

Historical Engineering Works in North East England

Durham County has many HEWs of significance but the city itself has one of the world's finest buildings and a great engineering feat, Durham Cathedral, which is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Durham City is also the location for several other HEWs including the fine Prebends Bridge (HEW 1966), built following the great flood of 1771.

It is perhaps remarkable to note that one of the greatest 20th century engineers, Sir Ove Arup, who was responsible for the Sydney Opera House, regarded one of his finest works to be Kingsgate Bridge (HEW 178), a footbridge over the River Wear in Durham City.



Durham Cathedral

Further south we can find the Stockton and Darlington Railway (HEW 85) the world's first passenger railway and we could hardly conclude our list without the inclusion of the Transporter Bridge at Middlesbrough (HEW 10).



Transporter Bridge, Middlesbrough

Photo captions front cover: top left, Union Chain Bridge; top right Twizel Bridge and bottom Kingsgate Bridge.

ICE North East has produced a number of leaflets exemplifying the unique, historical and important bridges across the North East. Publications are held in Tourist Information Centres across the region and are available to download at www.ice.org.uk/northeast.



Robert Stephenson trail

This leaflet and the places you can visit give an insight into the background of Robert Stephenson's upbringing, education, early career and creation of impressive engineering structures which remain in daily use as part of life in the North East.



Bridges over the Tees

The unusual, impressive and noteworthy structures across the River Tees are highlighted in this publication including iconic structures such as the Grade II listed Transporter Bridge and award winning Infinity Bridge.



Historic border bridges

This leaflet provides an insight into the historic significance of the magnificent border bridges. The list of bridges in this beautiful county of Northumberland is endless but the nine bridges included are particularly impressive structures worthy of note.

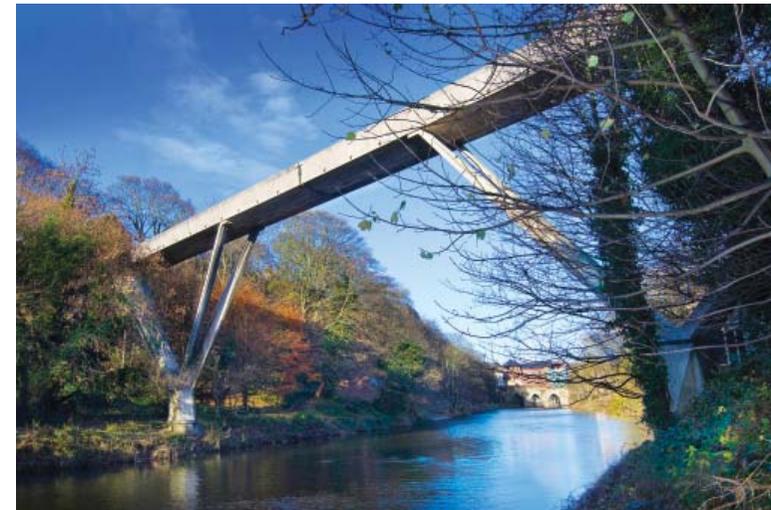


Bridges of the River Wear

This leaflet documents the numerous noteworthy structures that traverse the River Wear including the iconic Kingsgate Bridge and Durham's oldest bridge - Framwellgate Bridge.

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The region's historical highlights



Royal Border Bridge over the River Tweed

The North East of England has a varied, important and iconic mix of Historical Engineering Works (HEWs – a database of the most important works compiled by the Institution of Civil Engineers) ranging in time back to Hadrian’s Wall and even earlier.

The Anglo-Scottish border is the location of the beautiful Twizel Bridge (HEW 90) which is so closely linked with the terrible carnage of the Battle of Flodden in 1513, depicted below.

The Union Chain Bridge (HEW 143) is also a significant border bridge, being for some time, the largest span wrought iron suspension bridge in the world.

