

## The Angel's Way

from Seaton Sluice to Chester-le-Street  
48 kms, 30 miles

### Introduction

The Angel's Way is an important new link in a network of pilgrimage routes being developed in north east England by The Northern Saints Group. This route between Seaton Sluice and Chester-le-Street will be a link which provides a continuous 106 mile route between Lindisfarne and Durham, using St Oswald's Way as far as Warkworth, The Way of the Sea and after The Angel's Way, Cuddy's Corse (also part of the new Way of Learning) from Chester-le-Street to Durham. In two parts, from near Holywell to Camperdown and from Bowes Railway Path to West Urpeth, the route follows The Tyne & Wear Heritage Way which is well signed. I have indicated in red where I believe points of interest should be inserted.

### Section 1

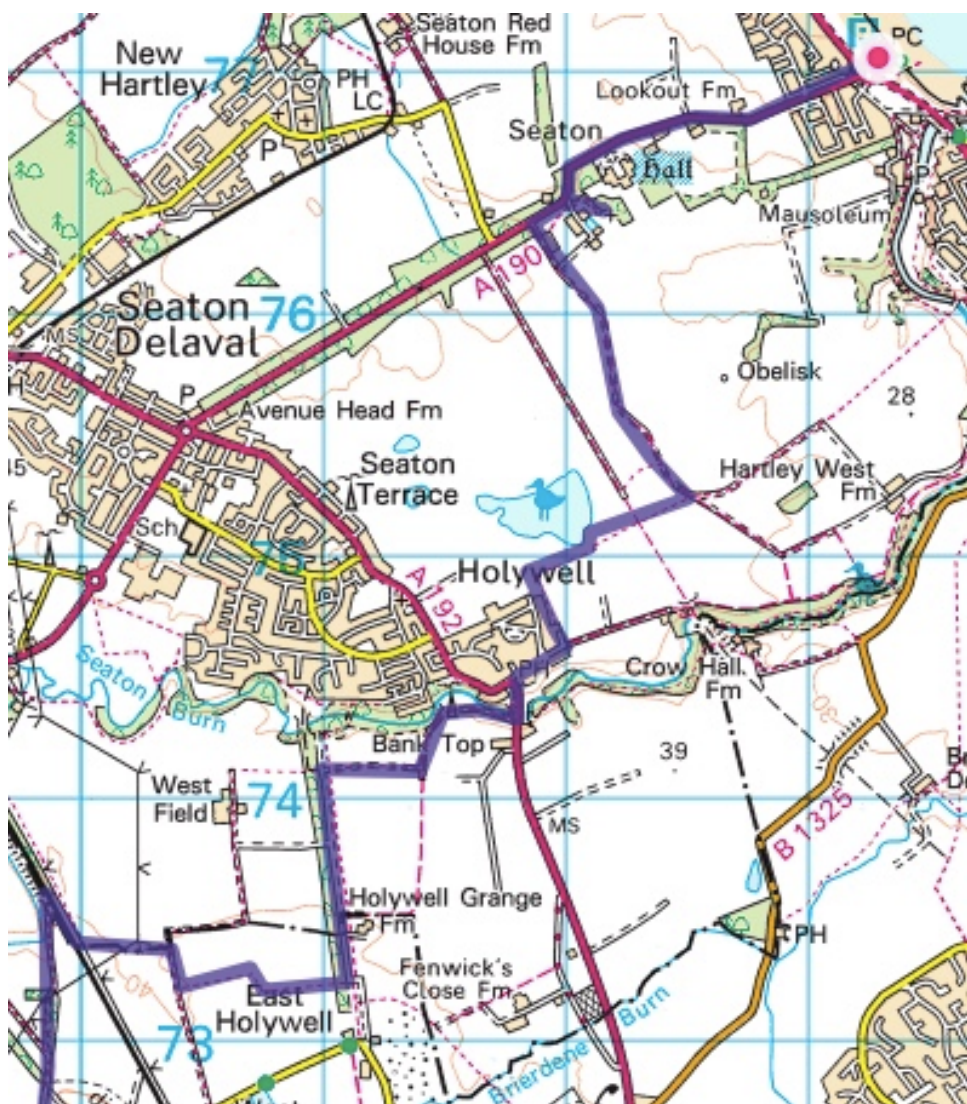
Seaton Sluice to Camperdown - 13km

#### Seaton Sluice

Leave Seaton Sluice by walking inland from the roundabout along the A190. After about 600 metres, you will arrive at the National Trust property of Seaton Delavel Hall. When the road bends to the left and where it then turns right go ahead to visit the Church of Our Lady.

