

# Welcome To North Tyneside Waggonways

## Heritage

The North Tyneside Waggonways Network is of great historical significance in terms of both the borough's rich coal mining tradition and the country's industrial heritage as far back as the 17th century. Coal lay at the heart of the industrialisation of Great Britain and the Waggonway network forms part of the vast Great Northern Coalfield, the most important coal producing area in the Victorian era and built to transport coal from the collieries down to the River Tyne. From there, the coal was shipped all over the world.

Originally made of wooden rails, on which ran horse-drawn carts carrying coal. Until the second half of the eighteenth century, horses and gravity were the sole means of propelling wagons along the wooden rails. Then came the steam engine followed by the steam locomotive. The Waggonways gave George Stephenson and the other railway pioneers their earliest experience of railway development. Stephenson's early trials with the locomotive on the Killingworth Waggonway led to the development of the standard railway line gauge 4 foot 8 1/2 inches being used all over the world!

## Biodiversity

As linear features the waggonways are invaluable to our wildlife as they allow free movement of birds and animals to and from our green spaces. These routes are a mixture of hedgerow, scrub and unimproved grassland habitats that are now rare in North Tyneside.

For further information contact us on:

Tel: 0845 2000 101

Email: [customer.callcentre@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:customer.callcentre@northtyneside.gov.uk)

## Cycling in North Tyneside?

If you have any ideas or opinions on route improvements etc  
Please email [cycling@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:cycling@northtyneside.gov.uk)



North Tyneside Council

Working closer  
with communities



The Development Agency  
for the North East of England



Office of the  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Creating sustainable communities














## Cycle Route Map D



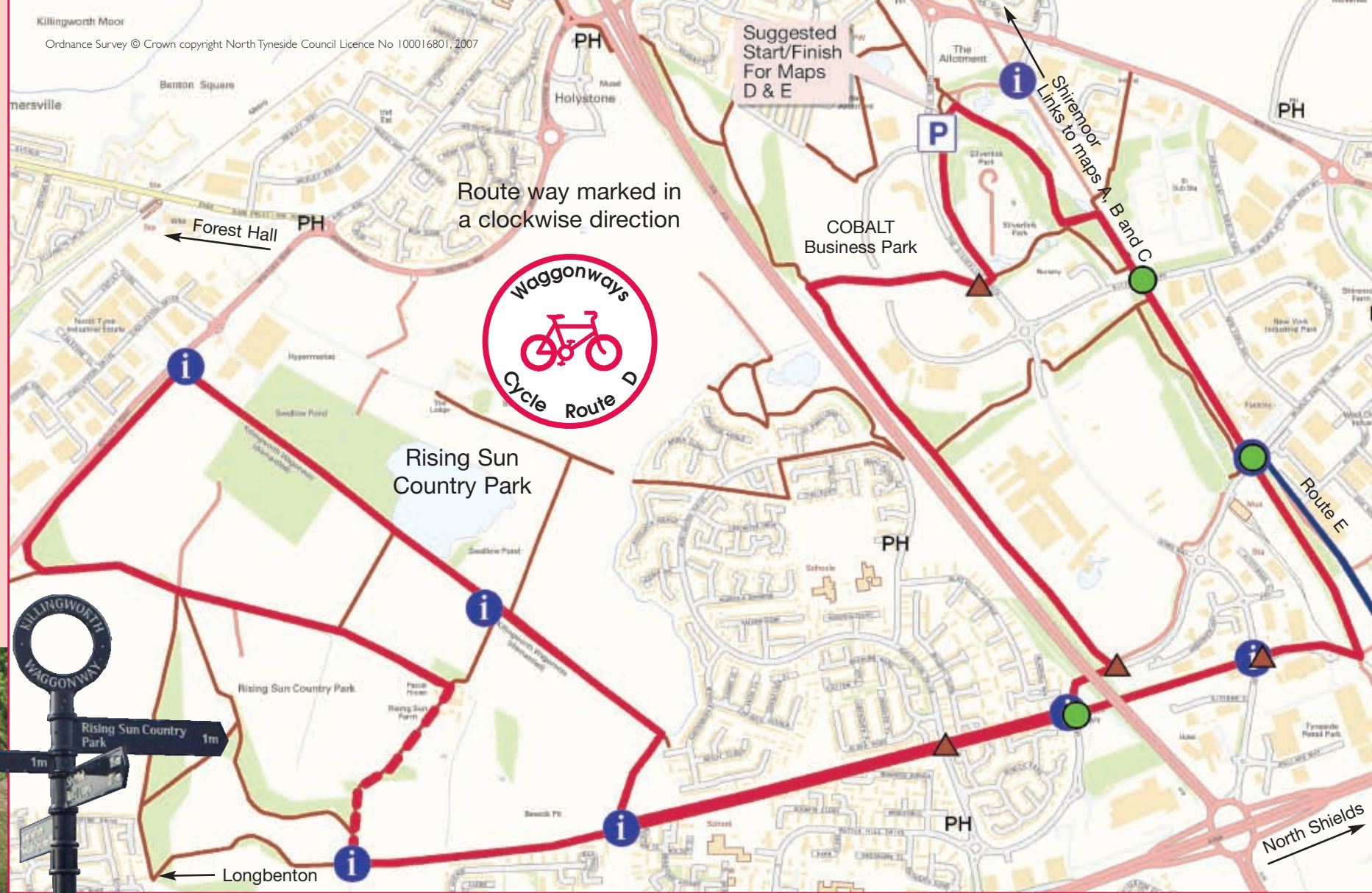
Front Cover: Rising Sun Colliery c1909



**Crossing Types**

-  Non-Signalled Crossing
-  Signalled Crossing
-  Car Park
-  Public House
-  Display Boards
-  Landmarks
-  Leisure Centres
-  Paths
-  Roads
-  Bridleways
-  Unrecorded Paths

Route Distance:  
 11.61km / 7.21 miles



The following kindly gave permission for use of their images in this project:

Derek Charlton Collection,  
 Alan Clothier, Malcolm Dunn,  
 Dr Dave Mitchell,  
 RH Mitchelson, Keith Regan,  
 John Short, Thomas Tams,  
 Michael Watson, Chris Wray,  
 Dudley People's Centre,  
 North Tyneside Library Services  
 and Tyne & Wear Museums



Seatonburn waggonway near Middle Engine



Grey Heron