



# THE CLEADON VILLAGE ATLAS

**MINI**





## 1099 - 1499

### 1099-1128

Village possibly laid out by Bishop Flambard.

### 1173

Scots invade the North East marking the start of nearly 300 years of conflict.

### 1183

First documentary reference to Cleadon appears in the Boldon Book.  
28 villagers recorded as living in Cleadon and Whitburn.

### 1348

The Black Death.

### c.1350

Cleadon and Whitburn appear in the Hatfield Survey.

### 1455-1485

Wars of the Roses.

## 1500 - 1599

### 1509

John Chambers listed as the Collector for Cleadon.

### 1536

Four men from Cleadon take part in the Rising of the North. Two executed on Newcastle Town Moor.

### 1579

Cleadon shown on Saxton's Map of Durham.



• Saxton's map of 1576

### 1587

Survey for Henry VIII. This was the first survey to draw a distinction between Cleadon and Whitburn. 11 copyhold tenants are recorded. First documentary reference to Cleadon Tower.

## 1600 - 1699

### 1620

Isabel Chambers marries George Lilburne at Whitburn.

### 1637

Family accused of milling their own corn and excommunicated by Bishop Morton.

### 1641-1652

The Civil War: Newcastle supports the Royalist, Sunderland the Parliamentarians.

### 23rd March 1644

Battle of East Boldon. Scots take position at Cleadon Hills.

### 1666

Hearth Tax returns list 22 households in Cleadon.



• Matthews' fireplace in The Britannia Inn

### 1675

Isobel and Michael Matthews living in the house that later becomes The Britannia Inn.

### 1676

Cleadon Enclosure Agreements.

### 1680

Whitburn Enclosure Agreement.

## 1700 - 1799

### 1714

Detailed map of land allotments in and around Cleadon.

### 1738

Cleadon House built for James Dagnia, a glass manufacturer and owner of salt pans in South Shields.

### c.1740

John Burdon builds Cleadon Old Hall. It is put up for sale in 1753.

### 1743

John Wesley visits Cleadon.

### 1746

The Jacobites are crushed at Culloden.

### 1754

Cleadon appears on Andrew Armstrong's map of Durham.



• Armstrong's map of 1768

### 1764

Ralph Grey, cousin of Earl Grey, the Prime Minister is living in Cleadon House.

### 1771

Richard Arkwright introduces water powered loom.

### 1780

John Burdon leases 'Burdon Farm' and established first Methodist Chapel. He becomes the first minister.

### 1796

Turnpike opens.





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*This publication is dedicated to the memory of Headteacher Jane Beckett, leader of staff and pupils, past and present, of Cleadon Village Church of England Academy.*

*It is hoped that the Atlas booklet will serve as a reminder of the project and encourage children to take part in the management of their village environment and surroundings.*

*April, 2015*

Text prepared by Penny Middleton  
Design : Pighill Heritage Graphics  
Illustrations: Pighill Heritage Graphics and Penny Middleton  
Additional photography: Ivan Dunn and Brian Young



# Introduction

**W**elcome to the Cleadon Village Atlas 'Mini'. This booklet summarises the results of nearly 2 years of study into the geological, archaeological, historical and ecological evidence that makes up Cleadon's unique story.

The project was conceived and funded by the **Limestone Landscapes Partnership**, administered by the **Heritage Lottery Fund**. It formed part of a 3 year programme of work intended to engage local communities in the discovery and conservation of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau.

The Atlas Project brought together local people and specialists in various fields to share knowledge and skills through a variety of workshops, field investigations, research and discussions, with the hope of promoting a greater understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of this magnificent, but potentially fragile, landscape. The Project Team included Penny Middleton and Chris Pole from Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd, an ecologist, Ivan Dunn, and a geologist, Brian Young. These four were joined by an enthusiastic group of local volunteers who helped with research and field investigations. There were also various guided walks, talks and exhibitions arranged throughout the duration of the project and children from Cleadon Church of England Academy got involved with a range of targeted classes and activities. A big thank you goes out to all those who took part.

This booklet is the little brother of the main Village Atlas Report which you can download from the Cleadon Village website at: [www.cleadon-village.co.uk](http://www.cleadon-village.co.uk).





# Workshops & Activities

There was a busy calendar of workshops and activities arranged throughout 2013-14, these included:

- Wildlife Survey (April 2013)
- Introduction to Archives (May 2013)
- Archaeological Landscape Survey (June 2013)
- Geological Survey (June 2013)
- Visit to Beamish Collections (June 2013)
- Looking at Buildings (June 2013)
- Earthwork Survey (July 2013)
- Building Recording (Sept 2013)
- Oral History Training (Jan 2014)

By far the most popular event was a community dig that took place over a glorious weekend in July 2013. Around 25 people took part in the excavation of remains of the 18th century Old Mill Farm. Many more popped along over the two days to see what was going on.



## ***Walks and Talks***

Running alongside the workshops and more active events were a range of guided walks, exhibitions and talks on topics including:

- The Geology of Cleadon
- Using Maps & Aerial Photographs in Landscape Survey
- The Conservation Area
- Archaeological Finds from the Cleadon Area
- Guided Walk Cleadon Hills
- Guided Walk Cleadon Village
- Heritage Open Day Exhibition
- Talk to the Boldon U3A
- Guided Walk Cleadon's Buildings
- Cleadon Celebration Event



## ***Schools Events***

Both staff and children from Cleadon Church of England Academy responded enthusiastically to a programme of events designed specifically to engage Cleadon's younger residents. Ivan led an exciting session exploring the wildlife around the Cleadon Hills and in the school grounds, identifying flowers, bugs and other squirming beasties. Brian then captivated his audience with tales of Cleadon millions of years before dinosaurs walked the earth. Penny and Chris followed up with sessions on BBC Domesday Reloaded and an archaeological excavation of the old 1960s school. Embracing the spirit of the project, the children also produced their own Cleadon Atlas project files.







### Location

Cleadon lies west of Whitburn, on the old turnpike road, about half way between Sunderland and South Shields. There has been a settlement here at least since the medieval period, and possibly earlier, the road being the primary route between the Anglo-Saxon monasteries of Jarrow and Monkwearmouth. The township was part of the parish of Whitburn and before 1974 lay in County Durham. It is now part of South Tyneside.



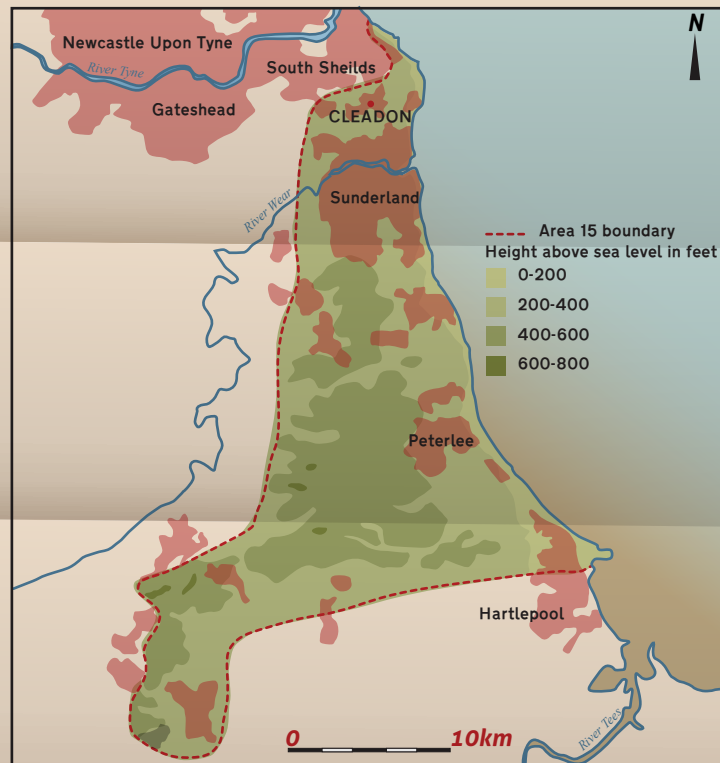
**Cleadon marked "Cleydon" on Chistopher Saxton's map of Durham, 1576.**

# In the Beginning: Cleadon's Geology

Cleadon lies at the northern extreme of the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau, a broad triangle of land stretching along the east coast from the Tyne to the Tees and extending inland to central Durham. The geology of the area has shaped the surrounding landscape, giving it a distinct character and influencing the development and fortunes of the communities that settled upon it. The rocks, soils, natural environment and water courses have determined where settlements were located; what people could grow and eat; the fuel they used to keep warm and cook; the material they could use to build their houses; the development of roads and railways, and the expansion of industry.

