

IN TEMPERLEY'S TREAD

THE

BIRDLIFE OF DURHAM'S MOOR AND VALE

In Temperley's Tread - the Birdlife of Durham's Moor and Vale comprises a series of five FREE guided walks along a 45-mile route through one of the north east's most iconic but least appreciated landscapes, the Durham uplands - within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). As a package, these walks attempt to create an interface between the North Pennines' outstanding bird life and wider natural heritage with aspects of art, culture and history, as experienced and developed by the process of walking through an 'interpreted' landscape.

The walks have been organised by 'WALK' at the University of Sunderland University (see sidebar), using a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and with the support of the North Pennines AONB Partnership. The walks are led by an accomplished artist and a natural historian who will act as route interpreters. The wildlife experienced on the guided walks, will inspire artwork by Mike Collier (for more information see www.mikecollier.eu), which will subsequently form the central element of an exhibition and evening of heritage events that will tour local communities along the route of the walks.



George W. Temperley (1875-1967) with Robert of Restharrow; every year he tamed a Robin in his garden which became 'Robert of Restharrow'

Why Temperley? The inspiration for the walks is the author of *The History of the Birds of Durham*, George W. Temperley. We will follow his suggested route for experiencing the majesty of Durham's uplands, as outlined in the introduction to that work, where he said: "To realise the extent of these far-flung moorlands the traveller, who only knows the industrialised portions of the County in the east, should walk from Edmundbyers on the Derwent through Stanhope in Weardale to Middleton in Teesdale, returning by Langdon Beck, St. John's Chapel, Boltsburn, Hunstanworth and Blanchland, a circuit of some 45 miles. In the course of such a walk the only signs of cultivation which meet the eye are restricted to the narrow strips along the river banks and the only traces of industry

are the relics of long disused lead mines and quarries."

You can download an article about George Temperley at:

www.durhambirdclub.org/dbc.pl/static/bdhp.htm

The walks in July 2012 replicate this route, split into five manageable stages. All walks will start at 09.00hrs at the allocated start point. End times will vary according to the length of the walk and walking conditions, but will aim to be between 17.00 and 18.00hrs for each walk. Along the way participants will have the chance to document the wildlife encountered along what is, in effect, a 45-mile transect of the Durham uplands; the whole walk effectively becoming a wildlife recording expedition. Species noted will be entered onto the AONB Partnership's WildWatch North Pennines database. For more details see www.northpennines.org.uk/WildWatch.

The *In Temperley's Tread's* guided walk programme is split into five stages, over four consecutive weekends (one walk per weekend for three weeks, then two walks on consecutive weekend days to complete the programme). For Health and Safety reasons, the number of participants on each guided walk is restricted to 15 participants; these places will be allocated on a strictly first come, first served basis.

All walk stages are covered by the 1:25,000, Ordnance Survey Maps: Explorer 307 (Consett & Derwent Reservoir) and OL31 (North Pennines).

In Temperley's Tread covers a total of 71km

WALK, (Walking, Art, Landskip and Knowledge) is an interdisciplinary research centre at the University of Sunderland that is looking at how cultural practitioners engage with the world through walking. It was established in 2010 by Prof. Brian Thompson, Dr. Mike Collier and Dr. Tim Brennan. *In Temperley's Tread* is the latest in a number of wildlife/art themed projects undertaken by Mike Collier & WALK over the last two years.

(44.4 miles). The longest of the five walks is 18km (11.25 miles), the shortest 9.5km (5.9 miles), the average walk length being 14.2km (8.9 miles). For details about the walks, see below.

Walk One – Saturday 7th July: Edmundbyers to Stanhope: 16km (10 miles)

- Meeting Point & Start Time – 09.00hrs, at the Durham Dales Centre/Castle Gardens car park (Grid Reference NY996393), to be transported to the beginning of the walk at Edmundbyers
- Route - Start at the village green Edmundbyers. From the village down to Edmundbyers Wood, then up from Burnhope Burn valley, on to Lambshild. Along the edge of Muggleswick Park Moor, up to the moors between Smiddyshaw and Hisehope Reservoirs on to Hawkburn Head, then up on to the Waskerley Way. Following this as far as Crawleyside (passing Parkhead Station on the way), along Crawleyside Edge and down to Stanhope
- Degree of difficulty: Medium, with more challenging sections. Ascents of over 250m. Highest point 450m above sea level (asl) at Fell Haven
- Toilets – Available at a toilet/coffee stop at the Parkhead Station (about 10km in to the walk) and at the end of the walk in Durham Dales Centre
- End point - Durham Dales Centre/Castle Gardens car park
- Car Parking – Good amount of parking in the Durham Dales Centre/Castle Gardens.

