

Hurworth Burn to Station Town Railway Path

What is special?

This former railway line opened in 1877, with its station opening three years later. The goods trains running along this line mainly carried hay. The remains of the platform are still at Hurworth Burn slightly camouflaged by trees and scrub. The route closed to passengers in 1931 and then to goods after a further twenty years.

This Railway Path has since become a bird watchers delight. Its close proximity to the reservoir and its passageway lined by trees and scrub offer a variety of habitats which are very welcoming to native and migrant birds. A bird feeding station has been installed on the platform. Some of the seats have willow screens in front of them so you can watch the birds without disturbing them.

There are many species of birds including yellowhammer, wigeon, teal, goldeneye duck, long-eared owl, Canada goose, peregrine, curlew, smew and buzzard. Great grey shrike have even made rare appearances here. A number of birds found here are rare at either a local, national or international level. For this reason they are part of the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan (DBAP) – a government plan which sets out ways to increase the numbers and habitats of certain species (www.durhambiodiversity.org.uk). These birds include bullfinch, song thrush, linnets and spotted flycatcher.

Durham Bird Club has created reed beds on the adjacent Hurworth Reservoir as well as installing rafts where birds can roost and breed undisturbed. Reed beds are one of the most important bird habitats in Britain and sedge warbler, reed bunting and common snipe can be found in the developing reed beds.

[more info...](#)

Contact the Countryside Service

telephone: 0191 372 9100

email: countryside@durham.gov.uk

www.durham.gov.uk/countryside



Total length: 1.8 mile (2.9km)

Grid Reference: Station Town (northern end): NZ 408 360, Hurworth Burn: NZ 409 332

South of Hurworth Burn the route is known as the Castle Eden Walkway and extends down to Thorpe Thewles on A177: NZ 403 235, also accessed from various Public Rights of Way

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 306

Directions:

Approximately 10 miles southeast of Durham City.

Station Town

From A181 at Wheatley Hill, take B1280 south for 1.75 miles, turn left towards Hutton Henry. Entrance of Railway Path is opposite Cravens Cottages.

Hurworth Burn From B1278 at Trimdon, turn east onto Hurworth Burn Road. Follow road for approximately 3 miles. The car park is on the left, 250 metres after the railway bridge.

Parking: Car parks at Hurworth Burn. Two disabled bays

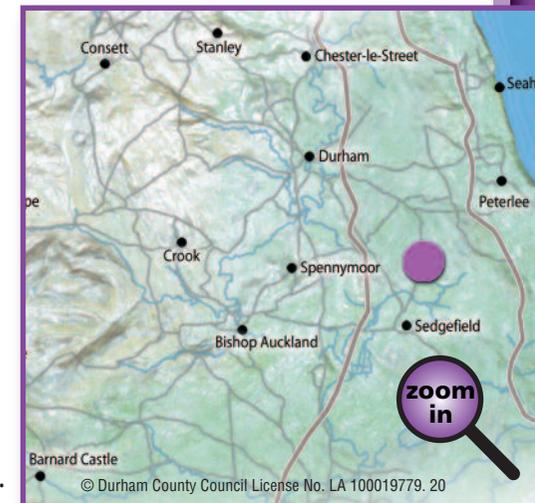
Public transport: Bus stop at Heaton Terrace in Station Town, approx 120m from the start. Services 22 (Arriva), 211 Go North East. No bus service to Hurworth Burn

Dogs: Allowed under control. Please clean up after your dog

Designation: Railway Path, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certified, Local Wildlife Site intersects the Path next to reservoir

Suitable for: Walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, wheelchair users

Habitats: Grassland, scrubland, woodland, wetland, reed beds



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The site is also home to roe deer, great crested newts and water voles. Water vole populations have suffered significant long term decline due to loss of habitat and predation, however we have created linear ponds along the side of the track and the water voles are beginning to colonise these wetland areas. You may be lucky enough to spot one of these elusive creatures or, more likely, you will hear a 'plop' when they drop into the water and out of sight as you approach.

For those who simply want an easy walk or cycle, there are fabulous panoramic views of the Hurworth Burn reservoir and surrounding countryside. At its southern end the Railway Path joins the Castle Eden Walkway, where it continues to Thorpe Thewles. The Wynyard Woodland Park is just next to the track. Here you will find plenty of walk routes, picnic areas, sculptures and more wildlife to enjoy. This park is managed by Stockton Council. The Railway Path forms part of National Cycle Network Route 1.

