

Newcastle's Tyne Bridge



The Tyne Bridge was officially opened on 10th October 1928 by His Majesty, King George V, accompanied by Queen Mary.

The contract to build the bridge was awarded to Middlesbrough firm 'Dorman, Long & Co. Ltd.' in December 1924 and work began in August 1925.

Five public houses, a bank, a carpenter's shop, a blacksmith's smithy, an old powder mill and a pickle factory were among the buildings which had to be demolished to make way for the new bridge.

It was the largest single span bridge in the world until the Sydney Harbour Bridge was opened in Australia in 1932.

The Tyne Bridge was modelled on the same design as the Sydney Harbour Bridge which was also built by Dorman Long.

Hadrian's Wall



The wall was built by order of Emperor Hadrian c. AD122 and is thought to have been erected to mark the Northern frontier of the Roman Empire, (not to keep out the Scots).

It was originally 80 Roman miles long (73 modern miles or 117km) and stretched from Wallsend in Tyne & Wear to Bowness-on-Solway in Cumbria.

A milecastle was built at every Roman mile along the length of the wall with two turrets sited at equal distances between them, enabling a signal to be passed from post to post.

Between AD140-163 a new frontier was established further North in Scotland. The Antonine Wall, built by Emperor Antoninus Pius did not last long and the Northern boundary of the Empire reverted once more to Hadrian's original wall.

Hadrian's Wall was declared a World Heritage site in 1987 and is considered to be one of the most important surviving Roman structures in Britain.

The Angel of the North



The Angel of the North was commissioned by Gateshead Council in 1994 from the internationally famous artist Antony Gormley OBE, who based the design on his own body.

It stands 20 metres (65 ft) high and has a wingspan of 54 metres (175 ft), almost the same as a jumbo jet.

It weighs 200 tons and is made of Cor-ten steel with added copper to give the statue its distinctive red-brown colour.

The Angel was anchored into the ground with 150 tons of concrete and has been built to withstand winds of up to 100 miles per hour.

It is the largest sculpture in Britain and possibly the largest statue of an angel in the world.

Middlesbrough's Transporter Bridge



The transporter bridge in Middlesbrough is one of only three remaining in Britain, the other two being at Warrington and Newport, Gwent.

At a length of 259.3m (851ft) it is the longest remaining transporter bridge in the world.

The bridge transports traffic and passengers across the River Tees in a gondola suspended 48.7m (160ft) above the water.

It cost £84,000 to complete and was officially opened on 17th October 1911 by Prince Arthur of Connaught.

Middlesbrough's Transporter Bridge became a Grade II* listed building in 1985.

Durham Cathedral



Durham Cathedral stands on the site of an earlier church built by the monks of Lindisfarne in AD 995.

Designed by Bishop Carileph work began in 1093 and was completed in 1135, forty-two years later.

The cathedral's imposing tower was reconstructed during the fifteenth century as it was struck by lightning not once, but twice, in 1429 and 1459.

The Lady Chapel was once the only part of the cathedral where women were allowed, later a line of black marble in the floor of the main building denoted the point beyond which women were not allowed to enter.

The cathedral was once a place of sanctuary for criminals who, after confessing their crime, would shelter there whilst awaiting deportation from a nearby port, usually Hartlepool.

Lindisfarne Castle



Lindisfarne Castle was built c.1550 using stone from the dissolved Benedictine monastery on the island.

Built on Beblowe Crag, a rocky outcrop and the highest point of the island it was never the scene of any great siege and ceased to be used as a garrison from 1819.

The castle was eventually purchased by Edward Hudson, the owner of Country Life Magazine in 1902.

He hired the famous British architect, Sir Edward Lutyens to extensively remodel the castle as a private residence and in 1911 the landscape designer, Gertrude Jekyll, was commissioned to design a walled garden in the grounds.

In 1944 the castle was handed over to the National Trust and it remains open to the public under their custodianship.

The Millennium Bridge



The bridge was opened to pedestrians and cyclists on 17th September 2001 and officially opened by Her Majesty The Queen on 7th May 2002.

