

S Start of the Trail

1 Durham Station. The canopy over platform 2 is from 1871-2 and is a Listed Building (Grade 2).

Pass through the gate into the park and up the steps to the Battery (the ornamental fort).

2 Wharton Park. William Wharton created this park for the public when the station was completed in 1857. The fine view shows the importance of the landscape setting of the World Heritage site.

Walk towards the Heritage centre, then down the steps to North Road.

3 The Viaduct. The 30-metre-high viaduct with 11 arches built in 1857 is an engineering triumph by the former North Eastern Railway.

Cross carefully at the pedestrian refuge for Sutton Street.

4. The former County Hospital. The former County Hospital was built in 1851 in the Elizabethan style. It is now named Rushford Court after complete renovation of the interior to form student accommodation. It is soon to be further extended and will become a new college of the University.

Take the steep Flass Street up to the Miners' Hall.

5. Durham Miners' Association Hall. The 'Pitman's Parliament' built in 1915 has since represented over 2 million miners. This nationally important building will be restored as a centre for culture, heritage and education with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Beyond the Hall, go through the railway tunnel to Hawthorn Terrace. After the former Harrison & Harrison Organ Factory, turn right up the main road, crossing at the lights into Crossgate.

6. St. Margaret's Workhouse was started in 1837 soon after the Poor Law Act made local parishes responsible for paupers. Up to 50 of the 150 inmates living under harsh conditions were children. Workhouses were abolished in 1930, but this one continued as a Poor Law institution before becoming a hospital in 1948. It is now in residential and community use.

7. St. Margaret of Antioch Church (Grade 1 Listed) is from the mid-12th century. This chapel-of-ease made worship more convenient than attending St. Oswald, the local Parish Church.

Continue on down past the junction with South Street (one of Durham's finest residential streets), to cross Framwelgate Bridge. Enjoy the views, and then walk up Silver Street.

8. The Market Place. The City's largest civic space is where the open-air market and events are held. It is dominated by the statue of the coal owner, the Marquis of Londonderry, on horseback.

9. The Town Hall is the civic heart of the City also known as the Guildhall, it served as a meeting place for the City's merchant guilds. The oldest parts of the building go back to 1535.

10. The Indoor Market. This popular market was established in 1851 to help regulate markets and fairs.

11. St Nicholas Church, rebuilt in 1858 is the City's civic church, a spiritual and social centre and home to the UK's first Fair Trade shop.

Turn right from the Market Place up Saddler Street to the Magdalene Steps of 1860 leading down to Old Elvet Bridge.

12 Old Elvet Bridge is the second oldest bridge on the River Wear with 4 arches on land and 6 over the river. One arch is from the late 12th century and the bridge has been wholly or partly rebuilt after 1225 including when damaged several times by floods. It once had chapels at each end and St. Andrews still exists as a shop on the bridge to right. Now pedestrianised, the bridge affords a fine view of the Cathedral.

Descend the steep steps to the riverside to Brown's Boathouse.

13 Brown's Boathouse was originally Brown's Boats, a company set up in the late 19th century by Joseph Brown to make traditional wooden rowing boats. Later, it became the home of rowing and cruise boat hire which continues today.

Pass the Boathouse to Baths Bridge.

14 Baths Bridge. The Baths and Public Washhouse was built in 1855 and closed in 2008. This elegant bridge replaced the first wooden bridge and the earlier cast iron bridge of 1898.

At Baths Bridge there is a choice of routes:

1. The main (shorter) trail: ●●●●●●●●

Cross the Baths Bridge and turn left along the river. After 150 metres take the path along the edge of the Racecourse sports ground OR

2. The Old Durham Gardens (longer) extension of the trail: ●●●●●●●●

Continue on the riverside path towards Old Durham Gardens to enjoy the landscape beauty and history of this part of the river (see the reverse side of this leaflet).

15 The Racecourse was once a smithy, then a place for tethering pilgrims' horses and became a racecourse in 1733 attended by huge crowds. Since 1873, the Racecourse has been the home of the annual Durham Miners' Gala and of the Durham Regatta. The University began using the land as a sports field around the same time.

16 Durham Crown Court and Prison. The imposing building was opened by in 1819 replacing old North Gate Prison in Saddler Street. Great crowds gathered in front of the Court for public hangings until 1869. The prison has since been rebuilt and extended.

Now walk along Old Elvet, one of Durham's finest streets.

