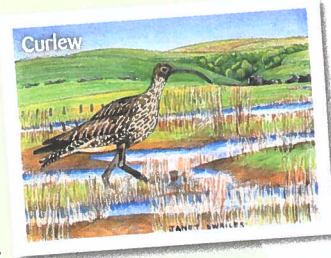


What might I see?

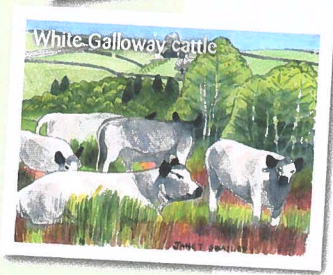
Spring

Enjoy the distinctive sounds of breeding wading birds such as curlew, lapwing and snipe. Dippers, common sandpipers and grey wagtails can be seen along the watercourses. If you are lucky you might see a short-eared owl hunting low over ground.



Summer

The estate is awash with purple as the heather is in full bloom. Enjoy the flower rich banks of the Swindale Valley. Keep your eyes peeled for insects such as the beautiful dark green fritillary butterfly and hawker dragonflies.



Autumn & winter

The waterfalls are in full flow and look particularly spectacular this time of year. On frosty days, look out for impressive icicles around the walk.

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.

North Pennines AONB Partnership  NorthPenninesAONB
www.northpennines.org.uk  @NorthPennaONB
+44 (0)1388 528801  northpennines
info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk  northpenninesaonb

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One of the
AONB family



Funding secured by the AONB team from Defra's Green Recovery Challenge Fund allowed the project partners to kickstart a process of large-scale ecological enhancement. We restored 79 hectares of eroding peatland, created new wetlands, and seeded and planted thousands of shrubs and trees across 153 hectares.

This project was delivered by the North Pennines AONB Partnership (www.northpennines.org.uk), in partnership with:



Illustrations: ©Janet Swailes

12/23/500

High Helbeck Walk

DISTANCE & TIME: 3.5 miles, approx. 3 hours

DIFFICULTY: Moderate with some steep terrain. The ground can be boggy in places. Access is via gates and bridges. There are no stiles on this walk.



NORTH PENNINES
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



P **Parking:** Limited parking is available at Deadman Gill layby (Grid Reference NY 82334 18889 & What3Words – never.drumbeat.script), 100 metres from the start of the trail.

Toilets & Refreshments: Cafés, pubs, a village store and public toilets available in Brough.

