# Table of Contents

## Scenery & Environment

- Views .................................................. 4
- River walks ......................................... 5
- Waterfalls ............................................ 5
- User groups .......................................... 5

## Wildlife & Nature

- Habitats .............................................. 6
- Wildlife ............................................. 6
- Where to see wildlife ............................ 7
- Natural qualities ................................. 8
- User groups ........................................ 8

## History & Heritage

- Prehistory .......................................... 9
- Romans ............................................ 9
- Medieval ........................................... 9
- Industrial heritage ............................ 9
- Transport ......................................... 10
- Church heritage ................................ 10
- User groups ...................................... 10

## Art & Crafts

- Studios and craft outlets ....................... 11
- Courses and events ............................ 12
- User groups ...................................... 12

## Food & Drink

- Local produce ..................................... 13
- Where to buy local produce ................. 13
- Local eateries ..................................... 13 – 15
- User groups ....................................... 15

## Events & Activities

- Shows, festivals & galas ......................... 16
- Craft fairs ........................................... 16
- Farmers’ markets ................................ 17
- Local music ......................................... 17
- Other events ....................................... 17
- Courses ............................................ 17
- Activities ......................................... 18 – 20
- User groups ....................................... 21
introduction

WHAT IS ‘SENSE OF PLACE’?

‘Sense of place’ is a concept that is defined through accumulating knowledge of a place – its history, geography, geology, flora and fauna, culture and other attributes.

Alston Moor is wholly within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and within Cumbria and, as such, its ‘sense of place’ is very different to neighbouring areas. Its distinctive qualities are deeply rooted in the geology, history and community spirit of the area. This is manifested in spectacular upland scenery, a sense of remoteness and space, and an ‘earthy’ attachment to the land through the dual livelihoods of farming and mining.

An ethos of self-sufficiency over several generations has led to a strong independent streak among the inhabitants of Alston Moor today. This has driven entrepreneurial activity and led to the establishment of many community-focused enterprises such as Epiacum Heritage, Alston Aspire, Moody Baker, Alston Wholefoods, Cybermoor, Alston Craftworkers, seasonal shows and galas and, historically, a strong spirit of Non-Conformist worship.

How you can use Sense of Place?

Perhaps you’re wondering what this means to your business, but ‘sense of place’ is about using local resources to improve your marketability. Every locality has distinctive qualities that make it special in some way. By recognising and valuing these qualities, tourism businesses can use them to improve their marketing and promotional activities. Visitors who are provided with local information (and friendly encounters) often develop an affinity with their holiday environment that can result in repeat visits.

How to use this handbook

This handbook is the result of the accumulation of local knowledge generated at a Sense of Place workshop held in Garrigill Village Hall on 15 March 2013 Led by Anna Gray, Blue Badge Guide.

It is not intended to be an all-encompassing compendium of what to see and do in the area, but rather a reflection of the considerable material gathered from local people and businesses on that day.

Under the broad categories of Scenery & Environment, Wildlife & Nature, History & Heritage, Art & Crafts, Food & Drink, and Events & Activities are suggestions of places to visit and things to do. The added quotes, intended to conjure up perceptions of local places and activities, were made by participants at the workshop.

At the end of each section is a summary of places/events/activities that are suitable for different user groups, as identified by participants at the workshop. All the places mentioned can be found on Ordnance Survey maps (1:25,000 scale) OL 31 (North Pennines) and OL 43 (Hadrian’s Wall).

We hope you enjoy reading the handbook and that it will become an indispensable resource of local information to help you provide your visitors with an enhanced experience of Alston Moor.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The North Pennines AONB has detailed information on all the above sites and produces a range of literature on the heritage of the area.

Tel: 01388 528801
Email: info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk
Websites: www.northpennines.org.uk or www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk

For information on Alston Moor in general, contact:
Alston Tourist Information Centre
Tel: 01434 382244.
Email: alston.tic@eden.gov.uk.

Websites: www.golakes.co.uk
www.nurturelakeland.org
Scenery and Environment

The underlying geology is the basis of the spectacular scenery of Alston Moor and surrounding areas of the North Pennines. This beautiful landscape has its foundation in layers of limestone, sandstone and shale which have been shaped by ice and water to create broad hills, wild open moors and tumbling waterfalls. The hard whinstone of the Whin Sill adds another dramatic aspect to the landscape in Upper Teesdale and along the escarpment. Alston Moor’s long history of mining for lead ore and other minerals has left a rich legacy of mining remains dotted around the hills. It is no wonder that the North Pennines AONB was Britain’s first European Geopark.

Whatever the season and weather, Alston Moor delivers constantly changing scenes of stark beauty set against a rugged backdrop of sweeping moorlands, sparkling waters and big open skies.