17 Old Elvet was once a horse fair where horses were run before sale. Many buildings are of Georgian origin except the Victorian Old Shire Hall (now a hotel) and the Edwardian Methodist church built 1902-3. The celebrated County Hotel is where miners' leaders have traditionally addressed the miners from the balcony on Miners' Gala Day.

Cross at the lights, turn left up New Elvet, then bear right into Church St. for St. Oswald's Church.

18 St. Oswald's Church is the largest of the City's medieval churches and possibly the first resting place of St. Cuthbert's body in 995. The exterior (except the tower) was largely rebuilt in 1837 by the architect Bonomi and is now a Grade II* Listed Building but only the late 12th century nave arcades survive. The churchyard is a beautiful and peaceful place.

19. Kingsgate Bridge and Dunelm House. These reinforced concrete structures were constructed in the 'Brutalist' style of Modernism. The bridge is the work of Ove Arup (in 1962-3), the design engineer of the Sydney Opera House. It is now a city icon, slender and exciting to cross, and is a Grade 1 Listed Building. The Dunelm House student union building by Architects Co-Partnership completed in 1966 has long divided local opinion. Now as a Grade II Listed building, the University is committed to repairing and refurbishing it. Spot the bust of Ove Arup on the wall of Dunelm House looking out on his favourite project.

Cross the bridge, enjoy the views of the riverbanks and enter the wonderful World Heritage Site of the Cathedral and Castle on Bow Lane.

20 St Mary-le-Bow Church. At the top of Bow Lane stands this small church, now home to the Durham Museum where the story of the City's people and heritage is told. Here is the east end of the Cathedral and its fine rose window, a glimpse of the grandeur to come.

Turn right and follow North Bailey

The Baileys with their 18th century appearance are Durham's finest streets. Some of the present facades have earlier timber framed structures beneath. Formerly occupied by those who served the church, they have been now mostly taken over by the University including the Assembly Rooms as a theatre. Hatfield College is on the right.

Turn left into Owengate to take in the breath-taking view of the Cathedral.

21 Palace Green from 12th century was created by clearing an earlier market to make way for the grand ceremonial and administrative centre of the Prince Bishops.

22. Bishop Cosin's Hall and Almshouses on the left (east) side were built as a two-story lawyer's office in the 1690s, the extra story and lavish Rococo doorway being added in 18th century. It was gifted to the University in 1833 as 'University House' and renamed after Cosin in 1851 when briefly part of Hatfield College. The charitable purposes of the Almshouses ceased in 1837 when the University took it for accommodation, administration and later a café (recently closed).

23. Palace Green Library houses Bishop Cosin's fine library which expanded into adjacent buildings. It is now home to the World Heritage Site visitor centre.

How to use this map

The best way is to fold the map down into 4 sections. Each section will have part of the trail with most of the information on what to see and the route directions shown in the surrounding information boxes.

Just change to the next quadrant when you have completed a section of the trail.

The extended route to Old Durham Gardens is on the reverse side.

E End of the Trail

31 Milburngate Riverside. The large site was once the home of the National Savings' unloved concrete building Milburngate House. It is now redeveloped as a huge new mixed development. The riverside on both sides has been a great magnet for developers seeking a prized location near the Cathedral.

32 Crook Hall. This is a good example of mixed styles that is often found in domestic English architecture. This medieval manor house probably dates from the early 14th century. The many additions in later times including a three-storey Georgian brick house, are surrounded by superb gardens and Crook Hall has been home to many lawyers of the Durham Courts. It has recently been acquired by the National Trust and there is a visitor centre and café by the road.

30 The Corn Mill and the Fulling Mill. The romantic view of the Cathedral above the fulling mill and the tree-lined riverbanks reveals something of the historical defence of the City. The threat of Scottish occupation (it happened twice in the 1640s) meant that the riverbanks were cleared of trees giving a clear sight from the walls of attackers across the natural moat of the river. The weirs were originally built to provide power to the water wheels in the two mills for corn grinding and clothmaking but also helped to maintain water depth in dry seasons thereby improving defence. In the fulling mill, wool was cleaned and then worked on to increase the thickness and compactness of the cloth.

Continue along the riverside path.

28 'The Count's House' from the early 19th century in the style of a Greek-Doric temple was a garden house for a local family. It was later wrongly thought to have been the home of the diminutive Polish Count Józef Boruwalski who never grew to more than one metre in height. He was a musician and a particular favourite of European and Turkish courts. He died in Durham in 1837 aged 97.

