

insect and fish populations. Many species of bird and wildfowl such as mallard, teal, coot, moorhen, tufted duck, and gulls, are a common sight all year round. In the summer they are joined by Great Crested Grebes and geese, as well as swallows and martins, taking advantage of the prolific insect life. Other visitors include Whooper Swans and migrating geese and predators such as the Peregrine Falcon and the Cormorant. The otter can often be seen at dusk when it searches for fish along the streams between the dams and the Six Mile Water.

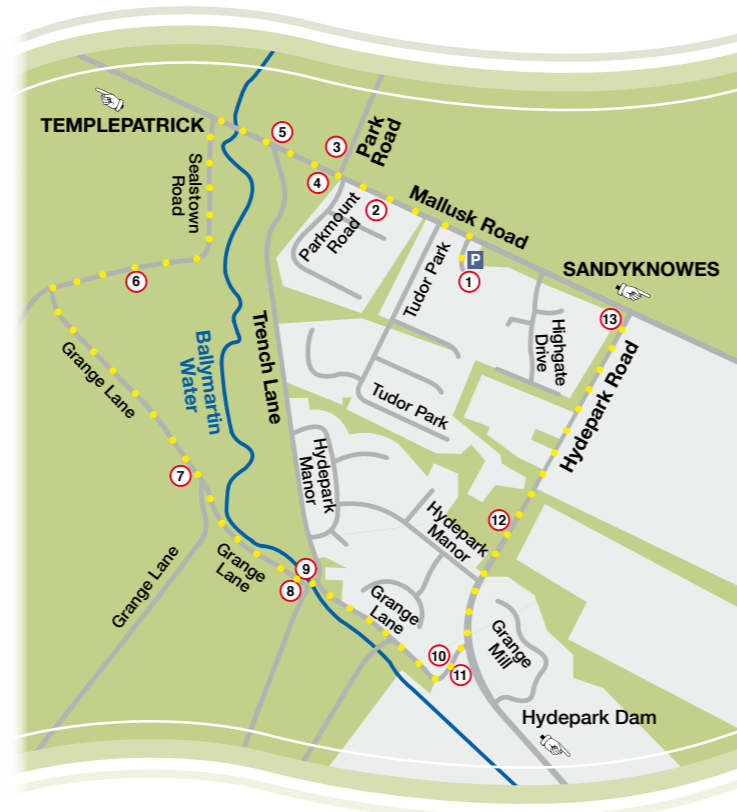
12 Go back along Hyde Park Road towards Mallusk Village. Opposite the reservoir you will pass an impressive house in it's own grounds on your left. This is now a Presbyterian Church Residential Home. It was originally built in the early 1900s as a home for the influential McBride family and was known as **Denegarth House**.

13 At the junction of Hyde Park Road and Mallusk Road is **Hyde Park Presbyterian Church** opened in 1862 at a cost of £1,140. The Church has been granted listed building status, reflecting its architectural and historical significance. Turning left on to Mallusk Road you will pass **Academy Sports Club**, the site of the 19th century Post Office. The Club has rugby, cricket and hockey teams and used to play on beautiful grounds here until the 1980's when Highgate housing complex was built. They now play a few miles up the road at the Belfast Royal Academy playing fields at Roughfort.



The trail ends back at the Play Area car park.

The Trail



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| 1 Mallusk Primary School | 8 Smythe Memorial Hall |
| 2 Parkmount Housing Estate | 9 Mallusk National School |
| 3 Mallusk Cemetery | 10 Hyde Park Methodist Church |
| 4 Hyde Park War Memorial Orange Hall | 11 Hyde Park Bleaching and Finishing Works |
| 5 Brook Cottage | 12 Denegarth House |
| 6 Hyde Park Bleaching and Finishing Works | 13 Hyde Park Presbyterian Church |
| 7 Grange of Mallusk | |

Additional Information

William Morrison a local poet born in 1881 was known as the Bard of Mallusk. He lived at Rosevale Cottage on the site of the present Play Area until the 1970's. He wrote many poems about the area but none more poignant than 'A Dream of the Past', the last verse of which laments the industrialisation of a once idyllic rural setting...

*'Of times in reflection, my heart rends with pain,
The scenes of my boyhood I'll ne'er see again,
Eclipsed by a factory, a structure so vast,
The green Dairy Fields are a dream of the past'*

Contacts For More Information

Newtownabbey Borough Council

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Mallusk Community Action Group

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Sixmilewater River Trust

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Selected Books

Through The Ages to Newtownabbey
Robert Armstrong, second edition, 1997

Our Thoughts Go Back
Mallusk Primary School, 1986

Thanks go to local historian and lifelong Mallusk resident, **Archie Montgomery** in compiling the information for this trail.

This leaflet has been funded by the International Fund for Ireland. The leaflet is available in large print on request and can be downloaded from www.malluskcag.co.uk

Mallusk Nature and Heritage Trail



To get to Mallusk

Take the **M2** motorway, leaving at **Junction 4**. From the main roundabout, take the first exit onto **Scullion's Road** signposted **Mallusk**. Turn right at the traffic lights onto the **Mallusk Road**. Continue for about half a mile until you reach **Mallusk Play Area** in front of **Mallusk Primary School**. There is limited parking here.

The walk will take 1-1.5 hours.

