

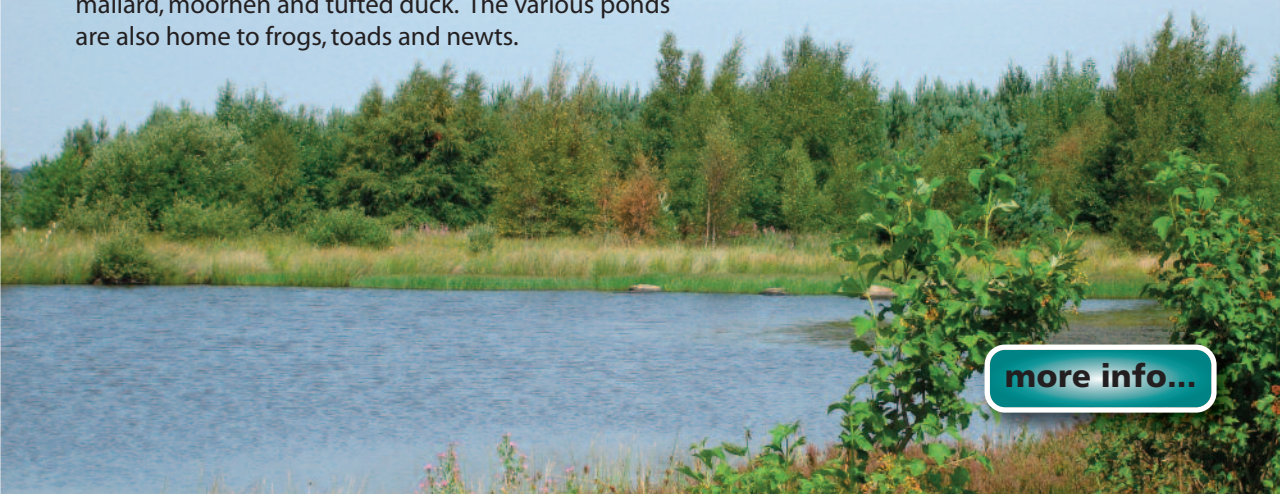
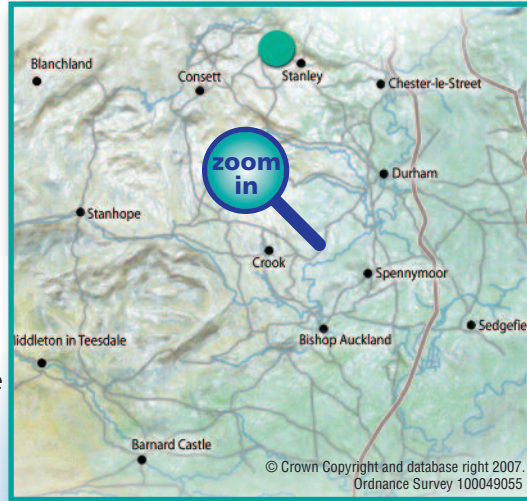
Chapman's Well Local Nature Reserve

What is special?

Chapman's Well is one of our best bird-watching sites. The vast areas of marshy grassland and ponds provide fabulous places for birds to feed and breed throughout the year.

We have heron, stonechat, skylark, linnet and reed bunting. Many birds of prey hunt overhead including five species of owl (short eared, long eared, barn, tawny and little owl), kestrel, red kite, buzzard and we've even had a marsh harrier. It's an especially good breeding site for wading birds such as lapwing, curlew, snipe and redshank.

Please remain on the paths and keep your dog on a lead to avoid disturbing the birds and their nests and from damaging the heathland. Water birds include coot, mallard, moorhen and tufted duck. The various ponds are also home to frogs, toads and newts.



