

HERITAGE TRAILS GUIDE

Stockton

Guided walks through
our industrial heritage

River Tees
Rediscovered 

CONTENTS



Walk 1
Thornaby Trail
Page 2



Walk 2
Ingleby Trail
Page 4



Walk 3
Egglescliffe & Aislaby Tail
Page 6

Walk 4
Eight Bridges Way
Page 8



Care to share?

Upload your pics to Instagram.
#heritagetrails

WELCOME

The Borough of Stockton-on-Tees owes much of its development to the River Tees.

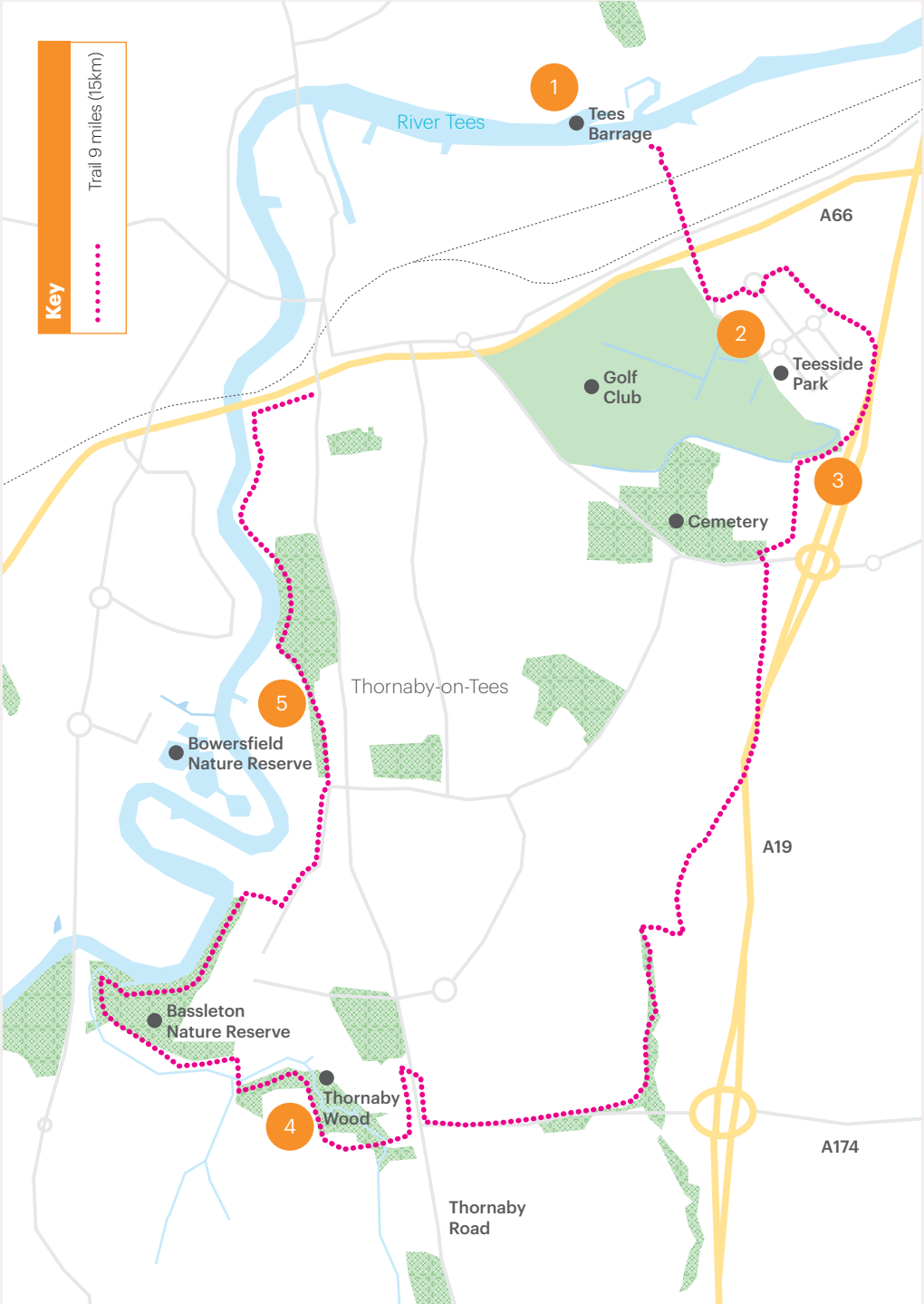
In the early 13th century, Yarm was the most prosperous port on the river. Sailing ships brought wine and flax to the town and sheepskins for the tanneries along the river banks. On the return journey, salt, agricultural produce and lead from the mines in Swaledale were transported by sea to London and to the North-East coastal ports.

