



EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

6th Session – 2018-2019

APPLICATION FORM

Presentation

The European Landscape Convention aims to promote the protection, management and planning of landscapes and to bring together European co-operation in this field. It is the first international treaty exclusively devoted to all dimensions of European landscape. Taking into account the landscape, natural and cultural values of the territory, it contributes to promoting the quality of life and well-being of Europeans.

The Resolution on the Rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, draws attention to the fact that Article 11 of the Convention institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and that it is in keeping with the work carried out by the Council of Europe concerning human rights, democracy and sustainable development. It effectively promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape for people's living conditions.

Opened to the Parties to the Convention, the Award is intended to raise civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them. Its objective is to reward exemplary practical initiatives aimed at successful landscape quality objectives on the territories of the Parties to the Convention. The Award is conferred every two years and the files presenting applications must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe.

At its meeting held in Strasbourg on 28-29 April 2008, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) decided that applications should be submitted to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representations of the Parties to the Convention.

*We would be very grateful if you could send no later than **30 January 2019** the following elements of the candidature file (20 pages maximum) established for your country on the basis of the proposals forwarded to you by the Ministries:*

- by E-mail, the Application form completed to: maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int; susan.moller@coe.int;*
- by post, a copy of the Application form completed together with a CD-Rom, DVD or USB key, containing the all the additional material to: Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe, Agora (A4-15V), F-67075 STRASBOURG Cedex.*

*

*** * *

Please note that:

- participation to the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is only open to local and regional authorities and their groupings and non-governmental organisations, as stated in the Resolution CM/Res (2008)3, Appendix, Article 2;*
- the application form must be completed in all its parts, in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French);*
- the materials submitted must be copyright-free, for use by the Council of Europe in communications aimed at promoting the Award or any other publications or activities relating to the Convention. The Council of Europe undertakes to cite the authors' names;*

– files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the rules will not be taken into consideration.

For further information please visit the Landscape Award section of the Council of Europe website: www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

*

I. STATE CONCERNED AND APPLICANT

1. State United Kingdom

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Represented by | Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs |
| <i>Address:</i> | Dan Jones Natural Environment Directorate Defra UK |
| <i>Telephone:</i> | 07500 975281 |
| <i>E-mail:</i> | daniel.jones@defra.gov.uk |

2. Applicant Northumberland National Park Authority

Name of the local, regional authority(ies) or NGO(s)

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Represented by | Mr Tony Gates, Chief Executive (National Park Officer) |
| <i>Address:</i> | Eastburn South park Hexham Northumberland NE46 1BS |
| <i>Telephone:</i> | 01434611514 |
| <i>E-mail:</i> | tony.gates@nnpa.org.uk |
| | |

II. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJET

3. Name of the Project

The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre.

4. Location of the Project

Bardon Mill, Northumberland.

5. Summary of the Project *(10-12 lines)*

The Sill (named after the internationally renowned Whin Sill geological feature nearby) is a National Landscape Discovery Centre which aims to transform how people of all ages understand, explore and connect with landscapes. The centre acts as a hub, a safe and accessible destination for everyone, particularly for children, young people, families, people with disabilities and those who may feel less confident in exploring the wilder landscapes within the Northumberland National Park and the wider north east of England and the Scottish Borders.

The Sill is much more than a building, it delivers a comprehensive, year-round programme of activities and events to help nurture the current and next generation of landscape enthusiasts; to open up access to the countryside to everyone; and to ensure that these last wild places, and the communities within them, continue to thrive.

With over 150,000 visitors per year The Sill has immediately become one of the top free to enter visitor attractions in the North East of England and together with 30,000 people engaging in landscape activities, is helping to transform how people engage with landscapes.

6. **Photo representing the Project** (*high definition – JPEG 350 dpi*) and *name of the author of the photo please*



View of The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre on Hadrian's Wall

7. **Website of the Project** (*if exists*)

<https://www.thesill.org.uk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v20h5ZD4uTA>

12. Outcome

Since opening the doors to the public on 29 July 2017; The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre has exceeded expectations. The building is home to a vibrant collection of experiences, discovery and learning. The initial annual visitor assumption was that 100,000 people would visit per year and during the first year over 170,000 visitors came. The projected ongoing average visitor rate is expected to be around 150,000 visitors per year.

The diversity of those using the building, and its accessibility has been highlighted and rated 'excellent' in the reviews on Euan's Guide, a UK website which offers reviews on disabled access by disabled users.

Since opening, The Stell (temporary exhibition space) has hosted four diverse exhibitions.

- 1) An introduction to The Sill as a hub for landscape discovery
- 2) A celebration of England's first and Europe's largest Gold Tier International Dark Sky Park
- 3) An award winning Digital Landscape exhibition, which was viewed by 35,000 people over 12 weeks, including visits senior government officials including the Secretary of State for the Environment and by Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and the Arts.
- 4) The 'Inspired by our Land' art exhibition showcasing the work of local artists and how they interpret the landscapes around them.

The building has hosted a wide-range of events since opening from the iconic Montane Spine Race to corporate events for international brands such as Berghaus.

A new accessible footpath links visitors from the centre directly to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.

As well as 30,000 landscape activities for the public, the Sill has also delivered 20,000 education days through a complimentary schools programme. The programme has included:

- 1) Investigate Prehistoric History
- 2) River Investigation
- 3) Sill Story Time
- 4) Nature Detectives
- 5) Astro Explorers

The events programme has enhanced the ability of those involved to understand, value and contribute to the conservation of the heritage of the Northumbrian landscape. Events have included innovative concepts such as:

- 1) Wild Food Foraging Survival Challenge
- 2) Jingle Bell Jog
- 3) Waxcap Discovery and 3D Scanning
- 4) Mammal Monitoring

Volunteers play a pivotal role in the success of The Sill. As at the end of December 2018, 9090 volunteer days have been delivered for the project. Volunteering opportunities include:

- 1) Exhibition facilitators.
- 2) Members of The Sill Visitor Welcome Team.
- 3) Practical landscaping works.
- 4) Livestock satellite tracking and habitat mapping at The Lampert.
- 5) Bog and Mire restoration at Great Tongue Rigg.
- 6) Sitka Spruce regeneration problems on open moorland.
- 7) Natural Environment surveys and conservation records.
- 8) The opportunity to gain the John Muir 'Explorer' Award during the volunteering process.

Awards:

Since its opening The Sill has received a number of prestigious awards including a Royal Institute of British Architects Award for building design and a Selwyn Goldsmith Award for universal design (putting people at the heart of the design process).

On the back of the development of The Sill, Northumberland National Park has been voted 'National Park of the Year' by readers of BBC Countryfile Magazine in two of the past three year and in 2018 Northumberland was voted Best County destination in the UK travel Awards.

IV. RESPECT OF THE CRITERIA OF THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE AWARD

13. Sustainable territorial development

Is the project part of a sustainable development policy?

Does it contribute to the enhancement of environmental, social, economic, cultural or aesthetic values of the landscape? How?

Has it successfully countered or posed a remedy to any pre-existing environmental damage or urban blight? How?