[more info...](#)

Contact the Countryside Service

telephone: 0191 372 9100

email: countryside@durham.gov.uk

www.durham.gov.uk/countryside



Area: 328 acres (133 hectares)

Grid References for main access points:

Tait's House, Edge Lane southwest: NZ 178 486

Car park, Edge Lane south: NZ 182 479

Quaking Houses turning circle northeast: NZ 185 506

May also be accessed by various Public Rights of Way and highway

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 307

Directions:

Tait's House From either A691 Lanchester or A693 Annfield Plain, take A6076/Lanchester Road. At Three Horse Shoes public house crossroads, turn east onto Edge Lane. Access to site is by the bridleway 0.5 miles on left. Parking is in lay-by a further 0.2 miles down Edge Lane on right or at Edge Lane car park. There is no footway so take care on the busy road. Nearest postcode DH7 0RY

Edge Lane car park From A691, take first right after Langley Park roundabout, signed for Burnhope, go straight over crossroads, car park is immediately on left, signed from road. To access site walk left 50 metres, cross road and go over stile, signed Burnhope Pond. Take care crossing this busy road. Nearest postcode DH7 0RY

Quaking Houses From A693 Stanley, head west to Oxhill, turn south onto Park Road towards South Moor. At Quaking Houses turn right and follow road to end of Third Street/Woodside Terrace. Site can be accessed from track at end of road. Nearest postcode DH9 7HJ

Parking: Nearest car park is at Edge Lane. No disabled bays. Informal parking available above locations. Do not block gates or obstruct entrances

Public Transport: Numbers 130 and x30 (Go North East) to Maiden Law crossroads, Burnhope and Quaking Houses

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

Designation: SSSI, Local Site, Local Nature Reserve

Suitable for: Walkers. Cyclists and horseriders can only use the purple path shown on the map

Habitats: heathland, grassland, wetland, woodland

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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A special feature of this nature reserve is the lowland heath, which contains heather, bilberry and juniper. Heather moorland is rare throughout Britain and is a priority for conservation because it is becoming increasingly scarce and fragmented. We have planted thousands of heather and juniper plants to extend this habitat.

Exmoor ponies help us to manage the heathland and grass areas. These are a hardy breed which are perfect for grazing year round. The ponies nibble away at the grasses preventing more dominant species from taking over and allowing wildflower meadows to develop. They also churn up areas of the ground, allowing heather to set seed in the bare ground.

Near the Morrison Busty depot there are patches of open ground with very little vegetation. These areas may look like wasteland but it's called 'brownfield' and is actually very valuable for butterflies such as dingy skipper, common blue and small heath. Even the field boundaries are full of wildlife. Check out the drystone walls for stoats basking in the sunshine and the hedgerows, laid by one of our volunteers, is a source of food and shelter for small birds. Fox and deer are regularly seen.

Burnhope plantation forms part of Chapman's Well local nature reserve and lies to the south of the main site. The floor of this pine plantation is scattered with bilberry and heather. There are areas of standing deadwood which are invaluable for fungi and a wide variety of insects. Burnhope pond, managed by Durham Wildlife Trust, lies adjacent to the plantation. The open water supports a variety of invertebrates and in turn wildfowl, waders and birds of prey.

Much of the Chapman's Well site was opencast between 1986 and 1992 so it is amazing to see how, after a restoration project, it has been recolonised by nature.

There are lots of paths which link the various parts of the site enabling you to explore. Other organisations manage areas nearby which are also open to the public: Burnhope ponds (Durham Wildlife Trust) and Langley Moor plantation (Woodland Trust).



Long eared owl



Little owl



Tawny owl



Barn owl



Exmoor ponies

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Accessibility statement

The paths shown in purple on the map are approximately 2.5 metres wide, made of a hard unsealed surface and generally flat.

The purple route can be used by walkers, cyclists and horse-riders however there are stiles, horse stiles or kissing gates at the access points (see map).

All other paths consist of bare earth or grass, are narrow, can be uneven and are only suitable for walkers. The path running northwest of Morrow Edge Farm goes through marshy grassland and is wet for the majority of the year.



