

# Pity Me Carrs Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

## What is special?

A pocket of green space surrounded on all sides by houses and businesses makes this a quiet haven in which people can walk and enjoy the fresh air. It is also a much needed area for local wildlife to take refuge from the surrounding urban area. One theory about the name Pity Me is after the norman french 'petit mere' which means 'small lake'. Ponds and marshes still exist here and they support frogs, newts, damselflies and dragonflies.

A new housing estate built next to Pity Me Carrs will help to improve the wetland area by the installation of a Sustainable urban Drainage System (SuDS). The SuDS will manage surface water created by the housing development in a more sustainable way than conventional drainage systems. It mimicks natural drainage systems by slowing water down and reducing the risk of flooding. The SuDS will be made up of a series of ponds and reedbeds which will slow the flow of water and filter out any pollutants. The clean water will be allowed into the nature reserve and will help maintain the existing wetlands. In time it will become a valuable wildlife habitat and attract birds and amphibians.

The site may look like a vast expanse of grass and water but look closely and you will see a huge variety of different plants. The plants which grow here are typical of acidic areas and include heath bedstraw, sheep's sorrel and tormentil. Other plants to look out for are marsh pennywort and the striking orange flower of fox and clubs. There are small patches of lowland heath, scrub and trees which attract a range of insects, butterflies and birds. If you are very lucky, you may even see a roe deer hiding in the trees.

[more info...](#)

**Contact the Countryside Service**  
telephone: 03000 264 589  
email: [countryside@durham.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@durham.gov.uk)  
[www.durham.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.durham.gov.uk/countryside)



**Area:** 20 acres (8.2 hectares)

**Grid Reference:** NZ 267 453

**Map:** Ordnance Survey Explorer 308

### Directions:

2 miles north of Durham City Centre. From A167 follow signs to Pity Me. Pedestrian access only from public footpaths which run between Bishops Way and Northumbrian Water and behind Mere Drive and Finchale Road (see map). Nearest postcode DH1 5BZ

### Parking:

There is no parking at this site

### Public transport:

Services 21 and 14 (Go Northern), 713, 723 and X24 (Arriva) to Pity Me Front Street, junction of Woodbine Road

### Dogs:

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

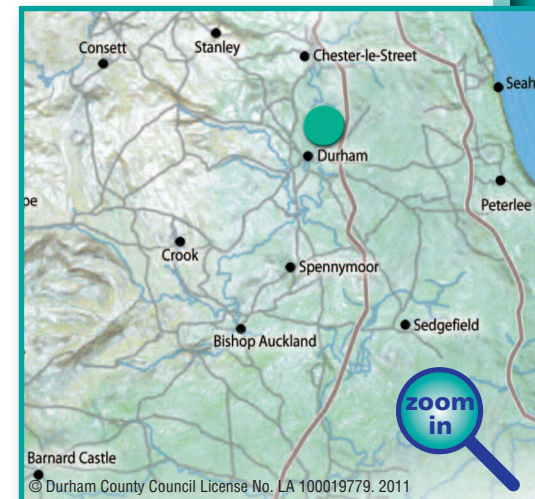
### Designation:

Local Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Site

**Suitable for:** Walkers

### Habitats:

Wetland, heathland, grassland

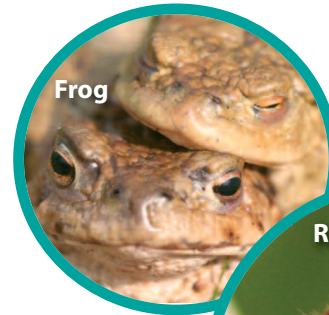
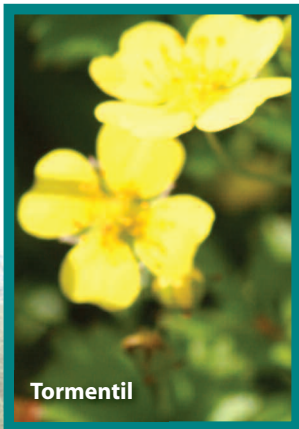