Cross Prebends' Bridge and follow the riverside path.

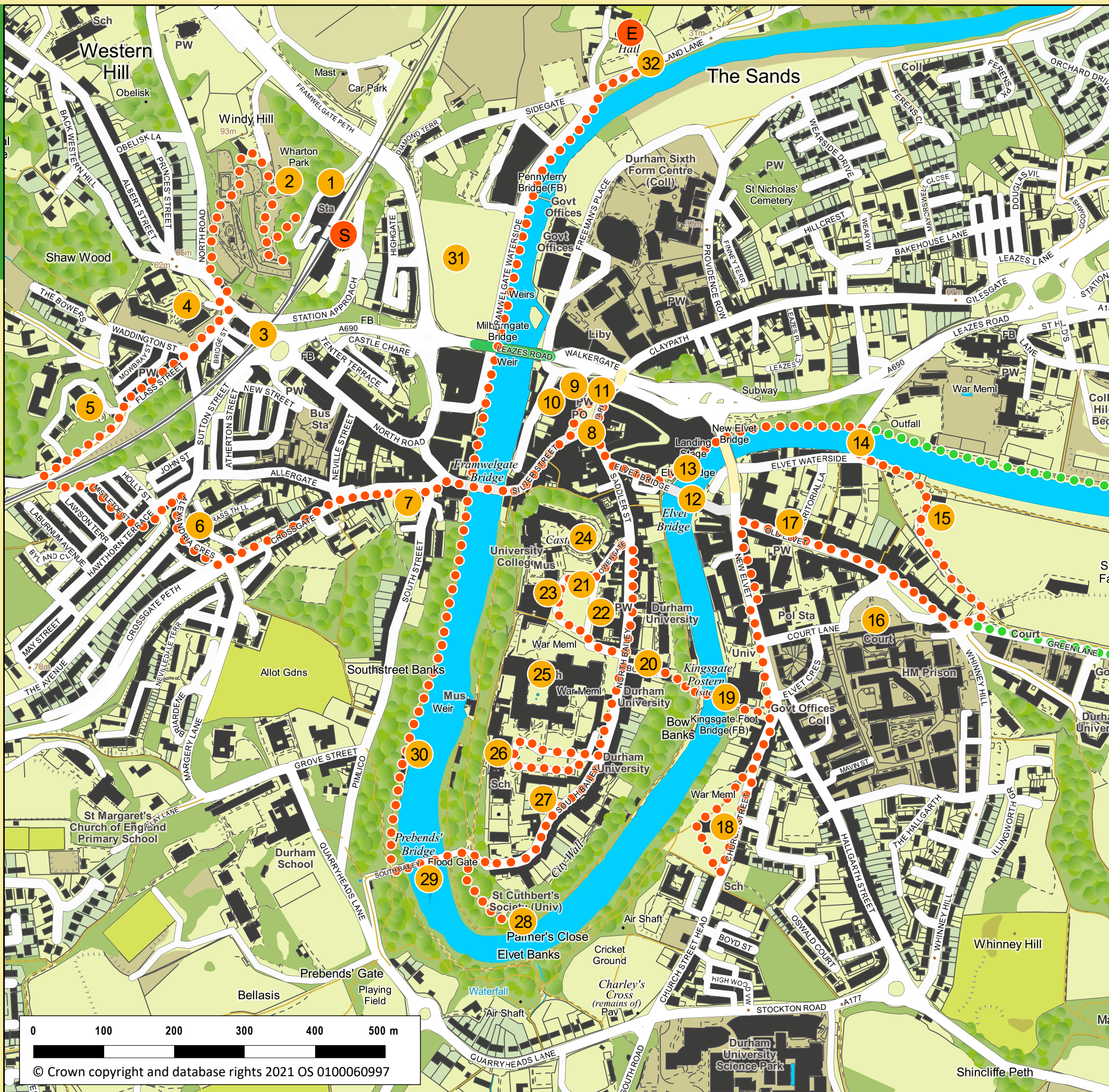
29 Prebends' Bridge. This fine replacement bridge for the original of 1574 that was swept away in 1771 carries Sir Walter Scott's poem to Durham: 'Half church of God, half castle 'gainst the Scot'. The bridge is named after the prebendary canons, the administrators of the Dean and Chapter.

