

THE EASINGTON ATLAS

TWO COMMUNITIES OF THE MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE PLATEAU

Edited by Alan Rushworth
with text and illustrations by
The Archaeological Practice Ltd,
Mary Bell, Richard Carlton,
Ivan Dunn, Sophie Laidler,
Jeff Playle, Ian Roberts,
Peter Ryder and Paul Williams
with the collaboration of the
people of Easington



THE EASINGTON ATLAS

THE LANDSCAPE, HISTORY & ENVIRONMENT OF EASINGTON VILLAGE & COLLIERY - COMMUNITIES OF THE MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE PLATEAU



Extract from Bell's Map of the Great Northern Coalfield, Hartlepool District, 1843 (Durham County Record Office, Londonderry Estate Archives D/Lo 242/1). Reproduced by kind permission of Lord Londonderry and Durham County Record Office.

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A wide range of contributions have been made to the Easington Atlas project by members of the local community. These contributions include the provision of photographs and documents, oral history recordings (interviewers and interviewees), project co-ordination and participation in events, such as talks, workshops and guided walks, plus a number of contributions to the final report which are individually acknowledged in the contents list. This process was facilitated by a steering group composed of members of the local community. Accommodation for most of the meetings and talks/workshops was provided by the Healthworks – the local health centre and community centre – providing accommodation for the meetings. Launch and Ingathering events were hosted by Seaton Holme, the historic home of Easington Village Parish Council, and the Easington Social Welfare Centre ('The Welly') on Seaside Lane, Easington Colliery. Particular thanks must go to Group Chairman, Jeff Playle, local historians Eileen Hopper and Mary Bell, and other stalwart members, notably but not exclusively, John Hopper, David and Sally Bowers, Michael Welsh, Mavis Farrell, Jim Mearman, William Clark and Florence Lowry. Thanks must also go to Andrea Swift Headteacher of Easington Village CofE Primary School, Kelly Youngs, education co-ordinator for Easington Colliery Primary School, Liz Coxon, Deputy Head at Glendene Academy, Easington Colliery, and to Gaynor Crute, Clerk of Easington Village Parish Council, and Geoff Price at the Easington Social Welfare Centre. General project co-ordination was provided by Ken Bradshaw, Tony Devos and Angela Stoddart of the Limestone Landscapes Partnership.

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Numerous historic photographs were supplied by Eileen Hopper, the Easington Village Parish Council Archive – 'Easington People Past and Present' – and Mary Bell's archive. The staff of Durham Record Office, Beamish Museum, Bowes Museum and the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers kindly hosted group visits and/or assisted in providing access to the collections and archives under their curation. Images of the following maps and plans held by Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections are reproduced by

permission of the Church Commissioners for England – a late 19th century map reconstructing the 1655-72 enclosure awards (DHC6/III/16) and 1st edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Durham Sheet 28.3 (DHC11/III/28/3/3). A copy of an 1830 map of Easington and Shotton townships showing the different forms of tenure (CCB/MP/135), a 1st edition 6in Ordnance Survey sheet covering Easington Parish with the boundaries of constituent townships highlighted (CCB/MP/136) and a series of maps dated 1789 and 1790 showing leasehold properties in Easington and Thorpe (CCB/MP/137 & 138a-c), are reproduced by permission of Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections. The 1839 Easington Township tithe map (DDR/EA/TTH/1/77) is reproduced by permission of the Durham Diocesan Registrar. The following maps are reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office (DRO): Saxton's map of County Durham 1576 (DRO D/CL 23/02), the Map of Durham County by John Speed n.d. [1611] (DRO D/XP 26), Robert Morden's Map of County Durham 1695 (DRO D/CL 23/14), Christopher Maire's New Map of the County Palatine of Durham 1711/20 (DRO D/CL 23/15), 'A new map of the county of Durham' by Jones & Smith 1808 (DRO D/CL 23/46), Hall's map of the Great Northern coalfield 1861 (DRO D/CL 23/73), The Plan of John Nesham's estate of Pespool 1764 (DRO NCB 1/X 216), the Plan of Easington Township c.1839/40 (DRO D/Bo/G16ii), the 1898 Plan of the Coalfields belonging to the Marquis of Londonderry and the Easington Coal Company (DRO D/XP 82) and two plans drawn from the official report on the 1951 Easington Colliery Disaster (DRO D/XP 162/1-2). The County Palatine of Durham Survey'd by Capt. Armstrong 1768, revised 1791 (Durham County Record Office Londonderry Estate Archives D/Lo/P 239), the Map of the Great Northern Coalfield, Hartlepool Coal District, 1843, by J.T.W Bell (DRO D/Lo/P 242/1) and three successive maps showing the proposed division of sea coal working between Lord Londonderry's collieries and Easington Coal Company (DRO D/Lo 1251 (D) P375-6, P378) are reproduced by permission of the Marquess of Londonderry and Durham County Record Office. 'A Map of the County Palatine of Durham ... by C. Greenwood 1820' (DRO D/St/P 20/2) is reproduced by permission of Lord Strathmore and Durham County Record Office.

