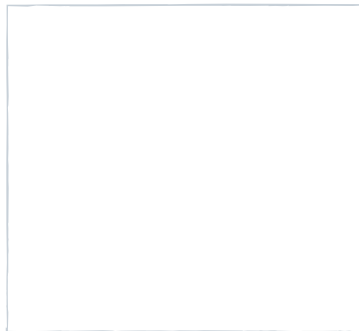
PLAY BOGGY BINGO



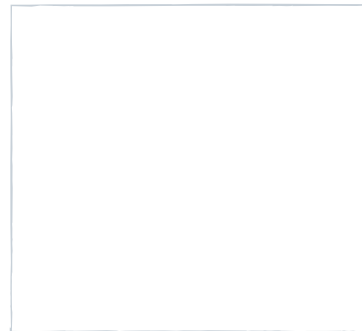
Much of the North Pennines uplands are covered in peat. These precious, squelchy bogs are far more beautiful than you might first think. To help you get to know them, try this boggy doodle bingo. Sketch what you find and collect your favourite boggy colours in the boxes below (in words or colour).



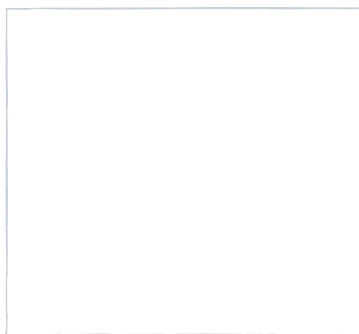
Three types of moss
(clue: look for the stars!)



