

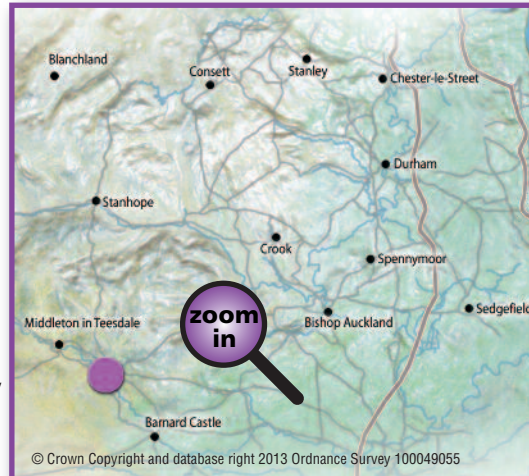
Tees Railway Path

What is special?

The Tees Valley Railway was the remnant of a scheme for a line from Barnard Castle to Alston. It was opened in 1868 by an independent company and was taken over by the North East Railway in 1882. The line closed in 1964 and is now a fabulous way to explore Teesdale on foot, cycle or horseback. There are amazing views along the entire route, passing picturesque villages and a patchwork of fields, dry-stone walls and mature hedgerow.

Along the verges wildflowers have colonised in profusion, the primroses and cowslips make the place look wonderful at spring time. During early summer the air is heavy with the smell of May blossom.

Keep an eye out for skylark, weasel and stoat. Ponds containing frogs and toads occur in the wet ditches along the side of the track and at nearby Hayberries Nature Reserve which is between Romaldkirk and Mickleton. These ponds also support marshland plants such as water forget-me-not and lady's smock – a favourite food of the orange tip butterfly.



more info...

Contact the Countryside Service
telephone: 0191 372 9100
email: countryside@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk/countryside



Total length: 6 miles (9.7km)

Grid Reference for main access points:

Lonton west: NY 951 245

Mickleton NY 968 233

Romaldkirk NY 992 220

Cotherstone east: NZ011 192

Can also accessed from Middleton-in-Teesdale and Public Rights of Way

Map: OS Explorer OL31

Directions: Approximately 30 miles southwest of Durham City centre

Middleton-in-Teesdale (on foot): take Bridge St (B6277) and follow the public footpath sign which is immediately to the south side of the bridge over the River Tees. Follow the footpath along the river banks and then through fields to Lonton. Nearest postcode DL12 0QB

Lonton one mile south of Middleton-in-Teesdale, on the B6277 Middleton to Cotherstone road. The entrance is on the B6277 just after the junction with B6276, on the right, and on a very sharp bend so be aware of oncoming traffic. Nearest postcode DL12 0PL

Mickleton Approximately two miles southeast of Middleton-in-Teesdale, on the B6277 Middleton to Cotherstone road. At Mickleton village, take the road on the right heading towards Hunderthwaite. The entrance is ¼ mile, just before the sharp turn. It is signposted from the road. Nearest postcode DL12 0JN

Romaldkirk Approximately four miles southeast of Middleton-in-Teesdale, on the B6277 Middleton to Cotherstone road. Park in Romaldkirk village. At the main crossroads, follow the small directional signs to either the north or south access points. The entrances are signposted. Nearest postcode DL12 9DZ

Cotherstone Approximately six miles southeast of Middleton-in-Teesdale, on the B6277 Middleton to Cotherstone road. Park in Cotherstone village. At the junction with the Hall, follow B6277 to access southeast of the village, or follow the Bowes Road towards Low Lathbury to access southwest of the village. Nearest postcode DL12 9PH



Tortoiseshell

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.

Tees Railway Path

About two miles down the valley, the church tower of Romaldkirk appears through the trees. This pretty village hasn't changed much since the 18th century - there are stocks still standing on the green. It's well worth taking time to appreciate Romaldkirk as the Railway Path is diverted through the village. Please do not follow the route straight ahead (it is incorrectly marked as a national trail on some OS maps) as this is private land. Waymarkers direct you to the next section of the route which starts south of the village.

Hard Ings cutting is sheltered with well drained slopes that support a number of orchids and butterflies. On a sunny day, it is a good spot to find tortoiseshell, ringlet and small blue butterflies.

Just before reaching Cotherstone, you will cross over the tall nine-arched Balder Viaduct which spans a deep river valley. This village lies near the junction of the rivers Balder and Tees. Its lush herb-rich pasture has long been responsible for producing tasty Cotherstone cheese. When the Tees Valley Railway was in operation Cotherstone was a popular holiday resort. It's much quieter these days but definitely worth a visit.

You can continue, on public rights of way, to Lartington and the bustling market town of Barnard Castle. Please remember, cyclists and horseriders can use bridleways but not public footpaths.

Accessibility Statement

This 6 mile linear route is relatively flat along its entire length. There are several slopes where bridges once stood but only those which are particularly steep have been marked on the map so you are advised to also look at the route profile.

The path width varies between 0.6m and 3.7m and is mainly a mixture of grass and bare earth with some short sections of hard unsealed surface.

