

Lanchester Valley Railway Path

What is special?

This route is part of an extensive network of Railway Paths which are fantastic for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. At Lydgetts Junction, this route joins the Waskerley Way and Derwent Valley Railway Paths and the Consett-Sunderland cycle route. At Broompark, it joins the Brandon-Bishop Auckland and Deerness Valley Railway Paths. The Lanchester Valley railway was built to carry iron ore to Consett Steelworks and coal from Langley Park. It opened for passenger service in 1862 and closed to all traffic in 1965. As you travel along the line notice the old station houses and platforms at various points.

Lydgetts Junction is on the former Consett steelworks site, it is marked by a sculpture of a smelt wagon. From here follow the signpost to Lanchester. You will pass the former site of Knitsley Station and then a sharp right angle which indicates where the line was lost through opencast mining and farming. After Hurbuck Cottages take a close look at the approaching embankment. There was once a magnificent wooden viaduct here until 1915 when it was filled in with colliery waste. It is still under your feet, buried under all that soil. Now flowers such as Greater butterfly orchid grow here and there are wonderful views from the top of surrounding farmland. Cows, sheep and horses graze the fields along the length of this route.



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



Total length: 12 miles (19.5km)

Grid Reference for main access points:

Lydgetts Junction, Consett (western end): NZ 099 494

Hurbuck Cottages: NZ 132 484

Lanchester (Newbiggin Lane): NZ 163 475

Malton: NZ 178 464

Broompark (eastern end): NZ 250 415

Can also be accessed from the Highway and various Public Rights of Way

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 307 and 308

Directions:

Lydgetts Junction

From Consett, take A692 to Castleside, turn left at The Grove. Signposted.

Hurbuck Cottages

Follow A691 Consett road. Take turning for Delves Lane/Hurbuck Cottages, about 2 miles north of Lanchester. Follow road ½ mile, turn left at Hurbuck Cottages. Parking is on the right.

Lanchester (Newbiggin Lane):

Follow A691 Durham to Consett road. Turn into Lanchester, at the war memorial turn right onto Front Street, after shops take first left into Newbiggin Lane, car park is on the left, signposted from road.

Malton

Follow A691 Durham to Consett road, 1 mile east of Lanchester follow signs from A691 to Malton. Car park is on right.

Broompark

Follow A690 Durham to Crook road, turn at Stonebridge roundabout onto B6302 to Ushaw Moor. Site is ½ mile on left, signposted from road.

Parking: Lydgetts Junction, Hurbuck Cottages, Lanchester (1 disabled bay), Malton (2 disabled bays) and Broompark (2 disabled bays)

Public transport:

Consett bus station (any service to Consett), Delves Lane near Knitsley, Hurbuck Cottages (Go North East 15a), Lanchester Front Street (Go North East 15, 15A, X30, X31), Malton (Go North East 15, 15a), Langley Park Front Street (Go North East 13, 14, SB Travel 725), Aldin Grange Terrace, Bearpark (Arriva 48, 48A, SB Travel 52), Relly Farm, Broompark (Arriva 43)

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

Designation: Railway Path, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certified

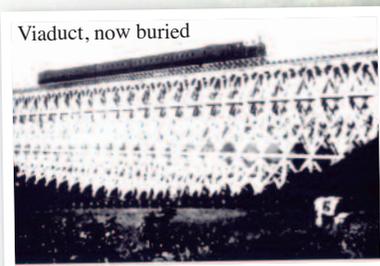
Suitable for: Walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, wheelchair users

Habitats: Woodland, grassland, scrubland, wetland and riverside

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.

Lanchester Valley Railway Path

The Railway Path then leads to Lanchester which is sited on Dere Street, the Roman supply route from York to Scotland. For centuries it was a busy market town. The site where the fort once stood can be viewed from the layby on the B6296 Lanchester to Satley road, west of Lanchester village (there is no public access to the fort which is on private land).

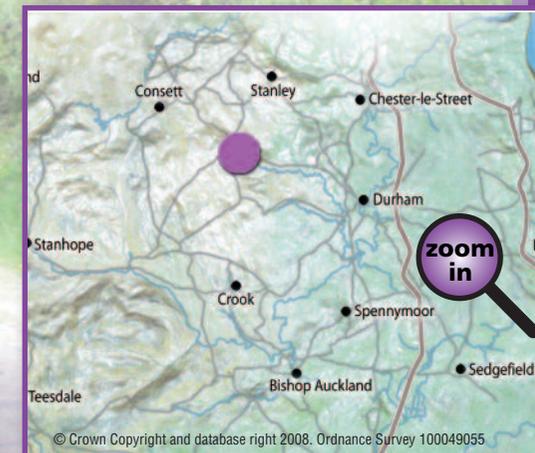


Disused railways, particularly where berry-bearing shrubs such as hawthorn, wild rose, blackthorn and elder have colonised the cuttings, are favourite wintering places for redwings and fieldfares from Scandinavia. There are also numerous blackbirds, thrushes, finches and tits. You may spot a roe deer on quieter stretches. The Railway Path then runs alongside Malton picnic area which is an ideal place to stop for a picnic. A variety of bats roost here, including pipistrelle, long-eared and Daubenton's. Malton is also one of the best places to see tawny owls at night-time.

