A town with altitude!
A town developed at the cross roads of major trans-Pennine routes - as a service centre and busy lead mining town. Many of its cobbled streets and the market cross still survive. Distinctive ‘bastle’ derived houses can be seen throughout the town with stone steps up to first floor level. Today the Parish of Alston Moor is a thriving community of 2,000 people. When it was at the heart of the world’s largest lead producing area, however, its population was five times greater!

An industrial past
The landscape throughout Alston Moor bears witness to its industrial past. Features such as the restored Hudgill Besidehead (passed on Routes 1 & 2) built to collect duty ore from the surrounding mines, the washing floor at Whitehouse Mine, Blagill (passed on Routes 1, 2 & 3) where ore was separated provide interesting short diversions.

Settlements such as Leadgate, Blagill and Garrigill owe their existence to lead mining. Nenthead is a planned settlement from where the London Lead Company controlled their mines. In Nenthead the emphasis placed by the London Lead Company on the social and economic well-being of their employees can be seen in its reading room, school and fountain - still visible in the village.

Birds galore!
The North Pennines is rich in birdlife. In spring and early summer the cries of waders - curlew, redshank, oyster catcher and golden plover can be heard echoing across the moors. You may catch a glimpse of rarer birds such as black grouse, merlin and buzzard or even spot Britain’s smallest bird - the goldcrest!

The North Pennines is one of England’s most special places - a peaceful, unspoilt landscape with a rich history and vibrant natural beauty. It was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1988. The AONB is also a UNESCO Global Geopark.

An excellent way of exploring the North Pennines is by bike. This leaflet describes four routes of various lengths that can be started from Alston.

Other leaflets in this series cover routes from A l lendale Town, N enthead, Teesdale and Stanhope.

South Tynedale Railway, Alston
England’s highest (steam and diesel) narrow gauge railway. Cafe and shop. Tel: 01434 381696

H arts ide N urser y Ga rden, N r A lston
Specialising in a range of rare and unusual Alpines. Tel: 01434 381372

Thortergill Forge, N r G arrigill
A working smithy making traditional quality hand forged iron products for the homestead, gift shop, tearooms, gardens and half-mile waterfall walk. Tel: 01434 381936

N enthead Min es, N enthead
Heritage Centre explaining the mining, processing and smelting of lead, zinc & silver. Self-guided trails aboveground & guided underground trips. Cafe and shop. Tel: 01434 382037

IG h M ill Wa terwheel, A lston
Rebuilt in 1767. Managed by the North Pennines Heritage Trust. Tel: 01434 382037 for details.

G o s s i p g a t e Ga llery, A lston
Specialising in the work of artists and craftspeople from the North, coffee shop & gift shop. Tel: 01434 381806

ALSTON CRAFTWORKERS LTD
Co-operative, selling locally made goods. Tel: 01434 381879

AR TS & CRAFTS IN THE AREA:

For more information about the North Pennines contact the AONB Staff Unit Tel: 01388 528801 Email: info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk Web: www.northpennines.org.uk

General information
Please follow this simple code to ensure enjoyable riding and the safety of others.

- Follow the Highway Code
- Obey the rules of the road
- Give way to pedestrians and horse riders
- Don’t assume they can see you or hear you
- Don’t expect to travel quickly on shared use cycle paths
- Ring a bell or call out to warn of your approach
- A knowledge of the countryside
- Respect the life and work of the countryside
- Care for the environment

A town with altitude!

The award-winning C2C Cycle Route is part of the National Cycle Network and is recognised as being the most popular long-distance cycle route in the UK. The C2C links Whitehaven or Workington on the west coast of Cumbria with Sunderland or Tynemouth on the east coast. More information from www.sustrans.co.uk or call 0845 1130065.

Produced by

NORTH PENNINES AONB PARTNERSHIP
Working together for the North Pennines

REFRESHMENTS and facilities

REFRESHMENTS
There are a number of hotels, pubs, cafes and restaurants in and around Alston as well as in Nenthead, and a tearoom and inn at Garrigill.

TOILETS
You’ll find public toilets at:
- Alston, Nr Town Hall
- South Tynedale Railway Station, Alston
- Garrigill
- Nenthead

ACCOMMODATION
A wide range of accommodation is available in the North Pennines. For further information:
- Contact Alston Tourist Information Centre on 01434 382244 for a free guide.
- Call 01388 528801 and request a North Pennines Discovery Guide (inc. accomm. listing).