

Using this guide - The Rankings

All entries stand out as being of particular national heritage interest but there are inevitably notable variations in terms of intactness and quality, hence the ranking system we have adopted.

★★★ Three Star pubs have stayed wholly or largely intact for the last fifty years, or retain particular rooms or features that are truly rare or exceptional, or display a combination of the two.

★★ Two Star pubs have interiors where the intactness and quality levels will be somewhat lower than for Three Star

★ The interiors of One Star pubs will have either readily identifiable historic layouts or retain rooms or features of special interest but more significant changes are allowable.

These online guides provide you with up-to-date descriptions, on a region by region basis, of pubs listed on our National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. Please note that the content will differ from that in the hard-copy guides where the pub information dates to when that guide was published. The hard-copy guides also contain more editorial material.

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Introduction

North East England as defined in this guide – Co. Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and part of North Yorkshire– has some 3000 pubs. This guide covers the 40 pubs with interiors of national or regional historic or architectural importance plus a further 6 whose interiors are of some regional interest. These 46 pubs make up less than 2% of the total.

Why is this figure so small? One reason, of course, is that pub interiors have always been subject to change. The only pubs which look now exactly as they did the day they opened are those which came into being very recently. However, the pace of change has certainly quickened. Most of our few remaining historic interiors evolved slowly over time and clung on to their most endearing features. Recent times have seen a mania for opening out, theming, image change and general trashing. As a result, many pubs suffer regular radical makeovers during which most, if not all, vestiges of original or old features disappear.

The irony is that interest in historic buildings has never been greater. Many of us are fascinated by our built heritage and spend many an hour visiting old properties from stately homes through to the most vernacular of structures. All the sadder, then, that genuine pub interiors seem so under-valued by mainstream conservationists and that owners are often eager to tear them apart.

The National Inventory

Defending our traditional pubs has always been a key aim of CAMRA. Work to compile a National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors (NI) began in 1991 and the first actual list appeared in 1997, totalling 179 entries. It has since been continually refined and updated as, on the one hand, new candidates were discovered and, on the other, existing entries were closed or ruined. The total currently stands at 260, of which just 8 are in the North East. There are two key criteria for inclusion. Firstly, the interior is largely unaltered since before 1945, though intact early post war pubs are also included (but are very rare). Secondly, the NI covers pubs with specific features or rooms of national significance. Our publication, Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs, describes the entries in some detail, as do the 'long descriptions' on our website.

The Regional Inventories

These were the next logical step for us. As would be expected, the bar for inclusion is set lower than for the NI though the same principles apply, with the emphasis on the internal fabric of the pub and what is authentically old within it. 31 pubs of this standard can be found in the North East.

A further category is pub interiors of Some Regional Interest. Although much altered, they will contain some historic features which may be of interest to visitors. 5 such pubs are briefly described in the guide.

Pubs in the North East

Variety

The North East of England is a very diverse region, ranging from vast areas of open moorland to densely populated industrial conurbations. This variety is reflected in the range of pubs listed here. At one extreme are small rural establishments. A great classic is the Star at Netherton which consists of a single, plainly-furnished square room dating back to the early years of the last century. Drinks are sold from the servery across the hallway. The Milbank Arms, Barningham is/was even more unusual, being one of the handful of pubs in the UK with no counter at all, drinks being brought up a flight of stairs from the cellar. However, at the time of writing, the pub had just closed for refurbishment so whether this feature will survive remains to be seen.

Then there are interesting pubs in several towns. Perhaps the most remarkable is the Free Trade in Berwick on Tweed where a series of simple, early twentieth-century screens mark off a corridor, drinking areas and the former off-sales compartment. Much more sophisticated is the Victoria, Durham whose separate rooms and fittings are almost exactly as they were when the pub was built in 1899.

The years around 1900 were a golden age of public house building throughout the country and the North East has some fine examples built on a grand and expensive scale. Sunderland and Middlesbrough have, between them, three such pubs with fittings that are nationally outstanding. In the former, parts of the Mountain Daisy have been grimly modernised but one Edwardian room remains, with spectacular full-height tiling and a marvellous ceramic bar counter. Also in Sunderland, the Dun Cow retains much of its original Edwardian layout but is most famous for its powerfully detailed bar counter and one of the country's most striking bar-back fittings. The pub was sensitively renovated a couple of years ago and won the Conservation category in the CAMRA Pub Design Awards. In Middlesbrough, the Zetland Arms has a magnificent mirrored and tiled back room dating from 1893. It has been closed for several years but is expected to reopen in Summer 2018. Another tour de force in the way of pub furnishings c.1900 is the Buffet Bar at the Central Hotel, Gateshead though opening hours here are limited.

