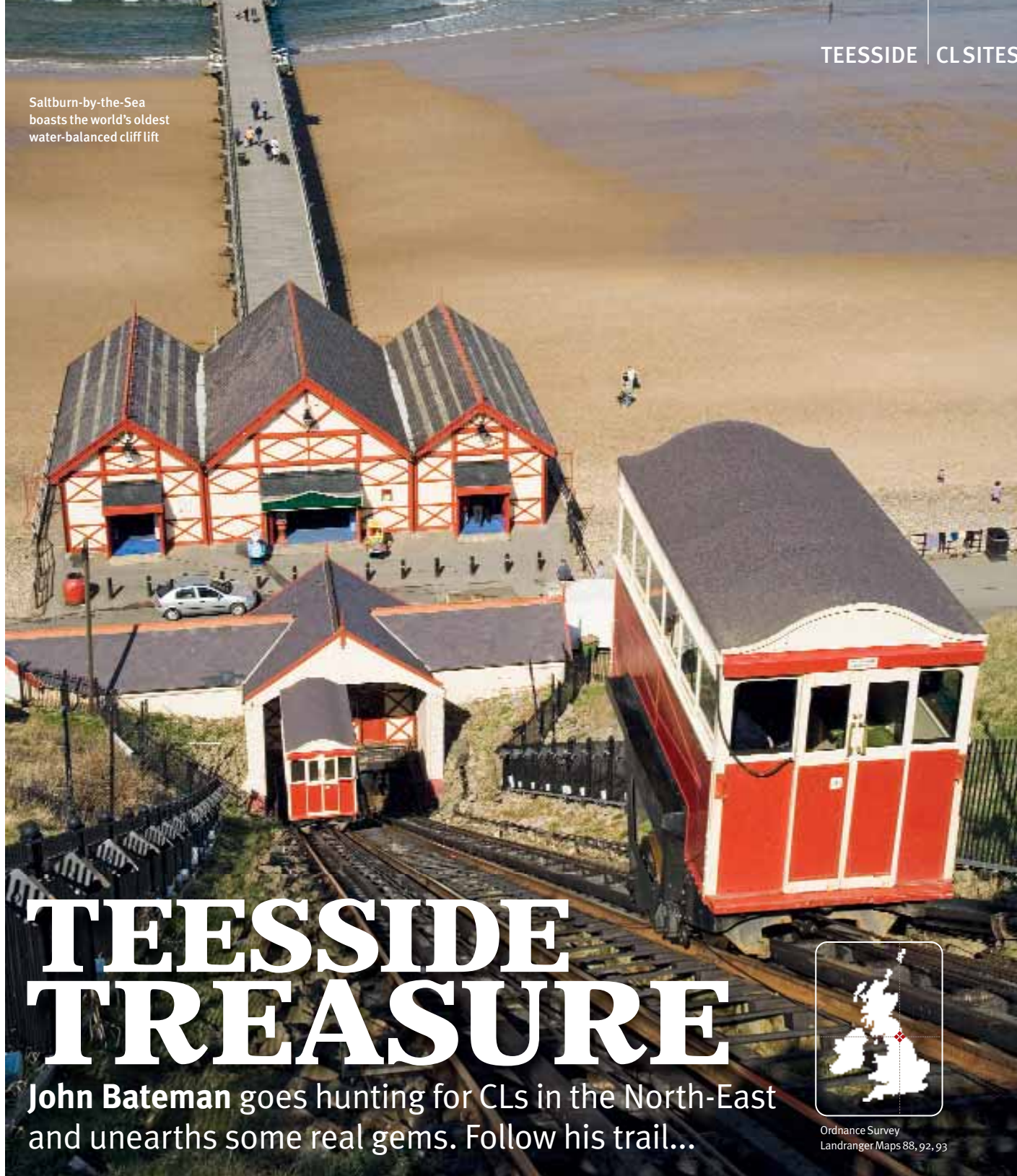


Saltburn-by-the-Sea boasts the world's oldest water-balanced cliff lift



# TEESSIDE TREASURE

John Bateman goes hunting for CLs in the North-East and unearths some real gems. Follow his trail...



Ordnance Survey  
Landranger Maps 88, 92, 93

**ENGLAND'S NORTH-EAST**, shaped by a rich and dramatic history, tussles non-stop with the North Sea, industrial muscle and urban bustle. Throw vast tracts of magnificent countryside and coastline into the mix, and it's plain to see why those on the trail of CLs are often seen in these parts.

County boundary jiggery-pokery over the years saw me juggle with the Club's *Sites Directory & Handbook* listings under North Yorkshire, Co Durham, Stockton-on-Tees and, would you believe, Oxfordshire, to track down appealing CLs. However, my journey started in the North Pennines, a designated Area of

Outstanding Natural Beauty. Moors, meadows, stone walls and picturesque villages combine with three great rivers – the Tyne, the Tees and the Wear – for a breathtaking exploration.

Rising on the flanks of the Pennines and cascading over the 70ft High Force falls before completing its 85-mile journey to the sea between Hartlepool and Redcar, the river Tees is a very agreeable travelling companion.

Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees aren't far away but the region sports ample rural greenery, hosting little market towns and enabling peaceful CLs to offer escapist invitations to country-lovers. >>

## INFORMATION

### SITES

Details of the sites featured and others in the region are listed under Co Durham, Stockton-on-Tees, Oxfordshire and North Yorkshire on pp357-358, 437, 456 and 498 of the *Sites Directory & Handbook 2009/10*, and on p34 of the *Supplement*

### TOURISM

- **Barnard Castle TIC** – call 01833 696356
- **Middleton-in-Teesdale TIC** – call 01833 641001
- **Darlington TIC** – call 01325 388666
- **Useful website** – [exploreteesdale.co.uk](http://exploreteesdale.co.uk)



Four Wynds CL is a scenic spot





Middridge Meadows Livery CL

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The world's first passenger train journey was on the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825

Donnewell Farm, near Sedgfield, has been home to Peter and Joyce Littlefair for decades, but they only opened their CL as recently as last year. "We had planned it for years," Peter told me, "and it took some friendly, local encouragement to go ahead."

Many Club members are glad they took the plunge. This quality site is open, enjoys a pleasant rural setting and offers hardstanding super-pitches set into lawned surrounds and each with individual water, waste-water disposal, electric hook-up and Wi-Fi connection. The service point includes comprehensive recycling facilities which, surprisingly, many members ignore. Dogs are not allowed because of the farm.

Free-range eggs are available and Peter will even cycle into Sedgfield to collect your morning paper. How's that for service? Sedgfield is a bustling little community with lots of eateries and good pubs, including The Dun Cow, where Tony Blair introduced George Bush to fish and chips. Donnewell Farm has a rally field alongside the farm drive. It is completely separate from the CL but,

## “ Donnewell Farm is a quality CL which enjoys a pleasant rural setting ”

if numbers above five start your head spinning, check rally dates when you book.

For walkers, cyclists, youngsters who enjoy play areas and lovers of woods, trails and wildflower meadows, Wynyard Woodland Park, once a working railway, is handy for CLs like Donnewell Farm.

Middridge Meadows Livery, near Newton Aycliffe but listed under Darlington (Co Durham), is an interesting site in the same area. Engineers Tony Capstick, Stephen Churm and Ian Craig began their livery and CL enterprise when they bought 14 acres of former farmland.

The trio has since upgraded the entrance and driven hardstanding access through to the site, an open, part-sloping meadow bordered by paddocks.

Hook-up installations were completed in June and were awaiting an inspection certificate at the time of writing. Doubtless the electrics are now available and plans are in hand for a shower and toilet unit.

Despite being a new site, booking is essential as security gates need you to punch in a code. If you are unlucky with Tony's landline number given in the *Directory*, try his mobile – 07967 202597.

South of the Tees estuary is the little market town of Stokesley. Four miles out of town, Sue Barnfather's Four Wynds CL is set in the fertile valley alongside the Cleveland Hills. House and site carry a Faceby, Middlesbrough address but a Stokesley, North Yorkshire listing. This is a scenic spot, overlooked by the commanding Whorl Hill, and offering electrics and the opportunity to stretch your legs along the Cleveland Way.

The site, backed by wooded slopes, adjoins the paddocks of Fiona Scott's livery business and you could well find your neighbours stretching their legs too, ready for race action at Thirsk, Redcar or some other course. If you plan a stay here, don't miss Stokesley's Friday Market.

Finally, we're off to Oxfordshire(!), but only because gremlins played tricks in the *Directory* and shifted Guisborough and Saltburn-by-the-Sea from North Yorkshire, the rightful home of Michael and Samantha Farndale's sweetly-named How La Hay Farm CL.

For now, p437 gives full details of an attractive, part-sloping ¾-acre site behind the farmhouse. This neatly-maintained CL boasts electrics and has an attractive, sheltering fringe of woodland. Care is needed negotiating the access drive off the winding A173.

How La Hay Farm is well located for a number of attractions and Saltburn, a couple of miles away, is a resort with charm, beach, cliffs and salty tales to tell. Not bad for Oxfordshire! ■



Durham cathedral

**ATTRACTIONS**

- **North Pennines AONB and European Geopark** – pocket guide from TICs or see [northpennines.org.uk](http://northpennines.org.uk)
- **Wynyard Woodland Park, Thorpe Thewles** – planetarium and observatory. Park ideal for walkers, cyclists, children and dogs. Call 01740 630011 or see [wynyardwoodlandpark.org.uk](http://wynyardwoodlandpark.org.uk)
- **North-East England Farmers' Markets** – call 01665 576148 or see [neefm.org.uk](http://neefm.org.uk) for locations and dates
- **Hartlepool's Maritime Experience** – including *HMS Trincomalee*, Europe's oldest warship afloat. Call 01429 860077 or see [hartlepoolsmaritimeexperience.com](http://hartlepoolsmaritimeexperience.com)
- **Head of Steam-Darlington Railway Museum** – call 01325 460532 or see [head-of-steam.co.uk](http://head-of-steam.co.uk)
- **Hardwick Park, alongside Sedgfield** – restored 18th-century landscape. Lakeside circuit for walkers, riders and cyclists
- **Durham** – magnificent Norman cathedral (call 0191 386 4266), castle (call 0191 334 3800), university Botanic Garden (call 0191 334 5521), river Wear and much more