VIEWS

- **Top of Mount Hooley** – ‘you can see almost all of Alston Moor from here’
- **Three Fells Walk** – Cross Fell, Little Dun Fell, Great Dun Fell
- **Views from Hartside, Killhope Cross and Yad Moss** – ‘delightful panoramas suddenly open up in front of you’
- **Mea Sike on Hartside road** – looking towards Black Burn and Cross Fell; ‘view of Blagill in morning sunlight’
- **Dryburn Common** – with two chimneys silhouetted against Cheviots
- **Alston Town on a grey, cold, smoky day** – ‘nowhere else quite like it!’
- **Descending Hartside** – ‘classic!’
- **Gilbert Ward sculpture** – at Tynehead; ‘a scene of landscape transition’
- **Crook Burn** – ‘diverse landscape with layered rocks’
- **High Cup Nick** – on Pennine Way above Dufton
- **Cow Green Reservoir** – in Upper Teesdale
- **All the high routes** – ‘feel on top of the world’
- **Garrigill at midnight on a clear winter’s night** – ‘cosmic’
- **Sky at night** – ‘pure silence except for wildlife’, ‘joy of wonderful starry nights’
- **White frosts on the top of Killhope Cross**
- **Moor House** – ‘lonely’
- **Ayleside Road** – ‘view, calm, sheep, wind’
- **Cross Fell** – ‘dramatic’
RIVER WALKS

- Alston to Garrigill along South Tyne River – ‘fossils, waterfalls, wildflower meadows, trees, wildlife’
- Gossipgate to Blagill along River Nent – ‘magical’; ‘a lovely walk along the river’
- Gossipgate – ‘where the cares of the day just melt away’
- Randalholme to Kirkhaugh – along the river; ‘river sounds’
- Whiteyke Mine along gill – South Tyne Valley; ‘quiet, wildlife’
- Garrigill to Tynehead – along South Tyne River
- Upper Teesdale river walk
- Allenbanks

WATERFALLS

- Ashgill Force – ‘a magical place where you can walk behind the waterfall’
- High Nent Force – ‘a tranquil place beside the waterfall’
- Clarghyll Force – ‘a real hidden gem with limestone and dramatic falls’
- Waterfall at Whinsill (Tynehead) – ‘intimate but spectacular’

GREAT FOR FAMILIES

- Cow Green Reservoir
- Gossipgate to Blagill along River Nent
- Ashgill Force
- High Nent Force
- Seven Sisters Waterfall
- Allenbanks

PERFECT FOR COUPLES

- Top of Mount Hooley
- Views from Hartside, Killhope Cross and Yad Moss
- Dryburn Common
- Gilbert Ward sculpture
- Cow Green Reservoir
- Gossipgate to Blagill along River Nent
- Alston to Garrigill river walk
- Garrigill to Tynehead river walk
- Randalholme to Kirkhaugh
- Ashgill Force
- High Nent Force
- Seven Sisters Waterfall

RECOMMENDED FOR TRANQUILLITY LOVERS

- Top of Mount Hooley
- Views from Hartside, Killhope Cross and Yad Moss
- Gilbert Ward sculpture
- High Cup Nick
- Garrigill to Tynehead river walk
- Ashgill Force
- High Nent Force

IDEAL FOR ADVENTUROUS TYPES

- Three Fells Walk
- Views from Hartside, Killhope Cross and Yad Moss
- Gilbert Ward sculpture
- High Cup Nick
- Alston to Garrigill river walk
- Cross Fell
- Ashgill Force
- High Nent Force
Wildlife & Nature

HABITATS

- **Summer hay meadows** – ‘the sheer variety and joy of colour’ (flowering time May – July)
- **Moorlands** – ‘lovely purple heathers’
- **Blanket bog**
- **Ash woodlands**
- **Limestone grasslands**
- **Gills** – ‘transitions from source to confluence’; ‘secret places’
- **Fairhill** – ‘a mix of habitats – grass and ponds with frogs and newts’
- **Open spaces** – ‘for quiet contemplation and observation of how the world works’

WILDLIFE

- **The sheer variety of birdlife**
- **Curlews** – ‘sounds of the Northumbrian pipes’; ‘means spring is nearly here’
- **Buzzards at Blackcleugh** – ‘mewing and circling’
- **Lapwings** – ‘the sounds and the amazing aerobatics; brings land to life’
- **Golden plover** – ‘beautiful, mournful sound’
- **Hares** – along the Hudgill
- **Deer** – at Whitsike, Blagill and Fiddler Street
- **Lizards** – at the waterfall below Blagill on the River Nent and above 1200 ft contour – ‘always a surprise’
- **Salmon** – migrating up our rivers to spawn
- **The Goat Field** (opposite Gossipgate Gallery) – ‘Fabulous goats with attitude’

Alston Moor’s remote and diverse environments are a haven for some of Britain’s rarest plants and animals. The stunning landscapes of Alston Moor are made up of heather-clad moorlands, peat bogs, limestone grasslands, woodlands and river valleys – forming a diverse mosaic of habitats for species to flourish within.

The extensive open moorlands are home to upland birds such as black grouse, golden plovers, merlins and short-eared owls, while rare alpine plants cling on in niche habitats. Peat bogs are an internationally important ecosystem and ‘carbon store’, with over a quarter of all England’s upland peat bogs contained solely within the North Pennines AONB.

Traditionally-managed hay meadows are a riot of colour in June and July, attracting numerous insects and birds. Ash woodlands, notable for their rich ground flora, carpet the dales; while juniper scrub survives in isolated pockets. The clear rivers are home to otters, water voles, dippers, herons, kingfishers, salmon and brown trout. Red squirrels and deer can also be spotted within the coniferous plantations that form another vital element in the landscape character of the area.

