

Key points of interest

A) Penshaw Monument

Penshaw Monument was built in honour of John Lambton, the 1st Earl of Durham. Its foundation stone was laid on 28 August 1844. The monument is based on the design of the Theseion, the Temple of Hephaestus in Athens.

It was built using £6,000 raised by public subscription and is one of Wearside's most iconic landmarks.

B) Victoria Viaduct

This bridge is one of the most impressive stone viaducts in Britain. Named after Queen Victoria, the final stone of this bridge was laid on her Coronation Day, 28 June 1838. It is said that its design was inspired by a 2nd century Roman bridge in Spain. The viaduct was built to carry rail traffic over the Wear and was the main rail line between Newcastle to London until 1872. It closed in 1991.

C) Alice Well

Close to the river bank near the footbridge at Cox Green lies the site of Alice Well. Until the Second World War this was the source of the local community's water supply. It was bricked up until the 1980s when it was reopened due to popular demand.

D) Coxgreen

The heavily wooded, picturesque riverside setting of Coxgreen belies its industrial past. In the 19th century this area was a hive of activity as a result of the coal trade, local ship building and

quarrying industries. Coal was carried by wagons down to the river to keel boats which would then transport the coal on to awaiting ships close to the mouth of the river.

E) Penshaw Railway

This disused railway line forms part of the old Penshaw railway which was established in 1852 to carry freight to Hendon. In 1853 it began operating a passenger service into Sunderland town centre. The line is now a popular route used by cyclists and joggers. It eventually leads to South Hylton and the Tyne and Wear Metro line.

F) Penshaw Woods

Site of Penshaw Quarry owned by the Marquis of Londonderry, this is now an attractive broadleaf woodland.

Facilities & Accessibility:

Toilet facilities and catering:

Cafe on the Park
Herrington Country Park
Penshaw Tea Rooms

Parking: Herrington Country Park
or foot of Penshaw Monument

Accessibility: Unsuitable for
wheelchairs or pushchairs

Heritage Trails Coalfield Area

Walk

Penshaw Monument Circular

Walk Distance & Time:

4 miles or 6.5km

2 hours (approx)

Start and Finish Point:

Foot of Penshaw Monument

Heritage Trails Coalfield Area

Walk 1

Penshaw Monument Circular



Walk Directions

Take the path up the grassy bank that runs to the left below Penshaw Monument.

Pass through the gate and follow the track, passing the sign for Penshaw Wood on the right.

Stay on this track all the way down to the road.

At the road turn right and take the public footpath on the right and follow this down to another road.

Cross the road onto the disused railway line and turn left.

Stay on this disused railway line until reaching a bridge, take the steps up to the left and cross the bridge.

Stay on this road passing houses on the right and through a tunnel.

Take the public footpath on the left through the woods, the Victoria Viaduct can be seen through the trees on the left.

At the bottom of this path turn right and follow the riverside path to Coxgreen.

The Alice Well can be seen on the right.

Continue straight ahead passing the green footbridge and the "Oddfellows Arms".

Take the path to the left of the horse stables. Take the second right marked with a public footpath sign for Penshaw Monument, take this path up the bank keeping to the right, passing the golf course on the left and joining a road.

Follow the road crossing a bridge over the old disused Penshaw railway line straight up the bank, taking the first public footpath on the right. Follow this path straight across the field and up the steep bankside. At the top turn right and follow this path alongside Penshaw wood up to Penshaw Monument.