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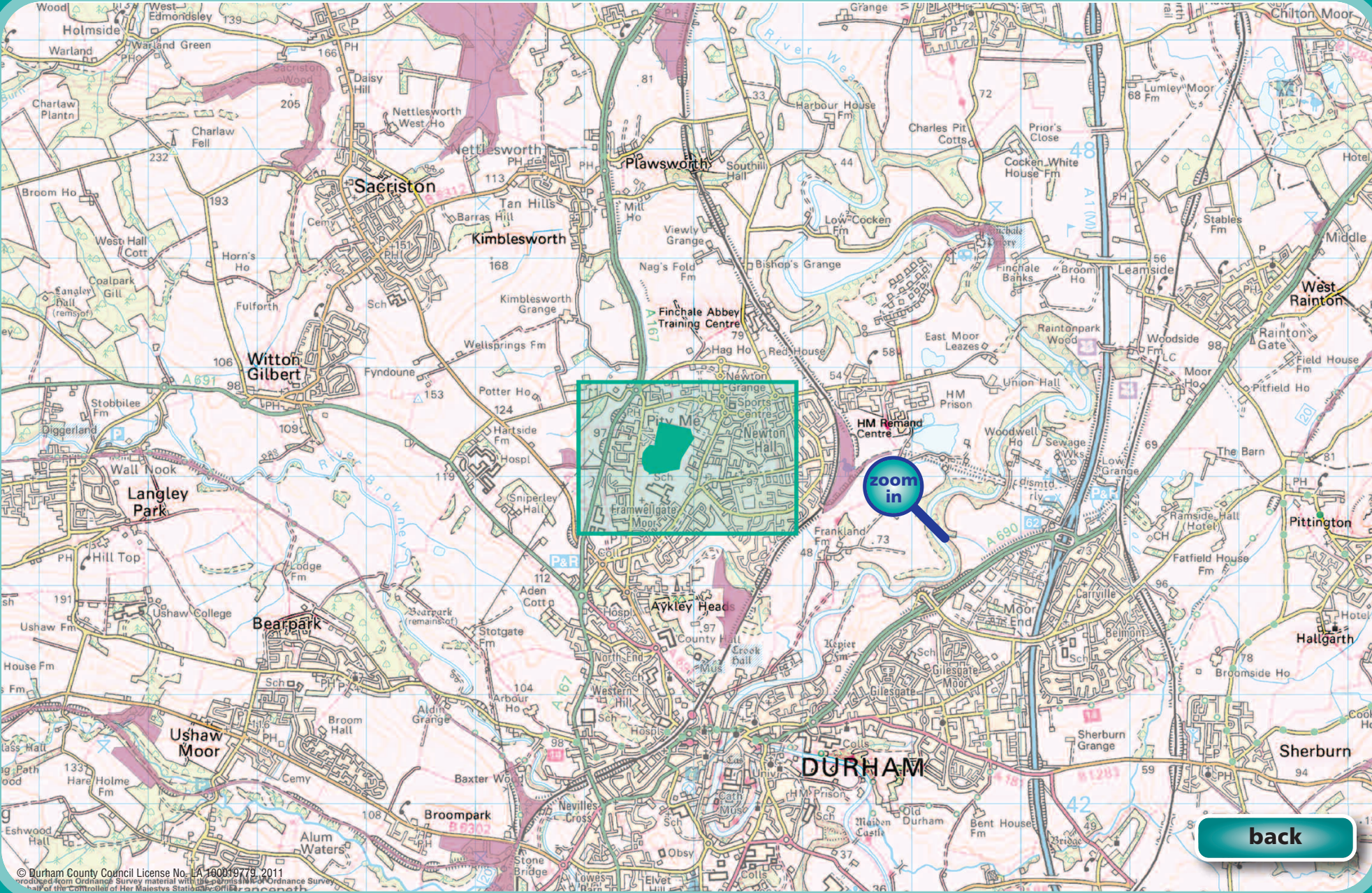
## Accessibility Statement

The path running west to northeast is a Public Footpath, the others are all permissive paths. The paths vary in width and are a mixture of bare earth, mown grass and unsealed surfaces with some stones. The paths are uneven and eroded in places. There are no picnic tables or seats. Due to the very nature of this site, it can get wet and boggy. There are various gradients but only the steepest are marked on the map.



