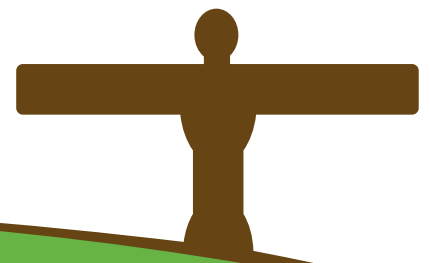


Angel of the North fact sheet

Gateshead's Angel of the North was one of the most notable engineering projects on Tyneside since the building of the Tyne Bridge in 1929 and brought a whole new list of superlatives to the world of art.

- It is one of the largest sculptures in Britain to date.
- It is one of the most viewed pieces of art in the world - seen by more than one person every second, 90,000 every day or 33 million every year.
- It is one of the most famous artworks in the region - over four fifths of people in the North East had already heard of the Angel of the North before it was built.
- Its 54 metre (175 feet) wingspan is bigger than a Boeing 757 or 767 jet and almost the same as a jumbo jet.
- It is 20 metres (65 feet) high - the height of a five-storey building or four double decker buses.
- The wing height at the body junction is 6.2 m (6.75 yards).
- The ankle cross-section measures 780mm (.78m) by 1400mm (1.4m) or 30.73" (8.5 yards) by 55.16" (15.25 yards).
- It weighs 208 tonnes.
- The total cost of the Angel was £800,000.
- It will last for more than 100 years.
- It withstands winds of more than 100 mph.
- It is situated geographically at latitude 54.58 degrees North and longitude 1.35 degrees West.
- Beneath the ground, 700 tonnes of concrete and 32 tonnes of reinforcing steel were used in the foundations extending down 20 metres (65 feet) anchoring it to the solid rock beneath.
- It is made of weather resistant cor-ten steel (a steel invented for building bridges and now used where extra strength is needed without adding unduly to structural weight). It also contains a small amount of copper, which in time will form a patina on the surface.



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- There were 3,153 pieces of steel used in its assembly and 10km of welding (6 miles) in fabrication.
 - The wings were attached to the body with 136 bolts and 52 bolts were used to hold the Angel upright in the wind.
 - There were 5000 cubic metres (6,500 cubic yards) of soil excavated before construction, which was replaced to reform the mound.
 - The old mine workings had 100 tonnes of grout pumped into them up to 33m (36 yards) below ground.
 - The engineers, designers and draughtsmen worked for 2,500 hours.
 - The fabricators worked for 22,000 hours – twenty men working full-time for six months.
 - It requires minimal maintenance – only one inspection every seven years.
 - It is believed to be the largest Angel sculpture in the world.
 - The word ‘angel’ is derived from the Greek ‘angelos’ meaning ‘messenger’. Biblical angels not only brought tidings and commandments but also acted as; rescuers, ministrants, guardians, guides, stern admonishers and encouragers, interpreters of visions, warriors, destroyers, controllers of the forces of nature and perpetual worshippers in the court of heaven. Angelic beings are sometimes referred to as ‘sons of God’ (e.g. Job 1:6) and are often depicted in Western art as God’s courtiers, capable of choice, initiative, compassion, grief, perfection and love; each being a special creation.
 - Angel stories go back thousands of years – ancient Greek, Egyptian and Assyrian culture all mention angels.
 - Angels crop up in most world religions – Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism all include accounts of heavenly messengers.
 - Four hundred years before the birth of Christ, Plato implied that the gods and souls of men had wings.