Route description

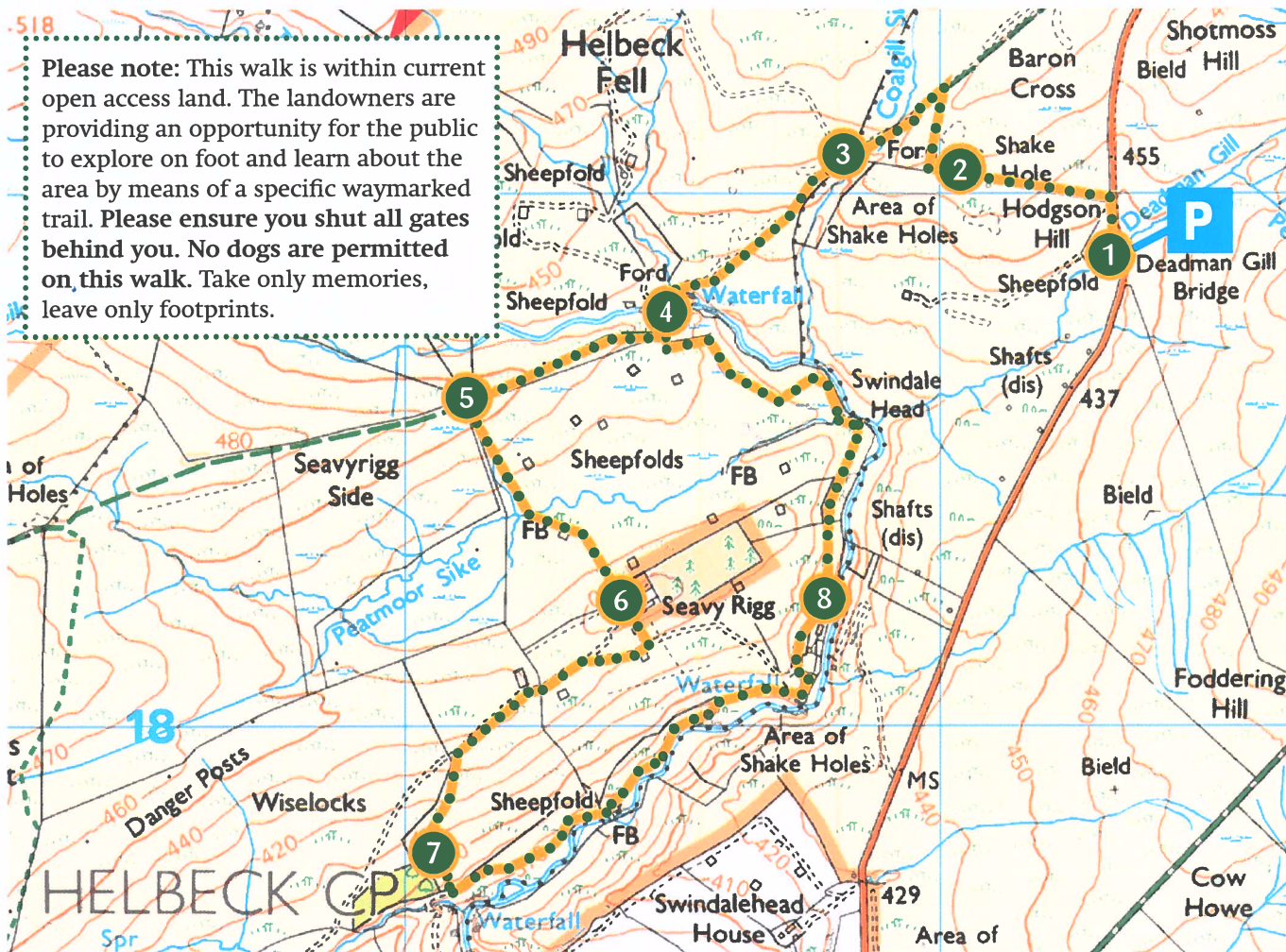
1 From the Deadman Gill layby, turn left (facing the road) and walk along the road (being careful of any oncoming traffic) towards a finger post marking the start of the walk. Go through the gate and head straight along the edge of the fence line until you reach a post with the High Helbeck waymarker disc on it.

2 After stopping to enjoy the view across the estate and to the distant fells, follow the waymarker which takes you to a stone brideway where you will turn left and continue on your journey.

3 Go through the next gate and head out along the rough ground of the brideway, leaving the stone track behind you. Eventually you will reach a footbridge across the Swindale Beck. Before crossing, take time to admire the nearby waterfall and the young woodland in this gill but be careful not to get too close to the edge.

4 After crossing the bridge follow the next waymarker uphill, keeping the fence on your left. Go through the next pedestrian gate and walk towards the interpretation panel on the right. At the panel, take a well-deserved breather and appreciate the valley below and ‘our vision for the future’, with beautiful artwork created by local artist Janet Swailes.

5 Turn around and follow the waymarker on the wooden field gate behind you and head down the rough quad bike track. Cross a bridge then head uphill towards a woodland.



Please note: This walk is within current open access land. The landowners are providing an opportunity for the public to explore on foot and learn about the area by means of a specific waymarked trail. Please ensure you shut all gates behind you. No dogs are permitted on this walk. Take only memories, leave only footprints.

6 Go through a gate and head down the hill along the stone track. You will pass a small barn on your left. Keep an eye out for a waymarker and a gate on your right. Go through it and follow the grassy track towards the gate in the dry stone wall. Follow the waymarker signs until you reach another gate, next to a woodland.

7 Go through the gate and head down the bank. This bank can get very slippery when wet so take care. Look out for waymarkers, which eventually lead to some steps. At the bottom of the steps turn left and continue along this track for half a mile, past a stone barn.

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8 Follow the next waymarker sign through a gate and onwards, keeping the beck on your right. Cross the footbridge over Peatmoor Sike and continue. Stay tight to the fence line on your right-hand side. At the next waymarker, head up the steep bank, through the gate and turn right. Keep close to the fence and then keep left of a derelict dry stone wall near to an area of wood pasture tree cages. Head for the field gate you passed earlier, then retrace your steps back to the start.



No dogs are permitted on this walk.