There are a number of gates along the route to prevent livestock from escaping, and the ground may be churned up and large stones exposed at these points.



Ringlet



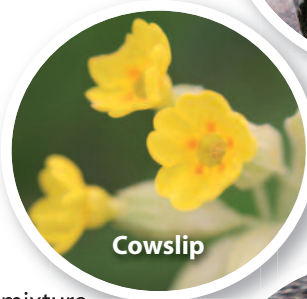
Orange tip butterfly



Small blue



Stoat



Cowslip



Primrose



Weasel

Parking:

Car park at Mickleton (2 disabled parking bays). Bridge Street, Rose Terrace and Market Place in Middleton-in-Teesdale. Park responsibly in Romaldkirk and Cotherstone villages.

Public transport:

Numbers 95, 96 (Scarlet Band) serve the villages

Dogs:

Allowed under control. Please clean up after your dog

Designation:

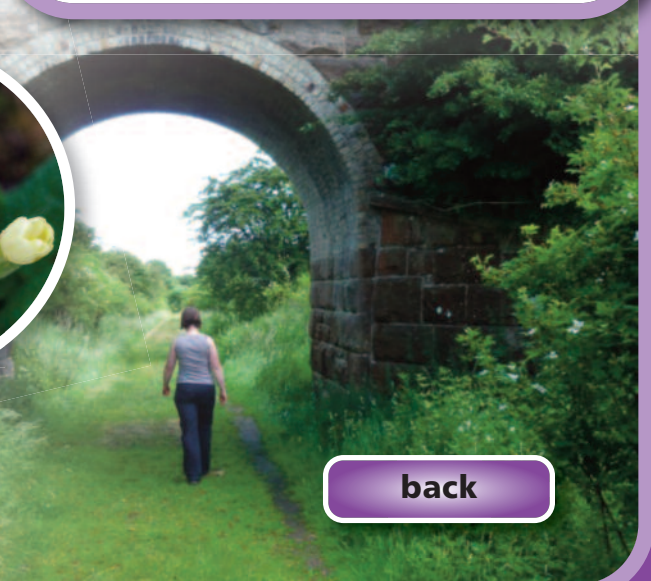
Railway Path, Local Site, part of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Suitable for:

Walkers along entire route. Cyclists and horse-riders between Lonton and Low Lathbury (at Cotherstone) and on bridleways east of Cotherstone. Horse-riders are advised to dismount before crossing viaducts. Limited access for wheelchairs (see map)

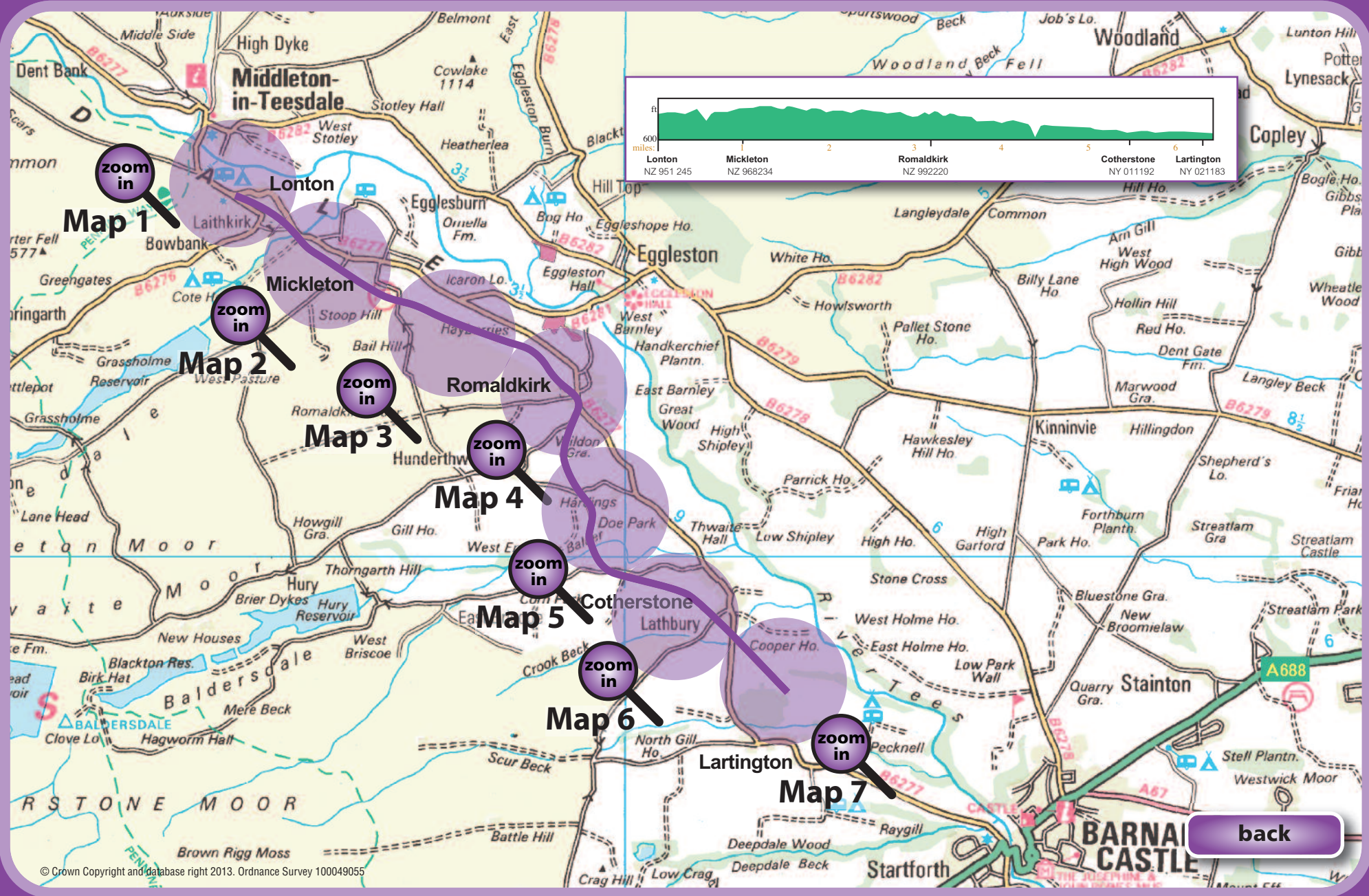
Habitats:

