



Stockton-on-Tees Heritage Strategy



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Stockton-on-Tees

The Borough's known history stretches from the Bronze Age settlement at Ingleby Barwick to the new town of Billingham and from the Historic ports of Yarm and Stockton to the oil and chemical industry based at Seal Sands.

The legacy of this history can be seen in the landscape, buildings and documents we have today.





1. Introduction

This is the first Heritage Strategy produced for Stockton-on-Tees and forms an important part of celebrating our wealth of heritage assets, the projects we have delivered and are currently initiating. This Strategy is about recognising the work of us all in helping to interpret, conserve, increase access to and understanding of our historic environment. This Strategy allows us all to celebrate and appreciate the heritage we have in the Borough. It allows us to understand more clearly how we manage and protect our heritage. It finally allows us to consider the importance of our heritage and our commitment to conserving, interpreting and promoting it.

Heritage is a word that encompasses many aspects and in this Strategy we have included the cultural, built and natural environment of Stockton. This Strategy looks at our buildings, towns, museums, parks and natural landscapes / waterways and wildlife sites, collections of manuscripts, books and maps, archaeological sites and history celebrated through art, festivals and community projects.

The responsibility for valuing Stockton's heritage rests with us all. Therefore, an important element of this Strategy is that it will continue to evolve and develop with on-going comment, recommendations and news of new projects from communities and societies.

The Strategy will be available on-line on the Stockton Borough Council (SBC) website at www.stockton.gov.uk/heritage. This will allow greater access and flexibility for residents in posting continual feedback on the Strategy and any activity associated with Stockton's heritage.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is pleased to have initiated this first Strategy and will continue to support the promotion and development of our heritage assets through its many services: working with communities to ensure heritage remains an acknowledged asset in these economically challenging times.

We are glad you have taken the opportunity to read the Strategy and look forward to your continued support, enthusiasm, dedication and time in ensuring Stockton's Heritage is preserved and celebrated for current and future generations.

Strategy Purpose and Structure

The Strategy has been written to reflect the priorities of recognising, valuing, promoting and celebrating Stockton's heritage. It also sets out Stockton Borough Council's vision and future commitment to heritage.

The Strategy has been divided into three sections:

- **Chapter 2 Knowing our Heritage**

Provides a flavour of the heritage we have in the Borough.

- **Chapter 3 Valuing our Heritage**

Offers a selection of case studies revealing the good practice, breadth of projects and roles undertaken by communities, Local Authority and partners. This reveals what we do and the teamwork and close liaison required in order to deliver good quality heritage management, access and interpretation.



• Chapter 4 Celebrating, Conserving and Creating Future Heritage: The Way Forward

Sets out the broad vision and our overall objectives for heritage. This culminates in an action plan which describes the tasks planned to deliver an on-going, high quality heritage service. It defines what we will do.

The purpose of this Strategy is to provide a framework from which we can all continue to:

- conserve Stockton's heritage.
- celebrate Stockton's heritage.
- promote Stockton's heritage to our residents, visitors and tourists.
- engage our communities with Stockton's heritage.
- care for Stockton's heritage through the management and development of collections, museums, sites and landscapes.

Wider Benefits of Heritage

The far reaching benefits of heritage are widely acknowledged and as is demonstrated from the case studies delivered so far (see chapter 3), heritage impacts on all aspects of people's lives. It is therefore important that heritage is not considered in isolation but in a wider context that adds value:

- Heritage can contribute to the economic regeneration of areas through building on the historic character of places. This helps to establish a connection with the past, a celebration of its significance and helps to ensure high standards in the quality of new design and development.
- Environment and community – understanding our immediate surroundings and how they have been shaped over the years helps to provide a sense of continuity, belonging and pride. This helps to ensure that the significant elements of our environment are protected. It also supports communities in caring for their historic and natural environment.



- Children and young people – getting access to heritage means children and young people can make the best use of their imagination and development. Encouraging an appreciation of heritage and how it is managed leads to greater understanding. Valuing the historic and natural environment at an early age is important, as the next generation will be responsible for the future management of our heritage.
- Healthier communities – exploring and understanding, particularly the natural heritage, helps to support people in maintaining a healthy physical lifestyle and can limit stress and mental health issues.

Who Enjoys our Heritage

Enjoying heritage can take many forms – as a visitor, researcher, volunteer, member of historical or archaeological society, tourist. Access to heritage can include outreach visits by Tees Archives, participating in the SHiP project or attending the Billingham International Folklore Festival.

Promoting our heritage is not only about helping local people take pride in Stockton's story but is also about increasing awareness amongst our visitors. Stockton's heritage is enjoyed by its many visitors to the region, which tend to be business tourists, people visiting friends and family and day visitors. There are huge opportunities for these groups to enjoy Stockton's heritage offer and encourage longer stays and repeat visits. Ensuring these visitors get access to the best information and know where to visit will ensure that Stockton's heritage is promoted on a wider geographical basis.

A core principle of this Strategy is that everyone within the community has the opportunity to benefit from the historic and natural environment and that they feel enriched by living in this environment. It is about getting people involved, sharing their experiences and opinions about the historic environment and supporting the development of new projects.

Stockton has a variety of very active local societies, which help to promote and celebrate our heritage. These include:

- Remembering Thornaby.
- Stockton Local History Society.
- Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society.
- Teesside Archaeological Society.
- Cleveland and Teesside Local History Society.
- Thorpe Thewles History Group.
- Norton Civic Society.
- Yarm Civic Society.

There are also numerous friends groups, such as Friends of Tees Heritage Park and Friends of Tees Archives. As well as the friends of Parks. There are also a number of Civic Societies.

More information can be obtained at www.stockton.gov.uk/heritage or at your local library.

All of these societies have a vital role in disseminating research findings, supporting heritage projects and actively engaging in the promotion of Stockton's past.





The Borough covers an area of 20,000 hectares (49,000 acres). The River Tees is a significant feature of the Borough's landscape, and is the focus of Stockton's historic development. It flows over 85 winding miles (140km) from the Pennine Hills to its wide estuary where it meets the North Sea.

The Borough currently has a population of over 193,000 people, which has continued to grow since 1991. Most of these people live in the four principal towns which make up the Borough - Stockton, is the largest, then Billingham, Thornaby and Yarm. Approximately, 37,000 children (aged between 0-15 years) live in the Borough, with nearly 35,000 retired people.

The economic profile of the Borough is complex with 15% of residents falling within the top 20% of most affluent areas nationally; whilst 34% of residents live in the 20% most deprived areas of England. Unemployment in the Borough is 3.6% compared to a national average of 2.6%.

The majority of the Borough is rural and there are also some important landscapes such as the marshland around Seal Sands.

15.1 million visitors come to the Tees Valley and bring £164 million into the economy. The area benefits from a high proportion of day visitors, especially to places like the RSPB Wildlife and Discovery Park at Saltholme.

Stockton Today

The Borough of Stockton-on-Tees is located in the North East of England, at the centre of the Tees Valley. It lies approximately 40 miles north of York and 30 miles south of Newcastle.



Riverside Festival Performer



Tees Archives School visit

Our Achievements to Date

Stockton has much to celebrate and has already set in motion some very significant heritage projects as well as maintaining long-standing and increasingly high profile events.

All of these projects (outlined in Chapter 3 and 4) demonstrate the importance of working together with local residents, volunteers, Council officers, other partners and businesses.

Stockton has a long, diverse and proud heritage and has a wealth of beautiful landscapes, particularly the riverside. The story of Stockton is your story – it is the stories unearthed from the archaeological excavations at Ingleby Barwick, Norton and Thorpe Thewles; it is the River Tees which established Stockton and Yarm as important trading centres and its increasing importance for natural heritage. Stockton's story also includes contributions to our important railway heritage – with the Stockton and Darlington Railway, 1825. A growing part of the story is the oil and chemical industry and modern industrial processes.

Therefore, when we think of Stockton Borough, we think of some or all of these things. There are many ways in which these stories can be told – through new development, improved interpretation and access, research in archives and libraries tracing family and social history; visiting sites; recognising historic features in the landscape; engaging in our landscapes and natural heritage.

This Strategy is about understanding, celebrating and promoting Stockton's heritage and will help to ensure the on-going protection, preservation, management and commemoration of our story for years to come.



Victorian event to reopen Ropner Park after major restoration work



2. Knowing our Heritage

This chapter details some of the heritage assets that the Borough currently has and gives a flavour of the breadth of landscapes, sites, collections and projects that can be enjoyed. This is about Recognising Stockton's Heritage – what we have and the stories we have to tell.

All of our heritage assets, places, people and stories contribute greatly to understanding, appreciating, celebrating and promoting Stockton's past.

The chapter explores what we have and is divided into: natural heritage and historic landscapes; the historic environment; visitor attractions and collections. It also includes a brief history of our main towns, and biographies of some of the most notable figures associated with Stockton. Three principal historic themes on Early Stockton; Railway and Industry; World War I and II can be found at the end of the chapter. These provide an insight into Stockton's story and its wealth of history.

Brief History

Ten thousand years ago the landscape of the Tees Valley emerged from the ice. An arctic environment was replaced by a forested landscape rich in animals and plants.

The meltwaters of the glaciers and drainage off the Pennines created the River Tees, a violent and unpredictable river always liable to flood, but which in its lower course meanders through a flood plain of glacial boulder clay.

The river and the glaciers shaped the region. The river providing water, food, communication and a boundary while the glaciers supplied heavy but productive soils with patches of sand and gravel favoured for settlement from earliest times to today.

As soon as people moved into the area they began to change the forested landscape. Creating clearings to hunt animals and then establishing fields to keep their cattle and sheep and grow crops.

By the time of the Roman occupation two thousand years ago the forests had been reduced to pockets of woodland and the Tees Valley had become a farming landscape of small fields, farmsteads and hamlets.

The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings brought with them the basis of the language we speak today and provided the names of many of our settlements and from the 7th century AD Christianity began to shape the cultural and physical world of the area.

It was, however the Norman lords of the 11th century onwards who began to create the landscape we know today. Setting out our villages and towns, building our churches and castles and creating the basic framework over which later changes have been draped.

The enclosures of the 17th century onwards moved the area away from medieval open fields to that of small fields. While the 18th century agricultural revolution brought a national lead in livestock breeding and sufficient money to re-build the villages and towns with brick, providing many of the historic buildings of today.

The 19th and 20th centuries had a major impact on the landscape with the arrival of the





railways, the expansion of industry on the back of the coal and iron ore of the region and a huge influx of people. The river was straightened to speed up shipping and large areas of marshland were reclaimed at the river mouth.

The landscape around us is continually changing as we attempt to improve the quality of the countryside, access to it and to create a balance between change that builds on and preserves the best of the past while welcoming innovation.

Stockton's Natural Heritage and Historic Landscapes

The natural and human processes described above have created a Borough with a diverse range of landscapes and some much loved and extremely valuable 'natural' habitats.

These include nationally important mudflats and saltmarsh around the Tees Estuary to small patches of precious wildlife habitat in the heart of our towns and villages.

In the countryside the patchwork of arable land, meadows, woodlands and hedgerows provides many rich habitats for wildlife. While the River Tees and its tributaries form a natural network of green corridors, stretching from the rural areas in the west and south, through our towns and villages and out to the coast.

Many of these habitats are protected and managed as nature reserves, country parks or Local Wildlife Sites. Nationally important sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and the Borough also has one National Nature Reserve at Teesmouth. The Borough also has Registered Historic Parks and Gardens. Some of the key sites are discussed in the following section.





Thorpe Wood



Stillington Forest Park



Billingham Beck

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the Borough:

- Seal Sands SSSI, which lies entirely within the boundary of Teasmouth National Nature Reserve.
- Cowpen Marsh SSSI.