#### Seaton Delavel Hall and Church of Our Lady

After visiting the church, return to the main road and turn left. After 150 metres, turn left into Harbord Terrace on the footpath which leads out to 'The Dairy House Fields' so called because there was a dairy farm here at one time. The obelisk is prominent to your left and about 350 metres after passing it, go through a gateway and take the footpath on your right. Cross straight over the railway path where The Angel's Way joins the Tyne & Wear Heritage Way whose signs we will be following to Camperdown. As you follow the path, you will pass Holywell Pond on your right before arriving at Holywell itself. When you reach a grassland area, turn right into Holywell Dene Road. On your left you will pass some riding stables on your left. In the grounds is the ancient holy well after which Holywell is named and if you find anyone there,

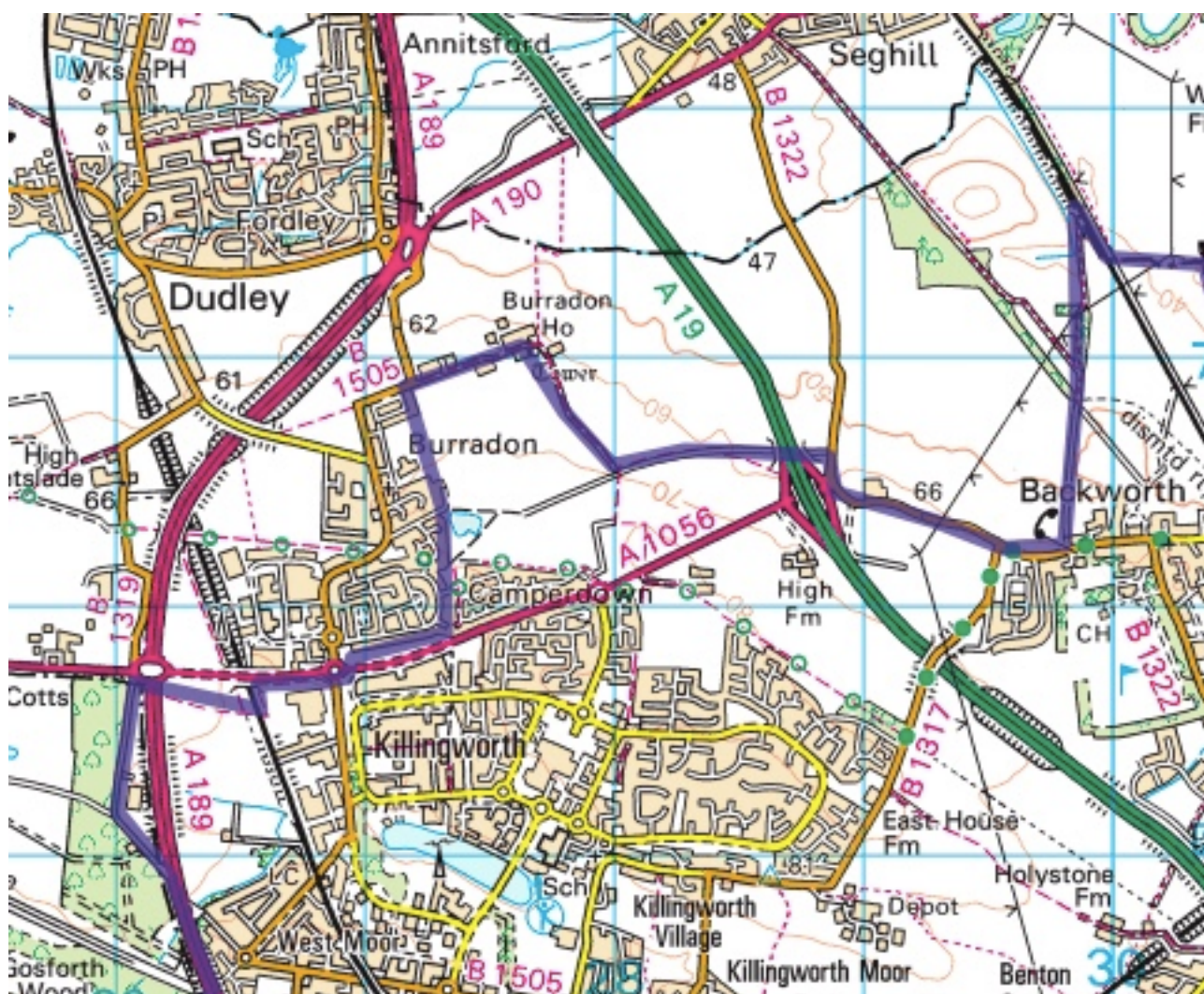




they might be able to show it to you. The well was said to be used by monks travelling between Tynemouth Priory and Newstead Abbey near Morpeth.

When you reach the main road cross over with care and the footpath forks off to the right down to old Holywell Bridge which was built in 1700. Follow the river for a while before going up out of the valley to fields. The path turns right and left to lead down to Holywell Grange Farm. 300 metres after passing the farm, take the footpath on your right. The path follows the field boundaries right and left to reach a cycle track where you turn right. Shortly afterwards turn left with the former Seghill waste tip on your right. When you reach the