

Key points of interest

A) Hetton Lyons Country Park

Hetton Lyons Country Park was created on the site of the old Hetton Colliery which closed in 1950. The park includes a sporting lake, fishing lakes, football pitches and is also part of the national cycling network. It is an important greenspace and wildlife habitat, Blossom pond is home to wetland birds such as coot, moorhen, tufted duck, heron and reed bunting.

B) Wesleyan Chapel

This large stone building, built to hold 500 people was constructed in 1824 and enlarged in 1888 at a cost of £875. The Sunday school, a small adjacent building was built in 1859 and was said to hold up to 400 scholars. This was supplemented by a reading room and library containing 380 volumes. The building closed as a chapel in 1965.

C) Nicholas Wood's House

Born in 1811, Woods started work as an apprentice manager at Killingworth Colliery, where he met George Stephenson. He worked with Stephenson on many of his projects. Woods helped form the Institute of Mining and in 1844 he became a partner in the Hetton Coal Company and managed the Hetton Lyons pit. He died in 1865 and his tomb can be seen in the nearby church yard.

D) Hetton House

One of the principal houses of the town and one of the oldest. It may have been built as early as the 1720's and was bought by the Lyons family (Earls of Strathmore) in 1746. The largest section dates from the 18th century, the middle part the 19th century and the east section was built in the 20th century.

E) Standard Theatre

In the 19th century people made their own entertainment often by having a mini theatre at the back of a public house. In 1840 the yard behind the Brewers Arms was known as Collets Theatre. In 1874 the Standard Theatre was built with a capacity of 800 people. Built on a hillside this unique theatre had a gallery, raised balcony, along the upper side and stalls lower down. It lasted until 1916 when it was converted to a bus garage, hence the big door on the roadside.

F) Bob Paisley Memorial

Born in Hetton in 1919, Paisley excelled at football as a boy. He then worked as a miner and as an apprentice bricklayer before becoming a professional footballer. Following army service he had a successful playing career with Liverpool, finally becoming manager in 1974. Under Paisley, Liverpool won six League Championships, three League Cups, one UEFA Cup, one European Super Cup, five Charity Shields and three European Cups. He died in 1996.

G) Barrington School

Constructed in 1834, this is another Hetton building built from local limestone. One of the main subscribers was the Honourable Mrs Barrington, member of a rich, illustrious County Durham family. The school held an average daily attendance of 500.

H) Infants School

Opened in 1872 and built to accommodate 320 children. It was built of limestone from one of the local quarries. The windows were built high in the walls to prevent children looking out and being distracted from their studies.

Heritage Trails Coalfield Area

Walk 2

Hetton Circular

Walk Distance & Time:

2 miles or 3.2km

50 mins (approx)

Start and Finish Point:

Hetton Lyons Country Park

This walk was produced with the kind support of Hetton Local and Natural History Society

Heritage Trails Coalfield Area

Walk 2

Hetton Circular

Walk Directions

At the car park entrance turn right, passing through the blue gates.

Turn left onto a tarmac path and follow this path, passing the lake on the right.

Stay on the main path to the left and up the bank, passing football pitches on the right.

Stay on this path as it rises slightly and bends to the right.

At the bend turn left, then immediate left again. Follow this path around to the right, keeping the stream (Hetton Burn) to the right. Stay on this path until it reaches the road.

At the road turn right, heading back to Hetton Village Centre.

Wesleyan Chapel is on the left.

Nicholas Wood's house is to the right.

Cross the road at the traffic lights and continue on the path ahead onto Park View.

Continue forward passing Hetton House on the left, the road then curves to the left. On the bend is the former site of the Standard Theatre.

Return back along Park View and cross the road at the traffic lights immediately after Hetton House.

Turn right and cross the road at the traffic lights and continue into the park that is home to the Bob Paisley memorial.

Exit the park to the right.

Turn left onto the main street, passing the former site of Barrington School now occupied by Heron Foods.

Cross the road at the traffic lights and turn left. Continue forward. To the left on the other side of the road (above the pharmacy) can be seen a clock



commemorating Hetton soldiers of the First World War.

Turn right on to Caroline Street. The Old School building can be seen to the left on the other side of the road.

Follow Caroline Street to Eppleton Row and back up to Hetton Lyons Country Park.

After passing allotments on the left, take the path to the immediate right, follow this path back to the tarmac path, then turn left to the car park.

Facilities & Accessibility:

Toilet facilities and catering:

Hetton Centre

Parking:

Hetton Lyons Country Park
(Park closes at dusk)

Accessibility: not suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs