

# Sherburn Way Railway Path

## What is special?

Coal mining arrived in this area in the 1840s with the arrival of local railways. This Railway Path once formed part of the Lambton Railway and it linked three collieries: Sherburn House Colliery, Sherburn Colliery and Sherburn Hill Colliery. The railway line transported coal to Lambton Staithes on the River Wear, near Penshaw.

Today, the route is a quiet track with some pretty views over the surrounding countryside. The route is lined with trees and hedgerow and is home to a variety of songbirds whose warbling is deafening during the dawn chorus. Birds of prey have been seen soaring overhead in their search for food. It is not unusual to see kestrel and tawny owl.

After the road crossing at Hope Street a gap in the fence line allows access to a woodland walk. This short loop, lined with bluebells, white campion and ivy, runs above Sherburnhouse Beck. The sound of water running over the stones below is soothing and it is well worth a detour from the main path (not suitable for wheelchair users, cyclists or horse-riders).

Continuing along the hawthorn lined Railway Path you will reach an area of Magnesian Limestone grassland where the track bends. This is a globally rare habitat which contains wildflowers such as orchids, field scabious, knapweed, wild strawberry and kidney vetch. These provide a nectar source for a host of butterflies such as painted lady, common blue and dingy skipper.

The disused Sherburn Quarry, which can be seen from the track, is visited by deer, fox and even nesting peregrine falcons. The route then crosses the road and goes up Sherburnhouse Bank. From here there are fabulous views over Pittington and Durham, look behind you for a view of Durham Cathedral.

[more info...](#)

**Contact the Countryside Service**  
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email: [countryside@durham.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@durham.gov.uk)  
[www.durham.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.durham.gov.uk/countryside)



**Total length:** 1.4 miles (2.2km)

**Grid Reference for main access points:**

**Sherburn Front St:**

(western end): NZ 316 423

**Sherburn Mill Lane:**

NZ 320 418

**Sherburn Hill:**

(eastern end): NZ 333 424

**Map:** OS Explorer 308

**Directions:** Approximately 3 miles east of Durham City

**Sherburn:**

from A181, take the B1283 signposted to Sherburn.

Follow this road for just under

one mile. The Path can be

accessed by a track running

between St Mary's Drive and the cemetery. Nearest postcode DH6 1RL

**Sherburn Hill:** from the A181, take the B1283. Follow the road for 2 miles

to Sherburn Hill. At the crossroads turn left. Take the fourth left onto

North View then into Kells Crescent. The Railway Path can be accessed by

a track to the north of Kells Crescent and bearing left through the

allotments. Nearest postcode is DH6 1PP

Railway Path can also be accessed at various points from the highway and public rights of way

**Parking:**

No specific car park, park in the villages with consideration

**Public transport:**

Numbers 24, 24a, 24x, 64, 64b (Arriva) between Sherburn and Sherburn Hill

**Dogs:**

Allowed under control. Please clean up after your dog

**Designation:**

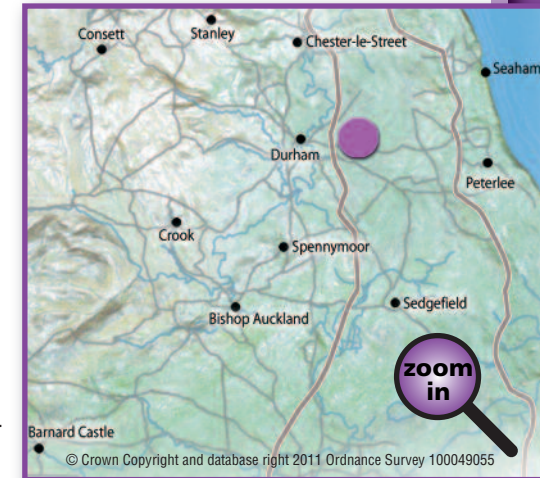
Railway Path, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certified

**Suitable for:**

Walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, wheelchair users along part of the route

**Habitats:**

Woodland, grassland, Magnesian Limestone grassland, scrub, hedgerow



*Whilst every effort has been made by Durham County Council to ensure accuracy of information, the Council cannot accept any liability resulting from omissions or inaccuracies.*

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## Accessibility Statement

This 1.4 mile linear walk climbs gently from Sherburn to Sherburn Hill.

