

Key points of interest

A) Washington Wetland Centre

Washington Wetland Centre lies on the banks of the River Wear and provides an inspirational example of how sound conservation management allows wildlife to thrive in the midst of a largely urban landscape. Here members of the public can get close to nature and learn more about wetland habitats and the wildlife they support.

B) Low Barmston Farm

This was built in 1840 as a wedding gift for the eldest daughter of John Lambton, the 1st Earl of Durham. Penshaw Monument dominates the skyline above the River Wear to the south west.

C) Woodhouse Farm

From the mid to late 19th century a quarry operated from the site of Woodhouse Farm. Sandstone from the quarry was taken to barges on the river to be transported to Sunderland and the river mouth for building purposes.

D) Hylton A19 Bridge

This bridge was built between 1970 and 1974. The opening of the bridge was delayed by several months as a result over concerns about the structural safety of a similar bridge in Australia.

E) Manor House Farm

Blessed with rich clay deposits Sunderland developed a thriving pottery industry, particularly in the early 19th century. This site dates from an earlier period and was the home of the North Hylton Pot Works which was founded by William Maling in 1762. The products of the Maling Pottery span 200 years and were exported world wide.

F) High Wood

High Wood rests on the north bank of a large loop in the River Wear. It is ancient woodland consisting of hawthorn, oak, beech and ash. It is home to a rich variety of bird life including great spotted woodpecker, bullfinch and sparrowhawk. Fungi and woodland flowers thrive here and hidden glades and ponds offer a chance to glimpse dragonflies and butterflies.

Facilities & Accessibility:

Toilets:

Washington Wetland Centre

Catering:

Washington Wetland Centre
NB: There is a charge to enter Washington Wetland Centre

Parking:

Washington Wetland Centre

Accessibility: Not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs

Heritage Trails Washington Area

Walk 5

Washington Wetland Centre Circular

Walk Distance & Time:

3.1 miles or 5km

1 hour 30 mins (approx)

Start and Finish Point:

Washington Wetland Centre
Car Park

Heritage Trails Washington Area

Walk 5

Washington Wetland Centre Circular

Walk Directions

Take the path to the left of the Wetlands Centre entrance – this is the coast to coast path.

Continue on this path, passing a small pond on the left until reaching a road.

At the road turn right.

On the left appears Low Barmston Farm. Just before the farm, take the public footpath to High Wood.

Follow the path, keeping to the right down the bank and cross the footbridge.

Turn left over the stile marked “Wearside Walks”.

Keep to the side of the field and follow the line of the hedge. Fine views of Offerton and Penshaw Monument can be seen to the right. Keep on the path with the hedge to the right.

Continue straight ahead following the line of the hedge towards Woodhouse Farm, passing through the farm complex until reaching the green public footpath sign to High Wood and Toby Gill. Take this route through a hedge lined path.

Passing a pond and stone wall on the left, keep to the path on the right following the signs marked “High Wood circular walk”. Below to the left can be seen Manor House Farm and the A19 bridge beyond. This path now passes through High Wood. This path can be narrow and steep. Take care!

Stay on this riverside path, crossing a green footbridge and up a steep set of steps, finally crossing a footbridge before turning left and re-joining the original C2C path and back to the Wetlands Centre.

