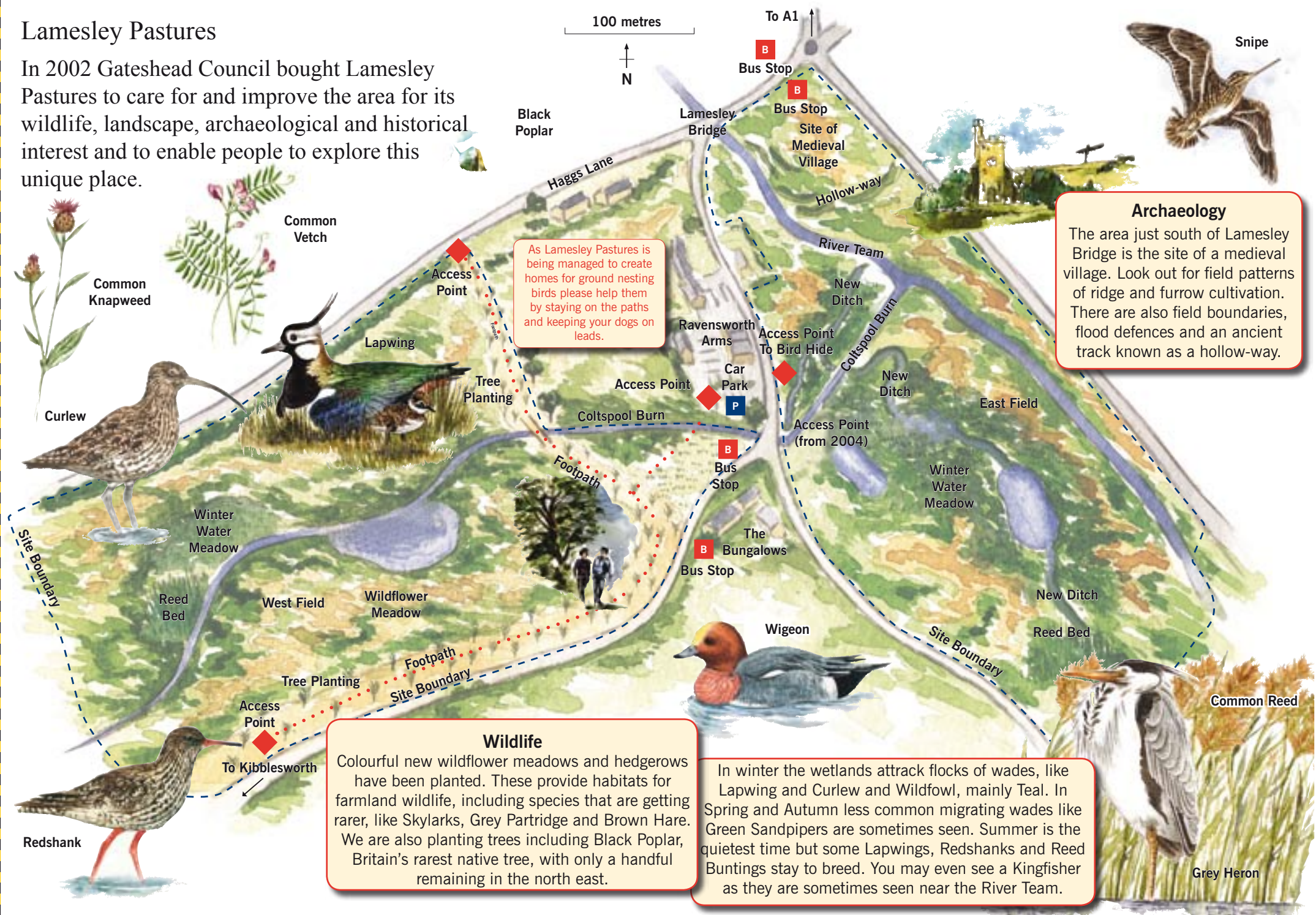


Lamesley Pastures

In 2002 Gateshead Council bought Lamesley Pastures to care for and improve the area for its wildlife, landscape, archaeological and historical interest and to enable people to explore this unique place.

