#### **Key points of interest**

#### A) Sunderland Marina

Built on the site of the old North Dock, which opened in 1837 and was designed by the great Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

#### B) Port of Sunderland

Sunderland's growth in the late 18th and early 19th centuries saw it emerge as a hugely significant industrial town with one of the busiest ports in the world. Today the Port of Sunderland is the UK's second largest municipally owned port.

#### C) National Glass Centre

One of the region's premier cultural attractions, this iconic building is a centre of national excellence, encouraging an enjoyment and understanding of contemporary glass making. It also tells the story of Sunderland's long history of glass making, dating back to Anglo-Saxon times.

#### D) Sunderland shipyards

Ships have been built on the Wear since at least 1346, when Thomas Menvil had a yard at Hendon. By the mid nineteenth century the local paper, the Sunderland Herald proclaimed the town to be "the greatest ship building port in the world". This stretch of the river was home to J.L. Thompson's shipyard.

#### E) Wearmouth Bridge

The first Wearmouth Bridge opened on 9 August 1796. Prior to its construction, the river could only be crossed by ferry or at the nearest bridge at Chester-le-Street. The current bridge was built in 1927 to accommodate the huge increase in road traffic and it is a Grade II listed building.

#### F) Stadium of Light

The Stadium of Light has been home to Sunderland AFC since 1997. It occupies the former site of Wearmouth Colliery.

Wearmouth Colliery was the largest mine in the area. It was sunk between 1826 and 1834. The first shipments were made in 1835 by which time the pit was the deepest in the world. The coal industry, along with shipbuilding, was the driving force behind Sunderland's rise to prominence as a major industrial centre.

# G) Monkwearmouth Station Museum

This building was first opened as a museum in 1973 by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. It was built in 1848 serving as the Sunderland terminus for the Brandling Junction Railway.

#### H) St Peter's Church

St Peter's Church was founded in 674 AD by local man Benedict Biscop under the patronage of King Ecgfrith of Northumbria. As part of the twin monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow it became the foremost centre of learning in the north and home to the greatest scholar of the day, the Venerable Bede.

#### Facilities & Accessibility:

**Toilets:** Public toilets close to Bungalow Café

**Catering:** National Glass Centre, Bede's Bakehouse at St Peter's Church, various cafes and bars.

Parking: Sunderland Marina

**Accessibility:** unsuitable for wheelchars and pushchairs



# **Sunderland Marina River Wear Circular**

## **Walk Distance & Time:**

3.1 miles or 5km

1 hour (approx)

### **Start and Finish Point:**

Sunderland Marina Roker

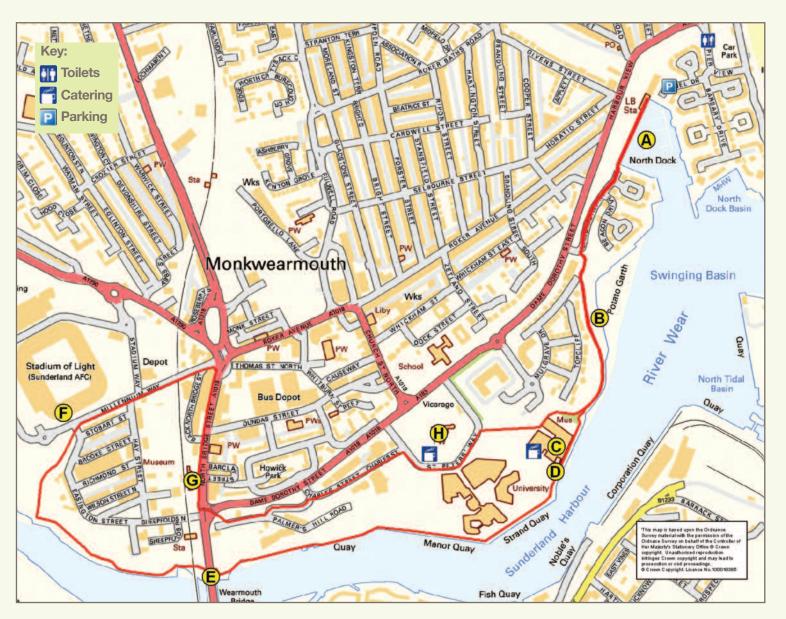




#### **Heritage Trails North Area**

# Walk<sup>8</sup>

#### **Sunderland Marina River Wear Circular**



#### **Walk Directions**

Walk along the length of the marina passing the lifeboat station and blue plaque commemorating Harry Watts. Continue up the bank towards the petrol station.

Just before the station, turn left following the blue (C2C) sign down the bank. Excellent views of the Port of Sunderland can be seen to the left. Continue on this riverside path, passing the National Glass Centre, the site of a former Sunderland Shipyard and the University of Sunderland.

Pass under Wearmouth Bridge and through a stone archway. Turn left following the C2C blue sign.

Continue on this path, passing the foot bridge on the other side of the river. Take the first right up a cobbled lane.

The Stadium of Light will appear at the top of the path. Continue on Millennium Way, keeping the stadium on the left, passing the Bob Stokoe statue. Continue up the bank and down to North Bridge Street. Turn right onto North Bridge Street, passing Monkwearmouth Station Museum.

After the museum cross the road at the traffic lights, immediately turning right and then left down the bank towards the river.

Take the first left up the bank and at the top take the first right onto Charles Street. St Peter's Church can be seen in the distance. At the bottom of Charles Street turn right following the road around the church.

Just before the car park, take the path to the right straight across to the National Glass Centre.

Take the path to the left of the main entrance to rejoin the route back to the marina.