Both form part of the wider expanse of wetland and mudflat habitat of Teasmouth, which is an internationally important breeding and feeding ground for migratory wildfowl, wading birds and shore birds

Special Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites

Teasmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site (wetlands designated under the Ramsar convention): Cowpen Marsh SSSI and the majority of Seal Sands SSSI are recognised as wetlands of international importance for nature conservation. They are included as part of the Teasmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area. Ramsar and SSSI designations reflect the importance of the site for waterfowl which feed and roost in significant numbers.

Teasmouth National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Designated in 1995 and managed by Natural England. The NNR covers an area of 355 hectares, spanning the boundary between the Boroughs of Stockton and Hartlepool. The site contains the largest area of inter-tidal mudflats on the east coast of England between the Humber and Lindisfarne and boasts a rich variety of wildlife including huge flocks of migratory water birds and both grey and harbour seals.

There are 58 Local Wildlife and Geodiversity Sites in the Borough.

Nature Reserves

A number of sites in urban and urban fringe locations have been designated as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). All these

sites are managed by Stockton Borough Council:

- Bassleton Woods and the Holmes, Thornaby.
- Barwick Pond, Ingleby Barwick.
- Black Bobby's Field, Thornaby.
- Billingham Beck Valley Country Park.
- Charlton's Pond, Billingham.
- Greenvale, Stockton.
- Hardwick Dene and Elm Tree Wood, Stockton.
- Norton Marsh, Stockton.
- Quarry Wood, Eaglescliffe.
- Stillington Forest Park.
- Thorpe Wood, near Thorpe Thewles.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves

The Trust manage five reserves in the Borough:

- Bowesfield.
- Gravel Hole.
- Maze Park (partly in Middlesbrough).
- Portrack Marsh.
- Preston Farm.

Woodlands

There is around 360 hectares of woodland within the Borough. Major sites include:

- Coatham Wood, Long Newton - 198 hectare woodland owned and managed by the Forestry Commission with public access throughout.
- Honey Pot Wood, Whitton - 7 hectare woodland owned and managed by Stockton Borough Council with public access and linked by public rights of way to nearby villages.



Oxbridge Parish Gardens

Basselton Beck Valley, Ingleby Barwick

- Wynyard Woodlands – large areas of predominantly plantation woodland in and around Wynyard Park and Village, extending into Hartlepool Borough and County Durham.
- Leven Valley woodlands – significant areas of woodland along the River Leven valley, much of which is identified as a Local Wildlife Site.

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

Wynyard Park - owned by Sir John Hall, is an early nineteenth century park and lake with formal gardens. A registered historic parkland, the Wynyard site is substantial, 120 acres including a walled garden and several individual listed buildings, the Wellington obelisk, and Lion Bridge which creates the access to the magnificent grade II* Listed Wynyard Hall.

The crown granted tenancy of the Wynyard Estate in 1230 and it has been in use ever since. Wynyard Hall incorporates

a late 18th century mansion remodelled in 1819-22 and substantially rebuilt in 1822-30 for the Marquess of Londonderry. It was not until the tenure of the 3rd Marquess of Londonderry that the Hall became the talk of Europe. Lady Frances Anne established herself as the most glamorous hostess in England.

With typical flamboyance and style the Londonderrys entertained royalty, prime ministers, foreign dignitaries, generals, scholars, writers and artists. With a guest list including Charles Dickens, Disraeli, Sir Robert Peel, Churchill, King Edward VII, Elizabeth II and the 'regular' Duke of Wellington.

The Hall has many rooms of note including the magnificent entrance hall known as the statue gallery, ballroom, mirror room and private chapel. In private ownership the Hall has recently been turned into a hotel and conference/meeting facility.



Cowpen Bewley Country Park, Billingham



Wynyard Woodland Park

The Historic Environment

The historic environment covers all aspects of our man-made history. This can range from our archaeological sites through to the towns we inhabit today. We are lucky in the Borough to have many of our historic environment assets recognised as being of regional and national importance. These are protected through designation such as Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings. The Borough is also rather special due to the wide date-range of historic assets that are deemed of value, for example the early medieval Round Hill in Ingleby Barwick is Scheduled whilst the 20th Century Phosphate silo at Haverton Hill is a Listed Building.

The Borough has:

7 Grade I; 43 Grade II* and 444 Grade II Listed Buildings.

The highest concentration of Listed Buildings can be found in Yarm, Norton and Stockton.

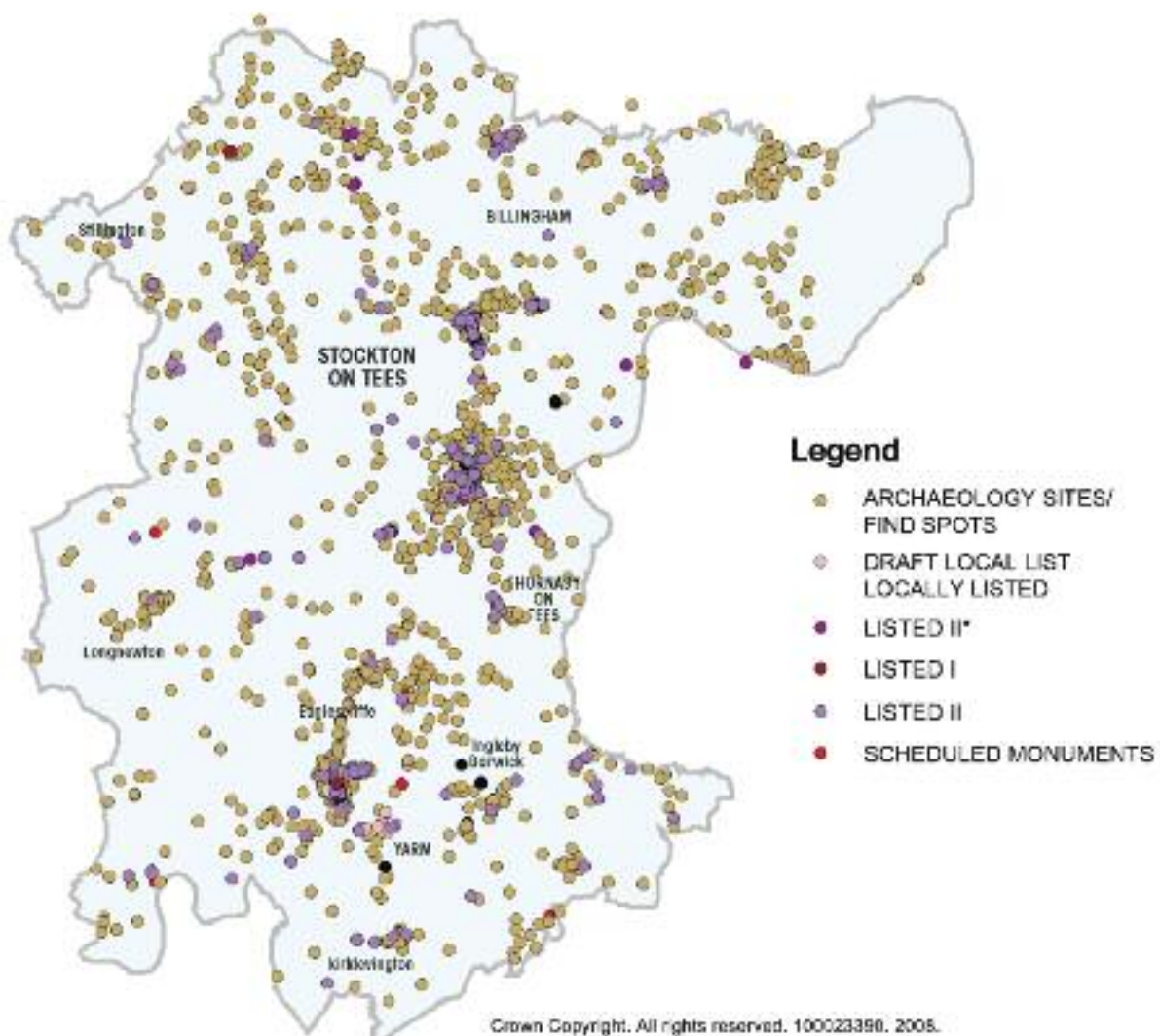
The Local Authority also maintains a list of buildings considered to be of local interest.

There are 11 Conservation Areas within the Borough:

- Billingham Green.
- Cowpen Bewley, Billingham.
- Bute Street, Stockton.
- Stockton Town Centre.
- Eggescliffe.
- Eggescliffe with Preston.
- Hartburn.
- Norton.
- Thornaby Green.
- Wolviston.
- Yarm.

There are 8 Scheduled Monuments

- Castle Hill, Castlelevington.
- St Thomas Beckett Church, Grindon.



- Round Hill Castle, Ingleby Barwick.
- Larberry Pasture Settlement Site, Longnewton.
- Newsham Deserted Medieval Village.
- Barwick Medieval Village.
- Market Cross, Stockton.
- Yarm Bridge, Yarm.

The Borough has approximately 1,841 recorded archaeological sites and findspots. Tees Archaeology has also directed a number of archaeological excavations throughout the Borough. A selection of the most impressive and significant ones are detailed below.

Ingleby Barwick – Bronze Age Cemetery

A number of graves were excavated which revealed various burial practices within this Bronze Age Cemetery and required Tees Archaeology and Durham University to undertake some highly technical procedures in order to fully understand the finds and skeletons.

One of the most significant burials was of a woman who was buried wearing copper jewellery, including plain and ribbed copper bangles, 41 tubular beads, 25 jet buttons and 79 very small jet beads.

Due to the wintry conditions, the female's torso was removed in one block and excavated in a laboratory at Durham University. In order to achieve this, the torso had to be frozen solid with dry ice, lifted, x-rayed and transported to the University. This reveals how challenging and delicate archaeological excavation can be in order to

obtain as much information as possible from the archaeological record.

Quarry Farm Roman Villa, Ingleby Barwick

The remains of what is thought to be the most northerly surviving Roman villa in the Empire have been partly excavated at Ingleby Barwick. Enclosures showing as marks in ripening cereal crops were first identified from aerial photographs taken in 1970. However, it was not until 2000 when a geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeological Services University of Durham, indicated the presence of at least three stone founded buildings.

The site was then partly excavated by Durham University in 2003. Evidence was found for both circular and rectangular buildings. The rectangular buildings probably represented the homes and farmstead of a wealthy family of 'Romanised Britons'. One of these buildings had an underfloor heating system. Adjacent to the villa there was evidence of an extensive field system and further buildings including a circular horse mill for grinding the corn grown on the estate, a well built barn/workshop and numerous corn driers. The local aristocrats who owned the site probably had close links with the Roman military and may have acted as their local representatives. The site was probably valued for its position on the River Tees where traffic and trade could easily be controlled.

Thorpe Thewles Iron Age Settlement

This archaeological excavation took place in the early 1980s and provided a substantial amount of information about



Ingleby Barwick Skeleton



Ingleby Barwick Excavation

Anglo-Saxon Norton

The Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Norton was dug in the mid 1980s. It revealed the presence of 120 burials. The archaeological excavation revealed interesting details about burial position and grave goods revealed the cemetery to be Pagan. Ten male burials had their weapons buried with them. Five of the male burials had a spear, denoting the lowest social rank. The burials also contained bronze belt buckles, sleeve clasps and brooches indicating that they were fully dressed when buried. Other goods recovered included: iron keys, glass and amber bead necklaces, earthenware pots, iron knives, tweezers and pins and combs made of bone.