Heading towards Bearpark, the dappled sunlight shines through tree lined avenues. The trackside has been colonised with a variety of herbs such as wood cranesbill and St John's wort. On your left look for the remains of Beau Repaire, formerly a country retreat for the monks. A public footpath leads to the ruins. Heading towards Broompark, the route follows the River Browney passing through a rich mosaic of farmland, wood, heath and marsh. Sand martins breed along the river banks and kingfisher, dipper and heron can sometimes be seen.

Accessibility Statement

This 12 mile linear walk is fairly flat (please refer to the route profile). There are several steep slopes where bridges once stood but only those which are particularly steep have been marked on the map. Path surfaces vary and small sections of the path suffer from erosion and may have rutts and large stones in them. The path width is a minimum of 1.2 metres. There are a number of seats along the route and picnic tables at Malton and Broompark. There are farm shops at Knitsley and Aldin Grange, Bearpark



Cyclists



Tawny owl



Butterfly orchid



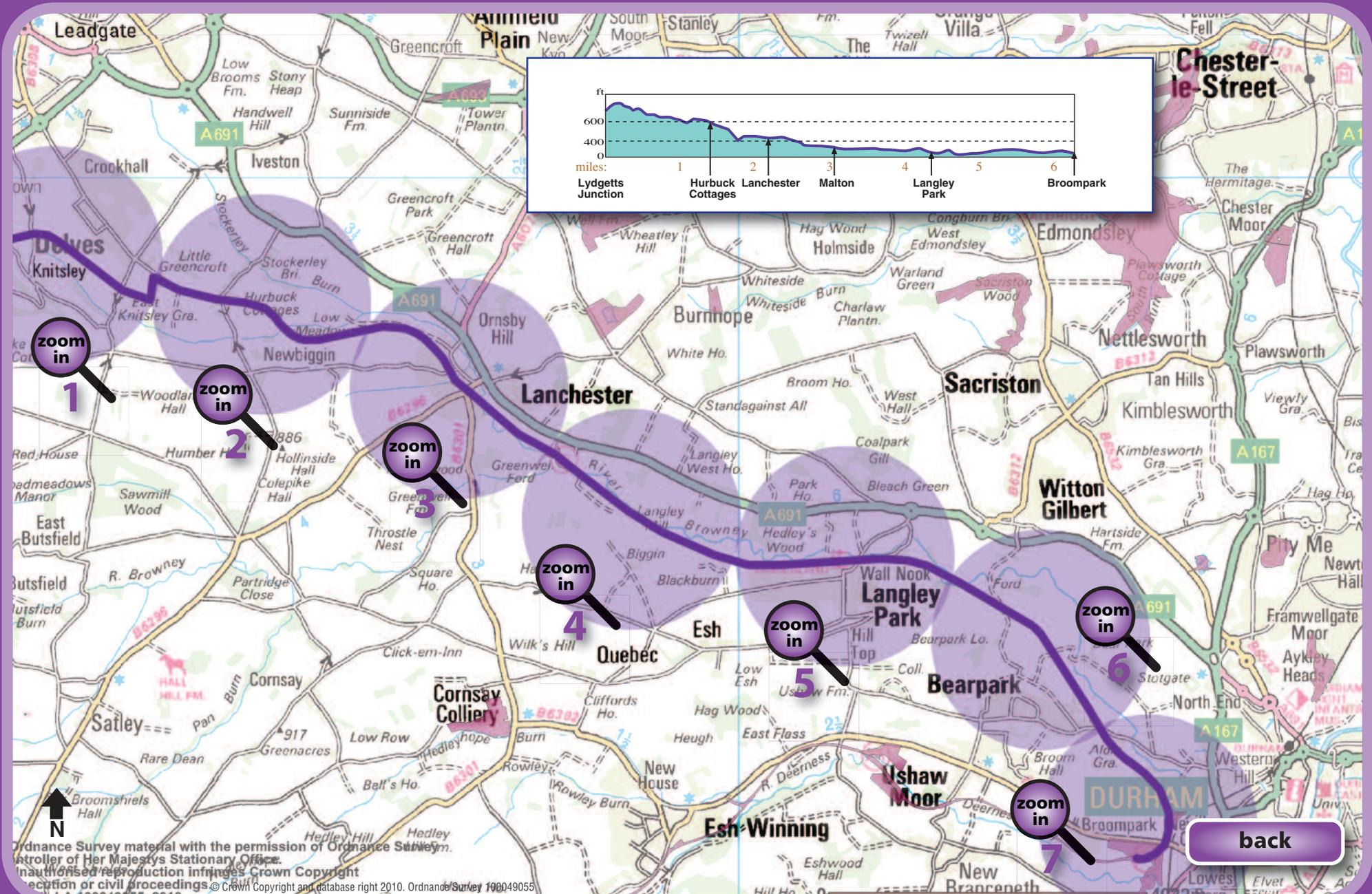
Long eared bat



Redwing

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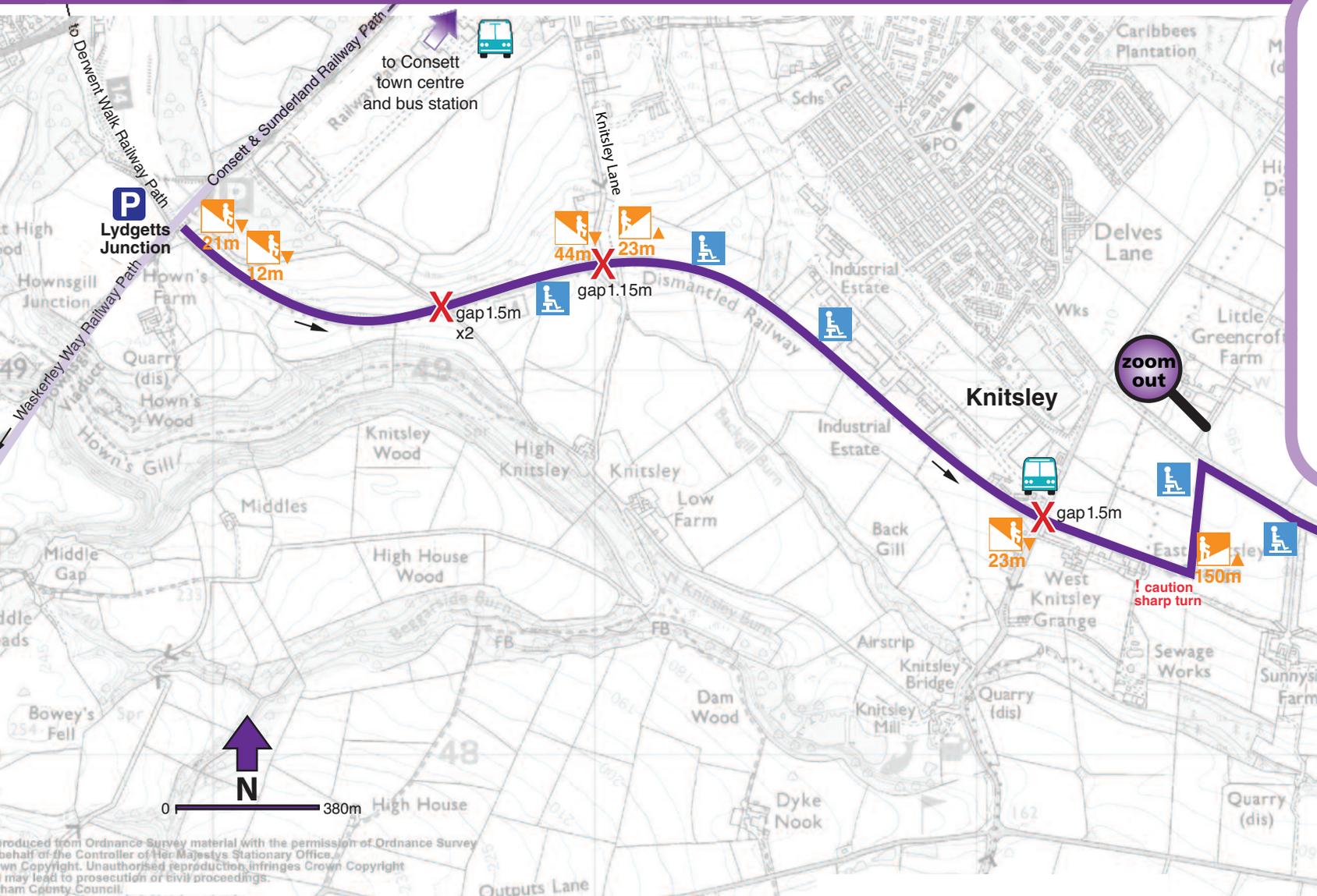


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Lanchester Valley Railway Path

