

Wingate Quarry Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

What is special?

Wingate Quarry, was quarried for Magnesian Limestone rock before becoming Durham County Council's first Local Nature Reserve. The soil is shallow, of poor quality and has a high lime content. This affects the types of plants which grow here. The wildflowers and grasses known as Magnesian Limestone grassland can be found here. Much of this grassland has been destroyed in Britain over the past century. Two thirds of the remaining internationally important grassland can be found in north east England.

Wingate Quarry is now a refuge for many of these rare plants, in fact, the site contains over 34 species of wildflowers including common spotted orchid, birdsfoot trefoil, quaking grass and butterwort. Butterwort is a carnivorous plant which feeds on flies. The ponds provide homes for dragonflies and amphibians, including great crested newts. These are protected by law, even taking a photograph or picking up a newt is only allowed under licence. If you accidentally catch a newt, please return it to the water. Moorhen, coot, reed bunting and yellowhammer are all regular sights here. Marbled white butterfly and chalk carpet moth are special to this site and are typically found in the disused quarry near the end of summer. Rabbits, which can be a problem at other sites, are very useful at Wingate. They graze the steep hills and valleys which would be difficult to mow, controlling the level of scrub and allowing wildflowers to grow.

[more info...](#)

Contact the Countryside Service

telephone: 0191 372 9100

email: countryside@durham.gov.uk

www.durham.gov.uk/countryside



Area: 65.5 acres (26.5 hectares)

Grid Reference: NZ 371 373

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 305

Directions:

Approximately 7 miles (12km) east of Durham City centre on the A181. From A181 at Wheatley Hill, take B1278 towards Trimdon and Deaf Hill.

The reserve is on the left at the junction of B1278 and minor road to Deaf Hill. It is signposted from the road. Nearest postcode for GPS purposes is TS29 6NT



Parking: There is a large car park. No disabled parking bays.

Public transport: Services 22, 212, 213 (Arriva) to site entrance. Approximately 500m walk to the site

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

Designation: Site of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserve, Open Access Land, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certified

Suitable for: Walkers and families. Horse riders and cyclists are allowed on the bridleway only (see map)

Habitats: Grassland, woodland, wetland, scrub

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.

Wingate Quarry Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Accessibility statement

There are two suggested circular routes marked on the map. They are both on unsurfaced bare earth, approximately 1 metre wide and undulating. There are no fences or stiles on these paths although stiles need to be crossed to access other parts of the site. A kissing gate allows entrance to the east of the reserve.

Wingate Quarry is Open Access Land which means you can wander freely without sticking to public rights of way. This right extends to wheelchair users but not horse riders or cyclists. There may be certain times of year when we have to restrict public access for reasons of conservation, land management or public safety. Please take note of any signs. Paths and tracks throughout the rest of the site can be narrow, uneven and may have large stones and ruts in them. There are some steep gradients and cliff edges, especially at the far eastern and western parts of the site. Keep away from these areas and do not climb safety fences.