Cleadon's story begins nearly 320 million years ago. The oldest rocks seen at the surface today date to this period, when the British Isles formed part of a much larger land mass that lay almost astride the equator. The region at this time was a vast forest-covered delta plain. Layers of plant debris on the forest floor were periodically buried beneath layers of sand or mud as the land gradually subsided and the rivers shifted course. As these layers were buried beneath more sediments they became compacted and turned into the rocks we refer to today as the Coal Measures.

By Permian times, about 250 million years ago, northerly movement of the continental plates shifted the land further north of the equator. By this stage the area was a desert, covered by broken rock and lines of sand dunes. These were soon inundated by the waters of the Zechstein Sea that occupied much of what is now the North Sea, Germany, and Eastern Europe. Limy muds that accumulated on the sea floor became the rocks known today as Magnesian Limestone. Varying conditions during Permian times, including the periodic drying up of the Zechstein Sea, created the complex succession of limestones that give Cleadon's landscape its distinctive character today. These include some internationally important rocks like the famous 'Cannonball' Concretionary Limestones.



***The Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau, a unique landscape of international importance.***

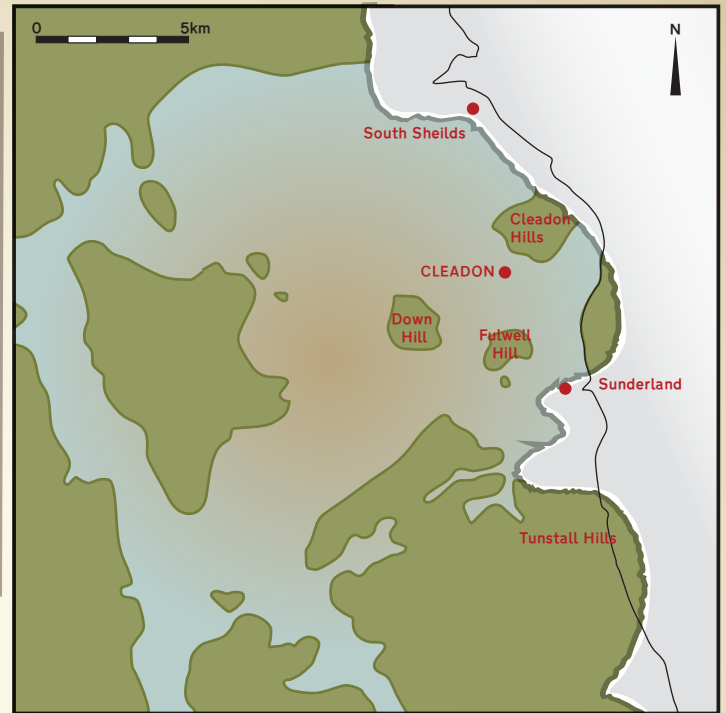




**Typical 'cannonball' limestone in a block in the garden wall of East Farm, Cleadon.**

By around 55 million years ago, during the Tertiary Era, the region had moved closer to its present latitude. During this period, major cracks in the Earth's crust extended across the area, these filled with molten rock associated with the formation of the Atlantic Ocean. The result was a series of faults, including the Hebburn Dyke that runs beneath the village. By the Quaternary Period, about 2.5 million years ago, the region had settled at its present latitude. Repeated episodes of global cooling across much of northern Europe created thick ice sheets over what is now northern England. A variety of erosion features and sediments deposited during these times record the complex movement of ice across the area.

The last ice melted as recently as 11,000 years ago, and since then erosion and depositional processes, coupled with human activity, has shaped, and continues to shape, the changing landscape.



**Glacial Lake Wear, which covered an area between Durham and the River Tyne in late glacial times. The approximate extent of the lake (pink) was dammed by the ice (blue) flowing down from the Cheviots along what is today the North Sea coast.**



**Old stone pits on Cleadon Hills, now almost completely grass-covered.**

# How the Local Rocks and Minerals Have Been Used

Everything we have used, since the dawn of civilisation, has either been dug from the Earth or grown upon it.

## **Coal**

Cleadon forms part of the Great North Coalfield. The Coal Measures outcrop at surface to the north and west of the village, and also run beneath it, hidden by later layers of clay and gravel. Across much of the Plateau these same Coal Measures are buried deep beneath the Magnesian Limestone, forming what is known as the 'concealed coalfield'. These areas could not be mined until technological advances in the first half of the 19th century. The nearest mine to Cleadon was the Whitburn Colliery at Marsden.

## **Limestone**

The limestone around Cleadon is suitable for the construction of cottages, barns and boundary walls, but can rarely be obtained in blocks large enough for making sills, lintels etc. Local limestone buildings can be seen across the village.



***This wall is built of local Magnesian Limestone but includes material derived from glacial erratic blocks including Whin sill dolerite (dark grey to black) and Coal Measures sandstones (shades of brown).***

## **Glacial Erratics**

These are far-travelled boulders, carried into the area by the progression of glaciers, deposited across the region when the ice sheets melted. They are used in the construction of some of the older cottages and walls and look distinctly different from the pale, cream-coloured local limestone.



## Clay

Brick and tile production was an important local industry from the 17th century onwards and by the mid-19th century there were several clay pits operating to the south and west of the village. One of the largest and oldest was the Cleadon Brick and Tile works, which gave its name to Tiledsheds Lane. Bricks from the works here may have been used to build Cleadon House, as well as numerous buildings and walls around the village. The abandoned clay pits now form the Tiledsheds Nature Reserve.

## Sand and Gravel

Parts of Cleadon sit above an outcrop of glacial sand and gravel. Sand and gravel has traditionally been extracted for use in building and road construction, and later there was an increase in demand from the iron and glass industries. A number of small gravel and sand pits are recorded on early maps of Cleadon including one on the north side of Boldon Lane, on what is now the 'Sandgrove' estate, named after the earlier industry.

## Water

Although commonly overlooked, water is one of the most widely used mineral products. The Yellow Sands Formation that underlies much of the area is a natural water-bearing formation, or aquifer. The water pumping Station opened in 1862, was built to exploit this valuable resource.

The Cleadon 'water tower' is actually a big chimney built to disperse smoke, steam and waste gases into the atmosphere. It is 100ft high (30m) and a spiral staircase, with 141 steps, leads to the top. In the 1950s a dome was built to cover the reservoir. This measured 175ft (53m) in diameter, weighed 560 tons, and at the time was the largest domed structure in Europe, larger even than St Paul's Cathedral.





# The Story of a Village: Cleadon's Archaeology and History

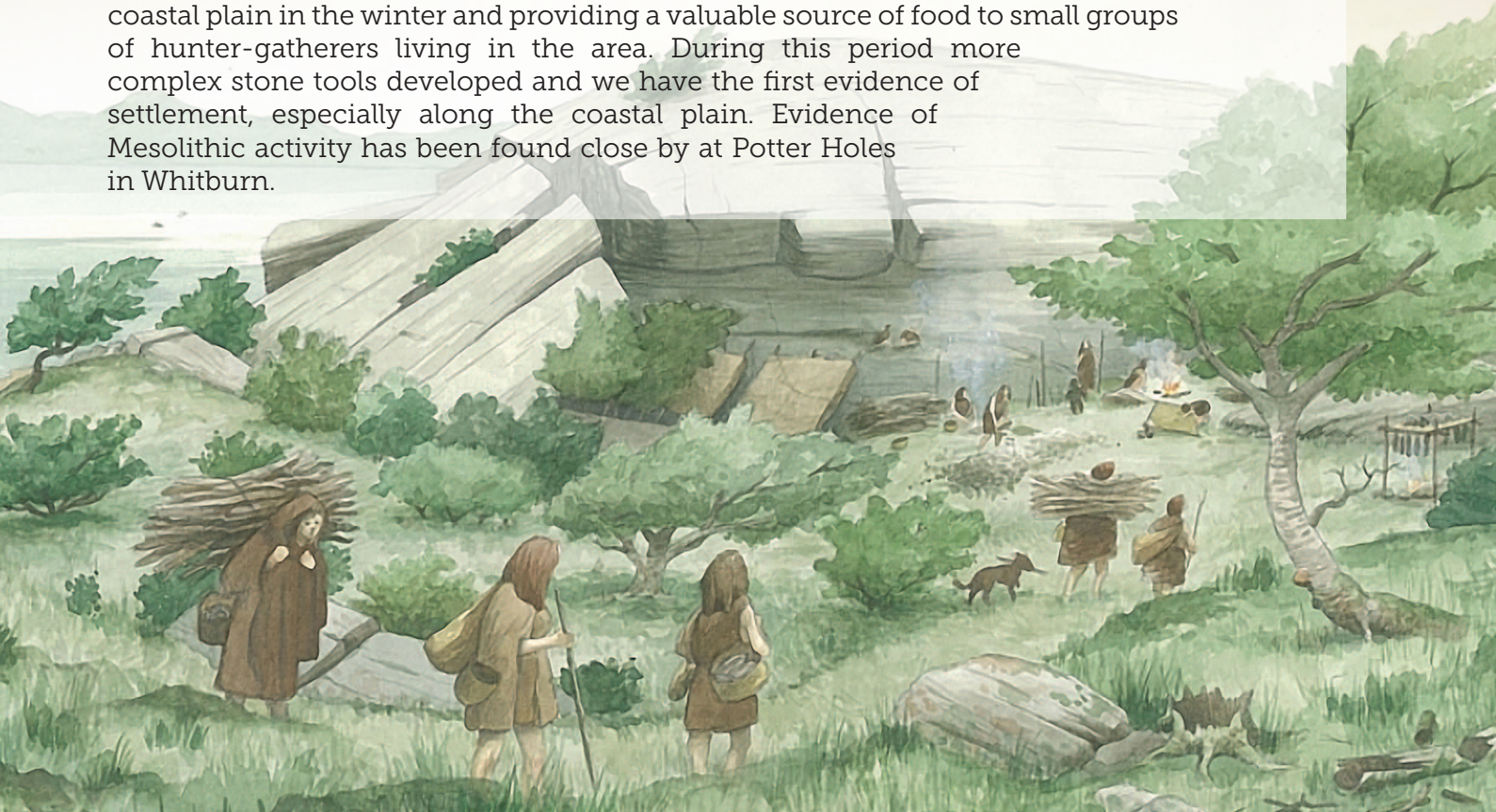
Originally spelt Clevedon, the name derives from the Anglo-Saxon words 'clif' and 'dun', meaning 'hill of steep slopes', and perhaps indicates that the first settlement was on the higher ground closer to the coast.