With such a diverse array of habitats and wildlife, it’s not surprising that the North Pennines attracts nature lovers all year round.
WHERE TO SEE WILDLIFE

- **Firs Walk** – ‘great for red squirrels’
- **Fidler’s Street** – ‘mountain pansies’
- **Hagg’s Bank, Nentsbury** – ‘flora-rich grassland’
- **The Hush Nenthead** – ‘flora & fauna, wild mushrooms, red squirrels and the “frogger” pond’
- **South Tyne River** – ‘waders, oystercatchers, wild ducks, dippers’; ‘the soothing sound of the river’
- **Mount Hooley Woods** – ‘squirrels’; ‘views’; ‘sphagnum moss’
- **Lowbyer Manor Country House** Alston – ‘red squirrels and roe deer regularly visit’  
  [www.lowbyer.com](http://www.lowbyer.com)
- **Fairhill** – ‘a mix of rough grass, lawns and ponds with frogs and newts’
- **Above Clinty Brow** – ‘lapwings and curlews nesting on tops’
- **Gilderdale Burn** – ‘curlews calling, and the sound of the breeze in the grass’
- **Randalholme to Kirkhaugh** – ‘wonderful walk along the riverside’; ‘great for dippers’; ‘farm and river sounds’; ‘quiet, beautiful scenery’; ‘chance to see deer and red squirrels’
- **Clarghyll Wood** – ‘roe deer’
- **Whitesike** – ‘owls and hares’; ‘badgers’
- **Tynehead and Epiacum** (Whitley Castle Roman Fort) – ‘good places to see black grouse’
- **South Tyne Trail** – ‘changing landscapes’
- **Cemeteries** – ‘wonderful trees, peaceful places’
- **Moorhouse National Nature Reserve** – ‘for rare arctic alpine flora’  
  [www.naturaledland.org.uk](http://www.naturaledland.org.uk)
- **Bowleses Visitor Centre** (Upper Teesdale) – ‘a great base to discover the natural environment of Upper Teesdale’  
  [www.bowleesvisitorcentre.org.uk](http://www.bowleesvisitorcentre.org.uk)
- **Allenbanks and Staward Gorge** – ‘ancient woodlands along the banks of the River Allen’  
- **Geltsdale RSPB reserve** – ‘wild fells, stunning views, peaceful walks under big skies’  
  [www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/g/geltsdale](http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/g/geltsdale)
- **Killhope Lead Mining Museum** – ‘one of the best places to see and find out more about red squirrels’  
  [www.killhope.org.uk](http://www.killhope.org.uk)
GREAT FOR FAMILIES

- Fairhill
- The Hush, Nenthead
- Allenbanks and Staward Gorge
- Widdybank Fell Nature Trail, Cow Green Reservoir
- Bowlees Visitor Centre, Upper Teesdale

PERFECT FOR COUPLES

- Fairhill
- Hagg’s Bank, Nentsbury
- South Tyne Trail
- Clarghyll Wood
- Mount Hooley Woods
- The Hush, Nenthead
- Allenbanks and Staward Gorge
- Randalholme to Kirkhaugh
- Moorhouse NNR
- Widdybank Fell Nature Trail, Cow Green Reservoir
- Bowlees Visitor Centre, Upper Teesdale

NATURAL QUALITIES

- ‘Sky at night – pure silence except for wildlife’
- ‘Joy of wonderful starry nights’
- ‘Open spaces for contemplation and close observation to gain a better understanding of how the world works’
- ‘Underworld – places where sky, water and earth merge’
- ‘The cottongrass on top of Killhope and Whitfield Common makes me smile’
- ‘The sound of frogs spawning then going quiet when you approach’
- ‘Harsh winters so that you feel cosy when you come home or to the pub’
- ‘Secret places – where it is still possible to go out and not see anyone’
- ‘The mist over Hartside’
- ‘Moss on rooftops, lichen on trees, ferns’
- ‘Different colours of the leaves in autumn’
- ‘Sounds of garden birds’
- ‘Gossipgate – where the cares of the day just melt away’

RECOMMENDED FOR TRANQUILLITY LOVERS

- Gilderdale Burn
- Mount Hooley Woods
- Randalholme to Kirkhaugh
- Moorhouse NNR

IDEAL FOR ADVENTUROUS TYPES

- Fairhill
- Mount Hooley Woods
- The Hush, Nenthead
- Moorhouse NNR
The upland plateau of Alston Moor has been continuously occupied for over 4000 years. It seems that people were living in this relatively inhospitable land long before the invading Romans imposed their authority on the land, as traces of Neolithic henges and Bronze Age to Iron Age occupation are evident throughout the area. The Romans arrived in search of mineral riches, building a road (the Maiden Way) to access the area’s resources and a fort (Epiacum) to guard the valuable ores that lay just beneath the surface.

Over time, mining became the mainstay of the local communities. Enough silver was extracted to feed a Royal mint in Carlisle, but it was the mining of galena (lead ore) that underpinned the area’s wealth. Miners flooded into this area in the 18th and 19th centuries to exploit the rich ore veins, with the mining villages of Nenthead and Garrigill created with the support of Quaker-owned mining companies.