Map 1



KEY

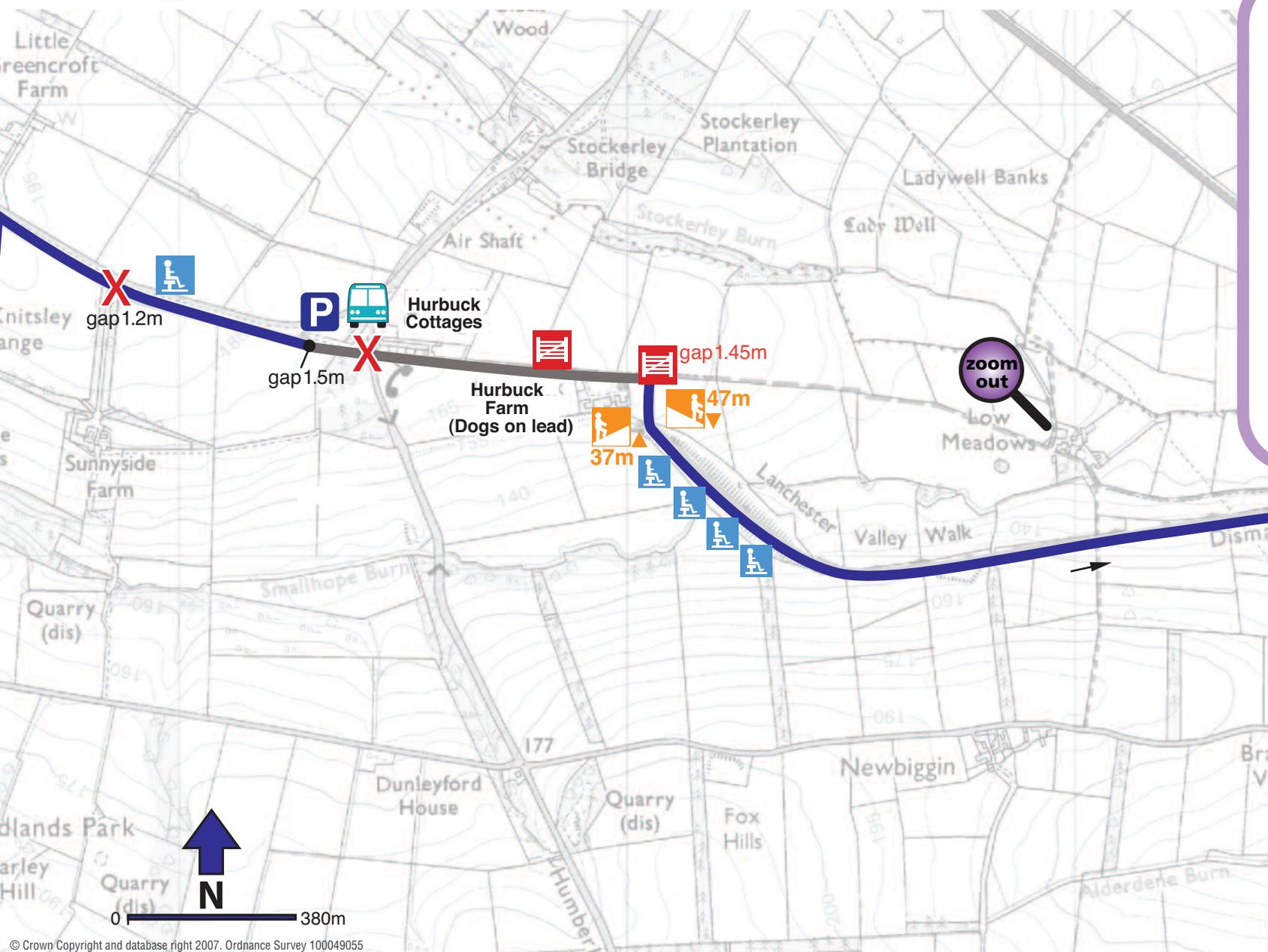
-  Picnic Area
-  Seat
-  Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
-  Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:1
-  Steep Slope Down 1:10-1:1
-  Parking
-  Bus Stop
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Road Crossing

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Lanchester Valley Railway Path