## ***Palaeolithic (before 10,000BC)***

Signs of human activity in the British Isles have been found dating back 700,000 years, to before the last Ice Age, but much evidence for this period was scoured away by the movements of the great glaciers. As late as 5,800 – 3,800 BC you could walk across to Norway from Cleadon, if you had the energy or the inclination, across a land mass that covered a large part of what is now the North Sea. This is referred to by archaeologists as 'Doggerland' and features a whole submerged archaeological landscape.

## ***Mesolithic (10,000 - 4,500BC)***

During this period Cleadon would have been covered with dense forests and herds of red deer, wild cattle, reindeer and elk roamed across the uplands, moving down to the coastal plain in the winter and providing a valuable source of food to small groups of hunter-gatherers living in the area. During this period more complex stone tools developed and we have the first evidence of settlement, especially along the coastal plain. Evidence of Mesolithic activity has been found close by at Potter Holes in Whitburn.





### ***Neolithic (4,500 – 2,300BC)***

Farming began, and gradually became more widespread during this period leading to a more settled way of life. Pollen analysis from the region indicates there was extensive forest and woodland clearance as land was enclosed and wheat and barley planted.

A Neolithic flint arrowhead and flint scatter represent the first direct archaeological evidence we have of human activity in Cleadon. These chance finds could have come from a temporary settlement or perhaps have been lost by a hunting party passing through. In the region there are known Neolithic sites at Copt Hill, Warden Law and Old Wingate.

In 1994 a polished stone axehead was found on Cleadon Hill, possibly coming from the Langdale axe quarries in Cumbria. This valuable item may have been buried with its owner or ritually deposited in some fashion and could indicate a former burial site. To the north-west of the village at Cleadon Laws there might also have been a barrow, now long disappeared. The term 'law' is Anglo-Saxon meaning rounded hill but is often used in association with an ancient barrow site.



***A beautiful polished Neolithic stone axe-head found near Catterick Garrison. An axe similar to this was found on Cleadon Hills.***

### ***Bronze Age (2,300 – 700BC)***

During this period we have more extensive evidence of our ancestors settling and managing their landscape. They lived in small scattered settlement groups, usually featuring one or two roundhouses, and continued to clear the woodland and forests to create new fields for planting crops. However, much of the surviving archaeological evidence is associated with death, and there are numerous examples of burial cairns on the higher ground at sites like Hastings Hill, Copt Hill and Warden Law.

There are no Bronze Age sites known from Cleadon, but at Wheattall Farm, Whitburn, a 'cist' burial was uncovered in 1929. A cist is a crouched burial of a body in a stone lined pit, sometimes covered by a small cairn. The Whitburn burial was of an individual who was about 35 years old when they died. They were buried with a small flint arrowhead and five other pieces of worked flint described as 'knives and flakes', as well as a handful of limpet shells. You can see a reconstruction of the cist at South Shields Museum.

### ***Iron Age (700BC - AD43)***

It is from the Iron Age onwards that we begin to find extensive evidence of settlement. Of course, people lived in communities before this, but for whatever reason the remains of these sites are not well-preserved in the archaeological record. During the Iron Age people were living in enclosed settlements, usually featuring one or two roundhouses, like those found beneath the Roman fort at South Shields. Penshaw monument, which can be clearly seen from Cleadon Hill, is now thought to be an Iron Age hillfort. Was there a settlement at Cleadon too?

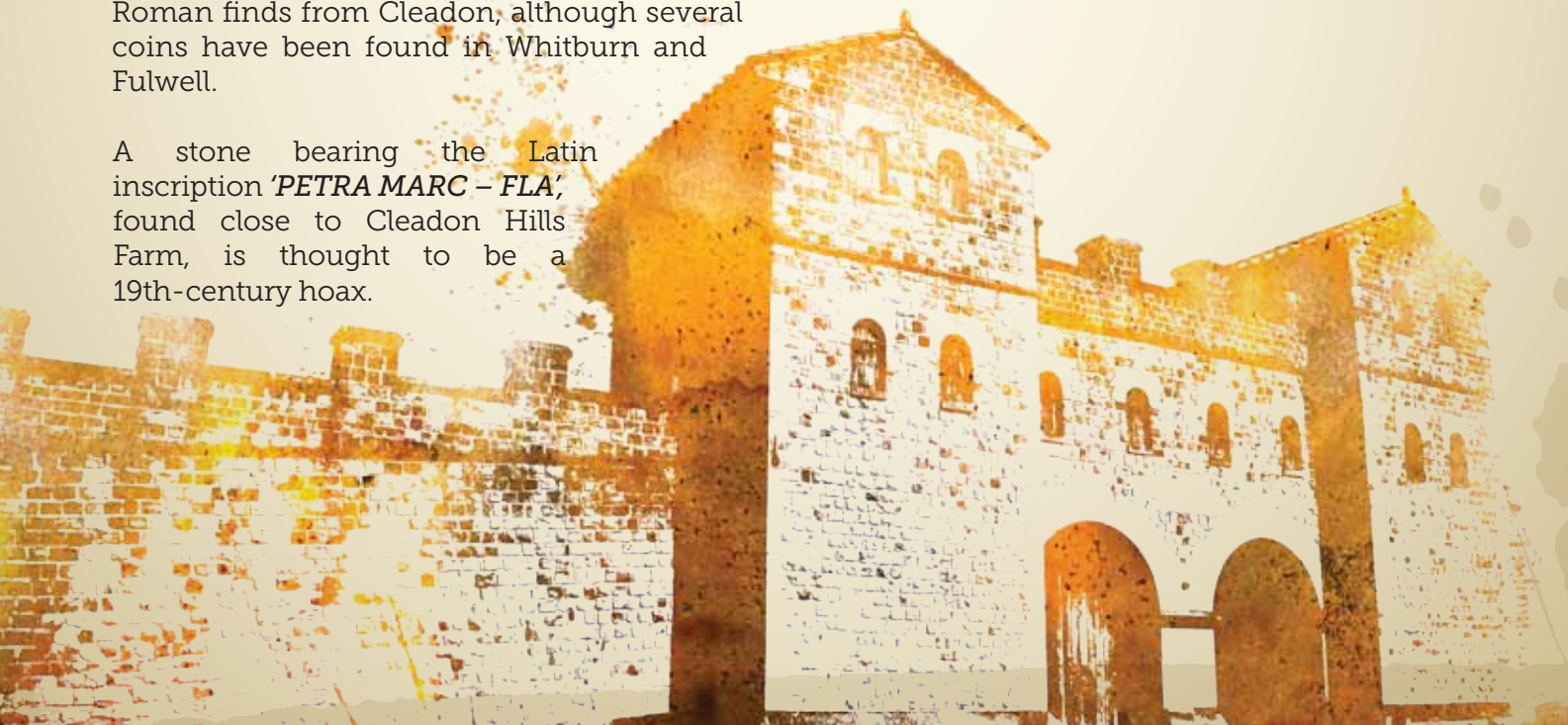


***A group of Cleadon villagers looking out from Cleadon hills towards the potential hillfort at Penshaw.***

### ***Roman (AD43 - 410)***

The Roman fort of Arbeia, at South Shields, lies 6.5 km north of Cleadon. It is highly likely that the farmers in the area would have provided supplies to the army and possibly traded local fresh food and delicacies with the soldiers keen to supplement their rations. Top of any legionnaire's 'things to buy' list would have undoubtedly included warm woollen goods! However, there are no known Roman finds from Cleadon, although several coins have been found in Whitburn and Fulwell.

