

VISITOR INFORMATION PACK

Bowland Fells

(A European protected nature conservation site)

Introduction:

The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, sometimes called 'Bowland Fells' and once dubbed the 'Switzerland of England', is a stunning area of rolling fells on the western edge of the Pennines.

The Forest of Bowland lies between Lancaster and Clitheroe. The 'forest' is mainly an extensive area of moorland and steep-sided valleys.. The National Character Area is within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and also contains areas of moorland, designated as a Special Protection Area .

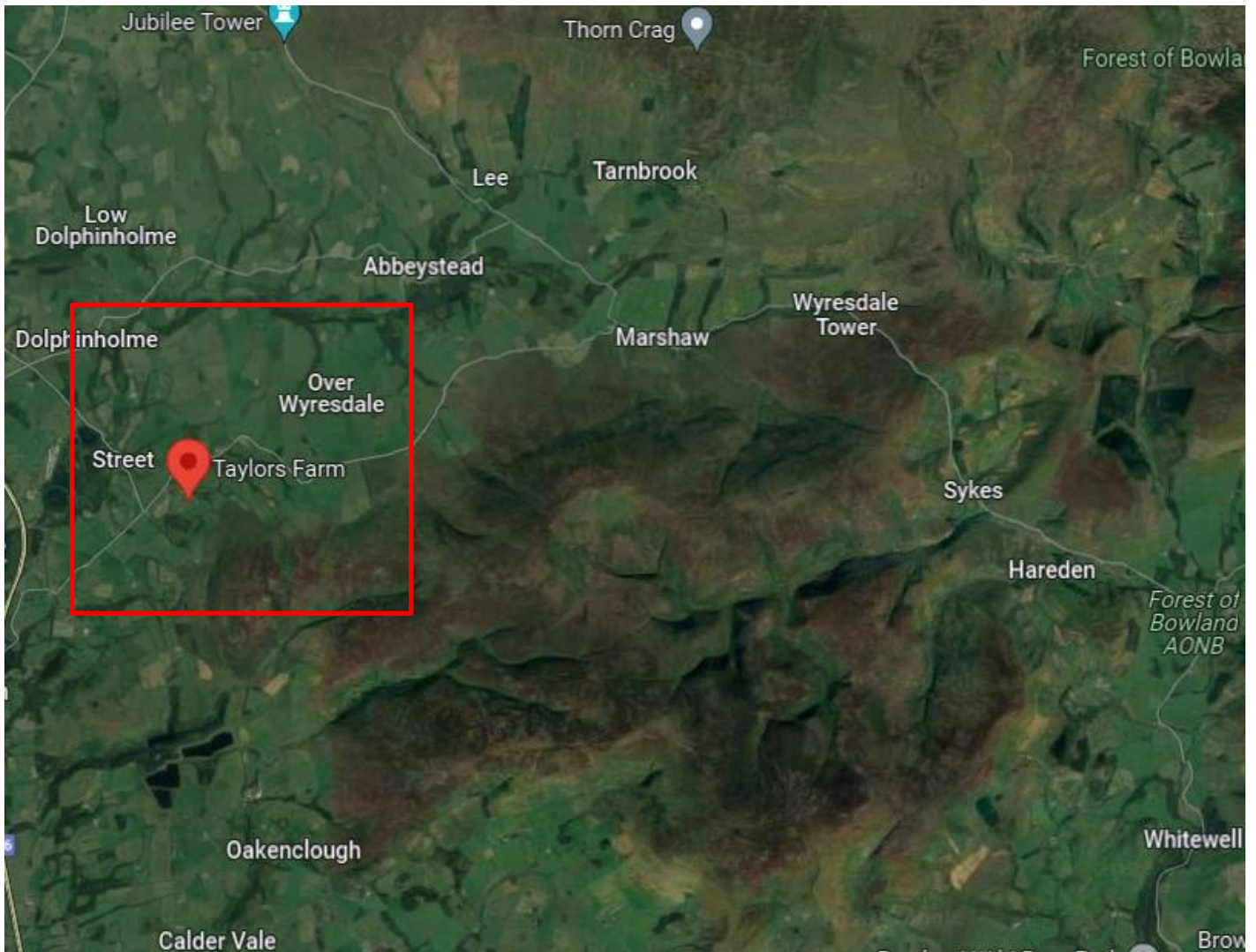
This Information pack provides supplementary guidance on the mitigation plan on the site and Nature conservation sites of international importance as it relates to the recreational impacts of development on the New Forest SPA.

