



Hylton Castle © English Heritage

# Heritage in Sunderland

## Hylton Castle

Hylton Castle stands as a magnificent reminder of the past in the heart of the local community. Built by Sir William Hylton as a fortified manor house, the imposing gatehouse is the only surviving building of a once larger structure, and is decorated with carved stone heraldry of the Hylton family, the royal crests of Richard II and Henry IV, and the stars and stripes of the Washington family.

The castle provided a home and a seat of power for many generations of Hyltons before passing into other ownerships in the eighteenth century. The last 200 years has seen many reincarnations, including a grand house for entertaining by a wealthy businessman, a boarding school, serving as a training camp during World War One and acting as offices for the National Coal Board.

With changes in use came changes in structure, with new wings built and later demolished, new windows and redesigned grounds.

Standing empty for over 50 years, Hylton Castle is ready for a new lease of life. Working with the Friends of Hylton Dene and with an exciting design that marries new and old, we're transforming the castle into a new community-based flexible venue.

When completed it will boast a café, learning and event spaces, and exhibitions sharing the stories of Sunderland for future generations.

There are ways for all to get involved, with opportunities for visiting, volunteering, educational visits, and training opportunities for young people. If you would like to join in, please get in touch.

[www.hyltoncastle.org.uk](http://www.hyltoncastle.org.uk)

 [HyltonCastleProject](https://www.facebook.com/HyltonCastleProject)

 [@\\_hyltoncastle](https://twitter.com/@_hyltoncastle)