Accessibility Statement

This linear walk climbs gently from Hurworth Burn to Station Town. It is generally flat along its entire length but there are occasional steep gradients which are marked on the map. The path is mainly a hard, unsealed surface with some large stones. The path width is 2.5metres. There are a number of seats along the route. There are drop kerbs where the route crosses the roads.



Canada Geese



Wigeon



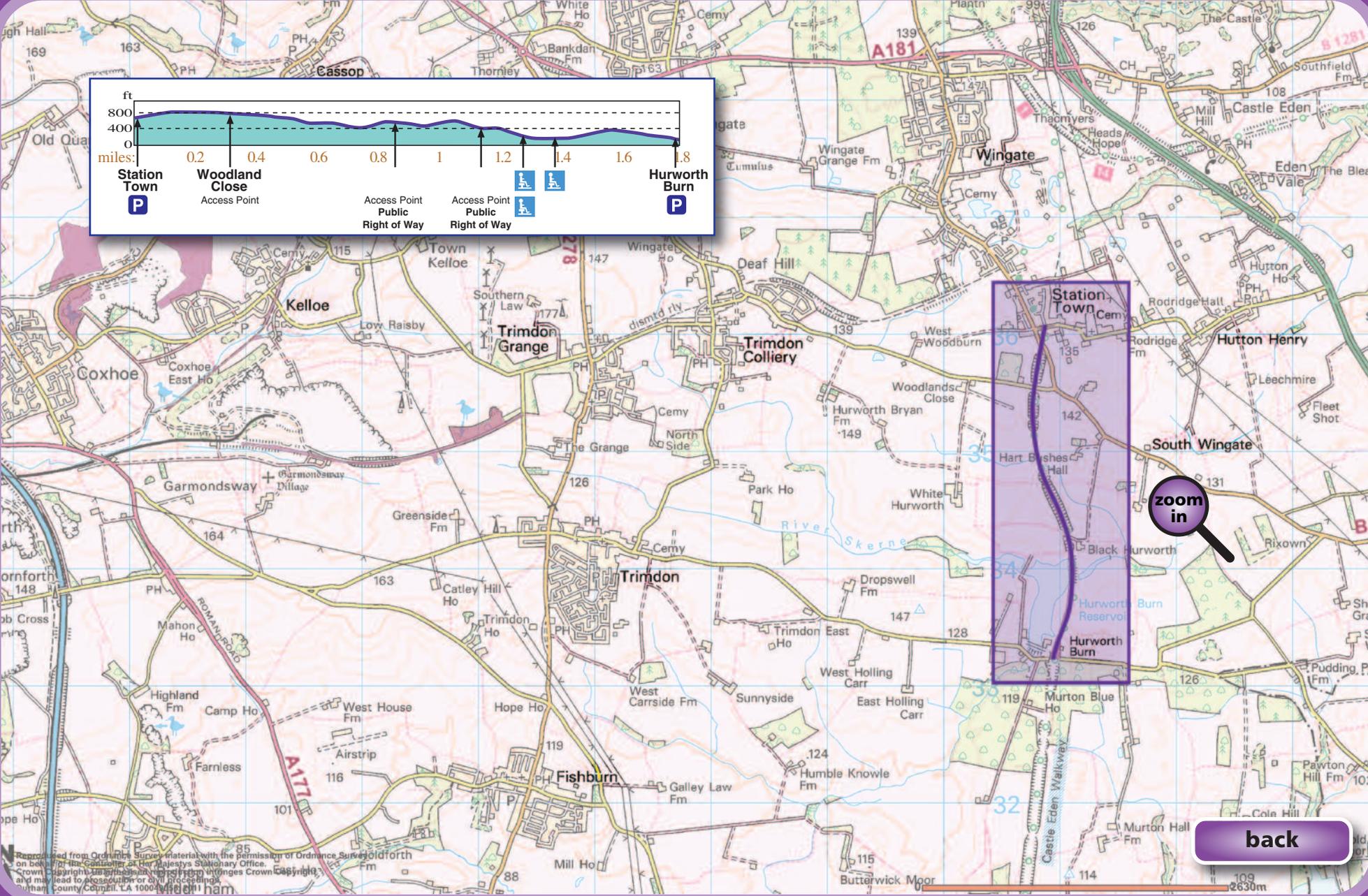