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1. Location

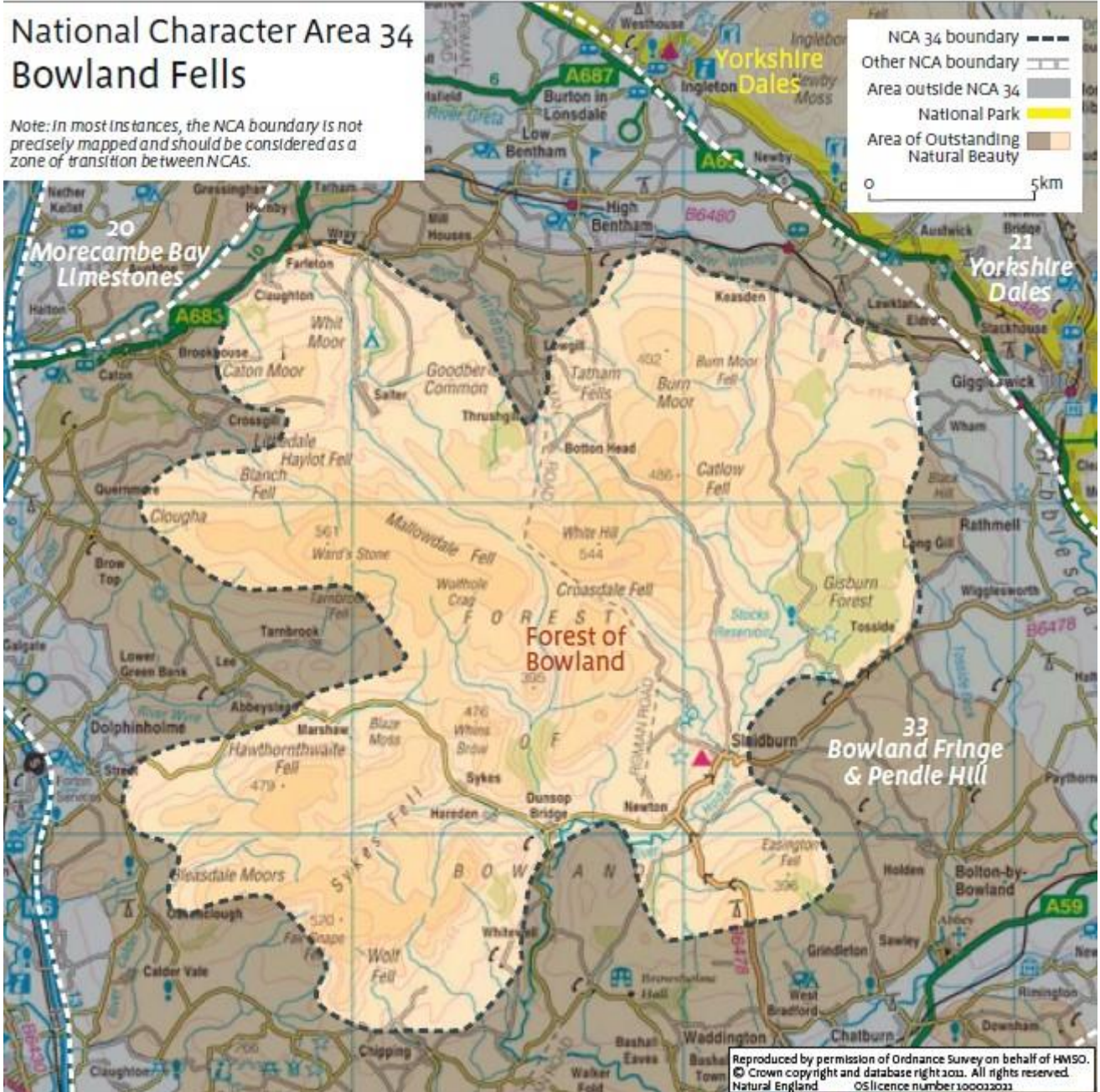
Address: Taylors Farm, Long Lane , Scorton , PR3 1DB



2. Importance and Conservation Value of Bowland Fells

The Bowland Fells form a distinctive upland block on the boundary between north Lancashire and the Yorkshire Dales. The landscape is wild and windswept, with steep escarpments, upland pasture, and expansive open moorland. It is designated as SPA due to its international importance for breeding hen harrier, merlin, and lesser black-backed gull. It also provides for other important species such as peregrine, ring ouzel, and breeding waders. The peat soils of the fells, including the deep columns of peat associated with blanket bog, store significant volumes of carbon. Blanket bog habitat is also important for water storage. High-quality species-rich meadows can be found in

the limestone areas to the east. There are also a large number of important waterbodies throughout the area. Extensive conifer plantations occur to the southeast and east of the area, with fragmented broadleaved woodland largely in the cloughs.