Heron



Dingy skipper



Lapwing



Marsh harrier



Fox



Snipe



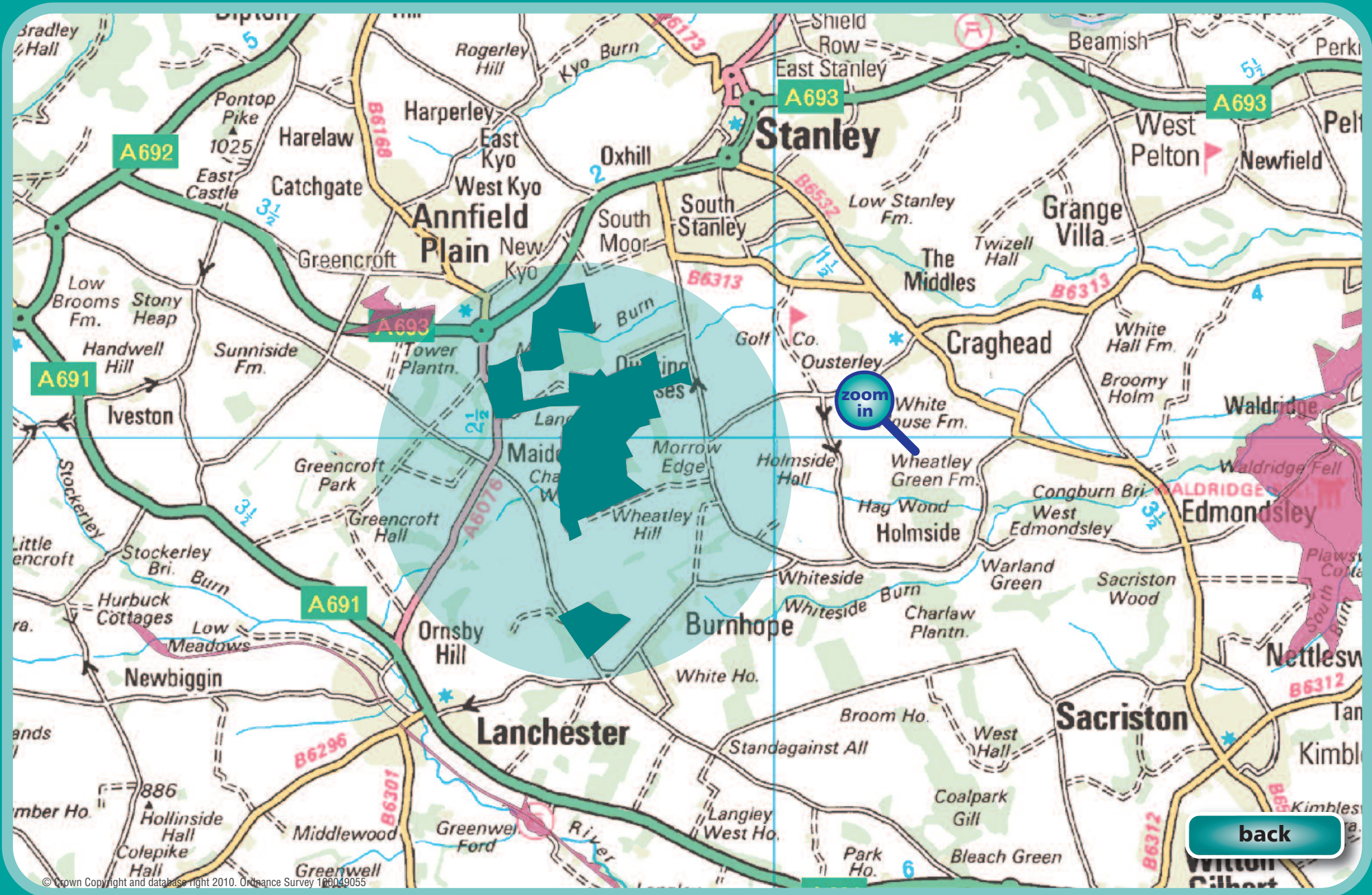
Tufted duck



Stoat

