

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.



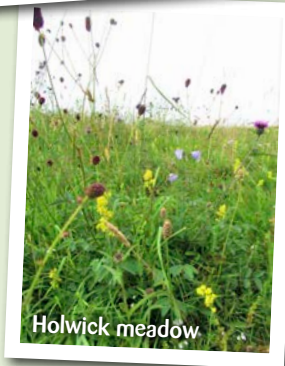
Summer

Trees are fully in leaf and in early summer hay meadows are awash with flowers. There are good examples of species rich upland hay meadows on this walk after Wynch Bridge. 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.



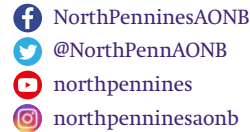
The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of England's most special places – a stunning, upland landscape of wide open moors, flower-rich hay meadows, intimate woods, dark night skies, charismatic wildlife, industrial heritage, tumbling rivers and dramatic waterfalls. In recognition 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.

Wynch Bridge, Low Force and Stony Beck A walk from Bowlees

DISTANCE & TIME: 1.5 miles (2.5km), 1 hour

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

North Pennines AONB Partnership
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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



NORTH PENNINES
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Photography: ©North Pennines AONB Partnership
Cover image: Wynch Bridge

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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 in front to the main road. Cross with care, heading through the gates on the footpath to Low Force.
- 2** Cross the Wynch Bridge over the River Tees. Once across the bridge look for a signpost on your left. Follow the signpost for Holwick, heading through the kissing gate ahead and slightly to the left.
- 3** Follow the path and cross the small stone footbridge over the beck.
- 4** Head around the hill on the path and enter the field with the barn ahead.
- 5** At the wall at the top of the field cross into the next field.
- 6** At the top of the field when you meet the track, head to the right, following the track towards and past the large house.
- 7** Turn right onto a track (before reaching the beck) doubling back towards a cottage.
- 8** Pass through the gap/gate in the wall and turn immediate left keeping the wall on your left, cross the beck and then turn right following the beck.
- 9** The field narrows to a pedestrian gate and a board walk. Follow the board walk and then go straight ahead.
- 10** Turn left when you meet another path, continuing back towards the Wynch Bridge and retrace your route to the Bowlees Visitor Centre.

