

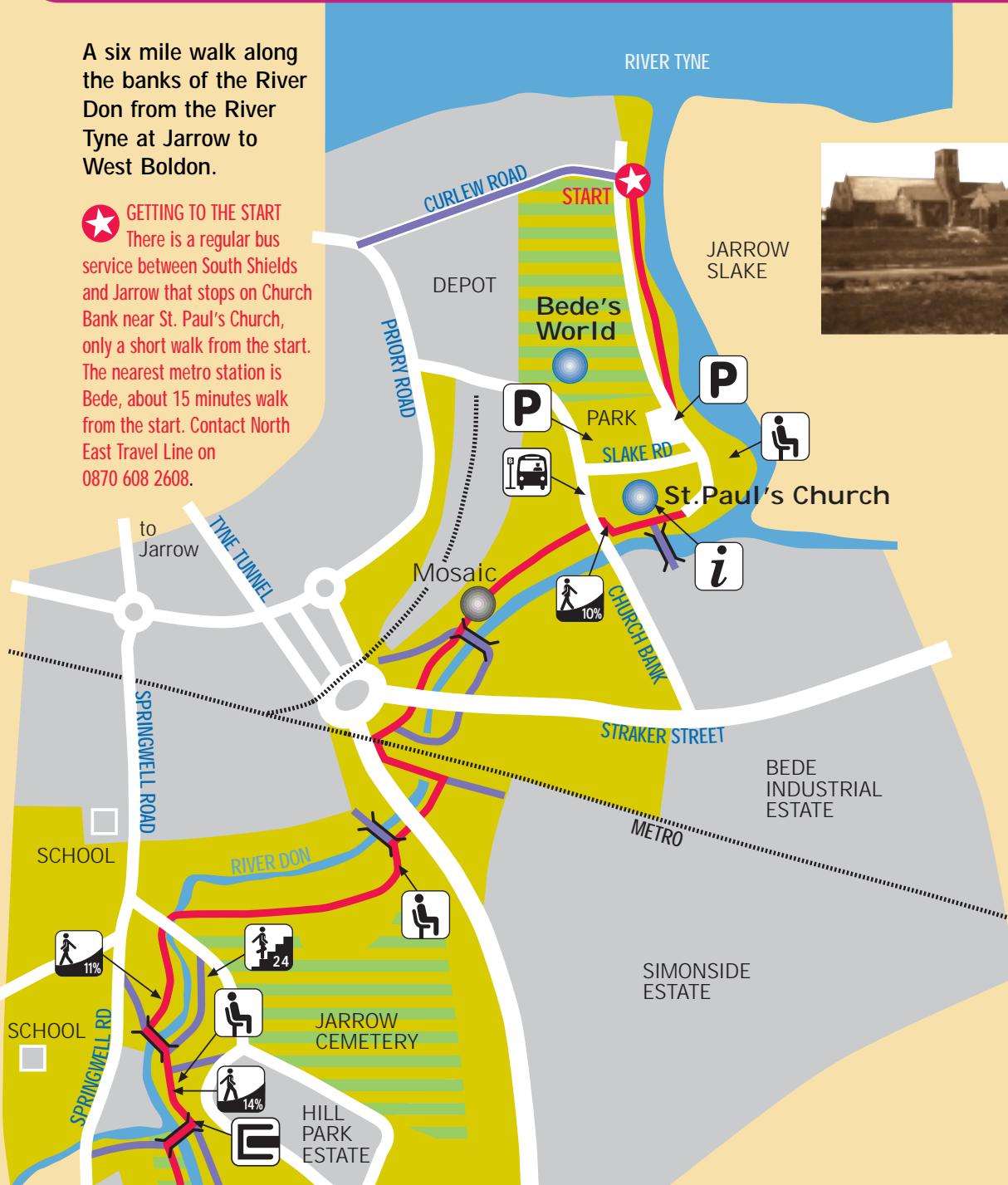


# River Don Walk

## Section 1 - Jarrow Slake to Primrose

A six mile walk along the banks of the River Don from the River Tyne at Jarrow to West Boldon.

**★ GETTING TO THE START**  
There is a regular bus service between South Shields and Jarrow that stops on Church Bank near St. Paul's Church, only a short walk from the start. The nearest metro station is Bede, about 15 minutes walk from the start. Contact North East Travel Line on 0870 608 2608.