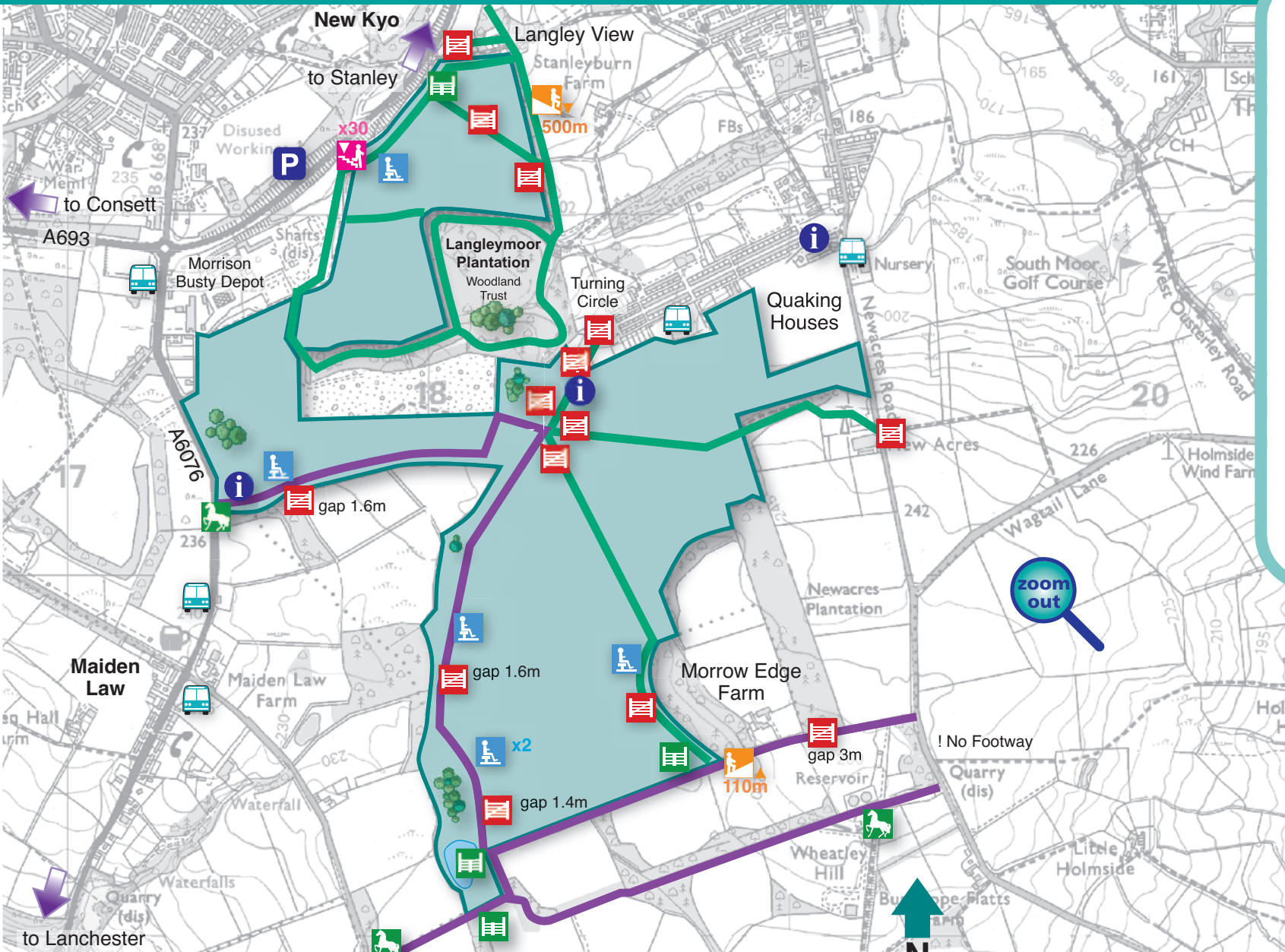
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Chapman's Well Local Nature Reserve