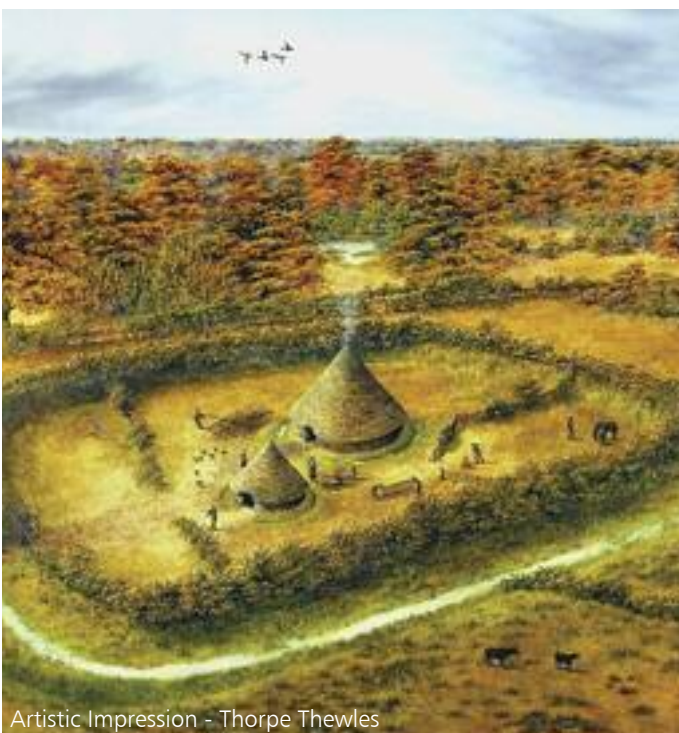
Further excavations took place in 1994 and then in 2003 when a Christian Anglo-Saxon cemetery was revealed at Bishopsmill School. This may have been the new cemetery accommodating the new traditions of the Christian faith. The 2003 excavation uncovered 83 graves and 107 individuals. One of the most significant finds was that of an iron strap found buried with one of the skeletons, which has been interpreted as a mid-Saxon chest fitting.



Quarry Farm Excavation

Iron Age lifestyle and settlement in this part of North-Eastern England.

Several houses were excavated revealing different phases of use and adaptation. Changes to the character of the settlement were evident – it began as an enclosed ditch settlement and gradually become more open with the removal of the surrounding bank. The excavation revealed that the community kept cattle, sheep and horses. Spindlewhorls were also uncovered indicating that they spun wool. Pottery was very simple and made from local resources, which was fired in a bonfire or simple pit-kiln.



Artistic Impression - Thorpe Thewles



Excavators at Norton



Visitor Attractions and Collections

Preston Hall Museum & Park - provides a major contribution to the enjoyment of Stockton's past. Originally built in 1825, the Hall became the home of Robert Ropner, local businessman and ship owner in the 1880s. He added the impressive ballroom and the fine Winter Garden conservatory, which houses a typical Victorian plant display. The estate was purchased by the Council in 1947, and opened as a public Museum and Park in 1953. The original trackbed of the Stockton and Darlington Railway (1825 - 1852) can still be seen along the frontage of the Park. The Hall attracted 100,000 visitors in 2010, with the 110-acre Park being used by an estimated 400,000 residents and visitors.

This jewel in Stockton's crown is currently being improved, with support from the Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund: in the Park there are improvements to access, paths and drainage. New displays in the Museum from 2012 will let visitors explore their heritage and history and discover more about the history of the Hall and Park, the Collectors and collections which are the foundation of the Museum, the rich river and industrial history of the area, and the creativity and innovation of local people.

The Museum has fine collections of Art (including the internationally-famous Georges de la Tour 'Diceplayers'), Weapons from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries, Archaeology (such as the impressive local finds from Norton and the carved Viking stones from Kirklevington), Costume, and substantial Local and Social History collections, including local Documents.

And, at the back of the Museum, visitors are often surprised to discover the hidden gem of the reconstructed Victorian street, complete with cobbles, pumps, shops and

working craftspeople – including blacksmiths, violin makers, a printer, wood carver and costumed interpreters to help take you back in time!

(Please note that the main Hall will be closed in 2011 for refurbishment work and installation of new displays), although the Ballroom exhibition and Victorian Street will be open February to August).

The **Replica HM Bark Endeavour**, is a full-size replica of Captain James Cook ship. It is berthed on the River Tees at Stockton-on-Tees, not far from the birthplace of James Cook.

A recently opened attraction and success story is **Saltholme Wildlife and Discovery Centre**. The site was opened in 2009 after substantial reclamation works to change this former industrial landscape back into an area of reedbeds, wet grasslands and lakes. The site covers 380 hectares and is an important area for birds and other wildlife. The site includes a visitor centre and a series of trails. It has proved popular with both local people as well as visitors to the region. It is managed by the RSPB.

Ropner Park was restored in 2006 by Stockton Borough Council with Park for People funding and is a Registered Park and Garden. The Park was given to the people of Stockton by Sir Robert Ropner, who was a wealthy Shipbuilder and MP for Stockton. It was first opened to the public in 1893 and still retains the character and features of a traditional Victorian park. The active Friends Group run events and the Park café.

Wynyard Woodland Park adjacent to the Wynyard Hall estate, was originally based on the former Castle Eden Branch Railway. With the purchase of woodlands alongside the railway, the park took its present form. A visitor centre

utilises a rebuilt station building and the park contains unique features such as a planetarium and observatory. The Park enables people to enjoy a wonderful array of species including the Common Spotted Orchid.

Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park is a 100-hectare park on the site of a former brickworks and landfill site. A large pond, formerly a clay pit, forms a centrepiece attracting a wide range of birds as does the 300,000 trees that have been planted since 1990. A large mound gives extensive views of the countryside from the top and a visitor centre offers a range of activities.

Billingham Beck Valley Country Park is situated between the A19 and the old Billingham bypass. The site has steadily grown to 120 acres including wetland habitats. With its colourful meadows, ponds, marsh and woodland, Billingham Beck Valley is one of Stockton Borough's most interesting areas of countryside. This wetland provides a home for plants and animals which are beginning to disappear from our countryside, as wetlands are being drained. The Beck itself is one of the major tributaries of the River Tees.

Designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 1992, this valuable pocket of countryside has been preserved as a haven for wildlife and a place where people can explore, enjoy and learn about the countryside.

As well as our parks there are many trails throughout the Borough. These can be found on www.stockton.gov.uk/heritage or by visiting the Tourist Information Centre.

Libraries and Archives

Our libraries and archives hold a vast amount of material

which help immensely in understanding Stockton's past and its place in the world today.

This material covers a wide range of documents, maps and papers, including:

- The Minutes and Proceedings of the former local authorities, which became part of Cleveland in 1974.
- Census Returns of the former Cleveland area, 1841 - 1891.
- Church Records: most Church of England parishes, some Roman Catholic, Methodist and other non-conformist records.
- Register of Electors.
- Monumental Inscriptions.
- Schools and School Boards.
- Boards of Guardians (including Workhouse records of Guisborough, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough).
- Societies and Trade Unions.
- Parish Councils, Businesses, Hospitals & Motor Taxation.
- Tithe, Enclosure, Ordnance Survey and other maps.
- Tape recordings: Oral history recordings and Radio Cleveland Sound Archives.

Stockton Borough Council libraries hold:

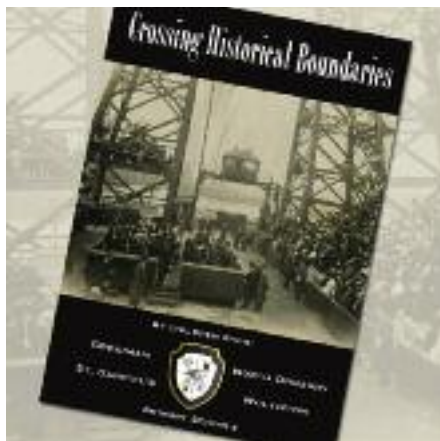
- Biographies and obituaries of local people, together with books and other material relating to local families and individuals.
- Books, articles, pamphlets, journals and periodicals. Our collection includes items in the following subject areas:
 - ◆ Shipbuilding



Billingham Beck



Wynyard Woodland Park



- ◆ River Tees
- ◆ Stockton and Darlington Railway
- ◆ Social and industrial history
- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Local villages
- Books, articles and pamphlets by local authors.
- Council documents.
- Electronic items such as CD roms on family history.
- Local census returns.
- Local directories.

- Local historical maps.
- Local history societies newsletters.
- Local newspapers and newspaper cuttings.
- Microform copies of material of local and family history significance.
- Photographs of local significance.
- Websites and online resources such as Ancestry.

The SBC library service continues to add to its collections with material deemed important by residents and often requested. One of the latest additions to the library collection is "Air Raid Diary: The Luftwaffe Attacks on Teesside 1940-1943" by Bill Norman.



Tees Archive's School visit

Principal Urban Centres - Thornaby

Thornaby is said to have come into its existence in about 800 A.D. when the land was given by Halfdene, King of the Danes, to Thormod, one of his noblemen.

However, evidence from Thornaby indicates that there was also much earlier activity in the area. A stone axe, 8" long, dating back to the Mesolithic Period (about 3000 B.C.) has been discovered and in 1926 a dug out canoe said to date from about 1600 - 1400 B.C. was found in the mud under 8 feet of water opposite Thornaby High Wood. An arrow head of the Neolithic Period (about 3000 B.C.) was found in a garden on the Thornaby Village Green.

St Peter's church on Thornaby Green, dates back to the 11th & 12th Centuries.

The name Thornaby first appears in 1665 and refers to old Thornaby village near the River Tees. In the 19th century old Thornaby, centred on St Peters Church and the old village green was gradually overshadowed by the town of South Stockton. A wide variety of industries including shipbuilding, iron and steel, heavy engineering, sugar and flour milling, gave rise to a large new town.

Thornaby aerodrome was an important RAF base during WWII and came into being in 1930, although the area had been used for flying since 1919. The base was home to the North Riding 608 Squadron.



Spitfire Roundabout, Thornaby

The aerodrome finally closed in 1958 with most of the land being sold for redevelopment in 1963. For a short time the site was used as a motor racing circuit, with the delightful names of Hudson straight, Anson straight, Hawker hairpin, Hurricane corner, Gladiator bends, and Defiant corner.

Today, many of the aerodrome buildings survive but the runways have vanished beneath the new Town Centre and housing developments. However, some of the street names reflect Thornaby's aviation history.



Thornaby Green

Principal Urban Centres - Norton

Norton is first recorded in 994 AD and was considered an important place during Anglo-Saxon times. It still retains its Anglo-Saxon church. However, in 1984 excavations at Mill Lane, revealed a large Anglo-Saxon pagan cemetery, dating to the 6th century and therefore pre-dating the recorded settlement. More than one hundred burials were discovered at the site.

St Mary's Church dates to the early 11th century and is situated close to the Village green. The Church was made a collegiate church by Bishop Carileph in order to maintain secular canons that had been removed from Durham Cathedral. St Mary's acted as the 'mother church' over a parish that included Stockton, Preston and Hartburn.

Norton today still retains features of the old Norton village, including cottages, a duckpond and a village



green. The High Street and Green has fine houses, some dating back to the 17th Century.

Principal Urban Centres - Yarm

Yarm is a small town to the south of the Borough, which nestles in a bend of the River Tees. It was probably established during the medieval period with the planned town most likely created by the Brus family in the 12th century. The name of the Town is translated as 'Fish Weirs' and the Domesday book records that it was little more than a fishing settlement in 1086.

The main feature of Yarm is its wide High Street with cobbled verges bordered by many fine period buildings, some of these date to the medieval periods as well as the 18th and 19th centuries.

Other important structures include Yarm Bridge, which dates to the 14th Century. The Railway Viaduct built in 1849 for the Leeds Northern Railway, and St Mary Magdelene's Church, which originally dates to the 11th and 12th Centuries, although it was heavily rebuilt in the 18th Century.

High Church Wynd gives a good indication of the cramped conditions that 18th and 19th labourers were expected to live in. The concentration of buildings was a result of the rapid expansion and need for housing as Yarm's trade and cloth industries prospered.



Yarm High Street in the 19th Century

Yarm had a Dominican Friary, which is thought to have existed since 1266. The site of the Friary is now in the grounds of Yarm School.

Yarm has also hosted some notable historic events: The George and Dragon Hotel was the venue for the meeting of the Stockton and Darlington Railway promoters on 12th February 1820.

Annually, in October, a three day street fair is held. This tradition dates back to the time of King John.