Regional Differences

At first sight, not much distinguishes traditional pubs in the North East from those elsewhere in England. All but the simplest started out with multiple rooms, graded from the basic public bar to plushier rooms where a drink might cost a copper or two more. If you travel around, though, certain things emerge. Although not a pubs interior issue, many pubs on Tyneside were given ceramic frontages on their ground floor. One such, listed here, is the Wheatsheaf, Felling. Nearby in Hebburn is Wardle's (formerly the Albert Hotel), Albert Street, with a particularly fine brown and orange ceramic frontage of 1908 (not otherwise listed here as the interior is much altered). Further afield, and covered here, are the Black Swan, Darlington and Half Moon, Durham of 1908-9.

The dates just quoted are well into the 1900s. This is significant because, whereas the great pub-building boom in London came to a sudden and, for many, ruinous end by 1902, North Eastern brewers and entrepreneurs enjoyed continued confidence in their local economy and in workers' enthusiasm to spend money in their pubs. Edwardian pubs listed here include the Three Horseshoes, Leamside (1907) and the Queens Head, Newbiggin-on-Sea (1909). Edwardian taste saw a reaction to the highly ornate work favoured by the Victorians and a good example of this move towards simplicity can be found at the Greyhound, Darlington (1903).

A feature which might puzzle visitors from the south is the naming of some rooms in north-eastern pubs. The 'select bar' was popular, denoting a space that was a cut above the public bar. Examples from the pubs listed here are at the Victoria, Durham, the Delaval Arms, Old Hartley and the White Swan, Greenside. 'Select' the space may have been, but there was usually a bar counter whereas the 'sitting room' was no doubt just that – somewhere you sat and consumed drinks that might have been brought to you by the staff (hence the survival of bell-pushes in some pubs) or purchased at a small hatch to the servery. You can also find the term in Scotland so this may be a case of cross-border influence. A good example is at the Cumberland Arms, Newcastle. A third name, little used down south, was 'family department' which described the once-common feature of a small compartment or room for sale of drink to be consumed off the premises (and more commonly known as 'off-sales department', 'bottle & jug' or 'outside sales'). The Victoria, Durham has an example.

Do you know of other pubs to include?

The entries here draw on the accumulated knowledge of CAMRA members and we hope to have identified all interiors worthy of inclusion. However, in such a big area, there may be historic examples which have escaped our notice – if you find one, please let us know. Also, please tell us if you come across significant changes to a listed interior or you become aware of a threat to one of these pubs. (info@pubheritage.camra.org.uk).

Statutory Listing - A Short Guide

All parts of the United Kingdom have systems for protecting buildings of special architectural or historic interest. The process is devised not to prevent change but to manage it effectively, working with the grain of the building, not against it. Many of the pubs in this guide are statutorily listed and several have benefited from exemplary refurbishments or extensions where their listed status has ensured careful control. In turn, this has protected their futures as businesses, as without the changes, their viability might have been questionable.

In England, listings are made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, on the advice of English Heritage.

Grade 1

This highest of gradings covers just 2.5% of all listed buildings: these are those that have 'exceptional', even international interest.

Grade 11* (spoken of as 'Two Star'). Covers a further 5.5% of listed buildings. They have 'outstanding' interest.

Grade 11 92% of all English listed buildings are at this grade. They have what is described as 'special' architectural or historic interest.

Most listed pubs are designated at Grade 11. There is a Grade 1 listed entry in this guide – the Centurion bar at Newcastle railway station – but the listing here doesn't really derive from the 'pubby' aspects of this spectacular space. All other listed entries are at Grade 11 except the Mountain Daisy, Sunderland which is Grade 11*.

John Holland

The first, hard-copy edition of this guide was compiled, in 2006, by the late John Holland, who died in July 2017. John was a tireless campaigner for CAMRA over many years and held many important posts, including North East regional director for many years, followed by nine years on the National Executive. He had many passions within CAMRA but was a noted champion for clubs, chairing CAMRA's Clubs Working Group right up to his untimely death. However, pubs, and especially heritage pubs, were also hugely important to him and his encyclopaedic knowledge of north-eastern hostelry greatly assisted the initial compilation of this guide. He is greatly missed and this new edition of the guide is fondly dedicated to him.

County Durham

Cotherstone

Main Street, Cotherstone, DL12 9QE

Tel: 07871 865118

Website: <http://www.theredlionhotel.blogspot.com>

Darlington

1 Archer Street, Darlington, DL3 6LR

Directions: next to ring road W of town centre

Tel: (01325) 463787

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Darlington)

Listed Status: II

Red Lion ★★

Built 1738 of stone which has an interior little-altered since the 1960s.

Walk into a passage from the front door with a dado of ply panelling and high up on the wall an old bell. A door on the left leads to the main bar.

