

Key points of interest

A) William Doxford and Sons, Ltd.

Sunderland is synonymous with shipbuilding. This gatehouse marks the site of Doxford's Shipyard which was established in Pallion in 1870. By the early 1900s this yard had developed into one of the greatest in the world, building a ship almost every fortnight. Mary Ann Cotton the infamous serial killer lived in Grace Street close to the shipyard.

B) Pallion Station

This was once the site of Pallion Station, a key point on the Penshaw to Sunderland railway line established in the 1850s. The station opened in June 1853 and became an important transport link to the industry that developed in Pallion towards the end of the 19th century.

C) St Luke's Church and Sunderland Forge

The foundation stone for the church was laid in May 1872 and the building was consecrated by the Bishop of Jarrow on the 27th August 1874. A short distance from the church along Neville Road is the former site of the Sunderland Forge. Founded in 1887 by Sir James Marr, it manufactured all kinds of equipment for ships, including electric winches for the ill-fated Titanic.

D) St Luke's Terrace

This street was once known as the 'Golden Mile' owing to the great variety of shops and pubs.

On East Moor Road lies Pallion Action Group, a community resource centre. The centre occupies the former site of the Pallion Institute and Lecture Hall. This, along with 800 books was given to the people of Pallion in 1893 by Councillor Short of the famous shipbuilding firm.

E) Parker Memorial Home

Founded in 1901 by Rev Dr Parker of the City Temple, London, in honour of his Sunderland born wife Emma. The home was a refuge for young girls.

F) Kayll Road Library

This grade II listed branch library was built in 1908-9 from money donated by Scottish-American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie was responsible for funding the building of libraries across the world.

G) St Gabriel's Church

Built between 1909 and 1912, the church is a grade II listed building. During the First World War the church hall functioned as a hospital, treating over 1,000 sick and injured soldiers.

H) Bishopwearmouth Cemetery

Established in the 1850s this cemetery is one of the principal burial sites for Sunderland. The cemetery contains a significant number of Commonwealth war graves. It is also the final resting place of at least four of Mary Ann Cotton's victims. Another notable burial is the lion tamer Martini Maccomo, who was mauled by "Wallace" the lion in 1869. He survived the attack only to die in 1871 of rheumatic fever.

I) Ford Hall

In this area once stood Ford Hall. Built in 1785 it was the birth place of Victorian soldier Sir Henry Havelock. Havelock spent much of his life soldiering in the Indian sub-continent and is most noted for his exploits in the Indian Mutiny of 1857.

J) Dovecote Meadow

Dovecote Meadow stands on the site of the former Havelock school in Fordfield Road. It is owned and managed by Housing Care 21 and was opened in June 2014.

Heritage Trails West Area

Walk 15

Pallion and Ford circular

Walk distance and time:

3.5 miles or 5km

Two hours (approx)

Start and finish point:

Pallion metro station

Facilities and accessibility:

Toilets: Dovecote Meadow

Catering: Dovecote Meadow

Parking: Parking is limited, advisable to arrive via Metro

Accessibility: Not suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs

This walk was produced with the kind support of Pallion Action Group and St Luke's Church, Pallion

Heritage Trails West Area

Walk 15

Pallion and Ford circular

Walk directions

At the metro station turn right, then turn left onto Woodbine Terrace and head down the bank towards the river.

Take the second turning on the right towards the Doxford Shipyard gatehouse.

Retrace steps back up the bank to the roundabout. Continue straight ahead underneath the bridge, keeping to the right up to Pallion centre. The area to the right of the bridge was once home to Pallion Station.

Continue straight ahead passing St Luke's church on the right and Enfield Street on the left. The area at the bottom of Enfield Street was once the site of the Sunderland Forge.

Continue on ahead through the busy shopping centre, once known as the Golden Mile. On the left at East Moor Road is Pallion Action Group.

Continue ahead passing Mafeking Street and Kimberley Street on the right. These are named after key events of the Second Boer War.

After passing a garage on the left, cross the road at the lights onto Kayll Road. Continue along Kayll Road, on the right at the corner of Henderson

Street lies the red bricked Parker Memorial home.

Shortly afterwards Kayll Road library and St Gabriel's Church will appear on the right.

Take the first right after the church onto Chester Road, continue ahead until reaching the main entrance to Bishopwearmouth cemetery on the right, and enter into the cemetery.

Continue forward before taking the second path on the left, passing Commonwealth war graves on the right. Follow the path around to the right of the building. At the junction take the right path, then turn left. Continue ahead turning right onto the main road through the cemetery.

At the cemetery exit turn left onto the main road (Hylton Road). Take the first right onto Fordenbridge Road, right again onto Fordenbridge Crescent then right again. The area on the left was formerly the site of Ford Hall. Turn left onto Fordham Road. At the end of this road turn left for refreshments at Dovecote Meadow on Fordfield Road or turn right back down to St Luke's Terrace rejoining the route back to the carpark.