The constant need to survive in this challenging environment instilled a strong sense of self-reliance in mining communities – a trait that is still apparent in the entrepreneurial ethos of Alston Moor people today.
**PERFECT FOR COUPLES**

- Epiacum and the Maiden Way
- Kirkhaugh Church
- St Augustine’s Church, Alston
- Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum
- South Tynedale Railway
- The Hub Museum, Alston
- Weardale Railway
- Newbiggin Methodist Chapel
- Weardale Museum and High House Chapel

**CHURCH HERITAGE**

- **Newbiggin Methodist Chapel**, Teesdale (1759) – oldest surviving Methodist chapel still in continuous use. Access by key from Middleton-in-Teesdale TIC.
- **High House Chapel, Ireshopeburn**, Weardale – ‘can visit when Weardale Museum is open’

**RECOMMENDED FOR TRANQUILLITY LOVERS**

- Neolithic henges at Drybeck and High Rotherhope
- Bronze Age sites
- Cup and ring markings in Teesdale
- Epiacum and the Maiden Way
- Kirkhaugh Church

**IDEAL FOR ADVENTUROUS TYPES**

- Maiden Way
- Nenthead Mine

**GREAT FOR FAMILIES**

- Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum
- South Tynedale Railway
- Weardale Railway

**TRANSPORT**

- **South Tynedale Railway**, Alston ‘helpful, informative staff’
  [www.strps.org.uk](http://www.strps.org.uk)
- **The Hub Museum**, Alston ‘transport stories, enthusiastic staff’
  [www.alston-hub.org.uk](http://www.alston-hub.org.uk)
- **Weardale Railway**
  [www.weardale-railway.org](http://www.weardale-railway.org)

The North Pennines AONB Partnership runs the Altogether Archaeology project, giving everyone the chance to be involved in hands-on local archaeology. Contact Paul Frodsham (Historic Environment Officer) at the Partnership on 01388 528801 to find out more.
The starkly beautiful quality of Alston Moor’s landscapes has provided inspiration for artists and writers for decades. Painters, potters and poets are drawn to the North Pennines to capture its essence through their artwork, handicraft, poetry and prose, with the result that Alston Moor is recognised nationally for the wealth of its creative talent.

The derelict lead-smelting mill,
Flued to its chimney up the hill,
That smokes no answer any more
But points, a landmark on Bolt’s Law

WH Auden

**Artists’ Studios & Craft Outlets**

- **Rose House Studio**, Garrigill – ‘great little gallery, well worth a visit’ [www.penninepainting.co.uk](http://www.penninepainting.co.uk)
- **Jules Cadie’s Studio**, High Ashgill – ‘informative, fun and interesting’; ‘original artwork based on North Pennine landscapes’ [www.julescadie.co.uk](http://www.julescadie.co.uk)
- **Pennine Pottery**, Alston – ‘range of high quality thrown pottery, fired and decorated on the premises’ Note: Currently open but being sold. [www.penninepottery.co.uk](http://www.penninepottery.co.uk)
- **Gallery 1611**, Alston – ‘ceramic art inspired by the Pennine landscape’ [www.gallery1611.co.uk](http://www.gallery1611.co.uk)
- **The Alston Artspace**, Alston – ‘a gallery run by local artists’ [www.alstonartists.co.uk](http://www.alstonartists.co.uk)
- **Alston Craftworkers Co-op** [www.alstoncraftworkers.co.uk](http://www.alstoncraftworkers.co.uk)
- **Cane Workshop**, Alston – specialists in re-caning and restoration of traditional rattan cane furniture [www.thecaneworkshop.co.uk](http://www.thecaneworkshop.co.uk)
- **Moody Baker**, Alston – displays of hats by Gladys Songthrush and pottery by Sue Sharp [www.themoodybaker.co.uk](http://www.themoodybaker.co.uk)
- **Town Hall**, Alston – ‘occasional displays of work by Alston craftworkers’
- **Lowbyer Manor Country House**, Alston – ‘where to find Laura Elston’s hand cross-stitched cards and scarves’ [www.lowbyer.com](http://www.lowbyer.com)
- **Alston Aspire**, St Augustine’s Church – ‘various exhibitions including displays by local artists’ [www.alstonaspire.org](http://www.alstonaspire.org)
COURSES AND EVENTS

- **Pennine Painting art courses**, Garrigill – ‘good food, well looked after, get to know landscape and stay in local B&Bs’  [www.penninepainting.co.uk](http://www.penninepainting.co.uk)

- **Epiacum craft courses** – ‘ceramics, felting, basket making, rag rugs lots of fun for children’  [www.epiacumheritage.org](http://www.epiacumheritage.org)

- **Epiacum craft courses**

- **Rose House Studio, Garrigill**

- **Jules Cadie Studio, Ashgill**

- **Pennine Pottery, Alston**

- **Gallery 1611, Alston**

- **The Alston Artspace, Alston**

- **Cane Workshop, Alston**

- **Moody Baker, Alston**

- **Town Hall, Alston**

- **Lowbyer Manor, Alston**

- **Pennine Painting courses, Garrigill**

- **Epiacum craft courses**

- **Alston Craft Fair** – ‘great opportunity to buy unique pieces of local artwork and crafts’ (first weekend of December in the Town Hall)  [www.alstoncraftworkers.co.uk](http://www.alstoncraftworkers.co.uk)

