

River Tees  
Rediscovered 

# HERITAGE TRAILS

A series of walks  
through the natural  
and built heritage  
of the Tees Valley



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# DARLINGTON

Darlington is a large market town in County Durham. With a population of just over 100,000 the town lies on the River Skerne, a tributary of the River Tees. It owes much of its development to the growth of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, the world's first steam locomotive powered permanent passenger railway.

During the early 19th Century, powerful Quakers such as the Pease and Backhouse families were prominent employers and philanthropists in the area. Darlington is known for its association with the birth of the modern railway. On 27 September 1825 George Stephenson's engine Locomotion No. 1 ushered in the modern railway age when it travelled between Shildon and Stockton-on-Tees via Darlington, on the Stockton and Darlington Railway. The town later became an important centre for manufacturing. Darlington has also long been a centre for engineering, particularly bridge building. Bridges built in Darlington are found as far away as the River Nile and the River Amazon!

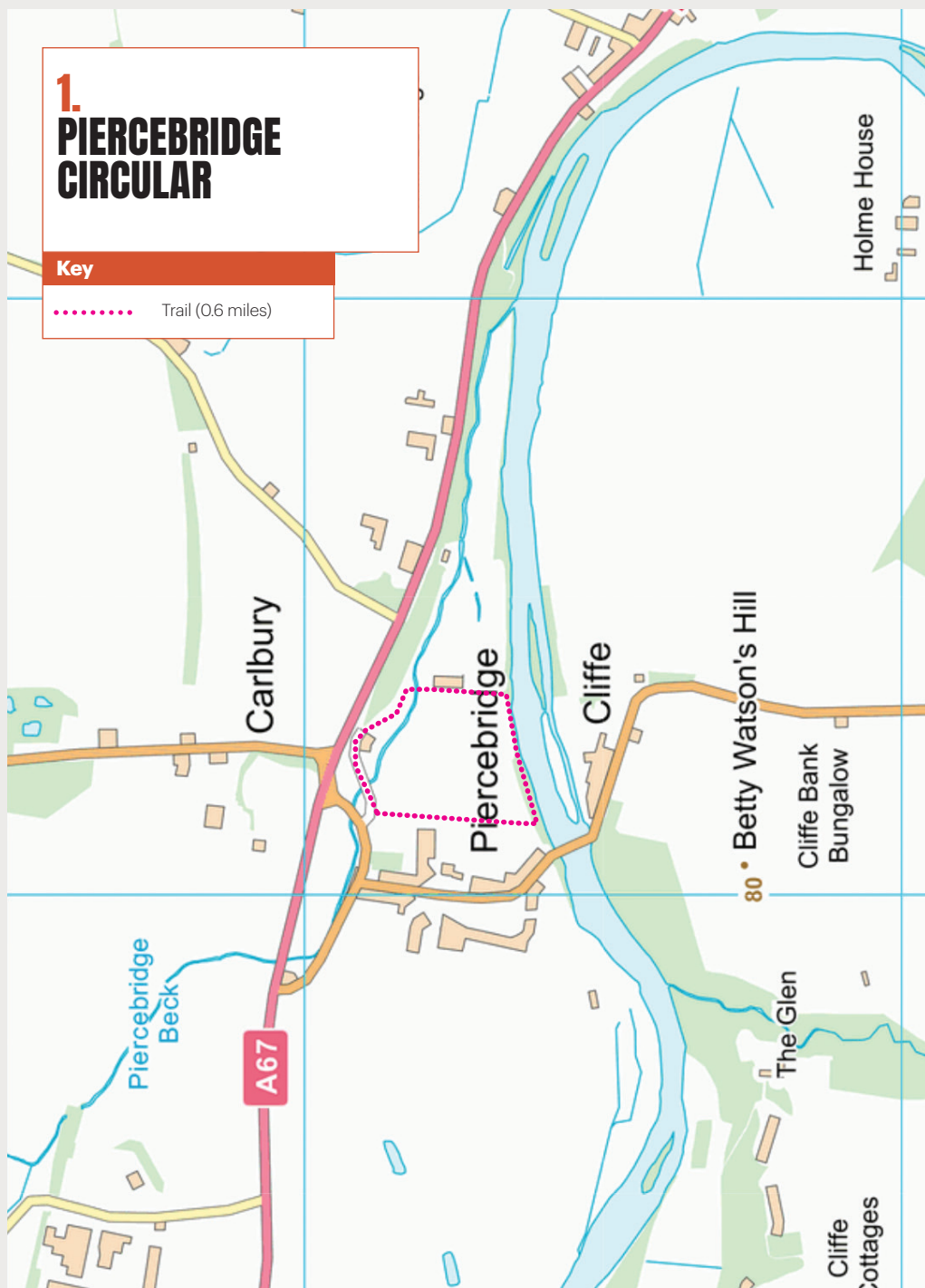
Darlington has over 300km of public rights of way, ten local nature reserves, seven formal parks, three community woodlands and numerous other open spaces to explore.

The trails in this guide take in lesser-known rural communities and natural features in and around Darlington that have contributed to the area's historical and industrial past. From pretty Piercebridge and its Roman significance to the industrial architecture of the Tees Cottage Pumping Station. With Sites of Special Scientific Interest and famous literary connections - Darlington and its environs have them all.

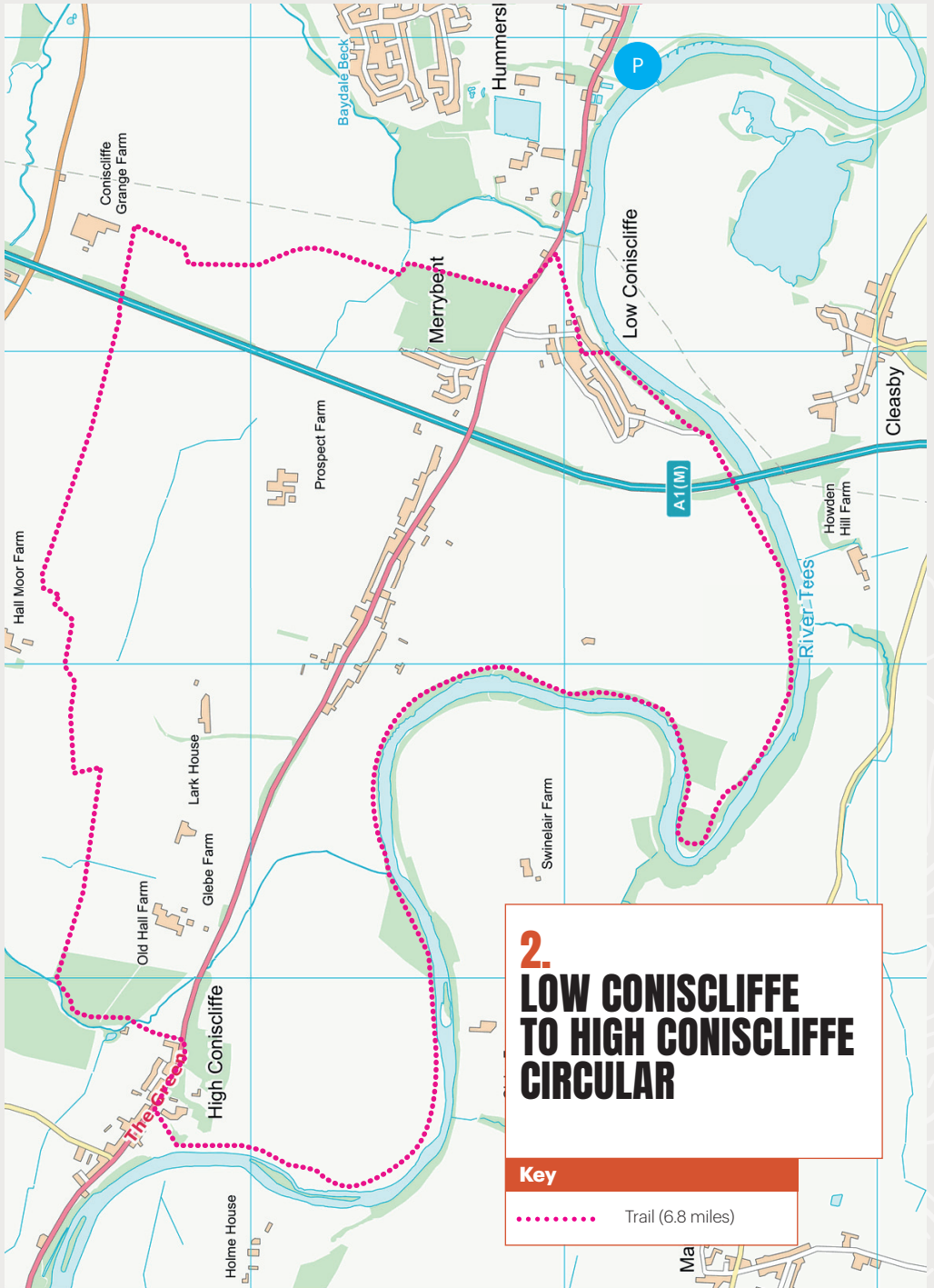
# 1. PIERCEBRIDGE CIRCULAR

## Key

..... Trail (0.6 miles)



