

Durham Heritage Sculpture Trail

Your guide to the history
and heritage of Durham City.



Welcome

to the Durham In Bloom Heritage Sculpture Trail, which forms part of our annual involvement in the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) 'In Bloom' competitions.

Durham City has a rich and diverse heritage, boasting a mixture of renowned and less renowned sculptures, and other points of interest, all of which are free to access.

We hope you enjoy the historical tales and facts of how Durham's sculptures evolved over time. Remember to look up, around and behind you as you take in the sights, so as not to miss the captivating city that surrounds you!

Durham Market Place

With medieval and Victorian origins, Durham Market Place is the focal point of the city. Until the 1970s, the Market Place was the main hub for traffic travelling through the narrow streets, however, the square and streets are now pedestrianised.

The imposing features of the Victorian Town Hall and St Nicholas' Church provide a fitting backdrop to the impressive sculptures such as the statue of Neptune, the 3rd Marquess of Londonderry and the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) soldier. The Market Square also includes a heritage timeline set in traditional stone paving.



The Trail

Location:
Market Place
Map ref: C3
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 27396 42529



1 **Lord Londonderry Statue – by Raphael Monti**

The statue was unveiled in 1861 to commemorate the 3rd Marquess of Londonderry, Charles William Vane Stewart 1778-1854. Born in Dublin and educated at Eton, the 3rd Marquess was an army general and British diplomat. He inherited estates in Ireland, and through marriage to Frances Anne Vane-Tempest, became a landowner and coalmine developer in County Durham. He was also Lord Lieutenant of County Durham and the founder of Seaham Harbour, which he built to avoid paying heavy port charges for shipping coal via Sunderland. The original electro-plated copper statue turned green over time, so as part of a Market Place refurbishment scheme, the statue's patina was restored to its original brown colour and treated with protective wax.



2 **Neptune – possibly by Van Nost or Andrew Carpenter**

The lead statue of Neptune was originally placed in the Market Square in 1729 on an octagonal pant which provided water for the people in the Market Place. Water for the pant was supplied by pipe from the Fram Well at Sidegate across the river to the north east (see sculpture 15). Neptune, God of the Sea, symbolised an ambitious plan to turn Durham into an inland sea port by building a canal linking the Tyne and Wear rivers. However, this proved impractical and never came to fruition. In 1923, the pant was demolished and Neptune was relocated to Wharton Park. He returned to the Market Place in 1991, some sixty eight years later.

Location:
Market Place
Map ref: C3
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 27417 42559



3

DLI Statue – by Alan Herriot

The Durham Light Infantry (DLI) was officially formed in 1881 but its roots and origins extend as far back as 1758. The regiment obtained various honours over many conflicts. Unveiled in 2014, this bronze sculpture was installed following a campaign by veterans and paid for entirely by donations. It symbolises the poignant moment after the infantry buglers sounded the ceasefire in Korea in 1953. This conflict was the regiment's last battle honour before amalgamating with other light infantry regiments to form 'The Light Infantry' in 1968 and later 'The Rifles Regiment' in 2007. This statue of a single soldier mirrors the one at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire.

Location:
Market Place
Map ref: C3
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 27400 42557

4

Heritage Timeline – by Ailsa Magnus

Stretching for 42 metres from St Nicholas' Church to the statue of Lord Londonderry, the ground-based timeline was installed in 2010 as part of a Market Place refurbishment scheme. Set in granite with bronze inserts, the artwork features a stylised river and tree flowing through the 1,000 years of time and history. Along the way it captures major historic events and industrial developments contributing to both the modern city and heritage of Durham.

Location:
Market Place
Map ref: C3
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 27404 42552





Location:
Millennium Place
Map ref: C3
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 27429 42649

5

The Journey – by Fenwick Lawson

During the Viking invasions in the 8th century, the Lindisfarne monks fled Holy Island. They transported St Cuthbert's coffin and the Lindisfarne Gospels to different locations in the north east before ending at Durham in 995AD. Legend has it that during this time the saint's body remained undecayed! This bronze sculpture represents the monks carrying the saint's remains on the final stage of their journey. The original wood sculpture can be found on Holy Island. Another sculpture in this leaflet, The Dun Ox, tells a legendary (and amusing) tale of how the monks finally chose Durham to lay St Cuthbert to rest.



6

The DLI Battle of the Somme Memorial seat

This memorial seat was installed on 20 September 2016 as part of the Battle of the Somme centenary commemorations. It mirrors an exact replica seat placed in a shaded spot at Thiepval, the official Franco-British memorial to the missing soldiers of the Somme. The seat back-rest displays silhouettes of 'Tommy' soldiers.

