

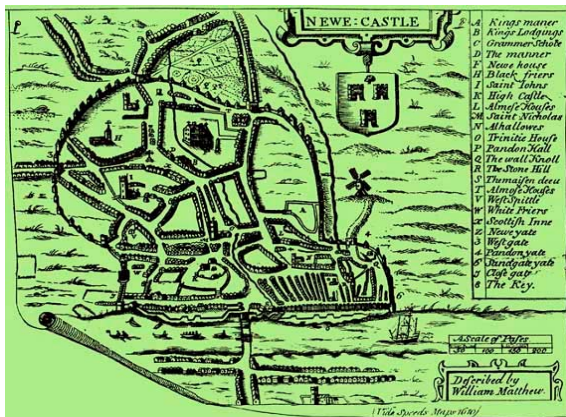
John Speed's Newcastle, 1610

John Speed was a successful London tailor whose burning interest in history led him to become the most famous of all English map-makers. Between 1605 and 1610 he travelled around the British Isles gathering information for his unique series of town plans. Among the places he visited was Newcastle.

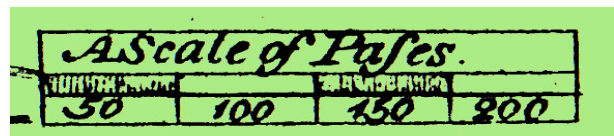


Proofs of his maps were issued between 1608 and 1610 and in 1611-12 all 67 maps were published in an atlas with the grand title *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain*. Original Speed maps are very valuable and sought by collectors all over the world.

Activity 1



In *Chorographia*, (Unit 5) William Gray wrote the Walls of Newcastle are *two Miles in Circuit*. You can use John Speed's map to check this.

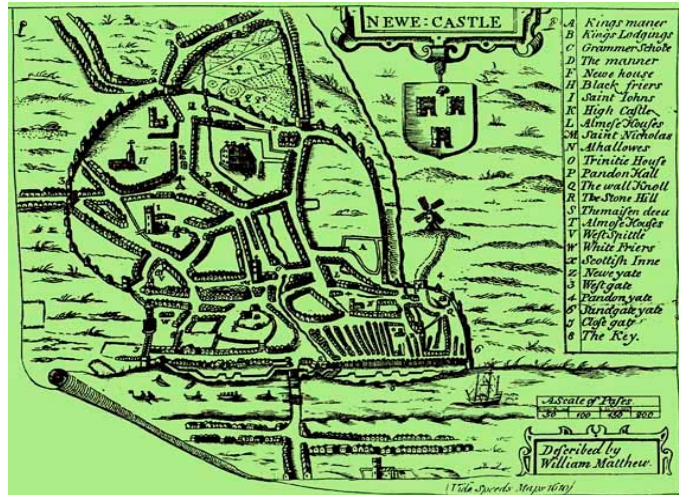


- Identify the scale Speed used and discuss possible problems with this. How long in centimetres is your own pace? Who has the longest and shortest paces in your class?
- In pairs lay a piece of string on the circuit of the walls on the map. Use string and the scale to estimate the circumference of the walls.
- Write a set of simple instructions for primary school children wanting to try this activity.

Activity 2

Take a virtual tour of 17th century Newcastle using John Speed's Map on the classroom white board or a PC. Speed gives us a plan view, though prominent buildings and features are drawn in perspective. It gives us valuable evidence of the layout of the streets, town walls and gates, the location of churches and buildings later demolished, and the extent of urban development.

- Find the places in the key. On a photocopy draw arrows from the letters or numbers on the key to the corresponding features on the map. Discuss their importance in city life.



A) Kings maner:

Formerly the

Augustine Monastery, this was reserved for the use of the King and his northern advisers after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539.

B) Kings Lodgings: no information

C) Grammer School: *The grammar or Hye school founded in the reign of Henry VIII. First held in a house in the corner of St Nicholas churchyard. Later moved to (V).*

D) The manner: No information

H) Black friers: *The Dominican monastery taken over by the city guilds after the dissolution.*

I) Saint Johns: *14th-15th century church. Probably on the site of an earlier Norman church.*

K) High Castle: *The castle and grounds, a prison and county court in 1610. The moat had become the town tip/sewer known as the "Dunghill".*

L) Almese Houses: *Houses for the use of poor women.*

M) Saint Nicholas: *Medieval church, largely 14-15th century. Now the city cathedral.*

N) Alhallows: *A 13th century church. Could hold a congregation of up to 2,000*

O) Trinitie House: *H.Q. of the Trinity House Guild. They looked after safety at sea - buoys, lighthouses, pilots.*

- (P) *Pandon Hall: A large house.*
- (Q) *The wall Knoll: Knoll means hill. Hadrian's Wall is said to have ran across this.*
- (R) *The Stone Hill: No information.*
- (S) *The maisen deeu: The hall of the Guild of Merchant Adventurers.*
- (T) *Almose Houses: Houses for the poor built by a merchant, Christopher Brigham.*
- (W) *White Friars: The monastery of the Carmelite monks, commonly called the White Friars after the colour of their habits. Taken over by private owners after the dissolution.*
- (V) *Westspittle: St Mary's Hospital, a place of rest for pilgrims during the Middle Ages. Converted into the Royal Grammar School.*
- (X) *Scottish Inne: Described as an ancient building with a large gate. Supposedly the kings of Scotland stayed there when travelling south in times of peace with England.*
- Z-7) The main city gates.
8. *The Key: The Quayside: the city docks and centre of trade.*

Activity 3

- A group of traveller stops you outside of *Newegate* and asks for directions to *The Key*. Send them by a scenic route and describe points of interest they will pass. Draw them a sketch map to help.

