

Discovery centre becomes a gateway to Hadrian's Wall landscape

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The Sill in Northumberland National Park

The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre has been built in Northumberland National Park, thanks to a £7.8million National Lottery investment.

The much-awaited opening on Saturday 29 July is the grand finale of National Parks Week and an exciting new chapter for Northumberland's incredible heritage and stunning landscape.

Gateway to discovery

Thousands of people can use the centre as their starting point for exploring the national park – whether it's walking, writing poetry, gazing at the dark skies, getting in touch with nature or discovering a whole new passion.

[quote= Ivor Crowther, Head of HLF North East]“The Sill will be the starting point for future generations to be inspired to love and protect their landscape.” [/quote]

Sarah Glynn, Sill Manager explains: “An all-weather, all-year facility, The Sill is designed to excite, inspire and enable people of all ages to understand and explore the landscapes, history, culture

and heritage of Northumberland and the many other fantastic attractions in the county and beyond.”

Living grass roof and local roots

Thanks to National Lottery players, the partnership project between Northumberland National Park Authority and Youth Hostels Association has created thousands of jobs, volunteering opportunities and community events.

The building’s design, and the structural materials used to create it, are inspired by The Great Whin Sill, Northumberland’s internationally-renowned geological feature.

Made predominantly from local materials, The Sill includes:

- Fully accessible living Whin Sill grassland roof – the only one of its kind in the world
- Youth hostel
- Café and shop showcasing local produce
- Rural enterprise hub
- Exhibition, events and learning space
- Tourist information centre

By attracting thousands more visitors and championing local business and produce, The Sill will provide a significant boost for the local economy.

Ivor Crowther, Head of HLF North East, said: “The Sill will be the starting point for future generations to be inspired to love and protect their landscape.”

Lots of events and activities for all ages are being held in the run up to the opening, visit [The Sill's website](#).

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[A visual of the final design concepts for the Sill, produced by architects Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall](#)

£7.8M HLF grant to open up Northumberland's finest landscapes