26 The College is the Cathedral Close, its superb green is enclosed by the houses of the Cathedral's Dean and canons. On the far side are the homes of the Cathedral clergy and the Choristers' School. On the right is the Deanery which was formerly the Prior's Lodging buildings with origins in the Middle Ages. There is also a small and peaceful memorial garden to the fallen of the legendary Durham Light Infantry.

Back at the College Gate, turn right into South Bailey.

27 St Mary-The-Less Church. The tiny church was founded in the 12th century as a parish church for the South Bailey. Its name came from the need to distinguish it from St Mary-le-Bow. It is now the church of St. John's College.

Pass beneath the 1778 Water Gate to the riverbanks and bear left onto a path down to the river.



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25 Durham Cathedral – The Church of Christ, Blessed Mary the Virgin and St Cuthbert of Durham. Is the Cathedral still Britain's favourite building? Probably, as a multitude of admirers drink in its awesome beauty every day when the train glides past on the Viaduct. The Normans often chose to build their huge cathedrals on the revered (and income-earning) sites of Saxon Saints. Uniquely here in Durham, the Cathedral built on the site of the last of the three Saxon churches that contained the relics of St Cuthbert, also has a monastery and castle within a defensive wall on a rock. Starting in 1093, the Benedictine monks completed the Cathedral in 40 years and, remarkably, the core of the building from that time remains unaltered. There were, however, the additions of the 12th century of the Galilee Chapel and the western towers, and the Chapel of the Nine Altars in the 13th century. The great central tower was the last major addition with its late 15th century perpendicular Gothic detail. The long history of prayer and of pilgrimage to the shrines of both Cuthbert for which the Cathedral was designed, and Bede continues today. However, the right of sanctuary for 37 days in the Cathedral by grasping the ring of the sanctuary knocker on the great oak door for those who were being pursued for certain crimes, did not survive after 1624. (This unfortunately is probably a myth but survives as a good story!) The Cathedral with all its treasures needs time to be enjoyed and explored to the full perhaps on another day.

Walk round the Palace Green and exit onto North Bailey, turning right to find the College Gate archway on the right that gives access to the College.

24. Durham Castle. Building began in 1072 only six years after the Norman conquest of England on the orders of King William and was carried out by the first four Bishops Walcher, St. Calais, Flambard and Le Puiset. The castle and walls were first constructed in wood and then in stone mostly quarried from the rock the Castle stood upon.

The holder of the office of Bishop of Durham was appointed by the king to exercise royal authority on his behalf. The Castle became the Bishop's Palace and home to a long line of powerful Prince Bishops. They ruled 'a buffer state' between England and Scotland and acted to control local rebellions. Their powers which matched those of the monarch (other than the power to declare war), included the right to raise an army, convene their own courts of justice, mint coinage, and levy taxes. These powers returned to the Crown in 1836.

Since 1837, the Castle has been occupied by the University College and is now home to over 100 students.

Some of the many Prince Bishops have left their mark through exercise of military power such as Le Puiset and Bek, in building such as Bishops Cosin and Hatfield, in founding the University as did Van Mildert. Thomas Wolsey is remembered as being the only Prince Bishop not to have visited Durham.

Tours of the Castle are popular, and visitors are advised to book in advance.

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The Durham City Heritage Trail

Around every corner in Durham City is something old and interesting. To see it all in one walk is not possible, but here is a start in getting to know the City's rich history. The Cathedral and Castle has long been one of the world's great architectural sights, and since 1986 designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is yet more from medieval and later times to discover.

In three hours, you will travel back a thousand years to where monks carrying the relics of St. Cuthbert stayed to build a church, and learn of the long rule of the Prince Bishops. You will also see the 'Pitman's Parliament', the Headquarters of the Durham Miners' Union and many buildings of Durham University, England's third oldest university.

It is also a story of different fortunes from the grandeur of the Prince Bishops to the poverty of pauper children of the workhouse. Also to be enjoyed is the beauty of the riverbanks, and the landscape setting.

The trail is nearly 5 miles (7 km) and the longer route is 6 miles (10 km) and will take up to three hours or longer if you stop at the many places of interest and beauty. Despite a few short steep rises, it is an easy walk on pavements and paths. Good footwear is recommended.