A stone bearing the Latin inscription '**PETRA MARC – FLA**', found close to Cleadon Hills Farm, is thought to be a 19th-century hoax.





### **Anglo-Saxon (410 – 1066)**

Cleadon as we know it today was probably founded during this period. The name Cleadon is Old English in origin, the language spoken by the Anglo-Saxons. Other Old English place names nearby are Whitburn, meaning 'white barn' and Boldon means 'building on a 'hill', perhaps a farmstead.

In translation the name means 'hill of steep slopes', which is odd given that today Cleadon is located on the flat ground below the hill. This could mean that the original settlement shifted from the higher ground. This is likely to have occurred in the 7th century when King Ecgrith granted a large estate, including Whitburn and Cleadon, to found the twin monasteries of Jarrow and Monkwearmouth. Cleadon lay equidistant between the two monastic sites and the settlement may have moved at this point to cluster along the main route between the two.

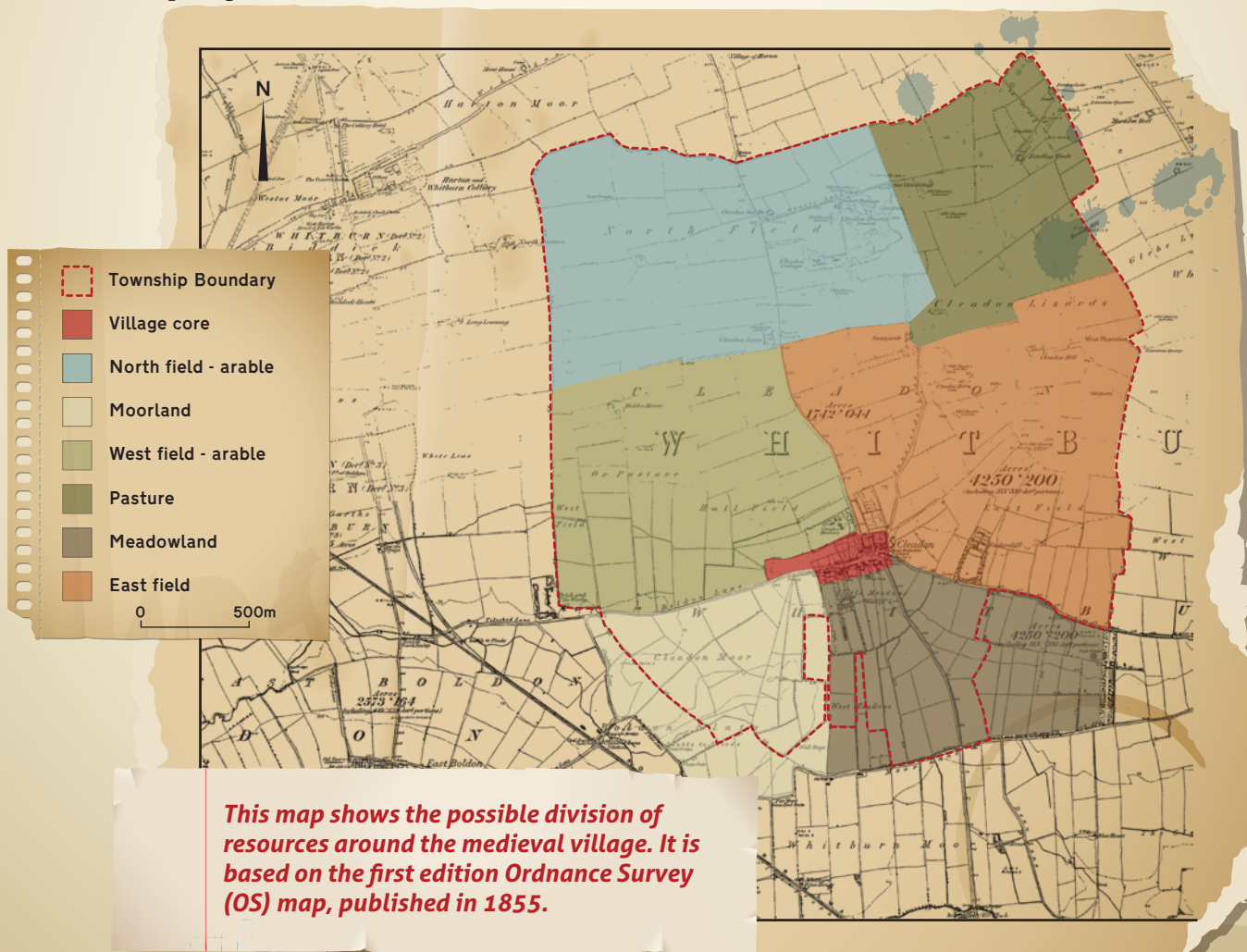


## Medieval

The first documentary reference we have to Cleadon is in the Boldon Buke, prepared for Bishop Pudsey in 1183. Sometimes called the Domesday Book of the North, this was a survey of all taxable lands belonging to the Bishop of Durham. There were 28 tenants recorded as living in Cleadon and Whitburn at this time, each owing service to the Bishop in return for land.

### What Makes a Medieval Village?

The key resources essential to existence in medieval England were: cereal crops, wood, water, cattle, sheep and labour. A medieval township was basically a territorial unit large enough to contain all of these in sufficient quantities to support a village, including pasture for grazing, arable for raising crops (barley, oats and wheat), woodland for timber, underbrush for fuel, and a stream or spring for water.





The term 'township' derives from the Old English word 'tun' meaning a village and has nothing to do with our modern 'town'. Cleadon and Whitburn were both townships within the parish of Whitburn. A parish was an ecclesiastical unit comprising enough land to support a church and the poor.

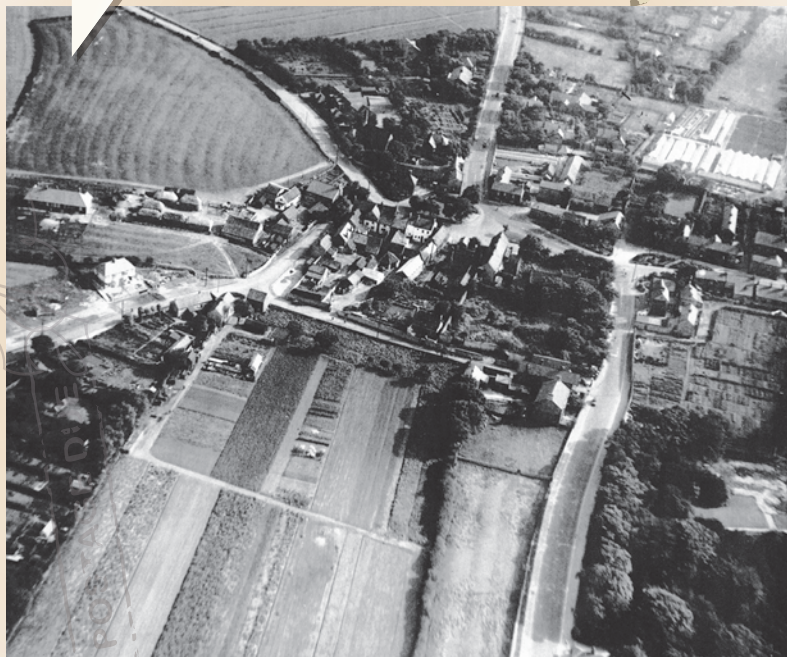
### **Ridge and Furrow**

The ridges you see in some fields around the village are the remains of medieval ploughing. It comprises broad platforms of earth – the ridges – used to grow crops, divided by deep ruts – the furrows – that provided drainage. Traces of this type of cultivation can be

### **Is Cleadon a Green Village?**

A Green Village is a form of settlement layout peculiar to County Durham. They are thought to be planned villages laid out by the Bishop of Durham in the 12th or 13th century as the most efficient form to maximise production. The green itself is often very large, like that at Staindrop and Gainford, but could also simply be a very broad street suitable to hold a market and corral animals in times of threat. Whitburn is acknowledged as a Green Village but Cleadon has been seen as something different. However, the evidence now suggests that Cleadon may in fact be a failed Green Village, the western half of the settlement just not developing in the long-term.