Glazed vestibule as you enter, some old dado panelling, an interwar Art Deco stone fireplace with a carving above. More panelling to the right of the fireplace and all of it painted magnolia colour, two window seats. There is 1960s-style treatment of the wall above the dado with timbered strips to make it look 'half-timbered'. There are two 1960s red leatherette benches – one each side. The servery at the end of the room has an old, at least interwar counter with the front painted black with a bar top replaced in 2021. Non-descript bar back of modern items. A 1960s stone fireplace with a log fire.

Door at the other end of the bar leads to the lounge which is almost in two parts. On the right is a small area in front of the servery with a panelled bar counter front and beaten copper top. fielded dado panelling painted magnolia. The left larger area has a stone fireplace, two red leatherette benches, three card / dominoes tables; fielded dado panelling painted magnolia. Closed Tuesdays and Thursdays, Opens at 6pm (3pm Sun).

Britannia ★

Built c.1830, this became a pub c.1858. The bar was extended back c.1960 and refitted but does retain an old baffle in the rear section. A panelled passage runs down the middle of the pub with a hatch to the back of the bar. The star here is the splendid untouched snug on the right with fireplace, fixed bench seating, bell pushes and baffles all from around 1920. The snug is not always open but you can have a look on request. Note the blue plaque celebrating this as 'The Birthplace of J M Dent, eminent publisher'. Joseph Malaby Dent (1849 –1926) produced the Everyman's Library series.



Snug

Darlington

82 - 84 Parkgate, Darlington, DL1 1RS

Listed Status: Not listed

Darlington

2 West Auckland Road, Darlington, DL3 9ER

Tel: (01325) 468177

Website: <http://www.wentsfordpubs.com/travellers-rest>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Listed Status: Not listed

Greyhound ★

Rebuilt in 1903 when it doubled as a hotel. Note the floor mosaic at the entrance and the large etched windows with pretty Art Nouveau-style leading above. The public bar on the right is largely in its original state with fixed wall seating, red tile floor, panelled counter and triple-arched bar back. The last is interesting because, although it has thin shafts with disproportionately large foliage capitals, it offers a restraint that contrasts with the ornateness of Victorian work you would expect a decade or so earlier.



Public Bar

Travellers Rest ★

A 1925-built hotel, still with some original features - tiling in the entrance lobby, fielded panelling in the corridor and, in the public bar, a bar counter with mirrored bar back. The wood surround fireplace and fixed seating are also from that era.



Public Bar

Durham

61 Hawthorn Terrace, Durham, DH1 4EQ

Tel: (0191) 386 9913

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Durham) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

Durham

37 Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HN

Tel: (0191) 386 9219

Email: duncow37@gmail.com

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Durham) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

Colpitts Hotel ★★★

Built around 1836, the Colpitts retains four rooms and has been in the same family since 1955. The only significant change happened at that time when, in the bar, the door left of the fireplace was blocked up and a wide opening created on the right. The small room thus accessed has some original fixed benches and some installed by Samuel Smiths in 2003 - can you tell the difference? The bar itself has a U-shaped 1890s carved wood counter and part-mirrored bar back.; the cast-iron fireplace is a 1950s replacement for an old range. Left of the lobby, a small smoke room has a fine tall bar back fitting and another ornate bar counter. The fourth room, the pool room, had its fixed seating removed in the 1990s; service to this room was once from the glazed stable door in the passage.



Right Hand Bar

Dun Cow ★

From the front door of this 18th-century pub, a passage runs down the left-hand side and a sliding door leads into the small front bar. Old fittings here include a fine Tudor Revival four-sectioned bar back with mirrored panels, a panelled bar counter and a carved wood surround fireplace. Of similar vintage are the full-height wall-panelling, match-boarded ceiling and baffles by the door. Further down the passage is the door to the lounge, which is evidently an amalgamation of two rooms. Near the servery is an old plasterwork ceiling with a decorative frieze. Everything else, though, is relatively modern.



Front Bar

Durham

86 New Elvet, Durham, DH1 3AQ

Tel: (0191) 374 1918

Email: enquiry@thehalfmooninndurham.co.uk

Website: <http://www.thehalfmooninndurham.co.uk/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Durham) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

Half Moon Inn ★

The rear buffet bar, dating from 1908-9, is the main point of interest here. It has a semi-circular, segmental-shaped mahogany counter, heavily detailed, and a fine Queen Anne-style bar back with a pair of high-level glazed cupboards and bevelled mirror panels. The fire surround, with its classical detailing, is also notable as is the rear curved window featuring stained and leaded patterning. The front bar has mostly modern fittings but the curious pelmet-like canopy to the bar back dates from an 1894 refit. Water taps can be found on both the front and back bars, the former still operational. These, used for diluting whisky, are rare in England.