It Cost £22 million to complete, £9.7 million of which was a lottery grant from the Millennium Commission.

It is the world's first tilting bridge and the seventh bridge to link Newcastle with Gateshead across the River Tyne.

It has an elegant arch constructed of steel which spans 126 metres, weighs 850 tons and had to be lowered into position by one of the largest floating cranes in the world an Asian Hercules II.

The bridge takes four minutes to completely open or close and is driven by eight electronic motors which use only £3.06 of energy each time the bridge is operated.

Sunderland's Stadium of Light



The Stadium of Light was opened on 31st July 1997 with a friendly match against Ajax of Amsterdam, resulting in a nil-nil draw.

It cost £14 million to build and replaced Sunderland AFC's old ground at Roker Park.

The stadium is built on the site of the former Wearmouth Colliery and can currently seat a capacity crowd of 48,500 spectators.

The pitch is irrigated with a series of 17 automatic sprinklers which, together with the underground heating system (to keep out frost and snow in winter) help keep the grass surface in peak playing condition.

The goal nets were made by inmates of HM Prison Durham.

St. Mary's Lighthouse, Whitley Bay



The current lighthouse was built c.1897 and replaced an earlier lighthouse sited in the grounds of Tynemouth Priory.

It stands 126ft high and to reach the top of the tower you must climb 137 steps.

It originally had a rotational lamp fuelled by paraffin oil and turned via a clockwork mechanism.

The lighthouse is sited on an island formerly known as Bate's Island which is connected to the mainland by an 80 metre causeway, at high tide the island becomes completely cut off.

St. Mary's Lighthouse was taken out of operational service in 1984 and now houses a visitor centre; the island has become a nature reserve.

North Shields Fish Quay



The Prior of Tynemouth developed a fishing port at North Shields to provide for the priory during the early thirteenth century and the area developed as trade flourished.

During the eighteenth century the slum area around the Fish Quay became notorious for its drinking houses and prostitution.

In 1902 it was recorded that 14,000 tons of fish were landed there annually and North Shields was considered the leading white fish port in Britain.

The new 'Low Light' lighthouse was erected c.1808 and replaced a former Low Light built nearby in 1727.

Built by John Stokoe the new 'Low Light' is taller than its sister the new 'High Light', together they act as markers to safely guide ships into the river.

Kielder Water Dam



The dam was built between 1975 and 1981 and officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 1982.

It was designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd & Partners, is 1.2 km (three quarters of a mile) long and stands 52 metres (169ft) high.

The reservoir is the largest man-made lake in Europe, covering over 2600 acres and capable of holding 200 billion litres of water.

The surrounding forest is part of the Border Forest, the largest man-made forest in Britain.

Kielder Water attracts over a quarter of a million visitors each year who come to the area to use the many leisure facilities on offer.

Bamburgh Castle



Bamburgh Castle is thought to have been built on the site of a pre-Roman settlement.

It was named after Bebba, wife of Aethelfrith first King of Northumbria, and was known as Bebba's Burgh, which eventually corrupted to Bamburgh.

The castle was the first stronghold in Britain to succumb to cannon fire when it was attacked by Edward IV's army.

It was purchased by Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham in 1704 and later became home to many charitable institutions including a library, school and infirmary.

The castle was sold to the 1st Lord Armstrong in the late nineteenth century who spent £1 million on its restoration.

Corbridge Roman Fort



The Roman Fort at Corbridge is thought to have been built on an earlier, pre-Roman site and gradually evolved over time – the first fort being destroyed by fire c. AD 105, (it was quickly rebuilt).

Eventually in c. AD 140 the fort was refurbished with stone indicating its importance as a key site on Dere Street, the main route North into Scotland and crucial for the transport of soldiers and supplies.

The site gradually developed into a civilian settlement after the Roman retreat from Scotland during the AD 160s and became the most Northerly town in the Roman Empire.

Today the remains of buildings such as granaries, temples, shops and houses can be seen alongside the military quarters.

The main street running through the site (centre of photo) was known as 'Stanegate', and once formed part of the main route between Corbridge and Carlisle.