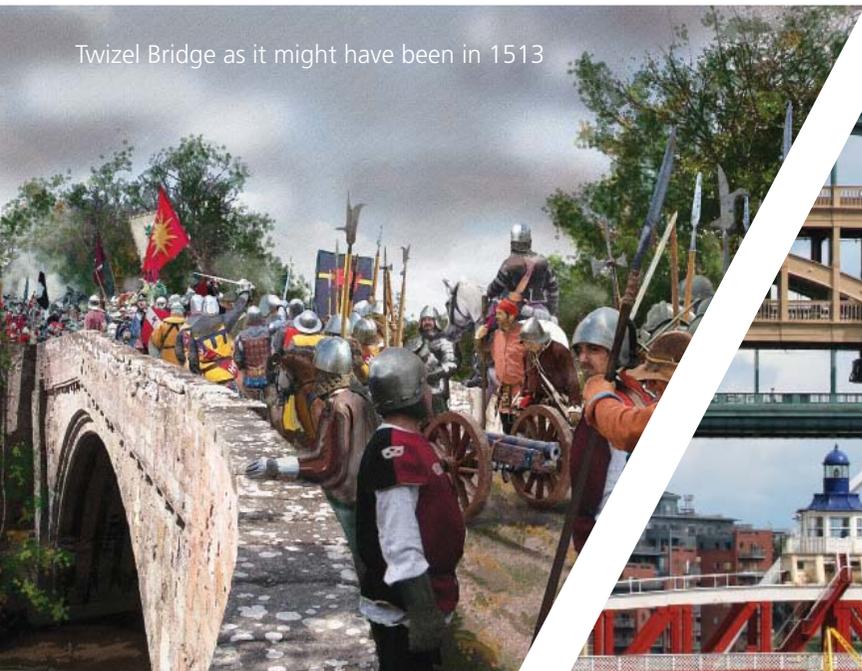
Nearer the coast, along the River Tweed there are a number of significant bridges, including Robert Stephenson’s 28 arch railway Royal Border Bridge (HEW 2024) and Royal Tweed Bridge (HEW 695) which, when built in 1928, was the largest concrete arch in Britain.

Northumberland is the location for many other Historical Engineering Works including Catcleugh Reservoir (HEW 1186) built in 1898 and Telford Bridge (HEW 332), over the River Wansbeck, built in 1831.

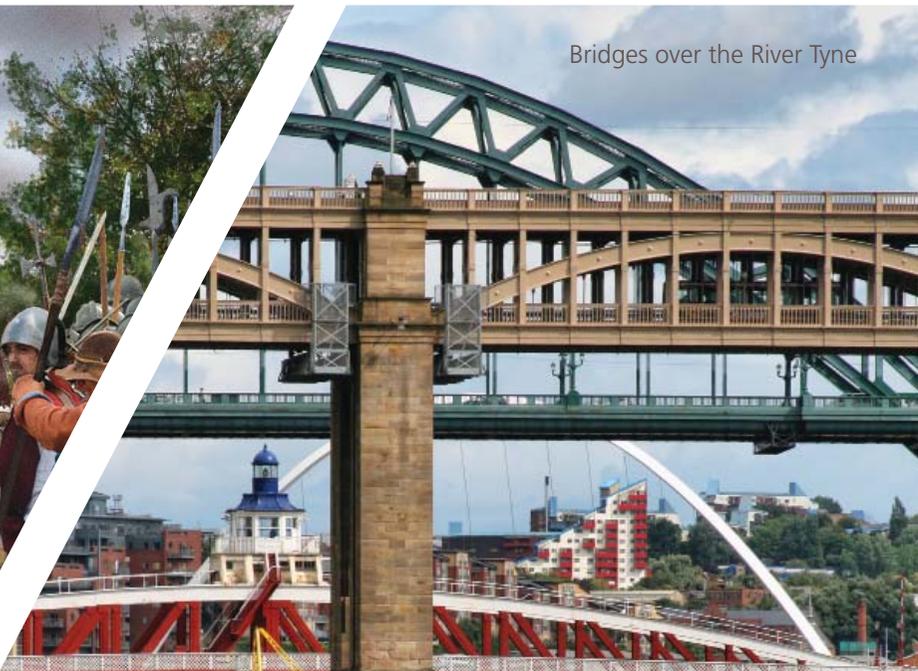
The classic images of the Newcastle Gateshead quayside are universally recognisable, being dominated by engineering works.

The Redheugh Bridge which was opened in 1983 by the Princess of Wales, the Queen Elizabeth Metro Bridge and the 1906 King Edward VII Rail bridge (HEW 256) are followed downstream by the High Level Bridge (HEW 22) and the Swing Bridge (HEW 92). The Tyne Bridge (HEW 91) is next downstream and the seventh bridge, completing the iconic picture, is the Gateshead Millennium Bridge.

Along Newcastle’s quayside is one of the first reinforced concrete warehouses (HEW 979) now the Malmaison Hotel. Close by, near Newcastle Central Station, is the world’s first locomotive factory, that of Robert Stephenson and Company (HEW 0990).



Twizel Bridge as it might have been in 1513



Bridges over the River Tyne



Malmaison Hotel