

## Key points of interest

### A) Fatfield Bridge

Designed by D. Balfour of Houghton-le-Spring, this bridge was built in 1889 at a cost of £8000. It was officially opened on 29 January 1890 by the 3rd Earl of Durham.

### B) Girdle Cake Cottage

The Biddick Pumping Station stands on the site of Girdle Cake Cottage. This quaintly named dwelling was reputedly the refuge of the Earl of Perth, James Drummond. The Earl is said to have taken sanctuary here after the Jacobite Army was defeated by the Duke of Cumberland's Government forces at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

### C) Victoria Viaduct

This bridge is one of the most impressive stone viaducts in Britain. Named after Queen Victoria, the final stone of this bridge was laid on her Coronation Day on 28th June 1838. It is said that its design was inspired by a 2nd century Roman bridge in Spain.

### D) James Steel Park

This park is named in honour of the man who was Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear 1974 - 84. It is built on a former industrial site that was dominated by chemical works, quarries, shipyards and coal mines. It now forms an important wildlife habitat along the River Wear corridor.

### E) Arts Centre Washington

The Arts Centre is a converted 19th century farm, a ruin rescued at the time of the development of the new town in 1972. Originally called Biddick Farm Arts Centre, it has gone through several incarnations to become a vibrant multi-arts centre with a theatre, gallery, rehearsal rooms, artists studios, recording studio, café and award winning bar. It is now owned and managed by Sunderland City Council.

### F) Worm Hill

According to local legend this is the hill which the Lambton Worm wrapped itself around after roaming the surrounding countryside, terrorising the locals and devouring the cows and sheep. The summit offers fine views of the semi-natural ancient woodlands of the Wear corridor, with Penshaw Monument above.

#### Facilities & Accessibility:

**Toilets:** Arts Centre Washington

**Catering:** Arts Centre Washington, riverside bars and restaurants

**Parking:** Car park south west of starting point on Bonemill Lane

**Accessibility:** Not suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs

## Heritage Trails Washington Area

# Walk 6

## Fatfield Circular

### Walk Distance & Time:

2.9 miles or 4.8km

1 hour (approx)

### Start and Finish Point:

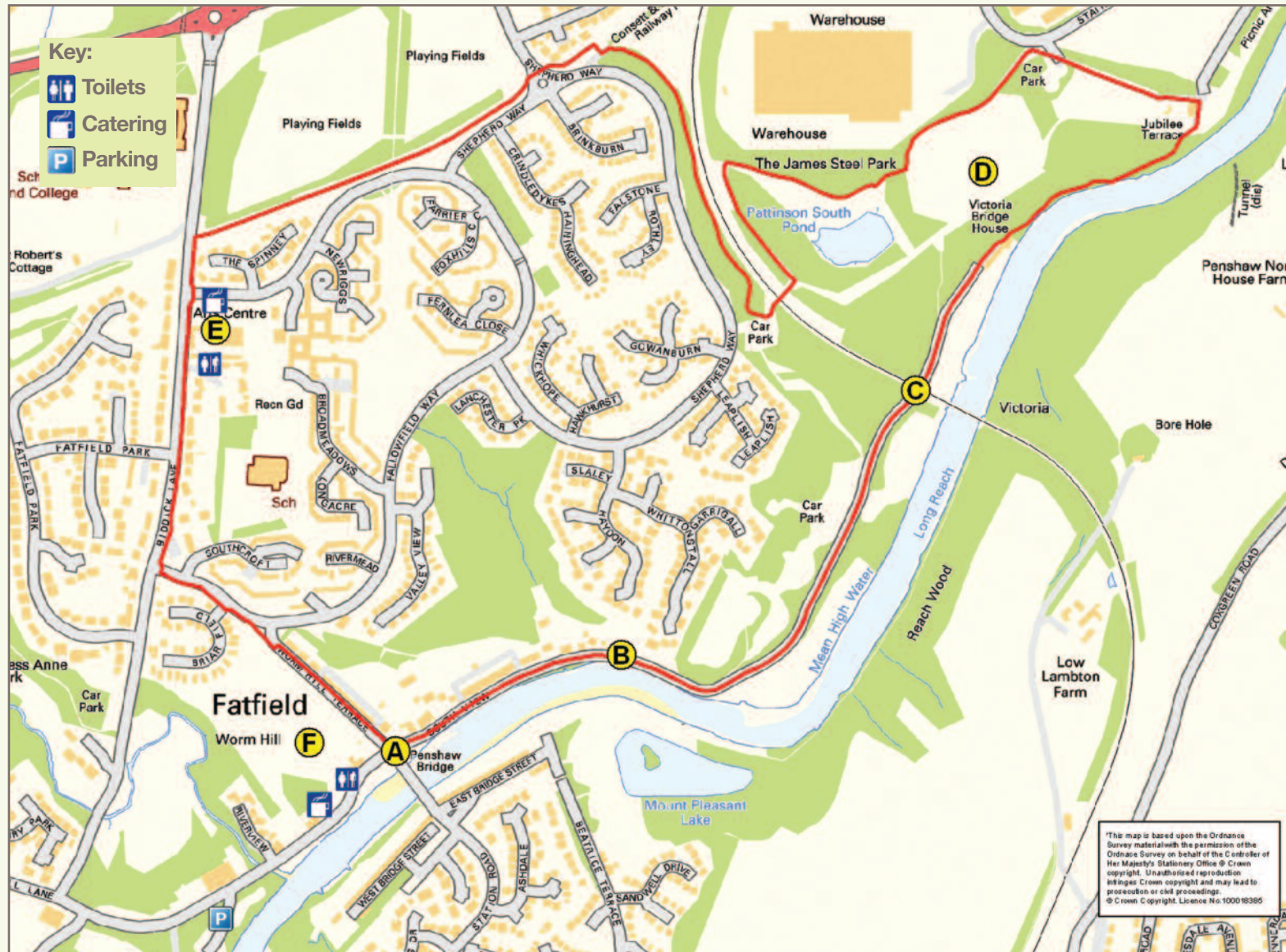
Fatfield Bridge

East Bridge Street

Fatfield

# Walk 6

## Fatfield Circular



### Walk Directions

Take the road to the left of the bridge, passing cottages on the left and the river to the right.

Passing Biddick Pumping Station on the left, former site of Girdle Cake Cottage.

Stay on this road, passing underneath the Victoria Viaduct. Keep to the lower path passing Victoria Viaduct House.

After the black railings take the path to the left up the bank, passing the row of houses (Jubilee Terrace).

Turn immediate left after the houses up the tarmac path, crossing the road that leads into the car park. Turn left onto the tarmac path and follow this through James Steel Park, keeping to the right, skirting the edge of the pond, continue up the bank and turn right through the tunnel.

After the tunnel, take the second turning on the right, passing allotments on the right. At the end of this path turn right then left onto the tarmac coast to coast cycle path. Follow this path, crossing the road straight ahead and passing under a footbridge before coming to another road.

Turn left at the road and continue straight ahead, passing the Arts Centre on the left.

Turn left following the sign for "Riverside and Mount Pleasant", the starting point of Fatfield Bridge can be seen in the distance and Worm Hill to the right.