Walk Two - Saturday 14th July: Stanhope to Middleton-in-Teesdale: 17.5km (10.9 miles)

- Meeting Point & Start Time – 09.00hrs, Middleton village centre and car park (near the information boards - Grid Ref. NY947255), to be transported to the beginning of the walk in Stanhope
- Route - Start at Durham Dales Centre/Castle Gardens car park, Stanhope. From there over the footbridge on the River Wear, then on to Weardale Way. Down river and then up and over the east side of Catterick and down into Bollihope Burn. From there up along the Howden Burn, over the eastern part of Harnisha Hill, down through Great

Egglesthorpe Beck, then over the top of Monk's Moor and down to Middleton-in-Teesdale, via Snailsburn

- Degree of difficulty: Hard, with some very challenging sections. Ascents of over 350m. Highest point over 560m asl on Monk's Moor
- Toilets – Available at the beginning of the walk in Durham Dales Centre and at the end of the walk in Middleton
- End point – Middleton Village
- Car Parking – This can be problematical in Middleton. Limited car parking is available in the main central car park, behind the public toilets and also in the 'Long Stay' car park, which is located in the grounds of the old Durham County study centre, to the left off the B6277 to Mickleton.



Female Red Grouse and chick, the signature species of Durham's heather moorlands

Walk Three - Sunday 22nd July: Middleton-in-Tees to St. John's Chapel: 18km (11.25 miles)

- Meeting Point & Start Time – 09.00hrs, outside the old Town Hall, in St. John's Chapel (Grid Ref. NY884379), to be transported to the beginning of the walk at Middleton Village Green
- Route - Start at Middleton Village Green, out of the village over the Tees and thence along the Pennine Way. Up river, past Holwick and on to Wynch Bridge. Across the River Tees, north to Bowless and then up the fell alongside the Bowlees Beck. On to the moorland road and over Swinhopehead, the high pass between Teesdale and Weardale, then down to St. John's Chapel via Swinhope Burn, Greenley Hills and Rigg Side

- Degree of difficulty: Hard (though some of the low level walking is only 'Medium') with some very challenging sections. Ascents of over c.350m. Highest point 610m asl on Swinhope Head
- Toilets – Available at the beginning of the walk in Middleton and at the end of the walk in St. John's Chapel, opposite the Post Office
- End point – Outside the old Town Hall, in St. John's Chapel
- Car Parking – There is plenty of parking in St. John's Chapel, either outside the Post Office in the village centre or a few hundred metres along towards Daddry Shield, next to the Cattle Mart (on the left as one enters St. John's Chapel from the east).

Walk Four – Saturday 28th July: St. John's Chapel to Rookhope: 10km (6.25 miles)

- Meeting Point & Start Time – 09.00hrs, in the car park of the Rookhope Inn (Grid Ref. NY939429) to be transported to the beginning of the walk at the Old Town Hall, in St. John's Chapel
- Start outside the old Town Hall in St. John's Chapel (opposite the village Square Post office), down towards the ford and then from there along the Weardale Way, on the south side of the river, as far as Westgate. At Westgate, across river then up through Westgate towards Scutter Hill, thence along the Weardale Way along towards Northgate, on across Hanging Wells, down to Snailsburn and then on to Rookhope finishing at the pub car park in Rookhope
- Degree of difficulty: Medium, with some challenging sections. Ascents of over 180m. Highest point c.435m at Weather Hill
- Toilets – Available at the beginning of the walk in St. John's Chapel, opposite the Post Office
- End point – The pub car park at the Rookhope Inn
- Car Parking - Limited amounts at Rookhope Inn (please note, this is a commercial car park for customers of the pub), parking also available at Rookhope Village Hall, c.200m west of the Inn on the south side of the road.

