



Northumberland
Wildlife Trust

THE HANGCOCK MUSEUM

Hancock Museum



What will I see?

The Great North Museum: Hancock, has many things on display, from Roman and Egyptian artifacts, to life size models of modern animals. But the reason it is one of our 50 great rock sites is that in the geology section you can see some spectacular fossils, including many that were found in Northumberland – from the remains of a large carnivorous amphibian (Pholiderpeton), found in a coal mine near Blyth, to fossil trees (like Sigillaria). They both flourished in the Carboniferous swamps.

How old is it?

The museum was founded in 1884, but the earliest objects in the collections go back to around 1780.

Did you know?

That the museum was named after two brothers, John and Albany Hancock. Albany was an expert on fossils, especially brachiopods, and on marine invertebrates, while John concentrated on birds – he was a brilliant taxidermist and his collection is still on display in the Museum. It was John who planned the Museum and raised funds for its construction.

Why it is here?

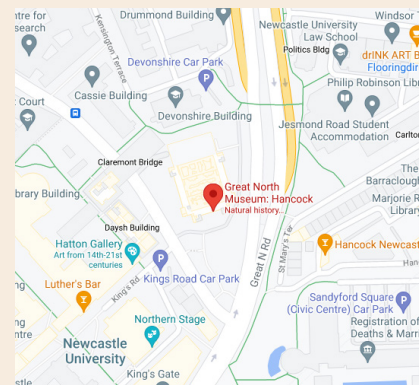
The Museum and its natural history and geology collections are owned by the Natural History Society of Northumbria, founded in 1829 and all but the oldest such society in the country. (It was formerly the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne). It is leased to the University of Newcastle, and managed for it by Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums.

And wildlife?

A long-time curator was Tony Tynan, founder of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

Where is it?

In Newcastle upon Tyne, within the university precinct [NZ247654].



Want to know more?

- Hancock Museum
- NNP Geodiversity Audit
- Onshore GeoIndex
- iGeology
- Geological history of Northumbria
- Carboniferous rocks