Rear Bar

Durham

86 Hallgarth Street, Durham, DH1 3AS

Tel: (0191) 386 5269

Email: mwebstervictoria@gmail.com

Website: <http://victoriainn-durhamcity.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Durham) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

Victoria Inn ★★ ★

The best historic multi-room pub interior in the North East (also great for real ale and atmosphere). The pub was built in 1898-9 to the designs of successful Newcastle architects, Joseph Oswald & Son. Perhaps its most interesting feature is the Family Department. This tiny space is accessed from the side entrance and has cut-glass panels and a small hatch to the servery. Perched on top now are five old ceramic casks for sherry, Stingo (a dark, strong, rich beer), Irish and Scotch whisky. The public bar has a wooden floor, fixed seating, cast-iron fireplace (but recent tiled surround and heat deflector) and part of the original bar back. The latter was much renewed and the counter re-fronted in the late 1950s or 1960s. Access to the snug is either from the side passage to the rear or the right-hand entrance. It also has original bench seating with baffles, bell-pushes, a cast-iron and marble fireplace and a sliding hatch for service. The sitting room has a bare wooden floor, small counter and traces of bell-pushes. Most windows have etched glass and removable screens. The licensee, Michael Webster, who took over in 1974, saved it from desecration by Scottish & Newcastle Breweries by purchasing it in 1995. Food consists of toasties.



Public Bar

Egglescliffe

Church Road, Egglescliffe, TS16 9DQ

Directions: 300yds E of A167, opp parish church

Tel: (01642) 651009

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Eaglescliffe) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

Greta Bridge

greta bridge, Greta Bridge, DL12 9SE

Directions: 3m SE of Barnard Castle, off A66.

Tel: (01833) 627232

Website: <http://themorritt.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Listed Status: II

Pot & Glass ★★

Tucked away to the south of the church, this three-roomed pub had an extensive 'Brewer's Tudor' makeover in the 1930s - hence the mock half-timbering, beams, chunky rustic tables and inglenook fireplaces. The main servery is in the front bar - the ornate counter fronts here and in the rear bar were fashioned from old country-house furniture in the 1950s by former landlord, Charlie Abbey, a skilled joiner. The small room, front right, contains little of interest then a tiled and panelled passage widens out to allow passageway drinking - there is also an off-sales hatch. The rear bar has another fine brick fireplace in an inglenook.



Carved bar Counter in Rear Bar

Morritt ★★

Probably dating back to the 18th century, this building has an intact bar from 1946 with the walls covered in murals of Pickwick-ian characters painted by J. V. Gilroy of Guinness advertising fame. The curving bar counter, bar back and marble and wood surround fireplace all date from this time (as does the stuffed bear say bar staff !). The public bar has its own separate entrance at the far left of the hotel. Another small bar, now for food service, is from the 1950s. Splendid early 20th century stone fireplaces can be found throughout the hotel, along with parquet floors and a carved wood fireplace. The main gents retains old massive urinals.



Servery

Leamside

Pit House Lane, Leamside, DH4 6QQ

Directions: About half a mile N of A690, just outside West Rainton.

Tel: (0191) 584 2394

Email: info@threehorseshoesleamside.co.uk

Website: <http://www.threehorseshoesleamside.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: Not listed

Three Horseshoes ★

This 1907-built pub underwent a major refit in 2007 but retains the character of a traditional Co. Durham pub. In the public bar, the counter is original but with a new granite top while the bar back was imported from elsewhere in 2007. A small lounge at the back was hugely expanded into a dining room and the bar fittings are reproductions (but the tiled fireplace is a 1920s survivor. A similar fireplace adorns the 'Select Room' which also has old fixed seating. Good original etched windows throughout - that for the former Out-Door Department is now in the door to the gents (which contain impressive urinals).



Public Bar

Northumberland

Alnmouth

22 Northumberland Street, Alnmouth, NE66 2RJ

Tel: (01665) 830584

Website: <http://www.redlionalmouth.com>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Alnmouth for Alnwick) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

Amble

Lime Street, Amble, NE65 0AD

Tel: (01665) 712391

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

Red Lion Inn ★

This old stone-built coaching inn, with mock-Tudor first floor, is notable for the cosy lounge bar at the back, refitted in the 1950s. Local legend has it that the attractive wall panelling came from the SS Carpathia, the first ship to go to the aid of the Titanic. However, although the upper parts betray signs of re-use, the Carpathia was torpedoed in deep water off Ireland in 1918! The bar counter (with leatherette upholstery), bar back, two brick fireplaces and fixed seating are all from the refit. The dining room at the front was refurbished in 2004.