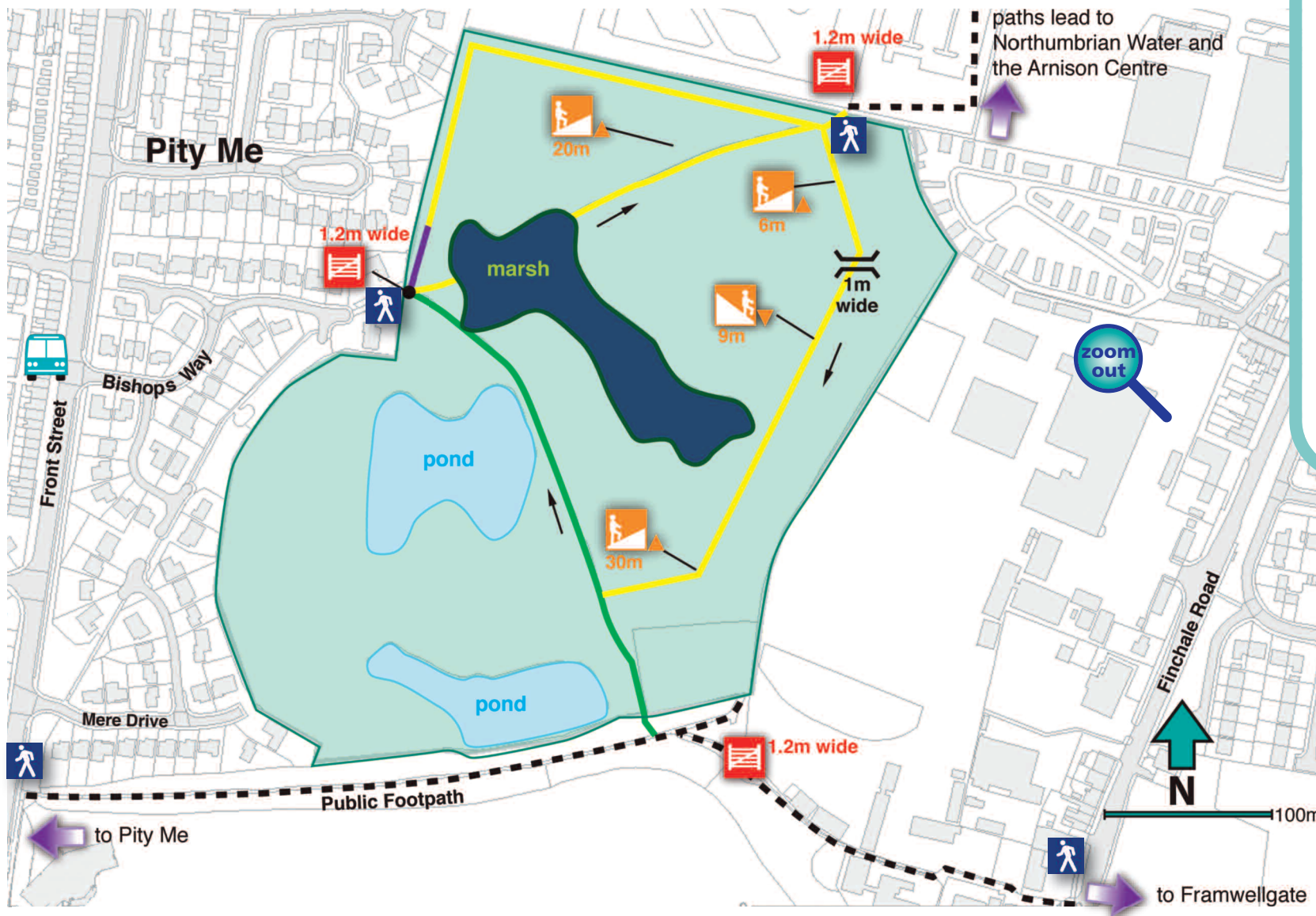
[back](#)

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# Pity Me Carrs Local Nature Reserve (LNR)



## KEY

-  Gate
-  Steep Slope Down 1:10-1:10
-  Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
-  Bus Stop
-  Bridge
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Bare Earth
-  Mown Grass
-  Direction of Travel
-  Pedestrian Access

[back](#)