The Sill meets the highest standards of sustainability. It has inherent conservation messages throughout and raises awareness of the impact of climate change both through interactive displays and the Northumberland National Park's own commitment to be a green and sustainable facility.

One of the original purposes of The Sill was to improve the setting of the Roman Vallum, a huge earthwork and part of the Hadrian's Wall UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The original brief set out to achieve high environmental standards, sustainable sourced materials and have low carbon emissions. The form, finish and palette of materials used reflect the landscape and character of Northumberland National Park.

- 80% of the external walls of the building are finished in local materials including whin stone, sandstone and native larch.
- The development of the first ever Whin Sill grassland roof, fully accessible and integrating plants from the unique Whin Sill grasslands of Northumberland

The Sill also hosts The Hive, a new enterprise hub aimed at housing new and emerging rural businesses; a shop providing local producers with a route to market (85% of the stock is locally sourced); a café selling locally sourced produce; and an 86 bed youth hostel managed by the Youth Hostel Association.

14. Exemplary value

*Can the project be considered of exemplary value? Why?
Which are the good practices that it implemented?*

Since The Sill was completed, the building has won and been short-listed for a number of national and local awards which highlight the sensitive manner in which the visitor centre has been designed to blend and complement the local landscape which features Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Awards include:

- 1) Civic Trust Architects Award 2019 – shortlisted
- 2) RIBA North East Award for 2018 - winner
- 3) RICS Tourism and Leisure category 2018 – highly commended
- 4) AJ Architects Public Building of the Year Award 2018 – Shortlisted
- 5) Construction Industry Research and Information Association's Biodiversity Awards
- 6) Selwyn Godsmith Award for universal design
- 7) North East Business Awards Northumberland Tourism Category

The most ambitious part of the building is the Whin Sill grassland roof, a concept which has never been tried before.

Built to embed the shapes and geology of The Great Whin Sill, the unique grass roof was planted in a substrate inspired by the surrounding landscape. Whin makes thin, poor soil, so plants have to be able to cope with tough conditions. This means that the area gives a home to a unique community of plants and the grass roof reflects this. We tested different soil mixtures and planting techniques for the roof in a number of trial plots. All the seed we've used has come from Northumberland and Cumbria, so we know the plants growing on the roof are local.

The soil, which was especially made for this project, is based on the soils found in abandoned whinstone quarries, where early successional species-rich grassland is developing well.

The Whin Sill grassland roof is unique and fully accessible to all, allowing wheelchair users and those with pushchairs, to reach a viewing platform with panoramic views in all directions. It is the only one of its kind in the world and will be used by students to learn more about carbon capture, geology and ecology.

The building is fully accessible and houses a changing places facility. This has delivered a step change in the people accessing Northumberland National Park and the surrounding landscape.

The exhibitions hosted in The Sill are unique in both design and content encouraging visitors of all ages to make their own journey of landscape discovery.

15. Public participation

Does the project actively encourage the public's participation in the decision-making process? How?

Is the project in line with the wider policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities?

The project has actively encouraged the public's participation in the decision-making process; from idea development and engaging local community groups and stakeholders to the public consultation as part of the planning application process for which it won the 'Planning Permission of the Year' award by the Royal Town Planning Institute in 2015. A series of open events and workshops helped decide site layout, materials and architectural style. The participative design process gave the local community a chance to get involved from the outset, to voice their opinions and take some ownership of the design. This allowed the architects to draw on a vast wealth of local knowledge and expertise. Over 3,000 local residents helped to shape the concept of the building.

The project has also raised awareness of planning policy formulation. A number of public consultation events were held at the Sill to facilitate discussion on the draft future planning policies for the National Park as set out in its Local Plan review. This too actively encouraged public participation in decision-making. This is in line with national planning policy and guidance as implemented by local planning authorities (including Northumberland National Park Authority and Northumberland County Council).

Perhaps the most pleasing of endorsements was from a local resident who, when asked if they liked the design and why, said "Yes, because we (the community) can see how we shaped it". This has been critical in gaining public ownership and acceptance of a building in such a unique and sensitive location.

16. Awareness-raising

Is the project effectively increasing public awareness of the importance of landscape in terms of human development, consolidation of European identity, or individual and collective well-being? How?

The whole aim of the project is to raise awareness of, and engage with, as wide a range of people with 'landscape' as possible. The Sill's permanent exhibition introduces incredible local landscape to all of the Sill's visitors. This free - to - access state of the art exhibition brings this incredible local landscape to life. Described by some as the best 'natural capital' exhibition they have seen, it includes geological exhibits; interactive displays; artwork installations and audio-visual displays. The aim of the exhibition is to transform how people discover and explore the natural and cultural heritage of the landscape.

The exhibition is designed to ignite curiosity about the landscape and the environment and empower people with knowledge to ask more questions about the world around them. As such it does not set out to give answers or push any 'given' views. Rather it allows people to explore their own interest in, and relationship with, landscape.

An extensive events programme introduces landscape to people from all age groups and provides a platform from which they can engage in activities which not only improve their knowledge and understanding of Northumberland National Park but also promote the positive benefits to the health and wellbeing of individuals and families too. The programme includes:

- 1) Guided walks and 'Walks to Wellbeing'.
- 2) Opportunities to learn new skills such as wooden spoon carving, print making and dry stone walling.
- 3) Dark Skies including stargazing and space marvels.
- 4) Family 'Sill Sunday' activities.
- 5) Opportunities to get creative with local artists/musicians
- 6) Digital and Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) landscape based events

We have also delivered project based activities with hard to reach groups such as 'Skylarks Over The Sill', a project for people living with dementia and a heritage skills workshop with young people and the Princes Trust.

V. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Together with the printed version of the Application form, additional material in digital format should be included in one CD-Rom, DVD or USB key, and returned by post or courier to:

Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons

Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention

Head of Division, Agora (A4-15V), Council of Europe

F-67075 STRASBOURG, Cedex

Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 41 23 98

E-mail: maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int

- Text (20 pages max.): *PDF format*
- Photos (10 max.): *JPEG 350 dpi high definition*
- Posters (2 max.): *PDF format high definition or JPEG 350 dpi high definition*
- Video (15 min max.): *mpeg 2 format - It is recommended to present a video (even of amateur quality).*

*

















Northumberland
National Park



explore

The Sill:

National Landscape
Discovery Centre



www.thesill.org.uk

Our Vision

Our vision is for our nation's exceptional landscapes to be enjoyed by as many people as possible, and to provide the opportunity for people to explore, understand and nurture these landscapes and the people, heritage and wildlife that shape them.

That is why Northumberland is the natural home for The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre. The Sill is a once in a lifetime opportunity to turn a national spotlight onto the vital importance of landscape to our nation's health, wealth and well-being; to stimulate and nurture the next generation of landscape enthusiasts; to open up access to the countryside to everyone; and to ensure that these last wild places, and the communities within them, continue to thrive.





The Sill:

National Landscape Discovery Centre

What is it?