Bowland Fells SPA is grazed as an element of local upland sheep farming systems and many are also managed as driven grouse shoots. In recent decades, conservation management priorities have focussed on reducing the effects of historic overgrazing and on the recovery of dry and eroding peat soils. There have also been extensive areas of native woodland planting in river valleys to create a more diverse landscape and to help improve water quality at source.

The expansive views and tranquility of the Bowland Fells make them a popular destination for walkers along the network of rights of way and open access land.

Hen harriers use the Bowland Fells SPA during the breeding season. Additional interest is provided by the existence of one of the largest lesser black-backed gull colonies in Great Britain, the presence of a number of nationally or locally uncommon plant species and a variety of upland habitats and their associated avifauna. The Bowland Fells SPA was designated in 1993 for holding an average (mean) of at least 12 pairs of breeding hen harriers which at that time represented 2.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain.

As a nationally important landscape, the Forest of Bowland AONB experiences a variety of management pressures on its landscape, such as changing demands on agricultural land, telecommunication and energy infrastructure, tourism facilities and the need to develop a sustainable rural economy. The site's Conservation value seeks to provide a strategic context within which the problems and opportunities that these pressures present are addressed and guided in a way that safeguards the national importance of this special landscape.

The conservation of Bowland fells is focused on the following factors :

- Grandeur and isolation of the upland core
- Open expanses of moorland Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan 2019 - 2024
- Cultural landscape of upland farming
- Historic landscape management as a royal hunting forest and more recently as sporting estates
- Rural landscape of dry stone-wall enclosed pastures, stone-built farms, and villages
- Wooded pastoral scenery and parkland
- Steep scarps, deeply incised cloughs, and wooded valleys
- Broad river valleys
- Contrasting gritstone/limestone geology



Bowland fells is 38 min (14.8 mi) via Trough Rd from the site location

We value our designated sites and want you to experience and enjoy the site whilst accepting the responsibility to look after your surroundings. Please dispose of your litter responsibly, please do not leave it in the field or throw it onto these special sites. The best thing you can do is take it back to the chalet and dispose of it there.

Please do not chase any wildlife or disturb migrating birds who visit the site. Instead watch them from a distance. Take pictures and enjoy the experience of being close to the wildlife you may not be able to experience at home.

3. Potential impact of holiday use and Behaviors to maintain to avoid ecological impacts

Forest of Bowland is a popular visitor destination for the surrounding urban settlements of the North West and Yorkshire. Its relatively 'undiscovered' character is highly valued and generates loyalty amongst residents, day visitors and increasingly staying visitors. The National Landscape is a great destination for walkers, cyclists and wildlife enthusiasts. Although walking is the main recreational activity within the area, there are many opportunities to enjoy other activities such as mountain biking, horse riding, fishing, canoeing, gliding and paragliding.

All these activities might impact the ecological aspects of the site if proper behavior is not followed.





Equal in status to a National Park, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1964 to facilitate the co-ordinated protection of the fragile landscapes of heather moorland, secluded wooded valleys, unpolluted watercourses and grassy fells which characterise the area. The AONB is managed to ensure that a balance between environment, ecology, economic and social well-being is maintained for the benefit of both current and future generations. Management is through a partnership of local authorities, government agencies, the local landowning and farming community and other interest groups. A Countryside Service employs rangers and project officers who work in the area to help manage the landscape, bring about improvements to public access, and to liaise with visitors and residents.

Due to close proximity to the site location (Taylors farm) the visitors are required to follow the code of conduct to avoid any ecological impacts

Please follow the Visitors Code

- **Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.**
- **Guard against all risk of fire.**
- **Observe the local dog restrictions where they apply: e.g. Dogs are usually excluded all year round from grouse moors and seasonally from lambing enclosures. On all other land they must be on a 2 metre lead during the bird-nesting season (1st March to 31st July).**
- **Fasten all gates.**
- **Keep your dog(s) under close control.**
- **Keep to public paths across farmland.**
- **Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.**
- **Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.**
- **Take your litter home.**
- **Help to keep all water clean.**
- **Protect wildlife plants and trees.**
- **Take special care on country roads.**
- **Make no unnecessary noise.**
- **Tread carefully - much of Bowland's Access Land is important for ground-nesting birds, upland farming and game management.**

4. Methodology for distribution of visitor information packs

- The Visitor information pack is sent through mail to the visitors that book rooms at the holiday accommodation
- Information about recreational activities around the site is also available and provided to the visitors upon arrival and through email
- The visitor's information packs are available at the entrance and also in each room.