The path width is an average of two metres although sections at each end are narrower. The informal track near Kells Crescent is narrow, uneven and has some large stones. The path surface from Sherburn to the bend is a hard unsealed surface with the possibility of gravel. The remainder of the route is mown grass and bare earth.

The path has a number of gradients, ranging from long gentle slopes to short steep slopes.

The woodland walk is surfaced with bark chipping, it is narrow, has steps and is not suitable for wheelchairs, cyclists or horse-riders



Peregrine



Painted lady



Fox



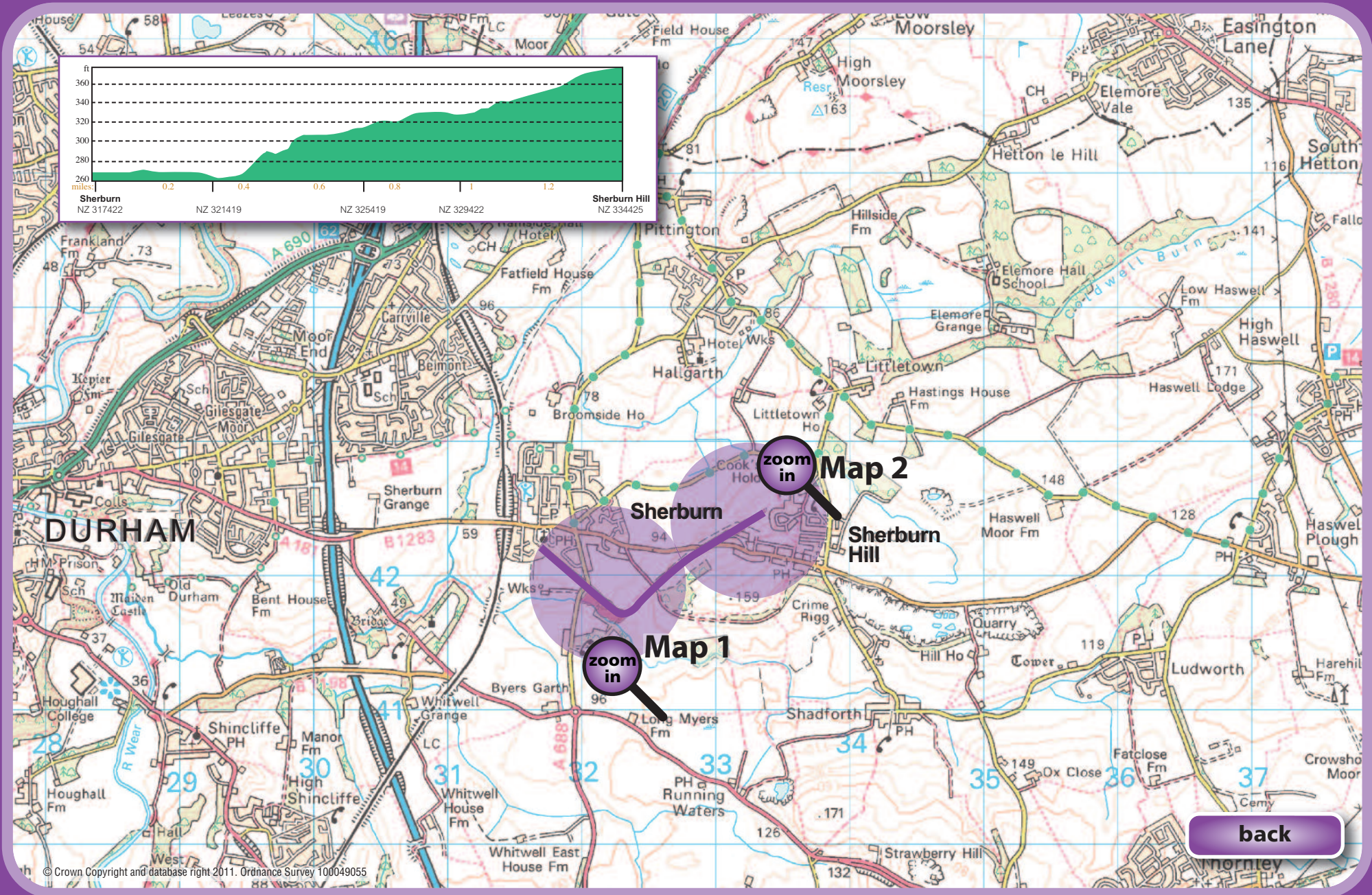
Wild strawberry



Field scabious

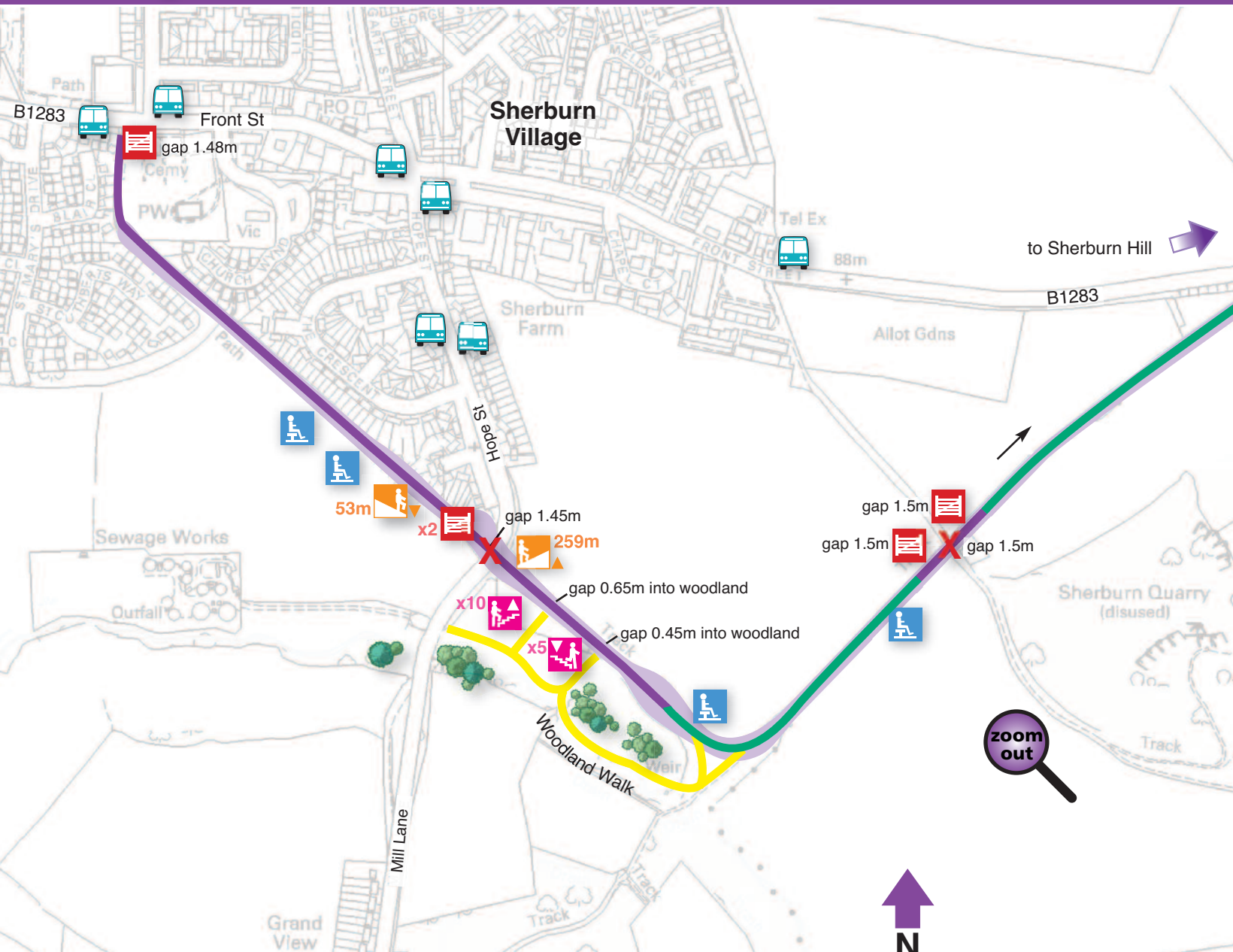
[back](#)

# Sherburn Way Railway Path



# Sherburn Way Railway Path

## Map 1



### KEY

- Picnic Area
- Seat
- Parking
- Gate
- Steps Up
- Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
- Medium Slope Down 1:20-1:10
- Bus Stop
- Direction of Travel
- Hard Unsealed Surface
- Road/Tarmac
- Bare Earth
- Grass
- Road Crossing