The Sill is a hub from which we aim to transform how people of all ages understand and explore their landscapes, history and heritage. It provides a safe entry point for people from all backgrounds, including children, young people, families, disabled people and those less confident at exploring natural places. The Sill will act as a launch

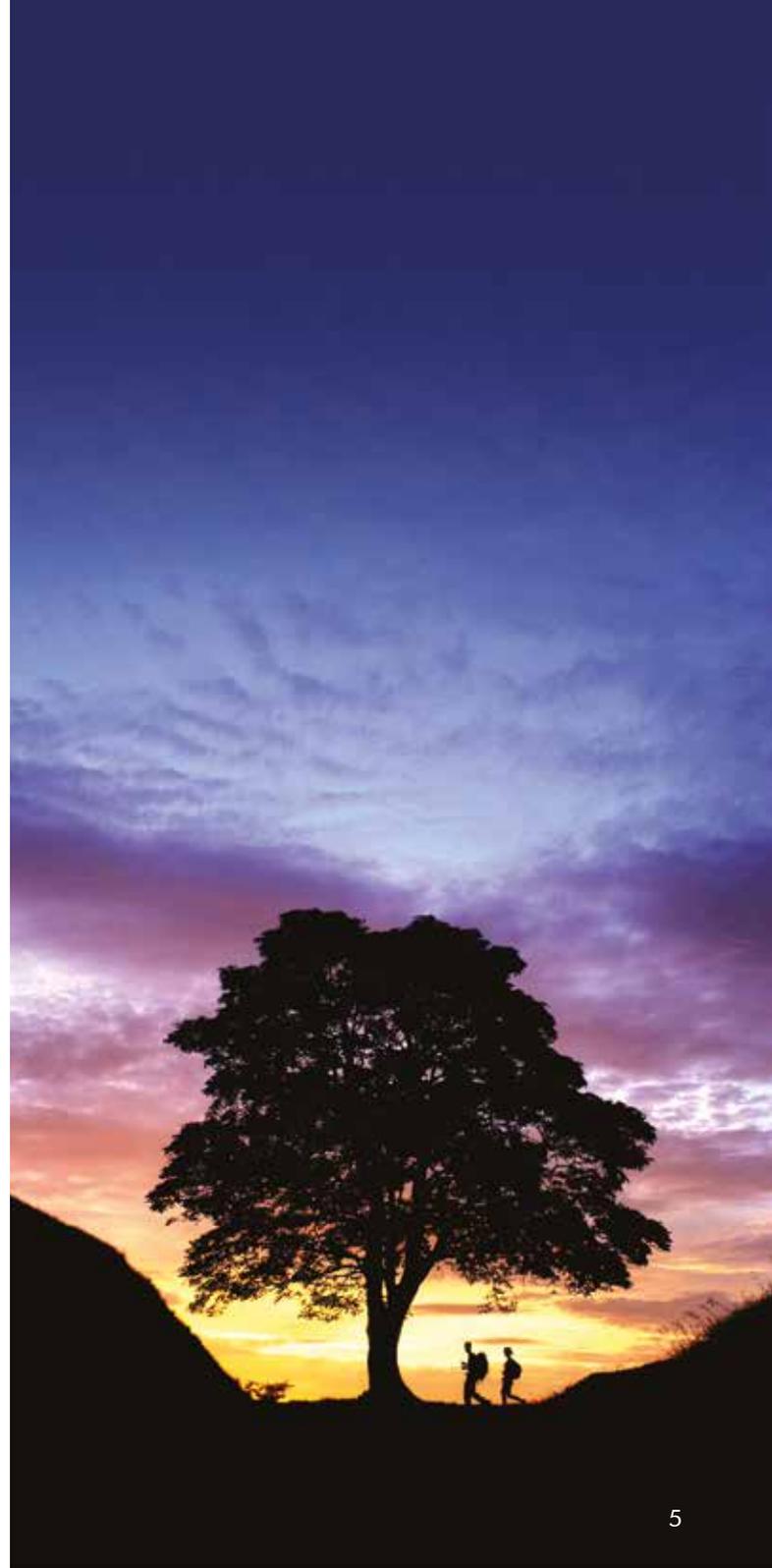
pad, giving people the knowledge and inspiring people to discover, value and celebrate landscape.

The concept of The Sill therefore goes well beyond this building, incorporating a comprehensive programme of activities which will engage a new audience and create lifelong relationships between people and landscape.

What is Landscape?

Landscape is all around us: it is the rocks beneath our feet and the endless skies above; it is the earth from which our crops grow and the waters that nourish them; it is the shapes and scars of industry past and present; it is the microscopic organisms that creep and crawl and slither and climb; and it is the tumultuous cacophony of languages, sounds, tastes, dialects, skills, traditions and cultures.

Here in Northumberland National Park our landscape has been shaped by 6,000 years of human life. It is a unique demonstration of the complex interactions between a natural and human environment and all that lies within it; on a 400 square-mile scale.



The Building

The brief was to redevelop an existing YHA hostel and Northumberland National Park visitor centre into a new, high-quality facility combining Youth Hostel Accommodation and a Landscape Discovery Centre with, learning, participation and conservation at its heart. The Sill needed to be bigger than the sum of its parts.



*“Inspired by the landscape...
and of the landscape”*

The following are the key elements that would form the essence of The Sill itself:

- An emblematic building to deliver world class visitor experiences;
- A form, finish and palette of materials to reflect the landscape and character of Northumberland National Park;
- A new vernacular architecture;
- To achieve high environmental standards, sustainable sourced materials and have low carbon emissions;
- Make the design process participative with community, stakeholders, audiences and partners all consulted.





Our Design Concept

Inspired by The Great Whin Sill, Northumberland's internationally-renowned geological feature, the building grows from the landscape that surrounds it. An aerial view of the surrounding area shows these dramatic geological outcrops as diagonal ripples and The Sill is designed to mimic these ripples so that the diagonal flowing lines of the building echo the natural undulations and outcrops in the landscape.



Getting People Involved

A series of open events and workshops helped decide site layout, materials and architectural style. The participative design process gave the local community a chance to get involved from the outset, to voice their opinions and take some ownership of the design. This allowed the architects to draw on a vast wealth of local knowledge and expertise.

“What we like most about the design is that we can see how our comments have shaped it.”

(local resident).





The Final Design

Using the natural falls across the site, the building flows out of the landscape giving full visitor access onto the roof. The roof returns on itself so that it rises above the café at the highest point providing a fantastic viewing point for the public, while allowing the cafe to be visible from the Military Road and reflecting the Great Whin Sill escarpment to the north.



The roof provides an incredible opportunity for visitors to engage with the landscape both in terms of the development of the Whin Sill vegetation and the views to the wider landscape. It also allows people with limited mobility the opportunity to get an elevated landscape view.

We listened to comments from the public when addressing the building's

accommodation; YHA is situated to the south west, while shared classrooms are facing south with scope to connect to gardens. The central reception area and atrium face south, the exhibition to the east, offices and toilets to the north and access to a first floor cafe with roof terrace and enterprise hub.