Map 2



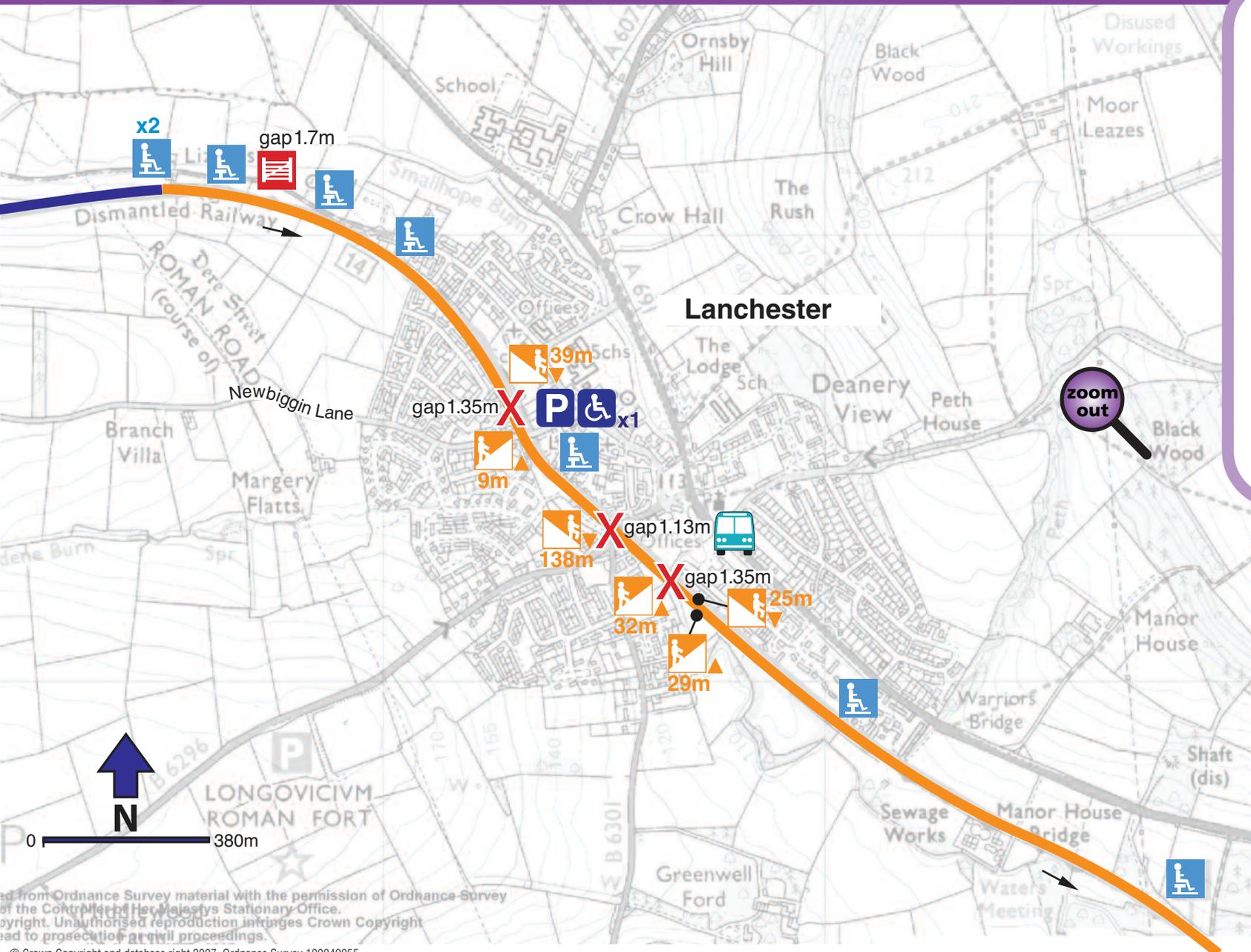
KEY

-  Gate
-  Seat
-  Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
-  Medium Slope Down 1:20-1:10
-  Parking
-  Bus Stop
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Road/Tarmac
-  Road Crossing

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Lanchester Valley Railway Path

