



Phase 3 – Local Land Use: How Has Northampton Changed?



Important Landmarks in Northampton

Northampton Castle: This was one of the most famous Norman castles in England. The castle site was outside the western city gate, and depended on three sides by deep trenches. A branch of the River Nene provided a natural barrier on the western side. The castle was obliterated by the arrival of a railway branch, the station of which was built on the castle site and the construction of the original Northampton Castle railway station. All that remains of the castle today is the Postern Gate, near Northampton Railway Station.

The Racecourse: This has a rich history of the land being used for different purposes, including: a place for horse racing, somewhere to graze cattle, a recreation ground, a park for public executions and an army base and allotments during WWI.

The Market Square: Over the years, the market square has been used for markets and trading, cattle and horse markets, fun fairs and open air cinemas.



The Shoe Industry

Northampton's shoe industry was an important trade for the town. A lot of people didn't travel and so they stayed local for work. It was a huge source of income for the town. There was a strong link between income (people's earnings) and spending in the town, which would have led to a strong economic growth in the town. It also would have meant that many people would have come to Northampton for work.

The Ironstone Railway

The iron quarry in the Hunsbury Hillfort was integral to the area during the Industrial Revolution. From the late 1800s until the 1930s, large quantities of iron ore were excavated from the site and transported by use of the tramway line. But after the line closed in the 1920s and the quarry went out of use, it was largely forgotten about - along with the vehicles that used to use it.



Key Vocabulary



CENSUS: An official survey of the population of a country that is carried out in order to find out how many people live there and to obtain details of such things as people's ages and jobs.



HILLFORT: A fort on a hill that is protected by earth/stone walls and ditches.



INCOME: The money someone earns.



INDUSTRY: The work and processes involved in collecting raw materials and making them into products in factories.



IRON ORE: Rock or earth that iron can be extracted from.



MARKET: A place where goods are bought and sold, usually outdoors.



QUARRY: An area that is dug out from a piece of land in order to get stone or minerals.



TRADE LINKS: A system for countries to trade (buy and sell) goods between themselves.



TRANSPORT LINKS: How people can travel from place to place using different types of vehicles (e.g. buses/trains).

Case Study: Bourneville

The Cadbury brothers created a village for their workers with better living conditions than they'd experienced in the crowded slums of Birmingham city. The new site had canal, train and road links and a good water supply. There was lots of room to expand.

Bourneville is still there today as well as some of the original buildings. This is an example of how the human geography of a landscape can affect an area and how its impact can last for many years after.



Hunsbury Hillfort and Quarry

The earliest defences were probably constructed between the 7th and 4th centuries BC; they consisted of the deep surrounding ditch that still exists today as well as an internal bank or rampart. The earliest rampart was a timber box structure. At some stage this structure was set on fire and burnt down. Probably in the later Iron Age period (around the 3rd or 2nd Century BC), the internal bank was rebuilt in a simpler form. The site was abandoned around the end of the 1st Millennium BC. Its subsequent history is uncertain, although Anglo-Saxon pottery has been found in the hillfort and it could have been re-occupied during this period. During the late 19th century, the port was quarried for ironstone and this destroyed many internal features. Parts of the inner edge of the rampart was also destroyed at this time. In the early 1970's the hillfort was taken out of agricultural use and incorporated into parkland. This accelerated erosion by footpaths etc. and encouraged scrub growth. After 1988, the hillfort became a conservation area.

