

Coxhoe Quarry Wood Local Nature Reserve

What is special?

The woodland is dominated by ash, beech and sycamore. Some of the beech trees are between 200 and 300 years old and support an enormous number of insects and birds. This site is possibly the furthest north in the country that you will find Wayfaring trees, a shrub with large hairy leaves that can be seen on the bankside to the west of the site. There is still some debate whether these trees occur naturally or were introduced to Coxhoe plantation, part of the Coxhoe Hall Estate.

The old quarry in the centre of the site has very good examples of Magnesian Limestone grasslands. Of special note is the presence of Blue Moor Grass combined with other wildflowers, which is an increasingly rare sight in the UK. Most Magnesian Limestone grassland has been destroyed in Britain over the past century. Two thirds of what remains can be found in East Durham and Tyne and Wear, resulting in grasslands of national importance.

You may spot dingy skipper butterflies, chimney sweeper moths (named because of its sooty colour) and up to seven species of orchids, including the rare bee orchid. Hedgehogs and stoats are often seen scuttling around the site.

Coxhoe Hall Wood Local Nature Reserve adjoins this site by a narrow strip of conifer woodland known as 'Lady's Walk'. It is also close to Crowtrees and Littlewood Local Nature Reserves, Kingswood reserve and the Raisby Way and Kelloe Way Railway Paths.

[more info...](#)

Contact the Countryside Service
telephone: 0191 372 9100
email: countryside@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk/countryside



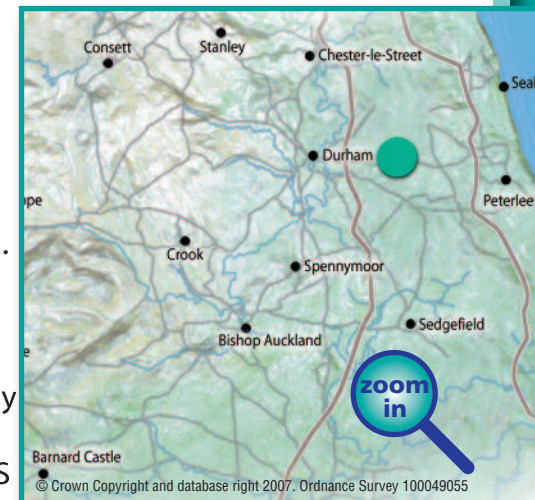
Area: 17 acres (7 hectares)

Grid Reference: NZ 325 359

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 305

Directions:

7 miles southeast of Durham City centre. Coxhoe village is on the A177. At traffic lights in Coxhoe, take B6291 towards Quarrington Hill. Ignore the sharp right turn to Kelloe, following the road to the left. Entrance is approximately 100 metres on the right. Nearest postcode for GPS purposes DH6 4AF



Parking:

Limited informal parking at the entrance and lay-by further down the road on the left, please do not block the entrance gate. No disabled parking bays. Parking available in Coxhoe village

Public Transport: Number 55 (Arriva).

Bus stop next to northern and southern entrances

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

Designation:

Local Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Site, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certified

Suitable for: Walkers and families

Habitats: Grassland, woodland, scrub

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

This woodland has a network of bare earth footpaths, which have occasional tree roots and large stones which can become slippery when wet.

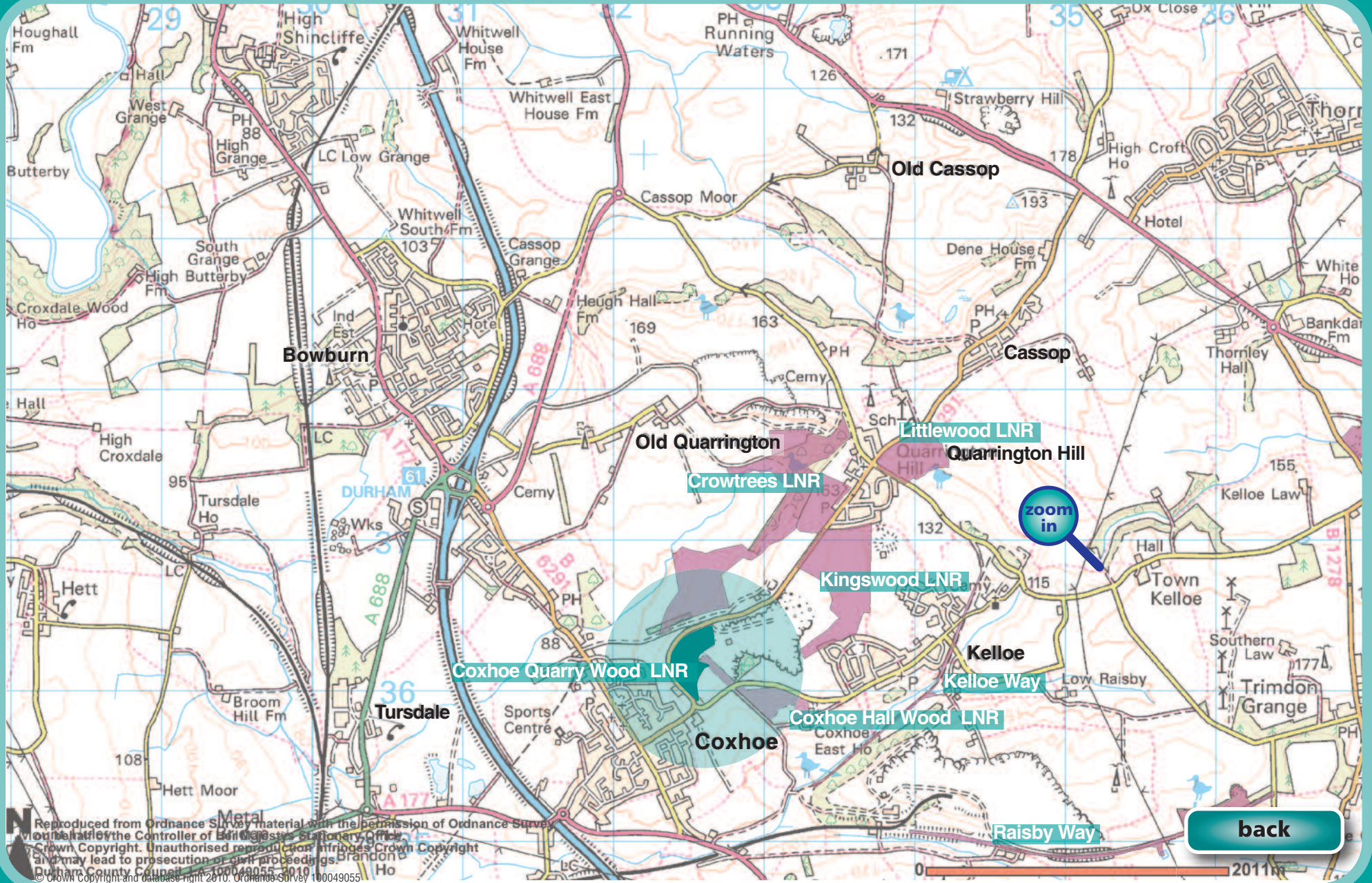
The paths are an average of 1.5 metres wide, they are undulating but only those slopes which are particularly steep are marked on the map.