Principal Urban Centres - Stockton

Stockton probably began as an Anglo-Saxon settlement on high ground close to the northern bank of the River Tees. The first specific reference to Stockton occurs around the 12th Century in the Boldon Buke - the Palatinate of Durham's equivalent to the Domesday Book. Stockton's market can trace its history back to 1310, when Bishop Bek of Durham granted a market charter. The town still holds one of the largest markets in the North. Stockton Castle, which may have been a Fortified Manor House, is first referred to in 1383 and stood until c1652, when it was destroyed on the orders of Oliver Cromwell.

Dominating the High Street, the Town Hall, built in 1735 and extended to the current form in 1744, still serves its original purpose, where Council Meetings are held in its elegant Council Chamber. At the northern end of the High Street stands Stockton Parish Church, built 1710 - 1712.

The first rail of the Stockton and Darlington Railway was laid 13th May 1822 near St John's Crossing on Bridge Road. Hauled by Locomotion No.1, the first train made its historic inaugural journey from Brusselton to Stockton to mark the official opening of the line on Tuesday, 27th September 1825.



Stockton Parish Church and Gardens

The River Tees has played an important role for the town, giving rise to many trades and industries including merchant trading and shipbuilding. A significant port of the Tees since the 17th Century, Stockton's 19th Century industrial expansion quickly established the town as a leading centre in the North East. By the end of the 20th Century, heavy engineering industries had almost disappeared, employment being found mostly in service industries, retail trades and local government.



George Stephenson and John Walker Mural

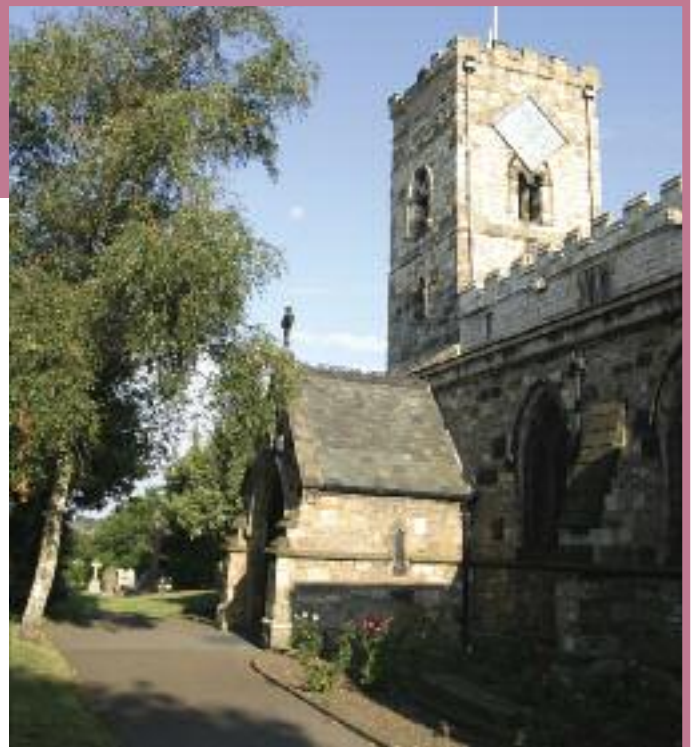
Principal Urban Centres - Billingham

Billingham was a Saxon settlement from about the 7th century onwards and St Cuthbert's church has a tower dated to 1000 AD. The town's name is believed to translate as 'the homestead of Billa's people'. A late 7th century grave-marker from the church is now in the British Museum.

In the fourteenth century Billingham was a little village noted for a small brewery and the making of fish oil. In 1834 the new Clarence Railway joined the Stockton and Darlington Railway and helped stimulate industrial growth. In 1837 an iron works opened at Port Clarence and was followed by a glassworks, a blast furnace and more iron foundries. Despite this industry, Billingham was still largely a village.

In 1801, the population was 355 people but the demand for explosives created by the First World War led to a massive expansion of Billingham. Further industrial expansion occurred in 1917 when a plant to produce ammonia was built. In 1926, this plant became part of the newly formed company, ICI. ICI needed workers and these workers needed somewhere to live. This led to the creation of New Billingham with planned housing estates rapidly being developed.

In the mid 1930s the population had grown to 19,000. After the Second World War, the growth continued, with more housing being built as the town expanded



northwards, reaching about 38,000 by the 1970s.

The town is effectively split into two separate areas by name, Old Billingham (the area around the village green adjacent to St Cuthbert's church and built up around the ICI works) and the more planned estates that have spread out since the 1950s, increasing the town's size and borders towards the villages of Wolviston and Cowpen Bewley.

Since the early 1960's, an annual International Folklore Festival in the Town Centre has attracted visitors from around the region and performers from all over the world.



Wolviston and Billingham - towards Teesmouth

Stockton's Heroes

There are many people associated with Stockton, either because they were born in the area, or because the actions or events for which they are known took place here. Some individuals are household names, others are known only to people with a specialist interest. The significance of an individual and their historic contribution, and the relevance of that contribution to Stockton's heritage, is subjective.

Stockton Borough Council recently established a Commemoration Working Group, made up of Elected Members, to consider these issues in response to any nominations to the 'Stockton Hall of Fame'. The following figures are those that, at the time of producing this Strategy, have been nominated and accepted by that committee.

As covered elsewhere in this Strategy the online Hall of Fame is intended to continue to grow and anyone wishing to nominate people for consideration is free to do so. To find out more visit www.stockton.gov.uk or e-mail halloffame@stockton.gov.uk

Harold Macmillan

1894 - 1986

Harold MacMillan, 1st Earl of Stockton, OM, PC was a British Conservative politician and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 10 January 1957 to 18 October 1963.

Nicknamed 'Supermac', in his premiership he advocated a mixed economy, championed the use of public investment to create expansion, and presided over an age of affluence marked by high growth and low unemployment. When asked what represented the greatest challenge for a statesman, Macmillan famously replied: "Events, my dear boy, events".

Harold Macmillan was born in Chelsea, London, and was educated at Eton and Oxford, although he only completed two years before the outbreak of the First World War.

Macmillan served with distinction as a captain in the Grenadier Guards during the war and was wounded on three occasions.

After the war he joined Macmillan Publishers as a junior partner in 1920.

Macmillan married Lady Dorothy Cavendish, daughter of Victor Cavendish, 9th Duke of Devonshire on 21 April 1920.

Elected to the House of Commons in 1924 for Stockton-on-Tees, Macmillan lost his seat in 1929, only to return in 1931. He spent the 1930s on the backbenches,

In the Second World War he at last attained office in the wartime coalition government.

With the Conservative victory in 1951 he became Minister of Housing under Winston Churchill. He later served as Minister of Defence, Foreign Secretary, and Chancellor of the Exchequer before becoming Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party after Anthony Eden's resignation

in January 1957,

In 1963 he was taken ill on the eve of the Conservative Party conference, diagnosed incorrectly with inoperable prostate cancer.

Consequently, he resigned on 18 October 1963.

Macmillan initially refused a peerage and retired from politics in September 1964. He did, however, accept the distinction of the Order of Merit from the Queen. After retiring, he took up the chairmanship of his family's publishing house, Macmillan Publishers.

In 1984 he finally accepted a peerage and was created Earl of Stockton and Viscount Macmillan of Ovenden. In the last month of his life, he observed:

"Sixty-three years ago ... the unemployment figure (in Stockton-on-Tees) was then 29%. Last November ... the unemployment (there) is 28%. A rather sad end to one's life."

Macmillan died at Birch Grove, West Sussex, on 29 December 1986, aged 92 years.



John Walker

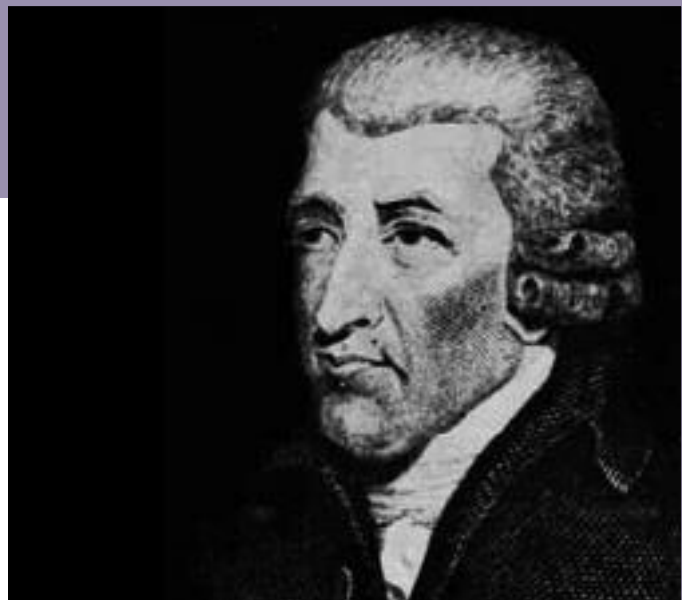
1781 - 1859

John Walker was born on the 29th May 1781 at 104 High Street, Stockton, where his father was in business as a grocer and wine and spirit merchant. John was the third of four boys; he also had two sisters.

John was well educated (at grammar school) and when he was 15 he was apprenticed to a Stockton surgeon named Watson Alcock. He went to London to complete his education and, on his return, became Alcock's assistant. He also went to both York and Durham to train alongside wholesale druggists.

In 1819 John opened a chemists and druggists shop at 59 High Street, Stockton. His interests were wide (he was known as 'Stockton's encyclopaedia') and he was particularly keen on chemistry.

He discovered that if he coated the end of a stick with certain chemicals and let them dry, he could start a fire by striking the stick anywhere. These were the first friction matches. The chemicals he used were antimony sulphide, potassium chlorate, gum, and starch. Walker did not



patent his "Congreves" as he called the matches (alluding to the Congreve's rocket invented in 1808), preferring instead to pursue his scientific studies. He did not divulge the exact composition of his matches.

His first sale of the matches was on April 7, 1827, to a Mr. Hixon, a solicitor in the town. Walker made little money from his invention. He died in 1859 at the age of 78 and is buried in the Norton Parish Churchyard in Stockton.

Will Hay

1888 - 1949

Will Hay was born on 6th December 1888, the son of an engineer at Stockton-on Tees, England. In his early years the young Will did a tremendous amount of travelling in pursuit of his fathers engineering career. It was whilst in his infant years that Will left Stockton and moved to Lowestoft.

After a short career in engineering he took to the stage as a stand up comedian. In 1914 he joined the Fred Karno troupe, famous for it's comedy talent, which included Stan Laurel and Charles Chaplin.

After nearly two decades of successful music hall tours he was offered a lead film role and entered the career for which he is remembered today.

During 1935-6 films like 'Boys Will Be Boys', 'Windbag The Sailor', 'Where There's A Will' and 'Good Morning Boys' followed before Hay made the vintage comedy 'Oh, Mr Porter!' Considered by many to be his crowning glory, the film took a massive £500,000 on it's release in 1937.



After a quarter of a century in the public limelight, he died following a stroke at his home in Chelsea on Easter Monday 18th April 1949.

Brass Crosby

1725 - 1793

Brass Crosby was born in Stockton to Hercules, a respectable Burgess of the Borough, and Mary. After a good education locally he went to Sunderland to work for a solicitor, and then to London to seek fame and fortune.

He served several years as an attorney, in rapid succession becoming Sheriff of the City of London, Alderman of Bread Street Ward, MP for Honiton, and in 1770 was elected as Lord Mayor of London, and Chief Magistrate. When sworn in as Lord Mayor he assured his fellow citizens that "at the risk of his life he would protect them in their just rights and privileges".

In 1771 a newspaper printer called Miller published the proceedings of Parliament, illegally using MP's real names throughout the description of the debates. Miller was arrested and brought before Brass Crosby for sentencing. Crosby refused to sentence him, saying that the citizens had the right to know what those who represented them and made their laws were saying.

Brass Crosby was brought before Parliament, who would not accept this decision. He argued that London Charters granted him the role of protecting the rights of the



people, and that it was his first duty. He was sentenced to imprisonment in the Tower of London.