Woodland, part ancient woodland, grassland, scrub



[back](#)

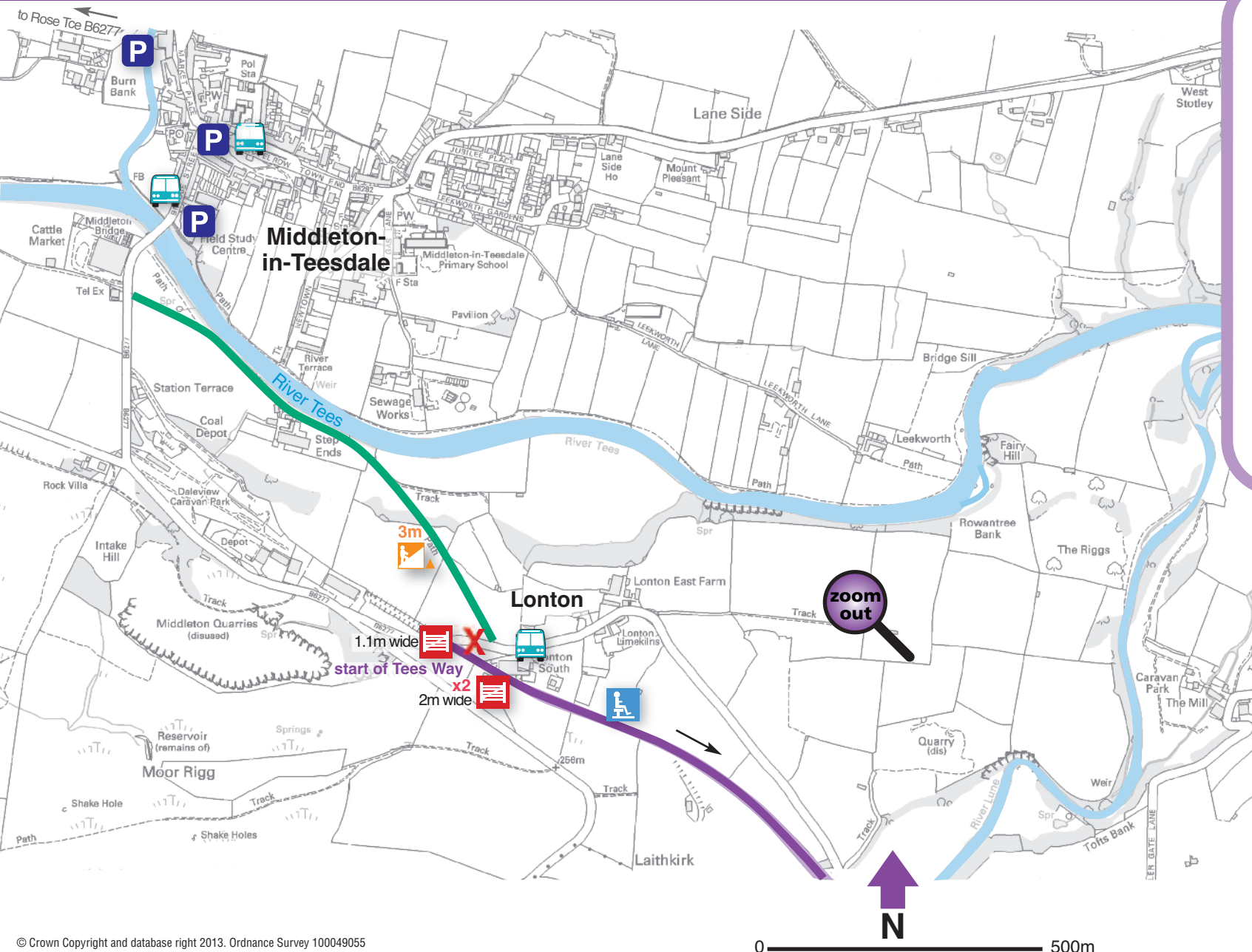
Tees Railway Path









[back](#)

