



HERITAGE TRAILS GUIDE

Middlesbrough

Guided walks through
our industrial heritage

River Tees
Rediscovered 

CONTENTS



Walk 1
Sailor's Trods Historic Trail
Page 2



Walk 2
Acklam Hall – Old River Tees
Page 4



Walk 3
Iron Masters Trail
Page 6

Walk 4
Stainsby Hall & Stainton
Page 8



Care to share?

Upload your pics to Instagram.
#heritagetrails

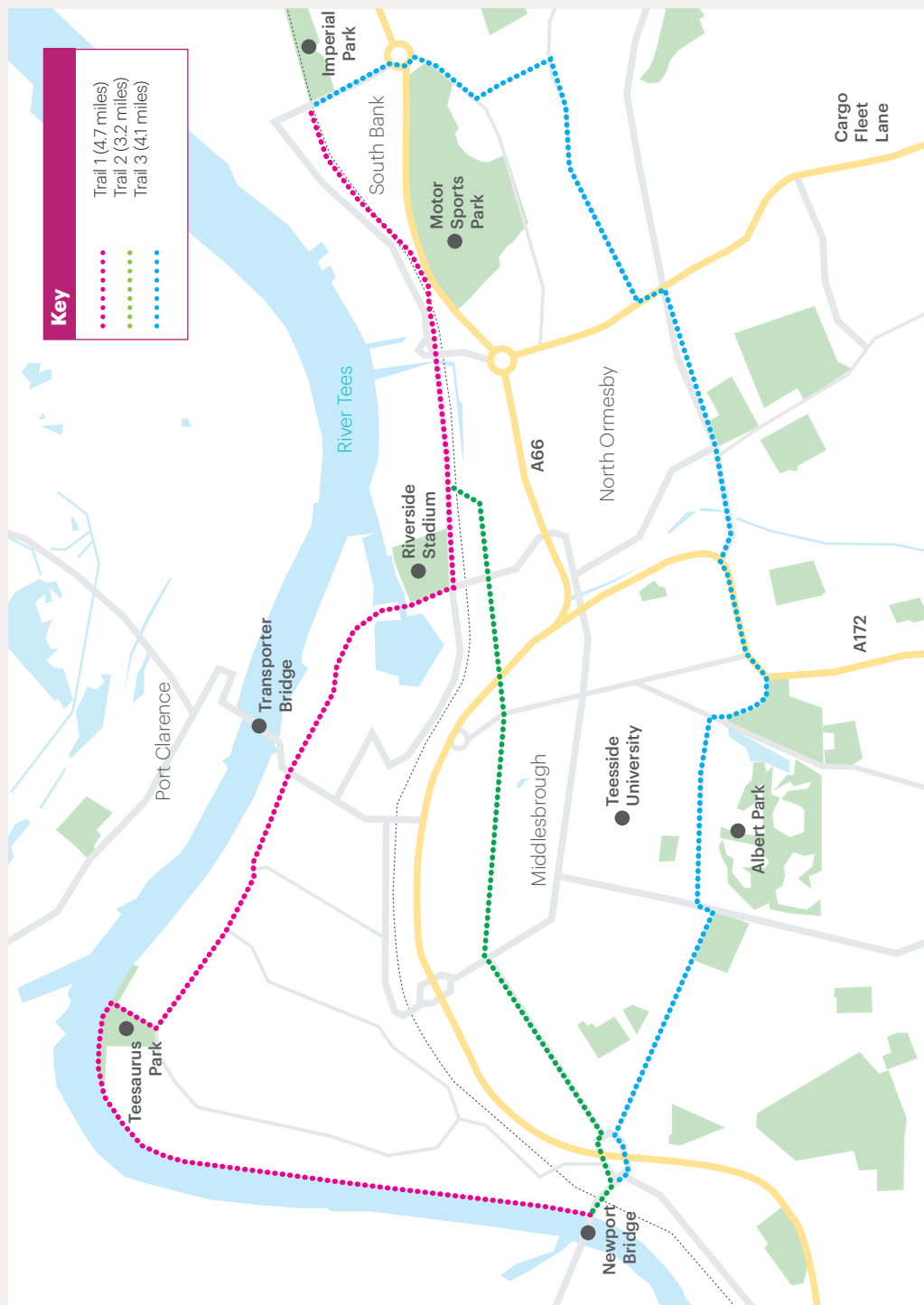
WELCOME

In the early 19th century the area we now know as Middlesbrough was a vast salt marsh and home to less than 40 people. The extension of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1827 meant a new branch line was built towards the newly formed Port Darlington (in the vicinity of the current Transporter Bridge) and Middlesbrough was born.