railway turn right and after 200 metres, go sharp left under the railway tunnel. Continue on this path and you will come to a junction of cycle paths where you carry straight on into Fisher Road. You will soon reach the main road (Backworth Lane) where you turn right.

Walk along the road for a kilometre, passing West Farm on your right. You then reach a busy road junction but continue on for a short distance to reach a cycle path on your left to take you safely under the A19. After 600 metres, turn right onto a path that leads you to Burradon. This is an interesting place where you first come to a pele tower that dates from the 15th century and was a means of defence against the Border reivers.. Turn left here and you will see the well built cottages for the workers at Burradon House, formerly a farm which you pass on your left. Walk on till you reach the B1505. You turn immediately left here onto a waggonway with houses on your right. You will pass a small lake on your left. You are now in Camperdown.





## Section 2

### Camperdown to Millennium Bridge - 13km

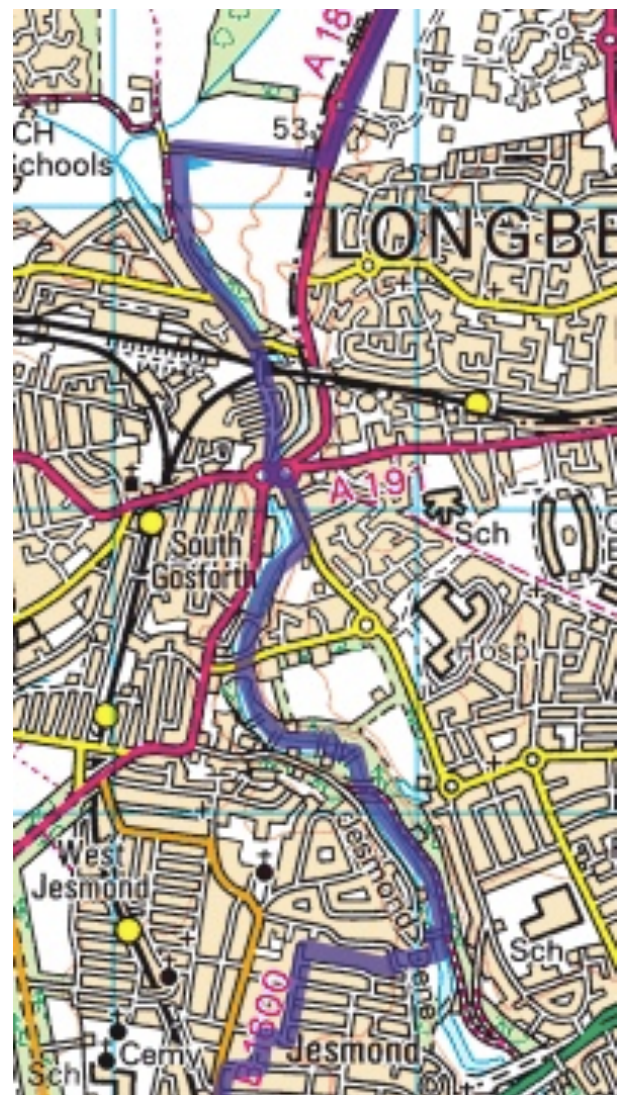
As you approach the A1056 you will come to an underpass. Start to go down it, but take the steps on your right up to a pleasant grassy area with houses on your right. Walk along this until you come to a roundabout. Go to the subway on your left under the A1056 and then cross over the A1505. To the right of the factory ahead of you, you will find a footpath which skirts round the north of the factory and then goes left and right across the railway and some rough ground before reaching the A189. Cross with care.