Map 3



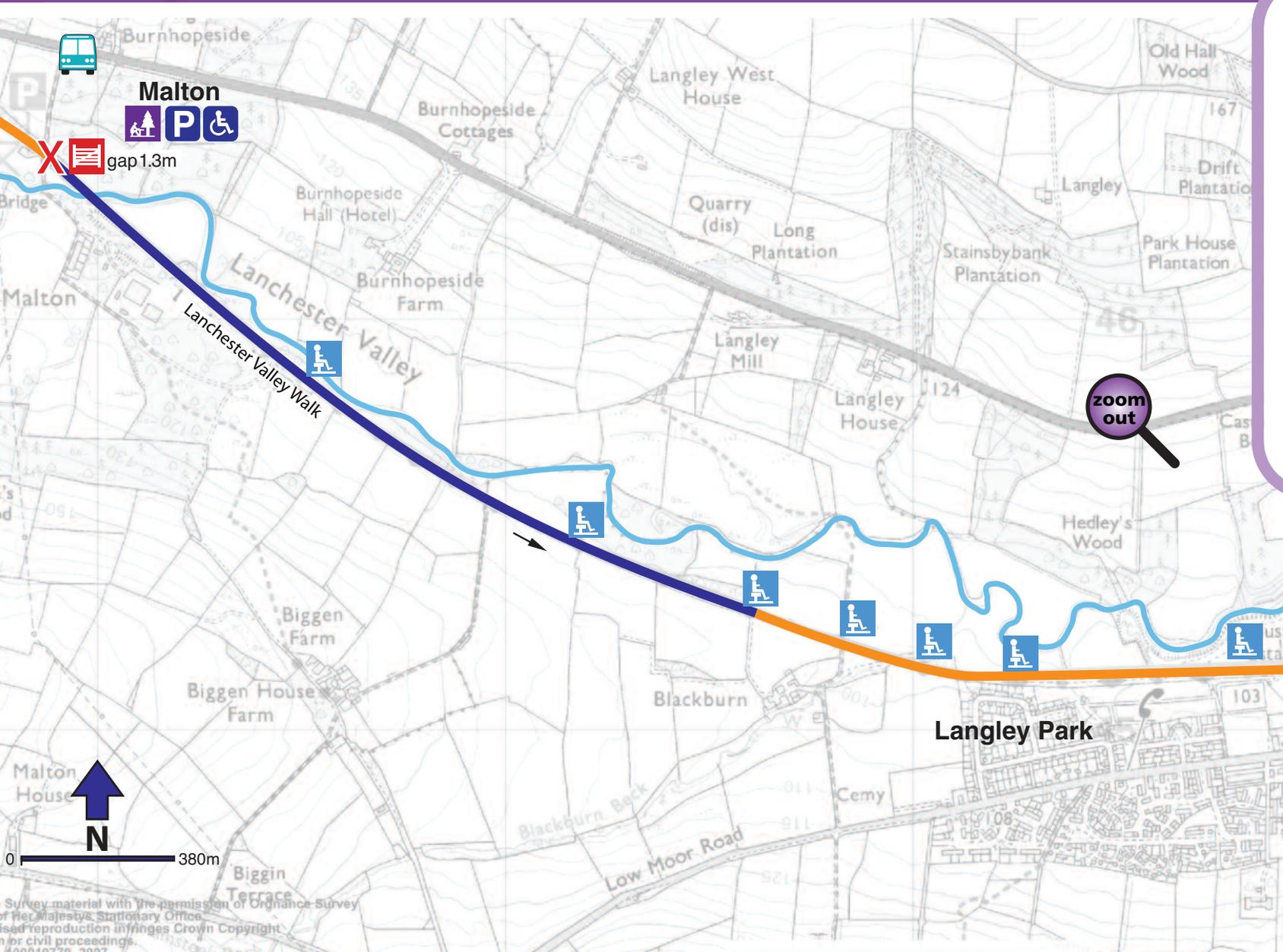
KEY

-  Gate
-  Seat
-  Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:1
-  Steep Slope Down 1:10-1:11
-  Bus Stop
-  Parking
-  Disabled Parking
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Easy Access Route
-  Road Crossing