Initially, a port to ship coal, the discovery iron ore in the nearby Eston Hills led to the establishment of an iron and steel industry on the south bank of the Tees with the town becoming a world leader in iron production towards the end of the 19th century. The demands of industry led to the reclamation of large areas of marshland on the south side of the river where the ground level was increased by at least four metres through the tipping of millions of tons of slag and waste from the iron and steelworks.

A chemical industry was also developing on the north side of the river with the exploitation of brine and with the chlorine, soda and salt works at the newly formed Port Clarence. This increasing industrial activity led to a massive house-building programme and Middlesbrough trebled in size as existing towns joined together. The growing population needed schools, churches, shops while the growth of the railways the road network led to improved communications and the building of key bridges across the River Tees. The most significant of these being the Victoria Bridge at Stockton and the Transporter and Newport Bridges at Middlesbrough.

The heritage trails are designed to help visitors experience this striking landscape through its built, natural and industrial heritage.



SAILOR'S TRODS HISTORIC TRAIL

1

In the early 19th Century, before Middlesbrough developed into the town we see today, the ports of Cargo Fleet and Newport were linked by footpaths known as Sailor's Trods.



▲ Transporter Bridge



▲ Riverside Stadium

These short-cuts were used by working seamen who needed to get to Teesmouth and the coast. These three trails follow these old routes.

Highlights

Newport Bridge is a vertical-lift bridge spanning the river linking Middlesbrough with the borough of Stockton-on-Tees. Completed in 1934 the bridge was built by local company Dorman Long. It was the first large vertical-lift bridge in Britain and although it no longer lifts, it still acts as a road bridge in its permanently down position.

The Transporter Bridge was opened 1911 and carries a suspended 'gondola', suspended across the river in 90 seconds. The gondola can carry 200 people, 9 cars, or 6 cars and

one minibus. The bridge joins the A178 in Middlesbrough to Hartlepool Road.

Riverside Stadium is home of Middlesbrough Football Club and attracts a large and passionate crowd for every home game. Opening in 1995 its current capacity is 34,742.

Albert Park was completed in 1868 as a conscious need to provide a "green lung" to ease the plight of the burgeoning industrial population of the town. Officially opened by Prince Arthur of Connaught the park was named after his father Prince Albert and was home to the original Middlesbrough Football Club. Facilities include a visitor centre, roller skating rink, cafe, boat hire tennis courts, bowling greens, play areas and a bandstand.