Tees Railway Path

Map 1



KEY

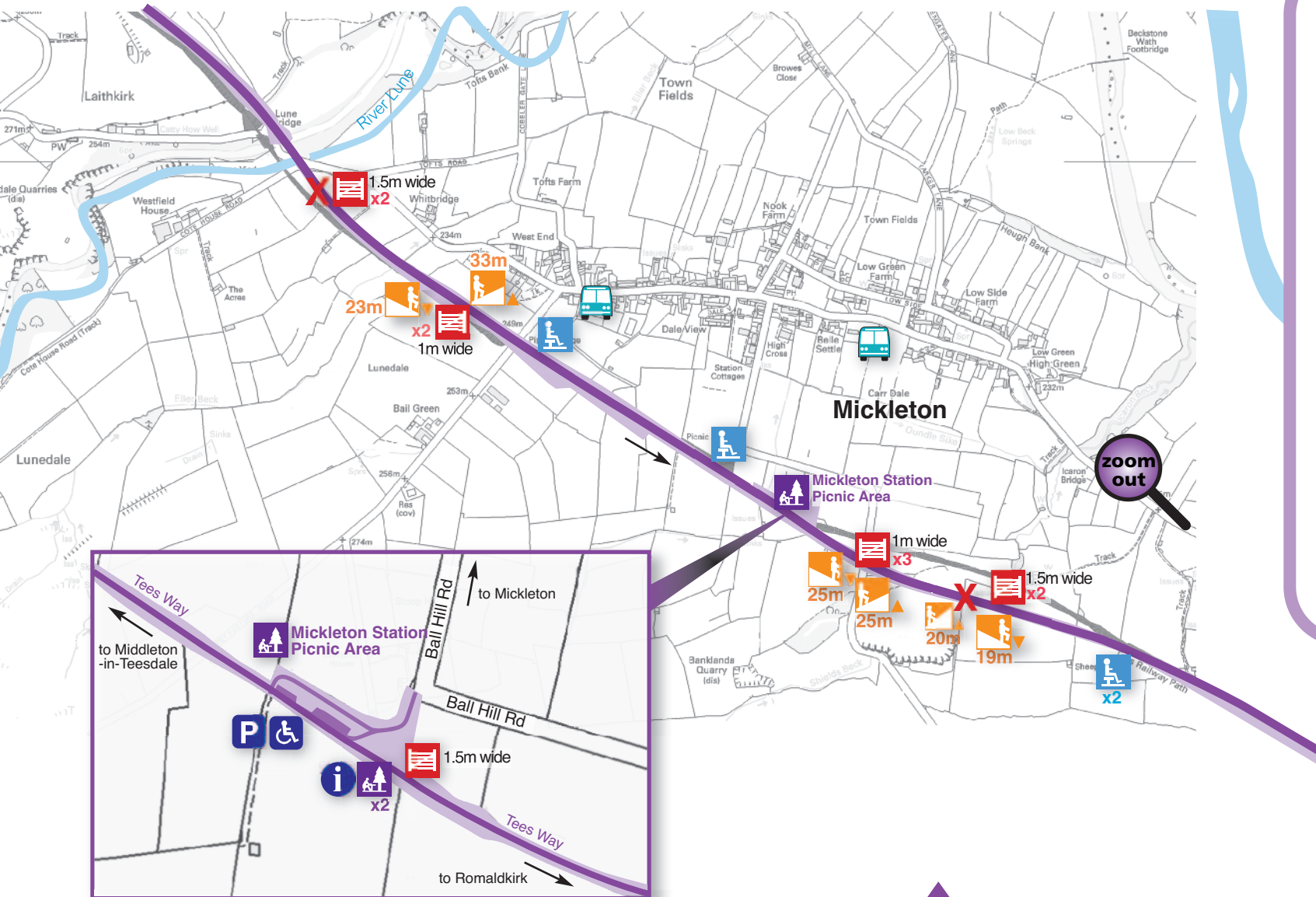
-  Seat
-  Parking
-  Gate
-  Steps Up
-  Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:1
-  Bus Stop
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Grass
-  Road Crossing

[back](#)