**Aerial photograph probably dating to the late 1930s that shows ridge and furrow extending to the north of Cleadon Lane. This photograph also shows Cleadon Nursery on the right side of the picture. Photograph courtesy of Maurice Chadwick.**

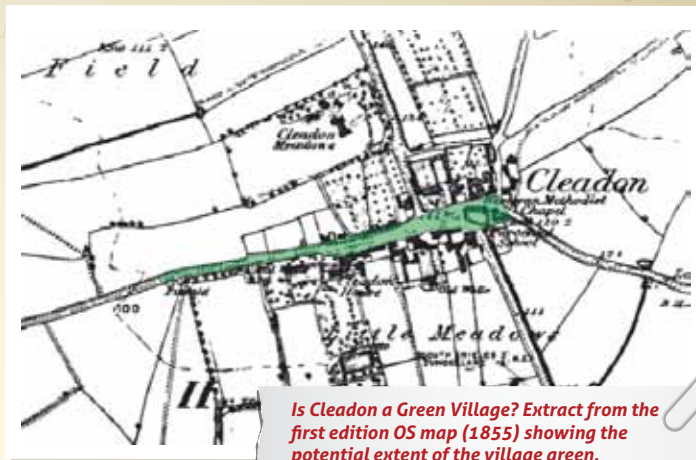


seen in the fields around the village, especially on the Cleadon Hills next to Cleadon Hills Farm, although a great deal has been lost since 1945.

There were three huge communal fields surrounding the village, known simply as North, East and West Field. Cereal crops would have been grown in these, with each villager having their own plot. They also shared grazing land on Cleadon Moor that lay to the south-west of the village on what is now the Plantation Estate, and on Cleadon Hills and Lizards – the name 'Lizards' derives from the OE leasowe, from 'leas' meaning meadowland.

# Tofts and Crofts

On each side of the linear green were laid out a series of narrow plots called 'tofts' or 'garths'. Each tenant held a toft as well as a portion of common field and rights to pasture and woodland. Tofts generally featured a 'croft', a small dwelling. As time went by tofts were often amalgamated to form larger plots but the old medieval pattern of the village can still be made out on the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map.



*Is Cleadon a Green Village? Extract from the first edition OS map (1855) showing the potential extent of the village green.*

## Cleadon's First Residents

In 1587 Queen Elizabeth ordered another survey, the first to draw a distinction between Cleadon and Whitburn. At this time seven copyhold tenants were living in 'Clevedon'.

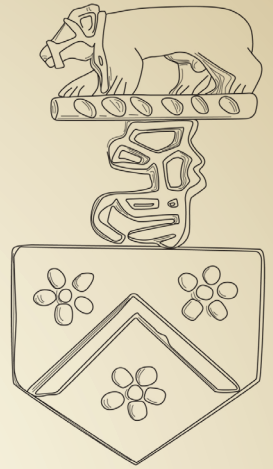
CLEVEDON.					
(COPIEHOLDERS.)					
Thomas Lighe .....	0	46	0	Robert Chamber .....	4 16 3
Stephen Key .....	3	9	1	John Mathewe .....	0 38 6
John Meryman [an ancestor of the family of Merriman of Boldon, Cleadon, &c.]..	0	23	0	Robert Aire .....	0 19 4
Thomas Lighe more .....	0	38	6	Alice Mathewe .....	0 19 4
The said Thomas Lighe ....	0	13	4	The said Alice Mathewe ....	. . .
				John Meryman .....	. . .

The largest landholder was Robert Chambers, who also held a substantial amount of property in East Boldon. The Chambers family are thought to have hailed originally from Alnwick and probably moved to the area on the invitation of Baron Hylton. In 1351 John de Chambers was High Bailiff of Newcastle and by 1509 another John Chambers is listed as the Collector for Cleadon. As the name suggests, the collector was responsible for collecting tax and rents due to the bishop; a role of considerable power and responsibility. The Chambers remained an important local family until the line died out in the late 17th century when the estate was sold to Robert Sutton.



### ***Cleadon Tower***

The Chambers lived in Cleadon Tower, first mentioned in the 1587 survey and probably the oldest surviving building in the village today. It was described in the mid-19th century by the historian Robert Surtees as a 'square tower of two stages, leaded, and with a spiral-stone stair-case to the top. It was attached to the East end of the present old mansion, and commanded a very extensive prospect'. The old tower was taken down by Richard Pemberton soon after 1795 but the 17th-century house still survives, and features a wonderful decorated fireplace set with the Chambers coat of arms above. The tower seen today was erected in 1881.



### ***The Lilburn Connection***

George Lilburn was Mayor of Sunderland and an important local figure during the Civil War. He married Isabel Chambers at Whitburn Church in 1620. A few years later, in 1637, the Chambers family were excommunicated, ostensibly for not using the Bishop's Mill, but it is more likely due to their non-conformist associations. It is said that after this the family had to be buried in the yard behind the house, and in 1927 the remains of five adults, found during the excavation of gravel pits opposite Cleadon House, were attributed to the Chambers family, although this is unlikely.



### ***The Civil War 1642 - 1649***

It is difficult for us today to imagine the impact of a Civil War in England. It tore communities like Cleadon apart with neighbour mistrusting neighbour. Much of the combat was focused in the South and the Midlands but in 1644 Cleadon was in the firing line, caught between the Royalist forces at Newcastle and Parliamentarians at Sunderland, culminating in March in the Battle of Boldon Hill.

The joint Scottish and Parliamentary forces were trying to head south to join the troops in Yorkshire, and it was imperative for the Royalists to stop them. The King's men took up position on the north side of the Wear, somewhere near Hylton. The Scots, meanwhile, were positioned on the Cleadon Hills. The Battle was fought in awful conditions with snow on the ground and freezing fog, many on both sides dying of cold.

Briar Cottage may have served as a field hospital after the battle. It was originally the blacksmith's, with forge in the yard behind. Blacksmiths often served as troop surgeons, cauterizing wounds and amputating limbs.

### ***17th Century Enclosure Agreements***

In April 1676 we have the first formal enclosure agreement relating to 'leazards', moor, pastures and three large arable fields, all lying within the 'township, townfields and territories of Cleadon'.

The agreement enabled tenants to exchange any scattered plots with their neighbours and group together land into more manageable and productive blocks. To manage these farmsteads new farms were built outside the village core, these included Sunnyside Farm, Cleadon Hills Farm, Holder's House Farm and West Farm.

### ***The Changing Face of Cleadon***

In the 18th century Cleadon became increasingly popular with a new middle-class who had made their fortunes in the emerging industrial and commercial heartlands of South Shields and Sunderland. The village, with its commanding views, clean air and relative peace, offered a sanctuary away from the noise and overcrowding of the urban centres but was still close enough to conduct business. Two new fine country houses were built during this period, Cleadon House and Cleadon Old Hall. Others followed in the 19th century, although sadly, many of these have now been demolished.









### **Cleadon Old Hall**

Cleadon Old Hall was built c. 1750 for John Burdon, who later built Hardwick Park. In 1935, a workman in the garden found a 'message in a bottle', a series of letters written by the 13-year-old Annie Stuart-Wilson to her imaginary cousin, Addie. The letters were written in 1870 and describe the life of a middle-class child in Cleadon in the 19th century. In the early 20th century the Old Hall was occupied by James Humble and was known as 'Humble Hall'. It was demolished in the 1960s.



*Cleadon Old Hall c. 1910. (South Tyneside Libraries)*

### **The Tithe Map**

The first detailed map of Cleadon is the 1839 Tithe Map. Before this, there were maps showing the outline of the village, but nothing in detail. The survey lists all the tenants and landowners in the township and is a fascinating document. It also records the names of all the fields in the parish and their use. The tithe is an invaluable record of the village on the cusp of major change, brought about by growing industrialisation in the 19th century.



### **Cleadon's Farms**

Cleadon has always been fundamentally a farming village. In 1839, at the time the tithe map was made, there were four farms in the village centre, all of which probably date back to the medieval period. These were Bainbridge Farm, South Farm, Burdon Farm and East Farm. Outside the village there were a further seven farms: Farding Slade, Sunnyside, Cleadon Laws, Holder's House, Cleadon Out House, Cleadon Mill and Cleadon Hill.

*Extract from the Whitburn Tithe Map showing Cleadon and Cleadon village farms in the early 19th century.*



### ***Expanding Industry***

Cleadon was not primarily an industrial settlement, but two industries did play an important role in the development of the village: stone quarrying and brick production.

