

What might I see?

Spring

In spring, grey wagtail and dipper can be seen along the Bowlee Beck. Woodland plants start to emerge and flower in the woods around Bowlees.



Summer

Trees are fully in leaf and the quarry area at Bowlees is awash with flowers. Orchids come into flower and the insectivorous plant, (catches and dissolves insects for food), butterwort can be seen in the quarry. The quarry is a local wildlife site and special invertebrate site. Small birds including spotted flycatcher, chiffchaff and willow warbler will be busy rearing young prior to their migration later in the year.

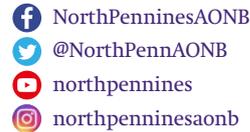
Autumn & winter

The Bowlee Beck is often in full spate with impressive waterfalls and surging water. Beck is a Norse word for a stream and is used throughout Teesdale. Further north, the word burn is used which originates from Anglo Saxon. Though we cannot be completely sure, the names Bowlee and Bowlees might refer to the curved woodland along the valley following the beck. The beck is shown as Bow Ley on old maps. In autumn, the native broadleaf woodland around Bowlees turns golden brown as leaves start to fall. Towards the end of winter, aconites and snowdrops emerge in the Bowlees Visitor Centre grounds.



The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of England's most special places – a stunning, upland landscape of wide open moors, flower-rich hay meadows, intimate woods, dark night skies, charismatic wildlife, industrial heritage, tumbling rivers and dramatic waterfalls. In recognition of its world-class Earth heritage and efforts to make the most of this for tourism and education, it is also designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark.

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Bowlees Visitor Centre is run by the North Pennines AONB Partnership.
Open daily from: **Mid-March to the end of October**
For winter opening times, visit:
www.bowleesvisitorcentre.org.uk



Supported by Northumbrian Water's Bluespaces Fund and the Teesdale Area Action Partnership.

bluespaces



recycle

Photography: ©North Pennines AONB Partnership unless otherwise stated.
Cover image: Gibson's Cave

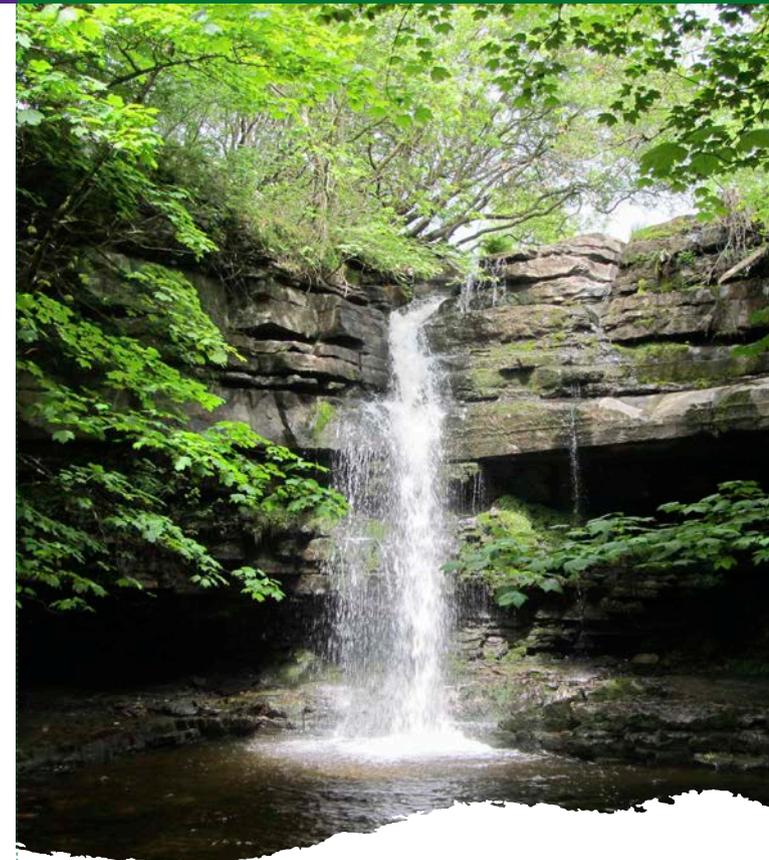
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Gibson's Cave and Summerhill Force

A walk from Bowlees

DISTANCE & TIME: 0.8 miles (1.3km), 30 minutes

DIFFICULTY: MODERATE - along paths, some steps and uneven ground



NORTH PENNINES
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



P **Parking:** Bowlees Visitor Centre car park (donate and display). Bowlees, Newbiggin, Barnard Castle, DL12 0XE.

Public transport: Service 75 (Wednesday only).

Facilities & Refreshments: Toilets and café are available at the Bowlees Visitor Centre, High Force Hotel and nearby Middleton-in-Teesdale village.



Route description

- 1 Start from Bowlees Visitor Centre and follow the path to the car park.
- 2 Turn left after crossing the footbridge and, with the beck on your left, walk upstream towards and past the toilet block.
- 3 Stop to enjoy the quarry and water then with the beck on your left climb the steps to the small view point and continue along the path.
- 4 Having arrived at Summerhill Force and Gibson's Cave, please do not cross the wall. Retrace your steps back to the start of your walk.