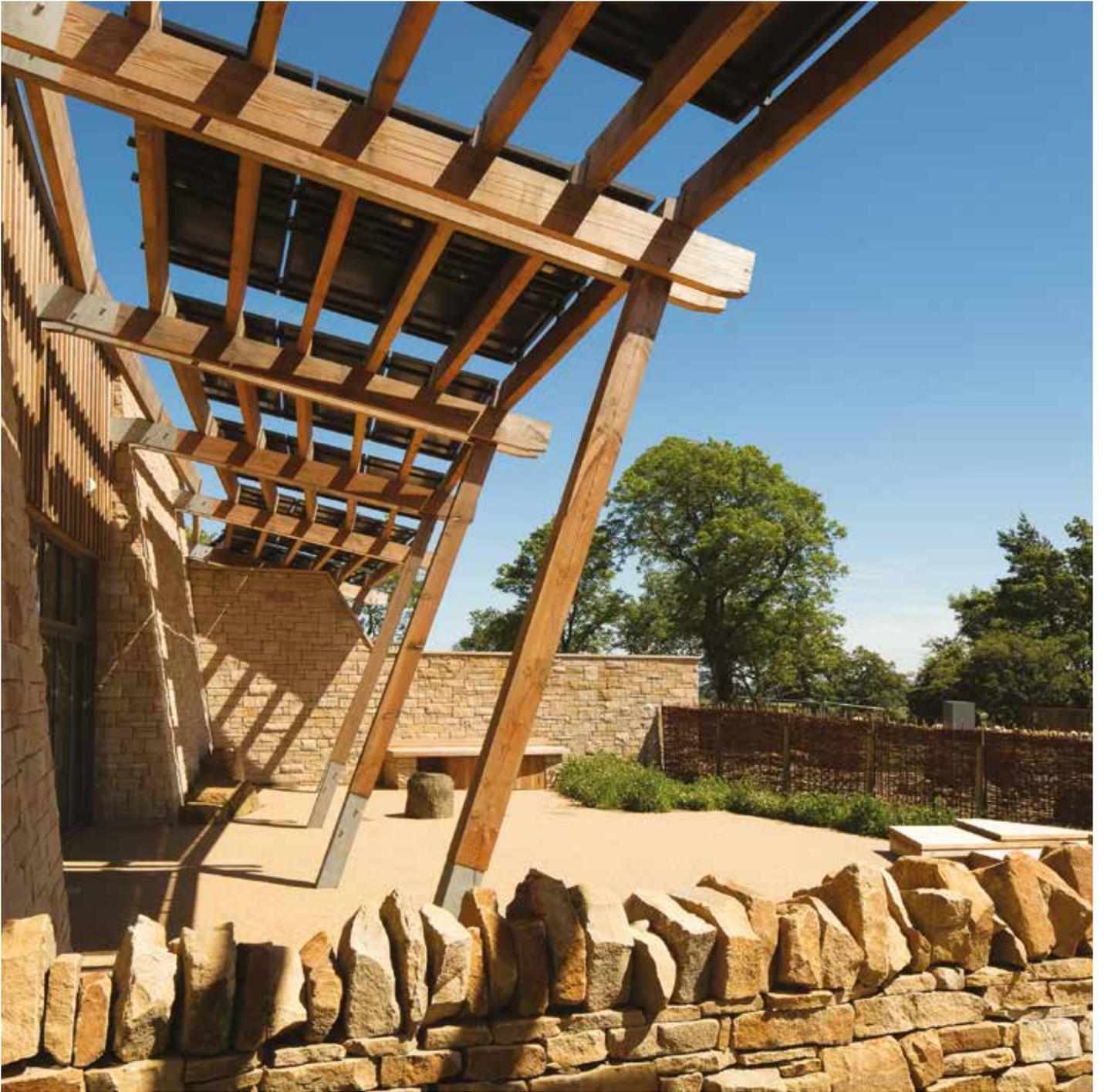


The Building Materials

A natural palette of materials has been selected to include locally sourced sandstone to create the softer curved walls and buttressing to the south, while the more angular north elevation is formed with locally sourced whinstone in gabion baskets to incorporate the Great Whin Sill. Timber is also used in the form of larch cladding, the angular timber roof, reflecting the rising angular form of the Great Whin Sill. A timber canopy to the south supports photovoltaic cells, providing a renewable energy source as well as solar shading.









Building The Sill

Construction firm Sir Robert McAlpine took on the build and bringing our vision to life proved a challenge, not least because of the inclement British weather and the exposed location. The topography of the site alongside its location next to the Roman "vallum" (part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site) required careful planning from the outset.

Bat species are protected in Britain and, as bats were present at the site, a bat barn was erected to provide an alternative roost area before demolition and construction could even begin. Efforts such as this alongside the materials that were used were important in keeping the building grounded in the local area with limited impact on the surrounding environment, providing crevices for an array of species to find homes within the walls.

A building that exudes simplicity is rarely simple to construct. The complex design included different elements of locally sourced materials to help blend the finished building into its environment. The Sill is at least three buildings in one. Employing steel frame construction (the café area), concrete



framing (the exhibition area) and traditional block construction (YHA classrooms). The site manager even described The Sill as "three buildings joined together by a glass box."

"As a local resident here in Northumberland I was determined that Sir Robert McAlpine should be involved in the UK's first dedicated National Landscape Discovery Centre. This landmark building has been a fantastic project for us all and I wish Northumberland National Park all the success in the future." Mr Andrew McAlpine





Internal Fit Out

Our approach to the internal finishes in the building, including signage and exhibitions, has incorporated the overall design concept. The furniture and finishes reflect the geometric joints and cracks of the Whin Sill crags. This together with the use of natural materials delivers a consistent feel throughout the building.





Hello

CELTIC
CULTURE
MUSEUM

f t @irlandnp #TheSilt

What
is
NATIONAL PARK



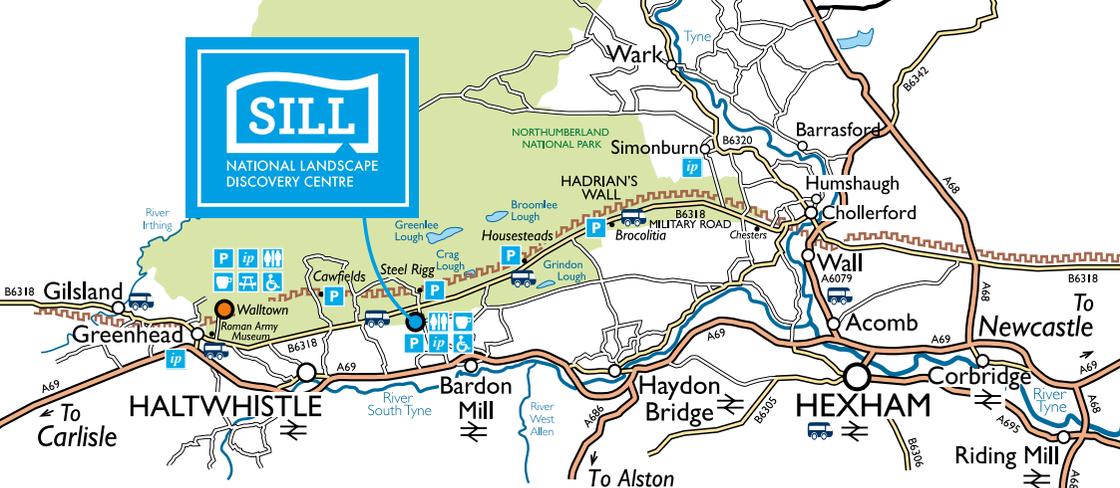


Northumberland
National Park



www.thesill.org.uk





The Sill

National Landscape Discovery Centre



Wider Benefits

Our aim is that in the next five years every child in Northumberland will have had an opportunity to engage with the Sill, with activities to help teachers deliver the National Curriculum. Other programmes include:

- A year-round calendar of learning and participative events, particular aimed at families and younger people
- A volunteer programme that will include training, from landscape management and customer service to administration and heritage conservation.