Water Vole



Teal

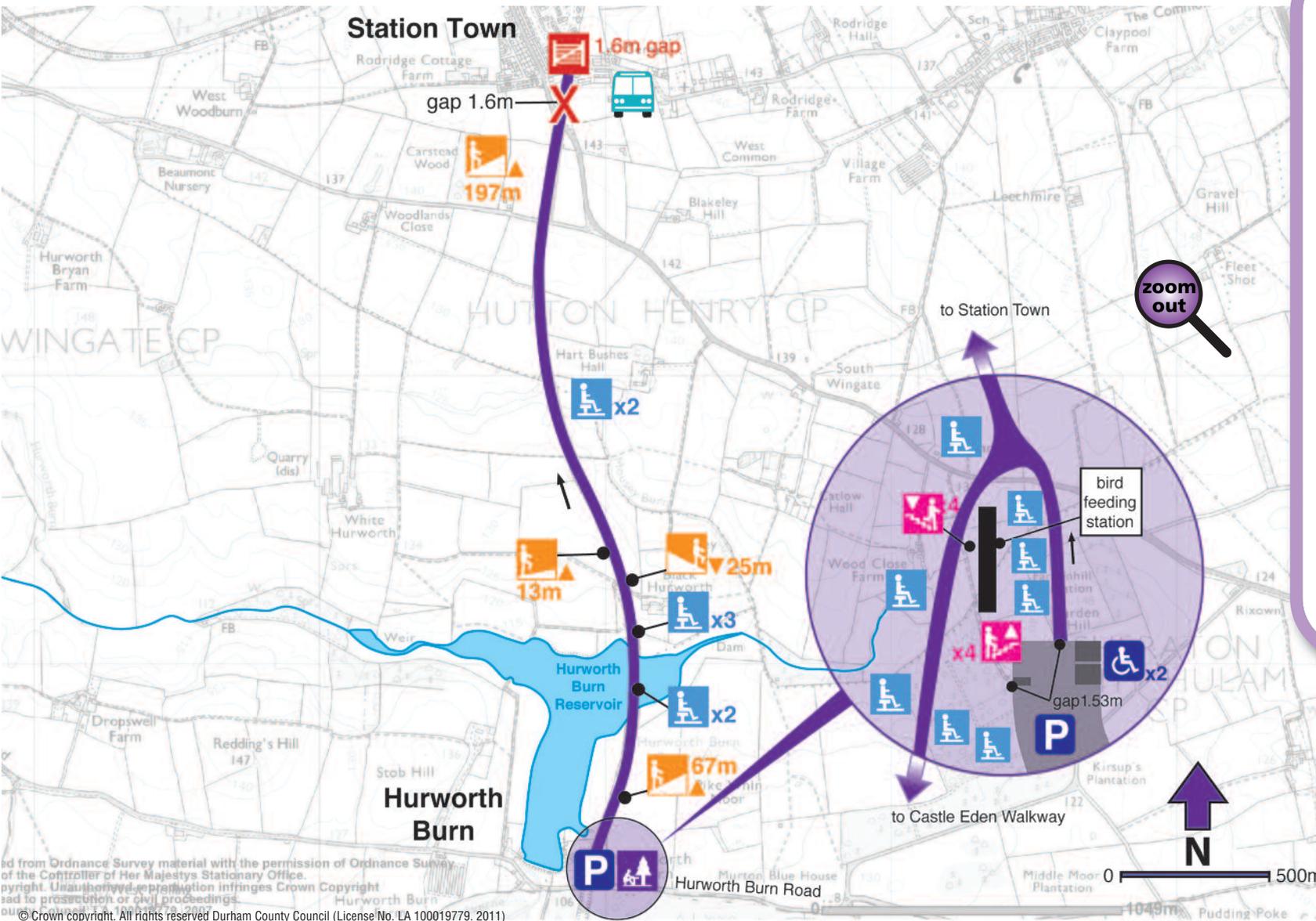
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KEY

-  Picnic Area
-  Seat
-  Steps Up
-  Steps Down
-  Gate
-  Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
-  Medium Slope Down 1:20-1:10
-  Slope Up
-  Parking
-  Disabled Parking Bays
-  Bus Stop
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Road Crossing

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