Location:
The Racecourse
Map ref: F4
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 28171 42372

During the famous battle, a total 2,469 officers and men from the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) fell in action. The 18th battalion of the DLI consisted of ordinary working men who had grown up or worked together, often in the same village, and were known as the 'Durham Pals'. The memorial seats mark the start and end points of the Pals' fateful journey into battle.



7

The Durham Ox or Cow – by Andrew Burton

There are various folklore tales of how the monks brought St Cuthbert's remains to lay to rest at Durham. The most popular story is that, following a holy vision, the monks were instructed to take the coffin to Dunholm. ('Dun' is Anglo-Saxon for hill and 'holm' means island). While searching for Dunholm, the cart, carrying the coffin, suddenly refused to move. Pondering their options, the monks overheard two milkmaids talking, one of whom was looking for her dun cow. The other milkmaid reported seeing this cow heading towards Dunholm so the monks followed the milkmaid and the cart suddenly began to move again! The more likely story is that Dunholm (later Durham) was chosen for its river boundary and steep-sided cliffs which provided a natural strategic fortress against attacks from the Vikings and Scots.

Location:
The Racecourse
Map ref: F4
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 28199 42374

8

Charley Cross

There were originally five stone crosses from the 14th century. The origins are unknown but they were marked as Neville's Cross, Charley's Cross and Phillipson's Cross. One view is that they marked the boundaries of the sanctuary of St. Cuthbert. Another possible theory is that they were constructed during the plague (1334-1354) as an exchange point for provisions between country and towns people. A small hollow in the stone was said to hold vinegar to sterilise the coins used to pay for goods. The base and part of the shaft are all that remain.

Location:
Quarryheads Lane
Map ref: D6
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 27485 41627



While in this area you may like to view some further artwork just across the road and outside the University buildings. Here you will find a unique geological map of Britain and Ireland set within the floorscape. It uses different stone types to show the bedrock formations across the country.

Geological map of Britain and Ireland





Location:
Durham Peninsula
Map ref: B6
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 27095 41862

9

'Revealed' Sculpture – by Richard Cole

A conical column of irregularly textured stone, the structure contains six shallow niches and a long narrow aperture at its centre. It stands opposite the Cathedral beneath a canopy of trees. The stone column gives the impression that it has been standing here for hundreds of years, however it was actually only installed in 1997! It was constructed using stone from the Cathedral's pinnacles, which gives the structure an historic presence. It forms one of several artworks officially revealed on the same day by the Mayor of Durham, including 'The Durham Cow' further down river. The works were commissioned by the Dean and Chapter of Durham in partnership with the Chaplaincy to the Arts and Recreation in North East England.

Verse by
Sir Walter Scott



Admire the view – adjacent to the 'Revealed' sculpture is Prebends' Bridge, which was opened in 1778. Take a moment to admire the famous 'picture postcard' and breath-taking view of the cathedral and riverbanks. On the bridge is a stone plaque inscribed with a verse from Sir Walter Scott. **"Grey towers of Durham, Yet well I love thy mixed and massive piles, Half church of God, half castle 'gainst the Scot, and long to roam these venerable aisles, With records stored of deeds long since forgot."**



10

Count's House – unknown

Count Józef Boruwlaski was a 39 inches high (990mm), musically talented Polish nobleman. After many years travelling Europe, often in royal company, he retired to Durham in 1791. In a letter to a friend the Count wrote **“Poland was my cradle, England is my nest; Durham is my quiet place where my weary bones shall rest.”** This Grecian style folly, circa 1810, was not actually his house, although he did live in a cottage that previously stood nearby. Instead, it was more likely that the mock Greek temple was constructed as a summerhouse. Further information and exhibits on the Count can be found in the Town Hall.

Location:
Durham Peninsula
Map ref: C6
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 27295 41767

Storyteller's Chair – While on this side of the river why not follow the footpath north under Prebend's Bridge for 200 metres? Here you will see a storyteller's chair with carved wood benches created by an artist working with local schoolchildren. The chair and benches are used by the cathedral education team for outdoor education workshops to teach children about the history and wildlife of the city.





Location:
The Colleges
Map ref: C5
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 27290 42022

11 **Water Tower - unknown**

The Grade II listed Conduit Tower is an octagonal shape and listed as circa 1750. The parapet is offset with carved heads. It is a reconstruction of a much older structure and incorporates some of the earlier features. Built from sandstone in the Gothic Revival style, it is in keeping with the other buildings and surroundings near the cathedral. Water towers provided gravity fed water or were used as a reservoir for emergency supplies and for use against fires.