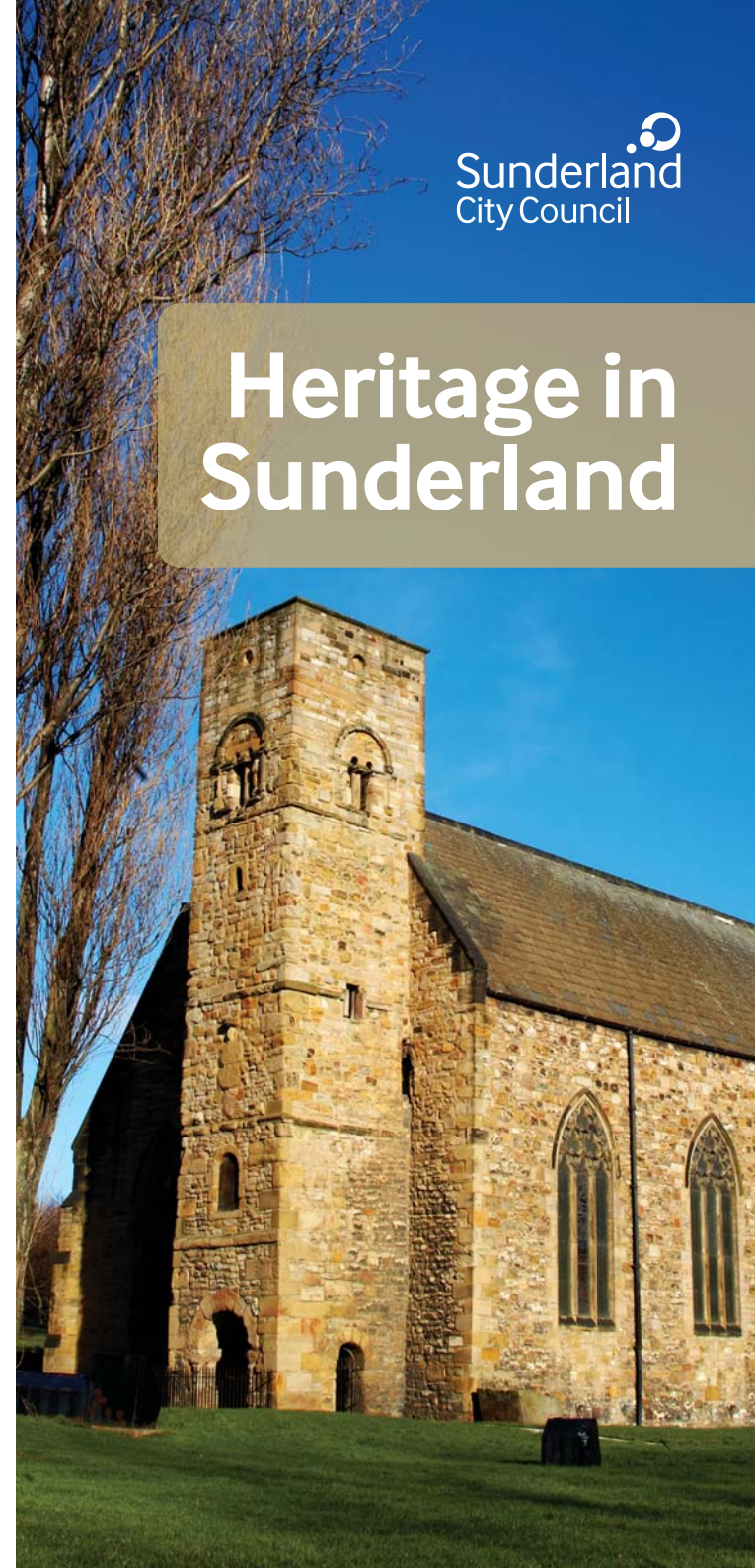






Illustration of Ezra, the Old Testament Scribe



Shipbuilding on the River Wear



Washington F. Pit Museum

**Sunderland has a rich and fascinating heritage and we are rightly proud of it. The city is changing and has new aspirations for a dynamic future. Heritage has a major part to play in Sunderland's on-going economic and social transformation.**

In 674 AD Benedict Biscop, Sunderland's Patron Saint, built St Peter's church on the banks of the River Wear. In doing so he established a European centre of learning at the Wearmouth-Jarrow monastic site. The church was home to Venerable Bede, who wrote the first history of England here and the renowned Saxon Bible the Codex Amiatinus hailed from St Peter's too. From then the town emerged and became well-known for shipbuilding and glassmaking, but other industries also developed, such as, rope making, coalmining and car manufacturing.

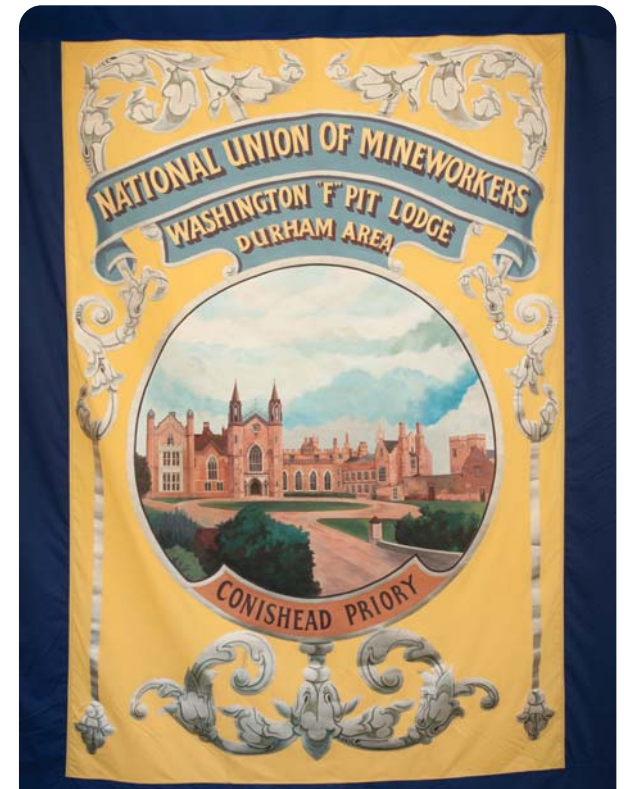
Sunderland City Council Museum and Heritage team work with many partners to promote access to

Front cover image: St Peter's Church

heritage, raise awareness, conserve, co-ordinate and manage heritage in the city through various projects, events and activities. Regular partners include – Sunderland Heritage Forum, Local Studies Centre, Sunderland Cultural Partnership, Heritage Action Zone, Roker Pier and Lighthouse, Churches Conservation Trust, MAC Trust, Sunderland University, Washington Trust and the National Trust amongst many others. Some of our projects and events include:

- Heritage Open Days
- Local History Month
- Sunderland in the First World War
- History Fair
- Blue Plaques

To work with us, get involved or for further information contact: [info.heritage@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:info.heritage@sunderland.gov.uk) or telephone Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens on 0191 561 8413



Washington Mining Banner