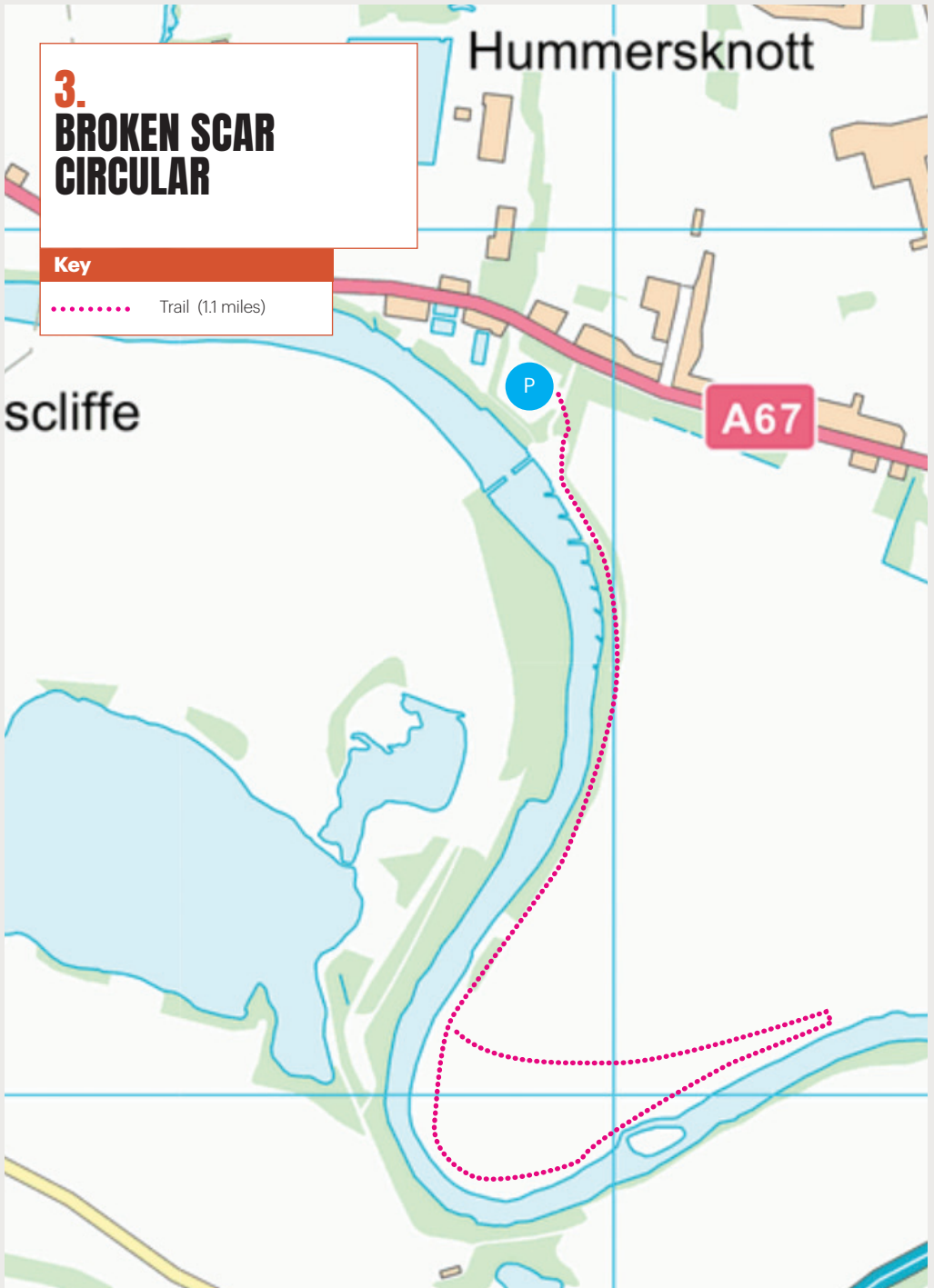




### 3. BROKEN SCAR CIRCULAR

#### Key

..... Trail (1.1 miles)



## 4. SOUTH PARK, SNIPE POND CIRCULAR

### Key

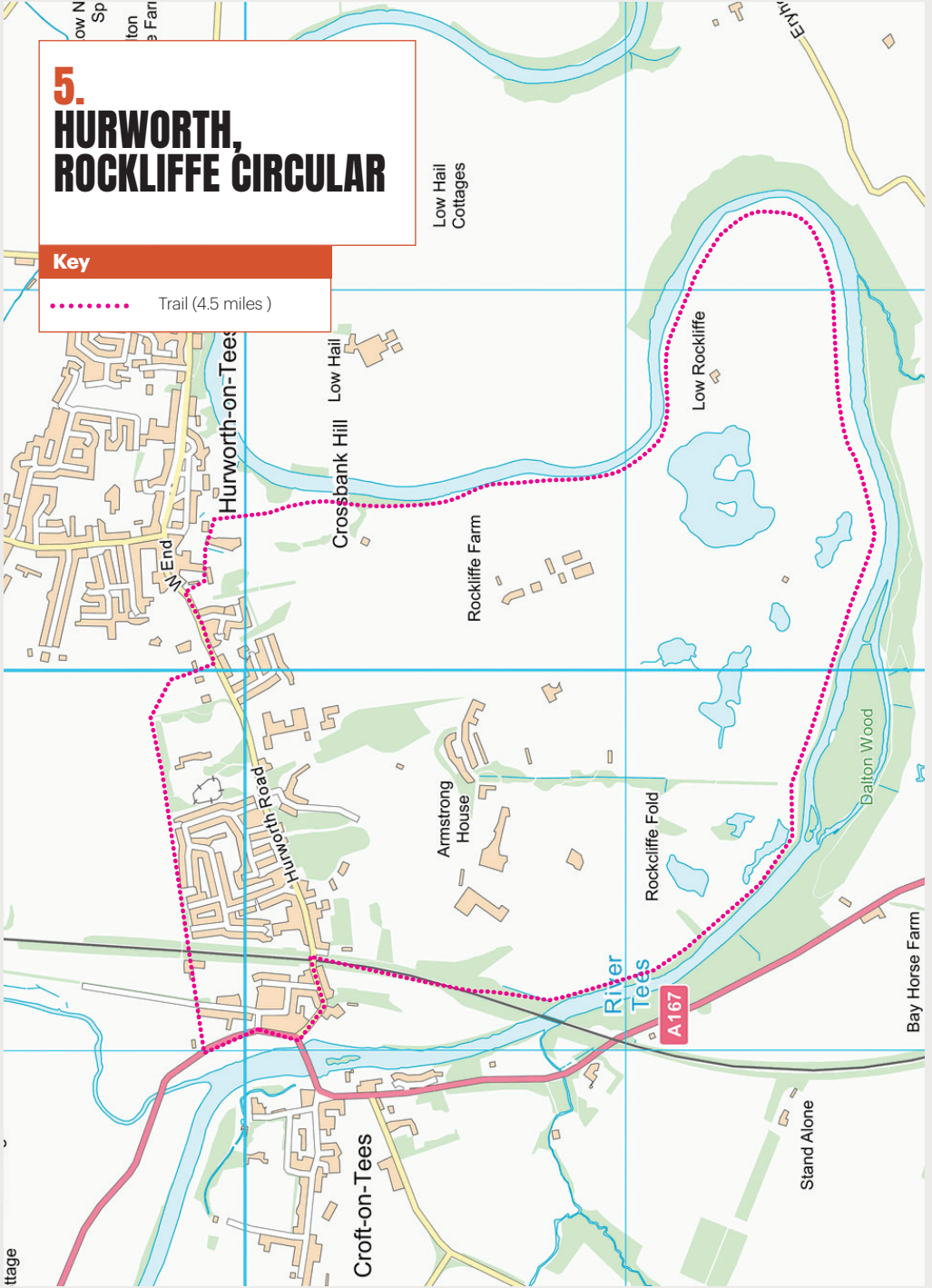
..... Trail (2.2 miles)



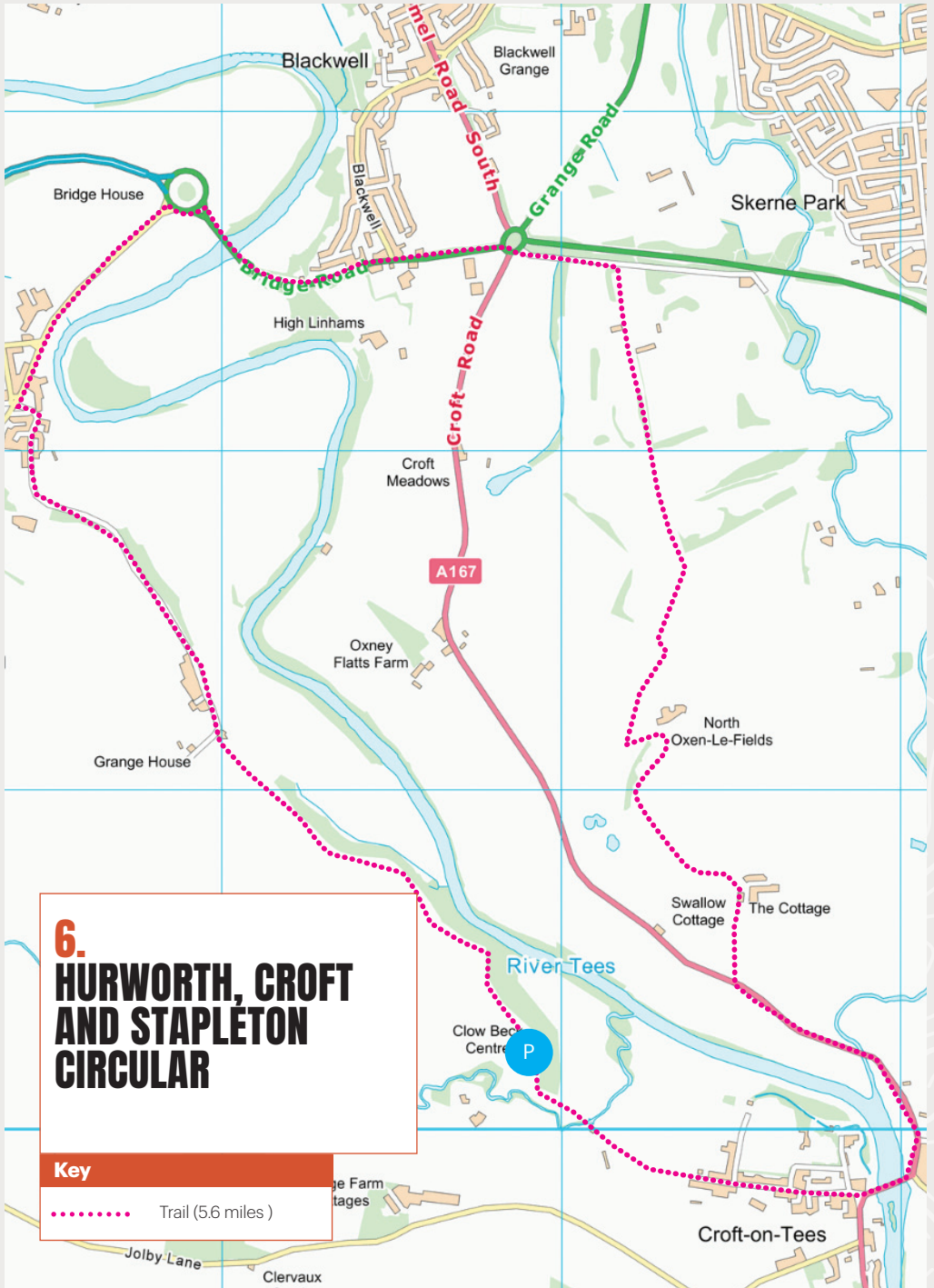
# 5. HURWORTH, ROCKLIFFE CIRCULAR

## Key

..... Trail (4.5 miles)