Public Bar

Schooner Inn ★

A good example of moderately ambitious 1920s pub building. The main doorway takes you into the public bar which has etched windows, panelled ceiling, half-height wall panelling, a bar counter with match boarding below and fielded panelling above and a bar back with distinctively 1920s angular detail. The left hand door leads into a spacious hallway which accesses a rear lounge (once two rooms which had hatch service) and a large plain upstairs function room. The front lobby has a pair of doors - the left one is for the public bar whilst the other formerly accessed an off-sales, now incorporated into the public bar.



Public Bar

Berwick upon Tweed

75, Castlegate, Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 1LF

Tel: (01289) 306498

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Berwick upon Tweed) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

Berwick upon Tweed

31 Low Greens, Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 1LZ

Tel: (01289) 304214

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Berwick-upon-Tweed)

Listed Status: Not listed

Free Trade ★★★

This is a wonderful survival of a traditional small urban pub, said to date from 1767 (the 1849 datestone to the left refers only to now-demolished tenement buildings at the rear). The pub was refitted around 1910 and displays a very unusual layout. This features a partition, with iron stays attached to the ceiling, forming a corridor down the left-hand side, which leads to a tiny former off-sales in the middle of the pub. The public bar at the front is L-shaped and wood panelled; it retains its (presumably) 1910 bar counter, bar-back (with drawers and shelves held up by fluted pilasters), seating with bell-pushes and period fireplace with green tiles and touches of Art Nouveau-style detail. The front window has attractive stained glass. The rear room was a smoke room but is now used for pool and has wall panelling. This room has bell-pushes and an attractive brick and tile fireplace probably installed just before or after the Second World War.

Pilot ★

A 1916-dated photograph inside this stone-built end-of-terrace pub suggests that this is when it was enlarged - the photo shows etched glass each side of the central entrance. The public bar, front right, is the best room here, with its early 20th-century fittings - much of the bar-back, counter, fire-surround and some panelling. The passageway is another traditional feature as it serves also as a drinking space; note the lovely mosaic floor from front to back and the hatch to the servery. The rear right room also has a serving hatch but both it and the left hand room (once two small rooms) have been modernised.



Public Bar



Passageway

Hexham

7 Battle Hill, Hexham, NE46 1BA

Tel: (01434) 603742

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Hexham) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

Old Hartley

, Old Hartley, NE26 4RL

Tel: (0191) 237 5138

Email: bookings@delavalarms.pub

Website: <http://www.delavalarms.com>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

Globe Inn ★

The unusually-shaped bar fittings are the main reason to check out this town centre pub. The Victorian bar counter is a semi-kidney shape with a front sporting pillasters and a row of small brackets along the top part. The bar back is of a semi-flattened, oval shape with five bays, a couple of etched mirrors in the middle and a till drawer (but also some modern additions, particularly on the left-hand side). The front bar was once divided by a partition - the door on the left side originally accessed the rear portion. The reupholstered benches may be old underneath but most of the dado panelling is modern.



Servery

Delaval Arms ★

A large Edwardian pub that has lost its off-sales but seen few other changes. The lobby has a mosaic floor and etched glass panel on the inner door. A door leads to the servery with a hatch and an open staircase. The main bar at the back has the original curving counter, new bar back and original half panelling with new panelling in the former off-sales area. The 'Select Room' on the left has original fireplace, now blocked-up and a hatch to the back of the bar. A refurbished small room on the right retains original fixed seating and fireplace, also blocked-up.



Interior

Seahouses

7-9 Main Street, Seahouses, NE68 7RD

Tel: (01665) 720200

Website: <https://theoldeship.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

Olde Ship Inn ★★

Dating to 1745 and close to the harbour, the pub has developed into a small hotel which has been in the same ownership since 1910. The public bar was once the two original rooms but has altered little in the last 70 years except for part of the cellar being converted into the 'Bar Deck' at the back. The counter, bar-back, fireplace and panelling are all of a good age and supplemented by an amazing collection of nautical artefacts collected over many years. In 1954, the former commercial room became the 'Cabin Bar' and is untouched since with its ply-panelled walls, counter with Formica top and other period fittings. Part of the former private quarters are now a reception and dining rooms.



Public Bar

Tyne & Wear

Birtley

Talbot Terrace (Durham Road), Birtley, DH3 2PQ

Tel: (0191) 410 2582

Email: info@railwayhotelbirtley.co.uk

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

Birtley

Durham Road, Birtley, DH3 1NX

Listed Status: Not listed

Railway Hotel ★

Rebuilt by Newcastle Breweries between 1911 and 1913, this impressive building has been sensitively restored by its new owner since 2015. The left hand side is little altered, with bare wood floor, original curved mahogany bar counter, five-bay bar back and old fireplace. The original fixed seating has recently been re-covered. On the right hand side, new bar counters were installed in the 1980s to create what is now an island bar - the design is similar but you can spot differences in the wood. At the rear is some more old fixed seating. The rear right games room and front snug are opened out and have no old fittings.



