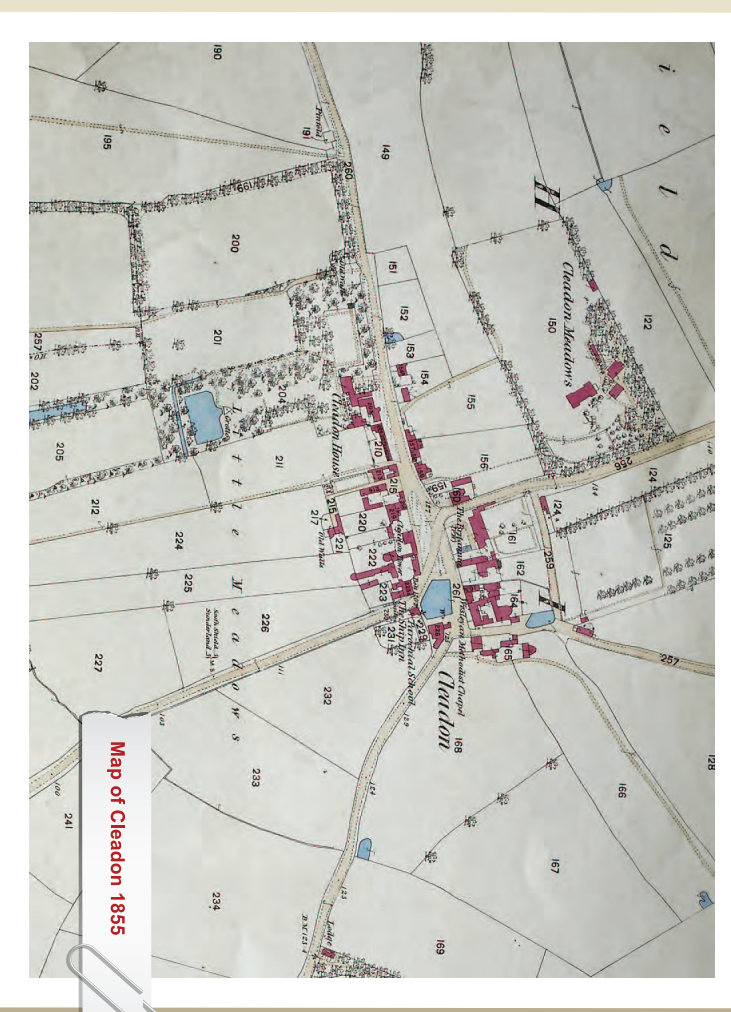




Bringing in the havers



Burdon Farm



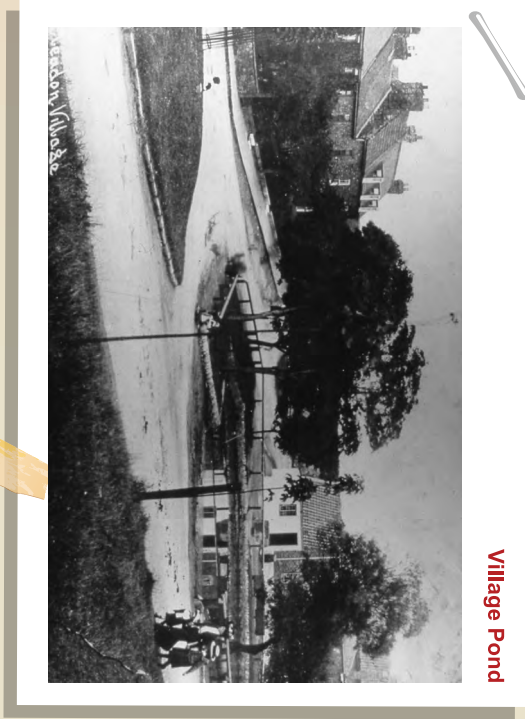
Map of Cleadon 1855

Just outside the village are the remains of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing (5). This formed part of three huge communal fields, known simply as North, East and West Field, which once surrounded the village. Cereal crops would have been grown here with each villager having their own plot. They also shared grazing land on Cleadon Hills to the north of the village and Cleadon Moor to the south-west.