# 7. LOW DINSDALE, GIRSBY, SOCKBURN CIRCULAR

## Key

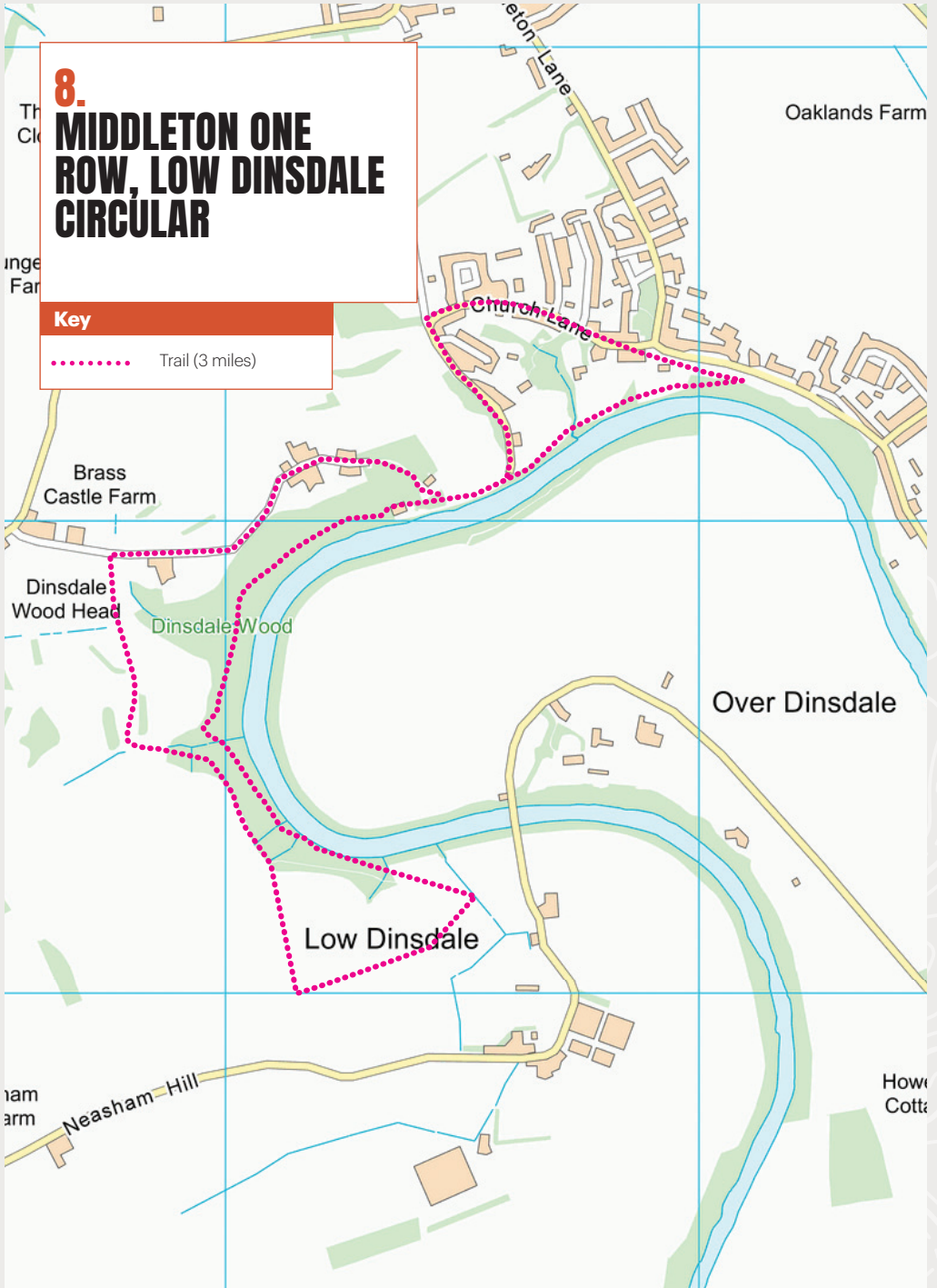
..... Trail (4.7 miles)



# 8. MIDDLETON ONE ROW, LOW DINSDALE CIRCULAR

## Key

..... Trail (3 miles)



# STOCKTON-ON-TEES

The Borough of Stockton-on-Tees owes much of its development to the River Tees.

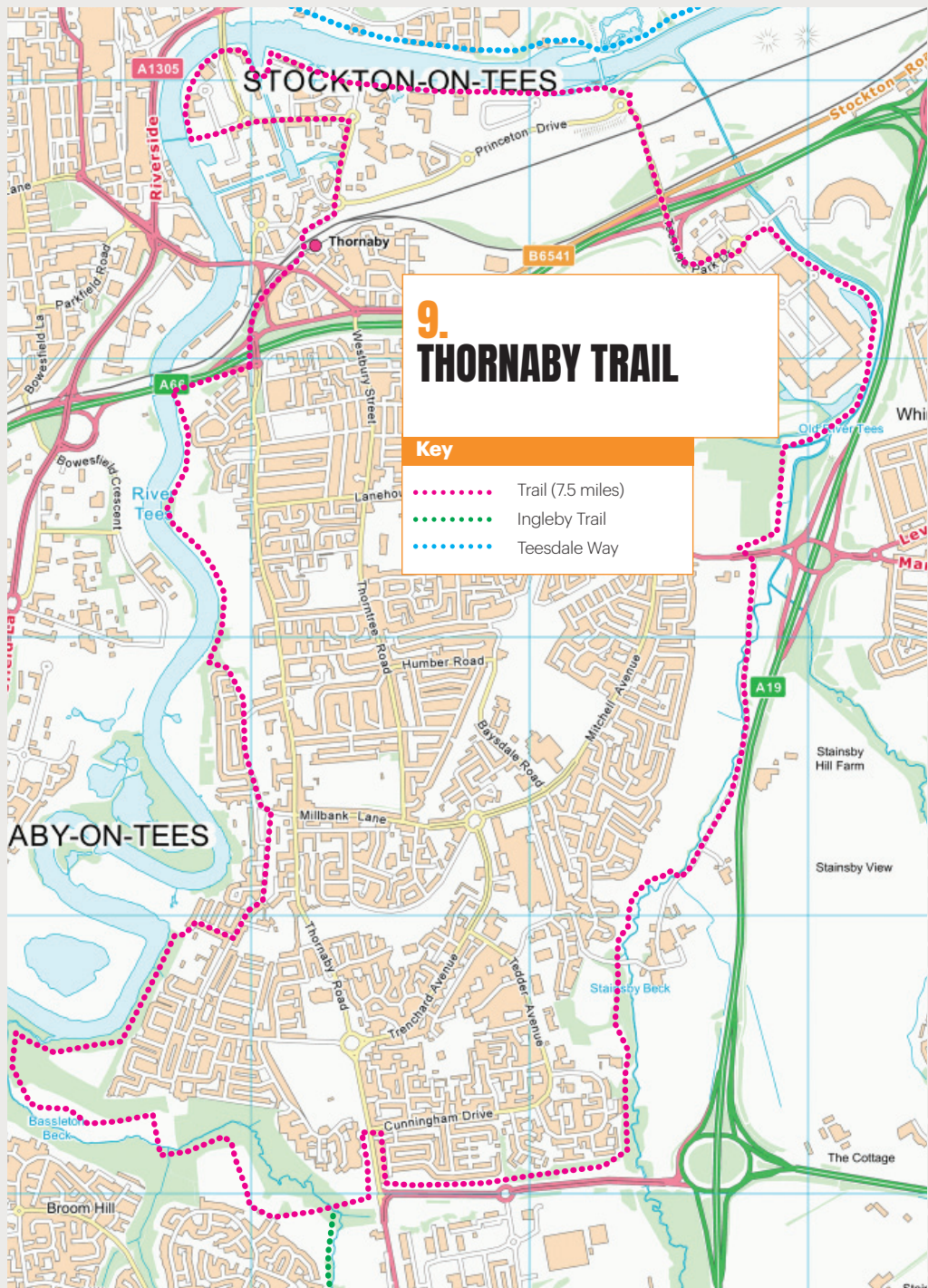
In the early 13th Century, Yarm was the most prosperous port on the river. Sailing ships brought wine and flax to the town and sheepskins for the tanneries along the river banks. On the return journey, salt, agricultural produce and lead from the mines in Swaledale were transported by sea to London and to the North East coastal ports.

With the expansion of the coal trade in the 17th Century, Stockton became the major river port when coal was carried to the docks from the Durham coalfield by horse and cart to be shipped to London and overseas. Originally Stockton-on-Tees was a rural community, but with the Industrial Revolution came huge developments in heavy industry and massive expansion downstream to the estuary.

The river previously meandered first south and then north of its current channel. In the early 19th Century the River Tees was altered between Stockton-on-Tees and Middlesbrough. Later, the river was straightened, thus saving money and time in navigation.

Once heavily industrialised, the river at Stockton and Thornaby has been transformed over the past few decades, not least of all through the construction of the Tees Barrage in the 1990s. With water held at a constant level this urban section of the river is now used for all kinds of sport and recreation. Meanwhile the tranquil countryside upstream, and the open landscapes of the estuary downstream, offer some great opportunities for walking and wildlife watching.

These trails enable you to explore our exciting mix of built, natural and industrial heritage.

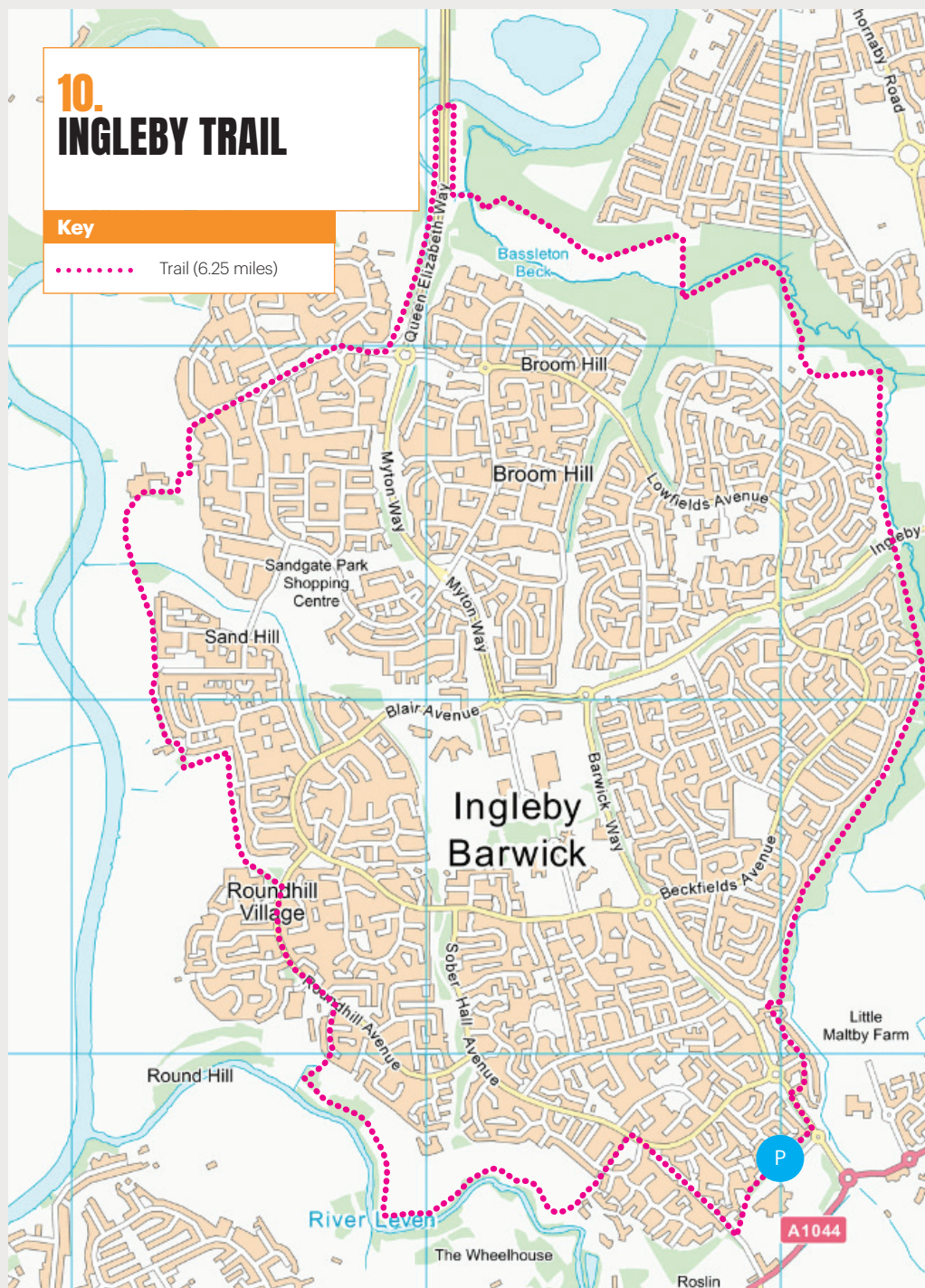




# 10. INGLEBY TRAIL

## Key

..... Trail (6.25 miles)