Public Bar

Three Tuns ★

A c.1930, stone-built roadside pub which retains much of its original layout. On the left a porch leads to an L-shaped 'Buffet Room' still with its old wall-panelling, bar-back and counter. The right-hand parts - a public bar and a former off-sales area - seem to be mostly a quality refitting by owners Samuel Smiths.



Right Hand Bar

Earsdon

Hartley Lane, Earsdon, NE25 0SZ

Tel: (0191) 252 9352

Website: <http://www.beehiveearsdon.co.uk>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: II

Beehive ★

This late 18th century building became a pub in 1896 and has five small rooms. Service from a substantial servery is via a hatch/doorway and two very small bars with modern tops, both not much larger than hatches. The lobby on the car park side has a similar serving arrangement. The public areas have expanded considerably but the two old pub rooms (on the right) are still clearly in evidence - a welcome example of a country pub not being spoiled in the late 20th century craze to create wide open spaces. Not many traditional furnishings or fittings survive - a settle in the left room, and two brick fireplaces which are probably inter-war.



Passageway

Gateshead

Half Moon Lane, Gateshead, NE8 2AN

Tel: (0191) 478 2543

Email: graeme@ouseburnleisure.co.uk

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Newcastle Central) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

Gateshead

26 Carlisle Street, Felling, Gateshead, NE10 0HQ

Tel: (0191) 597 8404

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Heworth) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

Central ★★★

This imposing corner-site building between the Tyne and High Level bridges dates from 1854, designed by architect M. Thompson as premises for a wine merchant, Alderman Potts. It became a hotel about 1890 and this is, no doubt, the date when the star feature, the Buffet Bar, was fitted out. This is now styled the Whisky Bar thanks to the wide range of the said spirit on offer. It has a U-shaped counter with an impressive front of broad segmental arches and a tremendously ornate bar-back. There is also fixed seating, half-height panelling, etched glass in the doors, a fine ceiling and deep plasterwork frieze. This room is available to visit but not used for service. Elsewhere, panelling survives in the hallway staircase whilst the public bar has further panelling and a partially old bar counter. The sharp angle of the site explains the unusual triangular shape of the snug which is set beyond the Buffet Bar. It has impressively large etched windows, giving it a light and airy feel. After a long period of neglect the Central was carefully restored in 2010 and is now a haven for real ale and cider.



Buffet Bar

Wheat Sheaf ★

Rebuilt in a pleasant, free Edwardian style in 1907, the green and yellow ceramic facing on the ground floor here is particularly attractive. Inside, the original three-bay bar-back and panelled counter remain, as do a pair of massive urinals in the outside gents'. There is also some original etched glass, e.g. two windows with etched wheat-sheaves on the side road frontage. Sadly, in 1985, new owners created a predictable single space by removing an inner porch to the side road entrance, corridors and a rear room (the presence of these spaces can be traced in the contours of the ceiling).



Servery

Greenside

Lead Road, Greenside, NE40 4SP

Tel: (0191) 413 5386

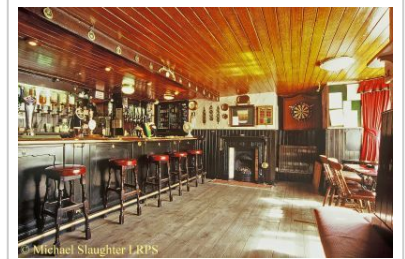
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

White Swan ★★

The White Swan retains its traditional plan of four rooms and a corridor with only minor changes. On entry you are confronted in the lobby by doors with etched glass saying 'Bar' (right) and 'Sitting Rooms': this latter term embraces the 'Select Room' itself (front), 'Tap Room' (rear) and 'Lounge' (rear right). The Public Bar has a partly old bar-back but the bar counter itself dates from the 1980's and has an even more recent counter top. The bar also has some original bench seating, and boarded ceilings feature in the hallway, public bar and select room. Benched seating also features in the Lounge and Select Room but it has been reupholstered in a modern style. One fireplace is inter-war (select room) but the others are new. Small modern counter added in the lounge. Serving hatch in the passageway.



