

Middle Rainton Picnic Area

What is special?

The site is built on the remains of Middle Rainton village. At one time there would have been a row of terraced houses, a pub and a saw mill.

This small picnic area has panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve (Durham Wildlife Trust). Middle Rainton picnic area forms a wildlife corridor between these areas. Migrant birds can sometimes be sighted heading towards the ponds at the reserve. The abundance of voles and shrews offer a good feeding ground for birds such as kestrel and long and short-eared owl which hunt in this area.

Mixed trees and shrubs are planted in small compartments surrounded by grasses. This grassland is slowly being developed back into wildflower rich meadow. The picnic area contains grass surrounded by rosebay willowherb and nettles. Although these two plants are often regarded as weeds, they do serve a useful purpose. Rosebay willowherb is the food source for the elephant hawkmoth caterpillar – one of the largest caterpillars in the country. Nettles are munched by various caterpillars before they turn into stunning butterflies.



[more info...](#)

Contact the Countryside Service

telephone: 0191 372 9100

email: countryside@durham.gov.uk

www.durham.gov.uk/countryside



Area: 3.7 acres (1.5 hectares)

Grid Reference: NZ 327 472

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 308

Directions:

5 miles northeast of Durham City centre. Site is located off A690 northbound between West Rainton and Houghton-le-Spring. Entrance is just after the 'City of Sunderland' road sign. Nearest postcode DH4 6PL

Parking:

In lay-by off A690. No disabled parking bays

Public transport:

Service 20 (Go North East) to A690 East Rainton stop which is next to the site

Dogs:

Allowed under control. Please clean up after your dog

Designation:

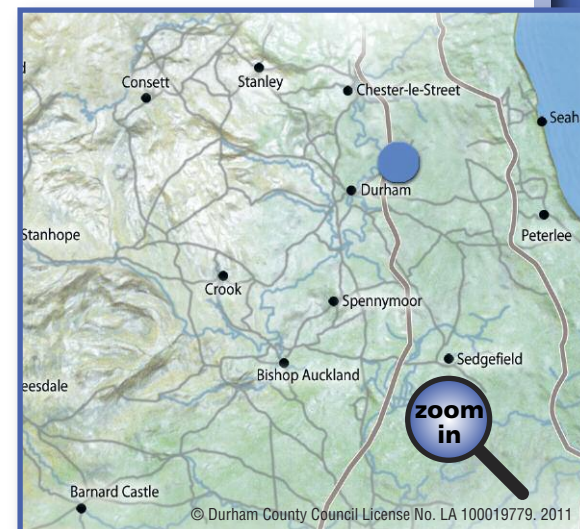
Picnic area, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certified

Suitable for:

Walkers. No cyclists or horse-riders

Habitats:

Woodland, scrubland



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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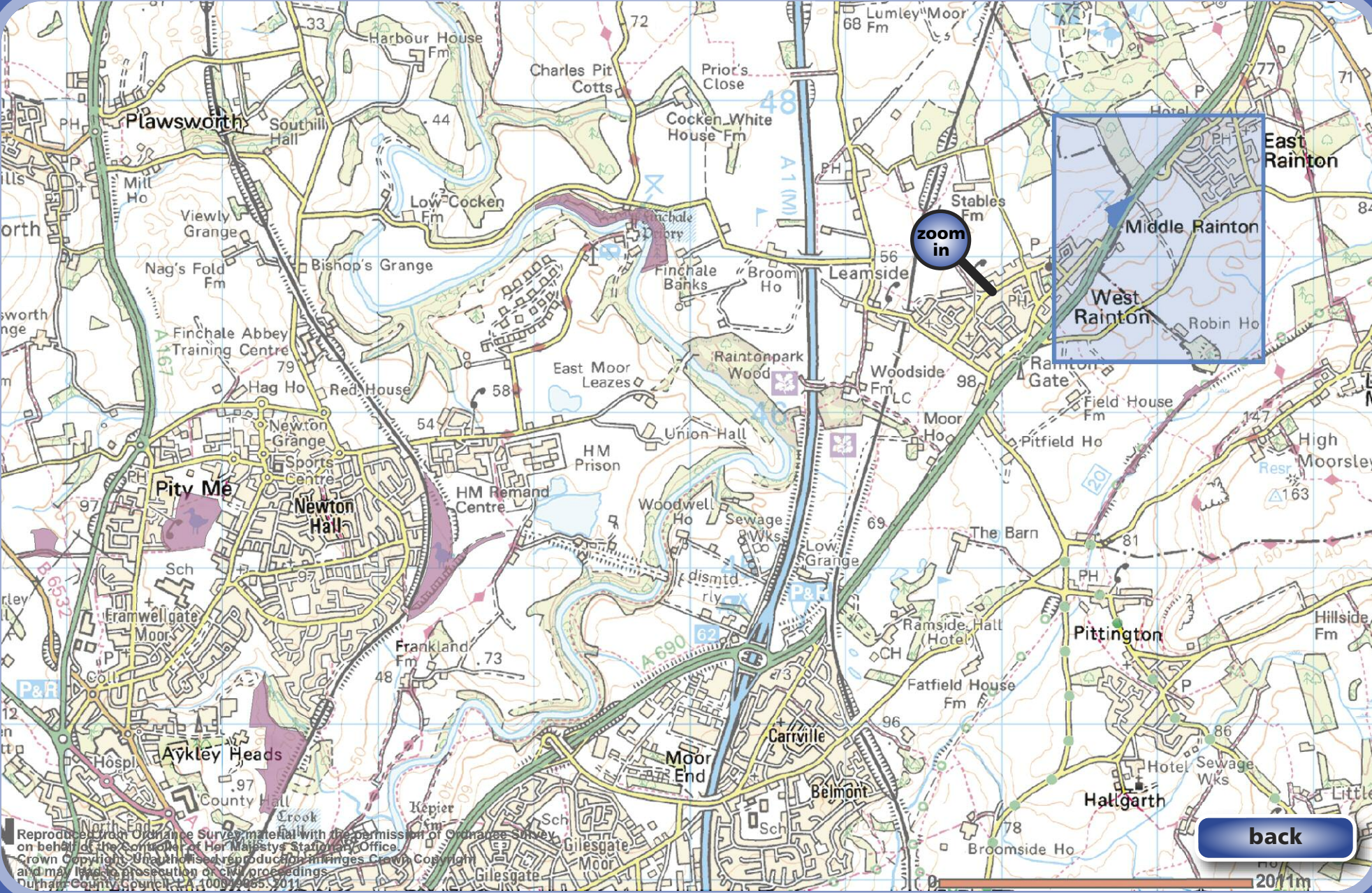
Accessibility statement

There is a circular trail around the site. The paths are of mown grass, uneven and 1.5m wide. The site is relatively flat but some steeper slopes are marked. There are two seats and a picnic table.











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KEY

-  Picnic Area
-  Seat
-  Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:10
-  Medium Slope Down 1:20-1:10
-  Parking
-  Bus Stop
-  Bridleway
-  Footpath



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