

# What might I see?

## Spring

In spring, wading birds such as lapwing and oystercatcher return to the North Pennines to breed. Dipper, common sandpiper and grey wagtail can be seen along the river. Woodland plants such as bluebell and wild garlic (ramsons) start to emerge and flower in the woods around Low Force.



## Summer

Trees are fully in leaf and hay meadows are awash with flowers. Orchids such as northern marsh orchid come into flower. 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 River Tees is often in full spate with impressive waterfalls. Migratory Salmon pass Low Force in autumn, occasionally jumping on their way upstream when river conditions are suitable. The native broadleaf woodland around Low Force turns golden brown as leave 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](http://www.bowleesvisitorcentre.org.uk)



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

**bluespaces**



**recycle**

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Cover image: Newbiggin

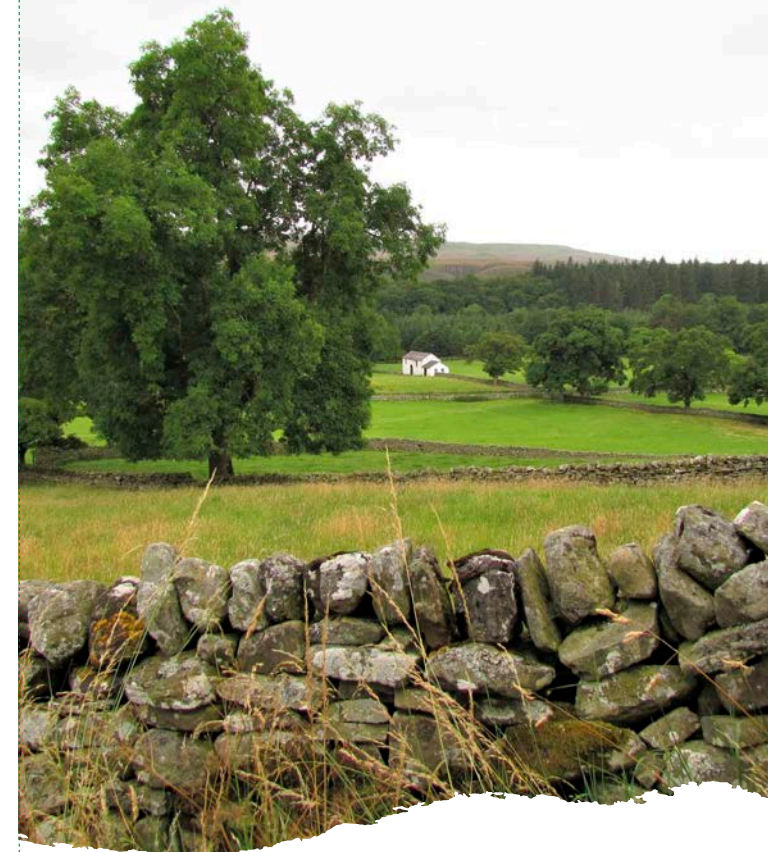
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# Newbiggin-in-Teesdale circular

## A walk from Bowlees

**DISTANCE & TIME:** 2 miles (3.2km), 1 hour

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



**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 the front entrance of Bowlees Visitor Centre and follow the lane to the main road. Cross with care and head south through the gates onto the footpath to Low Force.
- 2 Cross the Wynch Bridge and turn left, following the Pennine Way National Trail downstream alongside the river until reaching a sharp left turn that descends across Scoberry footbridge.
- 3 Cross the footbridge. If water levels are low making it safe to do so, look for the fossilised shells of an extinct brachiopod called *Gigantoproductus* on the rocky outcrop of the northern bank immediately downstream. Cross the field heading away from the river and pass through a gate with a small stone building on your left. Head for the footbridge in the far right corner of the next field.
- 4 Cross the footbridge and follow the path which climbs between two walls into a field and cross toward a gate and stile at the main road.
- 5 Turn right and taking care, cross the road to take the next left turn into a narrow road into Newbiggin (signed Westgate).
- 6 Turn left and follow the road uphill.
- 7 When reaching a public footpath sign on the left, cross the stile next to the gate into the field. Follow the path across the two fields over the stiles towards the houses, keeping on the left of the barn.
- 8 At the gate and stile, enter the field and walk ahead with the wall on your left.
- 9 At the gap and adjacent stile, go straight ahead to meet a track.
- 10 Turn left on the track to a gate into the Bowlees Visitor Centre car park.