0 500m

Tees Railway Path

Map 2



KEY

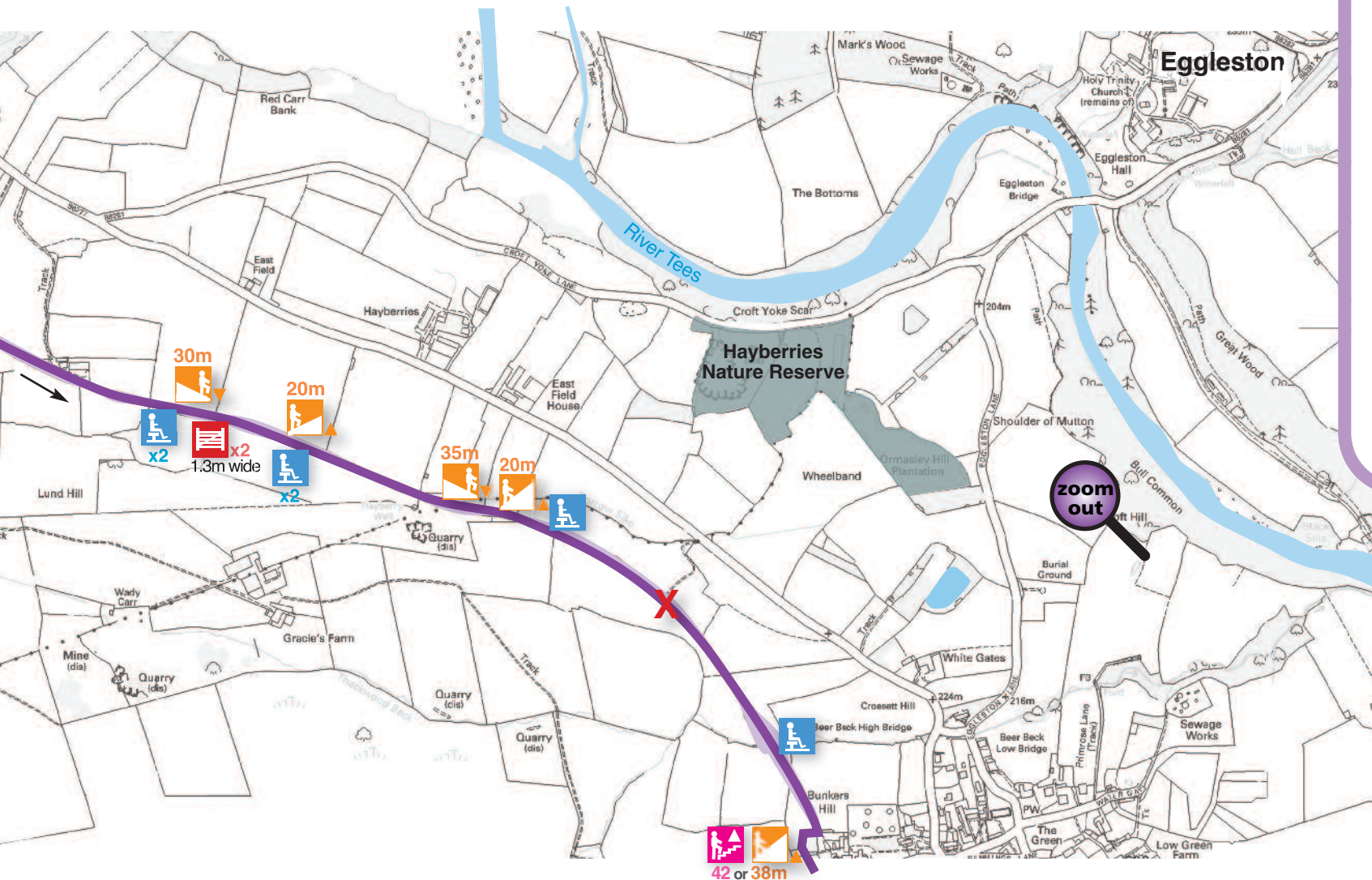
- Picnic Area
- Seat
- Parking
- Disabled Parking
- Gate
- Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
- Medium Slope Down 1:20-1:10
- Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:1
- Bus Stop
- Direction of Travel
- Hard Unsealed Surface
- Road Crossing
- Information

[back](#)