Whilst he was in the Tower there were rallies in support of Crosby and his actions, not only throughout London, but around the whole Country.

When he was released 6 weeks later there was great jubilation - bonfires were lit, there was a 21-gun salute and his carriage was escorted by 53 others.

From that day on, verbatim reports of the House of Commons debates have been published.

This is where the saying "Bold as Brass" originates - because Brass Crosby had the courage to stand up to the parliament of the day.

He died in 1793 in Chelsfield.

George Stephenson

1781 - 1848

George Stephenson was born in Wylam, Northumberland. At 17, he became an engineman at Water Row Pit, Newburn, and educated himself through night school. Working as a colliery brakesman and enginewright he soon became an expert in steam-driven machinery.

Stephenson designed his first locomotive in 1814, a travelling engine designed for hauling coal on the Killingworth waggonway. This locomotive could haul 30 tons of coal up a hill at 4 mph.

Stephenson was hired to build an 8-mile railway from Hetton colliery to Sunderland in 1820. It was the first railway using no animal power.

In 1821, a parliamentary bill was passed to allow the building of the Stockton and Darlington Railway (S&DR). The 25-mile railway was intended to connect various



collieries situated near Bishop Auckland to the River Tees at Stockton, passing through Darlington on the way. The original plan was to use horses to draw coal carts on metal rails, but after company director Edward Pease met Stephenson he agreed to change the plans. Stephenson

surveyed the line in 1821, assisted by his eighteen-year-old son Robert.

A manufacturer was now needed to provide the locomotives. Pease and Stephenson jointly established a company in Newcastle to manufacture locomotives. In September 1825 the works at Forth Street, Newcastle completed the first locomotive for the new railway: originally named Active, it was soon renamed Locomotion. It was followed by 'Hope', 'Diligence' and 'Black Diamond'. The Stockton and Darlington Railway opened on 27 September 1825.

Driven by Stephenson, Locomotion hauled an 80-ton load of coal and flour nine miles in two hours, reaching a

speed of 24 miles per hour on one stretch. The first purpose-built passenger car, dubbed 'Experiment', was attached, and carried dignitaries on the opening journey. It was the first time passenger traffic had been run on a steam locomotive railway.

Stephenson worked on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, and in 1829 as the L&MR approached completion, its directors arranged for a competition to decide who would build its locomotives. The Rainhill Trials were run in October 1829 and Stephenson's winning entry, Rocket, built by his son Robert, secured an iconic place in steam history, often wrongly depicted as the first steam locomotive.

Lord Alexander Fleck 1889 - 1968

Alexander Fleck, chemist and industrialist, was born in Glasgow on 11 November 1889. He was educated at Saltcoats Public School and Hillhead High School, but family circumstances compelled him to leave at the age of fourteen. By attending the university, first at evening classes and then as a full-time student, he gained an honours degree in chemistry in 1911 at the age of twenty-two.

In 1917 he went to Wallsend as chief chemist to the Castner Kellner Alkali Company. The same year he married Isabel Mitchell (d. 1955), daughter of Alexander Kelly, a farmer. Fleck soon made his presence felt at Castner, both as an individual and as a chemist, and in 1919 he became works manager. A dispute broke out about working conditions for the process men on the sodium plant. The work was hot and arduous and Fleck spent a week on shifts doing the job to find out what was entailed. This won him the respect of the workmen.

The formation of Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) in 1926, which amalgamated Brunner, Mond with Nobel Industries, the United Alkali Company, and British Dyestuffs Corporation. This had a significant effect on Fleck's career, for it gave his talents wider scope. One result of the merger was to concentrate the activities of the Wallsend works, the Allhusen works at Gateshead, and the Cassel Cyanide works at Maryhill, Glasgow, on one new site at Billingham. This was later called the Cassel works and became one of the principal factories of ICI's General Chemicals Division. Fleck was transferred to Billingham with responsibilities for the planning and



operation of the new works.

In 1931, following the reorganization of ICI, Fleck was appointed managing director of the General Chemicals Division with its headquarters in Liverpool. He returned to Teesside as chairman of the Billingham division in 1937; Billingham was by then one of the world's great centres of chemical manufacture.

In 1944 he was appointed to the ICI board but did not relinquish his highly successful chairmanship of the Billingham division until the war ended. As an ICI director, his other main responsibilities were Central Agricultural Control-the company's organization for marketing agricultural products-and the development of the new Wilton site on Teesside.

To the recognition Fleck gained in industry and in the academic world were added other high honours. He was appointed KBE in 1955-for services to the Ministry of Fuel and Power-and was created a baron in 1961. Fleck died on 6 August 1968 in Westminster Hospital, London and on his death, his title became extinct.

Historic Theme - Railways and Industry

Railways

The first steam powered public railway, the Stockton and Darlington Railway opened in 1825.

It was authorised by Parliament in 1821 and was initially intended to be an ordinary horse-drawn plate way, which were common in the early 19th century. However, George Stephenson had been perfecting his engines at Killingworth for about seven years, and had built the Hetton colliery railway. He therefore put forward the idea of turning part of the route into use by steam engines. This led to a new Act of Parliament allowing the use of "loco-motive or moveable engines". It also allowed the route to transport passengers as well as goods.

The line opened on September 27 1825, with Stephenson's new locomotive 'Locomotion No. 1' pulling 36 wagons carrying a mix of coal and flour as well as guests and workmen. The average speed of the journey was just over 4 miles per hour.

The Stockton & Darlington Railway was set up to mirror the operation of the road system of the time; the infrastructure was owned by the shareholders, who leased the use of the line to anyone who had the money and the rolling stock. There was no timetable, and disputes frequently arose over right of way.

By 1833 the Railway was completely steam-operated and widened to double-track. Timetables were drawn up, and even a crude form of signalling installed to control movements. These methods of operation set the structure for modern railway procedures, which are in use today.

The experience gained from building the Stockton and Darlington Railway gave Stephenson and his apprentice Joseph Locke the expertise and confidence to construct the Liverpool and Manchester Railway a few years later. This was the first purpose-built steam railway.

The S&DR was absorbed into the North Eastern Railway in 1863, which merged into the London and North Eastern Railway in 1922. Much but not all of the original S&DR line is still operating today. In 1833, a second railway came into the District from the Durham coalfields to Port



St John's Crossing

Clarence, which later branched into Stockton. In 1852 the Leeds Northern Railway reached Stockton over Yarm viaduct. This connected into the railway lines that went to the Ironstone mines in North Yorkshire to supply the blast furnaces of Stockton.

Shipbuilding

Shipbuilding, although on a small scale, can be traced back to medieval Stockton. As early as 1189, the Bishop of Durham had a galley built in order to go to the Holy Land as part of the King's force.

The amount of shipbuilding in Stockton increased during the 17th century. Further upstream at Yarm small ships were being built, however the construction of a bridge at Stockton in 1769 curtailed this activity and shipbuilding in Yarm finally ceased in the 1830s.

It was not until the 18th century that shipbuilding was established on a more commercial basis. These ships were small wooden sailing ships of less than 100 tons. The American War of Independence was in part responsible for the increase in shipbuilding from the late 1770s, the Napoleonic Wars also contributed to the rise in shipbuilding activity.

The first iron ship to be built on the Tees, the 'Advance' was launched in 1854 at South Stockton, followed closely by the 'Iron Age'.

There were two yards at Thornaby and one at Stockton building iron and eventually steel ships.

The Stockton yard was bought by Hartlepool shipowner

Robert Ropner. This yard produced the third largest tonnage in the country in the late 19th century.

In 1917 A new yard was constructed at Haverton Hill and while the recession and industrial disputes in the mid to late 1920s took their toll on the industry in Stockton and Thornaby with all the yards closing by the early 1930s, the Haverton Hill yard survived going from strength to strength until the latter part of the 20th Century.

A grand total of almost 1500 iron and steel ships were built in Stockton and Thornaby over a period of only 80 years. Numerous wooden ships were built in the same area over a much longer period. Today there is no sign of an industry that was such an important part of the history of Stockton.

Other Industries

Ropemaking associated with Stockton's role as a shipbuilding centre was also an important industry. The town imported 1,178 tons of hemp in 1825. Stockton's Ropery Street indicates where this industry was sited.

Cotton was made for a short time at South Stockton from a Cotton Mill established in 1839. The Stockton Sugar Refinery was situated at a place called 'Sugar House Open' dated from 1780. It was the only sugar refinery between Hull and Newcastle.

Brickmaking became important from the late 17th century when brick became the preferred building material. Brickworks sprang up throughout the Borough, many small and short lived. When machinery was introduced in the mid 19th century, brickworks became larger although by the early 20th century there were only a handful remaining.

In 1825 William Smith opened his 'Stafford Pottery at South Stockton (Thornaby-on-Tees) followed in 1860 by a factory at Stockton called the North Shore Pottery. Other potteries included the Ainsworth's white and printed ware pottery of North Stockton and the Harwoods Norton Pottery which specialised in the so-called 'Sunderland Ware'.

Iron, Steel and Engineering

Until the mid 19th century ironworks had consisted of a few small foundries producing items for shipbuilding and agriculture. This all changed with the coming of the railways and industry requiring large quantities of iron and helped by the discovery of ironstone in North Yorkshire. The first blast furnaces were built at Port Clarence in 1854 followed closely by Stockton (The Malleable) and Norton. More were built at Stillington, Thornaby and Bowesfield within the next few years. The Norton works lasted less than 25 years, but became famous for casting the original "Big Ben" bell for the Houses of Parliament. Many of the others lasted into the 20th century with the Malleable diversifying into pipes.

Associated with iron making, a large number of engineering firms opened. One of these Head Wrightson of Thornaby built bridges, piers, steel works and eventually equipment for the atomic power industry. One small sideline was railway locomotives, one of which proudly stands on a roundabout in Stockton. Ashmore Benson and Pease of Stockton concentrated on gas works, steel works and chemical works.



Oil and Chemical Industry

The first chemical works in the borough was opened in Urlay Nook, Eaglescliffe in 1833 by Robert Wilson to make Sulphuric Acid and fertiliser. This company converted to producing Chromium Chemicals in the 20th century finally becoming known as Elementis. The works recently closed.

The discovery of salt at Port Clarence in the 1870s was important for the later chemical industries of the area. However, it was the First World War, which brought the need for explosives, and a new works was opened in Stockton by the government, The Stockton Chemical Works making TNT. After the War the works was sold to Athole G Allen who continued producing TNT and also diversified into producing Barium based chemicals using raw materials from Teesdale. This works continued through World War Two, finally closing in the 1960s.

The First World War also saw the development of a new chemical works in Billingham. At the end of the War a new company called Synthetic Ammonia & Nitrates, known locally as the "Synthetic" bought the site. This company became part of the newly formed Imperial Chemical Industries in 1926.

With the growing importance of oil and the offshore drilling of North Sea oil, a large petrochemical industry including an oil refinery and numerous chemical works were set up in the area. This industry is still an important part of the economy of the Borough.

Imperial Chemical Industries

In 1917, the government was looking for sites to build a plant to produce ammonia. A large site at Billingham was eventually chosen, however, the First World War ended before much of the site had been constructed and it was put up for sale. The Brunner Mond Company set up a new company Synthetic Ammonia and Nitrates to buy the site and new plants were constructed. The site was

close to the railway to import coal from the Durham coalfield, there was a salt industry nearby at Port Clarence and Haverton Hill and there was anhydrite under the site.

In 1926 this company became part of the newly formed company Imperial Chemical Industries Limited.

The works expanded rapidly, mining Anhydrite for fertilisers, producing Sodium and Chlorine from Salt and producing plasterboard and cement as byproducts. The petrol from coal plant had opened in the 1930s and this proved a very important source of High-Octane aircraft fuel in World War Two. A plant also produced perspex for aircraft cockpits. Billingham was the centre for the "Tube Alloys" project which was the British code name for their work on the development of the atomic bomb.