Public Bar

Newcastle upon Tyne

31 Side, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3JE

Tel: (0191) 232 1269

Website: <https://www.crownposada.co.uk/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

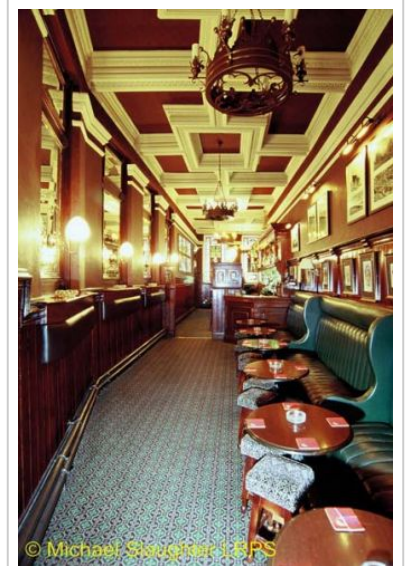
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Newcastle Central) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

Crown Posada ★★★

A three-storey pub of 1880 that retains three drinking areas, one behind the other. Owners Sir John Fitzgerald have undertaken several careful refurbishments over the years and much of the fixed leather seating, panelling and other woodwork probably replicates the originals. In the 1980s, windows running down the right-hand side (overlooking an alley) were replaced with a series of mirrors. Some old wall paintings lie behind the wallpaper and come to light at re-decoration time every 15 years or so! The last major change was in the early 1950s when new toilets were installed and the seating area at the back slightly extended - the present fixed seating also seems to date from that time.

The long, narrow interior has a high ornate moulded ceiling with deeply-recessed panels. Front left is a delightful, small, screened-off snug with impressive Pre-Raphaelite-style stained-glass windows depicting a lady serving a drink and a Tudor gent about to consume it. Drinks can be ordered from the side of the servery but this was once covered by a curtain with service via a tiny hinged stained-glass window attached to the bar-back. The bar fittings are primarily original albeit with some modern replacements e.g. the mirrors and stained-glass panels on top of the four-bay bar-back. The two side panels separating the front public bar from the rear sitting room survive and have colourful leaded pictorial panels at the top (but the door has gone).



Interior

Newcastle upon Tyne

James Place Street (off Byker Bank), Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 1LD

Tel: (0191) 265 6151

Email: info@thecumberlandarms.co.uk

Website: <http://www.thecumberlandarms.co.uk/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Listed Status: Not listed

South Shields

45 Fowler Street, South Shields, NE33 1NS

Tel: 07525 839675

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Listed Status: II

Cumberland Arms ★★

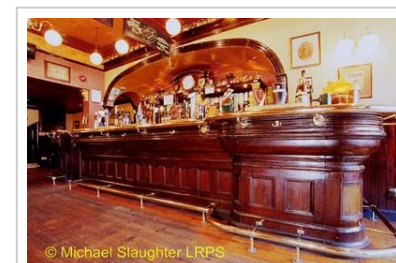
This pub is relatively little altered since its rebuilding in 1898-9 by James T. Cackett, and was one of several owned, according to a plaque outside, by John ('Jocker') Wood, a well-known local sportsman and publican. At the central entrance there is still the old off-sales hatch. On the left is the public bar which retains its original counter, mirrored bar-back and full-height match-board panelled walls and ceiling. In 2009 a section of walling was converted into a new food counter. The sitting room on the right was refitted in the 1980s and has a hatch. The upstairs room has a fine bar-back and counter, resited from the Haymarket Hotel in the city centre.



Servery

Stags Head ★★★

The really unusual feature at this Victorian pub of 1897 is the two-storey arrangement of two bars one above the other – clearly a response to the narrow site. On the ground floor the entrance lobby on the left has floor to ceiling tiling and the inner door has stained glass. In the two-part public bar, the counter and bar-back are original, as is the fire-surround although the hearth and tiles seem modern: above is a stag's head. The wide elliptical arch spanning the servery is most unusual. Near the entrance is an advertising mirror for Edinburgh brewer T. Y. Paterson & Co.'s pale ales and stout: it is signed by Forrest & Son of Glasgow who were prolific suppliers of such mirrors a century or so ago. The upstairs bar is a delightful room, originally accessed from the right-hand front doorway but now reached by a rear staircase created in the 1970s. It has a panelled ceiling, deep Jacobean-style frieze and an impressively ornate fireplace. The counter and rich bar-back were re-positioned from the space between the window and old staircase in 1984. This room tends to be only used as a function room but may be viewed at quiet times on request.



Public Bar

Sunderland

9 High Street West, Sunderland, SR1 3HA

Tel: (0191) 567 2262

Website: <https://pubculture.com/duncow/>

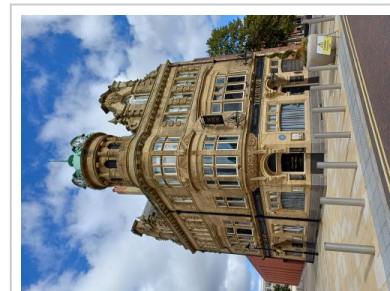
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Sunderland)

