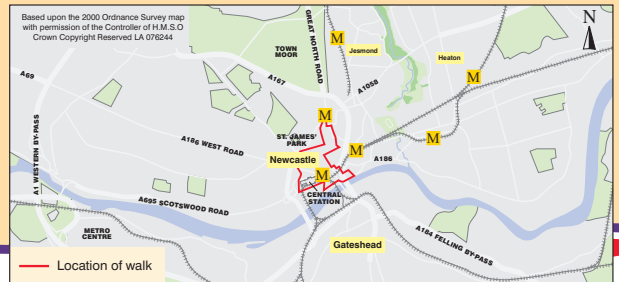


Around the Town Walls

Up to 3 miles / 5km



This 3 mile / 5 km walk roughly traces the line of the Town Walls, built 800 years ago to protect Newcastle from Scottish raiders. Several fine sections of the Walls remain intact surrounded by centuries of later development.

The route can be joined at any point and can be followed in either direction.

Newcastle city centre is well served by buses, trains and Metros.

Several parking areas are indicated on the map, although car parking in the central areas is limited.

Contact details:

Traveline
Tel: 0870 608 2608
www.traveline.org.uk

Hadrian's Wall Information Line
Tel: 01434 322002
www.hadrians-wall.org

Newcastle Tourist Information Centre
Tel: 0191 2778000

To give feedback on these & other strategic routes in and around Newcastle, please contact:

John Robertson,
Newcastle City Council
Planning & Transportation
Tel: 0191 232 8520



The Birth of a City

Although no sign of it remains today, the Romans established a fort where the Castle Keep now stands called **Pons Aelius**.

The settlement survived after the Romans departed in the 5th century and later became known as Monkchester because of the settlement of monks. The name Newcastle came into existence during Norman times when William the Conqueror's eldest son Robert Curthose built a 'New Castle' on the earlier site of Pons Aelius and the name has remained ever since.

It wasn't until the medieval period that Newcastle became established as an important military post against the invading Scots. This allowed safe trade and the town soon became a major sea port. A large area of the foreshore was later reclaimed and The Close, Sandgate and the Chares became the centre of the town's commercial activity. Other industries developed including glass and rope making, ship building and most important of all, the mining and export of coal. These local pits were among the first in England to be

worked and Newcastle became the most important exporter of coal to London for many centuries.

Each wave of development has largely obliterated what existed before, but Newcastle's historic roots can still be traced today.

The Town Wall

Built in the 13th century to protect the expanding town from cross-border raiders, Newcastle's Town Wall was an impressive structure. It was approximately 3km / 2 miles long, up to 2m / 7ft thick and approximately 7.6m / 25ft high. It enclosed the Castle and its Black Gate as well as the main commercial district along the quayside and all the ground northwards to St. Andrews Church.

The town could be entered through seven gateways.

Along the wall were seventeen towers and several smaller turrets which acted as lookout posts.

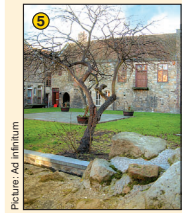
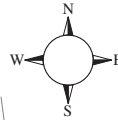
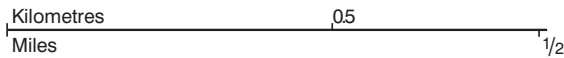
A section of the Wall extended along the quayside to protect the properties of wealthy merchants from waterborne attack.



Medieval Newcastle Town Walls & Castle Keep

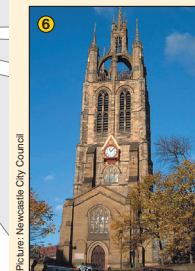
Around the Town Walls 3 miles / 5km **Suggested starting point: Tyne Bridge**

Scale of map

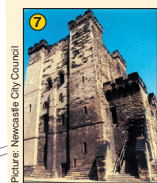


Blackfriars was a 13th century monastery which was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1539. It now houses craft workshops, galleries and a restaurant.

4 In the 12th and 13th centuries, this was the site of the St. Mary Magdelene Leper Hospital. At that time leprosy was endemic and those affected by the disease lived in a separate community outside the Town Walls.

