

Why stargaze? ★★

Few people have seen a truly dark sky, but here in the North Pennines, where there are few people and low levels of light pollution, we've got some of the darkest skies in England, making it one of the best places in the country for stargazing.

Big telescopes give the best views of the planets, distant galaxies, comets and other astronomical phenomena. You can use these at regular events held in the North Pennines. However, everyone can enjoy stargazing with a pair of binoculars and some basic information on how to get started, including star maps.

Enjoy one of our evening stargazing events at Bowlees Visitor Centre or simply take in the unforgettable sight of the pristine night sky from one of the remoter sites like Grassholm Reservoir – just you and a few million stars!



Why are dark skies important? ★★

Light pollution in our towns and cities is blocking our view of the stars, to the point where it is beginning to creep further into even the more remote areas of our protected landscapes. Here in the North Pennines we are taking steps to keep our skies dark by encouraging communities and developers to implement measures that will reduce light pollution. Find out how you can make a difference by visiting: www.britastro.org/dark-skies/pdfs/CfDS_guidelines.pdf

Remember, when you go stargazing, use a red-light torch to help you see more stars, as white light makes it harder to see.

Dark Sky Friendly ★★

Look out for these logos – when you see them you can be sure of a warm, stargazing-friendly welcome.



Dark sky friendly
Durham

Find out more ★★

For more information on stargazing in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, go to:

stargazingnorthpennines.org.uk

Places and events in the North Pennines, downloadable resources, apps and social media feeds for the latest information plus other information to help plan your trip.

thisisdurham.com/darkskies

visitnorthumberland.com/darkskies

Plan your trip in and around the North Pennines AONB

darkskydiscovery.org.uk

Downloadable star maps and other helpful information.

#NPennDarkSkies

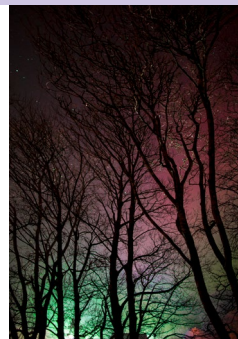
Search on Twitter for the latest news and information from the North Pennines AONB Dark Skies.

Supported by:

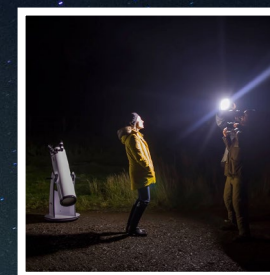
Visit County
Durham

Photography:

© Cain Scrimgeour and Gary Lintern



Stargazing in the North Pennines



NORTH PENNINES
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Great places to see stars

There are lots of great places to enjoy the night sky in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Some of them have star maps in place to help you find key stars and constellations and often there are places to eat and stay close by. The sky you see from each place is the same, but each one is different.

Some of them have been officially designated as 'Dark Sky Discovery Sites' (DSDS) because they are especially dark.

1 Allendale Golf Course NE47 9DH

Signposted from the B6295 south of Allendale Town in the East Allen Valley.

2 North Pennines Observatory NE47 9HR

Observatory at Allenheads Contemporary Arts (ACA), the Old School House. Open by arrangement. Contact: 01434 683 517 / www.northpennobservatory.org.uk

3 Balderhead Reservoir DL12 9UX

Take the minor road from the B6277 at Romaldkirk and follow signs to Balderhead Reservoir.

4 Bowlees Visitor Centre DL12 OXF

Take the B6277 from Middleton-in-Teesdale towards Alston. Bowlees Visitor Centre is about three miles along this road on the right. The DSDS is in the car park – follow the brown signs.

5 Knarsdale Village Hall CA8 7NP

Knarsdale is on the A689 between Brampton and Alston. The village hall is in the centre of the village and the DSDS is in the car park, at the back of the hall.

