

Key points of interest

A) Seaburn Ocean Park and Zoo

For many years after WWII this area was occupied by the Seaburn Ocean Park and Zoo. It was a popular attraction, home to lions, tigers and elephants. In 1977 a lion escaped and wandered the local countryside before being captured and returned to captivity.

B) War Graves

This area is home to a number of graves of men who lost their lives during the First World War. John Cowie of Monkwearmouth lies here after being killed in action on 5th October 1915. Tragically his son Henry was killed just over a week earlier whilst serving with the Durham Light Infantry during the Battle of Loos.

C) Lime Kilns

These grade II listed buildings are remnants of an industry that was virtually monopolised by Sunderland from the mid-18th century. They form part of the Sir Hedworth Williamson Limeworks, which procured lime from the nearby quarry.

D) Fulwell Mill

Built between 1806-08 whilst Britain was in the midst of the Napoleonic Wars, the mill dominates Fulwell's skyline. It is built from magnesian limestone from the nearby quarry and is of a typical five floor English design. The only fatality recorded at the mill occurred in 1839 when William Wren was thrown from the sails during a violent storm.

E) Acoustic Mirror

On 1 April 1916, during the First World War, Sunderland was bombed by a German Zeppelin Airship. The attack killed 22 people. This concave sound mirror was built to alert the local population of any future attacks.

F) Fulwell Quarry Local Nature Reserve

Once the site of a limestone quarry owned by the Williamson family, this area is a SSSI, and a nationally important place for wildflower meadows and magnesian limestone geology. In the grasslands and disturbed ground greater knapweed, blue moor grass, quaking grass and bee orchid can be found.

G) Fulwell Water Pumping Station

Designed by leading water engineer, Thomas Hawksley, this was constructed for the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company in 1852. It is a grade II listed building.

H) Dene Lane

An ancient right of way that is said to be the route taken by monks travelling between the monastic sites at Wearmouth and Jarrow, during the age of Bede over 1300 years ago. The nearby Academy of Light nature reserve is rich in birdlife including reed bunting, skylark and occasionally, short eared owl.

I) Cut Throat Dene

An important wildlife corridor that links together the surrounding countryside with Mere Knolls cemetery. The dene is home to a range of wildlife including fox, weasel, hedgehog, tawny owl, pipistrelle bat and common toad. The name derives from the phrase "cutting through" rather than any gruesome historical misdemeanour.

Heritage Trails North Area

Walk 16

Fulwell circular

Walk distance and time:

4.4 miles or 7km

Two hours (approx)

Start and finish point:

Mere Knolls cemetery,

Dykelands Road entrance

Facilities and accessibility:

Toilets: Seaburn Centre

Catering: Seafront area

Parking: Car park behind Seaburn Centre

Accessibility: Not suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Please note the gates of the cemetery are locked at dusk

Heritage Trails North Area

Walk 16

Fulwell circular

Walk directions

Enter Mere Knolls cemetery via the Dykelands Road entrance. Follow main path through the cemetery.

The grassy area to the right on the other side of the cemetery wall was the site of Seaburn Ocean Park and zoo.

Take the first left up the bank with houses to the left. Continue on path straight ahead into Ward 13. The war grave for John Cowie appears after the third tree on the right.

Continue straight ahead on the circular path towards the houses at the edge of the cemetery. Turn right, follow main path and exit the cemetery on the left. Head up Torver Crescent passing Monkwearmouth Academy on the right up to Dovedale Road. Turn right along Dovedale Road.

At the busy junction turn left along the A1018, passing allotments on the right. Take first exit at the large roundabout then turn immediate right across the road. Turn left and continue straight ahead, passing the pub and garages on the right. The historic lime kilns are immediately past the garage on the right.

Pass the lime kilns and take the first right up a set of steps towards Fulwell

Mill. Here there is a fine view of the surrounding area and on a clear day the North Yorkshire coast beyond.

Continue ahead following the tarmacked path, passing allotments on the left. At the bottom of the steps turn left up the bank, the acoustic mirror appears on the left.

Continue on the tarmac path and follow this straight ahead and as it curves to the right, passing houses on the left. Keep on this gravel path through the quarry area. Optional paths to the left can be taken to explore the rich wildflower habitat of the quarry.

At the end of the path (at the barriers), turn right onto another gravel track. Follow this path before turning left down a hedge lined grass path to the



busy A184 road– **this is a fast road so approach with caution.** Cross the road taking the public footpath marked for Moor Lane. Pass underneath the bridge known locally as “Spuggies Arch” – for reasons unknown. Bear left then take the path to the right alongside the allotments. At the end of this path close to the road is the Fulwell Water Pumping Station.

Cross the road turning left and then right onto a footpath. Follow this all the way to Dene Lane. At the junction, turn right, cross the bridge and then turn left and follow the path through Cut Throat Dene. Stay on this path passing through the hole in the wall and alongside the burn.

At the bridge take the path to the right, back to the main cemetery path and back to the main entrance.