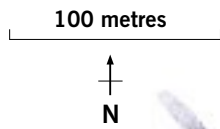
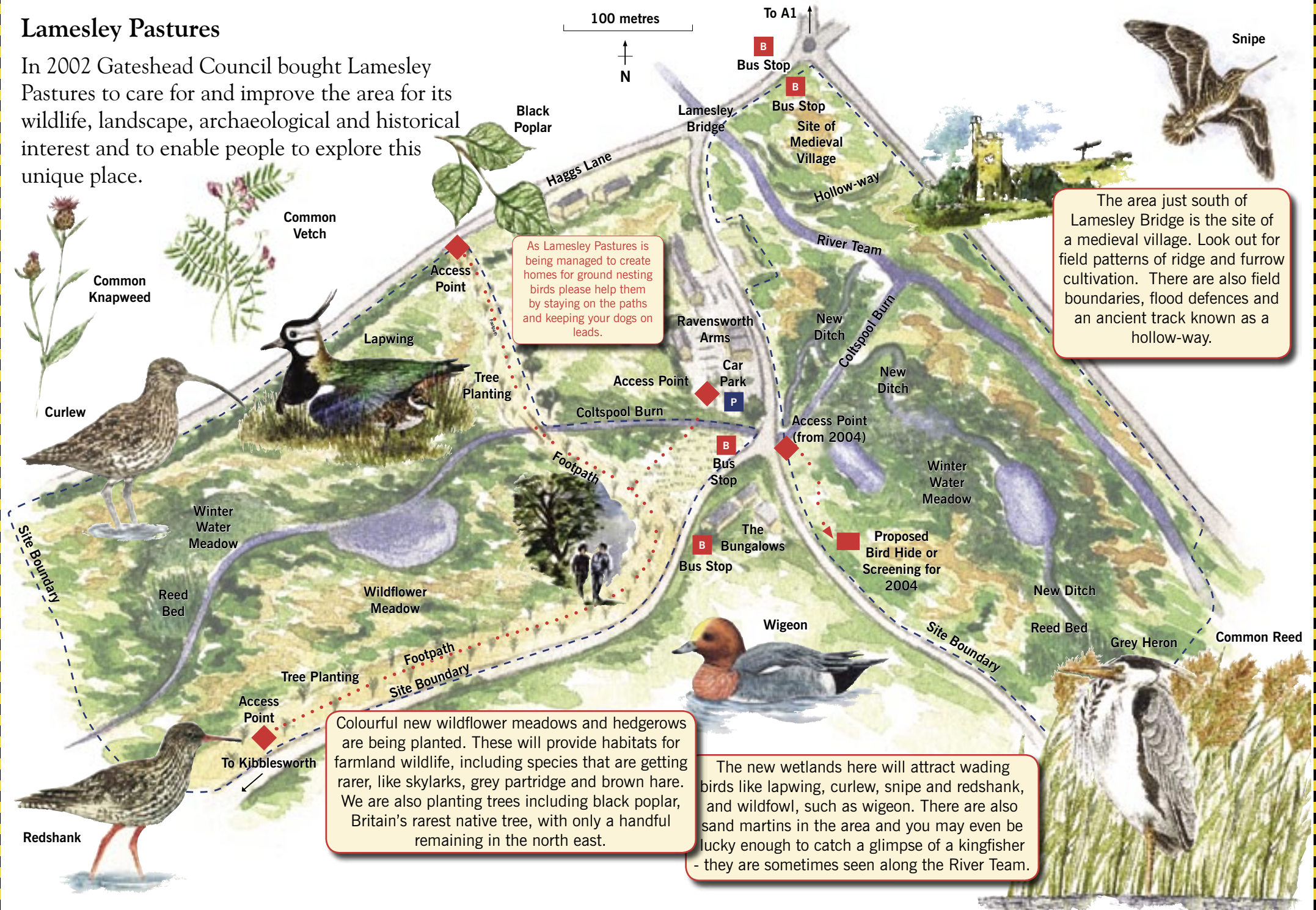


Lamesley Pastures

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.