Opening Hours

- **Summer** (1 April - 31 October) Daily - 9.30am - 6.00pm
- **Winter** (1 November - 31 March) Daily - 10.00am - 4.00pm (except Christmas Day)

Getting Here

The Sill
National Landscape Discovery Centre
Once Brewed Nr Bardon Mill
Hexham
Northumberland
NE47 7AN

Tel: 01434 341200

For drivers on the A69, follow the tourism signs to 'Hadrian's Wall' and 'The Sill'

Only assistance dogs are permitted into The Sill.



Our landscape has shaped our nation

Our vision is for our nation's exceptional landscapes to be enjoyed and appreciated by as many people as possible. That is why Northumberland National Park is the natural home for The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre.

The Sill (named after the famous Whin Sill geological feature nearby) is a new visitor attraction with a role to help transform how people of all ages understand and explore their own landscapes, history and heritage. It is a safe and accessible destination for everyone, particularly for children, young people, families, people with disabilities and those who may feel less confident in exploring our wilder landscapes.

The Sill will inform and inspire you to go further and discover what is often hidden in clear sight, until you know what to look for. The concept behind the Sill goes well beyond it being just a building, it drives a comprehensive, year-round programme of outdoor and indoor activities and events that will help nurture the current and next generation of landscape enthusiasts; to open up access to the countryside to everyone; and to ensure that these last wild places, and the communities within them, continue to thrive.

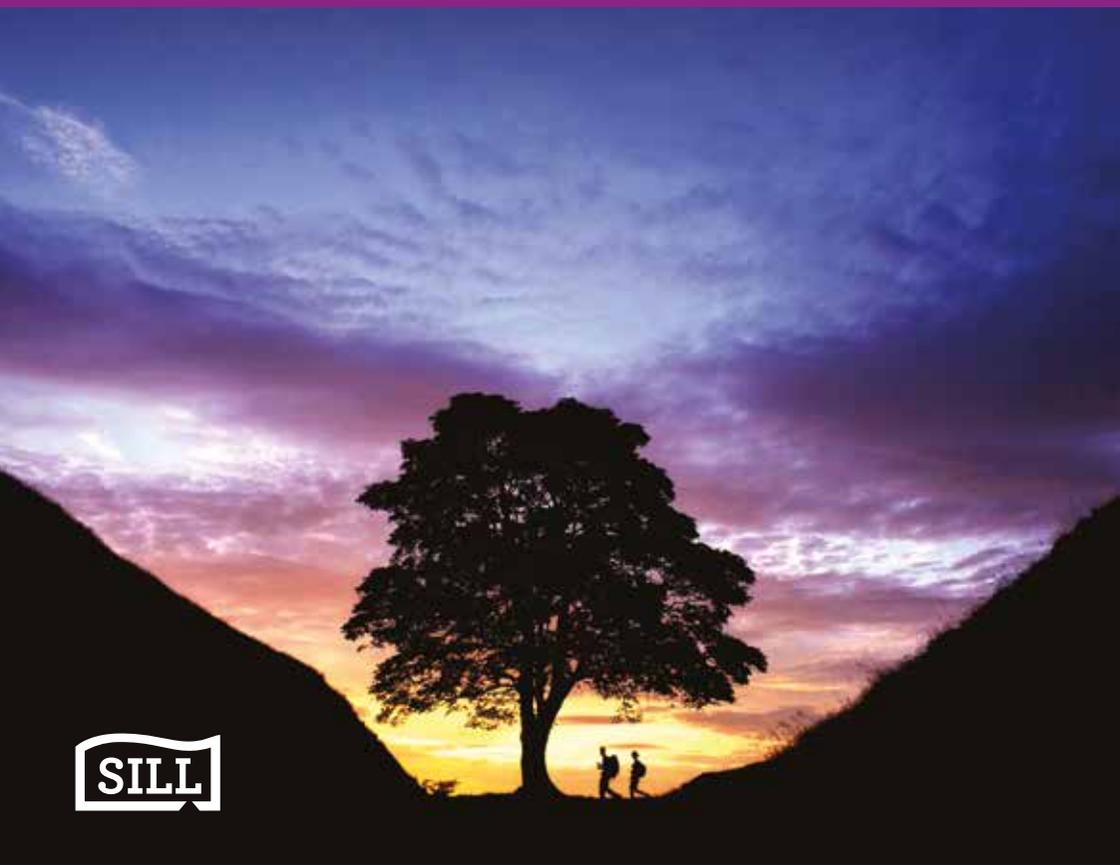


The Welcome

When you arrive at the Sill, our knowledgeable and enthusiastic team of information assistants can help you make the most of your day with inspirational ideas and itineraries.

Within the building, the following facilities are available:

- A free-to-enter Landscape Exhibition with interactive exhibits for kids of all ages!
- A Whin Sill grassland roof that is fully accessible to all, including wheelchair users and those with buggies, which leads up to a viewing platform with panoramic views in all directions. It is the only one of its kind in the world and will be used by students to learn more about carbon capture, geology and ecology.
- The Stell: a temporary exhibition space, with the first exhibition focussing on the design and build of the Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre
- Free Wi-Fi throughout the building
- The Cafe at the Sill: an 86 seat cafe offering panoramic views of Hadrian's
- Wall World Heritage Site and the Tyne valley, which specialises in sourcing food from local farms and suppliers
- The Shop at the Sill: a showcase of local talent, creativity and enterprise, where you can find that special gift that reflects the quality of your visit to Northumberland
- The Hive: an enterprise hub housing new and emerging rural businesses
- Two learning rooms that will be used by educational groups and will host events and workshops throughout the year
- A Changing Places facility that is fully accessible and equipped
- The YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall : a brand new 86-bed Youth Hostel
- Car Park: 180 spaces with 5 dedicated for Blue Badge Holders and 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Posts
- Bus Stop: the Hadrian's Wall Bus AD122 will be able to pick up and drop off passengers right outside the main entrance of the building



SILL

WHAT'S ON

NOVEMBER 18 - MARCH 19
IN NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK


Northumberland
National Park



EVENTS AND GUIDED WALKS

www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/events



WELCOME TO NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK

Welcome to Northumberland National Park – the land of the far horizon! The season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' is upon us once again reminding us all how beautiful this land is in all its colours and hues.

As Winter draws near, we have a range of exciting events that will tease out the creative side of you, as well as serving you that tonic of wildness that we all need from time to time. This is the best time to enjoy our dark skies, which are literally glittering with thousands of stars visible to the naked eye.