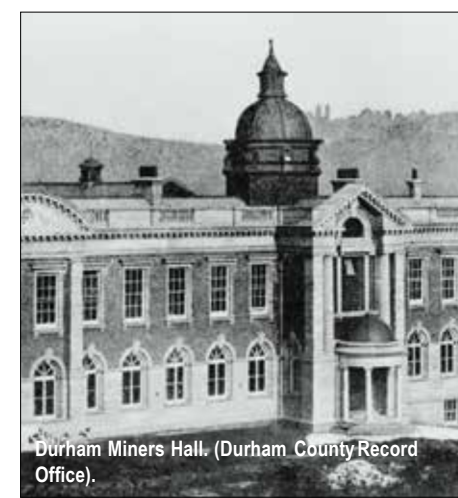
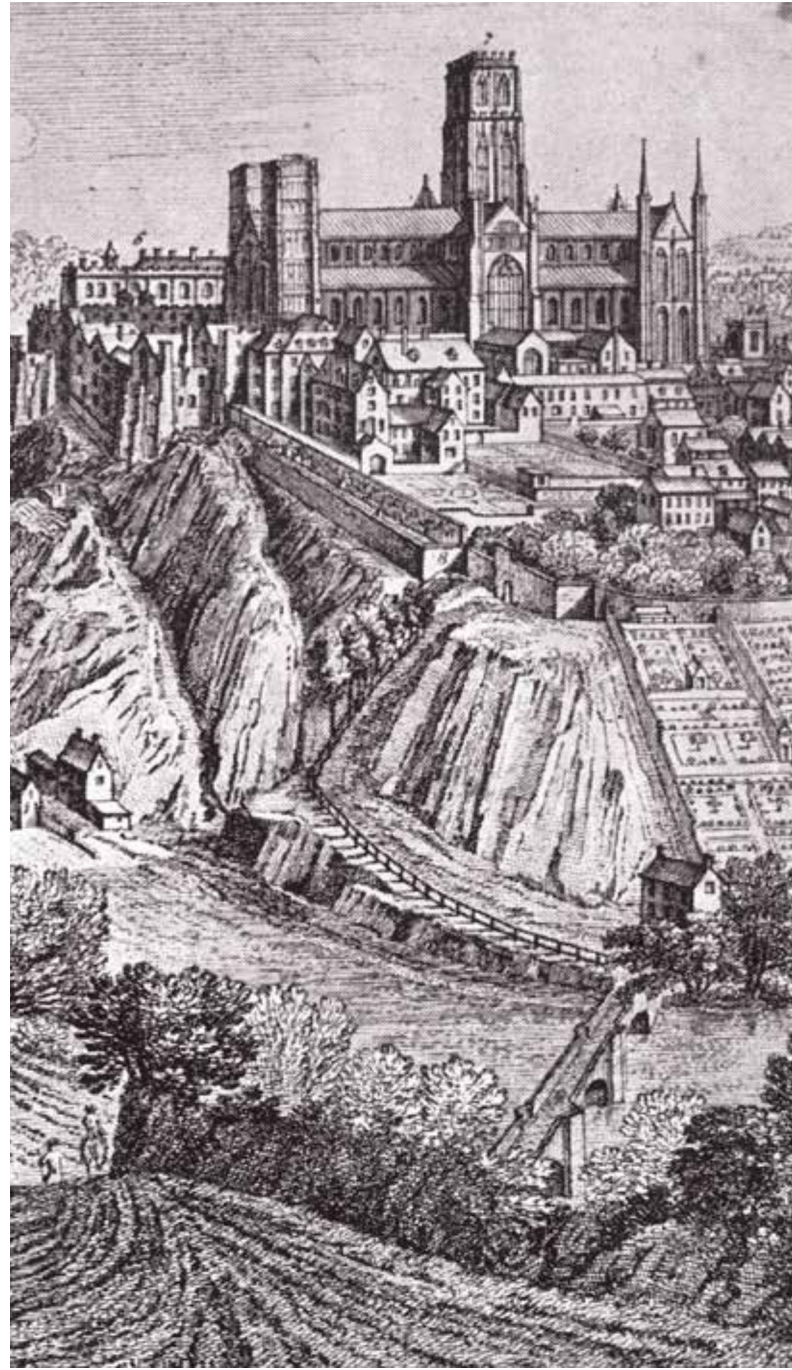
This is a great walk with family and friends, with a rambling club, or on your own. For those who prefer shorter walks, make a start and tackle the rest on another day.

