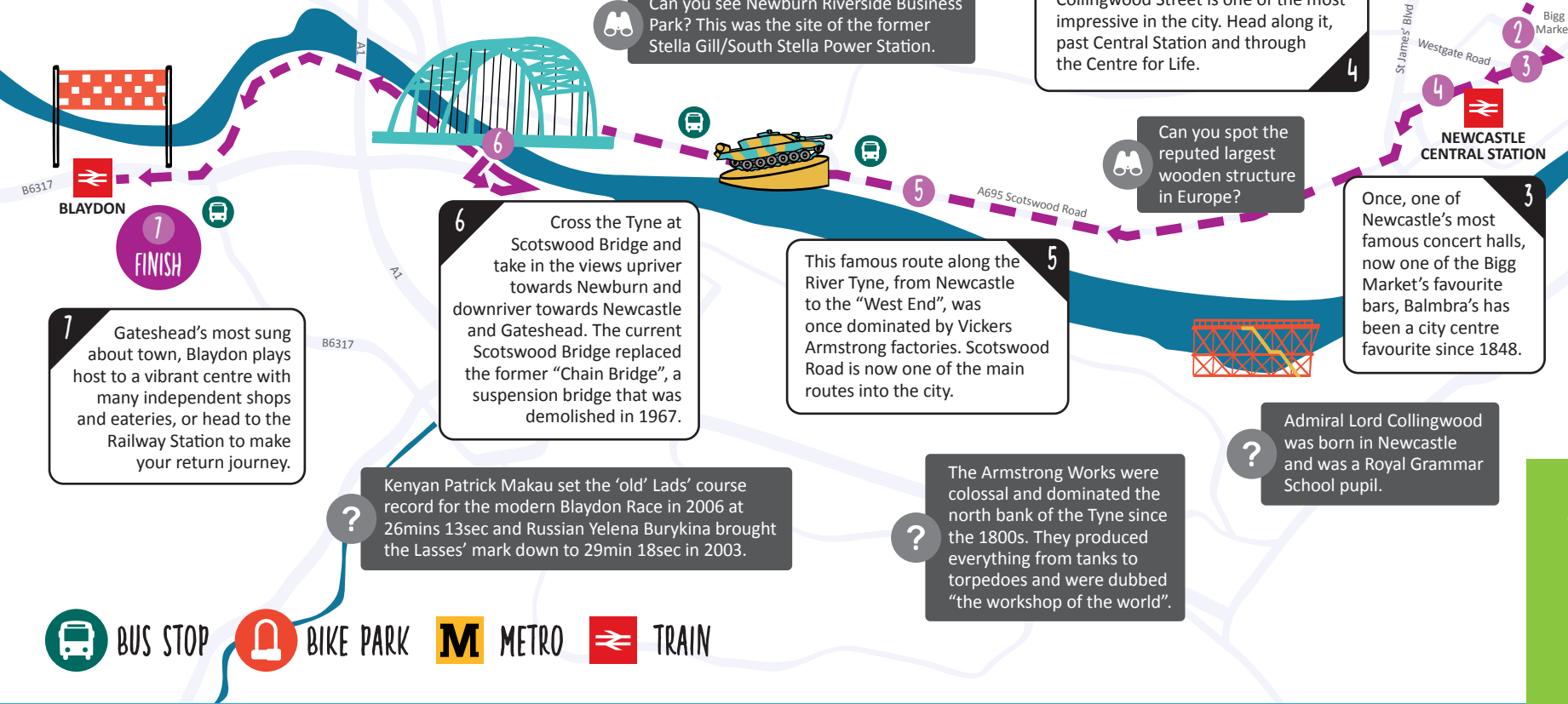


NEWCASTLE TO BLAYDON RACER

Newcastle • Gateshead

6.6 MILES MOSTLY FLAT



You're in the heart of Grainger Town – built between 1824 and 1841, by Richard Grainger. The area includes Grainger Market, Theatre Royal, Grey Street, Grainger Street and Clayton Street.

Nicknamed “Diamond Strip” for its historic number of jewellery shops, Collingwood Street is one of the most impressive in the city. Head along it, past Central Station and through the Centre for Life.

Can you spot the reputed largest wooden structure in Europe?

This famous route along the River Tyne, from Newcastle to the “West End”, was once dominated by Vickers Armstrong factories. Scotswood Road is now one of the main routes into the city.

The Armstrong Works were colossal and dominated the north bank of the Tyne since the 1800s. They produced everything from tanks to torpedoes and were dubbed “the workshop of the world”.

Admiral Lord Collingwood was born in Newcastle and was a Royal Grammar School pupil.

6 Cross the Tyne at Scotswood Bridge and take in the views upriver towards Newburn and downriver towards Newcastle and Gateshead. The current Scotswood Bridge replaced the former “Chain Bridge”, a suspension bridge that was demolished in 1967.

Kenyan Patrick Makau set the ‘old’ Lads’ course record for the modern Blaydon Race in 2006 at 26mins 13sec and Russian Yelena Burykina brought the Lassies’ mark down to 29min 18sec in 2003.

7 Gateshead’s most sung about town, Blaydon plays host to a vibrant centre with many independent shops and eateries, or head to the Railway Station to make your return journey.

A statue of Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey stands atop Grey’s Monument. Built in 1838 to mark his role in the passing of the Great Reform Act of 1832. It is 41m high and the statue was sculpted by Edward Hodges Baily (creator of Nelson’s statue in Trafalgar Square).

2 Dating back to the Middle Ages, the Bigg Market was named after a type of coarse barley, called bigg, sold from the stalls.

The official starting point for Geordie Ridley’s “Blaydon Races” is here – can you find it?

BUS STOP BIKE PARK METRO TRAIN

This intermediate trail was inspired by the historic horse race and a rousing song, bellowed from all corners of St James’ Park.

The Blaydon horse races were first held in 1861, and immortalised in the Geordie folk song, The Blaydon Races, written by Gateshead born concert hall entertainer, Geordie Ridley.

We begin our route a little further towards the city centre than Geordie’s famous tune, but this trail very quickly stays loyal to the song.

THE ROUTE

1. A monumental beginning...
2. It’s not a “big” market, it’s the “Bigg Market”!
3. Balmбра’s
4. The “Diamond Strip”
5. Gannin along the Scotswood Roadooooooad...
6. Bridging the Tyne
7. Racing into Blaydon...

The Blaydon Races (chorus)

Ah me lads, ye shudda seen us gannin’,
We pass’d the foaks along the road just as they wor stannin’;
Thor wis lots o’ lads an’ lassies there, aal wi’ smiling faces,
Gannin’ along the Scotswood Road, to see the Blaydon Races.

The Road Race

Started in 1981, the Blaydon Race is a road race from Newcastle to Blaydon, held annually on the 9th June. It follows the route the racegoers took in the Geordie Ridley song.

Can you spot any of the locations and still-standing landmarks mentioned in the song?

HOW TO GET TO THE START

Visit livemap.nexus.org.uk and enter the postcode NE1 7AL.

SUITABILITY

Full route Full route Full route Full route

The Newcastle to Blaydon Racer is fully accessible to walkers, wheeled pedestrians and cyclists.

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www.gosmartergoactive.co.uk