Stone quarrying had been important since the medieval period and by the 18th century there were a number of small quarries dotted all over the Cleadon Hills. You can still see the remains of these today. In the 19th century two huge industrial quarries developed: Cleadon Park and Marsden Quarry. Limestone was initially used for building and burnt as quicklime for use as a fertiliser. Later it was used in concrete manufacture and the steel and chemical industries.



***An old limestone quarry south-east of Cleadon Mill; one of a large number of quarries worked in the area.***

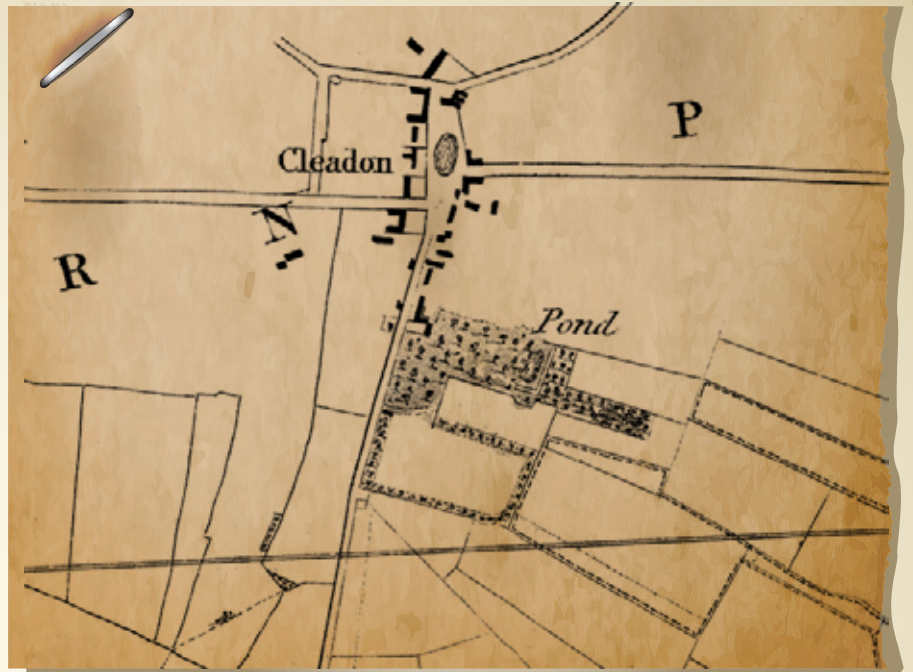


***Cleadon Brick and Tile Works shown in the 1855 first edition OS map.***

Bricks and tiles have been manufactured in Cleadon at least since the 17th century. The first works to open were the Cleadon Brick and Tile works on Tiledshed Lane, which gained its name from the industry. Bricks from this works were probably used in the construction of Cleadon House. By the 19th century there were four brickworks operating in the area and a number of Cleadon's residents are listed as 'brick manufacturers' in the local trade directories. Production had largely ceased by the outbreak of the Second World War. The former clay pits now form part of the Tiledshed's Nature Reserve.

### ***The Coming of the Railway***

The success of the various brickworks around Cleadon was due in no small part to the opening of the Brandling Junction Railway in 1839. The line ran from Gateshead to South Shields, with a spur branching south-east from Brockley Whins to join the new North Docks at Sunderland, with a stop at Cleadon Lane Station (now the East Boldon Metro). In 1854 the line became part of the North Eastern Railway (NER) network.



***Extract from Blakett's plan of an intended railway line from South Shields to Monkwearmouth showing Cleadon in 1831.***



***Tilshed's Signal Box in 1988.  
(c) John Hinson***

### ***Other Forms of Transport***

By 1907 the NER were also running a bus service from the South Shields Railway Station to Cleadon and Whitburn. Before the introduction of this service, travel around the local area would have been only by foot, horse or cart. Later, the construction of new housing estates in the village

saw a demand for further services and by 1831 the South Shields Corporation were running buses from the village to South Shields Market and from the Cleadon Park Estate to the station. There were even plans to build an electric tramway through Cleadon to connect South Shield and Sunderland, but the line was only laid as far as Cleadon Law. The tramway was in operation until 1946.

***The Cleadon Tramway that ran from South Shields to Cleadon Law until 1946.  
(Beamish Museum Archive)***





## ***Churches and Chapels***

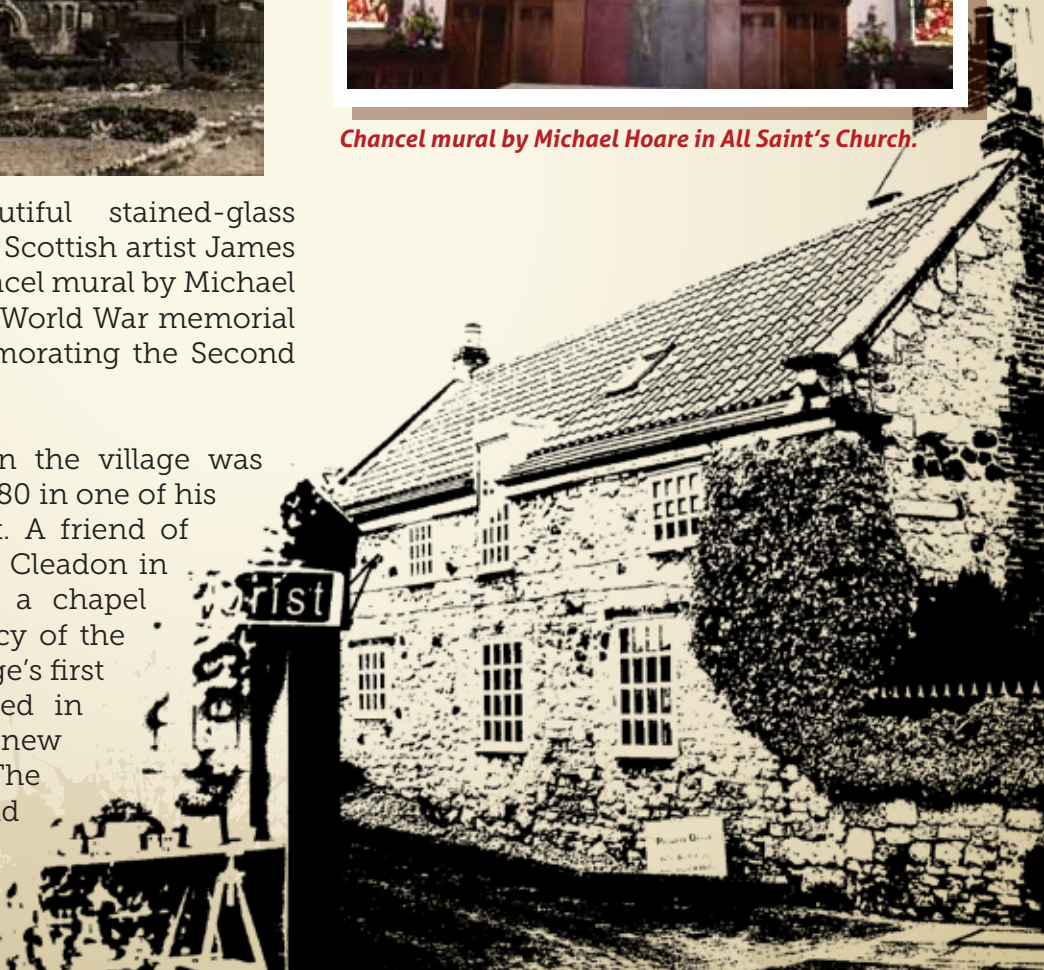
Until All Saint's Church was built in 1869 villagers had to make a 3-mile round trip every Sunday to St Mary's Church at Whitburn. Funds for the new church were raised by The Society of the Friends of Cleadon Church and the design commissioned from a Newcastle architect, Mr. R. J. Johnson.



***Chancel mural by Michael Hoare in All Saint's Church.***

The interior features beautiful stained-glass windows and paintings by the Scottish artist James Eadie Reed, and a striking chancel mural by Michael Hoare (1969), as well as a First World War memorial plaque and windows commemorating the Second World War.

The first Methodist Chapel in the village was founded by John Burdon in 1780 in one of his farm cottages on Front Street. A friend of John Wesley (who had visited Cleadon in 1743), he promised to open a chapel when he took over the tenancy of the farm. He also became the village's first Minister. The chapel remained in use for over 100 years until the new chapel was built in 1898. The former chapel still stands and has been recently renovated.