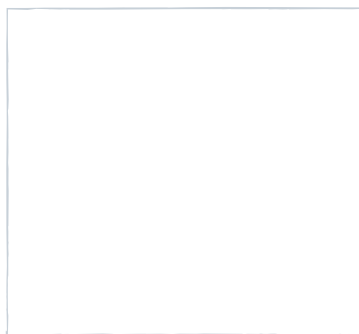
A butterfly or moth



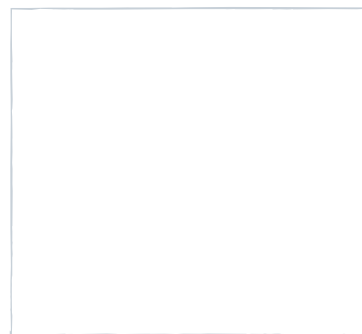
A hummock of grass



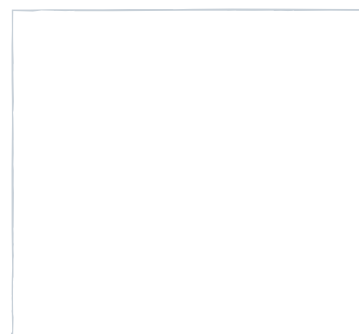
Grass blowing in wind



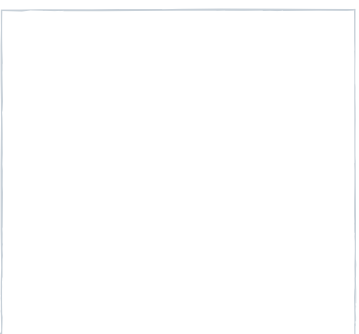
Two tiny flowers



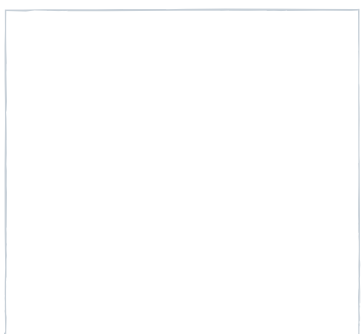
A pool of peaty water



Two types of berry



A moorland bird



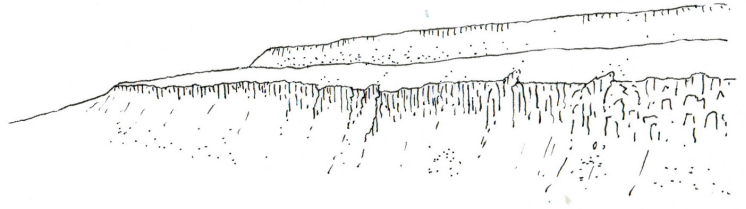
A sprig of heather



Boggy colours



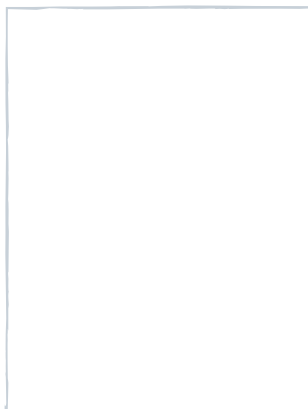
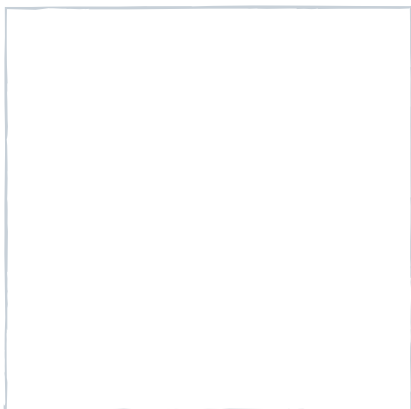
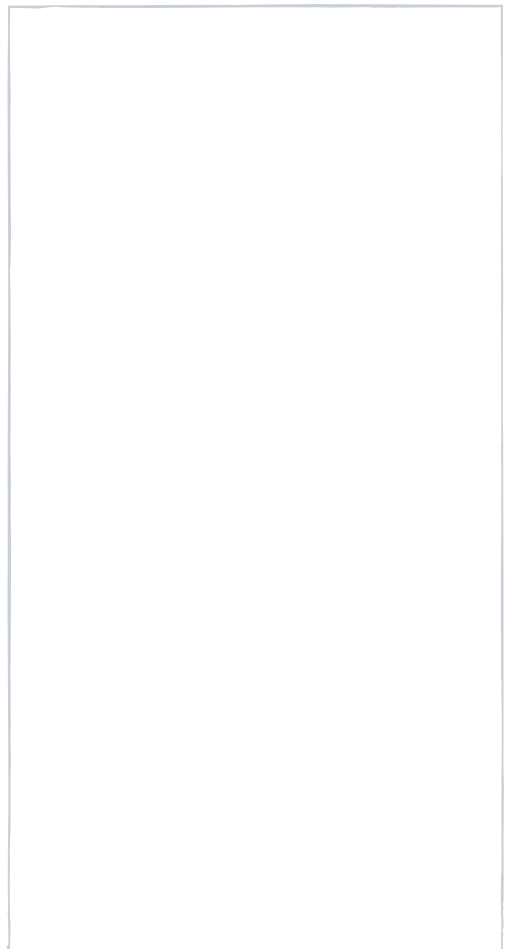
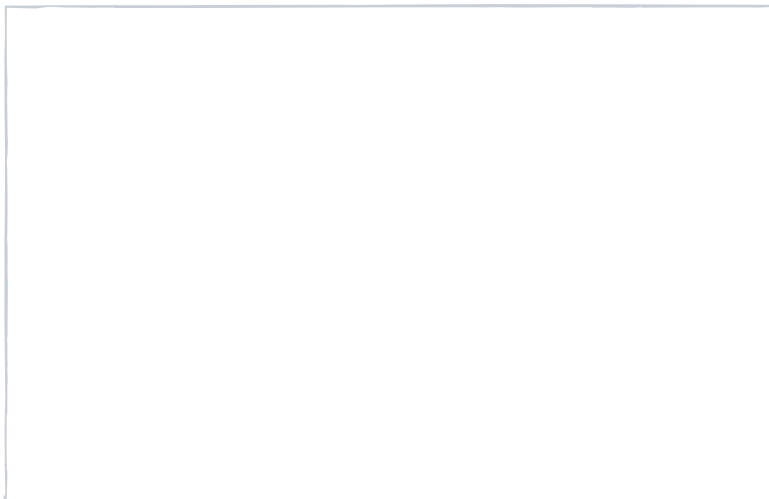
DIG A LITTLE DEEPER



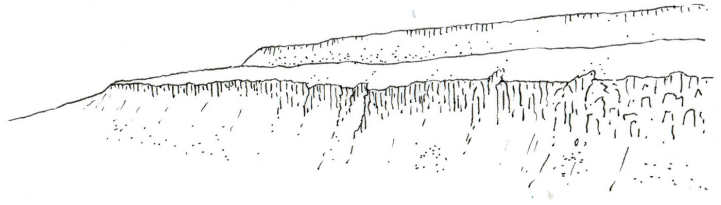
The North Pennines is such a beautiful wilderness that it's easy to assume the landscape is entirely natural. But look a little more closely and you'll see the legacy of mining across the region: disused buildings, quarry faces and spoil heaps. Use the boxes below to sketch any features that capture your attention or evoke an emotional response. Feel free to jot down any thoughts next to your doodles.

Places to see

- Nenthead Mines
- Ashes Quarry, Stanhope
- Around Allenheads
- Around Blanchland



YOUR NORTH PENNINES

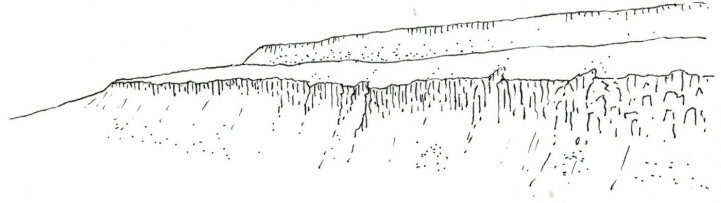


Where in the North Pennines brings you most joy? It might be somewhere famous, like High Force waterfall or it might be a favourite picnic spot no-one else knows about. You might be fond of a clump of trees perched on top of a hill or find yourself mesmerised by curlews flying over a meadow in the early morning sunshine. Or perhaps you just love the space, the fresh air, the peacefulness.

Anytime you catch yourself thinking, 'Wow! I love this. I love being here', do a quick doodle of your surroundings in one of the boxes below. Note any sounds, smells or sensations (wind, drizzle, warm sunshine etc). It will help you savour and remember the moment.



WHAT NEXT?



Hopefully you've started to see and appreciate the North Pennines AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark with fresh eyes. You may have discovered beauty and wonder in unexpected places and feel a stronger bond to the area.

If you enjoyed this booklet, why not get yourself a little sketchbook and carry on doodling? There's so much more to see!

You can learn more about the North Pennines and why it looks the way it does at www.northpennines.org.uk or visit the North Pennines AONB Partnership's visitor centre at Bowlees.

To find out more about green sketching and how it can help you relax and find more joy in your life, visit www.boggydoodles.com or email me, Ali Foxon, at ali@boggydoodles.com. Happy doodling!

NORTH PENNINES
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



SEE SKETCH ENJOY CONNECT
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