Tees Railway Path

Map 3



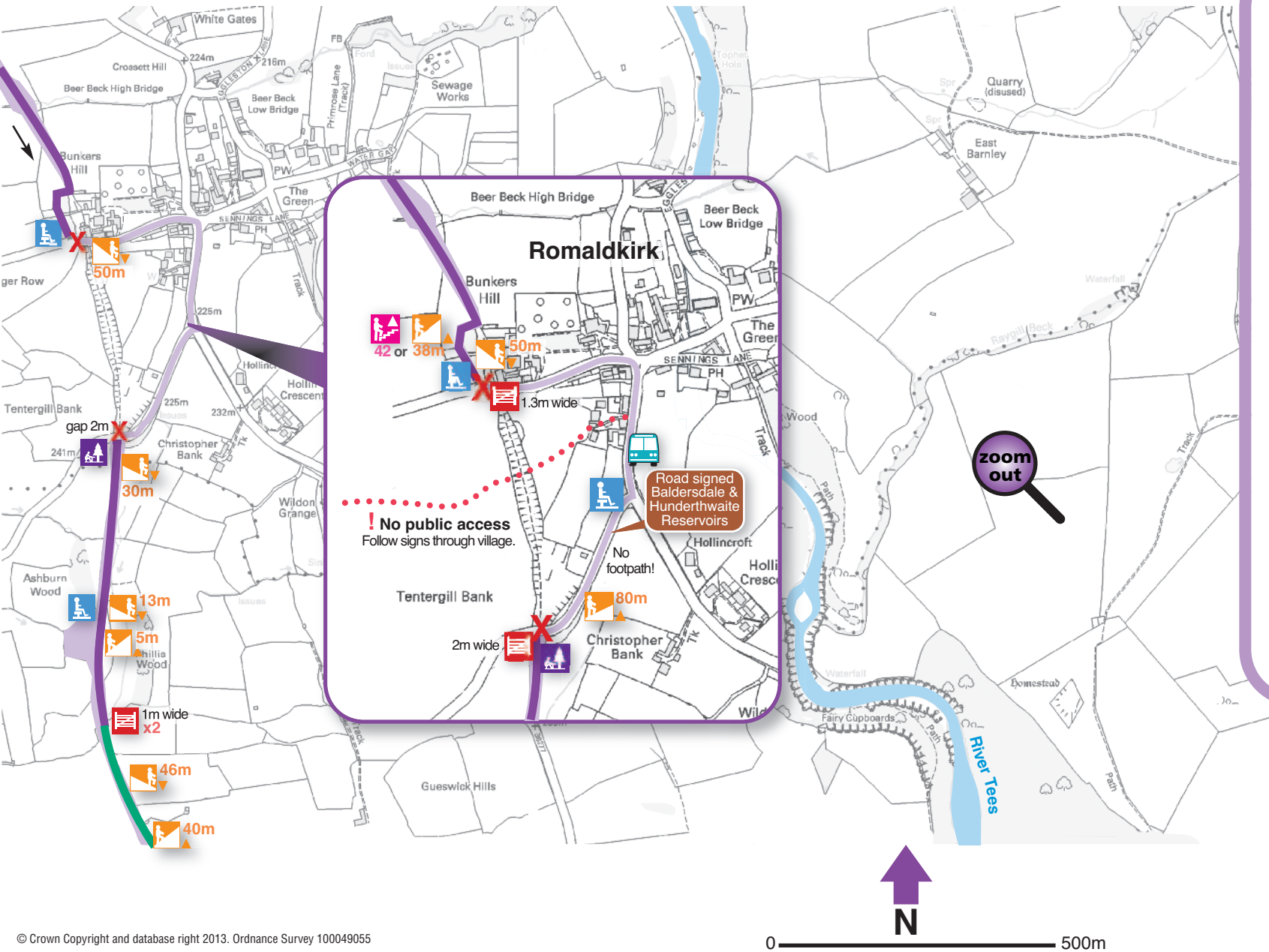
KEY

-  Seat
-  Gate
-  Steps Up
-  Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
-  Medium Slope Down 1:20-1:10
-  Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:1
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Road/Tarmac















[back](#)