After the War the plant expanded further until the site was at capacity and ICI found a new site at Wilton over the river Tees. With the growing importance of oil and the discovery of North Sea oil a joint venture oil refinery was built at North Tees. New products included an animal feedstuff made synthetically and eventually a new meat substitute for human consumption, Quorn.

As worldwide competition grew ICI diversified and sold off its various business interests.

One of our most important assets are our bridges.....

- Yarm Bridge and Viaduct
- Transporter Bridge
- Newport Bridge
- Infinity Bridge
- Victoria Bridge
- Princess Diana Bridge
- Millennium Bridge



Newport Bridge



Millennium Bridge



Infinity Bridge

Historic Theme - Early Stockton

Stockton's early history is all around us, and it is easy to forget how widespread it is when the story and landscape of the area has been lately dominated by rail and modern industry. Stockton's early history stretches from at least the Bronze Age, and our medieval towns and churches are still present around us.

There are many ways in which we engage with this heritage – joining archaeological excavations, reading history books, exploring documents and maps in archives and visiting historic sites and buildings.

Early Communities

We are lucky to have a substantial amount of knowledge about the early history of the Stockton area. This has included some highly significant archaeological excavations, which has revealed important information about the early settlement and burial practices of our early communities. Ingleby Barwick Bronze Age Cemetery and Roman Villa, Thorpe Thewles Iron Age Settlement and Norton Anglo-Saxon cemetery were some of the major archaeological sites that were investigated during the 1980s and 1990s.

The Early Bronze Age cemetery in Ingleby Barwick revealed a wealth of metalwork and grave goods.

The Iron Age settlement approximately 1.5km to the north of Thorpe Thewles revealed an impressive enclosure site covering an area of around 7,000m².



Norton Cruciform Brooch



Yarm Bridge

The Norton excavations revealed a pagan cemetery which contained 120 burials. The burials included grave goods mainly jewellery for the women and weapons for the men. The Cemetery was in use for about 70 years and indicated that a stable community lived in the area.

The Origins of our Towns and Villages

Many of Stockton's settlements were established during the medieval period. Some of these origins are still evident in our villages today, such as Cowpen Bewley with its characteristic linear plan.

Places such as Stockton have most of its medieval past hidden beneath the ground and buried in historic documents – its medieval castle known to have been sited at the southern end of the High Street, was destroyed in 1652 on the orders of Parliament. However,



Stockton Parish Church



Yarm Viaduct

the town still retains some highly notable buildings such as the Town Hall built in 1735 and the Parish Church built in 1710-1712.

Yarm is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Gerou' meaning fish weir. Its Saxon layout very much disappeared through the new development that took place during the 12th century. Yarm retains its medieval church, St Mary Magdelene, although this was heavily rebuilt in the 18th century.

Thornaby is believed to have been in existence since around 800AD and is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

Billingham began as a hamlet in the early medieval period and progressed through the years in much the same way as other small villages.

There are some villages which died out and the only clue to their existence is from earthworks on the ground. Newsham Deserted Medieval Village is one such place, which is now designated a Scheduled Monument. Others



Thorpe Thewles Excavated Iron Age House



St Mary's Church

deserted villages also exist at Barwick and Stainsby. These villages once thrived in the Medieval period but for various reasons were eventually abandoned.

Notable Sites

As well as the impressive archaeology there still exist the visible remains of our early history in our towns and villages. These include the medieval churches: St Mary's in Norton, St Mary Magdelene's in Yarm, St Cuthbert's in Billingham, St John the Baptist, Eaglescliffe and St Peter's in Hilton.

Scheduled Monuments such as Yarm Bridge, Holy Trinity in Stockton, St Thomas Beckett Church in Grindon and St Mary's Catholic Church in Stockton designed by Pugin.

The early fortresses and castle sites: Castle Hill, Castlelevington and Round Hill Castle, Ingleby Barwick.



Grindon Church

Historic Theme - World War I and II

The two World Wars had a dramatic effect on Stockton – not only on its people, but its landscape.

A little known fact is that Stockton raised three Royal Engineers companies during WWI. These were the 225th, 227th and 234th companies, which were attached to 39 Division and spent the war years together.

War Memorials and War Graves

Located alongside the Parish Church is the Stockton on Tees War Memorial. The war memorial was originally dedicated amongst others to the officers and men of the 5th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry [DLI] who fell in the Great War. A further modification was made after the Second World War to commemorate those who died during the 1939-45 conflict.

On Remembrance Sunday 1999, Stockton Council's Mayor unveiled two additional plaques at the base of the memorial. The plaques honour local people who have died as a result of warfare.

"In remembrance of the people of the Borough of Stockton-On-Tees who have died on active duty in the service of their country other than in the First and Second World Wars".

"In remembrance of all civilians who died in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees as a result of armed conflict".

The 5th Battalion of the DLI was raised in Stockton and is the only battalion in the DLI to have a war memorial in its own Parish Church. It is also the only battalion of the regiment to have laid up its colours in its Parish Church; all of the other battalions have theirs in Durham Cathedral.

Thornaby Cemetery contains War Graves of both World Wars, with the First World War burials being scattered throughout the cemetery. There are 152 Commonwealth War Graves in the Cemetery, together with 30 graves of German War Dead.

Nine men of the Yorkshire Regiment are buried in Thornaby Cemetery. One of the First World War graves is of an under-age soldier, - Private James William Pennock. There is also a grave of a Green Howard who died in the Second World War, and another grave (a private one, as opposed to a Commonwealth War Grave) of a Green



Howard who was killed in Northern Ireland in 1973.

Durham Road Cemetery in Stockton contains the monument 'The Cross of Sacrifice' It is a symbol of remembrance for those who gave their lives during the First World War.

The cemetery contains a total of 99 graves from both World Wars.

Oxbridge Cemetery has 76 war graves.

Stockton's Air Raids

During the spring / summer of 1941 several German Air Raids took place across the Stockton, presumed as an attempt to hit Thornaby Airbase. Many houses were destroyed and damaged and civilians killed. Picture Stockton (www.picturestockton.co.uk) reveals a substantial amount of memories of the people who lived through this, many were young children at the time.

RAF Thornaby

RAF Thornaby was a station created in the mid 1920s and came under the control of the RAF Coastal Command in 1939. Being used mostly for reconnaissance work, anti shipping strikes, and attacks on enemy airfields etc. It was from Thornaby that Lockheed Hudson aircraft of No. 220 Squadron located the German prison ship Altmark in Norwegian waters on 16 February 1940. This led to the subsequent liberation of 299 prisoners by HMS Cossack of the Royal Navy.

The station was engaged in air-sea rescue work from 1943 using Vickers Warwick aircraft with Nos. 279, 280 and 281 Squadrons. These aircrew had developed a means of dropping emergency supplies to their ditched colleagues, using a receptacle which was later to be



Billingham Cenotaph

widely known as the "Thornaby Bag".

Although the airfield was expanded in 1942 in order to facilitate heavy bombers, it never actually operated such aircraft and remained as a Training and Coastal Command base. Thornaby's last action of the war came on 3 May 1945 when Beaufighters of No. 455 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) attacked Kiel leaving two mine-sweepers destroyed.

In 1954 No. 275 Search and Rescue Squadron based at Linton-on-Ouse relocated to Thornaby and played a major part in the development of air sea rescue as we know it today.

The base closed to flying in October of 1958 and was sold to Thornaby-on-Tees Borough Council for redevelopment in 1963. Most of it now lies beneath houses and light industrial units as the town of Thornaby expanded southwards in the 1960s and 70s. Traces can be picked out via aerial photographs and a number of surviving structures exist.

In 1997 a RAF memorial was erected at Thornaby to celebrate the achievements and work of the station and the people who served there.

The Greatham Creek Defended Area once formed part of the rear defences of Hartlepool. Its main purpose was to prevent enemy troops landing on the sands and saltmarshes here, in an attempt to capture Hartlepool docks. Part of the site's significance lies in the survival of its features, particularly the section posts, which were built in cast concrete. This would normally have been in

created as earthworks in other sites of this nature.

Collections

There are many places to visit in which you can gain a further understanding of Stockton's role in the World Wars. This includes Stockton Library, which contains important sources such as the Book of Remembrance and Soldiers Diaries. At Preston Hall you can learn more about the Home Front.

The Thorpe Thewles History Group holds around 30 one hour video film tape recordings and a similar number of digital audio recordings covering wartime experiences of people in and around the Parish of Grindon. This archive contains some locally important recollections of the Kiora AA Gun Battery, the 1941 bombing of Fulthorpe Cottage plus some information about several local Auxiliary Unit Operations Bunkers. The recordings were made in conjunction with a Heritage Lottery funded DVD Project (2008) - "A Snapshot of Thorpe Thewles in the Twentieth Century" plus a further project, part funded by a CBA Challenge Funding Award, entitled "Thorpe Thewles District War Time Memories & Monuments Project", (2008-2009).

The collection is unique and has very good details on the Thorpe Thewles Home Guard, The AA Battery and later PoW Camp adjacent to Kiora Hall (north-west part Stockton-on-Tees), local home front memories plus some references to local Auxiliary Operational Bunkers in the area.



3. Valuing our Heritage

It is clear that we all have played and are continuing to play an important role in valuing our heritage. The wealth of projects and work that has been undertaken to ensure the conservation and celebration of our heritage is both substantial and diverse.

It is vital that we celebrate our achievements to date and a flavour of our commitment, work and projects are given in this chapter.

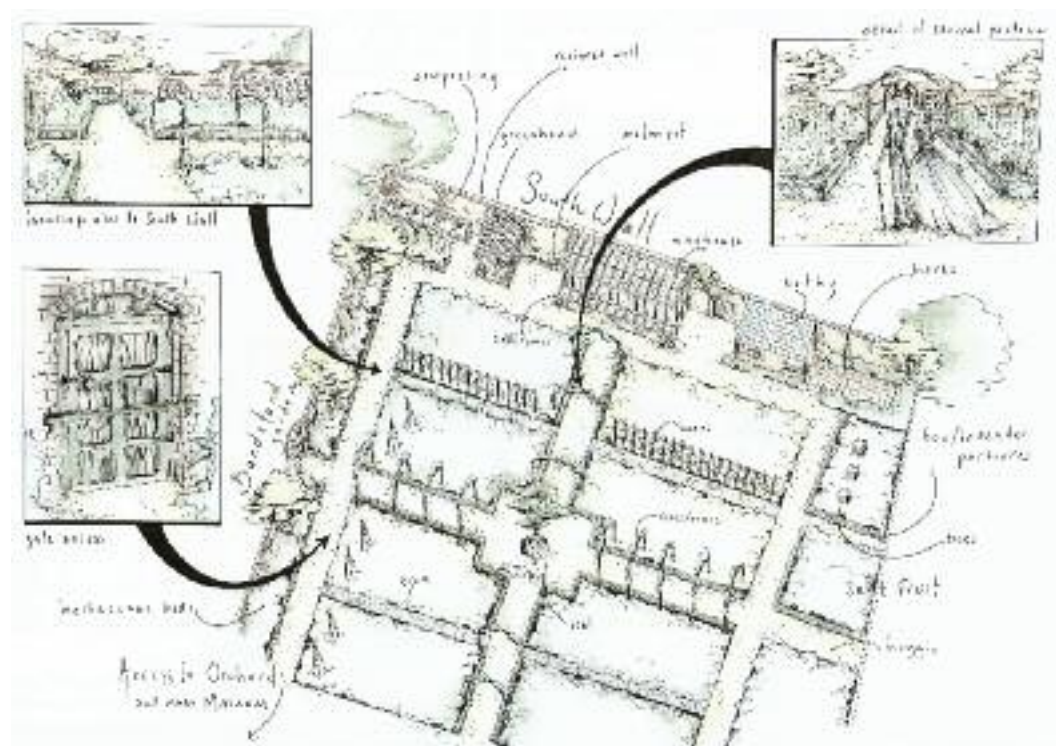
These projects include cross-cutting initiatives that include a mix of research, presentation, recording and restoration works. Also included are a selection of projects focussed on conserving and protecting our heritage, as well as projects which aim to promote enjoyment, understanding and celebration.