- **C-Art Open Studios** – ‘Cumbria’s biggest visual arts event, with a two week-long programme of open studios, workshops, exhibitions and special events, celebrating the breadth of contemporary and traditional art, craft and design.’  [www.c-art.org.uk](http://www.c-art.org.uk)

- **Rural Highlights Touring Programme** – ‘high quality programme of professional, theatre, music, dance and craft events held in village halls, schools and community centres’  [www.highlightsnorth.co.uk](http://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk)

GREAT FOR FAMILIES

- **Epiacum craft courses**

PERFECT FOR COUPLES

- **Rose House Studio, Garrigill**

- **Jules Cadie Studio, Ashgill**

- **Pennine Pottery, Alston**

- **Gallery 1611, Alston**

- **The Alston Artspace, Alston**

- **Cane Workshop, Alston**

- **Moody Baker, Alston**

- **Town Hall, Alston**

- **Lowbyer Manor, Alston**

- **Pennine Painting courses, Garrigill**

- **Epiacum craft courses**

- **Alston Craft Fair**

- **C-Art Open Studios**

- **Highlights Touring Programme**

- **Allendale Forge Studios**

RECOMMENDED FOR TRANQUILLITY LOVERS

- **Jules Cadie Studio, Ashgill**

- **Rose House Studio, Garrigill**

- **Pennine Painting courses, Garrigill**
Self-sufficiency has always underpinned the cultural inheritance of Alston Moor. For centuries, local farmers and miners secured their living from the land, growing their own crops and raising livestock on smallholdings carved out of the uplands. Today the spirit of self-sufficiency is still evident – local bakers, breweries, meat producers and specialist foods can all be found in the Alston area. Local outlets pride themselves on stocking locally sourced products, whilst the pubs, cafes, restaurants, hotels and B&B’s are developing a growing reputation for providing quality meals that represent excellent value for money.

**LOCAL PRODUCE**

- **Cumberland Mustard**, Alston – ‘made in Alston with real honey’ [www.cumberlandmustard.com](http://www.cumberlandmustard.com)
- **Allendale Brewery**, East Allen Valley – ‘great beers named after local features’ [www.allendaleale.com](http://www.allendaleale.com)
- **Moody Baker**, Alston – ‘local bakery producing bread, cakes, pies and pasties using locally-sourced products, e.g. Wolf Pie made with local beef and Allendale Brewery’s Wolf Ale.’ [www.themoodybaker.co.uk](http://www.themoodybaker.co.uk)
- **Alan Rutherford’s Cumberland Sausage**, Blackstock Butcher’s, Alston – ‘award-winning sausage, perfect for Toad in the Hole’
- **Plot @ the top**, Blagill – ‘local eggs and vegetables at end of the track’
- **Mad Hatters Hardware**, Alston – ‘the source of locally-produced alston moor preserves’
- **High Cup Winery**, Dufton – ‘Cumbria’s only commercial vineyard and winery’ [www.highcupwines.co.uk](http://www.highcupwines.co.uk)
- **Village Bakery**, Melmerby – ‘award-winning range of breads, cakes and biscuits’ [www.village-bakery.com](http://www.village-bakery.com)
- **Birdoswald Cheese**, Slack House Farm, Gilsland – ‘organic cheese made by hand on the farm’ [www.birdoswald-cheese.co.uk](http://www.birdoswald-cheese.co.uk)
- **Appleby Cheeses**, Appleby – ‘great taste, great variety, creamy textures’ [www.applebycreamery.com](http://www.applebycreamery.com)
WHERE TO BUY LOCAL PRODUCE

• **Moody Baker** – ‘distinctive local recipes to eat on your walk’ [www.themoodybaker.co.uk](http://www.themoodybaker.co.uk)

• **Alston Wholefoods** – ‘great knowledge, enthusiastic staff, huge variety of foodstuffs, great cheeses, fresh herbs’ [www.alstonwholefoods.com](http://www.alstonwholefoods.com)

• **Nenthead Community Shop**

• **Haldon’s**, Alston – ‘old fashioned sweets, handmade by proprietors’

• **Blueberries**, Alston – ‘quaint little tearoom.’ ‘Small, intimate venue’

• **Hartsde Café**, Alston Moor – ‘good food and big portions’; fantastic view and excellent value for money

• **Frank’s Chip Shop**, Alston

• **Victoria Spice**, Alston
  ‘excellent and reasonably priced Indian meals’

For details on these and other local food outlets, see [www.cybermoor.org](http://www.cybermoor.org).

LOCAL EATERIES

• **Miner’s Arms**, Nenthead – ‘friendly local staff, local products, homemade food. Alison’s Alston Pie uses local sausage, Cumberland mustard and free-range Nenthead eggs’ [www.nenthead.com](http://www.nenthead.com)

• **George & Dragon**, Garrigill – ‘a traditional family pub in the heart of the North Pennines, serving real ales’ [www.garrigillpub.co.uk](http://www.garrigillpub.co.uk)

• **Kirkstyle Inn**, Slaggyford – ‘excellent gastro-pub food’ [www.kirkstyleinn.co.uk](http://www.kirkstyleinn.co.uk)

• **Lowbyer Manor Country House**, Alston – ‘source local products as much as possible’ [www.lowbyer.com](http://www.lowbyer.com)

