

# HERITAGE TRAILS GUIDE

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## Hartlepool

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Guided walks through  
our industrial heritage

River Tees  
**Rediscovered** 

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*#heritagetrails*

# WELCOME

Explore this extraordinary coastal area north to Teesmouth and discover how man, industry and nature exist in perfect harmony.

Seaton Carew is a small seaside resort situated on the North Sea coast at the mouth of the River Tees. The area is named after a Norman French family called 'Carou' who owned lands in the area and settled there while 'Seaton' means farmstead or settlement by the sea.

Seal Sands is an area of international importance as it's the only inter-tidal mudflat between Lindisfarne to its north and the Humber to the south.

On land recovered from the sea, the area around Seal Sands is home to leading names within the Chemical Industry. Such as Ineos, Fine Organics, Central Area Transmission System (BP Group), SABIC, Vertellus and ConocoPhillips.

And Greatham is a picturesque rural village home to around a thousand people.

The area has a long history of salt works, but this declined in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the middle of the 20th century, Cerebos salt works were taken over by Sharwood's although the factory has now closed but is being leased out as office units.



**Key**

Trail (4.6 miles)

# GREATHAM CIRCULAR

1

Greatham village first appears in written sources as Gretham in 1196. Today it is home to 1000 people and a surprising number of points of interest all of which can be seen on this circular walk.



▲ Seal Sands



▲ Seals on Seal Sands

## Highlights

The Sheaf Thrower sculpture was erected in 1995 and commemorates the sheaf-throwing contest that has taken place annually at Greatham Feast for over 500 years. The birds perched in his hair represent a local rookery.

Founded in 1273 by the then Bishop of Durham, Robert de Stichell, The Hospital of God was originally a foundation to aid poor people. However, by the 16th century, it had become a "house of entertainment for gentlemen"! Reforms in 1610 led to its original mission being resumed.

Cowpen Bewley Country Park is well worth a visit due to the variety of wildlife it holds. The 300-acre woodland park is

planted with a third of a million trees and is part of Tees Forest Community Forest. As well as the lake - a fine location for birdwatching, there are ponds, wetland flushes and hay meadows providing diverse habitats for wildlife. Over 80 species of birds and 14 species of dragonfly use the park as well as numerous insects and the reclusive water vole.

The Creek and surrounding land is part of Cowpen Marsh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This designation identifies the site as nationally important and gives it special legal protection. You may see wading birds such as curlew and redshank feeding and common seals hauled out along the Creek when the tide is low.

## Distance

3.5 miles (6km)

