

Key points of interest

A) Panns Bank

In the late 16th century sea salt was produced here, hence the name Pann Lane which refers to big iron pans in which saltwater was boiled.

In 1644 during the Civil War a large Scottish Army occupied Sunderland and encamped here.

B) Wearmouth Bridge

The first Wearmouth Bridge opened on 9 August 1796. It was built in response to Sunderland's growth as an important industrial centre.

Prior to the construction of the bridge, the River Wear could only be crossed by ferry or at the nearest bridge at Chester-le-Street.

C) Railway Bridge

This opened on 3 August 1879. Designed by Thomas Elliot Harrison, it provided the first direct rail link between Sunderland and Newcastle. When first built it was the largest hog back iron rail bridge in the world.

D) River Wear

This area of the river along towards Galley's Gill was the former site of the Lambton and Hetton staithes. It was here where coal from the outlying districts was brought by rail and deposited into awaiting colliers for shipment to London.

E) Liebherr

Liebherr Sunderland Works Ltd is the last remaining heavy engineering site in Sunderland. Manufacturers of ship cranes and offshore cranes occupy the site of Sunderland's oldest shipyard: Laing Shipbuilding.

F) The Saltgrass

An historical pub named after the tidal

wetland along the riverside. This pub was one of many in the Ayre's Quay area, where the local workers could quench their thirst.

G) Queen Alexandra Bridge

This bridge is named after King Edward VII wife, Alexandra of Denmark.

It opened on 10 June 1909 and is a Grade II listed building. It was built to improve road communications and transport coal. It was designed by Charles A Harrison, and at 2600 tons it was the heaviest bridge ever constructed at the time.

H) Jewish Cemetery

A Jewish community established itself in Sunderland from the mid 18th century. This little known Jewish Cemetery dates from the end of the 18th century and contains the remains of a very few memorial stones.

I) Vaux Brewery

The Vaux family brewed beer in Sunderland from the early 19th century. It's most famous product was its Maxim Ale, brewed to commemorate the return of Major Ernest Vaux from the Boer War in 1901 and named after the Major's Maxim Machine Gun detachment.

It was so strong it had to be reduced in strength. In 1938 it was again increased in strength and renamed Double Maxim.

Facilities & Accessibility:

Toilets: Empire cinema

Catering: Numerous city centre restaurants, cafes and bars

Parking: Sunnyside Car Park (charges apply)

Accessibility: not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs

Heritage Trails East Area

Walk 12

Bridge to Bridge

Walk Distance & Time:

2.5 miles or 4km

1 hour (approx)

Start and Finish Point:

Echo 24 Building

West Wear Street

Sunderland

Walk 12

Bridge to Bridge

Walk Directions

At West Wear Street Car Park entrance turn right and walk towards the Echo 24 building.

Turn right just before the Echo 24 building and head down towards Panns Bank.

Take the cobbled path to the left of the map of the river Wear.

At the bottom of the path turn left under the Wearmouth

Bridge and follow this path to Liebherr-Sunderland Works Ltd at Deptford. When this path emerges onto the road turn right following the road (Deptford Terrace) up the bank, passing the Saltgrass pub on the left. This route passes The Ropery pub, former site of the world's earliest steam powered ropery (dating from 1795).

At the roundabout at the Queen Alexandra Bridge turn left onto Pallion New Road.

Continue on this road then take the first left before B&Q onto Beach Street, the Jewish Burial Site is on the left hand side just after the recycling unit.

At the bottom of Beach Street turn right past the Kings Arms and up Farringdon Row.

Turn left directly opposite the delivery entrance of B&Q, and follow the path lined with metal railings over the bridge over Galley's Gill. Once over the bridge take the immediate left down the steps (care must be taken here as the steps are extremely steep). At the bottom, turn right and follow the path back to the car park.

