

Getting back to Nature

Landscape, the natural world and environmental concerns run through much of this year's International Print Biennale - and with many of the venues set within Northumberland's stunning scenery we offer you our top picks for keeping things natural. Thomas Bewick (1753 – 1828) is known as the region's greatest artist and naturalist. Best known for his 'History of British Birds' which shows his skills as both observer of nature and wood-engraver this itinerary gets you out and about to explore his works

Getting started in the city

If you're new to the North East [Great North Museum: Hancock](#) is a great introduction to this unique region. Originally built to house the collection of the Natural History Society of Northumbria it also presents a scale model of Hadrian's Wall.

Specially for International Print Biennale Great North Museum: Hancock is presenting two displays. [Rebecca Jewell's](#) delicate prints on to feathers seems a contemporary reminder of Bewick's small-scale wood-engravings and [Annette and Caroline Keirulf's](#) larger and colourful woodcuts comment upon current concerns for the environment.

A weekend in the country – 1 to 2 October

[Cherryburn](#) is the birthplace of Thomas Bewick now owned and managed by National Trust. Here there is a cottage, small museum and press room where volunteers demonstrate printing. It's the perfect introduction to Bewick's work but also gives a fascinating insight into the wildlife and daily life along the River Tyne. Cherryburn, in the village of Mickley is a 30-minute drive from Newcastle city centre, but can also be reached by [bus or train](#) from Newcastle.

Cherryburn offers tea and biscuits but does not have a café so we recommend taking a picnic and enjoying the views.

From Cherryburn carry on along the Tyne Valley as you head to [Cheeseburn](#), crossing the majestic River Tyne as you head north towards Stamfordham. It's a 30-minute drive from Cherryburn to Cheeseburn.

If you didn't manage to pack a picnic and have a bit of time to enjoy the journey we recommend the pretty village of [Corbridge](#). Try the [Watling Coffee House](#) who do delicious light lunches - the scones are good too! There are also lots of other cafes and pubs to choose from.



Did you know that the vicar of Corbridge was one of many who supplied Bewick with specimen birds for his engravings? If you want to know more about Bewick why not call into [Forum Books](#) for Jenny Uglow's biography '[Nature's Engraver](#)' not only does it give an account of his life it also gives a wonderful insight into the region at this time.

Next to the hidden wonders of [Cheeseburn Grange](#). A private house and garden whose history dates back to the 12th century and recently opened as a place for sculpture – alongside the extensive gardens is a small gallery. One of the highlights of this year's International Print Biennale is an exhibition by internationally acclaimed sculptor [David Nash](#). His stencil prints have the same physical impact of his charcoal drawings some of which are also on show and are made using [Unison Pastels](#), made locally in the village of Tarsset, Northumberland.

Cheeseburn will also be serving homemade food in the Stables Kitchen.

Other top picks for a day in the country

[First Light, Louise Cattrell at Granary Gallery](#), Berwick upon Tweed from 8 October.

[Zoe Childerley, Residency Exhibition](#), Visual Arts in Rural Communities, High Green, Tarsset.
11 - 25 September

Leaping Salmon, Gytaku organised by [Queens Hall Arts Centre](#), Hexham with artist in residence [Rachel Ramirez](#). Various dates in October. And of course, don't forget to enjoy the spectacle of the [Salmon migration on the River Tyne](#) - Something we feel Thomas Bewick would have very much enjoyed.

Please check opening times and entry fees with venues before visiting.