

Horden Grasslands Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

What is special?

This coastal site has impressive views to the north and south. On a clear day, you will be able to see all the way to North Yorkshire.

A rich and unique group of wildflowers and grasses known as Magnesian Limestone grassland can be found here. Most of this grassland has been destroyed in Britain over the past century. Two thirds of what remains can be found in the north east, resulting in grasslands of National importance. This species rich grassland looks beautiful when in flower, particularly the field of cowslips at the north end of the site.

The grassland contains a huge supply of food in the form of field voles, mice and insects. This attracts hunting birds like the hen harrier, peregrine falcon, barn owl and short-eared owl. You may also see skylark, meadow pipit and grey partridge. A colony of sandmartin have made their home in the cliff face.

The plants attract a host of butterflies including common blue and speckled wood. We are seeing the speckled wood re-colonise the northeast after an absence of many years. It can be found in the dappled sunlight cast by the trees.



[more info...](#)

Contact the Countryside Service

telephone: 0191 372 9100

email: countryside@durham.gov.uk

www.durham.gov.uk/countryside



Area: 114 acres (46 hectares)

Grid Reference: NZ 471 387

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 308

Directions:

Approx 11 miles (18km) east of Durham City centre. At the north end of Horden on the A1086 Coast Road, about 100m north of the B1283 (Easington) roundabout, there is a signpost for 'household waste site'. Turn onto this lane and go past the Northumbrian Water sewage treatment plant.



Go under the railway bridge and turn right. Parking is available here. It is possible to follow an extremely rough track for a further 600m, until you come to the cliff top car park but care must be taken. Nearest postcode for GPS purposes SR8 3SX

Parking: See above. No disabled parking

Public Transport: Services 23, 24, 239 (Arriva), 207, 208 (Go North East) to Sunderland Road

Dogs: Allowed under control and on a lead during bird nesting season (March to August). Please clean up after your dog

Designation: Local Nature Reserve, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certified, within Durham Heritage Coast

Suitable for: Walkers

Habitats: Grassland, scrub, 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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Accessibility statement

The one mile linear route shown on the map overleaf takes you next to the grassland and the clifftops. The path consists of a hard unsealed surface and bare earth and is worn in some places. There are deep ruts along the path and some large stones. The path has a number of steep slopes and is an average of one metre wide. There are a number of seats along the route.



Cowslip



Speckled
Wood



Mouse



Meadow
Pipit



Short Eared
Owl



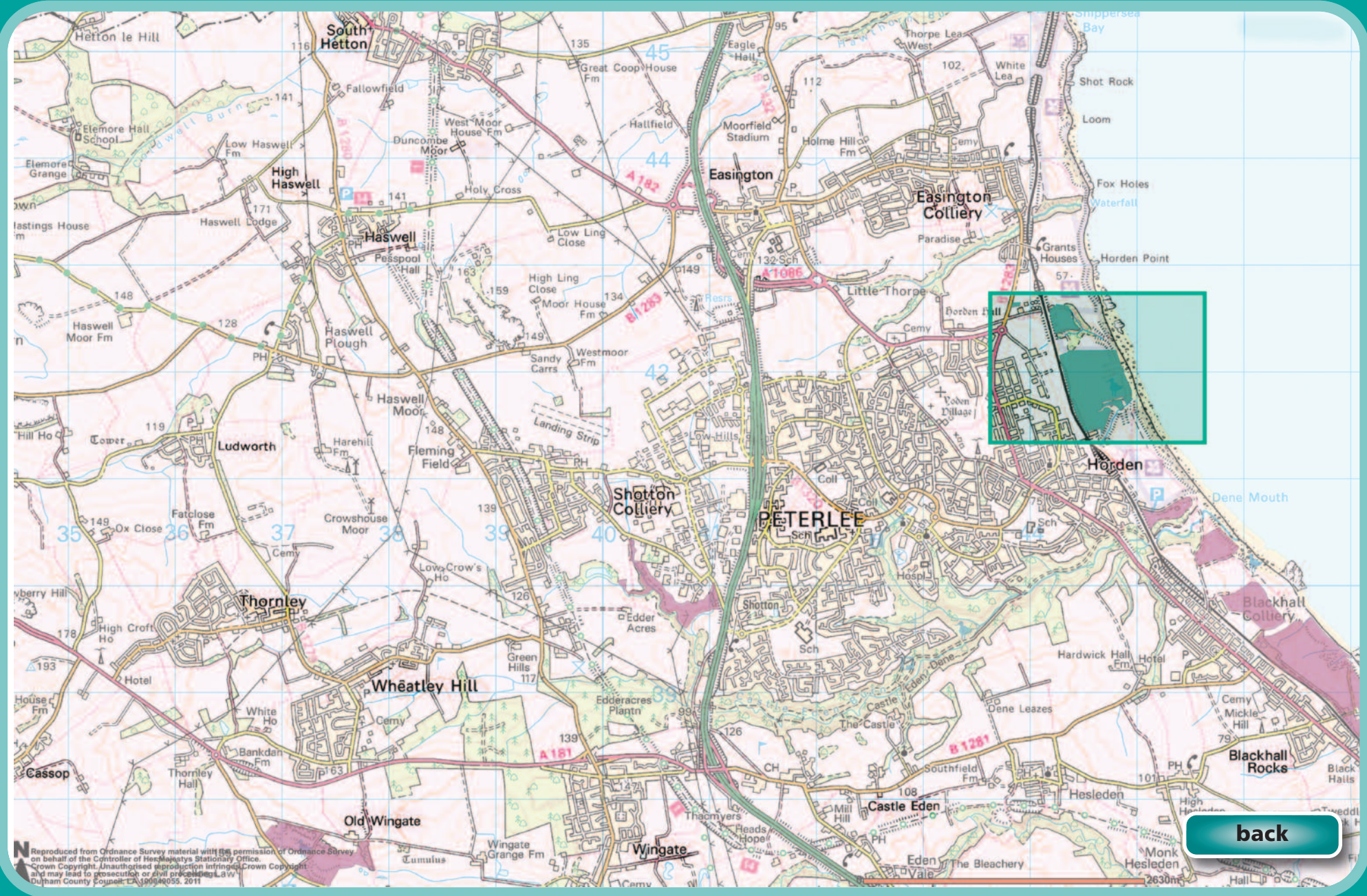
Sand Martin



Hen
Harrier

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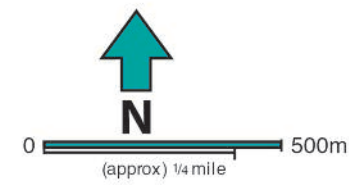
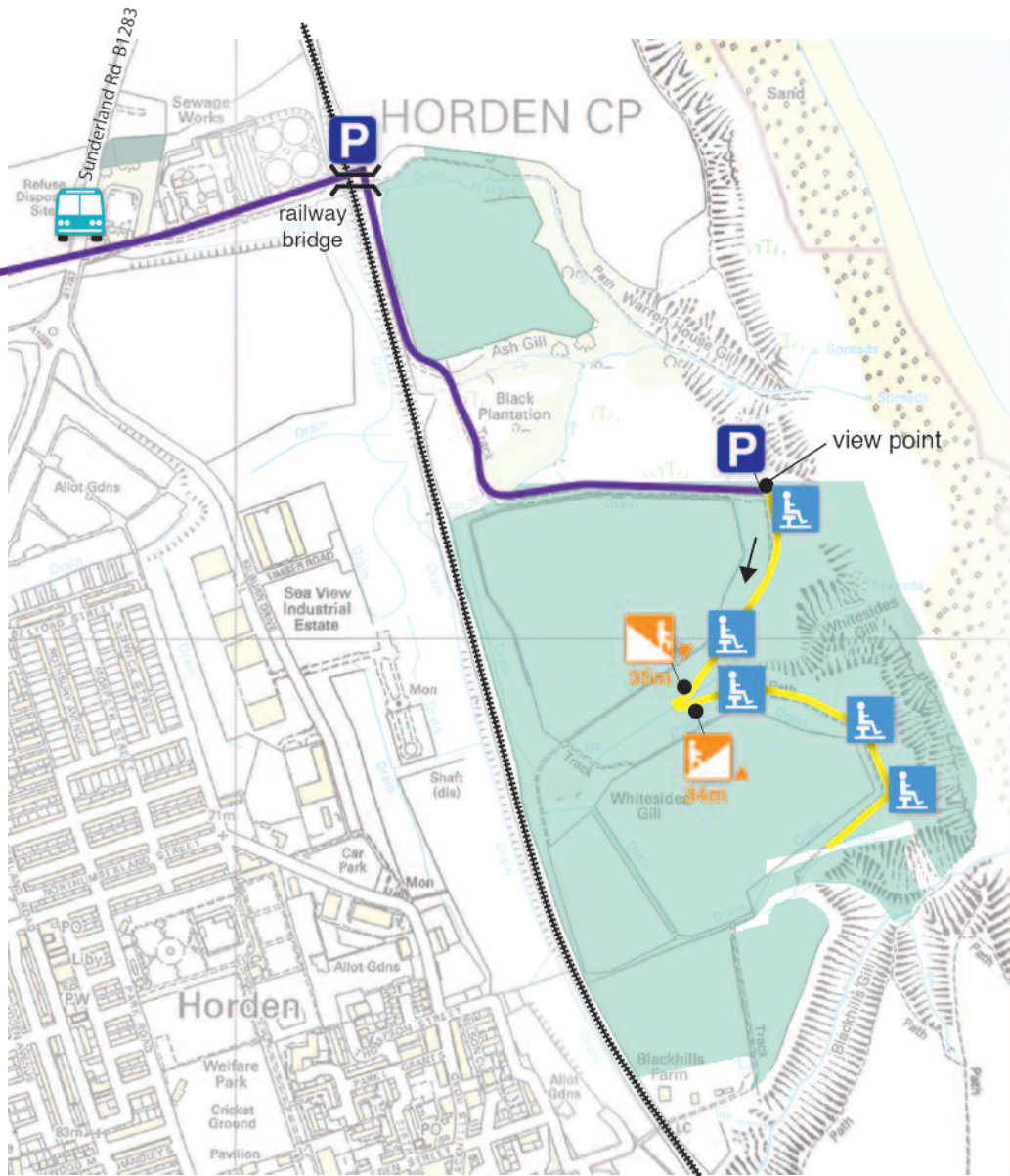
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KEY

-  Seat
-  Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:10
-  Steep Slope Down 1:10-1:10
-  Parking
-  Bus Stop
-  Bare Earth
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Direction of Travel



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