At the roundabout, take the first road on your left which is Great Lime Road. You will soon pass a garden centre on your left. You will then reach the A189 again where you turn right. After 350 metres, turn right into Salters Lane. The name Salters Lane is so called because this was on the salt trade that once existed between Hartley salt pans at Seaton Sluice and Blanchland over to the west. Gosforth Wood is on your right with the entrance to the nature reserve just before you come to the A189 for the third time! Walk along here until, soon after passing a roundabout, you turn right into Heathery Lane. A golf course is on your left. When you come to a T junction turn left. You cross a bridge and the Ouse Burn is on your left. Go straight on at a mini roundabout and then cross a bridge over the railway. Walk down the hill and when you come to the main road, cross over and bear left to walk up Freeman's Road. After passing a few houses on your right look out for a signpost indicating the River Tyne as 3 miles away. Walk down this footpath which will lead you down Jesmond Dene to the Ouse Burn.

### **Jesmond Dene**

Keeping the Ouse Burn on your right you will pass a footbridge on your right. Soon after passing a weir, go up some steps to pass under a low tunnel at the left of Castles Farm Bridge. Walk down the steps to your right to regain the path beside the burn. Look out for evidence of quarrying up to your left. The sandstone from here was of very high quality and was exported all over the world. After 200 metres you will pass a moss covered bridge and a tunnel opposite it on your left. The next bridge is a wooden one with stepping stones below it. You pass a cottage on your left and at the end of the wooden railings, fork left to take the higher path above the burn. After 60 metres fork right by a large beech tree and rhododendron bushes and go down to cross the bridge.

You will want to stop here to admire the view upstream of the waterfall. This was created by blasting in the late 1800's by Lord Armstrong to provide the fine view from the bridge. Before you cross the bridge, you may also like to visit the Old Mill. It is thought that a mill has been here since the 13th century, but these buildings are about 200 years old. After crossing the bridge walk on with the picnic fields on your right. Pass one bridge on your left then cross the next one which has a smaller bridge below it. The next building you pass is The Fisherman's Lodge which was originally a mill. Immediately after the lodge fork left by a small pond uphill so that you can then turn right to cross over the next bridge. You are now following signs to St Mary's Chapel. Once you have crossed over, turn sharp left to go up to the left of Lord Armstrong's Banqueting Hall. Continue round the hall where you will find an oak tree with a plaque beneath it, telling you it was planted by





Princess Alexandra when Jesmond Dene was opened to the public on August 20th 1884. The path uphill will lead you to a tunnel under Jesmond Dene Road. Go up some steps and left by some laurel bushes to reach St Mary's Chapel.

### St Mary's Chapel and well

If you look across the road to your left you will see a lane which is called The Grove. Go along this lane which would have been the old pilgrimage route and very soon on your right you will come to St Mary's Well. Continue along The Grove and the path soon widens where there is a large house on your left. Turn left after it and walk down Queen's Terrace. At the T-junction turn right into Queen's Road. Cross over Grosvenor Place and when you reach the main road, Osborne Road, turn left.

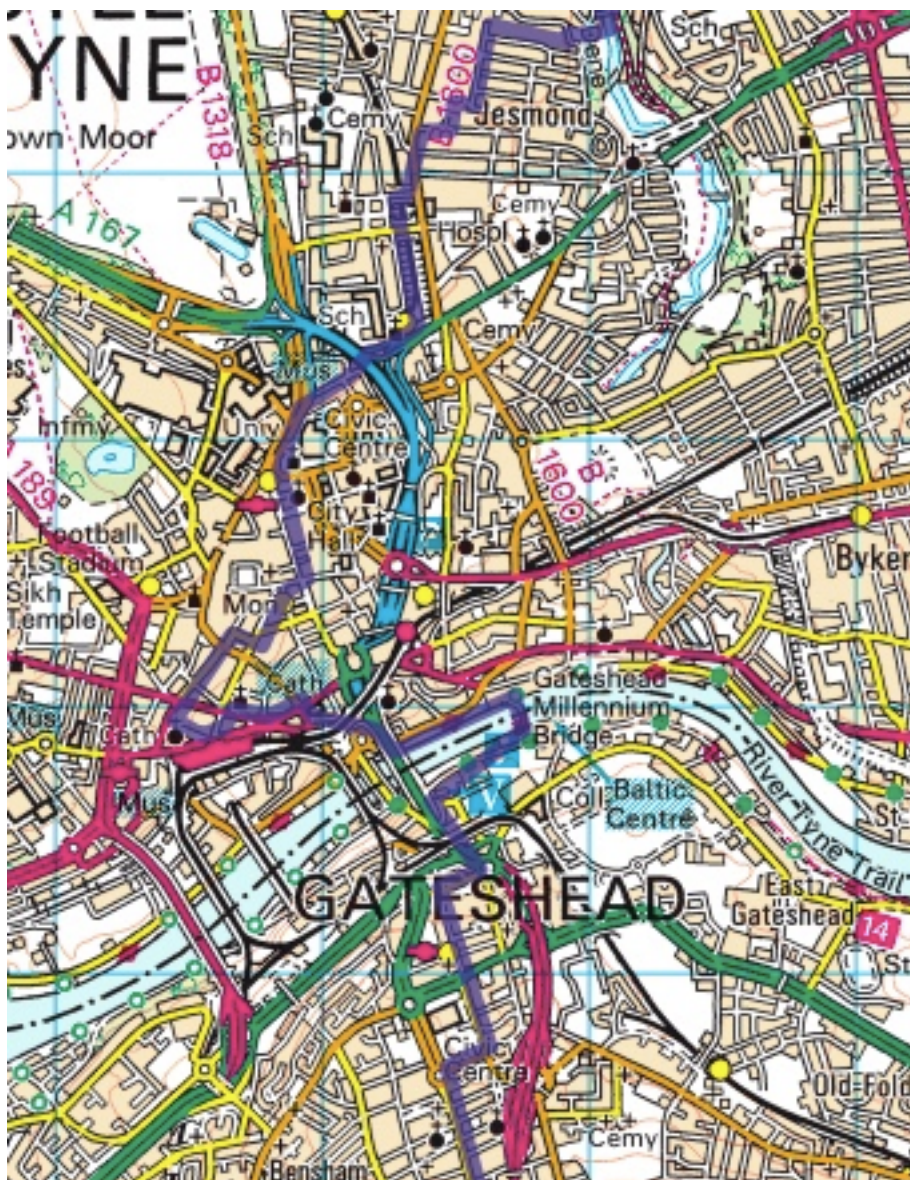
Walk on for about 250 metres and then use the pedestrian crossing to go to the other side. Take the next road on your right and after crossing the railway, turn left into the attractive Eslington Terrace. You will pass a care home called Pilgrims Court which in its website states that, "The name Pilgrims Court has its origin in the journeys made by pilgrims in the middle ages to the shrine of Saint Mary at Jesus Mound."

At the end of the terrace walk ahead then fork right keeping Jesmond metro station on your right. Continue ahead, passing Jesmond Parish Church on your right, before using the underpass which will bring you out to Windsor

Place. Turn right into Jesmond Road West where there is a good view of Newcastle United's ground, St James' Park. This fine road was originally called Carlton Terrace and was built in the 1840s by John Dobson. There is a blue plaque about him at no 11. As you turn the corner into Great North Road you will pass The Hancock Gallery which is the newest gallery in the city and opened on 26th April 2019.

Walk ahead passing Newcastle's Civic Centre, the moving Northumberland Fusiliers War Memorial and St Thomas' Church on your left. Cross over St Mary's Place at the lights to enter the bustling pedestrianised Northumberland Street. At the end of this street, notice that the street straight across is called Pilgrim Street as it was on the route to St Mary's Chapel but you turn right here into Blakett Street to arrive at Grey's Monument.

There are three streets on the other side of the monument and our route goes to the middle one which is Grainger Street. You will pass the





Market on your right which is well worth a visit. Turn right into Nun Street and then left into Clayton Street. Cross over Westgate Road into Clayton Street West and on your left you will come to the Catholic Cathedral of St Mary. On the east side of the cathedral there is a memorial garden which features a statue of Cardinal Basil Hume standing on a plinth with an outline of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. He was greatly loved in Newcastle and who wrote a significant book about the Northern Saints.

Walk on east along Neville Street for a few minutes and then turn left into Grainger Street again to visit St John's Church. From St John's Church continue east along Collingwood Street before crossing over to Newcastle Cathedral.

When you leave the cathedral, go to the south west side and fork left into a road called Side. This takes you past the castle on your right and down under the railway and past the Guildhall to the quayside. Turn left here and walk to the Millennium Bridge which you cross over.

### Section 3

#### Millennium Bridge to the Angel of the North - 8km

The Baltic Centre for Contemporary Arts is on your left. Walk up across the car parks to reach The Sage. You can walk straight through it but you may well want to pause to enjoy the ambience as well as the views. When you leave you will see St Mary's Church ahead which is now a heritage centre.

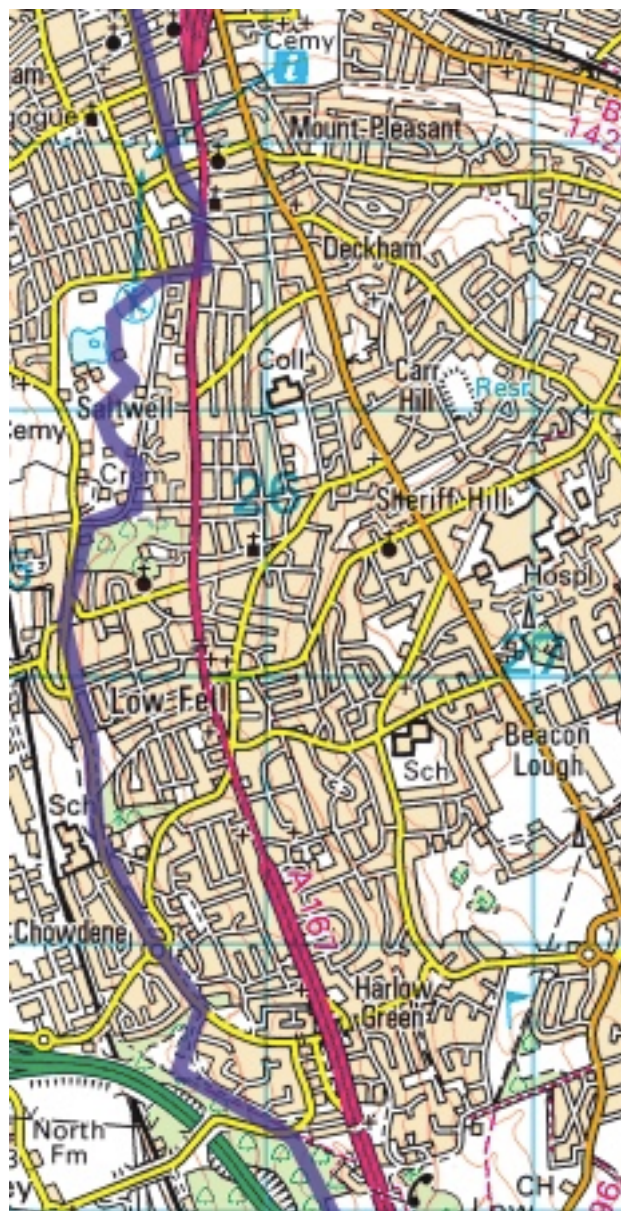
From St Mary's walk on the eastern side of the Tyne Bridge road and go under the railway before using the lights by the roundabout to cross over into Lambton Street. Turn left into the pedestrianised West Street. You will pass Gateshead metro station. Continue into High West Street and you will come to Gateshead Council Offices. After passing the car park, turn right into Arthur Street and then left into Prince Consort Road.

#### **Gateshead Jewish Community**

As you walk up this road, you are quite likely to see a number of Orthodox Jews. Gateshead is home to one of the few growing communities of Orthodox Jews in Britain. The Jewish community here began in the late nineteenth century when refugees from Eastern Europe came here. There was a large influx of refugees also during the Nazi era and it became an important centre for Torah Judaism. There are now some 8,000 Jews in Gateshead. The Gateshead Yeshiva or (seminary) has a very good reputation and attracts students from all over the world

After passing the library, you will come to the Shipley Art Gallery. The gallery was opened in 1917 with 504 paintings given by a local solicitor Joseph Shipley. It is a leading gallery for craft and design and includes the Henry Rothschild Collection of studio ceramics. The best known painting in the gallery is probably Tintoretto's *Christ Washing the Disciples Feet*.