Distance

Trail one: 4.7 miles

Trail two: 3.2 miles

Trail three: 4.1 miles

Estimated walk time

Trail one: 1 hour 15 minutes

Trail two: 50 minutes

Trail three: 1 hour

Grade

Moderate

Suggested start/finish

Start: Newport Bridge

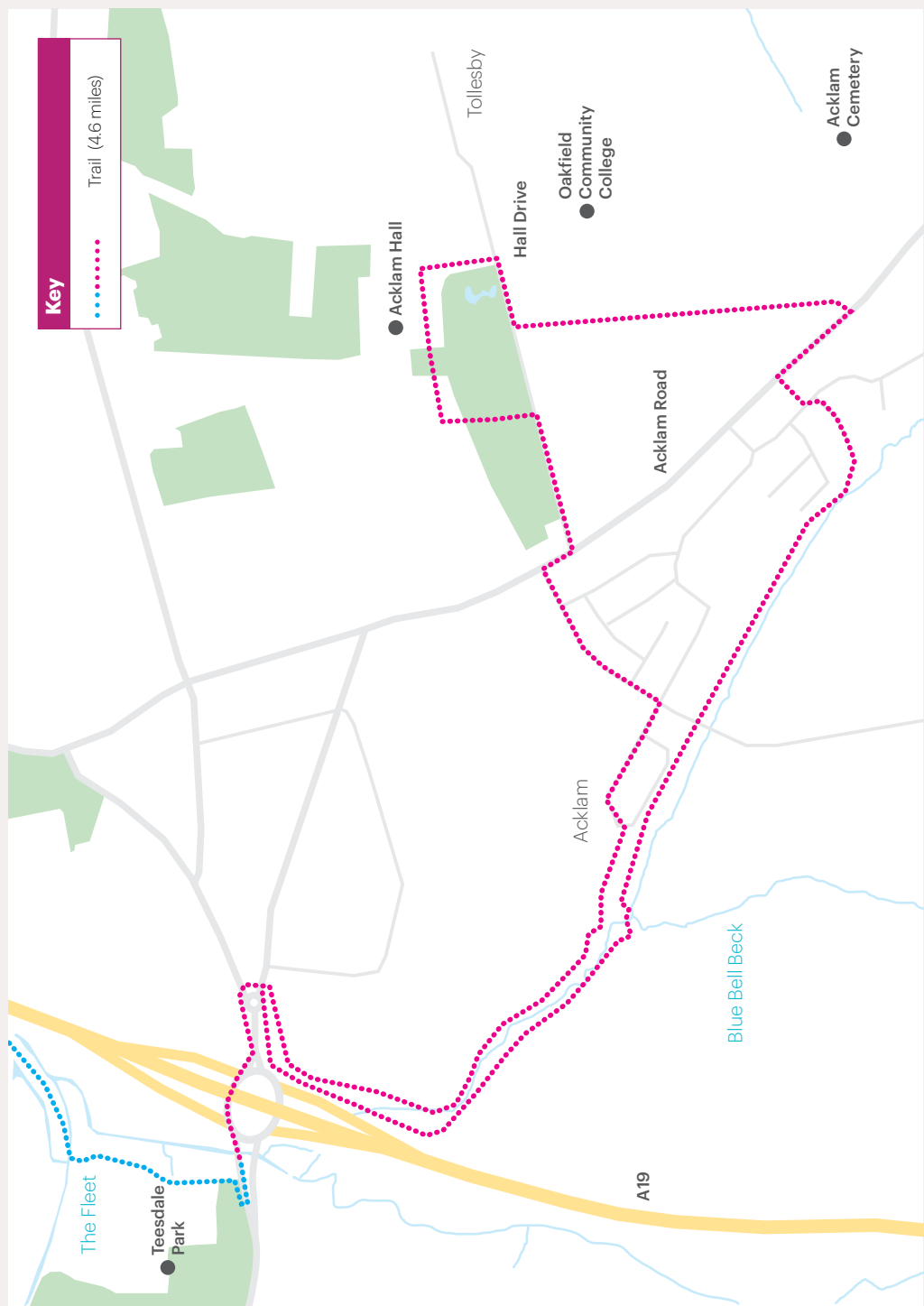
Finish: Imperial Park

Route

Trail one – Follow the bend of the river north from Newport Bridge and then travel east towards the Transporter Bridge and past the Riverside Stadium onto South bank.

Trail two – Follow Newport Road north and then travel through the centre of Middlesbrough joining trail one and the river south of Riverside Stadium.

Trail three – From Newport towards Linthorpe along what is now Parliament Road, cross Linthorpe Road and head along the northern edge of Albert Park. Then along Longlands Road to the junction with Cargo fleet lane. Then onto Sotherby Road turning north on Brunel Road towards the river.



ACKLAM HALL OLD RIVER TEES

2

In the first half of the 19th century, the River Tees was straightened to enable ships to save time and money navigating between Stockton-on-Tees and Middlesbrough.



▲ Acklam Hall



▲ Old River Tees

The river previously meandered first south and then north of its current channel before two 'cuts', known as the Mandale Cut and the Portrack Cut, were made to straighten its course in 1810 and 1831 respectively. Before this, the journey by sailing barge from Thornaby to the mouth of the Tees could take as long as seven days. The current Tees Barrage is close to the site of the Mandale Cut.

Highlights

The course of the Old River Tees is still well defined as it meanders around what is now Teesside Retail Park.

The name Acklam or "Aclun" is 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

Hustler family. Built by William Hustler, an English draper and Whig MP, between 1680–83 the house is Middlesbrough's only Grade I listed building and was also formerly a grammar school and a Middlesbrough College campus. Now in private ownership it is an exclusive wedding venue with a spa, gym, conference rooms and a high quality restaurant.