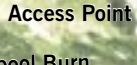
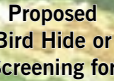
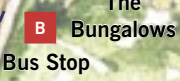
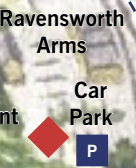
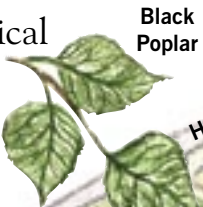
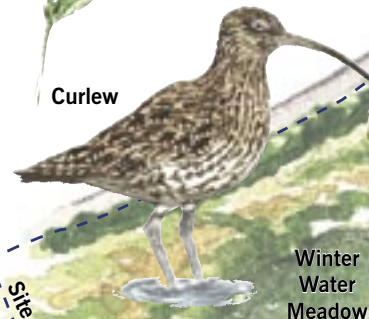
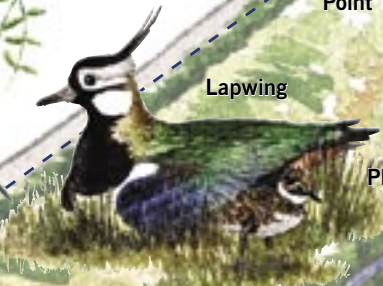


The area just south of Lamesley Bridge is the site of a medieval village. Look out for field patterns of ridge and furrow cultivation. There are also field boundaries, flood defences and an ancient track known as a hollow-way.

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.

Colourful new wildflower meadows and hedgerows are being planted. These will 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.

The new wetlands here will attract wading birds like lapwing, curlew, snipe and redshank, and wildfowl, such as wigeon. There are also sand martins in the area and you may even be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a kingfisher - they are sometimes seen along 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.

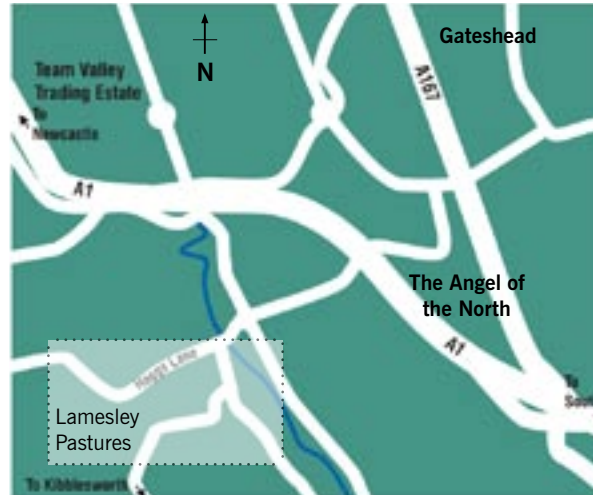
Our aim is to make this a better place for nature by creating many different types of homes, or habitats, for wildlife. Rare winter water meadows are being restored. New ponds and ditches will allow water levels to be controlled. A similar system of intentionally flooding fields in winter was used by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

Cowslip



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.

We will install new paths and organise events for local schools, residents and the wider community. A bird hide or screening will later be added, to allow you to watch birds without disturbing them.



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Gateshead Council 2003.

To find out more about Lamesley Pastures or get involved in this project contact:

**The Countryside Team,
Planning and Environmental Strategy,
Development and Enterprise,
Gateshead Council, Civic Centre,
Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH.
Telephone 0191 433 3443.**

Lamesley Pastures is a Gateshead Council project in partnership with the Great North Forest, the Durham Biodiversity Partnership and the River Team Revival Project. Funding for the project has been received from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Defra's Countryside Stewardship Scheme and the Countryside Agency.



Discover wetland wildlife and a historic landscape - in the heart of Gateshead.



Lamesley Pastures