▲ The walk starts at the point where the River Don enters the River Tyne. From here there are interesting views as you follow the stone path running parallel with the River Don until you reach Slake Road at the rear of St Paul's Church. Follow the road around the back of the church to the listed Jarrow Bridge, then take the path adjacent to the river and take the right fork until you



ST PAUL'S CHURCH  
© South Shields Libraries and Museums

reach Church Bank. Cross the road and continue along the wide path until you reach a mosaic that has been incorporated into the tarmac. From here take the path adjacent to the river and go under the dual carriageway and across to the point where the Metro bridge crosses the A19. Pass beneath the Metro then immediately turn left and then turn right along the path that goes under the A19. On reaching the other side of the A19 turn left before the footbridge, then follow the path, with Jarrow Cemetery on your left, till you reach Cemetery Road. This is the highest point on the river to be affected by tides.

▲ Cross the road, go over the river and then turn left along the tarmac path running parallel to the river until you reach a T-junction near a footbridge.

▲ Turn left over the bridge and continue along this path, with the river on your right, until you reach the next footbridge.



### St Paul's Church

This church has been used as a place of worship for over 1300 years. Inside you can view the foundations of the large Saxon church of the monastery founded in AD681 by Benedict Biscop. There are also fine examples of Saxon stone carvings created by the monks to celebrate the glory of God. In the chancel, look at the three round-headed windows - the monks made the glass here during the 7th century. The church, which has a well stocked shop, is open to visitors during daylight hours, except during church services.

