

Key points of interest

A) South Hylton

South Hylton was part of the Hylton Estate and developed as an industrial village in the latter half of the 19th century. The range of industries included saw mills, forges, foundries, ship yards and potteries.

B) War Memorial

This First World War Memorial was unveiled on 16 August 1924.

C) Methodist Chapels

It is said that Methodism arrived at South Hylton in 1776, the same year that the American Colonies declared their independence from Britain. Today only two chapels survive; the Independent Methodist Chapel and the Primitive Methodist Chapel, which is no longer used and has fallen into disrepair.

D) South Hylton Tansy Centre

A community centre that serves the people of South Hylton.

E) Hylton House and The Terrace

These properties date from the late 18th century and are recognised grade II listed buildings. Hylton House is believed to be the oldest house in South Hylton and was once the residence of John Dawson, owner of Dawson's pottery, one of South Hylton's most distinguished industries.

F) Golden Lion

Another grade II listed building, dating from c.1910. Along with the Shipwrights on the north side of the river, this pub served the local ferry and the river's keelmen.

G) South Hylton Ferry

The South Hylton Ferry served the main route between Sunderland and Newcastle until 1796, when the Wearmouth Bridge was built. The earliest reference to the ferry seems to be from 1322 where it was used to transport livestock. A passenger version of the ferry operated until 1957.

H) Claxheugh Rock and Cretehawser

From this point, looking east along the river can be seen the concrete tug the Cretehawser. This was one of twelve tug boats built on the Wear in 1919, using concrete due to the scarcity of steel after the war. Having been damaged during an air raid in 1942, it was towed up river for safety but sank where it now rests. Overlooking the river is the prominent rocky outcrop of Claxheugh Rock. It was formed over 200 million years ago in the late Permian period. Due to its magnesium limestone content, it is recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

I) St Mary's Church

This church was built in 1880 by C. Hodgson Fowler of Durham. It is a well preserved early example of the architect's work, with some fine Arts and Crafts style stained glass and very few alterations. It is a well preserved and good example of the Victorian Gothic Revival style.

Facilities & Accessibility:

Toilets: South Hylton Tansy Centre

Catering: Golden Lion

Parking: South Hylton Metro Station, Hylton Bank

Accessibility: Suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Heritage Trails West Area

Walk 4

South Hylton Circular

Walk Distance & Time:

2 miles or 3.2km

30 mins (approx)

Start and Finish Point:

South Hylton Metro Station
Hylton Bank

Walk 4

South Hylton Circular



Walk Directions

At the Metro station car park turn right and head down Railway Terrace.

War memorial is about 50m down the road on the right.

Continue down Railway Terrace past the Jolly Potter pub. Independent Methodist Church is on the left opposite the pub.

Further down the bank on the right is the Tansey Centre.

Just past the Tansey Centre on the left is Hylton House and The Terrace.

Opposite The Terrace is the disused Primitive Methodist Chapel.

At the bottom of the bank is the Golden Lion pub.

Turn right opposite the pub car park towards the steps of the Old South Hylton Ferry.

Follow the riverside path for about half a mile to the tarmac path, passing a brick building on the right.

Follow this path until just before the steps down to the river. From here the Cretehawser is visible down river and Claxheugh Rock is slightly to the right overlooking the Wear.

Turn right across the grass towards the road.

Turn right and follow the road (Riverside Park), passing Estuary Way on the left. Continue straight ahead passing a public footpath sign on the right.

After the public footpath take the next right through the cut, down the bank passing allotments on the left.

Immediately after passing allotments turn left up the bank.

Take the third right onto Church Street.

St Mary's Church is on the right hand side.

Continue on to the Tansey Centre and turn left to rejoin the route on Railway Terrace.