With the expansion of the coal trade in the 17th century, Stockton became the major river port when coal was carried to the docks from the Durham coalfield by horse and cart to be shipped to London and overseas. Originally Stockton-on-Tees was a rural community, but with the Industrial Revolution came huge developments in heavy industry and massive expansion downstream to the estuary.

In the early 19th century the River Tees was altered between Stockton-on-Tees and Middlesbrough. The river previously meandered first south and then north of its current channel, the river was straightened, thus saving money and time in navigation.

In 1995 the Tees Barrage International White Water Centre opened on the north bank of the River Tees. The purpose built, artificial white water course helped regenerate the area and has since been transformed into a world class facility.

These trails enable you to explore our exciting mix of built, natural and industrail heritage.



THORNABY TRAIL

1

A circular walk through the woodlands and countryside of Thornaby. Including some delightful paths along the Thornaby bank of the River Tees.



▲ Tees Barrage

Highlights

1. Completed in 1995 the **Tees Barrage** was built to control the flow of the river, protect the surrounding areas from flooding. The water above the barrage is permanently held at high tide making the river perfect for canoeing, paddle boarding and rowing.

2. The river once had two large meanders (**the Portrack loop and Mandale loop**) which made it difficult for large boats to navigate their way up to Stockton, so during the 1800s the river was straightened by making two 'cuts'.

This section of the route is part of the old Mandale loop, now a tidal fragment of saltmarsh and a rare habitat which includes plants such as sea aster, sea plantain and common glasswort.



▲ Old River Tees

3. To the north-east of Stainsby Wood lie the deserted remains of the **medieval village of Stainsby** and part of its surviving open field system. The village survives as a series of earthworks and buried remains in the fields south and east of Stainsby Grange Farm.

4. A beautiful oak and ash woodland **Thornaby Wood** separates Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick. Two WWII pillboxes located here, acted as an infantry post for up to five riflemen who helped defend the nearby Thornaby Airfield.

5. **Thornaby Green** is a beautiful, tranquil spot a short distance away from the river and provides the setting for St Peters Church that dates from the 12th Century. Thornaby Green is a designated Conservation Area.

Distance

9 miles (15km)

