NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
MAPPING THE CITY

Charting the fascinating history of Newcastle and Tyneside from 1250 to 2021, with original maps and plans from national archives and libraries.
A new book telling the story of Newcastle upon Tyne and Tyneside through more than 150 maps and plans, many in colour

- 54 chapters covering the period from 1250 to 2021, with contemporary maps and informed commentary
- Features original maps and plans drawn from 16 local and national archives and libraries
- Discusses the work of a number of prominent cartographers and surveyors who worked in Newcastle upon Tyne and Tyneside, not only representing the city but also creating it as we see it today
- Chapters illustrate and discuss the significant events and places that have featured in Newcastle and Tyneside’s history, including Hadrian’s Wall, town fortifications, the Civil War, the development of the coal trade, administration and improvement of the River Tyne, development of the classical townscape, shipbuilding and bridge building, 1960s redevelopment, sporting and cultural events, urban regeneration and the Universities
The unique collection of maps in this book provides a fascinating insight into how Newcastle upon Tyne and its associated region have developed from Roman times to the present.

The maps do not simply describe locations and patterns but, along with the accompanying text, analyse and explain the rich and varied history of Newcastle. Amongst the themes explored are the role of Newcastle as a frontier fortress, its dominance of the coal trade from medieval times, its defence of the Royalist cause in the Civil Wars and the role of its striking topography in creating a unique and enduring visual townscape.

Victorian entrepreneurship and inventions in industry and transport continue the story, along with an account of Newcastle's matchless central area development scheme, led by Richard Grainger. The area's distinctive social and cultural scene is not forgotten and is demonstrated by maps of the growth of the music hall tradition, of exhibitions, events such as the annual 'hoppings' and Great North Run plus, of course, football. The story of economic decline and attempted revitalisation in the twentieth century is charted, along with the growth of planning as an attempted means of solving problems, leading to iconic developments such as the Byker Wall, Eldon Square and the Metro system.
Key dimensions of the contemporary city and region are examined in the latter part of the book with analysis of contrasting regeneration schemes, the role of leisure and entertainment and the significance of the Universities in the city’s economy, townscape and social character. Throughout, the authors provide an informed critical commentary on the significance of the maps they have chosen.

THE AUTHORS

MICHAEL BARKE was Reader in Human Geography at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne where he taught from 1974 until his retirement in 2016. His research interests include the demographic and urban history of the North-east.

BRIAN ROBSON grew up on Tyneside. He was Director of the Centre for Urban Policy Studies at the University of Manchester and published widely on urban and regional regeneration. He was awarded an OBE for services to urban research in 2010. He died in 2020.

ANTHONY CHAMPION is Emeritus Professor at Newcastle University where he was a staff member of the Geography Department from 1972 before joining the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS) in 2003.