Bluebell beck winds through meadows and woodland west of Acklam. Enthusiastic local volunteer group 'The Friends of Bluebell Beck' help to maintain the area and part of the site is now designated as a 'Local Wildlife Site' for its meadow flora. Neutral grassland its diverse species include herbs, yellow rattle, the common spotted orchid, birdsfoot trefoil and common knapweed.

Distance

4.6 miles

Estimated walk time

1 hour 15 minutes

Grade

Moderate

Suggested start/finish

Start: Old River Tees

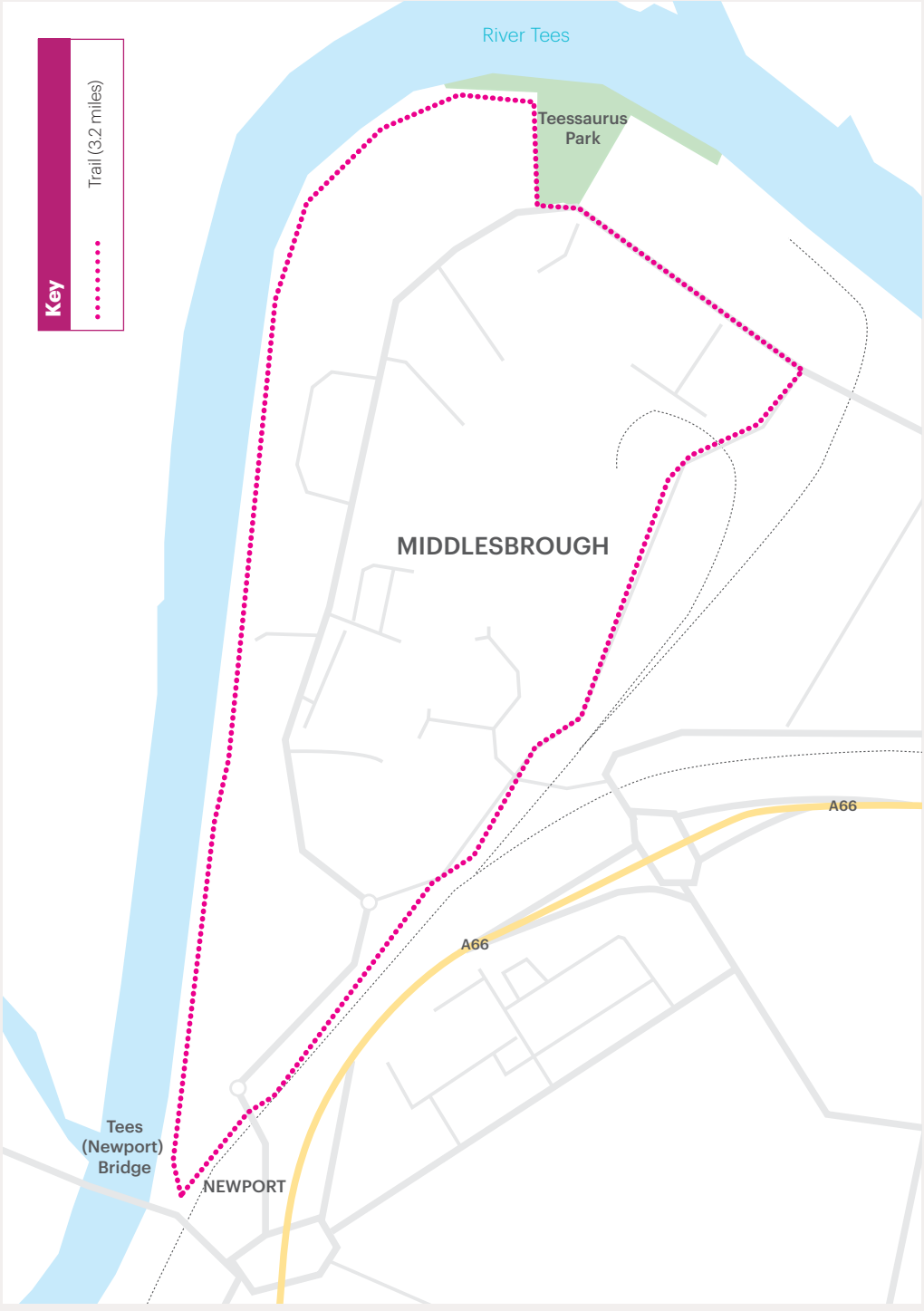
Finish: Mandale Interchange

Route

Begin in the district of Stockton-on-Tees moving along the course of the Old River Tees. Then travel south along the course of The Fleet and enter Middlesbrough west of the A19 Mandale Interchange. Moving south-east and looping around the suburb of Acklam. Then follow the route of Bluebell Beck back northwards and end at the Mandale Interchange.