To book a place on any of these experiences, please go to www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/events



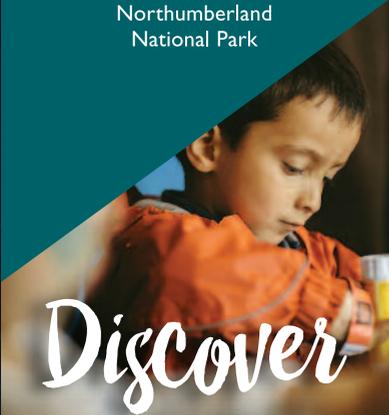
*Aurora and star trails at
Gefrin, The Cheviot Hills*



NATIONAL LANDSCAPE
DISCOVERY CENTRE



Northumberland
National Park



Discover

THE SILL

THE SILL
ONCE BREWED
HADRIAN'S WALL
NE47 7AN

T: 01434 341200

WINTER OPENING HOURS

10am - 4pm

EXHIBITIONS • SHOP • CAFÉ

ROOFTOP WALKWAY • YHA

TOURIST INFORMATION



The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre is the 'go to' destination for those wanting to explore Northumberland National Park and Hadrian's Wall, where our knowledgeable and friendly staff will help you get the very best out of your day!

We have a year-round programme of events for you including stargazing, art and craft workshops to inspire you about the great outdoors, guided walks, and lots of family fun activities. Log on to our website for full details:

www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/events

Remember it's The Sill Christmas Fair Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 November with 30+ local stalls.



LOOK OUT
FOR OUR
FAMILY FRIENDLY
EVENTS

www.thesill.org.uk

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND GUIDED WALKS NOVEMBER 2018

NOVEMBER

- 1 Storytime at The Sill
FAMILY FUN
- 2 Wild Food & Medicine
Challenge
FAMILY FUN
- 4 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 11 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 11 Lord Armstrong's views
of the Coquet Valley
GUIDED WALK
- 15 The Rivers of Life
DISCUSSION / EXHIBITION
- 17 It's the Leonids
Meteor Show!
STARGAZING
- 17 Christmas Fair
THE SILL
- 18 Christmas Fair
THE SILL
- 24 Carve your own
Wooden Fanbird
GET CREATIVE
- 25 Make a Willow Angel
GET CREATIVE
- 25 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 25 Chesterwood and
Haresby Lonnen
GUIDED WALK
- 30 Magical Moon Watch
STARGAZING

DECEMBER

- 1 Festive Lantern Making
GET CREATIVE / FAMILY FUN
- 1 NNAS Silver Training
Event (Day 1)
- 2 NNAS Silver Training
Event (Day 2)
- 2 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 7 Catch a Falling Star
STARGAZING
- 7 Family Astronomy
STARGAZING
- 7 Go Stargazing
STARGAZING
- 8 Elf Run - Jingle Bell Jog
FAMILY FUN
- 8 Storytime at The Sill
FAMILY FUN
- 9 Sill Sunday
Willow Wonderland
FAMILY FUN
- 9 Circling the
North Cheviots
GUIDED WALK
- 13 It's the Geminids
Meteor Show
STARGAZING
- 15 Magical Moon Watch
STARGAZING
- 16 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 23 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 26 Christmas on the Wall
GUIDED WALK
- 30 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN

JANUARY

- 5 Family Astronomy
STARGAZING
- 5 Go Stargazing
STARGAZING
- 6 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 13 Blawearie and the
Cateran Hole
GUIDED WALK
- 13 Wooden Spoon Carving
GET CREATIVE
- 13 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 20 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 26 Magical Moon Watch
STARGAZING
- 26 Dark Skies Disco
FAMILY FUN
- 27 Newbrough Circular
GUIDED WALK
- 27 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN

FOR FURTHER DETAILS
AND TO BOOK

FEBRUARY

- 2 Aurora Watch
STARGAZING
- 3 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 9 Basket Making
GET CREATIVE
- 10 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 10 Hillforts in Winter
GUIDED WALK
- 10 Wooden Spoon Carving
GET CREATIVE
- 14 Starry-eyed Valentines
Dinner
STARGAZING
- 17 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 19 Space Marvels
STARGAZING
- 20 Wild Wednesday
Birds 'r' Brill
FAMILY FUN
- 22 Transmittens
GET CREATIVE
- 23 Go Stargazing
STARGAZING
- 24 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 24 Carrawburgh Fort
& Roman Temple
GUIDED WALK

MARCH

- 2 Print Workshop (Day 1)
GET CREATIVE
- 3 Print Workshop (Day 2)
GET CREATIVE
- 3 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 9 Family Astronomy
STARGAZING
- 9 Go Stargazing
STARGAZING
- 10 Wooden Spoon Carving
GET CREATIVE
- 10 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 10 Simonside Ridge
GUIDED WALK
- 15 Harp Demonstrations
THE SILL
- 16 Magical Moon Watch
STARGAZING
- 16 Mythical Beasts
FAMILY FUN
- 17 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 23 Willowcraft for Garden
GET CREATIVE
- 24 Old Roses Bower
GUIDED WALK
- 24 Get Weaving
GET CREATIVE
- 24 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN
- 31 Make a Rustic
Wooden Stool
GET CREATIVE
- 31 Sill Sunday
FAMILY FUN

Look out for our **Spring & Summer Programme of Events 2019** online from March 2019.



GUIDED WALKS

← in →

NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK



Our walks are led by friendly, knowledgeable volunteers. There is a full description of each walk on our website so you can easily find a walk that's perfect for you.

B BOOKING ESSENTIAL
(visit website)

1 START POINT
(see map)

Did you know that Northumberland is the most tranquil National Park in England?

NOVEMBER



SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Lord Armstrong's views of the Coquet Valley

10.30am - 2pm

Moderate / 6.5 miles / £8

8 Rothbury Car Park

OS Grid Ref: NU 057 015



SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Chesterwood and Haresby Lonnen

10.30am - 2.30pm

Moderate / 7 miles / £8

3 St Cuthbert's Church, Haydon Bridge

OS Grid Ref: NY 842 646

DECEMBER



SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER

Circling the North Cheviots

10.30am - 3pm

Strenuous / 8 miles / £10

12 Wooler Common

OS Grid Ref: NT 976 272



WEDNESDAY 26 DECEMBER

Christmas on the Wall

10.30am - 2pm

Moderate / 6 miles / £8

1 The Sill

OS Grid Ref: NY 752 669



SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER & SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER

National Navigation Award Silver Training Event

B (2 day event)

£110 for 2 days

1 Day 1 The Sill 9am - 5pm

9 Day 2 Alnham 9am - 5pm

The National Navigation Award (Silver) is a two day course teaching accurate compass work, then uses the skills learnt to navigate to features some distance from paths and tracks in open countryside

JANUARY



SUNDAY 13 JANUARY

Blawearie and the Cateran Hole

10.30am - 3pm

Moderate / 8 miles / £8

11 Old Bewick roadside
OS Grid Ref: NU 067 215

FEBRUARY



SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY

Hillforts in Winter

10.30am - 1.30pm

Moderate / 5 miles / £8

10 Ingram Bridge Car Park
OS Grid Ref: NU 018 163

MARCH



SUNDAY 10 MARCH

Simonside Ridge Walk

10.30am - 2pm

Moderate / 6 miles / £8

7 Lordenshaws Car Park
OS Grid Ref: NZ 053 988



SUNDAY 27 JANUARY

Newbrough Circular

10.30am - 2pm

Moderate / 6 miles / £8

4 Newbrough Town Hall
OS Grid Ref: NY 874 679



SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Carrawburgh Fort & Roman Temple

10.30am - 2pm

Moderate / 6 miles / £8

5 Simonburn Car Park
OS Grid Ref: NY 872 735



SUNDAY 24 MARCH

Old Roses Bower Walk

10.30am - 2pm

Moderate / 6 miles / £8

6 Stonehaugh Car Park
OS Grid Ref: NY 789 762



FOR FURTHER DETAILS
AND TO BOOK

DARK SKIES STARGAZING

← in →

NORTHUMBERLAND
NATIONAL PARK

Did you know that
Northumberland has
the most pristine dark
skies in England?