Nearby stands the site of the Water Pump - another Grade II listed structure which has been temporarily removed when the land collapsed in 2015.

12 **Drinking Fountain**

Hidden at the base of Durham's majestic viaduct is a former public drinking fountain. The viaduct itself was constructed in 1857 for the North Eastern Railway Company and is Grade II listed. The fountain was built during the following decade in the 1860s and is made out of sandstone. Based on a Gothic style, its water supply was from the nearby Flass Well. The fountain is quite ornate with its gabled canopy and stone carvings, however, the sandstone has weathered with time and the inscription and date are now illegible.



Location:
Durham Viaduct
Map ref: B3
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 26883 42642

Location:
Wharton Park
Map ref: A2
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 26861 42798



13

Wharton Park Heritage Mural – by Lorraine Udell

The heritage mural is at the lower end of the park. Commissioned by the 'Friends of Wharton Park', the ceramic mosaic takes pride of place in the floorscape of the new community garden. It includes a selection of images representative of the city and the history of the park, including the cathedral, a Davey lamp and the impressive railway viaduct on the famous Durham skyline.

14

William Wharton – by Tommy Craggs

The oak sculpture was carved solely by chainsaw as part of the park restoration in 2015/16. It provides a fitting tribute to William Lloyd Wharton who founded the park and was an important figure within Durham's history. It was the vision and wealth of this local land owner which created Wharton Park in 1857 for the benefit of the people of Durham. Wharton was also instrumental in establishing the first Miners' gala, held in the park in 1871, as well as the inauguration of the Durham Regatta in 1834. He also established the Durham Markets Company, while holding the posts of Director of North Eastern Railway and High Sheriff of Durham!

Location:
Wharton Park
Map ref: B2
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 26903 42801



15 **Fram Well - Unknown**

The Fram Well Head is situated in Sidegate near Crook Hall and once supplied water for a drinking pant in Durham Market Place. The natural spring was gifted to the people of Durham in 1450 by Thomas Billingham and the spring water was led by pipe to a pant in the Market Place. In 1729 Neptune's statue was added to the Market Place pant but over the centuries the pipework became unsafe. At public demand, the pant was rebuilt in the 1850s and again in 1902 - before eventually becoming obsolete and completely removed in 1923. The suburb to the north of this area was subsequently called Framwellgate (street to Fram Well).



Location:
Framwelgate Peth
Map ref: B2
Ordnance Survey:
NZ 27100 42949



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Your guide to the history and heritage of Durham City.



- 1 Lord Londonderry Statue
- 2 Neptune
- 3 DLI Statue
- 4 Heritage Timeline
- 5 The Journey
- 6 The DLI Battle of the Somme Memorial seat
- 7 The Durham Ox or Cow
- 8 Charley's Cross
- 9 'Revealed' Sculpture
- 10 Count's House
- 11 Victorian Water Tower
- 12 Drinking Fountain
- 13 Wharton Park Heritage Mural
- 14 William Wharton
- 15 Fram Well

Key

History of Durham in Bloom

Durham has supported the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) 'In-Bloom' competitions for the last 40 years. In that time it has won the regional 'Northumbria in Bloom' 'Best Large Town/Small City' trophy on seventeen occasions. In both 2017 and 2018 the city was also crowned 'Best in Competition' in Northumbria in Bloom.

Since 2014 Durham has also achieved Golds in the national 'Britain in Bloom' competition on four occasions, including last year when it was the winner of the 'Best Small City' category. In 2019 we are honoured to once again represent the region in the national Britain in Bloom competition within the 'Champion of Champions' category.

We'd like to thank all of our partners and numerous volunteer groups who help to make the city a greener place to live, work or visit.

Members of the Durham in Bloom group:

- Botanic Gardens
- Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral
- Durham Agency Against Crime
- Durham Area Action Partnership (AAP)
- Durham Business Improvement District (BID)
- Durham City Homes
- Durham Markets Company
- Durham Railway Station - LNER
- East Durham College (Houghall Campus)
- Ethicare Durham
- HMP Durham
- Prince Bishops Shopping Centre
- St Cuthbert's Hospice
- St Cuthbert's RC Church, Durham
- St Margaret's Allotments
- St Oswald's Church, Durham
- The Woodland Trust



Want to discover more?

Why not take part in the Durham in Bloom Floral Trail and find out about Durham's horticultural places of interest. Pick up a copy at Durham Town Hall or download it online at www.durham.gov.uk/inbloom

Contact us

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Telephone: **03000 26 0000**

Website: www.durham.gov.uk/inbloom

Facebook: www.facebook.com/durhambloom

There's plenty more to see and do in Durham City, visit www.thisisdurham.com for details.

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