Burdon Farm (3) was one of four, perhaps five, farms that formed the core of the medieval farming village. Four of these farms were still standing in the mid-19th century: Burdon Farm, East Farm (4), Bainbridge and South Farms (19), the last two now lost. The buildings you see today date to the 18th century.

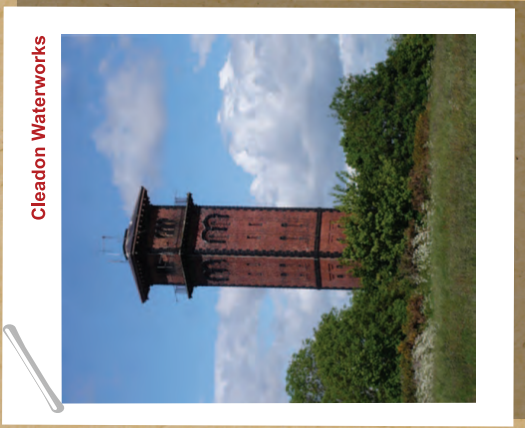
Our walk begins at the village pond (1) (map overleaf). The pond was the core of the old medieval village. Known as Cleadon Lake, it was once much bigger than it is today but was reduced when the road was widened in 1936. The Shields Road, which runs through the village, was turnpiked in 1796 but has been an important route since medieval times. Behind the pond (2) was the village well and a group of small cottages known as the 'Cluster', demolished in 1912.

Our walk begins at the village pond (1) (map overleaf). The pond was the core of the old medieval village. Known as Cleadon Lake, it was once much bigger than it is today but was reduced when the road was widened in 1936. The Shields Road, which runs through the village, was turnpiked in 1796 but has been an important route since medieval times. Behind the pond (2) was the village well and a group of small cottages known as the 'Cluster', demolished in 1912.



Village Pond

If you have time, walk down Sun Lane to visit the Cleadon Waterworks (3). The chimney tower still dominates the skyline today. On the hill is Cleadon Mill (4) (24). It is said to be haunted by the ghost of Elizabeth Gibbon, the miller's daughter, who threw herself off the top.



Cleadon Waterworks



Cleadon Mill

Getting here:

Cleadon is on the A1018 4 miles north of Sunderland City Centre. Free parking is limited. For information on public transport visit www.traveline.info or telephone 0871 200 22 33.

This leaflet has been produced as part of the Cleadon Village Atlas Project, part of Limestone Landscapes, a three-year programme part-funded by a £1.9m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Northern Marsh Orchid growing, a part of Cleadon's rich flora

If you would like to know more about Cleadon visit: www.cleadon-village.co.uk



Welcome to Our Village

There have been people living here for thousands of years. Neolithic flints and a beautiful stone axe, dating back over 6,500 years, have been found on the Cleadon Hills. Originally spelt *Clyuedon*, the name derives from the Anglo-Saxon words 'clif' and 'dun', meaning 'hill with cliff', and perhaps indicates that the first settlements were on the higher ground closer to the coast.

and Whitburn, each owing service to the Bishop in return for land. Over the next 830 years this little farming community stood witness to many of the events that have shaped the history of the North East: raids, plague, famine, religious upheaval, civil war, agricultural reform, industrial expansion and two world wars. But the true story of Cleadon lies in the generations of people who have lived here. Their past can still be traced in the streets, houses, fields and landscape around the village - if you know where to look.

Cleadon Village

A short walk through history



THE CLEADON VILLAGE ATLAS



Map of 1576

The village of Cleadon lies west of Whitburn, on the old turnpike road, about half way between Sunderland and South Shields. It sits on the Magnesian Limestone Plateau, a broad triangle of land stretching along the east coast from the Tyne to the Tees, laid down in the Permian Period almost 280 million years ago. The unique geology of this area gives the surrounding landscape a distinct character and has influenced the development and fortunes of the communities that have made this plateau their home.