Soon after the gallery, turn right into Edendale





Terrace with tennis courts and a park on your right. Turn left into Avenue Road and at the end of that road cross over and enter into Saltwell Park. This most attractive park was opened in 1876 and quickly became known as “The People’s Park.” The estate had belonged to William Wales who sold it to Gateshead Council for £35,000. The park was designed by William Kemp. After the park had fallen into disrepair it was restored between 1999 and 2005 by a £9.6 million Heritage Lottery grant and now receives 2 million visitors a year. The accompanying map suggests a way through to the south end of the park.

You now have a walk of a kilometre and a half along the east side of Saltwell Road until you reach a roundabout by the Gold Medal pub. Take the second exit into a road called Hertford and after 200 metres you will find a path off to the right which goes down to join a cycle path. This is a former railway where you turn left to ascend steadily. After 450 metres, you cross a road and continue on the cycle path until you come towards a bridge under the A167. Fork up to the right here before the bridge and turn right along the A167. You will soon reach The Angel of the North on your right.

### The Angel of the North

## Section 4

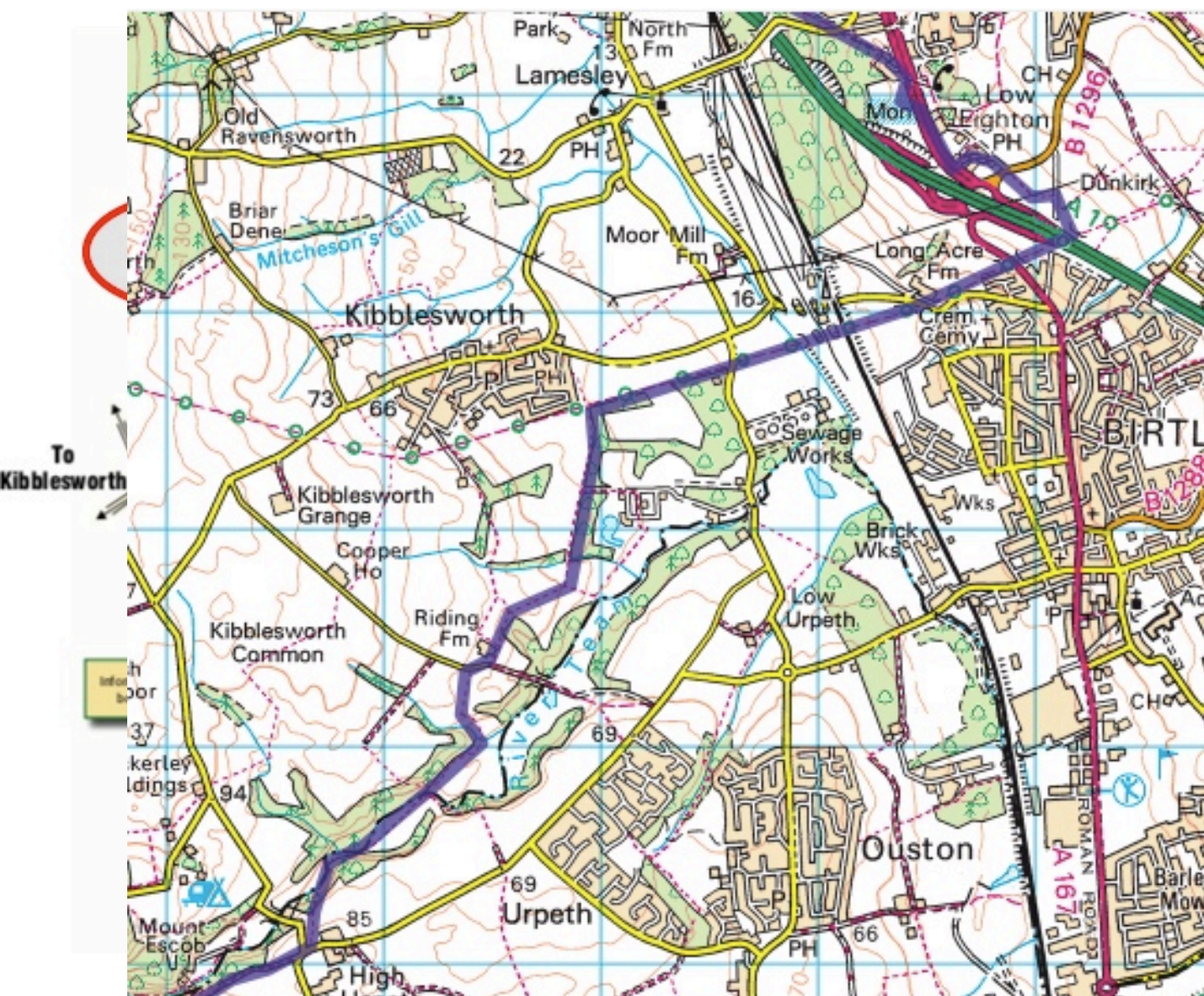
### Angel of the North to Chester-le-Street - 13 km