Tees Railway Path

Map 4



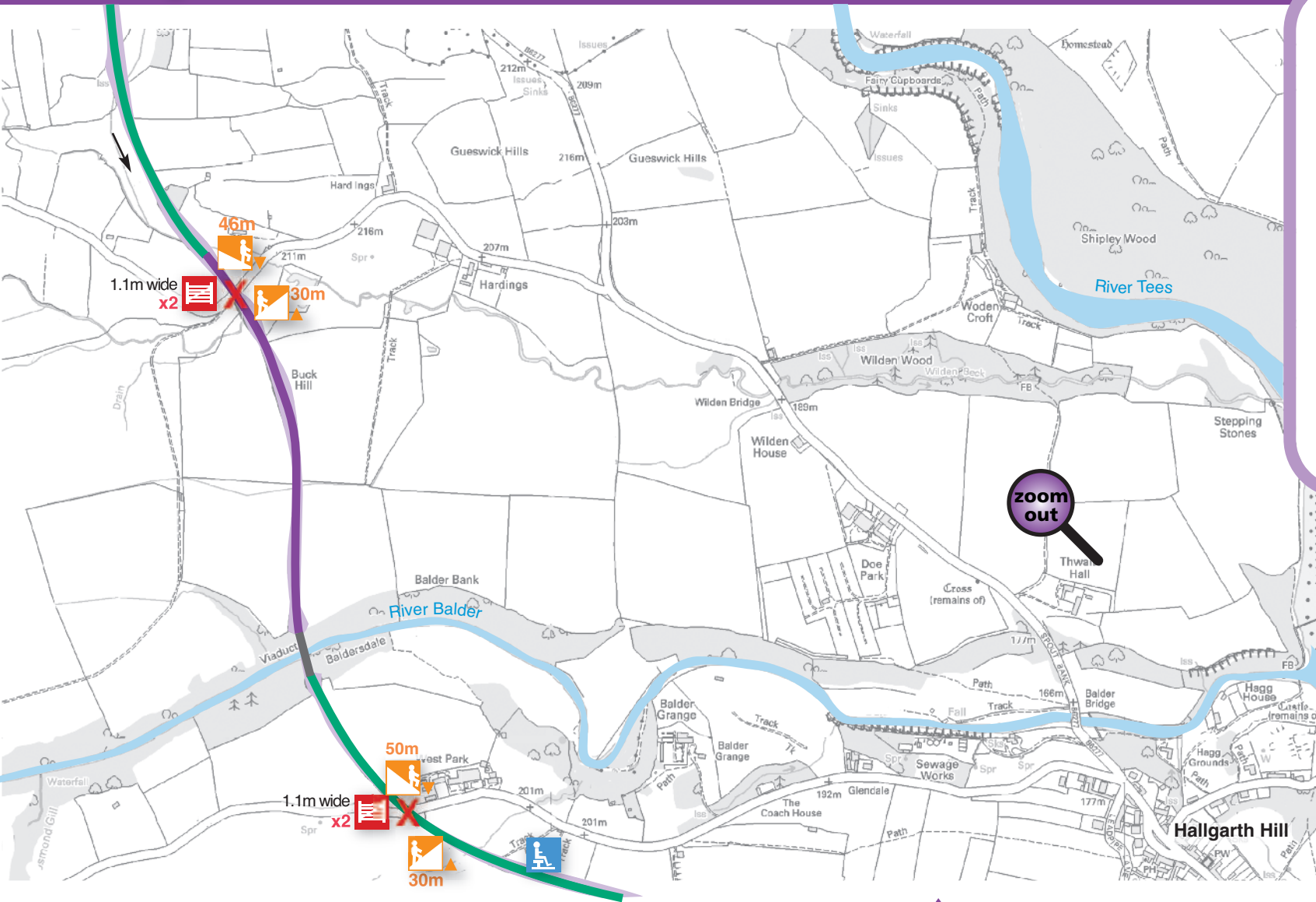
KEY

-  Picnic Area
 -  Seat
 -  Gate
 -  Steps Up
 -  Medium Slope Up_{1:20-1:10}
 -  Medium Slope Down_{1:20-1:10}
 -  Steep Slope Up_{1:10-1:1}
 -  Steep Slope Down_{1:10-1:1}
 -  Bus Stop
 -  Direction of Travel
 -  Hard Unsealed Surface
 -  Grass
 -  Road Crossing
 -  Footpath (walkers only)
- ! Some OS maps are incorrectly marked and show a National Trail linking the two sections of RailwayPath. Follow diversion through the village.