## Estimated walk time

1 hour 45 minutes

## Grade

Moderate

## Suggested start/finish

1 hour 45 minutes

## Getting there

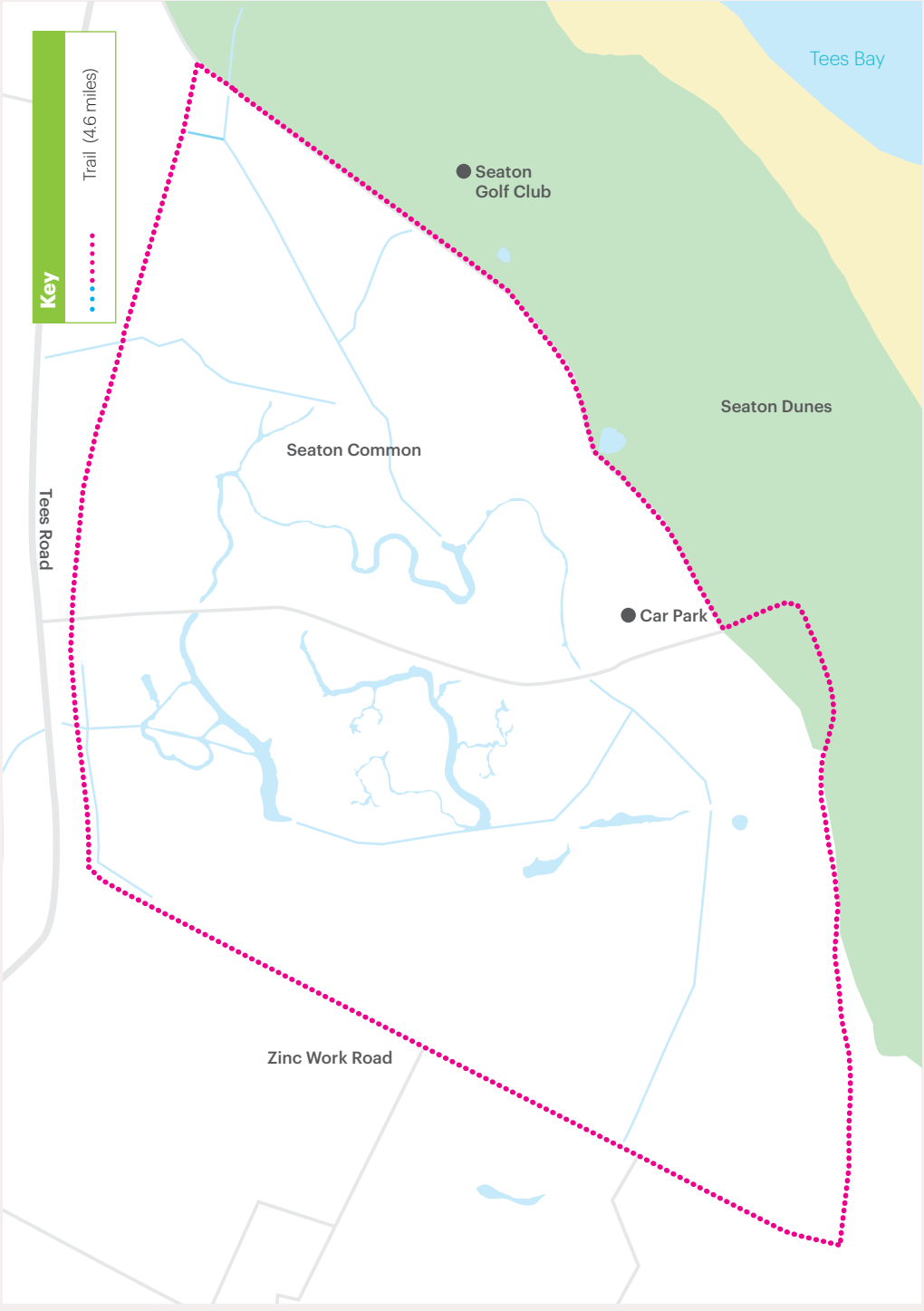
Greatham is situated approximately 2 miles to the south of Hartlepool.

**By Bus** – bus stops are located in Greatham Village and bus times can be obtained by calling the Traveline number on 0870 608 2 608.

**By Car** – From Hartlepool centre take the A689 south for 2 miles, turn left at Sapper's Corner, signposted Greatham. Car parking is available street- side in Greatham village and at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park situated off the Seal Sands Link Road (A1185).

## ▼ Dragonfly







# SEATON SNOOKS CIRCULAR

2

Originally a small fishing community, Seaton Carew became a thriving seaside resort in the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly popular with the Quakers of Darlington during Victorian times.



▲ Curlew



▲ Marsh Orchids

Later it became a fashionable seaside destination as visits to 'health' resorts gained popularity. This lovely circular walk is a great way to take in the area.

## Highlights

Seaton Common and Dunes Local Nature Reserve is home to a vast number of resident and migratory wading birds, as well as invertebrates and mammals. The Common holds much historical interest including the relics of the once-thriving salt industry, ridge and furrow field systems and old sea wall. Across the golf course, you will find Seaton Dunes, one of the largest dune systems between Lindisfarne and the Humber, providing a rich and varied habitat for many plants and animals including Purple Milk Vetch and Curlew.

A 'National Nature Reserve' Teesmouth National Nature Reserve is a protected area where wildlife comes first, although public access is allowed it is strictly controlled. Teesmouth NNR is especially important for its birdlife. The 355-acre site stretches from North Gare Sands down to Greatham Creek and plays host to over 20,000 waterfowl each year.

[Little short on content here. We could do with some guidance]

## Distance

9 miles (14.5km)

## Estimated walk time

2 hours 15 minutes

## Grade

Challenging

## Suggested start/finish

Marina/Seaton Carew

## Route

This walk is on tarmac and track along the seafront and through Seaton Snooks Common, which has gated access. There's an alternative to crossing the Common on the way back with no stiles or difficult ground.

## Route

The Marina is situated just north of Hartlepool centre. **By Bus** – The Marina is within walking distance of Hartlepool Centre. There are bus stops in Seaton Carew and to the south of Seaton Snooks Common, call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 for bus times.

**By Car** – To the Marina: from Hartlepool centre take the A179 north turning right at the roundabout after the Historic Quay. To Seaton Carew: Take the A178 south for 3 miles from Hartlepool centre. Car parking is available at the Marina, Seaton Carew and the North Gare car park on Seaton Snooks Common.

# River Tees Rediscovered

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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.