Listed Status: II

Dun Cow ★★★

An impressive corner site building of 1901–2, next door to the Empire Theatre and patronised by many of the stars who performed there. It was designed by architect Benjamin F. Simpson of Newcastle to replace a pub that had been on the site since at least the 1830s. A good sense of the original two-room layout remains, despite the filling in of a corner doorway and removal of a wall to the sitting room at the far end. The bar-back is one of the most stunning in the country. It has three sections, divided by semi-circular projections, and is richly decorated with delicate Art Nouveau-style woodcarving and various plaster reliefs. The formidable bar counter also has strong detailing. The side entrance led to a lobby with a hatch to the servery – the curvaceous screen with stained glass panels dividing it from the main bar is still there, though partly opened up for easy access. The pub was taken over by Sunderland Music, Arts and Culture Trust in 2014 as part of a project to regenerate the area as a cultural quarter. The building was meticulously restored in partnership with Camerons Brewery Head of Steam chain in a 20-week project. Everything was carefully cleaned with the finishes and colours being restored to the Edwardian originals.



Exterior

Sunderland

Beach Street, Sunderland, SR4 6BU

Tel: (0191) 567 9804

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Sunderland) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: II

Whitburn

1 East Street, Whitburn, SR6 7BZ

Tel: 07878 769890

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

Kings Arms ★

Within the striking Victorian exterior, you'll find an L-shaped main bar with a notable High Victorian bar-back with decoratively carved brackets and mirrored panels. This has been dated to the 1860s/1870s which would make it very early in terms of surviving pub fittings. The counter is from the same period and also has lots of individual detail while the tiled fireplace and tongue-and-groove ceiling also look Victorian. The placement of the doors, some disused, shows that the space was once divided up. An arch, inserted quite recently, leads to a small room at the back with a Victorian fireplace, half-height wall panelling and a hatch to the bar. Note the rare removable screens in the lower parts of the windows which provided customers with both privacy and draught protection.



Bar

Jolly Sailor ★★

A real period piece from the days when a mock rustic look was in vogue. The three rooms were refitted with fake half-timbered walls and beamed ceilings at an uncertain date - it could be late 1930s but just as likely 1950s or even early 1960s. Table service was then still available- see the buzzer indicator box in the public bar and bell-pushes in the rear room ('Captain's Cabin'): the bell-pushes and all furniture have been cleared from the third room since the late 1990s. The public bar is unusual as being the smallest of the three rooms and retains a bar back fitting at least 70 years old.



Public Bar

Closed Pubs

The following pubs would have been main entries in this guide had they currently been open

Northumberland

Netherton

Netherton, , Netherton, NE65 7HD

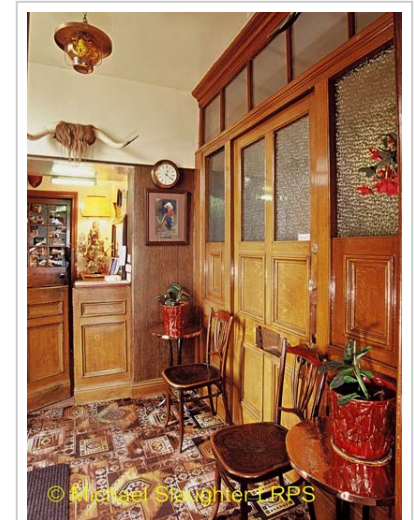
Tel: (01669) 630238

Listed Status: Not listed

Star Inn ★★★

UPDATE 2025 : The pub closed in 2023 because of the ill-health of the long-serving landlady who, sadly, died in 2024. In her will, she left the pub to a villager and, as yet, his intentions are not clear. CAMRA has submitted an application to Historic England to have the building listed.

A pub is known to have existed here since 1788 but the present building consists of a 19th-century wing and a much bigger block added in 1902 and containing the public bar. The pub was bought in 1917 by the grandfather of present owner, Miss Vera W Wilson- Morton. From the entrance, a hallway leads to a tiny servery, from where the landlady serves beer from the cellar at a hatch. The public room – and there is only one – is a classic of its kind, though there is nothing fancy about it. Large, plain and square, it has bare-slatted fixed seating round all sides plus a few tables and chairs. Above a 1950s-style fireplace is a huge mirror advertising Ushers' pale ale. There is actually another room directly behind the servery but this only comes into use on rare occasions when the pub is busy.



Servery

Whittingham

, , Whittingham, NE66 4RW
Tel: (01665) 574202
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: II

Bridge of Aln Hotel ★

This imposing former coaching inn has been owned by the same family since 1918. The unsophisticated fittings date mainly from the austerity years of the 1950s and are redolent of that period. The public bar, in particular, has hardly changed since then with a tiled fireplace, high-backed fixed seating and a counter which was a hatch in a screen until the early 1970s. On the left, another public room also has a 1950s fireplace and more high-backed seating, creating a passage from the entrance. The hatch in the corridor on the right acted as the hotel reception. Across the corridor is the lounge, formerly the dining room, which is used for meetings, functions and so forth; another 1950s fireplace here.



Main Bar