Preston Hall Museum and Park projects

Thanks to funding from both the Heritage Lottery Fund and Stockton on Tees Borough Council, a £7 million transformation is currently underway (2009 – 2012) at Preston Hall Museum & Park, seeing significant improvements to the visitor experience.

Works recently completed within the Museum include the Spence Courtyard containing purpose built facilities for both Craft and Collections, and a new Learning Resource from which a wide range of Education and Outreach will be delivered. Meanwhile, in the Park, works are ongoing to improve river access, and develop historic features such as the Victorian Walled kitchen garden around the site.

The final Phase of these exciting works carries on throughout 2011 and on until Spring 2012. This includes upgrading of access throughout the venue, the repair and conservation of the existing Grade II listed building and a complete exhibition redisplay, telling the diverse story of the region and its people in an accessible and dynamic way.





Spence Building

Created on the site of former storage sheds, this purpose built facility will house the wide and varied collection for the Museum & Heritage Service at Stockton Borough Council. The building contains a main Collections Hall, Costume Store, staff facilities and provision for public access, ensuring that valuable and time consuming work undertaken by the Collections team can be viewed during regular open days throughout the year.

Craft Resource

Formed as an extension to the popular Victorian Street, this purpose built facility encourages the public to take part in traditional crafts. Blacksmithing demonstrations, in addition to woodcarving and local domestic crafts are all highlighted through a range of regular workshops and events carried out via the Museum's year-round activity programme.

Victorian Street (project ongoing)

The ever popular Victorian Street has seen exciting changes over the last year, with the opening up of previously closed off shop facilities, and an increase in the traditional crafts and wares on show. 2010 has seen the arrival of one of Stockton's most famous fathers, in John Walkers Chemist and Druggist. Known throughout the world as the man who invented the friction match, the re-created premises

allow you the opportunity to discover the sometimes macabre life in a 19th century chemist. In addition to this, premises such as Manship & Galvin - violin and instrument makers, and JF Smith Sweet Shop have all added further life and interest to this magical tour into 1895.

Walled Kitchen Garden & Orchard

As part of the ongoing cohesion between Hall and Park, the current HLF bid for the restoration of the original walled kitchen garden and orchard has seen huge support from the local community and beyond. The intention is to restore the original remaining fabric of the area, including walls and brickwork, and bring to life the ways in which families would depend on the range of fruit and vegetables produced. Containing a reconstruction of an original vinehouse, gardener's bothy and fully stocked orchard, the response to the funding applications will become known in 2011.

Ropner Park Restoration

In recent years Stockton Council has made a significant investment in regenerating its urban and country parks.

Ropner Park is an existing traditional Victorian urban park, and has been the principal town park of Stockton-on-Tees since its opening in 1893. Extending across 15.5ha, the park is named after the wealthy Victorian ship-owner.





Ropner Park Fountain

builder and Stockton MP, Sir Robert Ropner, who gave money to buy the land. It has several traditional Victorian park features that have been laid out in a classical park manner such as a fountain, a bandstand, superbly engineered main entrance gates, bowling greens, tree avenues and formal bedding displays. The ornamental lake, situated in the northern half of the park, is still a popular feature and focal point for visitors.

In 2006, Stockton Borough Council embarked on a £3.4 million restoration programme, with around £2.4m provided through the Heritage Lottery Fund. This included the construction of a pavilion, tennis courts and play area, as well as the installation of the unique art feature 'Fish Swallowing Bird'. The park's main drives, lime tree avenues, lake, gates and fencing, along with other original features, were also refurbished and returned to their former glory.

The Friends of Ropner Park played a critical role in the regeneration of the park, and continue to play an active role today, for example, by running the pavilion café and organising a programme of public events and concerts.

Other Park Regeneration Schemes

Elsewhere in the Borough significant park regeneration projects have been implemented at John Whitehead Park in Billingham, Wynyard Woodland Park near Thorpe Thewles, Newham Grange Park in Stockton and Village Park in Thornaby. Smaller greenspaces such as Harewood Pleasure Gardens in Thornaby have also been restored, while in Ingleby Barwick the brand new 'Romano Park' is proving to be hugely popular.



Ropner Park



John Whitehead Park



Ropner Park Gate Restoration



Thornaby Town Centre



The Riverside

Stockton Heritage in Partnership Scheme (SHiP)

The restoration and enhancement of Stockton Town Centre's historic fabric is being delivered through the Stockton Heritage in Partnership (SHiP) scheme. This five-year scheme commenced in 2008/09 and is being delivered with a combination of Stockton Borough Council, English Heritage and the private sector funding.

The scheme seeks to secure the future sustainability of the town centre by alleviating problems of decline through the external repair & reinstatement of historic features.

It will create a comprehensive record of the historic town as it appears now, providing new information about the buildings as well as providing a tool for research, conservation and planning. The project helps volunteers to record buildings, developing new skills and a new awareness of the historic environment.

Heritage Trail for Stockton

Stockton Heritage in Partnership (SHiP) have funded the production of a new heritage trail leaflet, covering the town centre of Stockton-on-Tees. The trail starts at the Town Hall and finishes at the Parish Church, following a route including the High Street, Dovecot Street, West Row, Green Dragon Yard and Church Road.

Heritage Forum

The Stockton Heritage In Partnership (SHiP) Forum was established to encourage local residents to become involved in local heritage. This group meets regularly and has proved to be a successful mechanism throughout the delivery of the Stockton Heritage in Partnership scheme.

Central Stockton Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme

The Heritage Lottery Fund approved a first-round funding bid for a Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) in April 2010, and a more detailed second round was submitted in December 2010.

The THI scheme will complement the existing SHiP scheme, and includes a five-year programme of £3.5 million of physical changes to the central core of the town including repairs to historic buildings and bringing vacant floor space back into use. Public realm improvements and improving links between the town centre and Cultural Quarter will also be included.

Thornaby Town

As part of the recent £20 million redevelopment of the town centre, children from four local schools have created historically themed artwork, which has been installed into the newly clad pillars in front of Wrightson House. The pillars depict themes such as Thornaby's aviation history and local heritage landmarks.

32 Dovecot Street

The refurbishment of a grade II* listed building at 32 Dovecot Street was completed in October 2009 with grant funding secured through the Community Assets Fund.

The project was delivered in partnership between Stockton Borough Council and third sector partner, the Five Lamps Organisation, for use as a town centre community facility. The building has been transferred to the Five Lamps on a 99-year lease, which will enable them to extend their reach to local communities and to secure long-term organisational growth. Refurbishment of the building has



Dovecot Street



Hawker Demon propeller in Thornaby Library

also improved the historic fabric of a prominent town centre building, which will improve the visual appearance of the surrounding streetscape

Holy Trinity Church and Green

Holy Trinity Church is a grade II * listed building situated on Yarm Lane on the edge of Stockton town centre.

The foundation stone for the church was laid in 1834, the church was substantially altered in 1881. In 1957 the spire was removed and by 1985 due to a falling congregation it became out of use as an Anglican place of worship. For a while it served as a Greek orthodox church but due to continued deterioration and vandalism in 1989 it became redundant. The church stood empty for two years and was destroyed by fire in 1991. For 10 years the site stood with conflicting opinions as to how to address its future demolition.

A partnership between Stockton Borough Council and English Heritage in 1997 secured £550,000 funding for stabilisation of the ruined church. A programme of landscaping works and entrance features were also initiated to improve the setting of the building and increase the use

of the site. The building was consolidated as a ruin and subsequently removed from the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register.

The stabilisation works were completed in November. In the summer of 2009 it was used as the centrepiece for the finale of the Stockton International Riverside Festival and has also been used for community events including an annual Christmas carol concert. A further programme of interpretation works are proposed for the site which is now known as Trinity Green to enable the church to once again become a focal point for the community.

The Forum, The Causeway Billingham

1967, Billingham Forum was opened by Queen Elizabeth II. A purpose built sports and leisure complex, it contains a swimming pool, an ice rink, and a number of sports halls. The complex also houses the Forum Theatre.

In October 2004, The Forum Theatre was granted listed building status (grade II) specifically citing the theatre auditorium, stage and fly tower of architectural merit.



Billingham Forum



The Forum is a much loved building in Billingham, widely recognised by its distinct 1960's modernist architecture. Due to the age and construction of the building complex substantial refurbishment is needed to ensure the building is fit for purpose.

Initial plans for demolition and redevelopment were reconsidered and Stockton Borough Council are currently undertaking a multimillion pound refurbishment project. Its retention and refurbishment will mean the Forum will add to the cultural heritage of Billingham for years to come.

Cultural Quarter

Stockton's Cultural Quarter occupies a prime location between the High Street and Riverside. The Quarter is a hub of cultural activity with the Green Dragon Studios rehearsal and recording facilities, the Georgian Theatre performance venue, Calvin House creative industries workshops, and enhanced public realm creating an ideal outdoor venue for performances, events and Stockton's emerging café culture.

The British Steel Archive Project

The £1.6m British Steel Archive Project has been run in conjunction with Teesside University and has involved the cataloguing of the archive but has also included a great deal of outreach work and conservation. The project has made really good use of volunteers and it is hoped that their services will be retained once the project ends.

The British Steel Archive Project catalogue is now live and can be found at:

www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/teessidearchives

Billingham International Folklore Festival

Billingham International Folklore Festival (BIFF) was originally launched in 1965, to bring diverse forms of traditional folk dance, music and costumes to Billingham from around the world. BIFF became a founder member of the global organisation supporting and promoting folk

festivals; Conseil International des Organisations de Festival de Folklore et d'arts traditionnels (CIOFF). BIFF remains the UK representative of CIOFF.

Through its 44 year history BIFF has done a great deal to raise awareness and appreciation of the folk history of the world, helping people understand our shared international heritage. Costumes, dance movements, and musical forms frequently illustrate shared origins and similar preoccupations, amongst communities living seemingly very different lifestyles. In this sense BIFF gives audiences a glimpse into the roots of our most enduring forms of cultural expression.

BIFF also brings companies together to perform on stage, overcoming language barriers to collaborate and create new routines. The event is accompanied by educational programmes which give an insight into the background of the groups performing, from every continent.

Watching, joining in with, and celebrating world folk in this way has become a well known part of the cultural heritage of Billingham, the Borough, and the Tees Valley.

Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF)

Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF) has been running for 23 years, presenting contemporary street theatre, dance, music, circus and comedy from around the world. SIRF enjoys a strong international reputation and commissions many large and ambitious new street art works, using universal visual and musical languages to tell stories or express feelings to audiences of every age and background. The unique and often spectacular performances at SIRF encourage people to see themselves and their neighbours in a different light, providing massive communal experiences that connect members of our communities.

SIRF is presented against the backdrop of Stockton town centre, often using and highlighting aspects of our built heritage. The use of Holy Trinity Church for a site specific



Riverside Festival Performance



Stockton Market c2000's

performance and a pyrotechnic finale show (pictured) shows how such landmark buildings can be highlighted.

Markets 700th Anniversary Celebrations – May 2010

To mark 700 years of the Stockton historic market charter, Stockton Council held two special events.

In May 2010, the Lord Bishop of Durham, came to Stockton's Town Hall to sign a new charter and unveil a plaque commemorating the market's 700th birthday. To mark the Lord Bishop's visit, the market took a medieval turn with stalls exhibiting the work of an apothecary, potter, astrologer, falconer and other traders from the Middle Ages.

A traditional town crier was present in the town to introduce medieval street theatre performances and to encourage people to have their say on the Stockton Soapbox.

Stockton's Virtual Hall of Fame

The Local Authority is keen to work with local communities in commemorating the lives of significant individuals who were born in the Borough or who were instrumental in an event or undertaking an important element of their work here. A Commemoration Working Group has been established and welcome nominations from the local community and societies in order to ensure that extraordinary individuals from our past are recognised and celebrated.