Estimated walk time

2 hours 15 minutes

Grade

Moderate

Suggested start/finish

Tees Barrage

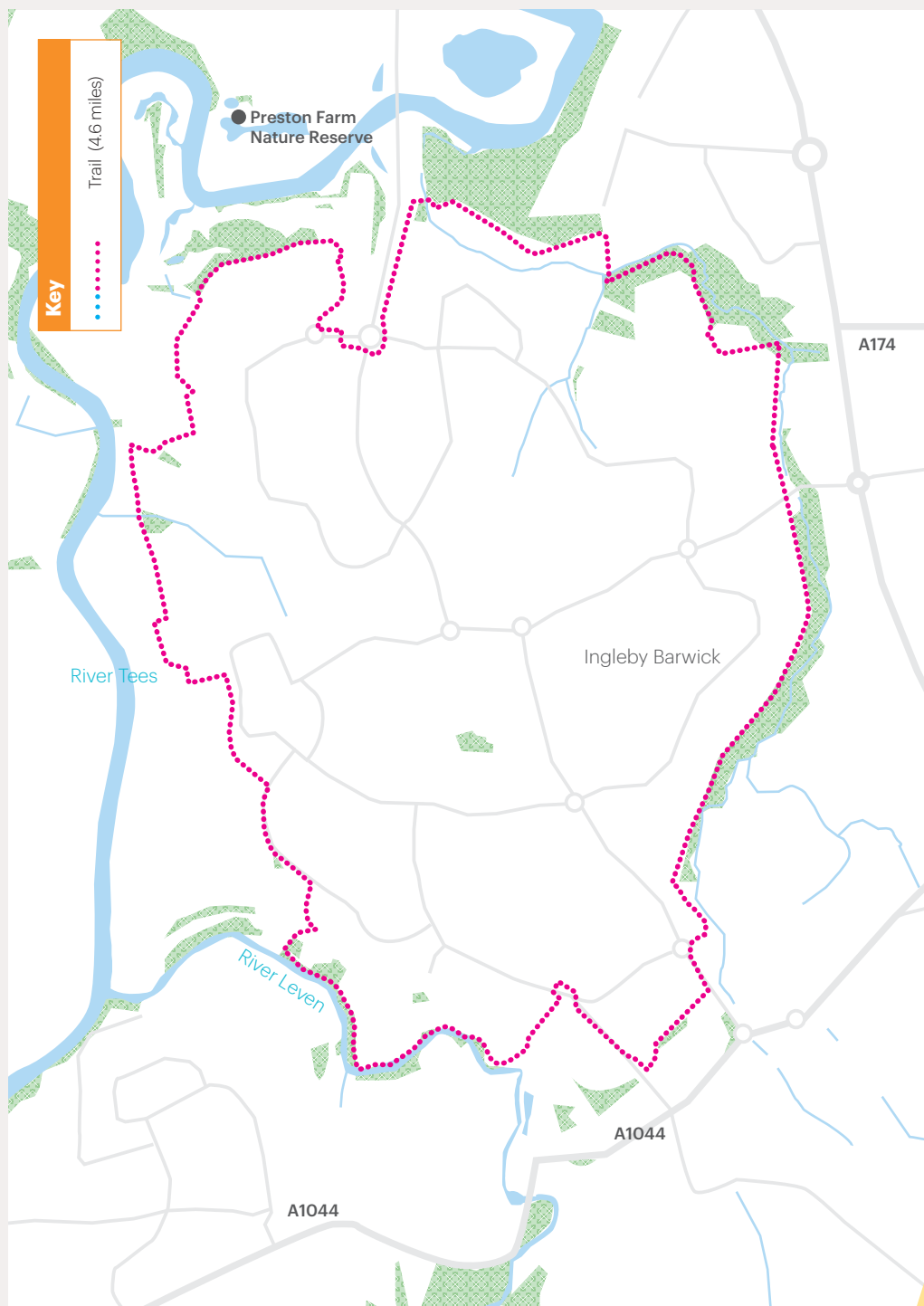
Route information

Surfaces – All on all-weather surfaced paths between Victoria Bridge, Tees Barrage and Teesside Park. Remainder of route mainly on roughly surfaced and unsurfaced paths, including woodland tracks and grass.

Refreshments – Café and pub at Tees Barrage. Other cafes, pubs and shops a short distance off the route in Teesside Park, Thornaby and Stockton.