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER

It's the Leonids Meteor Show!

Discover the magic of
meteors and comets with
an introduction to radio
astronomy.

8pm - 10pm

£12 Adults / £10 Child

② Walltown Quarry
Country Park

FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER

Magical Moon Watch

An observational session
(weather permitting), with a
talk about our amazing
Moon and its effect upon
Earth and us.

8pm - 10pm

£12 Adults / £10 Child

① The Sill

DECEMBER

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER



Catch a Falling Star

A workshop with an astro-
imaging specialist, to gain
new skills in photographing
the stars above.

8pm - 10pm / £20

⑬ The Cheviot Centre,
Wooler

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

Family Astronomy

A short, fun introduction to
astronomy, including how to
use binoculars and telescopes.

6pm - 7pm / £10

① The Sill

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

Go Stargazing

An observational session
(weather permitting), and a talk
about the solar system and
the Universe.

8pm - 10pm

£12 Adults / £10 Child

① The Sill

THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER

It's the Geminids Meteor Show!

See Saturday 17 November
details.

8pm - 10pm / £12

① The Sill



DECEMBER

SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER

Magical Moon Watch

See Friday 30 November for details.

8pm - 10pm

£12 Adults / £10 Child

1 The Sill

JANUARY

SATURDAY 5 JANUARY

Family Astronomy

See Friday 7 December for details.

6pm - 7pm / £10

1 The Sill

SATURDAY 5 JANUARY

Go Stargazing

See Friday 7 December for details.

£12 Adults / £10 Child

1 The Sill

SATURDAY 26 JANUARY

Magical Moon Watch

See Friday 30 November for details.

8pm - 10pm

£12 Adults / £10 Child

1 The Sill

FOR MORE
DETAILS

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY 

Aurora Watch

An exploration into auroras, how to become aware of them and how to photograph them!

£12 Adults / £10 Child

1 The Sill



THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Starry-eyed Valentines Dinner

Enjoy a romantic meal at the Café at The Sill before gazing into the heavens and stars above.

7pm - 10pm / £35pp

1 The Sill

TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY

Space Marvels

An observational session (weather permitting), with a talk on space exploration, the International Space Station and the Hubble Telescope.

8pm - 10pm

£35 Family Ticket or

£12 Adult / £10 Child

1 The Sill

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Go Stargazing

See Friday 7 December for details.

8pm - 10pm

£12 Adults / £10 Child

1 The Sill

MARCH

SATURDAY 9 MARCH

Family Astronomy

A short, fun introduction to astronomy, including how to use binoculars and telescopes.

6pm - 7pm / £10

1 The Sill

SATURDAY 9 MARCH

Go Stargazing

See Friday 7 December for details.

8pm - 10pm

£12 Adults / £10 Child

1 The Sill

SATURDAY 16 MARCH

Magical Moon Watch

See Friday 30 November for details.

8pm - 10pm

£12 Adults / £10 Child

1 The Sill



GET CREATIVE

← in →

NORTHUMBERLAND
NATIONAL PARK



SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER

Carve your own Wooden Fanbird

Originating in Eastern Europe as a traditional decoration that catches the breeze, fanbirds are made from a single piece of wood using hand tools and carving knives. It takes a steady hand and even steadier nerves when it comes to opening your birds wings to reveal your creation! Wood carver Steve Ridd (NORTHERN WOOD MONKEY) is your tutor. 1pm - 4pm / £30 Adults (Beginners welcome)

1 The Sill



SUNDAY 13 JANUARY &
SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY

Wooden Spoon Carving

Make your own hand carved spoon on these half day 'taster' sessions. Learn cutting techniques and safe grips with both a straight and bent (hook) knife with wood carver Steve Ridd (NORTHERN WOOD MONKEY). (Beginners welcome) 10am - 12 noon / £25 Adults AND 1pm - 4pm / £25 Adults

1 The Sill

SUNDAY 10 MARCH

Wooden Spoon Carving

In addition to the above description you will first work with a carving axe to split the log and safely 'rough out' the blank that you will then carve into your finished spoon.

10am - 4pm / £70 Adults (Beginners welcome)

1 The Sill

TO BOOK
AN EVENT



www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/events

SUNDAY 31 MARCH

Make a Rustic Wooden Stool

Using traditional hand tools and locally sourced ash for the legs, and hardwood for the seat, we make the stool legs first. Then we drill round mortices to accept the legs and in no time at all you will have the essence of a great looking wooden stool! Expertly led by green woodworker Maurice Pyle (WOODSMITH EXPERIENCE). (Beginners welcome)

10am - 4pm / £70

1 The Sill



SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY

Basket Making

Led by experienced willow weaver Ruth Thompson (SYLVAN SKILLS), learn basic basketry techniques and take home your own Swedish style basket at the end.

1am - 3.30pm / £25

1 The Sill

SATURDAY 23 MARCH

Willowcraft for the Garden

Make your own willow wigwam plant trainer with willow weaver Ruth Thompson (SYLVAN SKILLS).

1am - 3.30pm / £25

1 The Sill



FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Transmittens

Make your own set of mittens embellished with sensors which will let you hear the micro landscape all around you. Hands on workshop with textile artist Lindsay Duncanson.

10am - 12.30 / £10pp (£15 x 2)

1 The Sill



SATURDAY 2 MARCH & SUNDAY 3 MARCH

2 Day Print Workshop

A day in the life of Northumberland National Park - work with local artist and printer Carol Nunan to produce your own art works responding to the landscape around The Sill and the dark skies above. 2 day weekend workshop £90 (YHA accommodation available / extra charge)

1 The Sill



FAMILY
FUN

← in →

NORTHUMBERLAND
NATIONAL PARK

Sill Sunday



Drop in to The Sill Learning Rooms most Sundays between 11am - 2pm and find out something new about your National Park. Our friendly experts will share their knowledge through talks, walks, crafts events and demonstrations.



Wild Wednesday



Every Wednesday in the Northumberland School Holidays the whole family can learn new skills together such as bushcraft and geocaching. Join our Ranger service at different sites around the National Park for these 2 hour, bookable events.



