

Wildlife to be seen

The area is home to some spectacular wildlife. As well as some of the more common animals, the sites also contain some regionally and nationally rare animals and plants. A good place for birdwatching!

Some species to look out for:

- Water Vole
- Common Seal
- Salmon
- Grayling Butterfly
- Skylark
- Sand Martin
- Kingfisher
- Heron

Links to other sites

The walk sits in the heart of the Tees Valley, and so offers good links to other sites of interest.

- Riverside walks into both Stockton and Middlesbrough centres
- Tilery Park and the Great North Park
- Lustrum Beck Corridor
- Southwest Ironmasters
- Whinney Banks Greenspace
- Teesside Park

National Cycle Network

The National Cycle Network is a UK wide project being developed by Sustrans. The network now extends to over 6000 miles, including the Tees Riverside route linking Middlesbrough to Stockton and on to Hartlepool. For further information visit www.sustrans.org.uk.

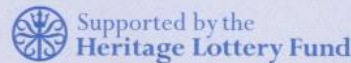
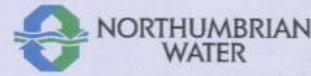


The Tees Forest



The Tees Forest is one of the largest and long-term environmental projects taking place in the Tees Valley.

Working in partnership with five local authorities, The Countryside Agency, Forestry Commission, conservation groups, landowners and local people. The Tees Forest is creating a well-wooded landscape and providing new opportunities for recreation, wildlife, work and education.



Part of the Stockton Education Trail

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust



Portrack Riverside Walk



A circular walk along the banks of the River Tees.

Discover some of the hidden secrets in the heart of Teesside.

Portrack Riverside Walk

The River Tees Nature Walk uses several of the key sites along the banks of the River Tees, where nature is reclaiming land previously used by heavy industry. Passing through nature reserves, along historic footpaths, using the river crossings of the Tees Barrage and Newport Bridge, and with good links to other sites in the area, there is something for everyone along the route.

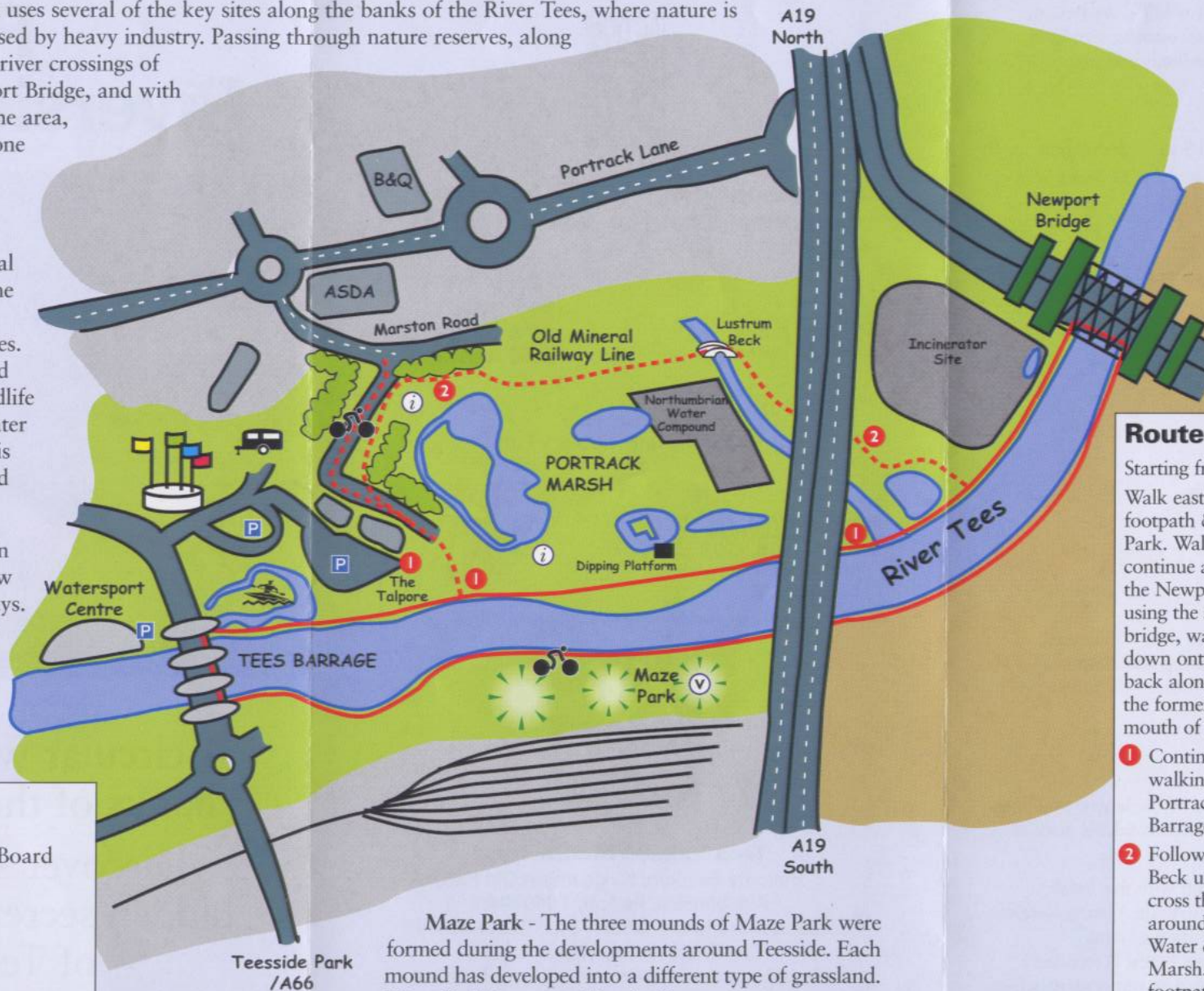
Portrack Marsh - The original marshes were destroyed in the 19th century, with the straightening of the River Tees. The current site is owned and managed by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and Northumbrian Water as a nature reserve. The site is popular for birdwatching and visiting school groups.

Tees Barrage - Constructed in 1987, the Tees Barrage is now managed by British Waterways. The Barrage acts as a barrier between the freshwater upstream and the salt water tidal movements downstream.

Maze Park - The three mounds of Maze Park were formed during the developments around Teesside. Each mound has developed into a different type of grassland. Maze Park is managed by the Trust as a nature reserve, particularly for birds, insects and butterflies.

Incinerator site - The former Portrack Incinerator site is being developed to provide an area for informal recreation and wildlife.

Old Mineral Railway Line - Disused for many years, the former railway line links Stockton to the Lustrum Beck.



Key

- = Information Board
- = View Point
- = Route Plan
- = Cycleway

Route Plan

Starting from the Tees Barrage:

Walk east towards Middlesbrough, along the footpath & cycle path running through Maze Park. Walk under the A19 Flyover and continue along the pathways until you reach the Newport Bridge. Cross the Newport using the steps that run up the sides of the bridge, walk across the bridge, and back down onto the other side of the river. Walk back along the bankside footpath, adjacent to the former incinerator site until you reach the mouth of Lustrum Beck. Then either:

- 1** Continue along the bankside footpath, walking upstream along the river, through Portrack Marsh, until you reach the Tees Barrage.
- 2** Follow the footpaths alongside Lustrum Beck until you reach the railway bridge, cross the bridge and follow the footpath around the back of the Northumbrian Water compound and onto Portrack Marsh. From here you can either use the footpaths on the site, or walk along the cycleway to reach the Tees Barrage.