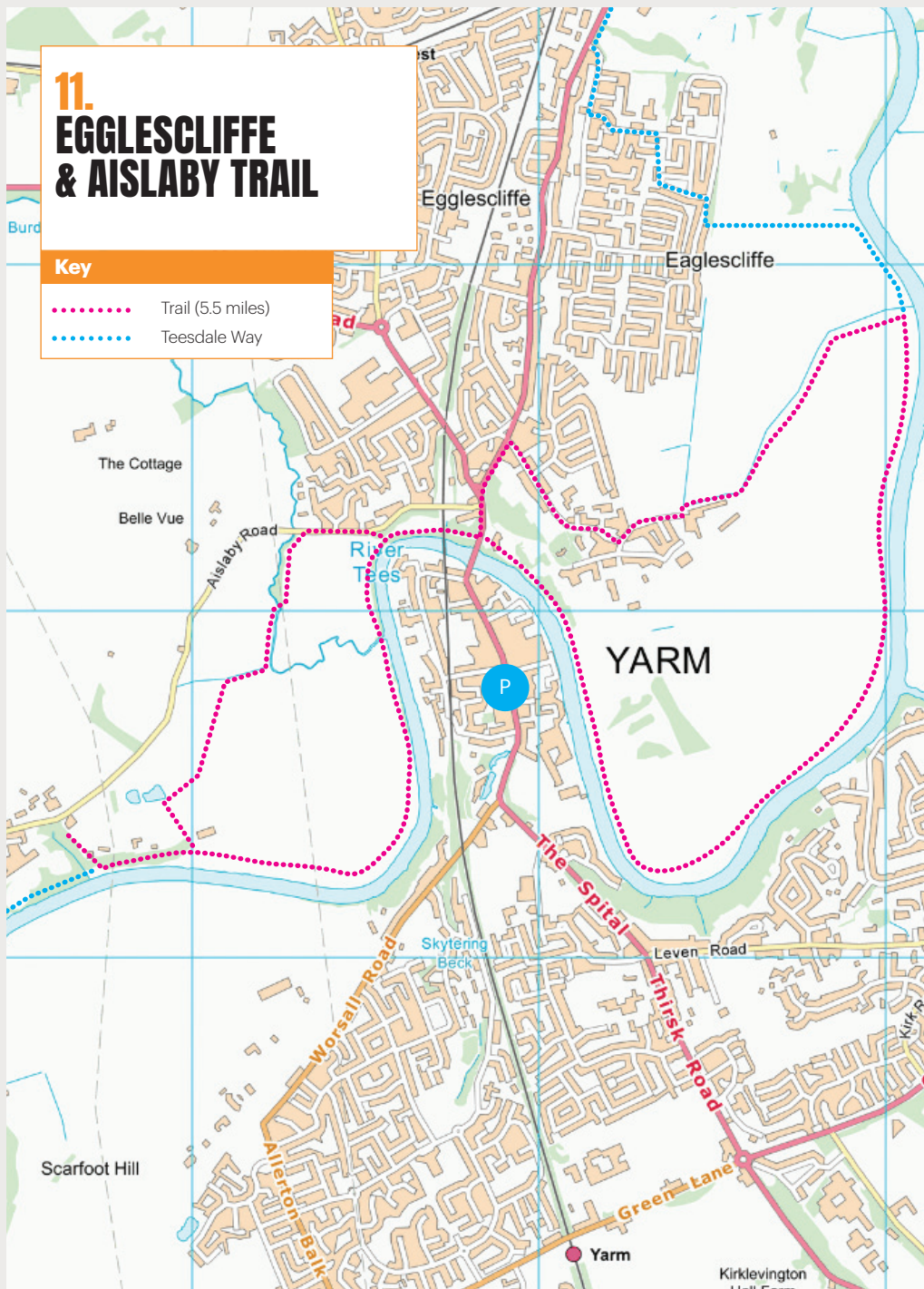




# 11. EGGLESCLIFFE & AISLABY TRAIL

## Key

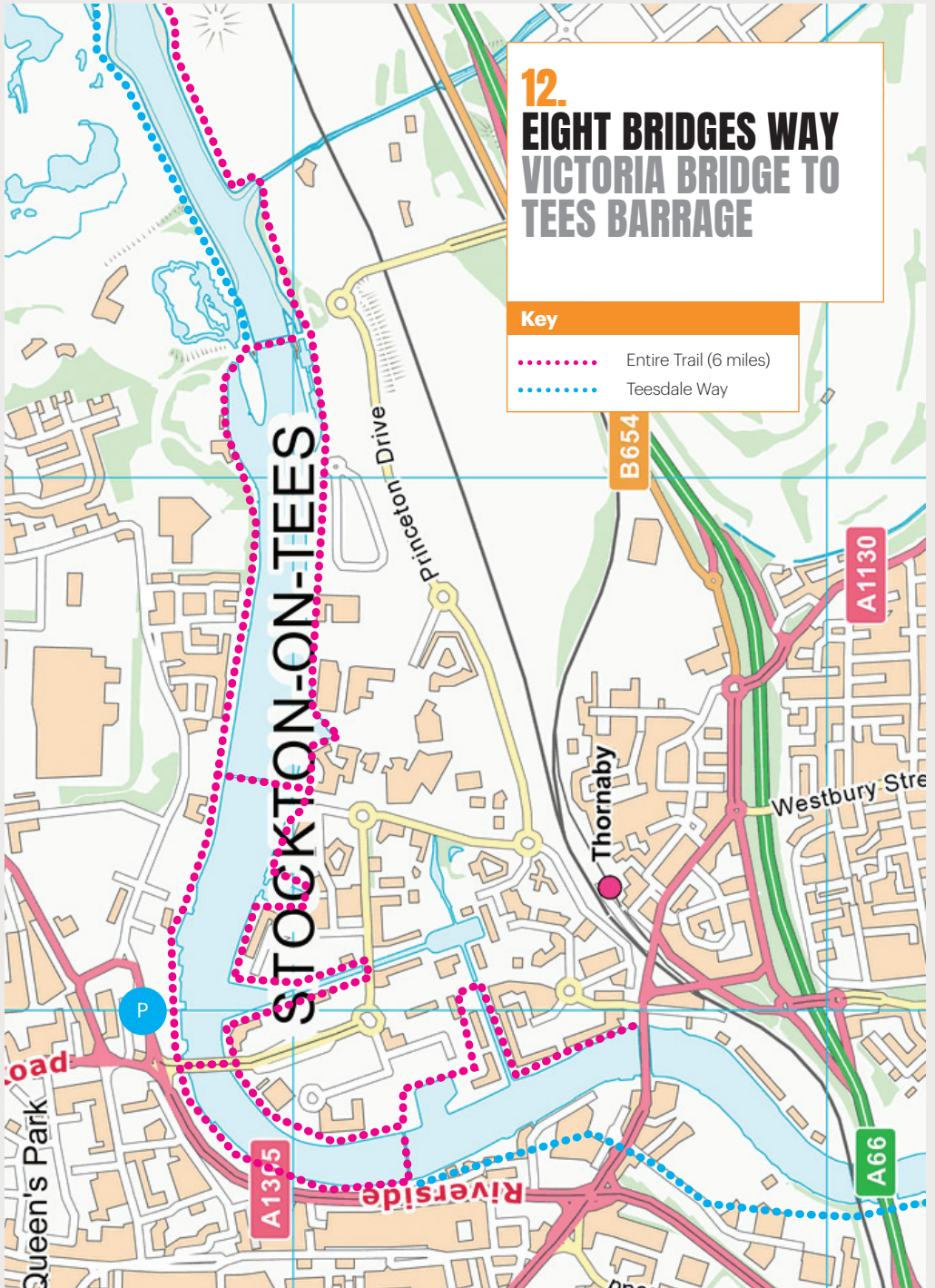
- Trail (5.5 miles)
- Teesdale Way



## 12. EIGHT BRIDGES WAY VICTORIA BRIDGE TO TEES BARRAGE

### Key

- Entire Trail (6 miles)
- Teesdale Way

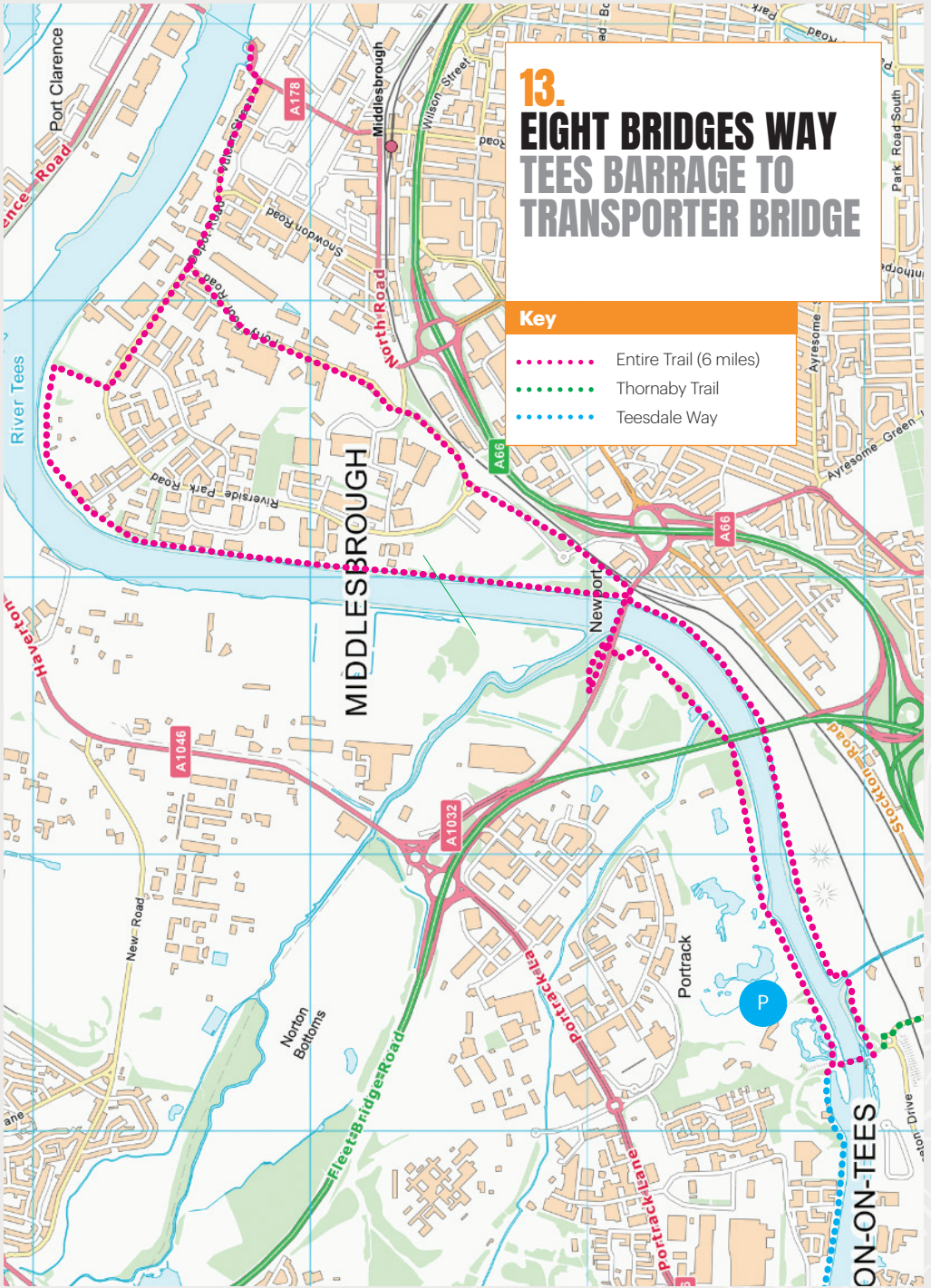




# 13. EIGHT BRIDGES WAY TEES BARRAGE TO TRANSPORTER BRIDGE

## Key

- ⋯ Entire Trail (6 miles)
- ⋯ Thornaby Trail
- ⋯ Teesdale Way



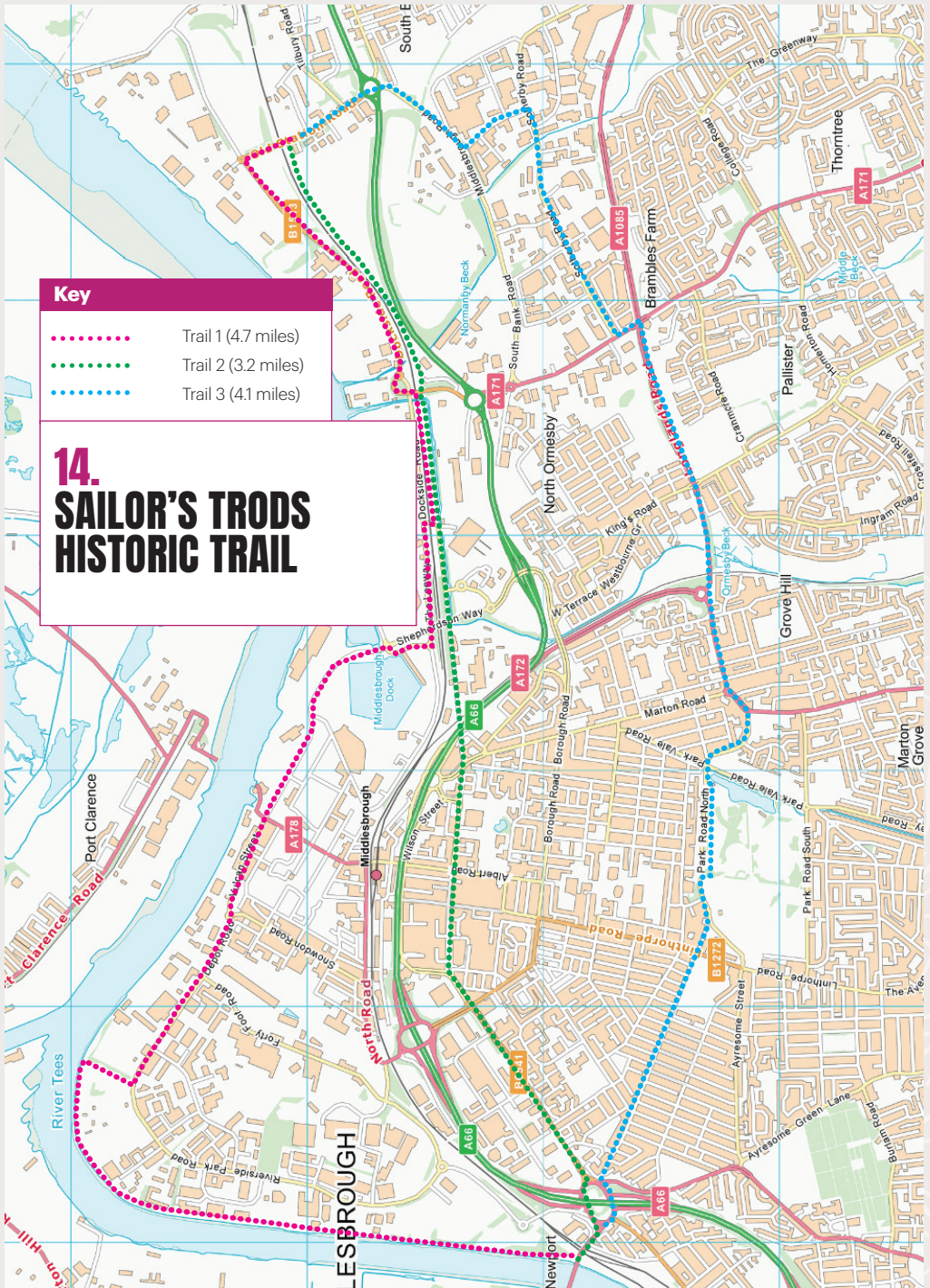
# MIDDLESBROUGH

In the early 19th Century the area we now know as Middlesbrough was a vast salt marsh and home to less than 40 people. The extension of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1827 meant a new branch line was built towards the newly formed Port Darlington (in the vicinity of the current Transporter Bridge) and Middlesbrough was born.

Initially a port to ship coal, the discovery of iron ore in the nearby Eston Hills led to the establishment of an iron and steel industry on the south bank of the Tees with the town becoming a world leader in iron production towards the end of the 19th Century. The demands of industry led to the reclamation of large areas of marshland on the south side of the river where the ground level was increased by at least four metres through the tipping of millions of tons of slag and waste from the iron and steelworks.

Around this time chemical industries were also developing on the north side of the river with the exploitation of brine and with chlorine, soda and salt works at the newly formed Port Clarence. This increasing industrial activity led to a massive house-building programme and Middlesbrough trebled in size as surrounding towns joined together. This growing population needed schools, churches and shops, whilst the growth of the railways the road network led to improved communications and the building of key bridges across the River Tees. The most significant of these being the Victoria Bridge in Stockton along with the Transporter and Newport Bridges in Middlesbrough.