Walk Five – Sunday 29th July: Rookhope to Blanchland: 9.5km (5.9 miles)

- Meeting Point & Start Time – At 09.00hrs in the village square in Blanchland (Grid Ref. NY965504) to be transported to the beginning of the walk from outside the Rookhope Inn
- Route - Start at the car park of the Rookhope Inn, up Bolts Incline to Bolts Law, down past the chimneys to Ramshaw and Huntstanworth, then down Bolt's Burn to the woods along the north bank of the Derwent to Blanchland, finishing at the village square in Blanchland
- Degree of difficulty: Medium, with some challenging sections. Ascents of over 220m. Highest point 540m asl Bolt's Law
- Toilets – Available at the end of the walk in Blanchland, next to the Bridge
- End point – The village square in Blanchland village
- Car Parking – There is a good amount of parking in the main car park in Blanchland, on the west side of the village (beyond the White Monk Tea-rooms), there is also some parking next to sports club, small charge applies



A male Black Grouse (a blackcock), 'lord' of the Durham Uplands

General Considerations for Participants

If you would like to take part in one of the *In Temperley's Tread* walks you need to be aware that spaces are limited and **MUST** be booked in advance (see below). All walks are **FREE** to participants.

By their very nature, crossing upland terrain, all of these walks are, to a lesser or greater degree, challenging, and some cover long tracts of heather-covered moorland. Nonetheless they will provide walkers with some of the most spectacular scenery in England and an experience of some of the

best upland bird communities in the country. All participants should be physically able to complete the walk they sign up to (based upon advertised 'degree of difficulty') and should come prepared for the rigours of such walks; including providing for themselves the appropriate equipment and the means to transport these through the day.

Please note mobile phone signals in the dales are rarely good, though these vary depending upon network used. Toilets are available at the beginning and end points of most of the walks, but in many cases not along the routes.

What Participants Will be Doing along *Temperley's Tread*

- Walking
- Seeing upland wildlife, with a particular emphasis on birds.
- Recording wildlife as part of the WildWatch North Pennines project
- Learning more about the history and heritage of the Durham uplands
- Contributing their thoughts and impressions in order that these can be used by to inform the artwork that will grow out of the 'experience' of the walks

What to Wear/Bring

- Sensible, 'outdoor' clothes (covered legs – not shorts), two or three layers - so that you can take things off if you get hot or put them on if you get cold
- Water and windproof jacket and over-trousers

In *Temperley's Tread* - the Birdlife of Durham's Moor and Vale - The Walks

If you are interested, why not join artist Dr. Mike Collier of WALK (University of Sunderland) and Keith Bowey (Glead Ecological and Environmental Services) who will guide you across moorlands and through the dales in a series of walks exploring the wildlife of the North Pennines in County Durham. Subsequent to the walks Mike Collier will be producing artwork inspired by the walks, *Temperley's* heritage and your experiences of the wildlife you encounter *In Temperley's Tread*. How do you book a place on one of the *In Temperley's Tread* guided walks?

Send an email to gleadees-temperleystread@yahoo.co.uk registering your interest. Giving the following information:

- Your name
- Contact telephone number and mobile number
- The walk you wish to attend
- The number of places required on the walk

You will receive confirmation, or otherwise, of your place by email or/and telephone. A small number of binoculars will be available for participants to borrow on each walk.

In Temperley's Tread is being delivered with the support of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

- Hat and thin gloves, in case of cold weather or wind
- Strong, comfortable shoes (e.g. walking shoes or boots), with soft, non-slip soles
- At the very, least an additional thin jumper and dry pair of socks
- Enough food and drink to last the duration of the walk
- Digital camera or camera phone (if you have one - optional)
- Binoculars (if you have them - optional)
- Rucksack to carry your equipment
- Personal welfare kit, which, depending on conditions, might include: suntan lotion, sticking-plasters, toilet tissue, drinking water and a sun-hat,
- Any medication you may require during the day (if you experience severe allergic responses, please make sure that you bring your emergency kit e.g. adrenalin pen)

Things You Might See on Your Walk through the Durham Uplands

Large numbers of upland birds including breeding wading birds (oystercatchers, lapwing, redshank, curlew, snipe and golden plover), red grouse and possibly, black grouse. Dales woodland birds, including redstart and pied flycatcher. Raptorial birds including buzzard, red kite and peregrine and abundant wild flowers and some flowering heathers.



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