• **Overwater Lodge Restaurant**, Nenthead – ‘excellent food, quirky service, organic food & drink’ [www.overwaterlodge.co.uk](http://www.overwaterlodge.co.uk)

• **Cumberland Inn**, Alston – ‘Award-winning CAMRA pub, serving local beers and cheeses’. [www.alstoncumberlandhotel.co.uk](http://www.alstoncumberlandhotel.co.uk)

• **Angel Inn**, Alston – ‘try their homemade ham sarnies and chips with lovely Cumberland Mustard’

• **West Nattrass Café**, Alston – ‘excellent cakes and friendly service’ [www.westnattrass.com](http://www.westnattrass.com)

• **Alston House**, Alston – ‘good atmosphere and menu, local honey’ [www.alstonhouse.co.uk](http://www.alstonhouse.co.uk)
PERFECT FOR COUPLES

- Allendale Brewery, Allendale
- Moody Baker, Alston
- Alston Wholefoods, Alston
- Nenthead Community Shop
- Haldon’s Sweet Shop, Alston
- Kirkstyle Inn, Slaggyford
- Lowbyer Manor Country House, Alston
- West Nattrass Café, Alston
- Blueberries Café, Alston
- Angel Inn, Alston
- Miner’s Arms, Nenthead
- George & Dragon, Garrigill
- Cumberland Inn, Alston
- Hartside Café
- Overwater Lodge Restaurant, Nenthead
- Alston House Hotel, Alston
- Jack’s Café, Alston
- High Cup Winery, Dufton

RECOMMENDED FOR TRANQUILLITY LOVERS

- Moody Baker, Alston
- Alston Wholefoods, Alston
- Plot @ the top, Blagill
- West Nattrass Café, Alston

IDEAL FOR ADVENTUROUS TYPES

- Allendale Brewery, Allendale
- Alston Wholefoods, Alston
- Moody Baker, Alston
- Nenthead Community Shop
- West Nattrass Café, Alston
- Angel Inn, Alston
- Miner’s Arms, Nenthead
- George & Dragon, Garrigill
- Cumberland Inn, Alston
- Jack’s Café, Alston

GREAT FOR FAMILIES

- Nenthead Community Shop
- Haldon’s Sweet Shop, Alston
- Miner’s Arms, Nenthead
- George & Dragon, Garrigill
- Cumberland Inn, Alston
- Hartside Café
- Alston House Hotel, Alston
- Blueberries Café, Alston
A myriad of outdoor events and activities await discovery throughout Alston Moor. Everything from festivals and farmers’ markets to concerts and classic car rallies can be discovered here, as well as an array of outdoor (and indoor) activities.

Alston Moor also offers recreational activities that can be enjoyed at any time of year whether it be spring walks, summer cycling, autumn fishing or winter skiing.

The well-trod Pennine Way and several other long-distance walking routes pass through the heart of Alston Moor, as well as the hugely popular C2C Cycle Route and Pennine Cycleway. Horse riders and mountain bikers alike are blessed with an abundance of bridleways and off-road tracks to explore. Skiers can head for Yad Moss to hone their skills on the winter pistes. You can swim or fish in some of the cleanest rivers in the country, play a round of golf or simply enjoy pottering around the plethora of open air events that are regularly staged throughout the year.

Events & Activities

SHOWS, FESTIVALS AND GALAS 2013

11 May  Nenthead Gala
25 May  Eastgate Sheep Show – Weardale
15 June  Catton Village Fair – East Allen Valley
22 June  Alston Sheepdog Trials – Tyne Willows
29 June  Alston Gala – ‘when the community comes together with parades, games and fancy dress’
03 August  Middleton-in-Teesdale Carnival
17 August  Allendale Show
26 August  Garrigill Gala
26 August  Blanchland & Hunstanworth Show
31 August  Dufton Agricultural Show
31 August  Weardale Agricultural Show – St John’s Chapel
07 Sept  Alston Agricultural Show
14 – 15 Sept  Stanhope Agricultural Show
21 Sept  Eggleston Agricultural Show – Teesdale
28 Sept  Langdon Beck Show

CRAFT FAIRS

• **Epiacum craft day** – ‘lots of fun for children’
• **Alston Craft Fair** Alston Town Hall – first weekend in December ‘lots of ideas for Christmas presents’; ‘great opportunity to buy unique pieces of local artwork and crafts’ [www.alstoncraftworkers.co.uk](http://www.alstoncraftworkers.co.uk)
FARMERS’ MARKETS

- **Middleton-in-Teesdale** – last Sunday every month
  - [www.middletonplus.org.uk](http://www.middletonplus.org.uk)
- **Greenhead** – 2nd Sunday every month
  - [www.hadrianswallfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.hadrianswallfarmersmarket.co.uk)
- **Hexham** – 2nd & 4th Saturday every month
  - [www.hexhamfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.hexhamfarmersmarket.co.uk)
- **Brampton** – Last Saturday every month
  - [www.sustainablebrampton.org](http://www.sustainablebrampton.org)

LOCAL MUSIC

- **Turk’s Head**, Alston
- **Miner’s Arms**, Nenthead
- **Alston Town Hall** – Ned’s Music Nights
- **George & Dragon**, Garrigill
- **Nenthead Gala Music Tent**
- **Church concerts** – Rural Highlights Touring Programme – ‘high quality programme of professional, theatre, music, dance and craft events held in village halls, schools and community centres’ [www.highlightsnorth.co.uk](http://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk)

