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## NEWCASTLE LEAZES PARK AND TOWN MOOR AMBLE SEPTEMBER 2023

Walking up to the start point from Haymarket Metro station, the route follows “Brewery Lane”. This is why it is so called:



1907



2023

### **John Sanderson & Sons Ltd, Brewery, 105 Percy Street, Haymarket, Newcastle-upon-Tyne**

Shown on Ordnance Survey first edition 1860s. John Sanderson was a brewer here in the 1850s. He died in 1896 and his son Councillor W.J. Sanderson took over. The brewery included offices, a mineral water works, beer-bottling plant, wine and spirit stores (basement of Bruce Building), stables for 36 horses, blacksmith's forge, coopers and joiner's shops, an engine and boiler house to provide light and power, the Cock and Anchor Public House (later Hotspur Hotel) and shops. The firm had 26 other public houses. Cellars under the stable yard were accessed from the bonded warehouse in St. Thomas Street. In 1896 Newcastle Breweries acquired all of the assets of Sanderson & Sons. In the 1950s the Bruce Building was compulsorily purchased from the brewery for the extension to King's College. The east end of the building and the upper floors of Nos. 101-111 were occupied by the education department, later the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies.

The start point proper is from Leazes Crescent, heading towards Leazes Terrace. Although both streets were built in the 1830's, the architectural style couldn't be more different. The Crescent is very much of the traditional town housing of the time built by Thomas Oliver for Richard Grainger, but Grainger had a more grandiose scheme in mind for Leazes Terrace which is also evidenced in the Grainger Town area of Newcastle.



The occupancy of Leazes Terrace is primarily office space on one side and student accommodation on the other. There has been much local discussion regarding Newcastle United Football Club's expansion plans and how these may affect the Terrace, but Leazes Terrace is Grade 1 listed and nearby Leazes Crescent is Grade 2 listed, so alternative solutions may be needed!

Leazes Park was the first purpose-built park in Newcastle and opened in 1873. The ornate western gate was added in 1886 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. There were originally two lakes, but one was filled in and is now the site of the tennis courts and bowling greens.



Will they let them in? If so, will they let them out?

Heading almost directly North from Leazes park, Belle Grove Terrace on the left is a mix of student accommodation and large single-family dwellings. Past residents included the artist Ralph Hedley artist and wood engraver (and one of the founders of the Bewick Society), actor Alun Armstrong and the famous (or infamous!) T Dan Smith. On the northern most corner, the Belle Grove public house was opened in 1857, and closed in 2008.



Passing through Spital Tongues (Its unusual name is believed to be derived from *spital* – a corruption of the word *hospital*, commonly found in British place names (e.g., Spitalfields) - and *tongues*, meaning outlying pieces of land) and across Claremont Road leading to the Town Moor.

The Town Moor itself was classified as common land in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with the city council having some administrative responsibility, and the Freemen of Newcastle having permanent grazing rights. The term "Town Moor" has, for many meant the whole expanse of all of the moors 1,000 acres: Nun's Moor and Hunters Moor to the west, with Dukes Moor and Little Moor to the North. Decisions affecting the Town Moor have to be agreed by both parties. A significant incursion was mooted some years ago near the Blue House roundabout to improve the traffic flow in all directions in the Jesmond and South Gosforth areas. The proposals were rebuffed by the Freemen.

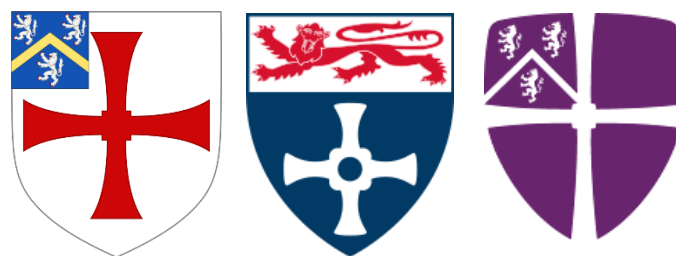
Crossing on to the Town Moor from Spital Tongues, the rising piece of ground has the name of Wapentake Hill. The term wapentake is of Scandinavian origin and meant the taking of weapons; it later signified the clash of arms by which the people assembled in a local court expressed assent. Danish influence was strong in those English counties where wapentakes existed. In other parts of England, less influenced by the Norse occupation, the Saxon term “hundreds” is used, which was the unit of English local government and taxation, intermediate between village and shire, which survived into the 19th century. Originally, the term probably referred to a group of 100 hides, each hide being up to about 120 acres. Further North, where Dane Law was less evident, the term “ward” was more usual.

In several places across the moor there is evidence of medieval ridge and furrow agricultural workings which are more visible in Spring when the grass is shorter. The lengths of the furrows were reasonably consistent, and furrow long became shortened to “furlong”. Earlier history indicates evidence of Roman buildings, whilst later developments included coal mines in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, a smallpox isolation hospital, prisoner of war camp housing Italian prisoners on Nun’s Moor, and in the 1940’s even opencast coal mining.

Continuing onwards in a North Easterly direction, the track makes a sharp right turn at the point where the annual “Hoppings” is held, and heads down towards Exhibition Park and the Palace of Arts (now an events venue operated by Wylam Brewery!).



Crossing Claremont Road, the route follows Lovers Lane through the University buildings. The university finds its roots in the School of Medicine and Surgery (later the College of Medicine), established in 1834, and the College of Physical Science (later renamed Armstrong College), founded in 1871. These two colleges came to form the larger division of the federal University of Durham, with the Durham Colleges forming the other. The Newcastle colleges merged to form King’s College in 1937. In 1963, following an Act of Parliament, King’s College became the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. These emblems of the universities show the similarities and development: the original University of Durham, Kings College (of Durham University) and now University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and lastly the latest Durham iteration in the Palatine purple.



The path leads past the Dental Hospital and on to the Richardson Road entrance to Leazes Park. Skirting the eastern side of the lake, the path passes by the previously mentioned filled in lake, now tennis courts, leading back out to Leazes Terrace, and as it’s almost the completion of this circular walk, the task now is to take advantage of delicious toasted sandwiches and liquid refreshment at The Trent House!