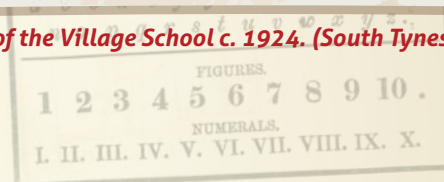


### ***Cleadon's Schools***

The Cleadon Parochial School was opened in 1830, nearly 50 years before the introduction of compulsory education. It stood on the south side of the pond where the Church Hall now stands. In 1903 it was replaced by a new schoolroom built next door. This was originally for children between the ages of 5 and 13 until a new senior school was built on Cleadon Lane in 1907. The old schoolroom then became the infant school. The Parochial school building remained until it was demolished in 1938 when the church hall was built. The infant school closed in 1963 when the primary school was built on Boldon Lane, the infants moving to Cleadon Lane. This finally closed in 2007 when the current Cleadon Church of England Academy was opened.



***Children of the Village School c. 1924. (South Tyneside Libraries)***





### **Cleadow's Pubs**

Cleadow once had three pubs - **The Ship**, **The Britannia** and **The Cottage Tavern**. Only the last two survive today. The Ship was a post and coaching inn on the corner of Front Street and the Sunderland - Shields turnpike, opposite the Church Hall. The Shields to Leeds coach used to stop there daily. A smithy in the yard served both the village and passing trade. In the Second World War it was the HQ of the local home guard. It was demolished in 1953 when the road was widened.



**The ship Inn.**

The present Britannia Inn was built in 1894, but there was an inn here long before this. The original building was once the house of the Matthews, one of Cleadow's founding families with roots going back to the 15th century. An original fireplace survives inside with the initials 'M M I' '1675' for Michael and Isobel Matthews. An effigy tomb to this couple can be found in Whitburn Church. Both The Ship and The Britannia were run by the Merrimen family in the 19th century who also ran pubs in Whitburn and East Boldon.

The last pub to be built was The Cottage Tavern, constructed in the latter half of the 19th century. This was probably a beerhouse rather than an inn - a cottage with a room for selling beer but without provision for food or accommodation. It was run by Joseph Welton in 1881 and Joe Horn by 1910. Despite having the village slaughterhouse immediately behind, the tavern proved very popular, with the sound of carousing reported across the village into the wee hours!



**The Cottage Tavern.**



**The Britannia Inn.**



*Rear View of Cleadon Meadows.*

### **19th Century Grand Houses**

Two large houses were built in the village in the 19th century. The first was **Cleadon Meadows**, built around 1830 for Captain Russell Bowlby, a colourful character with political aspirations, who was nearly killed in a duel after insulting a rival. In 1853 the property was bought by John Clay, the first mayor of South Shields. He demolished the building and commissioned architect John Dobson to build a new house. It was later the home of Alfred Doxford, owner of one of the largest shipyards on the Wear. The house was demolished to make way for the Cleadon Meadows housing estate in the 1960s.

The second of the grand houses to be built was Undercliff, constructed for James Allison, local brewer and mayor of Sunderland in 1853-4. In 1922 the house was sold to Col. Robert Chapman, a distinguished army officer, awarded the DSO in 1916. He became mayor of South Shields in 1931, MP for Houghton-le-Spring in 1931 and 1935, and was created 1st baronet of Underhill, Cleadon in 1958. He died in the same year. The property passed to his son, Robert, also a distinguished soldier. He and his wife were actively involved in the village until he died in 1987. The property is now divided into private apartments.

### **Cleadon at War**

Cleadon's proximity to the ports of Sunderland and Tyne meant it was strategically placed as a training centre for troops. Many young men were stationed in the village before being sent to the Front. There were hutment camps at the Cleadon Cottage Homes and the golf course, and troops were also billeted at Underhill House and Cleadon Meadows, where there was a large training ground. The men took part in drill and weapons training and dug practice trenches. Some of the linear features you can see in the field south of Cleadon Mill may be the remains of these. The bullet holes in the mill are evidence that the area was used for small-arms training.



*James Allison, as Mayor of Sunderland.*





***The DLI digging trenches at Cleadon, with the Pumping Station tower visible in the distance. (Durham Record Office)***

***The classic practice trench, dug by the Durham Light Infantry at Hylton Castle, trenches like this would have been dug at Cleadon Meadows, Cleadon Hills and elsewhere. (DRO D/DLI 2/8/60)(16)***



During the Second World War there was an Anti-Aircraft battery where the Soccer Academy now stands. There was also a gun emplacement on Cleadon Hills and, at nearby Welland Farm, a bombing decoy. This was a complex arrangement of flashing lights and pyrotechnics designed to deceive enemy bombers into thinking they were flying over the docks so that they would despatch their bombs harmlessly into a field. The golf course and fields to the north of Tiledshed Lane were also strewn with aircraft obstructions, ditches aimed at preventing an invasion force landing. Like much of South Tyneside, Cleadon suffered three years of enemy bombing from 1940-43, with several casualties being reported.

### ***The War Memorial***

The Cleadon War memorial, which stands in front of Cleadon Tower, was erected in 1920. It features the names of 22 men who gave there lives in the First World War and also unusually includes all of those who fought and returned safely. After the Second World War further names were added, and in 1997 a commemorative stone was added to remember those from the Cleadon Cottage Homes who had lost their lives in both wars.

### ***Post-War Cleadon***

Like many villages, town and cities in the local area, Cleadon suffered badly in the 1960s and 70s at the hands of planners and developers. During this period the appearance of Cleadon changed dramatically but, thankfully, the historic character of the village core remains intact. Today, Cleadon is a welcoming and friendly place, with a strong sense of its heritage and cultural identity. Its residents are rightly passionate and protective of their strong links with the past, while enthusiastically embracing the various opportunities, and challenges, of the future.



# Around Us Today: Cleadon's Natural Environment

The underlying geology, of course, largely determines the soil and vegetation types of the area. The absence of major water resources is compounded by the Magnesian Limestone that allows the majority of rainwater to soak away. On the whole this has led to a dry landscape more conducive to grassland and arable farming than woodland or wetland features. There are a few water features, mainly in the form of small ponds; the most notable of these is in the centre of the village.

## ***Cleadon Hills***

Cleadon Hills has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. They include some of Britain's most spectacular and beautiful habitats. Cleadon Hills has a number of regionally and nationally rare plant species, including Small Scabious, Betony, Rock Rose, Salad Burnett and Pignut, and a fairly large population of Columbine in the Spring. The area is also important for birds and butterflies. Birds including the Lesser Whitethroat, Linnet, Yellowhammer and Skylark. In addition to the common butterfly species, a number of Wall Brown butterflies were recorded, until recently an exclusively southern species. Other butterfly species include Peacock, Red Admiral, Large, Small and Green-veined White, Common Blue and Small Tortoiseshell.

## ***Cleadon Pond***

While looking attractive, there are factors limiting the wildlife potential of the pond. But, it remains of importance as a source of drinking water for birds and animals, and as a food source for those living off aquatic insects, like the Grey Wagtail. The main fauna found in the pond are snails and Sticklebacks. Rich silt and decomposing vegetation are ideal for them. Other species include Water Boatman, Mosquito, Olive Mayfly, Stonefly, Bloodworm and Pond Skater.

## ***Cleadon Village and Environs***

The local limestone used in constructing certain walls and buildings provide habitats for plant species more usually associated with quarry faces, including



Pineapple mayweed

Rockrose

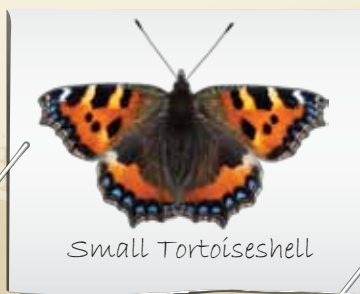
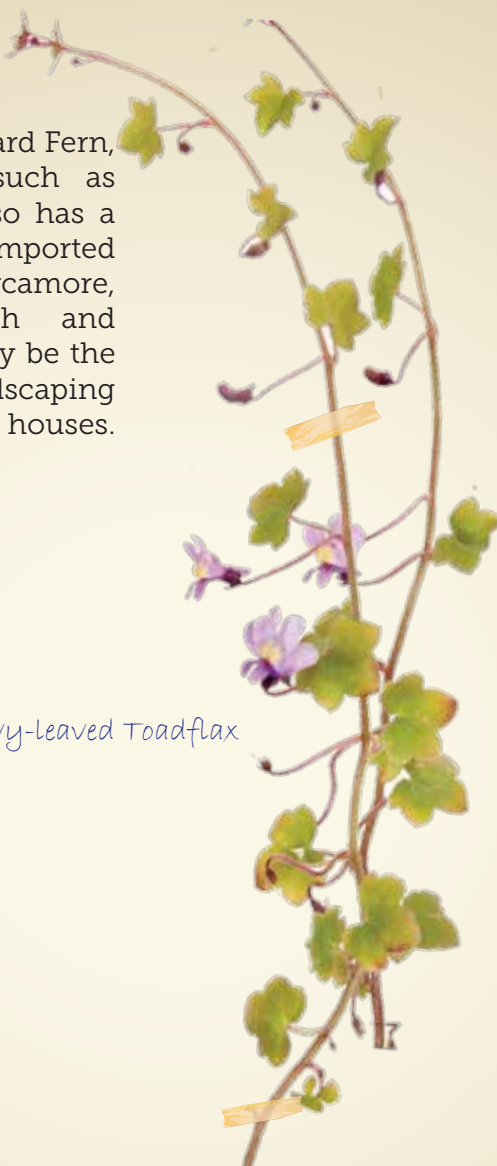


Hart's Tongue Fern, Wall Rue and Hard Fern, as well as commoner species such as Ivy-leaved Toadflax. The village also has a number of wooded gardens with imported species, such as Monkey Puzzle, Sycamore, Horse Chestnut, Copper Beech and European Larch, some of which may be the legacy of 18th and 19th century landscaping associated with Cleadon's grand houses. There are few veteran native trees.