▼ Yellow Rattle





Key

..... Trail (3.2 miles)

River Tees

Teessaurus Park

MIDDLESBROUGH

Tees (Newport) Bridge

NEWPORT

A66

A66

IRON MASTERS TRAIL

3

Before industrialisation, this area was known as West Marsh – a salt marsh, whose surface was some 20 feet lower than at present, the area was tidal would and partially flood at high tide.



▲ Newport Bridge

In around 1850 iron ore or 'ironstone' was discovered in the Eston Hills to the South East of Middlesbrough. Easy access to this sought-after raw material led to the rapid growth of ironworks along the banks of the River Tees.

At the height of the boom in 1872, there were 95 blast furnaces along the river and the resulting growth in employment meant the population of Middlesbrough increased from 5,500 to 39,500. People living in the crowded crisscrossing streets of the Canon street area across the railway bridge.

The area would become a world-leader in iron production and the air would have been continuously thick with dense smoke from the blast furnaces.



▲ Teessaurus Park

Highlights

Newport Bridge was built in 1934 by local firm Dorman Long. The first vertical lift bridge in the world its design enabled its platform to be raised by 37 metres to allow clearance for larger vessels.

Built on the site of a former slag heap Teessaurus Park opened in 1979 as the result of an 'Art to Landscape' competition. where Middlesbrough Council commissioned a life-size steel sculpture of a triceratops by artist Genevieve Glat and fabricated by Harts of Stockton. Two infant triceratops, as well as a life-size brachiosaurus, brontosaurus, mammoth, stegosaurus and tyrannosaurus sculptures, were added later with these sculptures built by trainees at Amarc Training and Safety.

