

What might I see?

Spring

In spring, wading birds such as lapwing, curlew and oystercatcher return to the North Pennines to breed.



Summer

Trees are fully in leaf and woodland plants are flowering. 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 native broadleaf woodland around Bowlees turns golden brown as leaves start to fall. You will walk through a coniferous plantation that remains green throughout the year, the trees retaining their needle leaves. The large Scots pine trees along the last part of the walk are impressive at any time of year. 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.

Hare Hill and Bowlees Plantation

A walk from Bowlees

DISTANCE & TIME: 1.4 miles (2.3km), 45 minutes

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

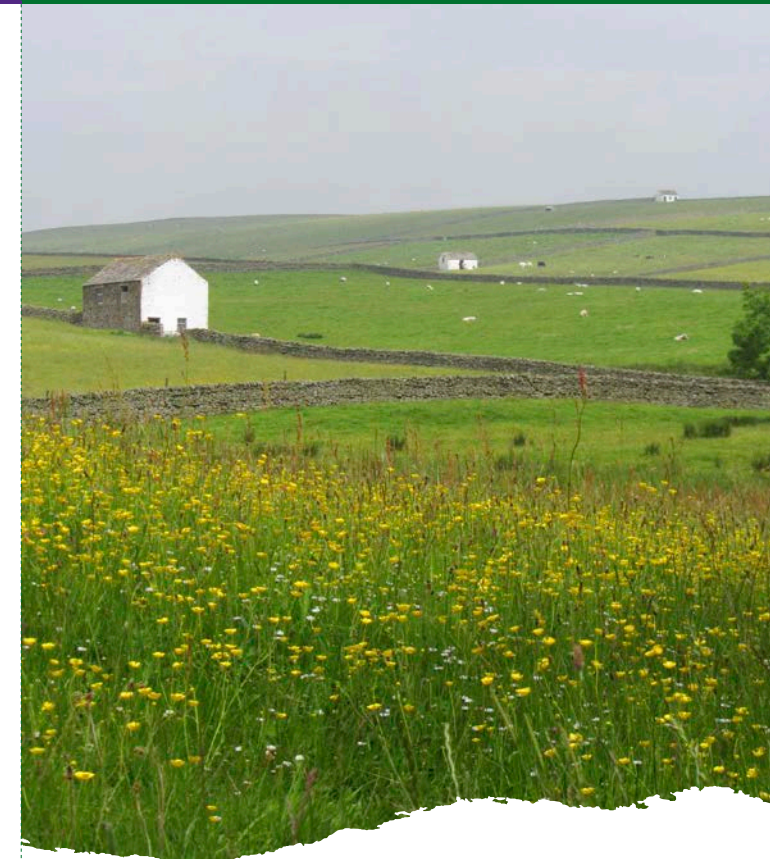
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Bowlees Visitor Centre is run by the North Pennines AONB Partnership.
Open daily from: **Mid-March to the end of October**
For winter opening times, visit:
www.bowleesvisitorcentre.org.uk



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

bluespaces



Photography: ©North Pennines AONB Partnership unless otherwise stated
Cover image: Meadows and barns near Bowlees 03/23/1000

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 From the front of Bowlees Visitor Centre head past the holly tree towards the gated track. Go through the pedestrian gate and up the hill towards the trees.
- 2 Continue through the gate at the top of the hill and across the field, keeping parallel with the tree line.
- 3 Go through the timber gate heading left and then right down a steep slope to the sike (stream).
- 4 Cross the sike (stream) and head up the other bank towards a stone step stile.
- 5 Cross over the step stile and head towards the trees at the top of the field (the path heads uphill on a meandering route).
- 6 When you reach the trees cross the stile and turn right onto the track, keeping the wall on your right.
- 7 Cross the sike on the footbridge and head along the footpath to your right.
- 8 At the end of the path through the woods you will come to a gate, go through it and to the right you will find yourself back at the Visitor Centre.