back

Tees Railway Path

Map 5



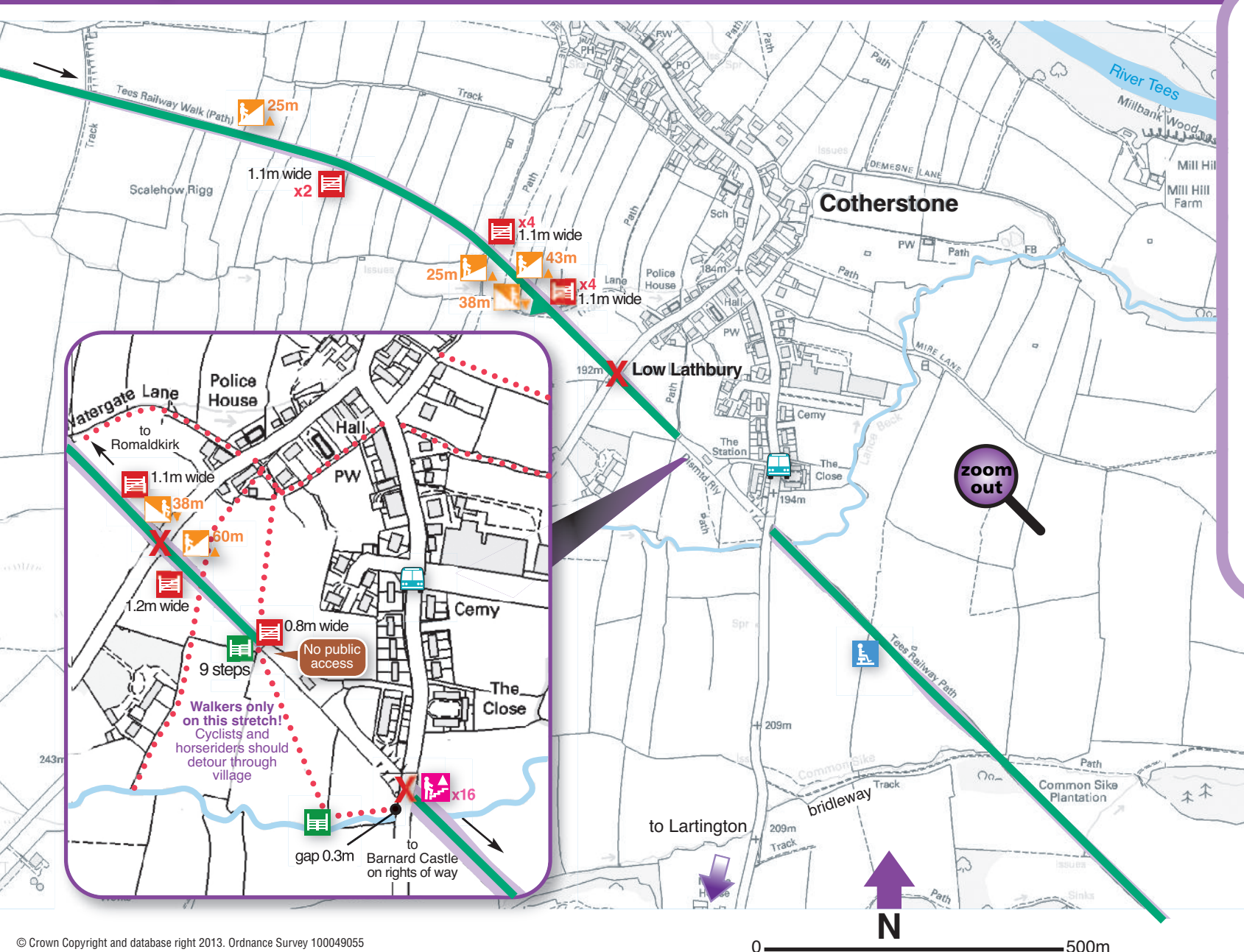
KEY

-  Seat
-  Gate
-  Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
-  Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:1
-  Steep Slope Down 1:10-1:1
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Grass
-  Road Crossing














[back](#)

Tees Railway Path

Map 6



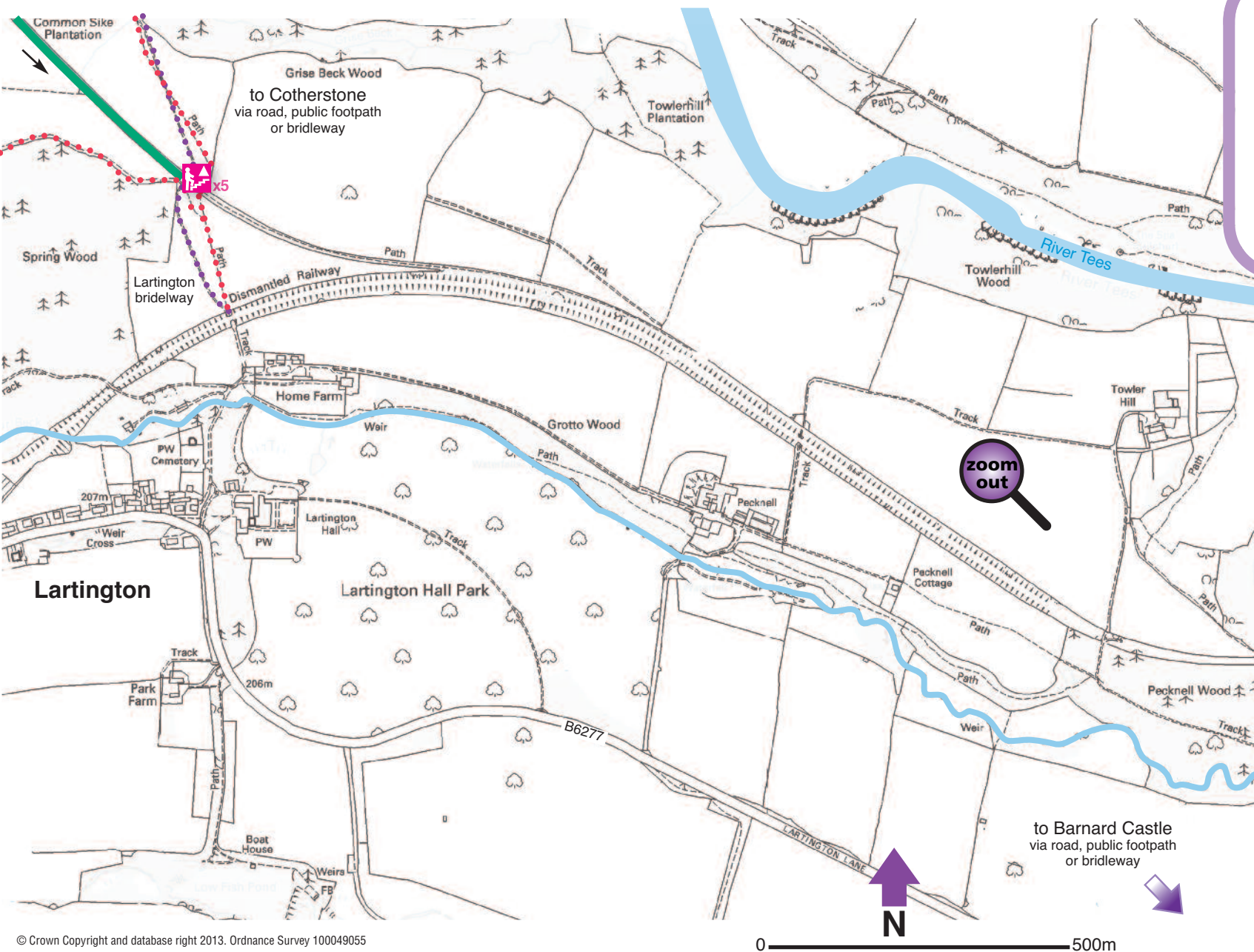
KEY

-  Seat
-  Gate
-  Steps Up
-  Medium Slope Up_{1:20-1:10}
-  Steep Slope Up_{1:10-1:1}
-  Steep Slope Down_{1:10-1:1}
-  Bus Stop
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Grass
-  Road Crossing
-  Stile
-  Footpath

back

Tees Railway Path

Map 7



KEY



Steps Up



Direction of Travel



Grass



- Footpath



- Bridleway

back