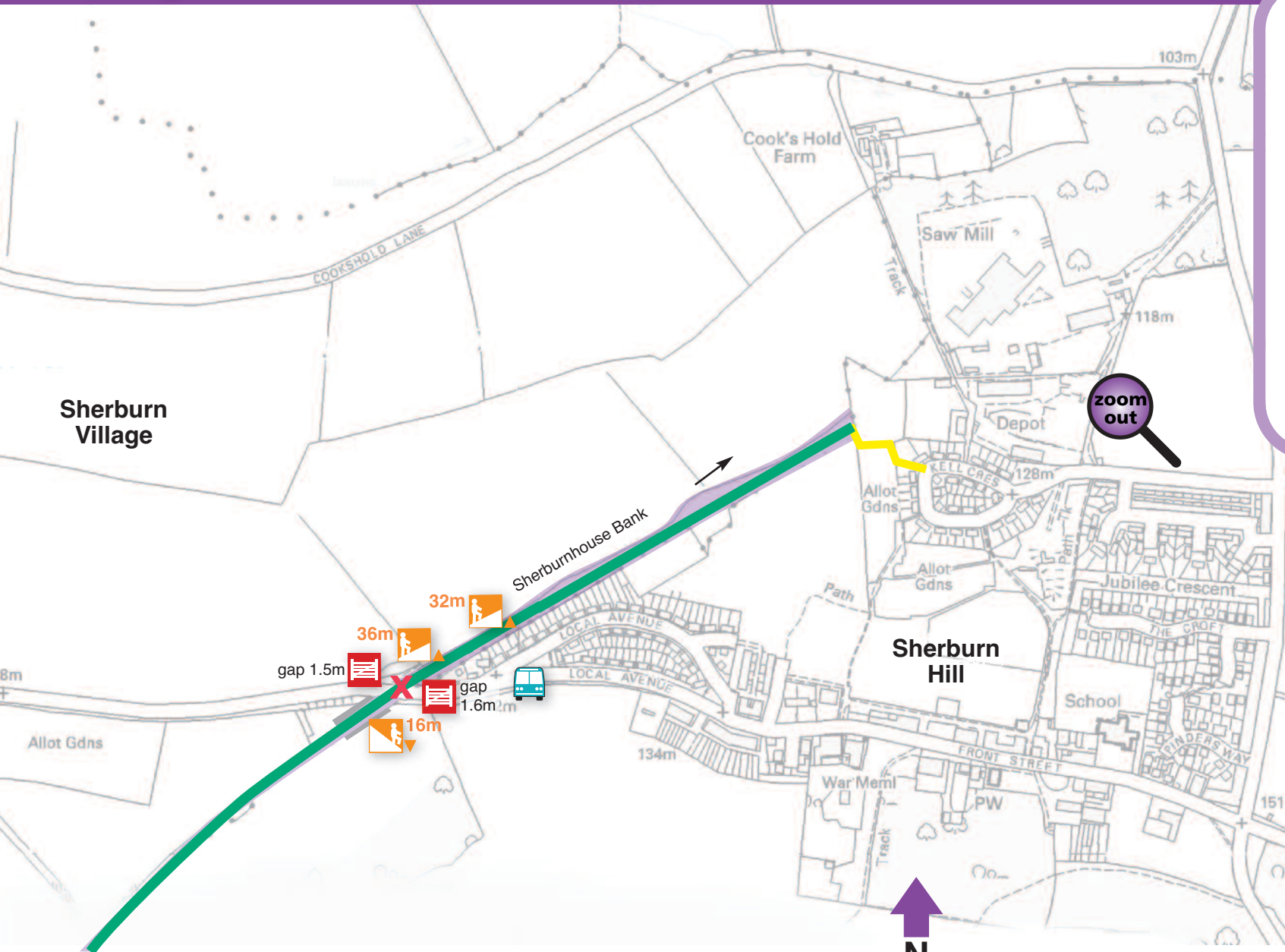
[back](#)












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# Sherburn Way Railway Path

## Map 2



### KEY

-  Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
-  Steep Slope Down 1:10-1:1
-  Bus Stop
-  Gate
-  Direction of Travel
-  Road/Tarmac
-  Bare Earth
-  Grass
-  Road Crossing

[back](#)