

The Whinnies & Middleton St George

Route 5 - 90 Minutes / 4 Miles

A substantial walk through habitats that have formed upon the leftovers of Darlington's industrial past.

About the route

This route takes in two beauty spots in the Middleton St George area. The Whinnies Local Nature Reserve and the water park. The Whinnies LNR is placed on a former iron work site near the Darlington to Stockton railway. The Water Park, was given to the village by Northumbrian water in 1950.

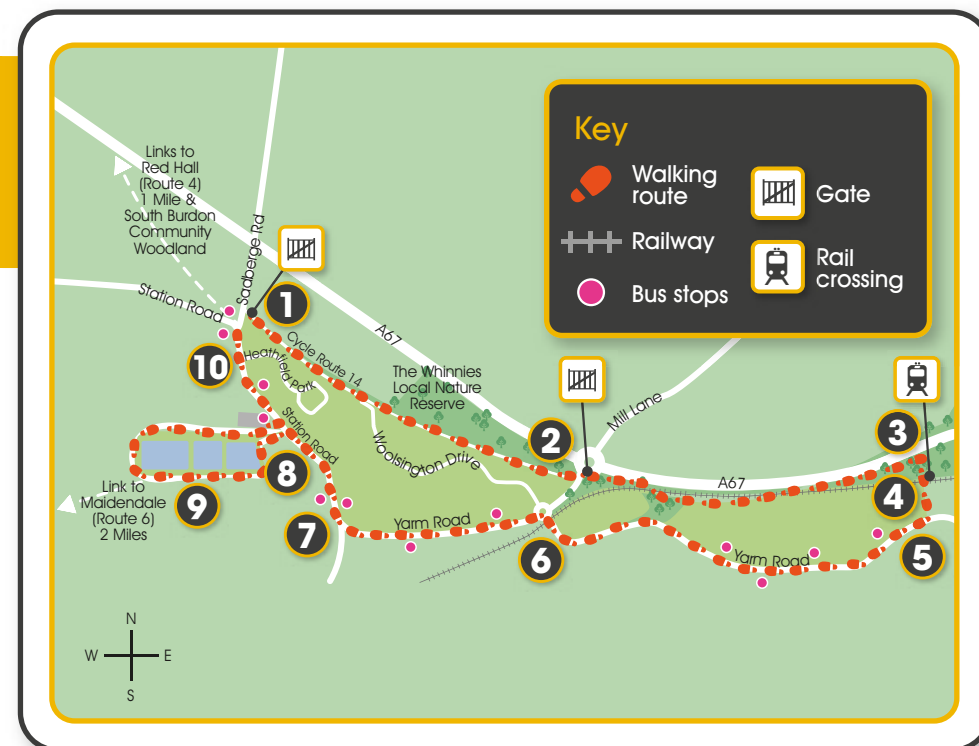
The walk passes through wood and grassland areas, and around 3 large ponds.

The route is mainly flat but some sections are not suitable for wheelchair or pushchair users.

Walking instructions

Start on Sadberge Road (just north of the junction with Haxby Road). You can also access from Station Road or Yarm Road.

- 1 Take cycle route 14 (East from Darlington) and continue to the gate.
 - 2 Cross the road and take the gate opposite. Continue along the track through the nature reserve.
 - 3 Just before the end of the track, take the signed path on your right.
 - 4 Go through the gates and cross the railway line
- (observe safety instructions).
- 5 Continue turning right onto Yarm Road and bear right.
 - 6 Continue straight and turn left at the roundabout.
 - 7 At the T-junction, cross the road and turn right onto Station Road.
 - 8 Just before the church, turn left onto the path towards the ponds.
 - 9 Take the circular path around the ponds.
 - 10 Turn left back onto Station Road and return to the start point.



Health & safety

Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather.

Be careful near ponds and keep children away from the edge.

Take care crossing main roads.

Take care crossing the railway track (use designated crossing point and follow the instructions on the sign).

Things to see

Unusual orchids, moths and butterflies such as; Common Orchids, Cinnabar Moth, Dingy Skipper and Common Blue Butterfly. Within and around the ponds there are also Lily Pads, Eels, Carp, Roach, Perch, Newts, Leaches and Water Scorpions.

This route links to

- Red Hall Local Nature Reserve (Route 4).
- South Burdon Community Woodland.
- Maiden Dale Local Nature Reserve (Route 6) via Morton Park.
- This walk is close to bus routes 12/12A & 18.