▼ Near Stainsby Beck



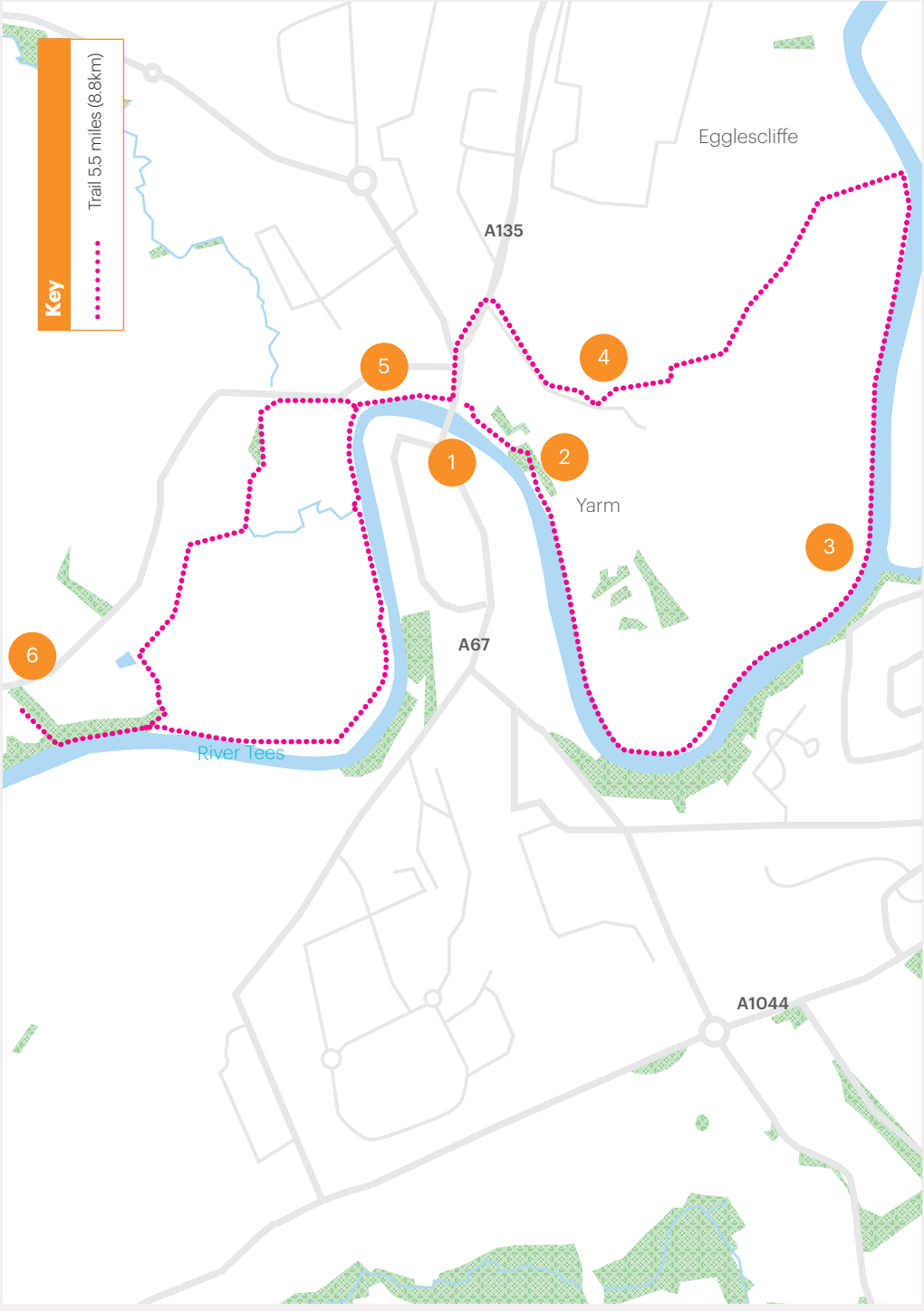


We need information for this trail. Can you advise please?

believed to be Anglo-Saxon Old English for the “place of oaks” Once a small village it is home to Acklam Hall which was, until 1928, the residence of the

flora. In drier grassland its diverse species include herbs, yellow rattle, the common spotted orchid, birdsfoot trefoil and common knapweed.





EGGLESCLIFFE & AISLABY TRAIL

3

A figure of eight following the loop of the Tees near Yarm and exploring the beautiful villages and countryside north of the river.