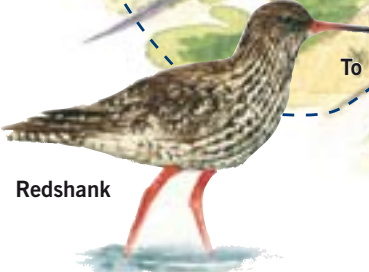
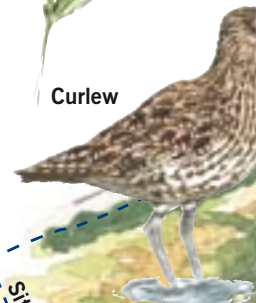


As Lamesley Pastures is being managed to create homes for ground nesting birds please help them by staying on the paths and keeping your dogs on leads.

Archaeology
The area just south of Lamesley Bridge is the site of a medieval village. Look out for field patterns of ridge and furrow cultivation. There are also field boundaries, flood defences and an ancient track known as a hollow-way.

Wildlife
Colourful new wildflower meadows and hedgerows have been planted. These provide habitats for farmland wildlife, including species that are getting rarer, like Skylarks, Grey Partridge and Brown Hare. We are also planting trees including Black Poplar, Britain's rarest native tree, with only a handful remaining in the north east.

In winter the wetlands attract flocks of wades, like Lapwing and Curlew and Wildfowl, mainly Teal. In Spring and Autumn less common migrating wades like Green Sandpipers are sometimes seen. Summer is the quietest time but some Lapwings, Redshanks and Reed Buntings stay to breed. You may even see a Kingfisher as they are sometimes seen near the River Team.



Skylark



A unique historic landscape

Most medieval remains have been destroyed by building or ploughing and the site at Lamesley is recognised as one of the best surviving examples of a medieval landscape in Tyne and Wear.

Despite being close to the built up area of Gateshead, land around the village has largely escaped the effects of the industrial revolution, coal mining and modern development. The landscape has changed little in the past 150 years. Because of this, the Council has protected Lamesley by designating it as a Conservation Area.

A rare place for nature

Lamesley Pastures is one of the few undeveloped river floodplains in the area and contains two Sites of Nature Conservation Importance.

Our aim is to make this a better place for nature by creating many different types of homes, or habitats, for wildlife. Rare winter water meadows are being restored. New ponds and ditches will allow water levels to be controlled. A similar system of intentionally flooding fields in winter was used by our medieval ancestors to increase the fertility of their land. Reedbed habitats are also being introduced to clean up water flowing onto the site.

To further encourage wildlife, the land is being managed using traditional farming methods. This will involve keeping animals in low numbers and not adding chemical fertilisers and pesticides. During your

Cowslip

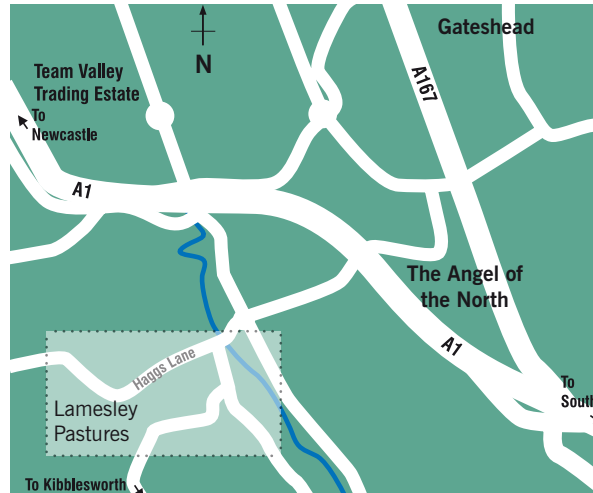


visit you may spy some shy Exmoor Ponies. These are a hardy 'nature' breed of pony which help the wildflowers to thrive through their conservation grazing, Gateshead Council is providing a temporary foster home for these unwanted ponies on behalf of the Moorland Mouse Trust.

Public events sometimes take place here. For more information see www.gateshead.gov.co and look for countryside.

Bird hide

Access to the bird hide is on the opposite side of the road to the Ravensworth Arms. Keys are available for sale from the Civic Centre (at the Development and Enterprise Reception) and from Thornley Woodlands Centre. The same key can be used in all Gateshead Council bird hides. When using the bird hide please park in the car park of the Ravensworth Arms and not on the road verges. Please take care when crossing the road!



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The Countryside Projects Team

Gateshead Council 2007

Discover a new nature reserve and a historic landscape - in the heart of Gateshead.



Lamesley Pastures