6 Burnhope Reservoir DL13 1DJ

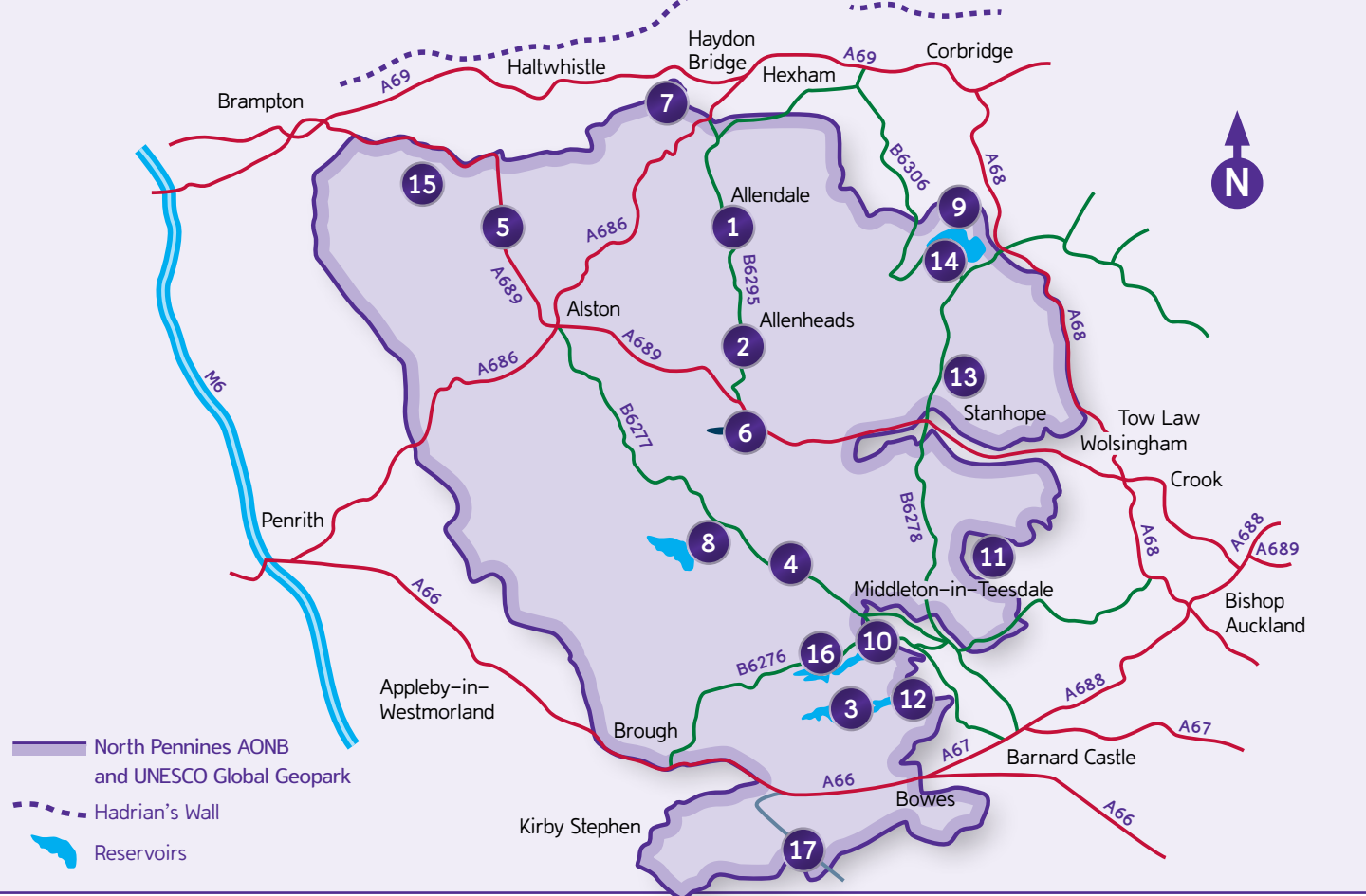
Take one of the minor roads westwards from Cowhill or Wearhead. Park at the layby at the northern end of the dam and the DSDS is just through the gate.

7 Allen Banks NE47 7BP

Signposted from the A69 between Haydon Bridge and Bardon Mill.

8 Cow Green Reservoir DL12 OHX

Turn off the B6277 at Langdon Beck and follow signs to Cow Green Reservoir.



9 Millshields DH8 9PT

Millshields is signposted off the minor road that follows the north shore of Derwent Reservoir, just east of Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club.

10 Grassholme Reservoir DL12 OPW

Follow signs from the B6277 just north of Mickleton. The entrance to Grassholme is on the right. The DSDS is in the car park.

11 Hamsterley Forest DL13 3NL

Follow brown signs to Hamsterley Forest from the A68. The DSDS is located by the new bridge, below the cafe.

12 Hury Reservoir DL12 9UR

Take the minor road from the B6277 just north of Cotherstone signposted Hury and Blackton reservoirs. The DSDS is in the car park on the north side of Hury Dam.

13 Parkhead Station DL13 2ES

Turn off the B6278 3 miles north of Stanhope.

14 Pow Hill Country Park DH8 9NU

Signposted from the B6306 between Edmundbyers and Blanchland.

15 RSPB Geltsdale CA87 2NJ

Turn off the A689 at Hallbankgate in front of the Belted Will pub. Follow this road to the RSPB Geltsdale reserve car park.

16 Selset Reservoir DL12 OPR

Signposted from the the B6276 south west of Middleton-in-Teesdale. The DSDS is in the car park at the northern end of the dam.

17 Tan Hill Inn DL11 6ED

On the border of the North Pennines and the Yorkshire Dales. It is signposted from the A66 Bowes to Brough road.