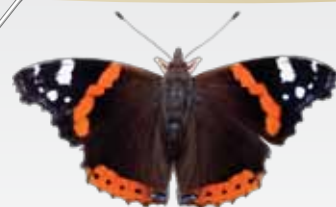


Scabious

Ivy-leaved Toadflax



Small Tortoiseshell



Red Admiral



Wall Brown



Large White



Green-veined



Small White



Peacock

### ***Tilsheds Local Nature Reserve (LNR)***

This provides an important area for nature conservation. It is primarily newly planted woodland but also includes important Magnesian Limestone grassland and a small wetland area. The grassland includes a large population of orchids as well as species such as Ragged Robin, Greater Knapweed, Glaucous Sedge, Ox-Eye Daisy and Meadow Vetchling. The woodland provides a good habitat for birds and insects including Bullfinch, Greater-spotted Woodpecker and Speckled Woodpecker. The pond provides habitat and breeding ground for water birds, including Mute Swan, Mallard, Goose and Moorhen.



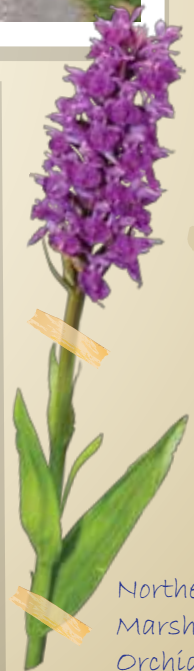
*The Cleadon Tilsheds nature reserve is an important area of nature conservation.*



*Cattle and horse grazing is used to control the grassland on Boldon Flats.*

### ***Boldon Flats***

Boldon Flats, situated to the south of the village, is subject to flooding, forming an important wetland habitat ideal for winter wading birds. During the summer a range of bird life includes Heron, Moorhen, Mallard and the occasional Lapwing and Greylag Goose. A number of bee and butterfly species, including Small White and Speckled Wood frequent the hedgerows and field margins.



*Northern  
Marsh  
Orchid*





*Common Blue on Ragged Robin, the Ragged Robin is one of the many plants found in the Tilesheds Nature Reserve.*



Hawthorn

### **Agricultural Areas**

Outside the village the area mainly consists of arable agriculture and horse grazing. Remaining hedges are probably the most important habitats, but some annual pioneer species can find a home, including species such as Knotweeds, Pineapple Mayweed and Chamomile. Standard trees, in association with the hedges, provide additional habitats.



*Arable agriculture is predominant to the south and west of Cleadon Hills.*

# THANK YOU

A large number of people have contributed to the Atlas Project through their time, knowledge, individual research and/or general interest. Particular thanks are due to Brian Bage and John Robinson, without whom the whole thing would have floundered, but also to Hilary Davidson, Maurice Chadwick, Andrea George, Paul Skinner, Craig Fitzakerly and Kathleen Robinson, and others too numerous to mention individually but whose contributions were no less appreciated and welcomed. Extra special thanks are also due to Paul Skinner for editing the main report. We also appreciate the active involvement of Councillor Margaret Meling, and support of Councillor Jeffrey Milburn and the Reverend Vernon Cuthbert. Thanks also to Mayor Cllr Fay Cunningham for opening the Cleadon Celebration Day in November 2014.

Special thanks to Gavin and Patricia Spencer for permission to traipse through their beautiful home during the recording of Cleadon Tower. Also to Claire Rawcliffe and Lucy Routledge from South Tyneside Council, and Jennifer Morrison, the Tyne and Wear County Archaeological Officer, for all their help, advice and involvement, and to Tom Charman from Natural England for arranging permission to excavate on the Cleadon Hills SSSI. Thanks to Jane Beckett and all the teachers and pupils at Cleadon Church of England Academy for their unceasing enthusiasm, hard work and inspiring imaginations. One of the aims of the project was to form links with other related groups and we would like to thank Martin Roberts and the members of *the North East Vernacular Architecture Group (NEVAG)* who worked on the Cleadon Tower recording project, and Belinda Burke and *the Archaeology and Architectural Society of Durham and Northumberland (AASDN)* for organising the earthwork survey of the mill. We are also grateful to the staff at Beamish, the Discovery Museum, Durham Record Office, Sunderland Local Studies Library, South Tyneside Libraries and Durham University Special Collections. The artwork on page 10, is used with the kind permission of Phillip Austin.

Finally, thanks are due to Tony Devos, Ken Bradshaw and Anne Kelly from *the Limestone Landscape Partnership* team for commissioning, supporting and mobilising the Atlas Project, and not least to the *Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)* for funding the work. We also thank the other project contributors, Ivan Dunn (ecologist) and Brian Young (geologist) for their enthusiasm, knowledge, commitment and patience, and Pete and Ros Lorimer from Pighill Graphics for all their design ideas. **Thank You!**





## 1800 - 1899

**1801**

675 living in Cleadon and Whitburn.

**1828**

First trade directory of the village is published by Parson.

**1830**

Rev. George Cooper Abbs inherits Cleadon House. Parochial School opens. Cleadon Meadows built.

**1839**

Whitburn Tithe is produced.



- *Whitburn Tithe map 1839*

**1853**

John Clay employs John Dobson to build a new house at Cleadon Meadows. Undercliff is built for James Allison.

**1855**

200 living in Cleadon.

**1869**

All Saint's Church built.

**1870**

Frances Wilson leaves a message in a bottle at Cleadon Old Hall.

**1874**

Whitburn Colliery opens.

**1889**

Pumping Station opens.

**1894**

New Britannia Inn opens.

**1899**

New Methodist Chapel opens.

## 1900 - 1949

**1900**

Work begins on the Plantation Estate, Cleadon's first housing estate.

**1903**

New school opens.

**1907**

New Senior School opens on Cleadon Lane.

**1909**

Cleadon Cottage Homes open.

**1910**

Mathilde Franck crashes at Boldon Racecourse.

**1911**

152,000 miners employed in the Durham Coalfield.

**1927**

Six bodies found during gravel extraction. Are these the Chambers family?

**1914-18**

Training and hutment camps at Cleadon.



- *The DLI digging trenches at Cleadon in WW1*

**1920**

War memorial erected.

**1928**

The Tyne Bridge is built.

**1939-45**

Heavy AA battery at Cleadon and bombing decoy at Whitburn. Cleadon suffers several bombing attacks.

## 1950 - 1999

**1951**

Cleadon Drama Club moves into new premises.

**1953**

The Ship Inn and South Farm demolished.

**1960s**

The Old Hall, Cleadon Meadows and Georgian Cottages demolished.

**1960s - 70s**

Shipyards Closures on the Wear and the Tyne.

**1974**

Reorganisation of local government, Tyne & Wear created.

**1975**

Cleadon and the Cleadon Hills are both designated Conservation Areas.



- *Cleadon Hills*

**1978**

South Shields Golf Club opens new clubhouse.

**1982**

Cleadon Park House demolished.

**1983**

Cleadon holds 800th anniversary celebrations.

**1984-85**

Miner's Strike.

**1997**

Cottage Homes memorial erected.

## 2000 - 2015

**April 2013**

Village Atlas begins.



- *A visit to the archives.*

**June - Sept 2013**

Various field work projects with the School and local people.

**July 2013**

Excavation at Old Mill Farm.



- *Cleadon Mill Farm excavations 2014*

**Sept 2013**

Recording at Cleadon Tower.

**Nov 2014**

Cleadon Celebration Day.

**Feb 2015**

Cleadon Village Atlas Released.

**March 2015**

Website and Cleadon booklet released.

# NAA

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Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd  
Marwood House,  
Harmire Enterprise Park,  
Barnard Castle  
Co. Durham  
DL12 8BN

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Landscapes



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