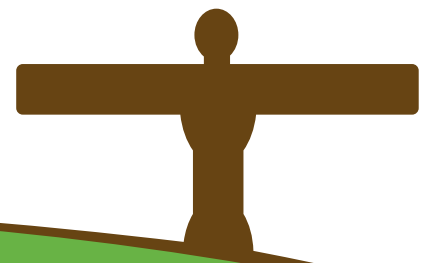


Introducing an Angel

The Angel of the North is a sculpture made from cor-ten steel by the artist Antony Gormley, situated beside the A1 in Gateshead in the North East of England.

It was conceived as a landmark sculpture to mark the approach into Gateshead and the site of the former Teams Colliery, by Gateshead Council.



Why an Angel?

Anthony Gormley

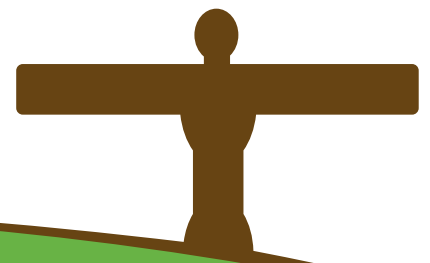
I want to make something we can live with and that becomes a reservoir for feelings – feelings that perhaps we hadn't known until this thing was there, or feelings that couldn't arise until it was.

Public Art & Gateshead Council

Public art includes any art that is located in a publicly accessible space on a temporary or permanent basis. It can be a single work of art in its own right, an integral part of the urban environment or treatment of a specific building within the built landscape.

Gateshead Council first became involved with Public Art in the early 1980s when they decided to take art to the public because it did not have its own contemporary art gallery. The early works were so successful that in 1986 the formal Public Art Programme was launched. This programme was given a tremendous boost during the 1990 Garden Festival at Dunston, Gateshead with more than 70 temporary artworks on display.

Within Gateshead there are more than 50 major public artworks by leading artists, for example: 'Cone' by Andy Goldsworthy, situated on an old foundry site west of the High Level Bridge, 'Opening Line' by Danny Lane at Gateshead Bus and Metro Interchange and 'Acceleration' by John Creed opposite the Old Town Hall. Most of these works have been funded from sources such as The Arts Council England, North East, Arts Council England (Lottery), One North East through the Single Regeneration Budget, The Town Centre Partnership and The East Gateshead Partnership.



Angel of the North

The history of the Angel and the site

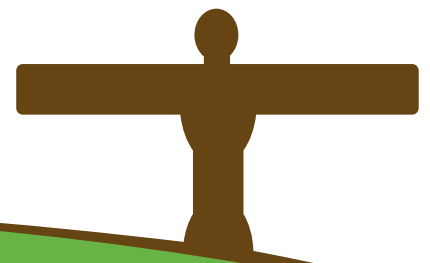
- **1500s-1960s**
Coal mined in the area. Team Colliery worked from 1720s. Modern baths complex built in 1939. Mining ceased on this site late 1960s.
- **1989**
Reclamation of former pit head baths site overlooking the A1.
- **July 1990**
Gateshead Council's Art in Public Places Panel decides in principle to earmark the site of the former pit head baths overlooking the A1 in Gateshead for a future landmark sculpture.
- **1992**
Landscaping of site completed.
- **December 1993**
A shortlist of international artists was drawn up and candidates invited to make proposals for the site.
- **January 1994**
Sculptor Antony Gormley selected by the panel and design proposals progressed with world renowned engineering consultants, Ove Arup & Partners.
- **February 1995**
Planning permission for the project approved by Council.
- **April 1996**
Funding of £800,000 secured for the sculpture: £584,000 from the Arts Council Lottery Fund, £150,000 from the European Regional Development Fund, £45,000 from Northern Arts, plus private sponsorship.
- **February 1997**
Fabrication contract put out to tender.
- **March 1997**
Fabrication contractors visit Gormley's studio to see the Angel models.
- **May 1997**
Fabrication company chosen - Hartlepool Fabrications Ltd on Teesside.
- **July 1997**
Delivery of first consignment of steel for fabrication to Hartlepool.
- **September 1997**
Work began on Angel of the North foundations by Thomas Armstrong (Construction) Ltd.
- **January 1998**
Fabrication of sculpture nears completion.
- **February 1998**
Angel of the North on site.



Awards

The Angel of the North has won an impressive collection of awards.

- **1995**
National Art Collection Fund Award for outstanding contribution to the visual arts.
- **1996**
British Gas/ Arts Council Working for Cities Award.
- **1998**
Northern Electric & Gas Awards – Arts Event of the Year
- **1998**
The British Constructional Steelwork Association Awards (structural steel design).
- **1998**
British Construction Industry awards, small projects section; highly commended.
- **1999**
The South Banks Show Award for Visual Arts.
- **2000**
Civic Trust Award.
- **2001** Named by the BBC as one of the classic designs of the twentieth century.
- **2002**
Voted one of the ‘Wonders of Britain’ in a national survey carried out by The Yellow Pages. Other wonders included The Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Stonehenge and Windsor Castle.
- **2008**
Voted one of ‘Britain’s top ten landmarks’ by a poll conducted by YouGov for consultants Faithful + Gould. It is now regarded in the same league as Big Ben and Stonehenge.
- **2008**
Topped a national poll as the UK’s most recognised landmark in poll carried out by The National Lottery.



Technical Info

State of the art engineering has been used to create Gateshead's Angel of the North, Britain's largest sculpture. Made from weathering steel, it is built in three parts – two wings and the body. Each contains a mix of up to five elements:

Ribs – the external skeleton cut from 50mm thick steel allows the structure that holds the Angel together to be integral to its appearance.

Skin – 6mm sheet steel bent and welded to ribs make up the body form.

Sacrificial ribs – these lie beneath the skin plates and help to shape them.

Diaphragms – looking like ribs on the surface, they are actually 50mm thick horizontal plates which go right through the body – up to six metres by three metres and weighing almost five tonnes.

There are five of these, the most crucial in the chest, which line up with the horizontal diaphragms on the wings to provide a solid anchor point.

Core – the unseen skeleton which runs from its feet to its chest to give extra support. This hollow steel tube, and series of cylinders and cones mirrors the shape of the body. It is 30mm thick plate steel up to its knees and 15mm thick above. The lower body ribs are welded directly on to the core.

Construction – during the night of 14th February 1998, the Angel of the North made its long-awaited journey to its new home by police escort.

Delivered in 25m sections, it travelled at just 10mph. At dawn the body of the Angel was lifted into position by a 500 tonne crane and lowered onto 52 three-metre bolts. It took twenty minutes. Assembling the sculpture took an entire day – at 11am the first wing was hoisted to adjoin the body and the second wing was flown into place around 4pm. The day was a major media event with over 20 television crews beaming the news into thousands of living rooms around the world.