

Dunston Staiths



Dunston Staiths was opened in 1893 to load coal directly onto colliers (coal ships) ready for the onward journey delivering coal around the world.

At its peak around 5.5 million tons of coal was moved each year.

Up and down the River Tyne there were staiths and it was full of noise, movement and working life.

Dunston Staiths stopped being used for loading coal in 1980 and is the last one left.

It is reputed to be one of the largest wooden structures in Europe.

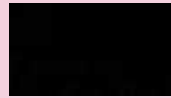
Today, the river is quieter and the Staiths is home to birds, wildlife, and memories.

You can find out more about Dunston Staiths in Explore Heritage at www.tynederwentway.co.uk

If this has captured your imagination you can find out what has inspired us at :



www.tynederwentway.co.uk/Travelling-Through-Tyne



NE North East
Combined
Authority

Travelling Through Tyne is a series of creative and imaginative activities that explores the past, present and future and invites us to consider how we can be good ancestors.

It is about looking closely, thinking deeply and imagining boldly with the people and places that make the Tyne Derwent Way home.

These series of activities has been designed for you to use as a starting point to explore your community. You are free to use your imagination and build on what we have done.

Travelling through Tyne was created for the Tyne Derwent Way by Dingy Butterflies CIC and artists Chris Folwell and Liv Hunt. It was inspired by the Amateur Ancestor Project created by Justine Boussard.

Thank you to residents of Dunston and Teams, The Drop In, Riverside Primary Academy, Art Diamonds, Land of Oak and Iron, Rosewood Care Home and Kingsmeadow Community School.

Photos by Dingy Butterflies, Liv Hunt, Chris Folwell and Tyne Derwent Way. Dunston Staiths: Beamish (c.1934)

www.dingybutterflies.org



**THE
AMATEUR
ANCESTOR
PROJECT**

Travelling Through Tyne



Building Dunston Staiths

Over the years there have been many suggestions on what to do with the Staiths and how it could be reused for the benefit of the community. In this activity, we will recreate the Staiths together using simple materials to discover its past and imagine its future.

Everything around you has been imagined at some time.

1.

LET'S TRAVEL THROUGH TIME

Let's travel through time! You can use this weblink or the QR code to show you how to do this:
https://youtu.be/AYnrtphO_RY.

How far into the past and future are you travelling?
When you get to the past and travel to the future you might want to ask yourself:

What does the River Tyne and the Staiths look like?
What sights, sounds, smells, even tastes are there?
How has climate change affected the communities and wildlife along the River Tyne?



You might be tempted to imagine a future based on your fears, but we encourage you to travel to a future built on your hopes.

"I think if the Staiths could whisper, they would say "I was the heartbeat of the area, Dunston & Teams, I was the wooden heart in the River Tyne".
Trish Brown, Dunston & Teams resident



Imagine a future worth hoping for.

2.

BUILDING DUNSTON STAITHS

FORAGE AND FIND

Before you get started, we need some materials. You could use:

Soft air-dry clay
Wooden sticks
Cardboard
String or wool
Textured materials

Use some of the "What if..." questions from the front of this resource if you want some inspiration.

LET'S GET BUILDING!

There is no right or wrong way to do this. Use images of the Staiths as inspiration and to guide you.

Make a base: Start with a flat piece of card or clay.

Add supports: Create pillars or posts using clay and sticks.

Build the walkway: Lay sticks or strips across the supports.

Add detail: You might include: rails, platforms, textures, marks & patterns.

Now imagine what it could be in the future by adding more materials: This could be nature, housing, people.