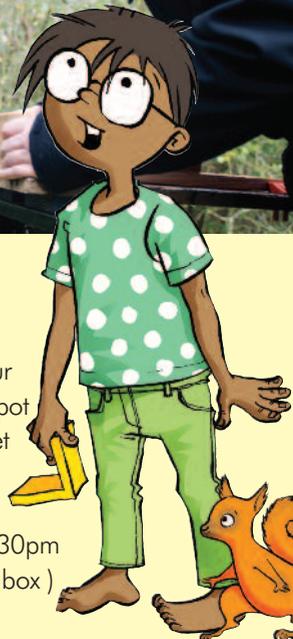
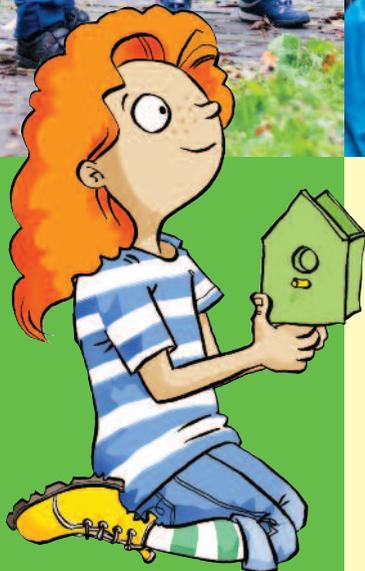
WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY

Birds 'r' Brill

Our Rangers will help you make your own binoculars and then help you spot some birds with them. You'll even get the chance to make your very own birdbox to take home with you.

10.30am - 12 noon AND 1pm - 2.30pm
£5 (*extra charge for making a bird box)

1 The Sill



THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER
AND SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER

Storytime at The Sill

Storyteller Jim Grant will tell tales of the nature, history and landscape of this beautiful yet turbulent border land. Great for ALL ages - old and young!

11am - 3pm / £2.50

1 The Sill



FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER

Wild Food & Medicine Challenge

Get a team together who you think could survive using the plants and fungi in the National Park. WILD NORTH DISCOVERY will set the challenges and help you tell the good plants from the nasty ones. Collect wild food plants, those that will cure ailments and wild protein to survive... Bring back a poisonous plant then lose a life in your group! Fail to cure a life-threatening ailment lose a life too. Don't bring back enough wild food, then someone in the group starves!

10am - 12 noon AND 1pm - 3pm
£5pp (FAMILY TICKET £15)

2 Walltown Quarry
Country Park

FOR MORE
DETAILS



SATURDAY 26 JANUARY

DARK SKIES DISCO with Chalk.

Prepare for lift off as CHALK take you on an intergalactic journey. The building yard will be open for you to craft rockets, design and make your own futuristic headwear and create moon projections set to a soundtrack of other-worldly tunes; from Bowie to the Beastie Boys, OMD to the Beatles and a host of space-themed gems!

11am - 12.15pm AND 2pm - 3.15pm
£5pp (FAMILY TICKET £15)

1 The Sill



SATURDAY 16 MARCH

Mythical Beasts with Chalk.

Let your imaginations run wild as you create your very own mythical beast. Does it have three heads, one hundred eyes and a tongue longer than a lorry? Explore the woodland to get inspiration and materials, then delve into the Chalk invention box and get creating! Aimed at little ones and big ones, and set to a soundtrack of beastly music... Grrrrrrr!

11am - 12.15pm AND 2pm - 3.15pm
£5pp (FAMILY TICKET £15)

1 The Sill

DONT
FORGET



JINGLE BELL JOG
ELF RUN

SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER

www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/events

FESTIVE EVENTS

← in →

NORTHUMBERLAND
NATIONAL PARK



The Sill Christmas Fair

SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER
& SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER
10AM - 4PM

30+ Local Craft
& Food Stalls
Children's Activities



GET CREATIVE
SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER

Festive Lantern Making

Start the run up to Christmas by making an impressive paper lantern. Artist Liz Beech is your expert tutor.
10am - 12.30pm / £8

1 The Sill

FAMILY FUN

Mini Lantern Making

Make an impressive paper lantern with Liz Beech.
1.30pm - 2.30pm AND
2.45pm - 3.45pm / £5

1 The Sill

GET CREATIVE
SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Make a Willow Angel

Create your own festive willow Christmas Angel with guidance from willow artist Ruth Thompson.

1pm - 4pm / £20 (Beginners welcome)

1 The Sill



FAMILY FUN SILL SUNDAY
SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER
Willow Wonderland

Create your own festive willow Christmas decorations.
10am - 12 noon AND
1pm - 3pm / £10

1 The Sill



JINGLE BELL JOG

SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER

FESTIVE FUN RUN at Walltown

Get dressed up in your favourite Christmas outfit and get the festive season off to a fun start. Our 2km course is easy and we won't mind if you just walk!

START AT 10am / 11.30am / 1pm
£8 Adult / £5 Child (Family £20)

2 Walltown Quarry Country Park

ELF RUN



LOOK OUT FOR...



THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER

THE RIVERS OF LIFE

As part of **Being Human Festival 2018**, Newcastle University will lead this intriguing evening event that asks what we know about rivers, and what we ought to know if we continue to live along their banks and in their catchments.

6pm - 8pm / Free

1 The Sill

www.beinghumanfestival.org

DURING MARCH

Forum Cinema, Hexham

Screening of local archive footage.

www.forumhexham.com

SUNDAY 10 MARCH

Harp Demonstrations

Eavesdrop on **Harps Northumbria** as they hone their skills on this gentle instrument.

2pm and 3pm / Free

1 The Sill



SUNDAY 24 MARCH

Get Weaving with the Travelling Spinners

Did you know there's more than one way to weave? Have a go at card weaving, circular loom weaving and peg loom weaving. You can also see demonstrations of a 4-shaft hand loom, a rigid heddle loom and an Inkle loom.

1 The Sill



SATURDAY 13 APRIL & SUNDAY 14 APRIL

Walltown Warrior

A messy, muddy, fun family challenge course!

2 Walltown Quarry Country Park



1949 - 2019

70 years of UK National Parks

We would like you to celebrate 70 years with us by **GETTING OUT** into your National Park! Look out for our National Park Rangers...

THEN



AND NOW



High Class Dining at the Sill Café

Look out for evening dining events combining the cookery skills of Fresh Element Chefs at The Sill with the secrets of local food producers.

www.thesill.org.uk

FIND YOUR ADVENTURE IN NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL PARK

-  Northumberland National Park
-  National Park Information Point
-  EVENT & WALK START POINT



Printed by Northumberland National Park Authority
 Eastburn, South Park, Hexham Northumberland NE46 1BS
 (October 2018)

Cover - Making a Bat Box in Ingram © Alasdair Mackenzie. All other photographs ©: Alamy, Laurie Campbell, Nigel Eve, Alasdair Mackenzie, Heather Parr, Cain Scrimgeour, Shutterstock, David Taylor, National Park Volunteers Paul Buxton, John Chrisp, Gerry Slater.
 Illustrations © Cathy Brett.
 © Crown Copyright and database right 2018. Ordnance Survey 100022521.