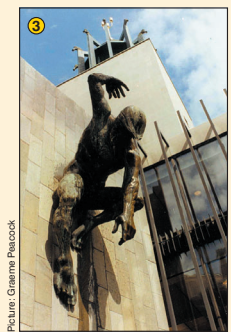
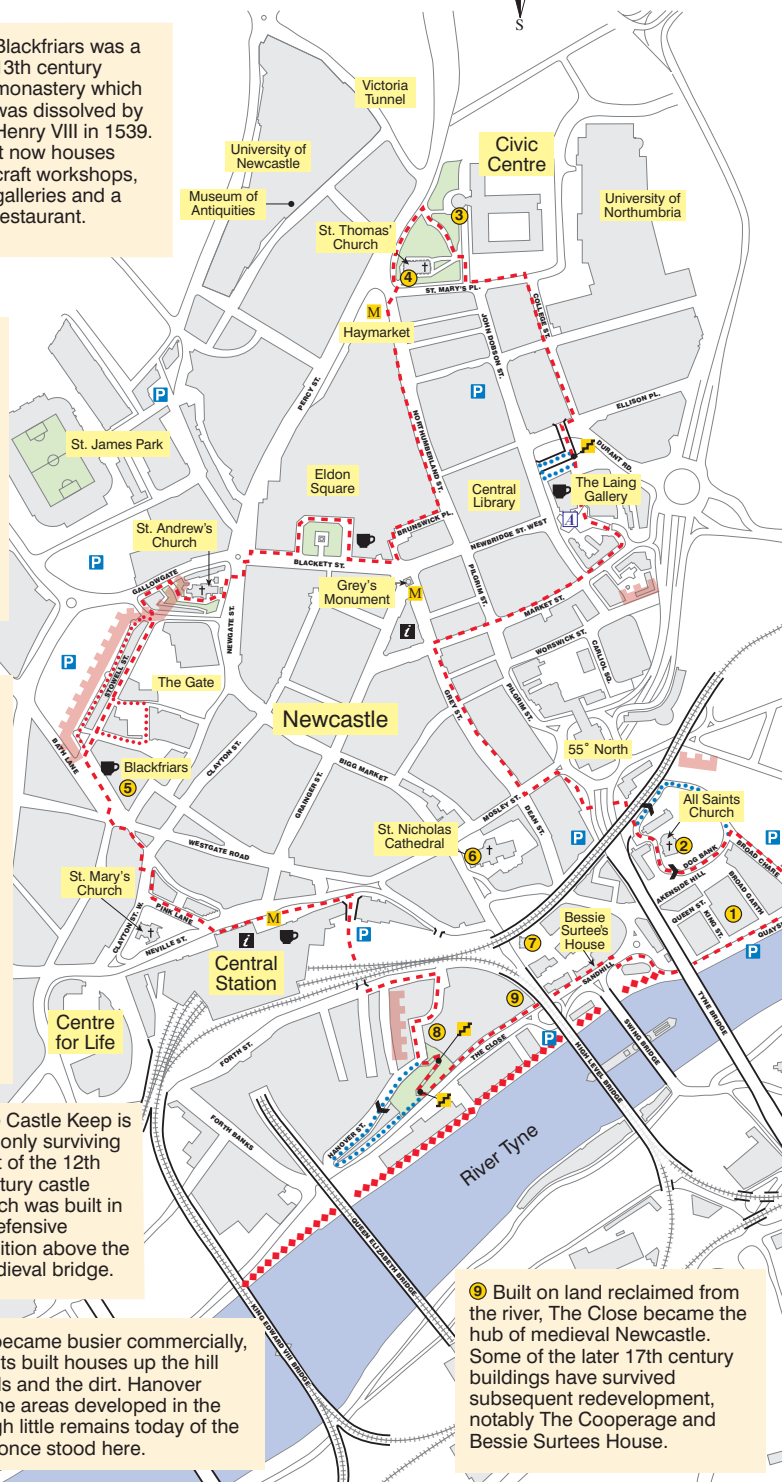
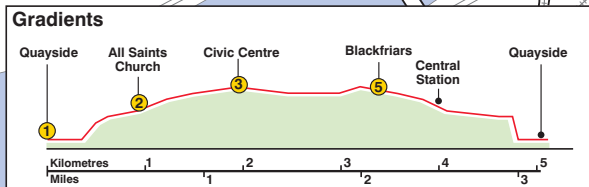


St. Nicholas Cathedral has been a prominent part of Newcastle's skyline since 1470

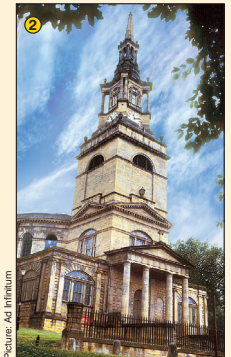


The Castle Keep is the only surviving part of the 12th century castle which was built in a defensive position above the medieval bridge.

8 As the Quayside became busier commercially, the wealthy merchants built houses up the hill away from the crowds and the dirt. Hanover Square was one of the areas developed in the 18th century, although little remains today of the grand homes which once stood here.



Tyne River God at Civic Centre



All Saints Church

1 The Chares – narrow medieval streets – were built on land reclaimed from the river. Many were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1854 but some, such as Broad Chare and Trinity Chare, have survived.

9 Built on land reclaimed from the river, The Close became the hub of medieval Newcastle. Some of the later 17th century buildings have survived subsequent redevelopment, notably The Cooperage and Bessie Surtees House.

Key to map

- - - Main route
- ... Alternative route (walking)
- ... Alternative route (avoiding steps & steep slopes)
- ◆◆◆ Hadrian's Way
- > Slope
- ▬ Steps
- P Parking
- ℹ Tourist Information
- ℹ Public Art
- M Metro station
- ▬ Town Wall remains
- ☺ Refreshments

This leaflet can be used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 316 Newcastle Upon Tyne

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