

Site Name:	Hart to Haswell Walkway.
Location:	The entrance is on Ocean Road and Hartville Road, Hart Station, Hartlepool.
Description:	This former railway line has been converted to a traffic free walkway through peaceful countryside for pedestrians and cyclists, linking up to Monk Hesleden, Castle Eden, south to Wynyard Woodland Park, and north as far as Sunderland. Its total length is 9 miles, terminating at Haswell, but only the first mile lies within Hartlepool. This section is a Local Nature Reserve and offers a mixed variety of habitats including ponds, woodlands and magnesian limestone grassland. The site is a haven for many species of animals including birds such as owls and woodpeckers. In summer many species of butterfly including the speckled wood, common blue and dingy skipper frequent the specially created wildflower glades. In winter the deep valley sides provide perfect shelter from the harsh elements.
History of site:	The site follows the course of a former railway line designed by George Stephenson, built in 1835 to carry coal from the Durham coalfields to the newly opened docks in West Hartlepool. The line declined when the new east coast route was built and eventually closed in 1980.
Disabled Access/Facilities:	The one mile section of the Hart to Haswell Walkway which lies within Hartlepool is a surfaced track, with only one moderate incline towards the boundary with Easington. The entrance has a wheelchair friendly 'A' frame gate. There is also a bench a short distance from the boundary.
Status:	Local Nature Reserve. Site of Nature Conservation Interest.
Grid Reference:	NZ484 363
Size:	9.78 hectares.
Car Park:	The is no dedicated parking for this site, however parking is allowed on Ocean Road and Hartville Road- please park with respect for the needs of local residents.
Bus Routes:	The Hart Station end of the walkway is well served by public transport. The nos. 4,6,36,241,242 and X36 go along King Oswy Drive, and the nearest stop is the junction with Ocean Road. Visitors from County Durham are equally well served by Go North East and Arriva North

	East. North East Travel Information Service is available by telephoning 0870 6082608.
Contact details:	Countryside Wardens on (01429) 853325.