Take care on roads at all times, particularly as you cross the Mallusk Road. This walk is undertaken at your own risk and includes areas of uneven ground. Please wear appropriate footwear.

Children should be accompanied by an adult.

- 1 The trail starts at **Mallusk Primary School**, opened in 1936, to replace the old National School in Trench Lane (see no.9).
- 2 Turning left out of the car park you will pass **Parkmount Housing Estate**, which was built in 1970 replacing an old row of twenty houses known as Parkmount Terrace and occupying an area previously known as 'the Cotterland', where linen was dried. Cross the Mallusk Road and walk a short distance down Park Road to the gates of the cemetery.
- 3 **Mallusk Cemetery** is located on the site of a 14th century church built by the Knights of St John. Nothing remains of the church itself but there is a 'bullaun stone' used as a mortar for grinding food substances. This is a common feature in many early church sites. The cemetery contains the graves of many notable people from the area including Jemmy Hope,



United Irishman and a key figure in the 1798 Rebellion and Francis Joseph Bigger, a celebrated historian and author. The old lamp and iron frame in front of the gravediggers hut was used by families in the 19th century whilst they stood guard against body snatchers who would sell human remains to the medical profession.

- 4 Walk back up Park Road and cross the Mallusk Road baring right to **Hyde Park War Memorial Orange Hall**, built in 1933. Note the plaque on the left side of the front of the hall commemorating the opening by Sir Robert Baird. The hall became a social centre for residents hosting events such as concerts, plays and dances. During the Second World War it served as a NAAFI for troops stationed nearby.
- 5 Continue along the Mallusk Road until you come to Trench Lane on your left, just before you reach the bridge. Looking up Trench Lane you will see some old 19th century cottages. The one on the right, known as **Brook Cottage**, was once the village post office and the gardens across the lane once housed a small bicycle track with people coming from far and wide to compete in races. On the other side of the Mallusk Road you will see house number 107 which used to be the village shop and house number 109 which was the site of an underground air raid shelter during the Second World War. At the footbridge look across the Mallusk Road and you will see a row of private houses known as Old Mill Crescent. These formerly operated as a textile beetling mill and pumping house. Further up the main road on the left is the village pub, The Cottonmount Arms, known locally as Baldys. Beside this is **Ophir Rugby Club** founded in 1921 and based here since the 1970's. The Club is famous for its annual sevens tournament and counts the great Jack Kyle as one of its former players. These pitches and the adjacent football pitch at Bluecastle have been the site of a thriving sporting scene since the 20's. Football, hockey and cricket were all played here. Indeed, Willy

Cunningham, who played for Northern Ireland in the 1958 World Cup finals in Sweden, was born in a terrace house at Bluecastle.

- 6 At the end of the footbridge proceed left up the Sealstown Road to the ruins of **Cottonmount Finishing Works**. This was linked to the **Hyde Park Bleaching and Finishing Works** (see no.11), where the final stages of cotton and linen production were carried out. The mill owner's residence, **Cottonmount House**, stood adjacent to the Works. Cottonmount Row, which still remains, housed the mill workers. Two dams were also sited here but have now been filled in.
- 7 Continue up the hill for 100 metres and turn left into Grange Lane, a throwback to when the area was known as the '**Grange of Mallusk**'. When you reach the private houses on your right, take the lower narrow lane on the left.

The large 19th century white house on your right was the home of the **Finney Family** and older residents still refer to Grange Lane as Finney's Lane. In its prime the house had tennis courts and croquet lawns and were used regularly by people from the village.

From here you will walk along the bank of the **Ballymartin Water**, a tributary of the **Six Mile Water**. The Ballymartin Water begins its journey in the Belfast Hills, and the water you see flowing



past today will already have made a journey through Hydepark Dam and will join the Six Mile Water and continue to Lough Neagh.

- 8 Proceed along the lane until you come to **Smythe Memorial Hall** on your right, now a private residence. This was built in 1896 to honour Samuel and George Smythe, father and son, who were Rectors of Carnmoney Parish for a combined total of 107 years from 1796-1903.
- 9 On the left at the bridge was the old **Mallusk National School** built in the early 1800's and now a private residence. Originally, girls were taught in a large room upstairs, with the boys in a similar size room downstairs. Younger children were accommodated in a smaller room on the ground floor. It remained in operation until 1936 when the present Mallusk Primary School was built on the Mallusk Road. The stone bridge, erected in 1942 replaced a prior wooden structure, and is the centre of the little hamlet known as Trench.
- 10 Turn left over the bridge and then immediately right down the narrow extension of Grange Lane with the river on your right. You will come to **Hyde Park Methodist Church**, built in 1829. This currently houses the Mallusk playgroup while upstairs the place of worship has remained unchanged since the 19th century.
- 11 On the right is the site of the **Hyde Park Bleaching and Finishing Works**. Dating back to the 18th century, the works and grounds covered 210 acres. Turn right onto Hyde Park Road and then right again into Hyde Park Lane and you will see the vast ruins of a once thriving industry. At it's peak it employed 200 people and finally closed in 1948. If you continue up the lane for approximately half a mile until you reach the private houses you will see **Hydepark Dam** which provided the water for the complex via a large pipe that ran alongside the lane. The dam is a wildlife sanctuary with abundant plant,