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Map 4



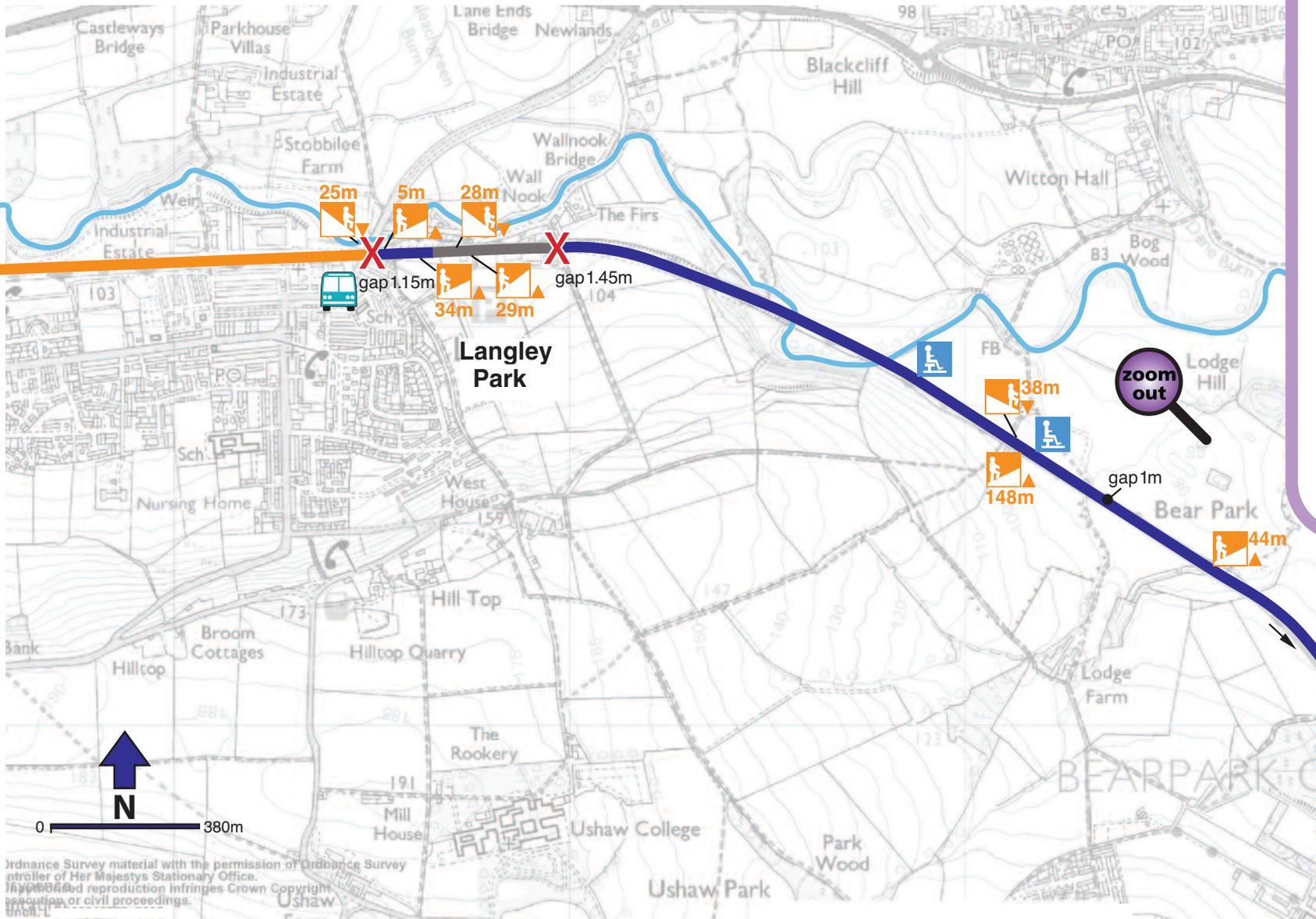
KEY

-  Gate
-  Picnic Area
-  Seat
-  Parking
-  Disabled Parking
-  Bus Stop
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Hard Sealed Surface
-  Road Crossing

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Map 5



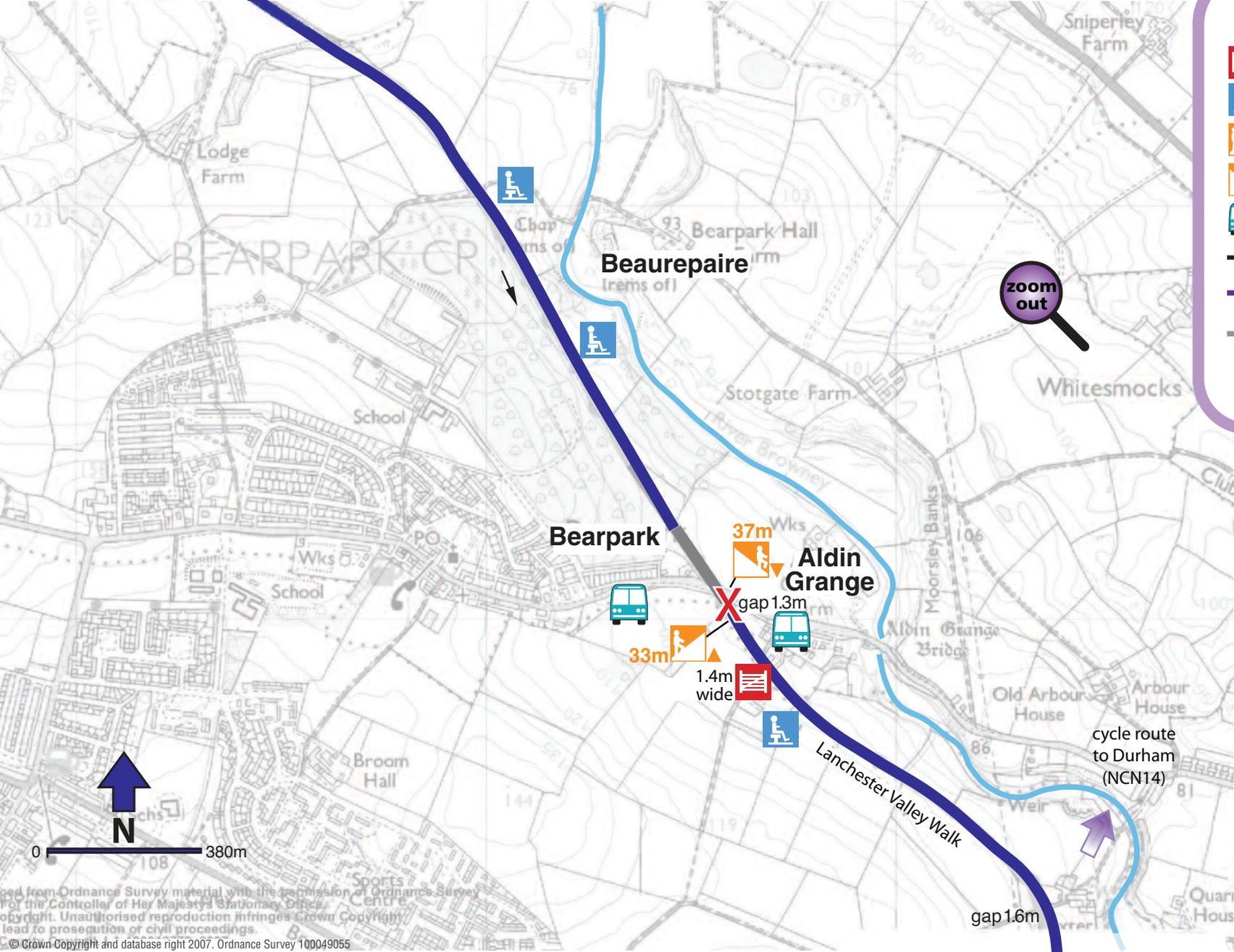
KEY

-  Seat
-  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
-  Easy Access Route
-  Road/Tarmac
-  Road Crossing