Chalk Carpet Moth



Moorhen



Pond



Great Crested Newt



Yellowhammer



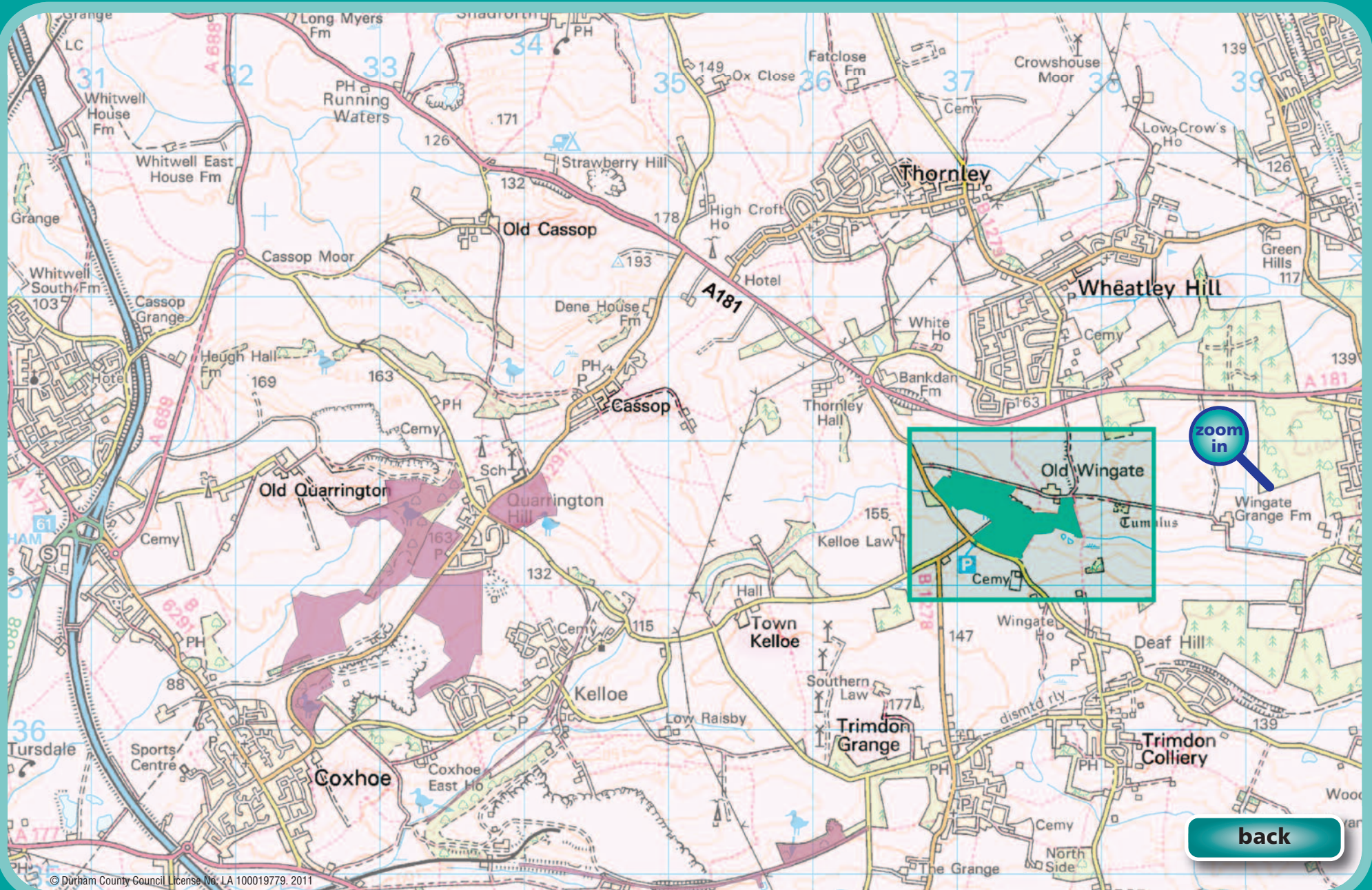
Butterwort



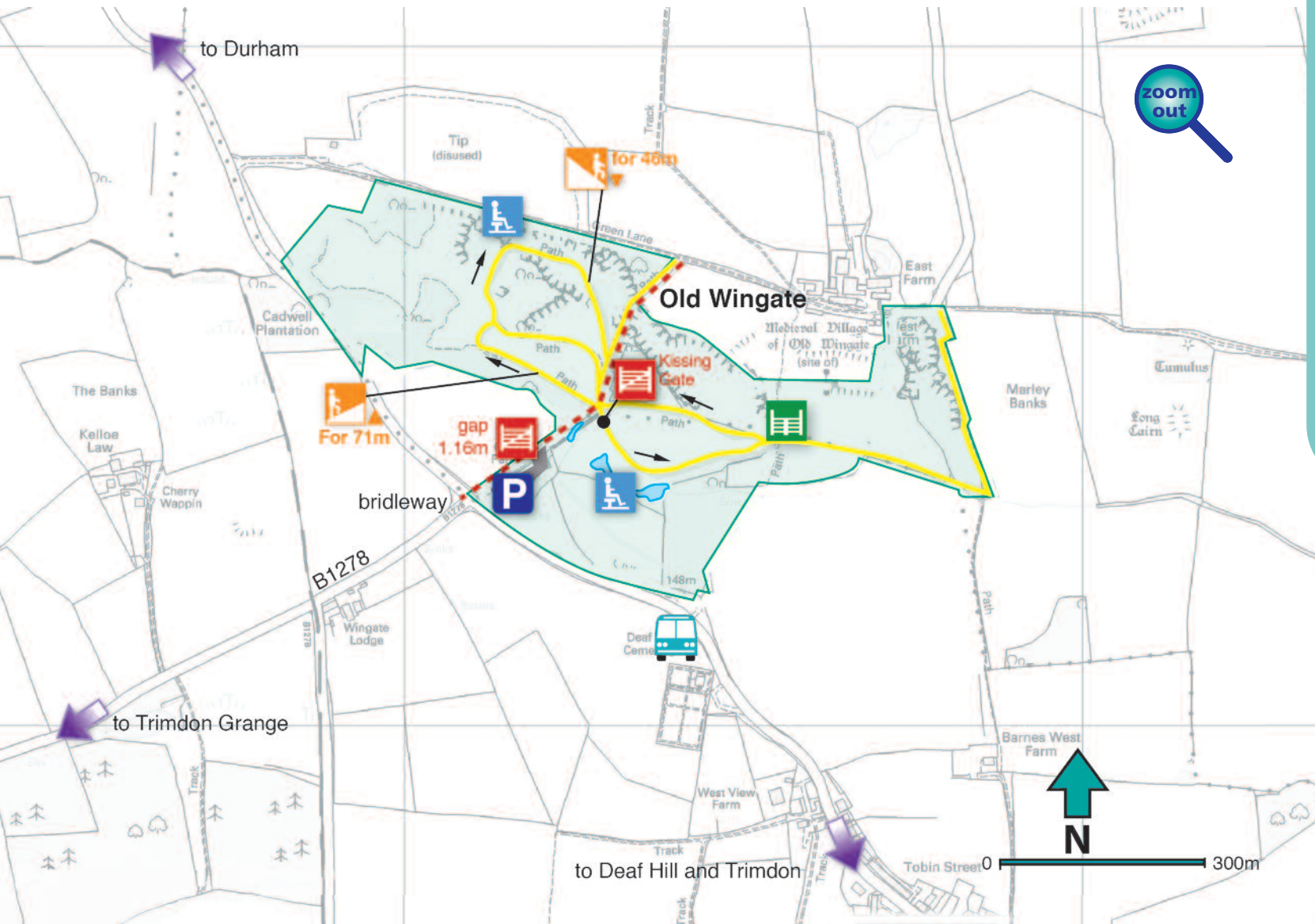
Marbled White Butterfly

[back](#)












Wingate Quarry Local Nature Reserve (LNR)



Wingate Quarry Local Nature Reserve (LNR)



KEY

-  Seat
-  Gate
-  Steep Slope Down 1:10-1:10
-  Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
-  Parking
-  Bus Stop
-  Bare Earth
-  Road/Tarmac
-  Bridleway
-  Stile
-  Direction of Travel

[back](#)