See www.stockton.gov.uk/heritage for the current Hall of Fame.

Summary

The selected case studies give just an indication of the conservation and interpretation work that is delivered within the Borough. There is an on-going calendar of events organised by Tees Archaeology, Tees Archives SBC. There are also the many organised events that local communities and societies organise and deliver independently. It is not possible to mention all of these events and projects, but it is important that we know they are happening. This on-going commitment is the life-blood of our heritage resource. These events and projects stimulate pride and engagement, and we need to celebrate these achievements and promote them beyond this Strategy.



Holy Trinity Church and Firework Display



4. Celebrating, Conserving and Creating our future Heritage: The Way Forward

Heritage continues to evolve and be created – a new development today can be the historic buildings and conservation areas of the future; further archaeological sites will be unearthed; changes to habitats and climates mean our natural heritage changes also; discoveries of new documents can illuminate previously unknown aspects of our history; new attractions will be developed to celebrate our heritage. This continual evolution of heritage means that we need to consider protecting what is valued today, but harnessing the heritage of the future through good research, design and development, and using new technology. Some of Stockton's history will be for future generations to discover and interpret – we must put in place the support and foundations for this to happen.

It is hoped that this Strategy will have helped to inform on the breadth of heritage that the Borough has: what projects are taking place and have been successfully completed and where you can join in and engage with heritage either as a volunteer, researcher or visitor.

In these challenging times, it is important to recognise the benefits of heritage and to re-assert the wider impact it has in enriching lives and contributing to healthy communities. It is therefore more important than ever that local government, communities and partners continue to work together and support each other in managing our heritage and delivering future projects. SBC continues to support and provide direction in community celebration and conservation of heritage. It also relies on community support through time and effort in enabling Stockton's history to be recognised and promoted.

As already discussed, heritage has a vast amount of people involved within the process of its care and presentation. This includes the numerous societies, friends and volunteers who contribute to heritage projects, as well as the Council and its partners in delivering, for example, planning services that help to manage and enhance our historic environment.

Heritage touches on many aspects, as detailed in the case studies given throughout this Strategy. It has the potential to improve health and well-being; develop a sense of pride; help to establish relationships through volunteering and meeting people; and provides opportunities to develop new skills. This Strategy has aimed to bring heritage to the forefront in terms of community values (sense of ownership and knowledge of their heritage) as well as celebrating the projects delivered to date. The Strategy can be used as a framework from which further engagement, understanding, increases in visitor numbers and enhancing visitor experiences within the Borough can be delivered.



Holy Trinity Church

Opportunities and Successes

There are some important projects and initiatives in existence that already highlight the success of the Borough in harnessing the wider values of its heritage.

The continuing growing reputation and attendance at the Borough's festivals, especially Billingham International Folklore Festival and Stockton International Riverside Festival mean that the Borough's heritage and cultural offer is being showcased to wider audiences and helping to define a new identity for the area.

Sites such as Saltholme Wildlife Park and Discovery Centre have demonstrated that there is a strong visitor interest for natural heritage and that these sites can attract a good proportion of visitors from outside the Borough area.

The on-going interest and support for the SHIP project also indicates a strong sense of community pride and commitment in their local area and the willingness to dedicate time and effort to making long-term environmental improvements.

Another success story is the widespread use of the Picture Stockton website, with vast numbers of public contributions. This has allowed the wider dissemination of research and understanding in the simplest and quickest of forms. It has become a social history networking site with an international audience.

The development of digital communication technology has led to huge advances in access to information and sharing of data. This project demonstrates the level of interest and support that can be achieved when the right technology is used to provide an information portal for all world wide web users.

The designated Conservation Areas in the Borough provide an impetus for driving forward quality design, enhancement and protection of their historic character. This has wide-reaching benefits in supporting understanding and enjoyment of the past – bringing and maintaining historic buildings in use such as the historic core of places like Yarm.

Challenges

There will be challenges in funding new projects and initiatives, as grants are likely to receive higher levels of competition. However, some funding bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund have put in place measures to support new applications, such as the reduction in the percentage of match funding now required. It will also be challenging to continue to fund and maintain projects already established once initial funding has been spent. Ensuring the long-term financial viability of our projects and working closely in partnership will be key to success.

The economic downturn may also affect our partners and owners/occupiers of historic properties. It is therefore more important than ever that we find ways of working together, to ensure the protection and appropriate care and management of our historic environment.

There is a need to maintain focus on changing the perception of Stockton Borough. Its modern industrial heritage is a significant heritage asset and telling this story more widely may help to develop greater understanding and appreciation. The Borough can also promote the longevity of its past – bringing Stockton's early history into the lime-light. It is hoped that this Strategy will go some way to supporting the promotion and marketing of

Stockton's heritage assets, helping to initiate a more widely recognised positive representation of the Borough.

Looking to the Future

Given the success of the projects listed throughout this Strategy, it is vital that we think about the value of outcomes from proposed new initiatives, what is right for communities and how to think imaginatively and work in partnership in order to deliver and manage good quality and long-lasting heritage projects.

One project which is in development having recently been successful with a major grant application is **Preston Hall Museum** (Heritage Lottery Fund). This project offers the stimulus to continue to celebrate our heritage and will give a huge boost to the area's heritage offer.

Another key project which aims to maximise the potential of Stockton's natural heritage is the **North Tees National Network** group. This partnership (RSPB, Natural England and Environment Agency) has been established with the remit of building on the success of Saltholme's Wildlife Discovery Park. Its goal is to identify other sites of interest, which would enhance visitor enjoyment and engagement, leading to a more complete understanding of the natural environment in the Borough.

Tees Heritage Park

Tees Heritage Park received Community Spaces Flagship funding in April 2010. These funds will be used for putting in place: improved access to the River Tees along existing routes; the installation of artworks along the route and creation of rest areas; interpretation making use of Bluetooth technology and environmental improvements.

Additional funds have been awarded to the project via Natural England's Green Infrastructure Exemplar project funding. This will provide footpath improvements between Preston Lane and Preston Park, including access improvements within the entry to Preston Park along the Teesdale Way.



Tees Heritage Park



Globe Theatre



Thornaby Five Lamps

Groundwork North East is managing the project on behalf of the Friends of Tees Heritage Park.

The work of the volunteers in raising the profile of the River Corridor, the importance of ensuring good quality paths and access as well as telling the River Tees story has hugely contributed to the success of this project. It has engaged local people and demonstrated to funders the value of this area and the tireless work done to date.

River Routes

The River Routes project is about increasing access to nature and engaging communities in undertaking practical work adjacent to the water courses in Stockton. The project is focussed on conservation, improving physical access and creating better links, for example with Tees Heritage Park

A bid to Natural England's Access to Nature funding stream was approved in March 2010. This has resulted in two Community Rangers being appointed. They will work with the community and partners on identifying and implementing strategic access improvements around the river corridors within the borough. The project is a 3 year initiative (until the end of October 2013).

It is planned that the Rangers will be hosting meet and greet events to take place throughout the Borough in partnership with Stockton Residents and Community Groups Association and attending future Area Partnership and Diversity Group meetings to understand priorities and generate interest in the project.

Thornaby Town Hall

Stockton Council is working with private developers to breathe new life into this distinctive and historically significant building. The grade II listed property is to undergo a £750,000 refurbishment to cater for new and expanding businesses in Thornaby.

Globe Theatre

Older residents of the area recall the heyday of this



Stockton Town Centre

important venue when it brought The Beatles, Rolling Stones and other big names to perform to packed houses.

The Council is working closely with the owner of the Globe Theatre, a historic building at the Northern End of the High Street, to bring it back into use as a live entertainment venue.

It is anticipated that the £4m refurbishment scheme will be completed in late 2012 and once complete, the 2,500 capacity venue will help to significantly improve evening activity in Stockton Town Centre.

Stockton Conservation Area Management Plan

The Stockton Town Centre Conservation Area Management Plan sets out how the historic and architectural character of the Area should be maintained by positive management, appropriate replacements, repairs, and where necessary changes are permitted. The Plan sets out guidance on the maintenance, repair and replacement of all aspects of structures within the Conservation Area; including roofs, walls, windows and doors, rainwater goods and external areas such as drive and footways.

Town Centre Stockton - Urban Design Guide

The draft Stockton Town Centre Urban Design Guide aims to improve the vitality and viability of the town centre by providing design guidance for any party involved in the regeneration of the Stockton central area. The guide sets a

framework for establishing a strong network of buildings, streets and spaces that delivers quality and meets the needs of the town centre's users, whilst protecting and reinforcing its distinctive historic character.

Our Vision

We have set out below 4 statements which form the foundation of our vision for heritage in the future. Underlying these statements are our on-going and future objectives, which in turn will be implemented in our Action Plan which is contained within a separate linked document.

- 1) We recognise and will continue supporting the contribution made to celebrating, protecting and interpreting our heritage by local communities, societies and volunteers.**
 - Support public research and study of the historic environment through promotion of available sources of information and study / open days.
 - Encourage the community to share personal experiences and memorabilia so that vital information can be recorded and objects displayed.
 - Continue to develop projects where volunteers can gain heritage skills and widen their local history knowledge – giving them confidence to deliver heritage projects in the future.
- 2) To provide the greatest possible access to our heritage for all of our communities and visitors to the Borough.**

- Aspire to provide local schools with good quality information about heritage in the Borough.
- Where possible SBC will develop and support outreach initiatives which help to bring heritage into the community ensuring the participation and engagement by all members of society.
- Maintain, manage and enhance methods of access to historic information and systems and develop appropriate media technology.
- Actively collect material relevant to Stockton's story and advertise significant additions to collections.
- Ensure the widest level of physical access possible is available at visitor attractions, sites and historic buildings.
- Extend and improve heritage trails, leaflets, and exhibitions linking in with key anniversaries, national heritage programmes and local projects.
- Ensure interpretation is delivered with the widest audience needs in mind and improve interpretation to our archaeological sites, natural heritage and collections.

3) To market our heritage as part of a wider strategy in re-shaping the perception and image of the Borough.

- Develop the visitor experience through heritage events and festivals.
- Promote cultural / historic and natural heritage tourism.
- Increase length of stay of visitors promoting the wealth of heritage and places to visit / see.

- Use the promotion of heritage assets as a key driver for changing perceptions and creating a new image brand.
- Develop a recognisable heritage identity and presentation style of heritage information.
- Ensure good distribution of heritage material (e.g. trails and leaflets) to Tourist Information Centres and other key visitor outlets.

4) To continue to conserve the historic and natural environment with the support of local groups, societies and volunteers through our on-going regeneration, environment and research programmes.

- Ongoing monitoring of the condition and use of our heritage assets, seeking to reduce the number of heritage assets on 'At Risk Registers'.
- The historic and architectural character of our towns and villages is recognised, valued and enhanced through appropriate design and development proposals.
- Where possible our historic buildings are kept in use – looking at innovative ways for re-use and development and particular community needs.
- Making best use of the planning system to ensure our heritage is embedded and properly considered within modern development.
- Encourage sustainable development and economically viable schemes for regenerating the historic environment.



Preston Hall Re-enactment

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میخواهید لطفا یا تیم دایورسیتی (گوناگونی) 'The Communication Team' یا شما را (01642) 527309 به تماس شوید

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FRENCH

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KURDISH

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਹਜ਼ਾਹੀ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਹੋਰ ਬਣਤਰ ਜਾਂ ਢੰਗੀ ਵਿੱਚ, ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਂ ਟੇਪ/ਸੀ ਡੀ 'ਤੇ
ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 'The Communication Team' ਨੂੰ (01642) 527309 ਨੰਬਰ ਉੱਤੇ ਕੌਣ ਕਰੋ।

PUNJABI

اگر آپ ان معلومات کو کسی بھی اور زبان یا اندازہ مثلاً بڑے پرنٹ/آڈیو ٹیپ وغیرہ میں حاصل کرنا چاہیں تو ڈایورسٹی ٹیم
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