▲ Egglescliffe and the Tees

Highlights

1. Originally built on the orders of Bishop Skirlaw of Durham around 1400, **Yarm bridge** has been altered many times over the centuries. During the English Civil War **Egglescliffe** was heavily involved in guarding the bridge on behalf of the Royalists, while Parliamentarian forces occupied Yarm leading to a battle on 1st February 1643.

2. **Yarm** was the first port to develop on the River Tees. Wharves once occupied the riverbank, and back as far as the 12th and 13th centuries farmers in the surrounding area brought their wool to Yarm where it was loaded on ships and sent to Scotland, France and Flanders.

3. The **River Leven** joins the Tees at this point. The high land at the confluence is **Round Hill**.



▲ Teesdale Way at Egglescliffe

is the site of a former Norman castle.

4. Today's **Egglescliffe village** mainly dates from medieval times, although the village was mentioned in the 11th century Domesday Book. The medieval cross on the green probably marks the boundary between two landholdings: of the church to the west and the Old Hall to the east.

5. Half a mile long and some 22m above the river, the **Yarm Viaduct** was completed in 1851 at a cost of £44,500. It has 43 arches and is constructed with around seven million bricks!

6. In the 1700s, a mile upstream from **Aislaby** a small quay was built at Low Worsall. Here lead and other goods were loaded onto horse drawn boats because the river was tidal.

Distance

Full trail
5.5 miles (8.8km)
Or as two circuits
Egglescliffe loop:
3.1 miles (5.0km)
Aislaby loop:
2.4 miles (3.8km)

Estimated walk time

Full trail: 1 hour 27 minutes

Grade

Moderate

Suggested start/finish

Yarm Bridge

Route information

Car parking – Yarm High St.
Buses – to Yarm High St

Surfaces – mainly grass and field-edge footpaths.

Refreshments – Pubs and cafes in Yarm. Pub in Egglescliffe village.

▼ Yarm Viaduct





FOUR BRIDGES TRAIL

4

Following part Eight Bridges Way this trail allows residents and visitors great access to the River Tees Corridor and provides differing views of the bridges and surrounding landscape along the way.



▲ Newport Bridge



▲ Tees Barrage

Highlights

1. Completed in 1995 the **Tees Barrage** was built to control the flow of the river, protect the surrounding areas from flooding. The water above the barrage is permanently held at high tide making the river perfect for canoeing, paddle boarding and rowing. There is plenty of wildlife to spot in and around the river; from swans and cormorants to salmon and crowd favorites, the entertaining seals that can often be seen bobbing up and down in the river. It has even been known that dolphins travel down as far as Tees Barrage from the North Sea!

2. This footbridge was built at a cost of £15m, was opened on 14th May 2009 and named the **Infinity Bridge** because its shape when reflected in the

river resembles the mathematical symbol for infinity. The design, by Expedition Engineering and architect Spence Associates, was chosen from RIBA design competition in 2003.

3. The **A19 Tees Viaduct** is 2.9km long with 68 spans. The nine spans over the river have a clearance of 20.73m and it carries around 115,000 vehicles per day.

4. Built by Dorman Long & Co Ltd, the **Newport Bridge** provided 36.6m headroom and 76.2m clear width of water when raised. The machinery for raising and lowering the bridge was located at the centre of the 2,876 tonnes lifting span. The decline in shipping led to the lifting span being permanently fixed down in 1990.

Distance

? miles (?km)

Estimated walk time

? hours

Grade

Easy

Suggested start/finish

Tees Barrage

Route information

Parking – There is a large free car park along navigation way. You can also park at the Tees Barrage International White Water Centre

By train – Thornaby Station is the nearest at a 10 to 15 minute walk away

Refreshments – Tees Barrage Cafe, The Talpore, Infinity Marine Cafe and Premier Inn.

Surfaces – mainly footpaths

▼ Infinity Bridge



River Tees Rediscovered

River Tees Rediscovered Landscape Partnership has been supported by funding raised by The National Lottery and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and is hosted by Groundwork NE & Cumbria.

