Wander back in time and discover stories of Washington's past.

This walk is available as an audio trail. Borrow an MP3 player from Washington Old Hall and a book of historic postcards to help you go back in time. Or simply follow the map and explore for yourself. Leave Washington Old Hall and turn right towards Holy Trinity Church. Here are the suggested stopping points.

**Holy Trinity Church** stands on the site of a Norman Church. Members of the Washington family are buried here.

**Fred Hill’s House** - home of the local School master who helped form a preservation committee to save Washington Old Hall from demolition in the 1930s. In front of the house is the remains of a sand pit which contributed too many of the buildings in the area.

**Dame Margaret’s Hall** was built in 1854 for industrialist Sir Isaac Lothian Bell. He employed over 40,000 people in the north east. Amongst many guests to the Hall (then known as Washington Hall) were Charles Darwin, William Morris and Philip Webb. It was named Dame Margaret’s in honour of his wife when he bequeathed it as a home for waifs and strays.

**Glebe Pit** - The Washington ‘Glebe’ Colliery occupied this site from 1903-1973. 27 men died working at this pit. The single greatest loss of life occurred on February 20th 1908 when an explosion ripped through one of the seams and killed 14 men. They are commemorated on a plaque in the Holy Trinity Church.

**The Miners Memorial at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church** commemorates the lives of the 42 men and boys killed in an explosion at Usworth Colliery on March 2nd 1885.

This is the site of the 1726 **Rectory** building under Rector Richard Stonewheeler. It continued to be the Rectory until 1923 when it became the Urban District Offices. It was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1949. When Washington became part of Sunderland in 1974 it became one of their council offices and even housed a small court.
The War Memorial stands on the site of the village pond and commemorates the lives of those who have fallen in their country’s service from the Great War to Iraq. The two trees behind the memorial were planted by President Jimmy Carter and Prime Minister James Callaghan on their visit to the region in 1977.

The Blacksmiths is of the same period as the house and the cottage on the entrance to the Hall. It functioned as a blacksmiths right up till the mid 1950s.

Washington Old Hall – Why not visit to find out more?

The Cross Keys is said to be where 7 year old Christopher Drummond was laid out after a tragic accident. He got trapped whilst cleaning the chimney at Washington Hall (Dame Margarets Hall) and died of suffocation. Lord Shaftesbury used this case in his 1872 report for better working conditions. The Master sweep received 6 months hard labour at Durham prison as a result of his actions that day.

We hope you enjoyed this Easy Walk. There are more in the series at other National Trust sites in Yorkshire and the North East. Go to our website to find out more: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/yorksandne