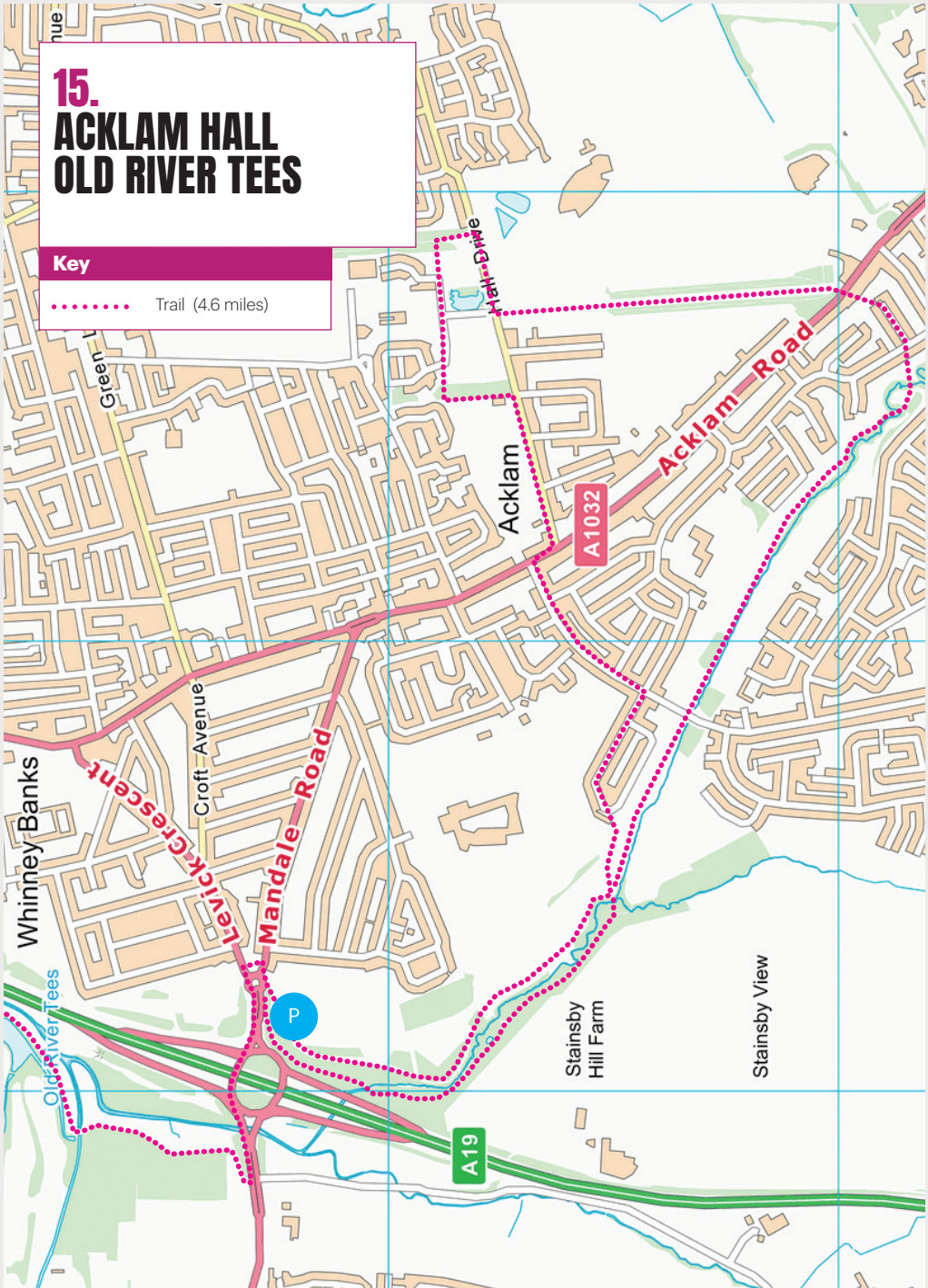


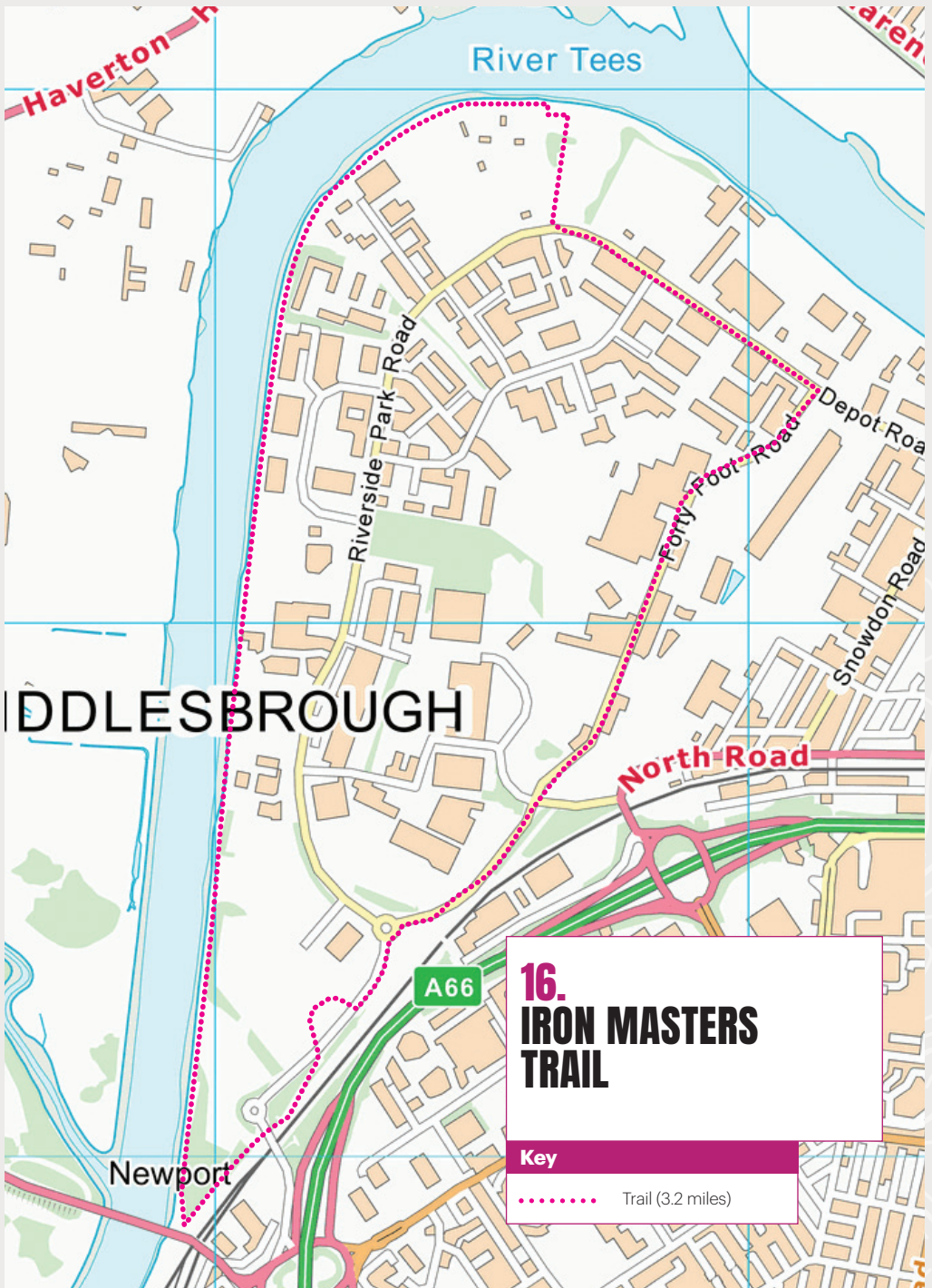


# 15. ACKLAM HALL OLD RIVER TEES

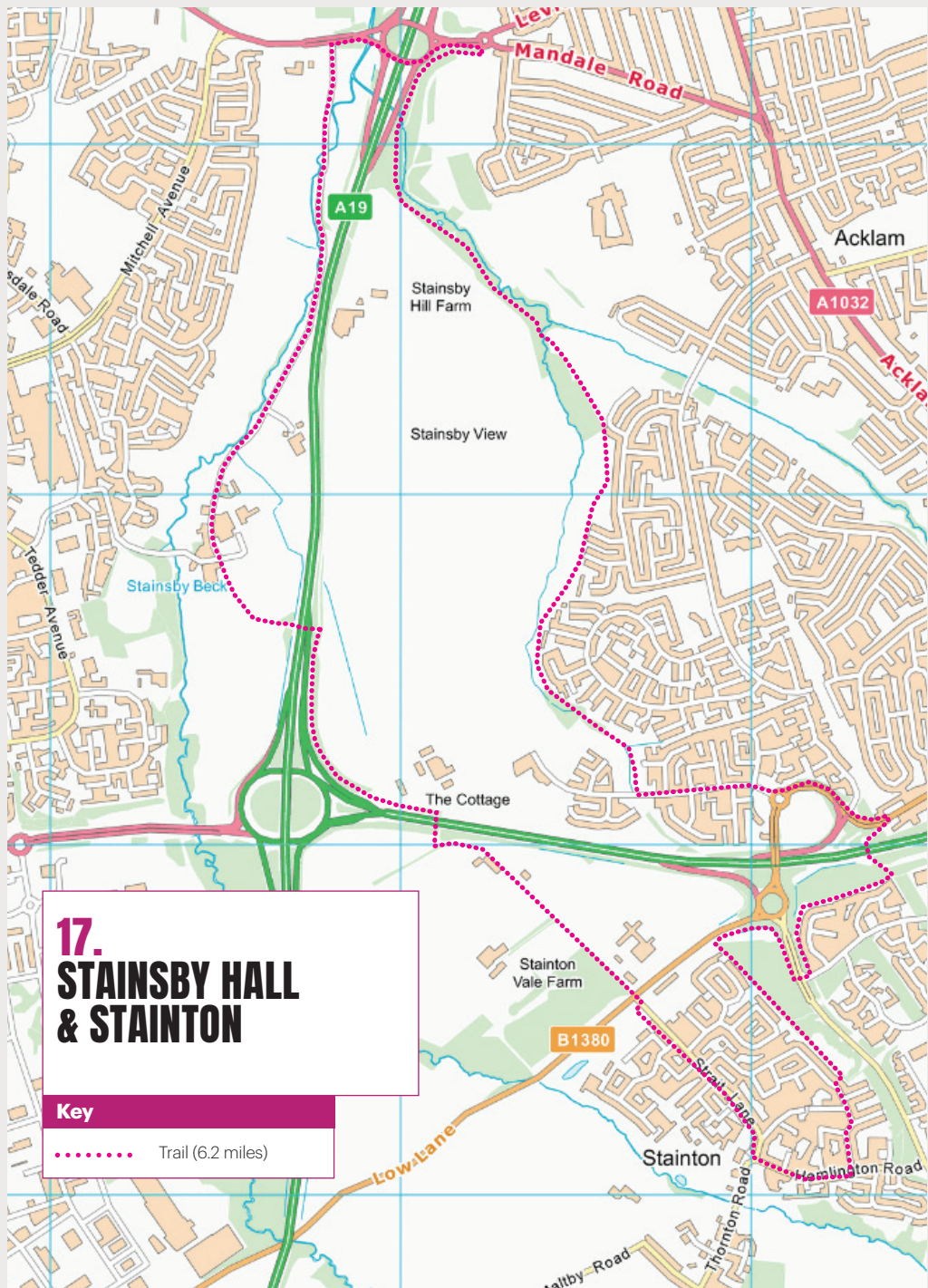
## Key

..... Trail (4.6 miles)









# HARTLEPOOL

Explore this extraordinary coastal area north to Teesmouth and discover how humans, industry and nature exist in harmony.

Seaton Carew is a small seaside resort situated on the North Sea coast at the mouth of the River Tees. The area is named after a Norman French family called 'Carou' who owned lands in the area and settled there while 'Seaton' means farmstead or settlement by the sea.

Seal Sands is an area of international importance as it's the only inter-tidal mudflat between Lindisfarne to its north and the Humber to the south.

On land recovered from the sea, the area around Seal Sands is home to leading names within the chemical industry such as Ineos, Fine Organics, Central Area Transmission System (BP Group), SABIC, Vertellus and ConocoPhillips.

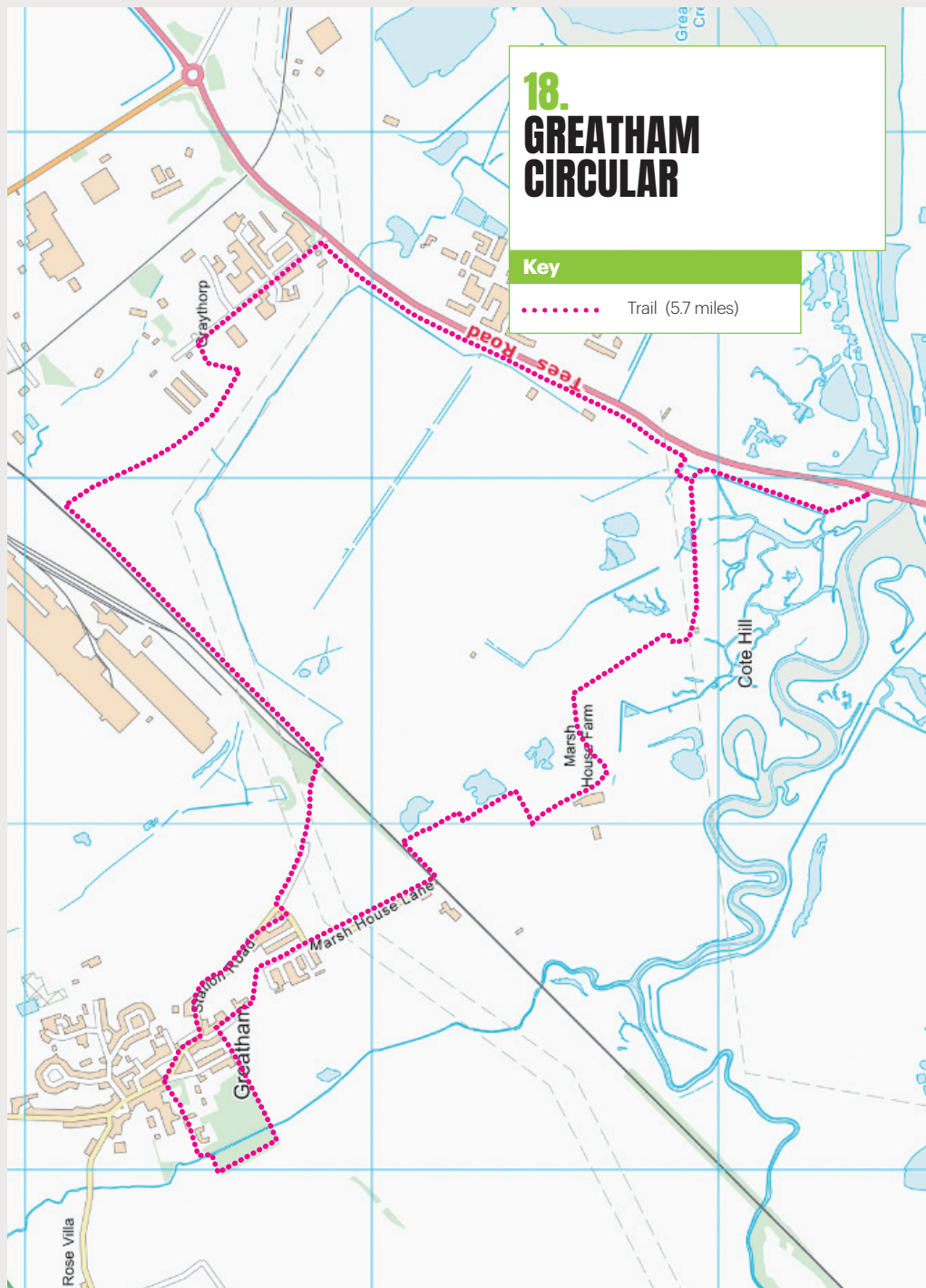
Within this industrial landscape can be found Greatham, a picturesque rural village home to around a thousand people.

The area has a long history of salt works, but this declined in the 18th and 19th Centuries. In the middle of the 20th Century, Cerebos salt works were taken over by Sharwood's. Although the factory has closed, it has now been repurposed as office units.

## 18. GREATHAM CIRCULAR

### Key

..... Trail (5.7 miles)

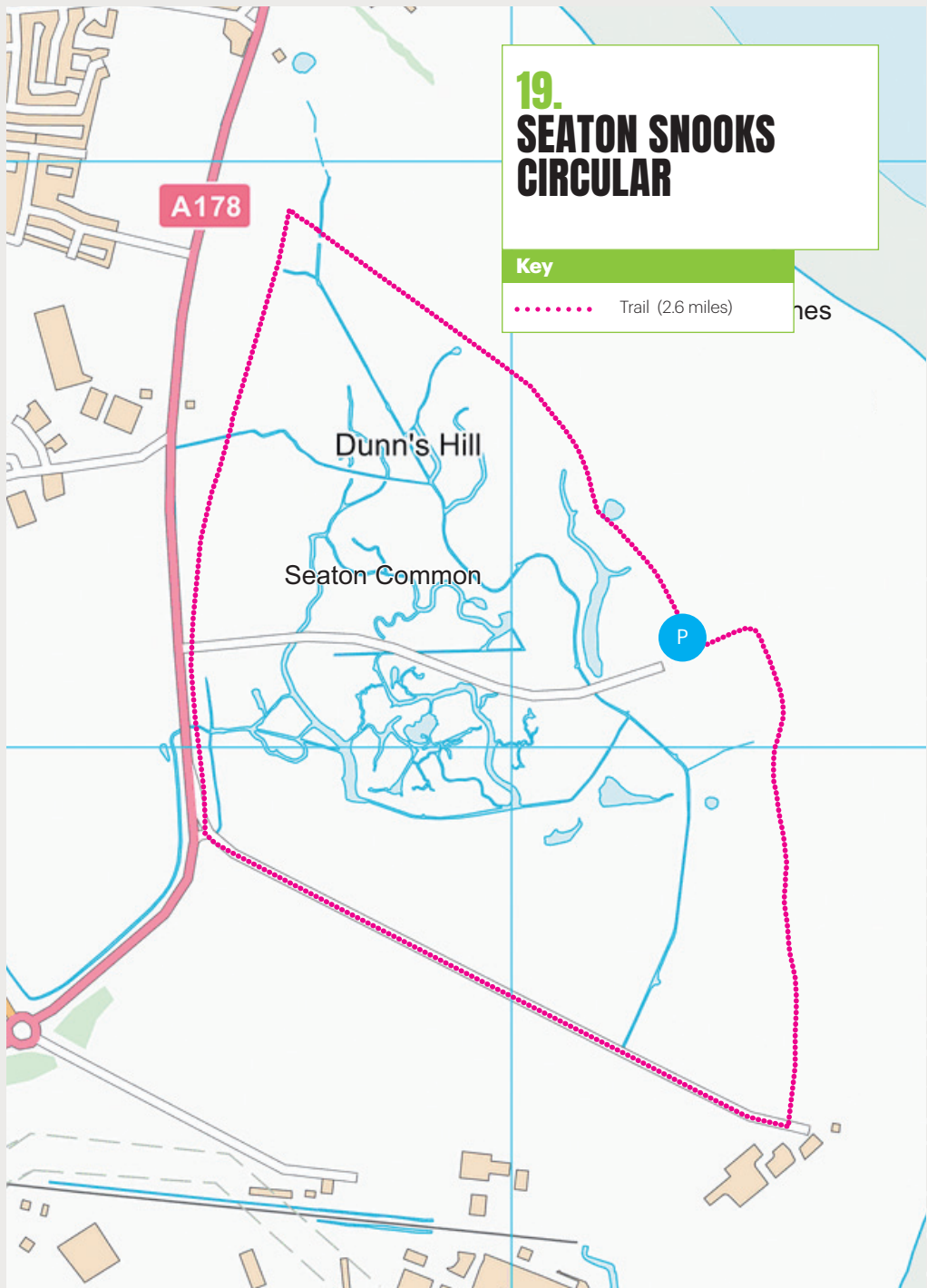




## 19. SEATON SNOOKS CIRCULAR

### Key

..... Trail (2.6 miles)



# 20. NORTH TEES TRAIL PART 1

## Key

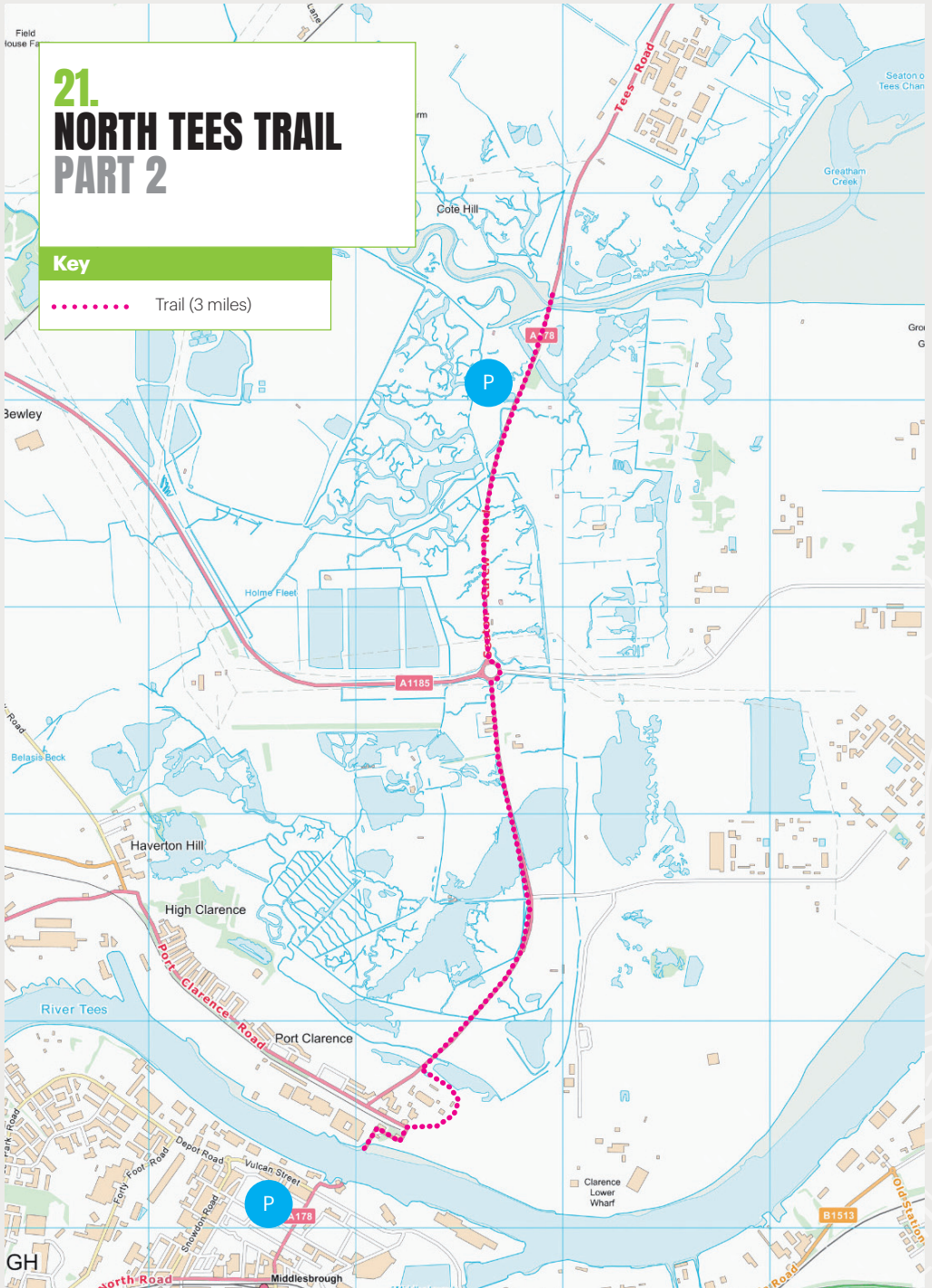
..... Trail (3.5 miles)



# 21. NORTH TEES TRAIL PART 2

## Key

..... Trail (3 miles)



# REDCAR AND CLEVELAND

The Black Path from Middlesbrough to Redcar meanders through the heart of industrial Teesside. Once used by sailors to reach their ships as well as thousands of steel and iron workers commuting between home and their shifts. The cinder-covered route was also popular with families, who followed it from tightly packed terraces to Bran Sands and Redcar for fresh air, sand, sea and cockling. The Black Path forms part of the longer Teesdale Way and also forms part of the England Coast Path.

Over the last 150 years, the landscape has changed dramatically; where once upon a time at high tide, you would have crossed saltmarsh populated by farms, hamlets and the remains of an ancient salt-making industry. The Industrial Revolution brought with it ironworks, ship building yards and chemical industries dominating the river frontage as land was reclaimed from the tides and put to work. The advent of the railway forced the path to move to its current line, passing many train stations which have long since closed down, now empty and deserted.

However time and tide waits for no man and today businesses still thrive along the river including Svitzer, a tugboat company, BOC and MPI Offshore. Teesport with its cranes and warehouses; the Lackenby steel rolling mills are all part of today's industrial Tees Valley and all visible from the Black Path.

Unusual flora is in abundance thanks to the steel slag which makes up much of the path's foundation. Including soft pink flowers of crown vetch to the strange dried flower heads of carline thistle to fragrant water mint and the brazen yellow flowers of coltsfoot – nature has found a way in this highly-industrialised place.