COURSES

- **Bread-making** at Allendale Bakery
- **Craft workshops** at Allendale Forge Studios, East Allen Valley – ‘a lively programme of all-year round exhibitions and craftworkshops’ [www.allendaleforgestudios.co.uk](http://www.allendaleforgestudios.co.uk)
- **Pennine Painting art courses** Garrigill – ‘good food, well looked after, get to know landscape and stay in local B&Bs’ [www.penninepainting.co.uk](http://www.penninepainting.co.uk)
- **Epiacum heritage courses** – ‘ceramics, felting, basket making, rag rugs lots of fun for children’ [www.epiacumheritage.org](http://www.epiacumheritage.org)

OTHER EVENTS

- **Classic car rallies**
- **Garrigill Fireworks Display** – ‘spectacular and very sociable’
- **Nenthead Fireworks and Halloween Party**
- **Wine Train** – ‘relaxed environment to meet people, sample good wines and view great scenery’
- **Santa Special** South Tynedale Railway – ‘great for families’
- **Pub quizzes** George & Dragon, Turk’s Head – ‘fun night out’
- **Alston Film Club** – ‘film night every month’; ‘family-friendly, informal, candle-lit’

- **Alston Aspire**, St Augustine’s Church – Alston various events and exhibitions all year round [www.alstonaspire.org](http://www.alstonaspire.org)
- **The Hub Museum**, Alston – ‘visiting car clubs congregate throughout the year’
- **Village Halls** – varying event programmes
- **C-Art Open Studios** – ‘Cumbria’s biggest visual arts event, with a two week-long programme of open studios, workshops, exhibitions and special events, celebrating the breadth of contemporary and traditional art, craft and design’ 14–29 September 2013 [www.c-art.org.uk](http://www.c-art.org.uk)
ACTIVITIES

A recently launched Explore North Pennines website (www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk) includes an ‘Alston Moor and the Cumbrian North Pennines’ page. The website is a mobile-friendly, outdoor activity portal. Visitors can search for walking, cycling and horse riding routes, or where to go climbing, fishing, kayaking and stargazing. You can find the best places to see stunning landscapes and spectacular wildlife or download food trails bird watching walks and much more. It’s all based around an interactive, searchable map and includes free downloads of routes.

WALKING

• The 286-mile long Pennine Way – trails along the ‘roof’ of England from Derbyshire to the Scottish Borders. Garrigill and Alston are right on its route and convenient locations for overnight stays www.nationaltrail.co.uk

• Wainwright’s Pennine Journey – a 247 mile journey www.penninejourney.org.uk

• The South Tyne Trail 23 miles/36.5 km – ‘flows’ downstream following the river from its source at Tynehead to Haltwhistle. Between Alston and Haltwhistle much of the route is suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs

• Alston Arches Trail – a short circular walk linking to the South Tyne Trail

• Isaac’s Tea Trail – a 58 km/36 mile circular walk through picturesque river valleys and over heather moorlands, following in the footsteps of Isaac Holden, a travelling tea seller

• Teesdale Way – 90 miles that follows the River Tees from North Pennines to the sea

• Weardale Way 73 miles that traces the route of the River Wear from Cowshill to the sea at Wearmouth www.weardaleway.com

• Slitt Wood and West Rigg Geotrail 3 miles – www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk

• The Haltwhistle Walking Festival – explores the landscape and heritage around Haltwhistle. Walks to suit all ages and abilities www.haltwhistletrail.org

• Haytime Walks – download pdf from www.northpennines.org.uk or www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk

• North Pennines Walking Festival – annual event (2013 dates - 28 Sep - 6 Oct) www.northpennineswalkingfestival.org.uk
**CYCLING**

- **The Sea-to-Sea (C2C)** – Cycle Route, one of the most popular and challenging long-distance cycle routes in the UK. Starts at Whitehaven or Workington and ends at Newcastle or Sunderland, passing through the heart of Alston Moor. [www.c2c-guide.co.uk](http://www.c2c-guide.co.uk) or [www.sustrans.org](http://www.sustrans.org)

- **The Pennine Cycleway** – a 335 miles, long-distance route between Derby and Berwick-upon-Tweed that passes through the North Pennines.

- **Wheels to the Wild** – a 122-km road route over three days exploring the geology and landscapes of the AONB. [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk)

- **Cycling in the North Pennines** – 16 rides within four leaflets, all designed for experienced cyclists. [www.explornorthpennines.org.uk](http://www.explornorthpennines.org.uk)

- **Fairhill Bike Ride and C2C** – ‘bring people through Alston Moor’

- **Packhorse Trails** – for mountain bikers [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk)

- **Cycle hire at North Pennines Cycles**, Nenthead [www.northpenninescycles.co.uk](http://www.northpenninescycles.co.uk)

- **Bike repairs at Nenthead** – [www.markfearn.co.uk](http://www.markfearn.co.uk)

**HORSE RIDING**

- **Packhorse Trails** – [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk)