Map 1



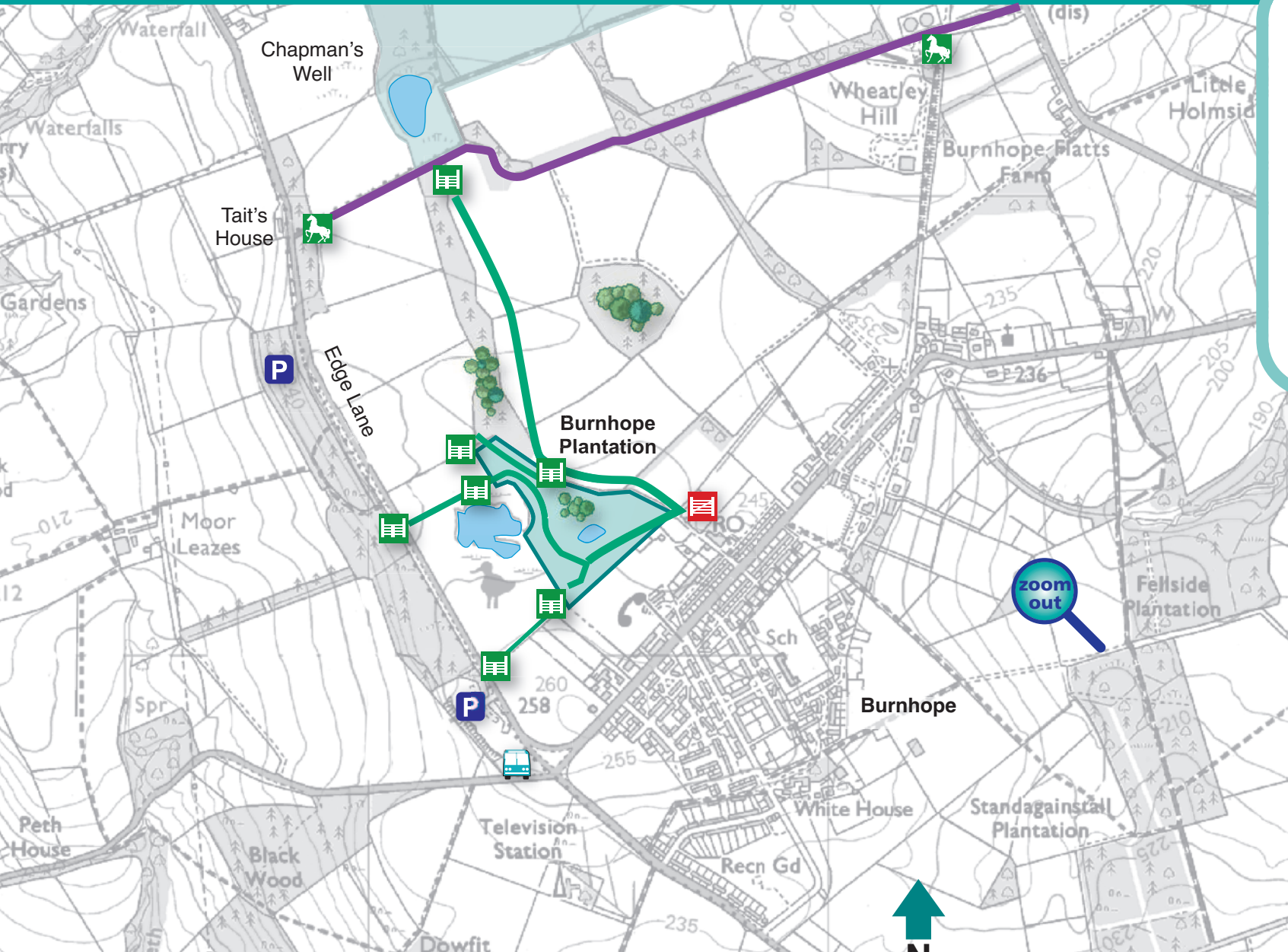
KEY

-  Parking
-  Kissing Gate
-  Stile
-  Horse Stile
-  Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
-  Medium Slope Down 1:20-1:10
-  Steps Down
-  Bus Stop
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Grass
-  Road Crossing
-  Information

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Map 2



KEY

- Parking
- Kissing Gate
- Stile
- Horse Stile
- Bus Stop
- Hard Unsealed Surface
- Grass

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