

Explore the North Pennines

Do you live in the North East or could you be a visitor? One way or another, why not visit us in the North Pennines?

What will you find there?

- Almost 40% of the UK's upland hay meadows
- 30% of England's upland heathlands and 27% of its blanket bog
- 80% of England's black grouse
- Short-eared owl, ring ouzel, snipe and redshank
- 36% of the AONB designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Red squirrels, otters and rare arctic alpine plants
- 22,000 pairs of breeding wading birds
- Peace, tranquillity and fabulous night skies
- England's highest waterfall
- GREAT PLACES TO WALK AND GET FIT



AONB = Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Nature Watching

The North Pennines is a fantastic place to see the natural world! You could combine your days out in the wilds with some wildlife recording to help us with conservation.

You can now record all your wildlife sightings by registering with the AONB Partnership's *WildWatch* project on the AONB website:

<http://www.northpennines.org.uk/Pages/WildWatch.aspx>

Badger Recording: Have a look at the information on the website about badger setts. If you are out in the countryside and you think you've found a sett, we'd be pleased to hear from you. Just give us directions to where you saw the sett and we'll go out and check it. (*We don't mind if you are wrong.*)

Please keep the location of setts to yourself.

You could also let us know about road casualties



you see.



Did you know that we lose about 50,000 badgers a year on the roads? That's the same as one person from every family in Britain being killed on the roads *every* year!

The North Pennines is a great place to watch birds. Our rich mixture of habitats allows many bird species to live here. Why not use our **'British Bird List'** to tick off all the species you see when you are in the great outdoors?

Look out for:

High Moors: golden plover, red grouse, meadow pipit, dunlin, merlin, short-eared owl, hen harrier

Grassland and hay meadows: curlew, lapwing, redshank, snipe, skylark, wheatear, grey partridge, yellow wagtail, twite, fieldfare

Woodlands: pied flycatcher, redstart, wood warbler, woodcock

Rivers and streams: dipper, goosander, grey wagtail, grey heron, common sandpiper, oystercatcher

Scrub, scree and crag: ring ouzel, peregrine, whinchat

Open water: mallard, teal, goosander, coot, moorhen, tufted duck, pochard **Take care beside open water!**

Birdwatcher's Code of Conduct: Please take care of our birdlife.

- The welfare of the birds must come first. Disturbance to birds and their habitats should be kept to a minimum.
- Keep to paths and tracks, especially during the bird breeding season (March/August).
- Avoid disturbing birds or keeping them away from their nests for even short periods, especially in wet or cold weather.
- Do not try to find nests. All birds, nests, eggs and young are



protected by law and it is illegal to harm them.

- Keep dogs on a short lead.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Take your litter home with you.

Go on! Don't just sit in front of a screen! Get out into the countryside!

<http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/>