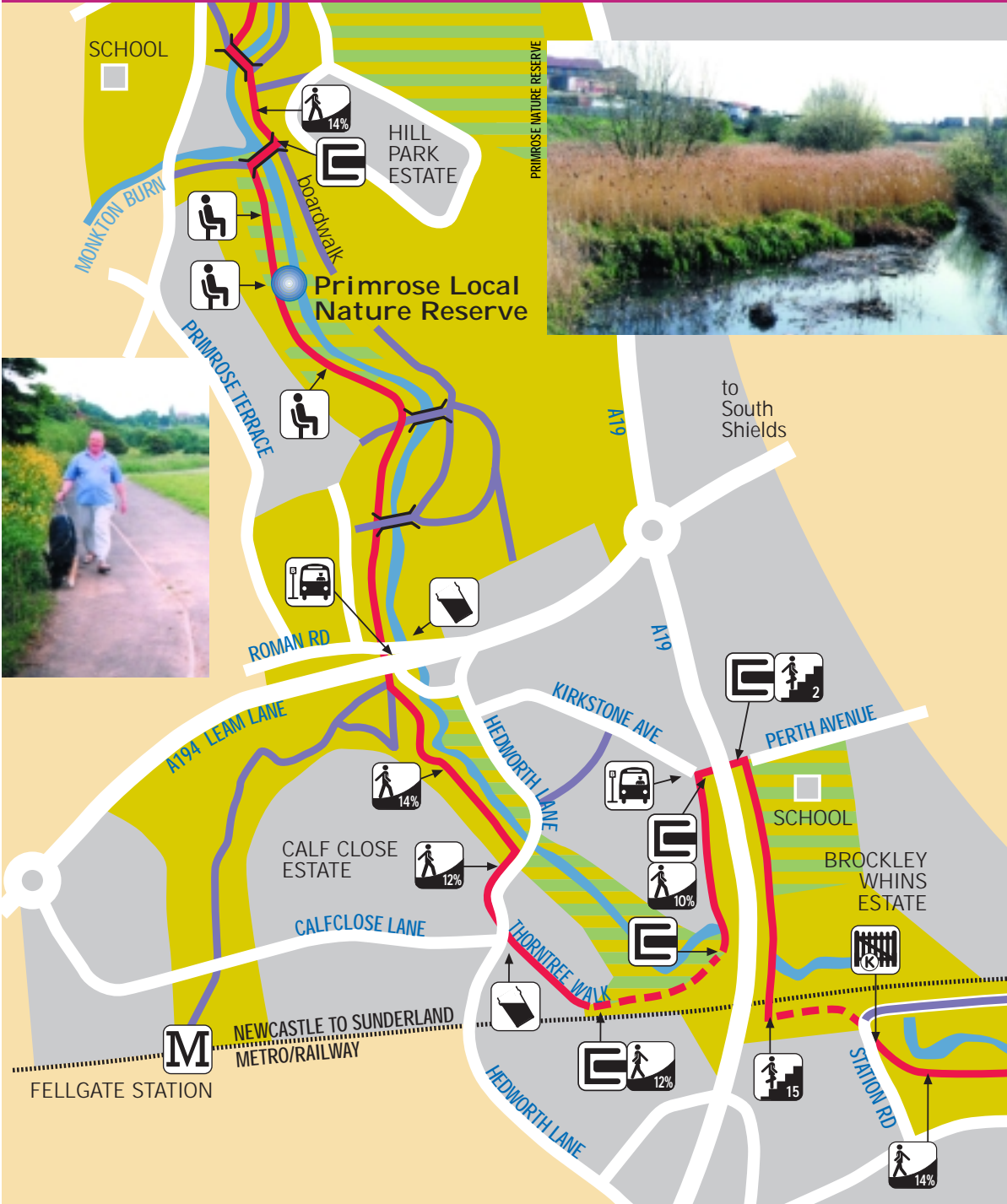
### Bede's World

The extraordinary life of the Venerable Bede created a rich legacy that is celebrated today at Bede's World. Bede lived and worked here 1300 years ago. Bede's World includes a museum housing a major exhibition that transports visitors through the makings of Bede's Northumbria. There is a restaurant in the old Jarrow Hall, next to a recreated Anglo Saxon Farm with many rare breeds of animals and a full-size early Northumbrian timber hall.

For further information on opening times and admission costs, telephone (0191) 489 2106 or visit [www.bedesworld.co.uk](http://www.bedesworld.co.uk)

# River Don Walk

## Section 2 - Primrose to Station Burn



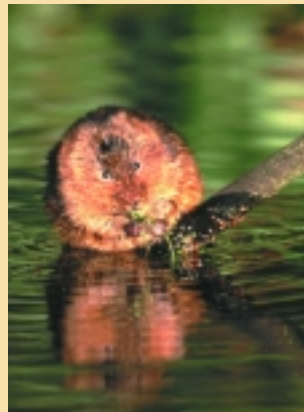
▲ Cross this bridge and follow the path alongside the river and Primrose Nature Reserve. On reaching the former Town Farm site you will discover a seating area and wildlife viewing platforms. Continuing upstream, the route leads past two more footbridges to Roman Road near the Robin Hood pub.

▲ Cross Roman Road, go under Leam Lane and at the other side take the tarmac footpath running adjacent to the river. When you reach Hedworth Lane turn right and, at the top of the hill, cross the road and take the path along Thorntree Walk. Cross the road and take the footpath opposite, which runs parallel to the railway, until you reach the side of the A19. Turn left and follow the path till you reach the footbridge.

▲ Take the footbridge across the A19 and then turn right taking the path that runs adjacent to the A19, go under the railway bridge and turn immediately left up the steps. Follow the stone path running adjacent to the railway until you reach Station Road. Cross the road and go through the metal kissing gate, then follow the footpath along the river. Go past the first footbridge that leads to the railway station and, at the next bridge, cross the river and turn immediately right up the slope and along a grass path. Go over the wooden boardwalk and cross back over the river below the disused railway viaduct. Turn immediately left adjacent to the river and go through the metal kissing gate. Continue along the path until you reach four more kissing gates.

### Primrose Local Nature Reserve

Created by the Council in 1990, this five hectare reserve boasts ponds, reedbeds and grasslands, with flowers such as yellow iris and meadowsweet - all linked by the River Don. The reserve is home to the threatened water vole and also to water birds such as moorhen, reed bunting and kingfisher.



WATER VOLE © Andrew Parkinson

# River Don Walk

## Section 3 - Station Burn to Newcastle Road



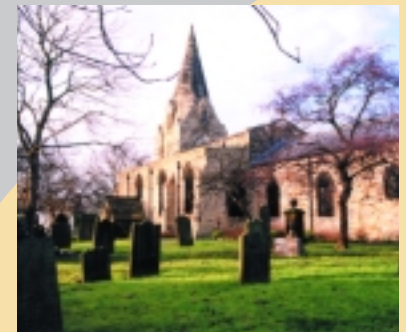
▲ Go through the kissing gates and underneath the old mineral line before you reach Colliery Wood. Follow the stone path down the side of the newly planted wood and cross the wooden bridge near the playing fields,

then follow the stone path to New Road opposite the school. Turn left along the pavement for about 350 metres until you reach the river on your right. Follow the tarmac path that runs adjacent to the river, going past four footbridges, until you reach North Road where you need to turn left up the road to St Nicholas Church.

● **GETTING FROM THE FINISH**  
There are regular bus services from North Road to Jarrow via Boldon Colliery. The nearest railway/metro station is Brockley Whins, which you passed early on the walk. Contact North East Travel Line on 0870 608 2608.

### ● Station Burn and Colliery Wood

The River Don runs through an attractive and secluded little valley known as Station Burn. Rich in wildlife, this is one of the best places in the north east to see the tracks and signs of the rare and threatened water vole. There are wildflower rich meadows and ponds with amphibians and dragonflies. Nearby Colliery Wood was created by the Council in 2000 by the planting of over 50,000 trees and shrubs on the reclaimed former Boldon Colliery site. When mature, this will be the biggest woodland in South Tyneside.



ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH