

# Broompark Picnic Area

## What is special?

Broompark, once a coal mine and coal storage depot, was also a junction of three railway lines. The area has been completely transformed and these days it is a popular picnic area and the hub of three reclaimed Railway Paths:

- Lanchester Valley - 12 miles to Consett
- Deerness Valley - 8.5 miles to Crook
- Brandon-Bishop Auckland - 9 miles to Bishop Auckland

It is an ideal starting point for walking, cycling and horse-riding, or indeed, somewhere to stop and take a breather. A mounting block and an information panel is located right next to the car park. At Broompark itself there are two circular routes; an easy access Woodland Walk and the Two Oaks walk which allow visitors to explore the site and enjoy its wildlife.

This site is as important for wildlife as it is for people. Fields have been planted with broadleaved trees to increase cover for wildlife. The different habitats support a variety of wildlife, including jays, tawny owls and a family of roe deer. Otters are occasionally spotted frolicking in the River Deerness. Keep an eye out for them if you wander down the Brandon-Bishop Auckland Railway Path.

Ponds, edged with native wetland plants, run next to the Brandon-Bishop Auckland Railway Path as it heads out of Broompark. This fenced area is grazed with highland cattle during the winter to improve the quality of the grassland. The site has a large area of grass with lots of picnic tables and there are excellent views over the Deerness Valley.

[more info...](#)

**Contact the Countryside Service**  
telephone: 0191 372 9100  
email: [countryside@durham.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@durham.gov.uk)  
[www.durham.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.durham.gov.uk/countryside)



**Area:** 37 acres (15 hectares)

**Total length of Easy Access route:** 0.3 mile (500m)

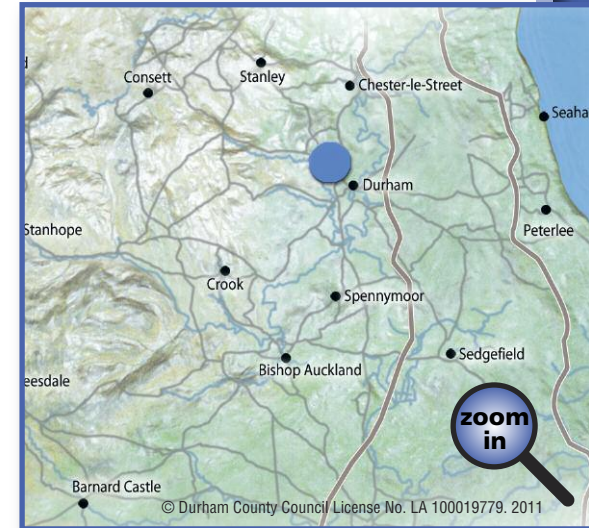
**Total length of woodland route:** 0.5 mile (900m)

**Grid Reference:** NZ 250 415

**Map:** Ordnance Survey Explorer 308

### Directions:

Follow A690  
Durham to Crook  
road. Turn at  
Stonebridge  
roundabout,  
B6302 to Ushaw  
Moor, follow road  
for approximately  
½ mile. Site is on  
the left, signposted  
from the road.  
Nearest postcode  
DH7 7RJ



**Parking:** Large car  
park. Two disabled parking bays

**Public transport:** Service 43 (Arriva) to site entrance, Relly Farm stop.

**Dogs:** Allowed under control. Please clean up after your dog

**Designation:** Picnic area, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certified, Local Wildlife Site, junction of three Railway Paths

**Suitable for:** Walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, and wheelchair users

**Habitats:** Woodland, grassland, wetland

*Whilst every effort has been made by Durham County Council to ensure accuracy of information, the Council cannot accept any liability resulting from omissions or inaccuracies.*

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## Accessibility statement

The site has two specific walk routes.

### Easy access Woodland Walk

This 0.3 mile route consists of tarmac and a hard unsealed surface with the possibility of loose gravel, the path width is 2.2 metres along its entire length. It rises gently to the road.

### Two Oaks Walk

This 0.5 mile route is on different surfaces: bark chip (between 1.7 and 3 metres wide), mown grass (average 3 metres wide) and bare earth (2.4 metres wide). This route is gently undulating and may become waterlogged.



Otter



Jay



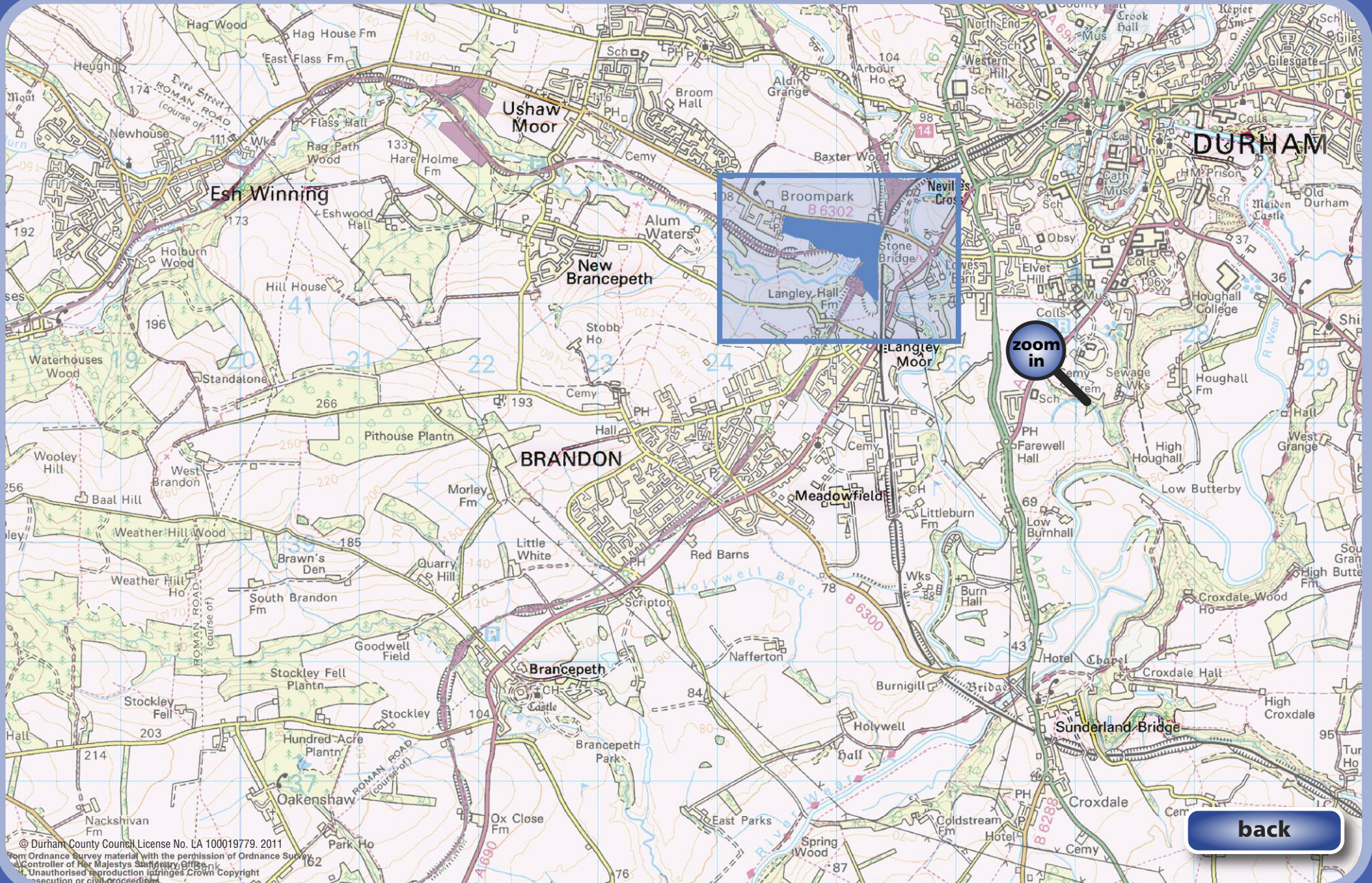
Roe Deer



Tawny Owl

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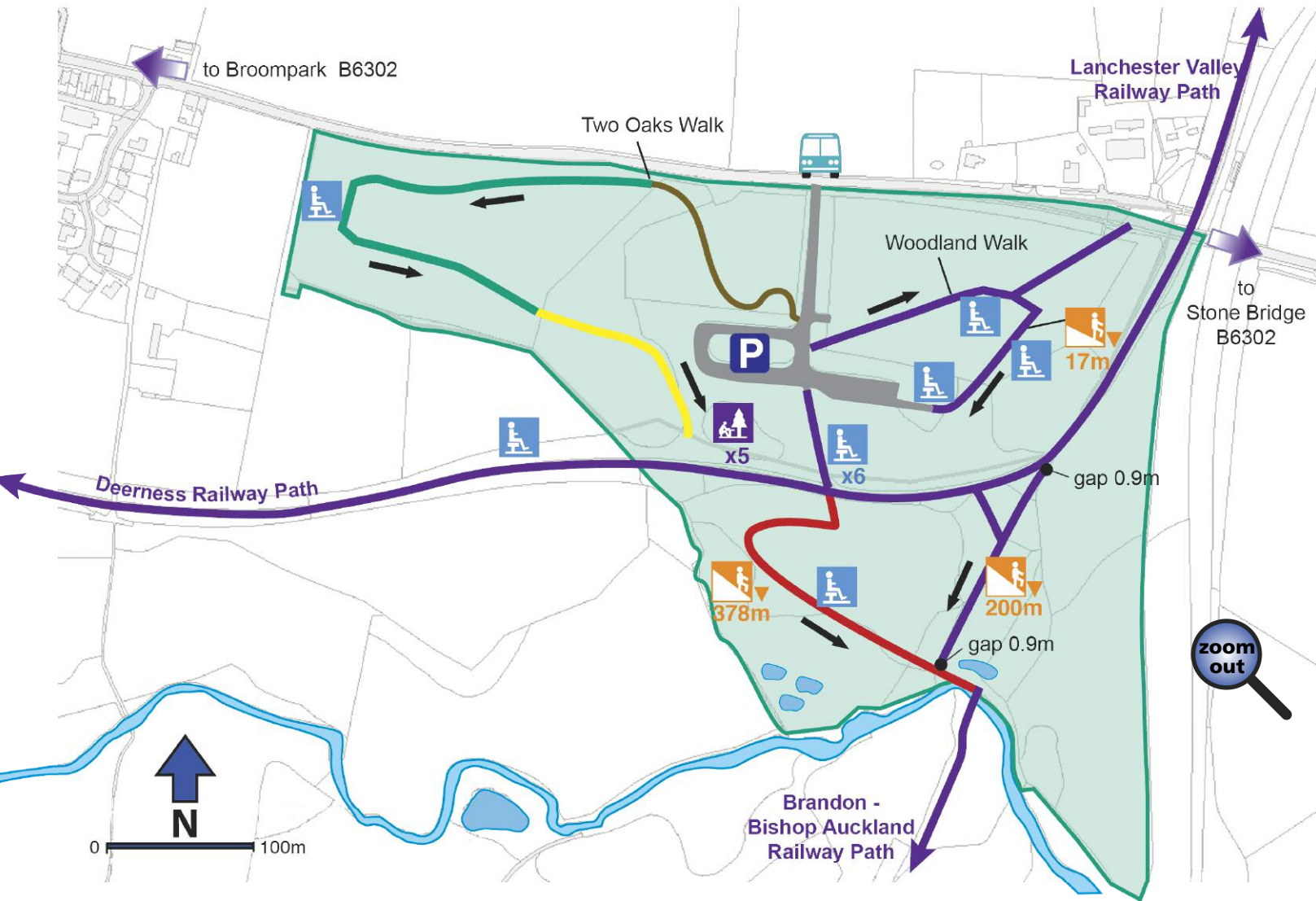
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## KEY

-  Picnic Area
-  Seat
-  Steep Slope Down 1:10-1:10
-  Medium Slope Down 1:20-1:10
-  Parking
-  Disabled Parking
-  Bus Stop
-  Road/Tarmac
-  Hard Sealed Surface
-  Hard Unsealed Surface
-  Bare Earth
-  Mown Grass
-  Bark Chippings
-  Bridge

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