Cross over the A167 at the lights by the car park and turn right. After 250 metres turn left into Low Eighton passing Eighton Lodge Care Home on your right and the Angel View Inn on your left. You soon come out to a drive where you turn right. Cross carefully over Long Bank to the footpath opposite. This crosses a field then forks left to come to a former road where you turn right. The path comes right up to the A1 and then leads you via steps down to the Bowes Railway Path. The railway was originally built to carry coal to the Tyne. The first section was built by George Stephenson and it opened in 1826. At its height it was carrying over a million tons of coal a year.

Turn left to go under the long tunnel under the A1, keeping to the left hand side of the tunnel which is more level than the centre and right. You have now for the second time joined the Tyne and Wear Heritage Way. Walk on for a kilometre under more tunnels and crossing the River Team and Greenfield Lane before reaching the entrance to a nature reserve on your left. This was formerly the site of clay pits and brick works and was then a landfill in the 1990s before its transformation into a nature reserve. At this point, you can either continue along the railway path for 400 metres until you reach Kibblesworth where you turn left down Clarty Lane, or walk through the nature reserve following these directions:

After entering the reserve by a large boulder, walk parallel to the railway path for about 150 metres till you reach a T-junction where you turn left. There is a plantation on your left and rough land on your right. After 400 metres, take the second path on your right. There are some ponds on your left which you may find are dried up. This path will eventually lead you out to Clarty Lane where





you turn left. After passing some more mature woodland called Beggardene Wood on your left you come out from Clarty Lane into a field. At the next field boundary turn right with the hedge on your right. Walk on the track to Riding Farm passing a wood on your left. Walk out on the farm road for a short distance before taking the first path on your left. Follow the field boundary as you head down into the Team valley skirting left and right and keeping the wood on your right.

After crossing a footbridge, walk straight over in the middle of a long field to the opposite side. The start of the footpath on that side can sometimes be rather obscured by the growth of policeman's helmet by the River Team, but you should soon find your way to a better path which soon leads up through the woods to come out into a field. Keep Urpeth North Farm buildings to your left and you will soon find a stile out onto the road where you turn right.

A road goes off to your right at the bend and immediately after it take the footpath on your right along a pleasant lane which ascends by the woodland beside Urpeth Common. When you reach the top of the hill you will pass a cottage on your right. Go left here and take a path on your left just before the bridge. This path will soon lead you down to the Consett and Sunderland Railway Path.

You now have a straightforward walk of 4 kilometres along the railway path. There are good open views back across the Team valley to the Newcastle suburbs. You pass under the A693 at Pelton.





Soon after the path turns east by an industrial estate, you will pass the quirky King Cole brick sculpture by David Kemp. British Coal provided the crown. By sheer coincidence the sculpture was completed on October 15th 1992 which was the same day that the closure of the last of Durham's coal mines was announced. About 400 metres after King Cole, you will find a footpath off to the right.

Go over the bridge ahead of you and pass a recreation area on your left. Walk through the housing estate and when you see woodland ahead of you cross the road and go diagonally left into Maplewood. Walk on for 300 metres using the grass verge on the right hand side. Where the road turns left go straight on down some steps to Pelton Fell Road. Almost immediately fork left on a path which follows the Chester Burn on your right. Walk under the viaduct and the path will lead you out onto the road by the market place where you walk ahead to the lights. Cross over towards GW Horners Pub and take the road to its left. At the next junction with a mini roundabout turn right and walk uphill. Follow the road round left and right to reach your destination at St Mary & St Cuthbert's Church.

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