Continued from overleaf

The senior school over the road (6) was built in 1907 and is still fondly known as ‘The Big School’, the children were divided, with boys on one side and girls on the other.

Cleadon and Whitburn were originally part of a single parish and until All Saint’s Church (7) was built in 1869 villagers had to walk two miles to St Mary’s Church at Whitburn. The church interior features beautiful stained glass windows and paintings by the Scottish artist James Eadie Reed, and a striking mural by Michael Hoare.

Returning to the village, this small farm cottage (8) was the old Methodist Chapel. John Wesley visited Cleadon in 1743, preaching at South Farm (19). His friend, John Burdon, took over the lease of the farm in 1780 and promised to open a chapel. It remained in use for over a 100 years until the new chapel was built in 1898.

Blacksmith’s Cottage (9) (now Briar Cottage) had a forge in the rear yard and is thought to have been used as a field hospital in 1642, treating troops wounded after the Battle at Boldon Hill.

This was the location of Cleadon Old Hall (10), built c.1750 for (a different) John Burdon who later built Hardwick Park near Sedgfield. Old Hall was just one of a number of fine houses built in the 18th and 19th centuries for wealthy businessmen. The village offered an attractive place to live away from the sights, smells and noise of the urban centres, but still close to Sunderland, South Shields and Newcastle. The Old Hall was demolished in the 1960s.

The Cottage Tavern (11) was serving as an inn by 1891. Next to the pub is Grove House (12), owned by Henry Burdon, the village butcher - his name can still be seen above the bricked-up door in the south gable. The slaughter house was in the backyard, right next to the tavern!

Cleadon Meadows (13) was another of the Cleadon’s great houses. It was first built around 1830 for Captain Russell Bowlby, a colourful character with political aspirations who was nearly killed in a duel after insulting one of his rivals. In 1853, it was home to the first mayor of South Shields, John Clay. He had a new house built, designed by the famous architect John Dobson. It was later the home of Alfred Doxford, owner of the great shipyard on the Wear. During WWI it was a training ground for troops. The house was demolished in the 1960s.



Methodist Chapel



Cottage Tavern



Cleadon Meadows



The Church



Grotto

The Britannia Inn (14) was one of two coaching inns in Cleadon. The present building dates to 1894 and replaced a much older house. An original fireplace from this still survives inside the pub with the initials ‘M M I’ ‘1675’ for Michael and Isobel Matthews. An effigy tomb to the couple can be found at Whitburn Church.

Cleadon House (15) was built in 1739 for John Dagnia, who owned salt pans and glassworks in South Shields. The house was set in 15 acres of pleasure gardens which included a large pond and grotto. The grotto still stands in Coulthard Park (16). The house was later the home of the naturalist and scholar, the Rev. George Abbs, known locally as ‘St Francis of Assisi’ because of his love of nature.

Cleadon Tower (17) was first mentioned in 1587 and may be the oldest building in Cleadon. It was owned by the Chambers Family, the principal family in the village. In 1620 Isabel Chambers married George Lilburn, a Puritan, who served as Mayor of Sunderland and was an important figure in the Civil War. In 1637 the family was excommunicated, ostensibly for not using the Bishop’s Mill, but perhaps more likely because of its non conformist associations. It is said that the family had to be buried in the yard behind the house. The old tower stood on the east side of the present building but was demolished around 1790. The ‘mock’ tower attached to the house today was built in 1891.

In front of Cleadon Tower stands the War Memorial (18). The WWI plaques commemorate not just the 23 men who died but also the 169 men who fought and returned. Next to Cleadon Tower was South Farm (19), where John Wesley preached in 1746 and The Ship Inn (20), the second of Cleadon’s coaching inns, both were demolished in 1953.

All Saints Parish Hall (21), built in 1938, replaced the old parochial school, which opened in 1830. Next door the new school was built in 1903 (22). This was used until the senior school (6) was built in 1907 and then became the infants’ school.



Cleadon House



Britannia Inn



Cleadon Tower



War Memorial



The Ship Inn