**Riding Centres**

- **Hamsterley Riding School** – Tel: 01388 488328
- **Sinderhope Trekking Centre** – [www.sinderhopeponytrekking.co.uk](http://www.sinderhopeponytrekking.co.uk)
- **West Hoppyland Trekking Centre** Hamsterley – [www.westhoppyland.com](http://www.westhoppyland.com)

**SKIING**

- **Yad Moss, South Tyne Valley** – [www.yadmoss.co.uk](http://www.yadmoss.co.uk)
- **Allenheads Ski Club** – ‘friendly, cheap, great for children learning to ski’
- **Weardale Ski Club** – [www.skiweardale.com](http://www.skiweardale.com)

**SWIMMING**

- **Weardale pen Air Swimming Pool**, Stanhope – [www.woaspa.co.uk](http://www.woaspa.co.uk)
- **St John’s Indoor Swimming Pool**, Garrigill – [www.stjohnspool.co.uk](http://www.stjohnspool.co.uk)

**FISHING**

**Reservoirs**

Managed by Northumbrian Water [www.nwl.co.uk/gofishing](http://www.nwl.co.uk/gofishing)

- **Cow Green Reservoir**
- **Derwent Reservoir**
- **Selset Reservoir**
- **Grassholme Reservoir**
- **Balderhead Reservoir**
- **Blackton Reservoir**
- **Hury Reservoir**

**River fishing**

*For salmon, brown trout and sea trout*

- **South Tyne** Alston to Langley Viaduct – Alston & District Angling Association
- **River Tees** Barnard Castle and Upper Tees North Bank – Barnard Castle Angling Club and Raby Estate
- **River Wear** Stanhope Gauging Station to Rookhope Burn – Weardale Fly Fishers Club
Alston playground, Fairhill
Garrigill Recreation ground
Play park in Nenthead – ‘Great place to stop with kid and then walk up the Hush’

Events and activities in the North Pennines
Killhope Mine – www.killhope.org.uk
South Tynedale Railway, Alston – Santa Specials and the Wine Trail, ‘relaxed environment to meet people, sample good wines and view great scenery’
www.strps.org.uk
Weardale Railway
www.weardale-railway.org.uk

Golf
Alston Moor Golf Club
www.alstonmoorgolfclub.org.uk

Indoor Exercise
Community gym – ‘great for teenagers’
Gill Munroe’s exercise classes
Bowling – indoor and outdoor

Playgrounds and Recreation Areas
Alston playground, Fairhill
Garrigill Recreation ground
Play park in Nenthead – ‘Great place to stop with kid and then walk up the Hush’

Outdoor Activity Centre
Alston Adventure Training Centre
www.alstontraining.co.uk

Geltsdale RSPB reserve
www.rspb.org.uk
Slack House Farm, Ireshopeburn
www.fleecewithaltitude.co.uk
Harehope Quarry
www.harehopequarry.org.uk
Whitfield Village Pantry
www.whitfieldvillagepantry.co.uk
The Garden Station, Langley
www.thegardenstation.co.uk

Details of some events and activities can be found on the North Pennines AONB website at:
www.northpennines.org.uk or www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk.

Alston Moor Newsletter is a great source of information on forthcoming events. Available from various outlets.

GREAT FOR FAMILIES
Alston Gala Day
Nenthead Gala
Garrigill Gala
Epiacum Craft Day
Alston Christmas Craft Fair
Garrigill Fireworks Display
Nenthead Fireworks and Halloween Party
South Tynedale Railway
Alston Film Club
Alston Aspire events
The Hub, Alston
Skiing at Yad Moss and Allenheads Ski Club
Indoor swimming at St John’s Pool, Garrigill
Weardale Open Air Swimming Pool
Playgrounds at Alston, Nenthead and Garrigill
**RECOMMENDED FOR TRANQUILLITY LOVERS**

- Long-distance trails
- Cycling routes
- Packhorse Trails for mountain bikers and horse riders
- Wild swimming

**IDEAL FOR ADVENTUROUS TYPES**

- Pennine Way
- Wainwright’s Pennine Journey
- South Tyne Trail
- Teesdale Way
- Weardale Way
- Haltwhistle Walking Festival
- Sea-to-Sea Cycle Route
- Pennine Cycleway
- Wheels to the Wild Cycle Route
- Fairhill Bike Ride
- Packhorse Trails for mountain bikers and horse riders
- Skiing at Yad Moss and Allenheads Ski Club
- Wild swimming
- River fishing

**PERFECT FOR COUPLES**

- Shows and galas
- Sheepdog trials
- Epiacum Craft Day
- Alston Christmas Craft Fair
- Farmers’ Markets
- Local music venues
- Classic car rallies
- Sheepdog trials
- Firework displays at Nenthead and Garrigill
- Wine train on South Tynedale Railway
- Pub quizzes
- Alston Film Club
- Alston Aspire
- Bread making courses at Allendale Bakery
- Craft workshops at Allendale Forge Studios
- Haltwhistle Walking Festival
- Various walking and cycling trails
- Haytime walks
- Horse riding
- Skiing at Yad Moss and Allenheads Ski Club – if experienced skiers
- Wild swimming
- Golf

Further information is available from:

- [www.golakes.co.uk](http://www.golakes.co.uk)
- [www.nurtureeden.org](http://www.nurtureeden.org)
- [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk)

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