Distance

3.2 miles

Estimated walk time

1 hour

Grade

Moderate

Suggested start/finish

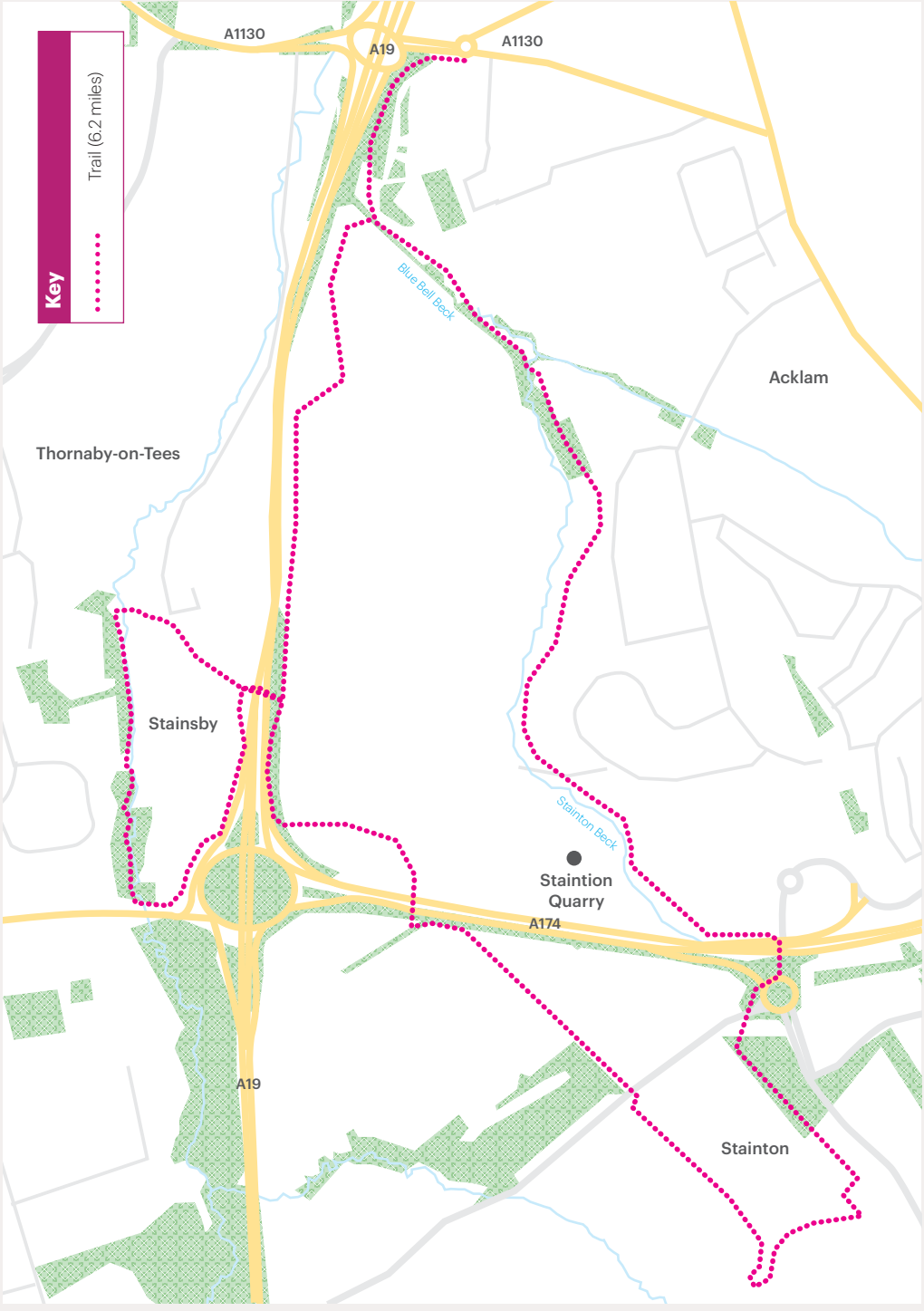
Newport Bridge

Route

Follow the river path northwards from Newport Bridge towards Teesaurus Park. When you reach Teesaurus Park join Riverside Park Road and head east until its junction of Forty Foot Road. Then head south on Forty Foot Road parallel with the Railway line towards the A66 Newport Interchange and Canon Street.

▼ Newport Ironworks





STAINSBY HALL & STANTON

4

Stainsby is a medieval village that was deserted by 1757 but its remains can still be seen today as a series of humps and bumps in pasture fields close to Acklam and Thornaby Town Centre.



▲ Stainsby Medieval Village

The majority of local medieval settlements are still inhabited today. However, some were abandoned and their remains are often visible as mounds and ditches in pasture fields.

The village of Stainsby was first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. The name literally means Steinn's Hamlet or Farm. Steinn is a Scandinavian name and the ending 'by' suggests a Scandinavian settlement.

It is not known exactly when or why Stainsby became deserted. Like many other villages, it probably fell on hard times following the Black Death and the wars with Scotland. As population levels fell the remaining inhabitants will have moved to more prosperous settlements such as Stainton and Stainsby went out of use.



▲ Stainton Beck Footbridge

Stainton village has a population of approximately 3,000 and has been a settlement since before Saxon times.

Highlights

Stainton Church dates back to the 12th century and The Stainton Inn pub, on Meldyke Lane, was first licensed in 1897. Stainton Memorial Hall was built in 1844 originally as a School and, after the First World War, was extended and repurposed into the memorial hall you see today.

Stainton Quarry straddles Stainton Beck and a footbridge joins it to Kell Gate Green on the other side of the beck. Forming three hectares of community-run green space for the local people to enjoy.

Distance

6.2 miles

Estimated walk time

2 hours

Grade

Challenging

Suggested start/finish

A1130 Roundabout

Route

Begin on the A1130 and heads south towards Blue Bell Beck. Follows the course of Blue Bell Beck southwards to where it joins Stainton Beck then follows Stainton Beck towards Stainton Quarry. Crossing the A174 and joining Stainton Way turning left on Helmington Road past Stainton Church and then right and northwards along Straight Lane and back north towards the A174. Crossing A174 past Stainsby Hall Farm and cross the A19 looping around the site of the medieval village of Stainsby. Cross the A19 again and head north parallel with the A19 until you reach the starting point.

▼ Stainton Church



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.