The Wheelchair Route

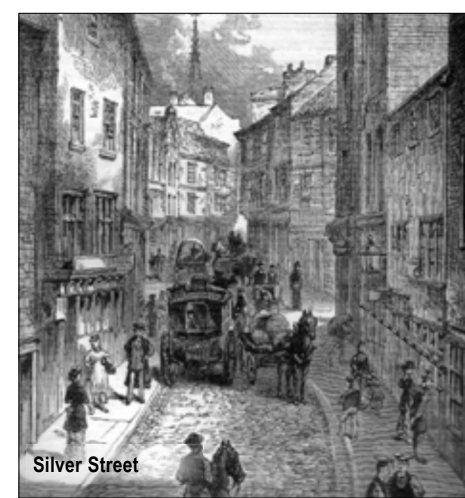
The walking trail presents difficulties for many in wheelchairs and those with mobility problems because of the elevated position of the Cathedral and Castle surrounded by narrow medieval streets, steep banks and slopes, and uneven footpaths. There is a wheelchair route that provides easier access (although it still needs care on the steep Owengate and over cobbles). This route on the Peninsula starts in Market Place (8, 9, 10, 11), down to Elvet Bridge (12), continuing up Saddler Street and Owengate to Palace Green (21, 22, 23, 24, 25), The College (26), St Mary-the-Less Church (27) finishing at St Mary-le-Bow Church (20) on the way back to Market Place

The riverside paths up to Old Durham Gardens on the north side and up to the rowing club on the south side are readily accessible either from Old Elvet via Territorial Lane, or from Prince Bishops' Car Park via the lift. The surfaces of both are good for wheelchair use.

The Durham City Heritage Trail



Durham Miners Hall. (Durham County Record Office).



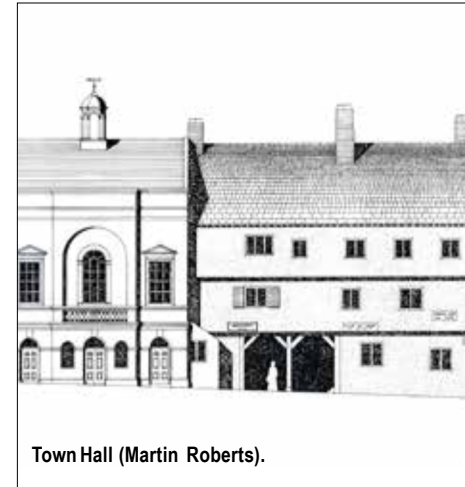
Silver Street

Explore the Heritage of Durham City on Foot

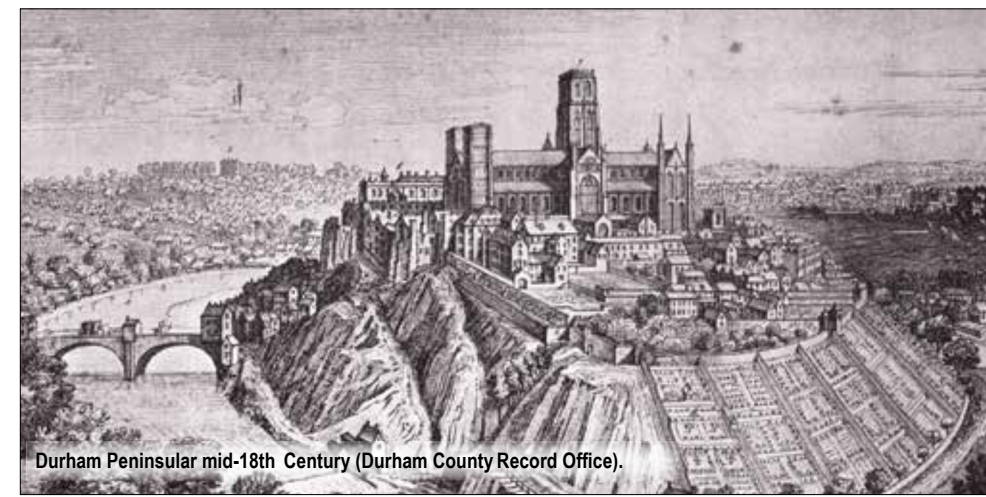
Although settlement in the area began with the iron age hill fort at Maiden Castle, the story of Durham City really begins with the arrival of the Lindisfarne monks in 995 bearing the earthly remains of St. Cuthbert. The defensive strength of the peninsula appealed to the monks as it did later to the conquering Normans who built their magnificent cathedral, monastery, and castle to defend against the Scots and local uprisings. Durham Castle became home to the powerful Prince Bishops exercising the powers of the monarch for nearly 800 years.