There are two sets of wooden steps along the route, leading down to the main road. There is one seat.



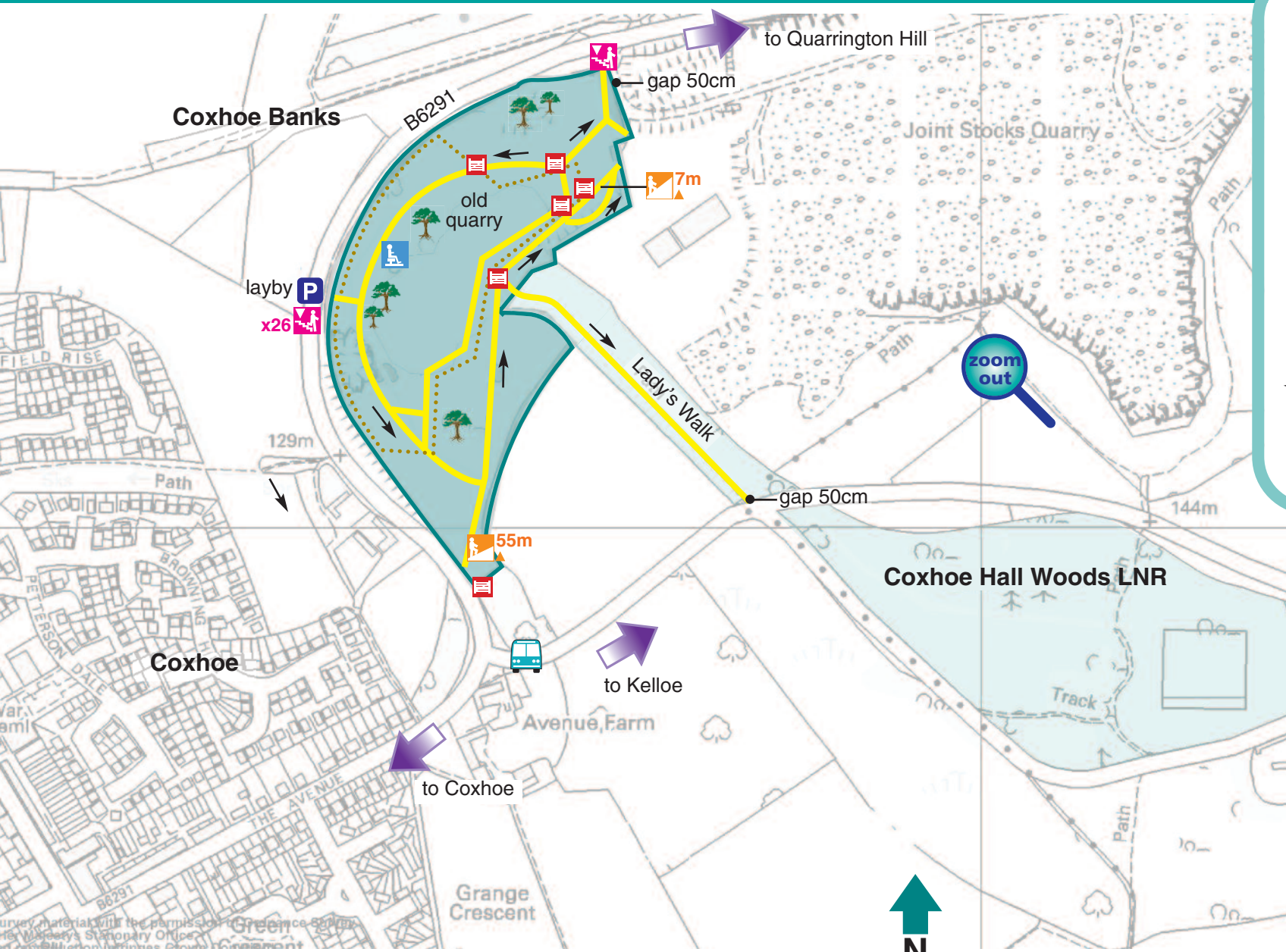
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KEY

- Parking
- Seat
- Kissing Gate
- Steps Down
- Steep Slope Up 1:10-1:1
- Medium Slope Up 1:20-1:10
- Bus Stop
- Bare Earth
- Direction of travel
- Fencing

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