

Malham Cove

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4 North Pennines

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which the Way crosses between the Tan Hill Inn and Lambley, is characterised by some of the highest and wildest moorland summits in England, with less obvious evidence of human impact when compared with landscapes further south.

Much of the area coincides with a geological unit known as the Alston Block, which consists of a succession of Carboniferous sedimentary rocks which dip gently eastwards towards the North Sea. A large sheet of the igneous rock dolerite, which is extremely resistant to erosion, has intruded into the Carboniferous rocks, forming the Whin Sill. Outcrops are marked by dark columnar-jointed crags as at High Cup Nick. The abrupt boundary between the Whin Sill and the softer surrounding rocks gives rise to the spectacular waterfalls on the River Tees, such as the 21m fall at High Force.



Cross Fell

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5 Tyne Gap

The Way crosses the Tyne Gap between Lambley and Warks Burn; a narrow but distinctive lowland corridor which separates the North Pennines from the Border Moors and Forests.

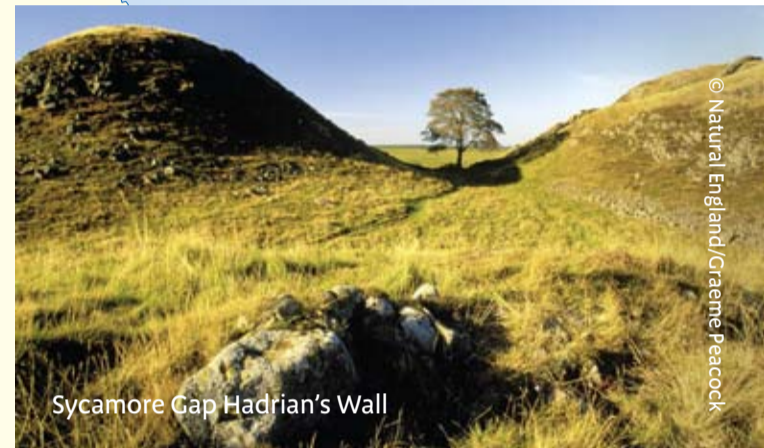
The character of the southern part of the Tyne Gap is influenced by the exposed and windswept upper slopes of the valley. North of the Tyne the landscape is more rugged, with outcrops of the Whin Sill forming craggy north-facing escarpments.

The Roman builders of Hadrian's Wall exploited the natural defensive opportunities provided by the Whin Sill escarpment.



National Trails in England and Wales

Approved but not yet opened



Sycamore Gap Hadrian's Wall

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6 Border Moors and Forests

The Pennine Way crosses the remote and sparsely populated upland plateau of the Border Moors and Forests between the North Tyne Valley and the Cheviots.

The area is underlain by sedimentary rocks of Carboniferous age. Resistant sandstones give rise to distinctive craggy landforms in the North Tyne Valley such as the Shitlington Crags. Some of the moors, such as those between the North Tyne and Redesdale valleys, are dominated by heather and are managed for grouse. These treeless moorlands contrast with the vast expanses of coniferous forest which dominate large parts of the area.



Near Cribbs to Henhole

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7 The Cheviots

The northernmost section of the Way passes through the Cheviots.

The Cheviots are a smooth cluster of massive rounded hills composed of igneous rocks of Devonian age, making them older than the rocks further south. At the centre of the Cheviots, and forming the Cheviot itself is a large mass of granite. Deep narrow valleys radiate off from the central core. The upper slopes of the hills are known locally as 'white lands' due to the frosted appearance of coarse moorland grasses. On the northern slopes of The Cheviot, rocky outcrops and dramatic scree slopes ('glidders') protect relict communities of arctic alpine plants.