The City has thrived as a place of worship, pilgrimage, refuge, and a prison and law court, market, education and centre of administration. The Miners' Hall, or the Pitman's Parliament, is the home of the Durham Miners Association, and mining heritage and railway history is everywhere in the City. It is home also to Durham University which has grown in power and influence since 1832 when its first college was founded by Bishop Van Mildert to the 17 colleges of today.

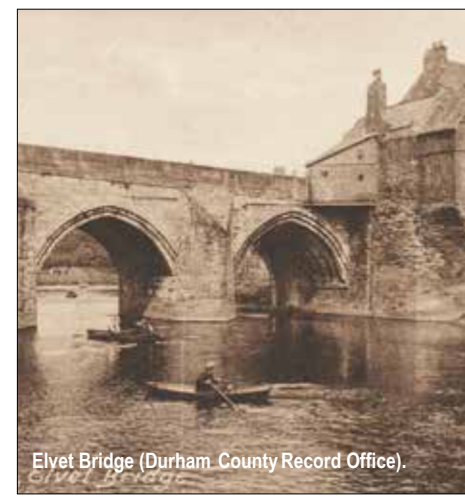
Today, as you will discover, Durham remains a fine place in which to live, to visit and to study.



Town Hall (Martin Roberts).



Durham Peninsular mid-18th Century (Durham County Record Office).



Elvet Bridge (Durham County Record Office).



Durham Viaduct (Durham County Record Office).



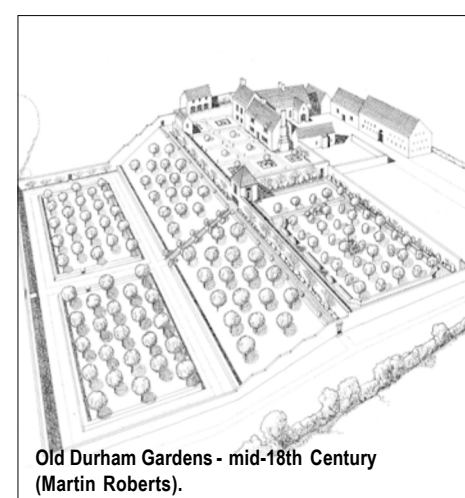
Members of Durham Rowing Club 1863.

Thanks to:

The City of Durham Trust in partnership with the City of Durham Parish Council has produced this leaflet as part of the 80th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Trust. Special thanks go to members of the Trust: David Miller for devising the trail and designing this leaflet, and to Martin Roberts and Roger Cornwell for their assistance in finalising its content. Further information about the work of the Trust can be found on its website: durhamcity.org

It is part of the Parish Council's mission to support initiatives arising in the community such as this as presented in our 'Looking Forwards' document which can be found on our website: <https://cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk/2021/09/07/durham-city-neighbourhood-plan-looking-forwards/>

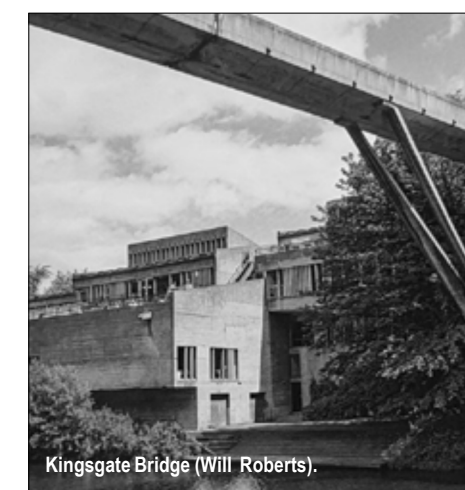
The aim of both organisations is to increase understanding and enjoyment of the City's heritage and to promote walking in the City for pleasure, education and health. A further aim is to support a more sustainable tourism industry by enhancing the enjoyment of visitors.



Old Durham Gardens - mid-18th Century (Martin Roberts).



Crook Hall Gardens - (David Miller).



Kingsgate Bridge (Will Roberts).



Old Elvet (Durham County Record Office).