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Map 6



KEY

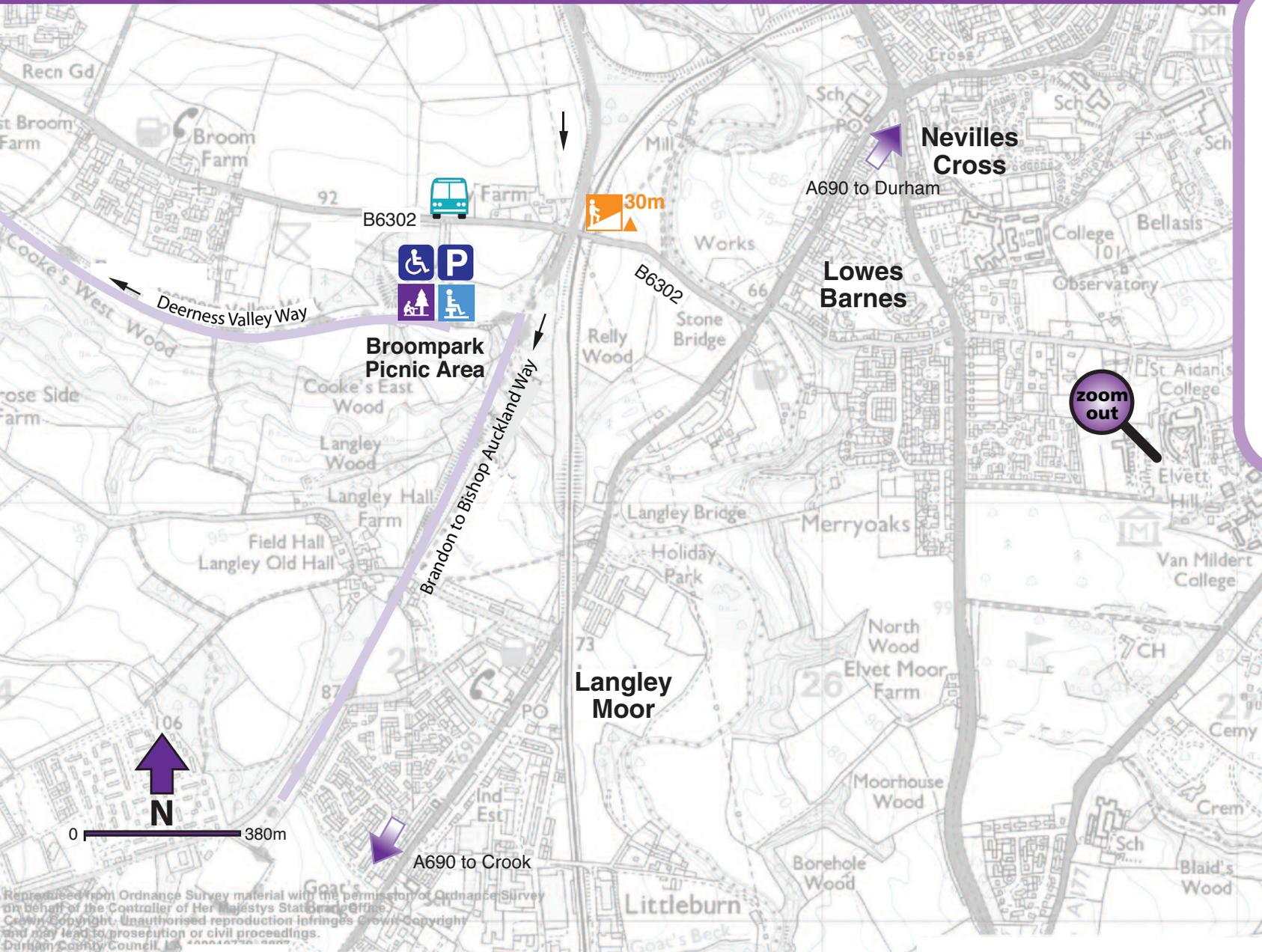
-  Gate
-  Seat
-  Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:1
-  Steep Slope Down 1:10-1:1
-  Bus Stop
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Road/Tarmac
-  Road Crossing

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Lanchester Valley Railway Path

Map 7



KEY

-  Picnic Area
-  Seat
-  Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
-  Parking
-  Disabled Parking
-  Bus Stop
-  Direction of Travel
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Road/Tarmac
-  Road Crossing

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