# 22. SOUTH GARE LINEAR TRAIL

## Key

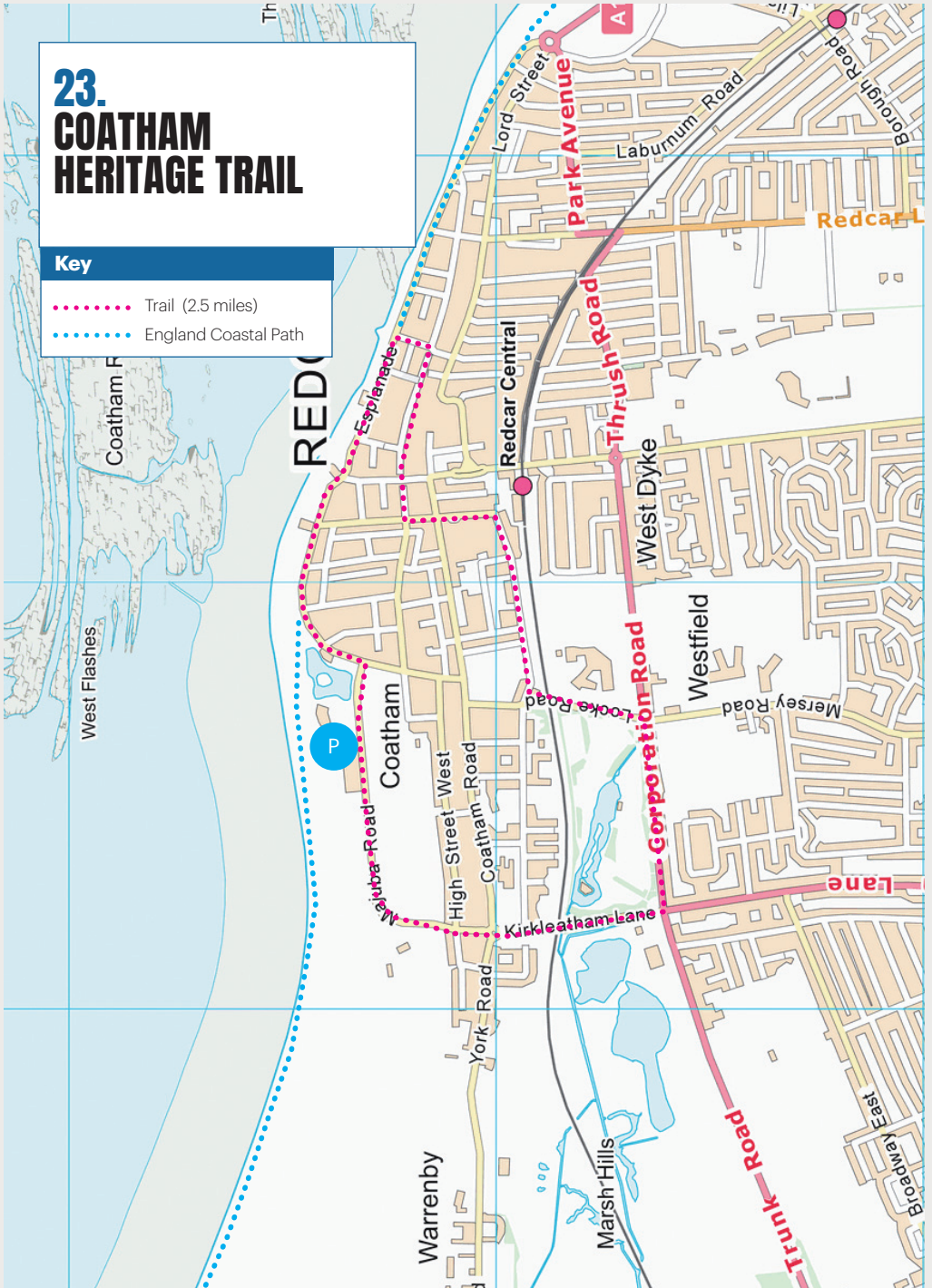
- ..... South Gare Linear Trail (5 miles)
- ..... Teesdale Way



# 23. COATHAM HERITAGE TRAIL

## Key

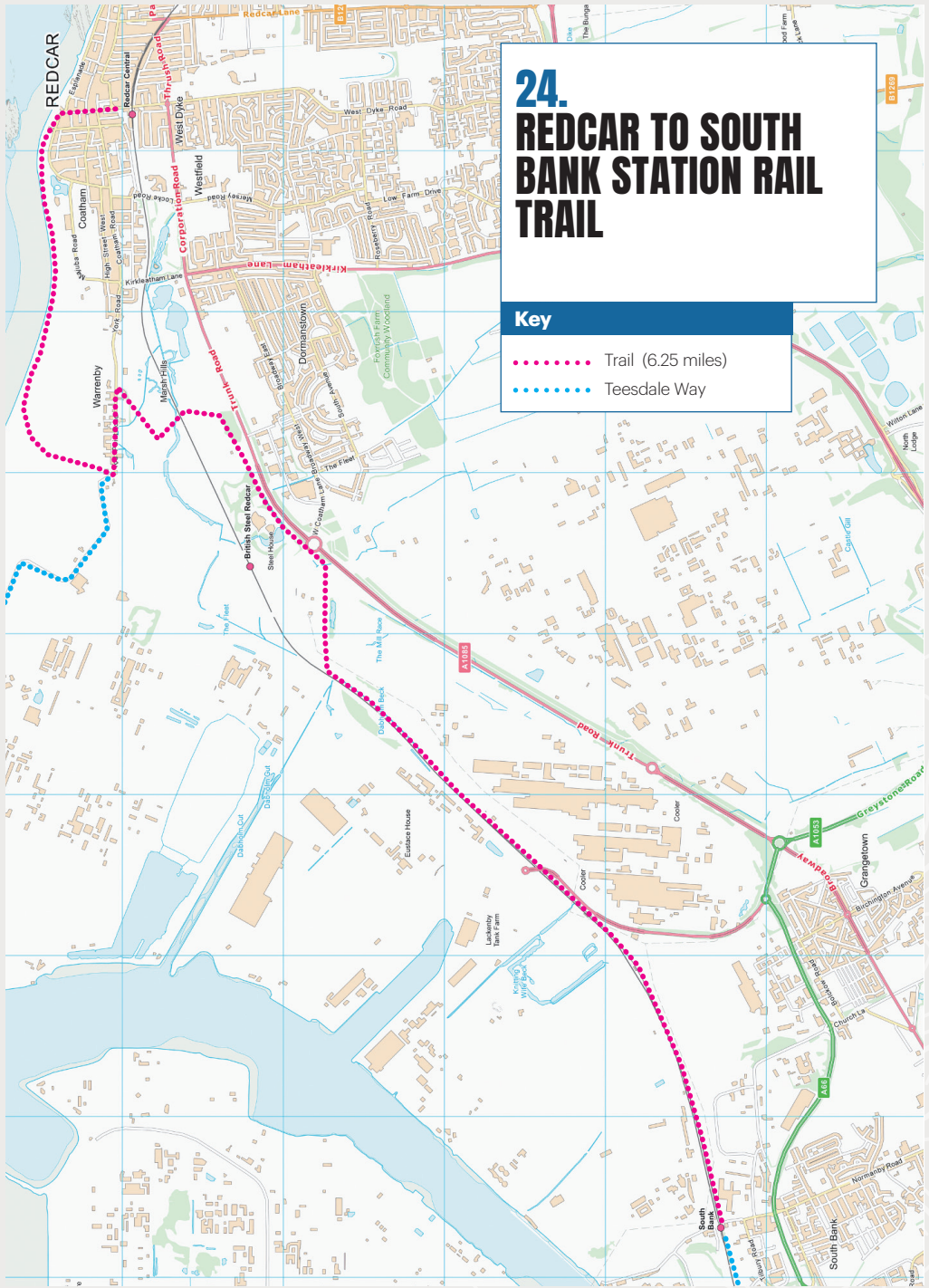
- Trail (2.5 miles)
- England Coastal Path



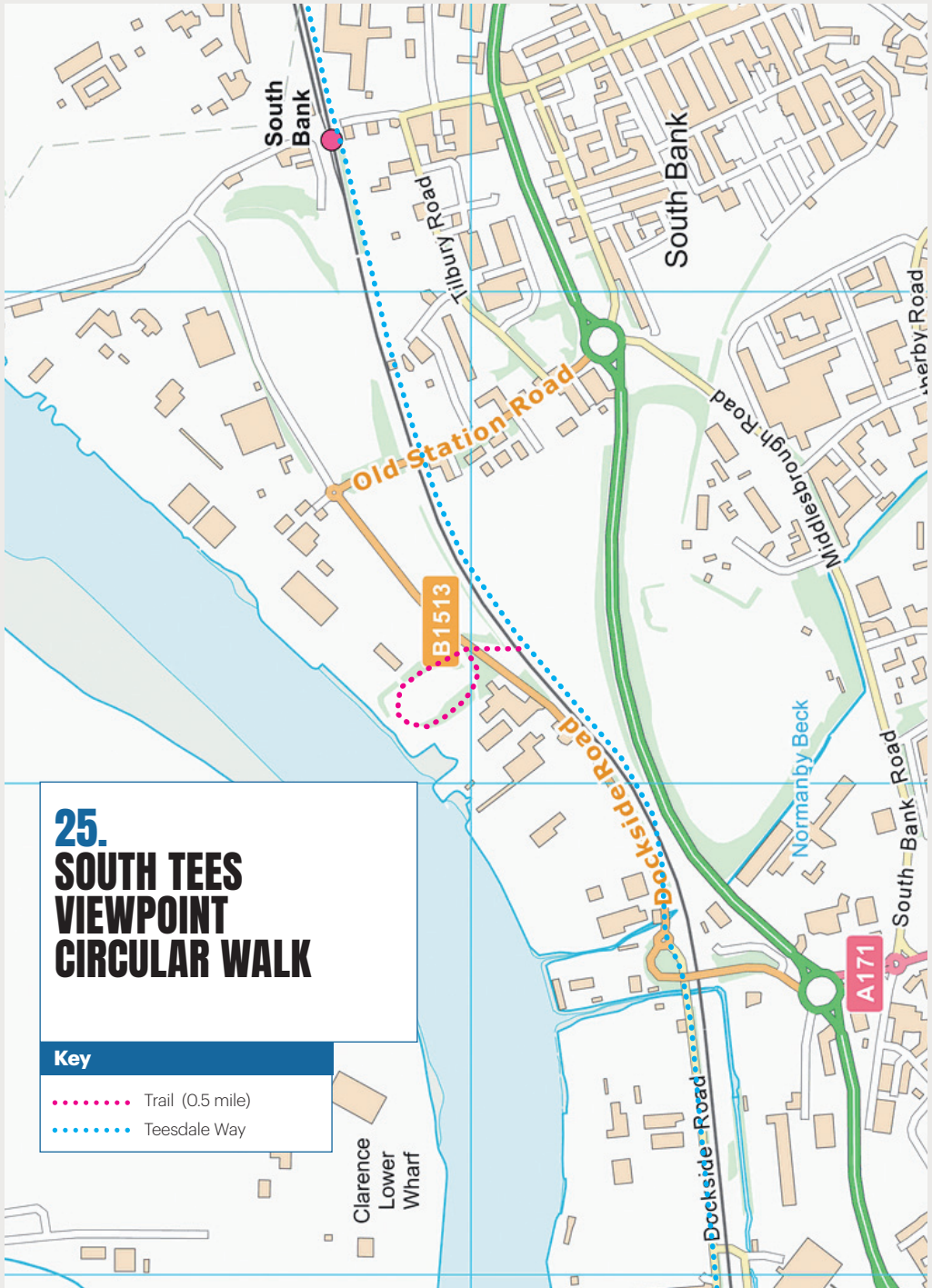
# 24. REDCAR TO SOUTH BANK STATION RAIL TRAIL

**Key**

- Trail (6.25 miles)
- Teesdale Way















# River Tees Rediscovered

Bus times can be obtained by calling  
Traveline 0871 200 2233 or visiting  
[www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

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TEES VALLEY MAYOR

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