Easington Atlas - TIMELINE -



Seaton Holme, medieval vicarage and manor house; site of early medieval buildings.



St. Mary's Church, Easington.



Anglo-Saxon carved stone from St. Mary's Church, Easington.



Beautiful Anglo-Saxon brooches discovered at Andrew's Hill.

Late Anglo-Saxon period

Easington was first recorded around 1050 under the name 'Esingtun' [Old English for 'village, farm or estate of Esa' called after Esa or Ess].

The remains of a late Anglo-Saxon building have been found at Seaton Holme.

Late 12th century

Easington recorded as *Esirtun* in the Pipe Rolls of 1196; the earliest parts of the parish church date from this time. The ancient parish consisted of Easington, Hawthorn, Haswell and Shotton. In the Boldon Book of 1183 there is a description of village life and the payments made to the Bishop by his tenants:

In Easington and (Little) Thorpe there are 31 villeins and each holds, pays rent and works in the same manner as the villeins of Boldon. Simon holds 1/2 carucate and pays 10s (and) goes on missions for the Bishop. Geoffrey Cokesmith holds 1/2 carucate and pays 10s and goes on missions for the Bishop. The carpenter of the ploughs holds 8 acres for his services. The smith 8 acres for his services. The pinder holds 8 acres and renders 80 hens and 500 eggs. The two townships yield 30s for cornage and 2 cows for metret. The mills of Easington and Shotton yield 8 marks. The lordship farm is leased out with a stock of 4 ploughs and 2 harrows and yields 24 marks. The sheep with pasture are in the hands of the Bishop.

c.700-900 There was undoubtedly an earlier church at Easington - a carved stone cross of 8th or 9th century date has been found there.

Early Medieval (410-1100)

The remains of a 6th and 7th century pre-Christian cemetery have been found on Andrew's Hill.

Roman Period (AD44-410)

Native farming continued in the Roman period and a military presence is possible - the old (Jumpeke) road between Stockton and Sunderland could be on a Roman road.

Late Bronze Age/Iron Age (1000BC-AD70)

Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (3000-1500 BC) Late Bronze Age/Iron Age (1000BC-AD 700)

Rectilinear enclosures possibly representing settlements of the Iron Age and Romano-British period identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs north of Easington village near Holme Hill Farm (HER 3061) and just south of Hawthorn village (HER 8088). Other cropmarks of varying types noted on Beacon Hill (HER 34485) at White Lea (HER 8280) and on the north side of Easington village (HER 8592) - none of these sites have been excavated to confirm their date and interpretation

Mesolithic Period (8000-4000 BC)

Mesolithic flint tools and working material from various places along the coast including Beacon Hill and Hawthorn and around Loom Point.



Mesolithic flints and (below) how they were used as part of composite tools



Upper Palaeolithic Period (10000-8000 BC) End of the last Ice Age. Ice sheet and glaciers melt.

14th century

Easington was destroyed by Scottish raids....

16th to 18th century

the area remained an agricultural area. Between 1656 - 1665 much of the common land, known as moors, was enclosed and shared residents of the villages. The remains of some buildings from this time have been recorded in the village, such as at Low Row



Neolithic Flint Arrowhead



Limekiln at Hawthorn

Even with the arrival of the coal mines farming remained important and several windmills and limekilns are recorded in the area.



1993 Pits closed



1951 Easington Colliery mine disaster - 83 miners killed after an explosion in the pit.

Early 20th century

The success of the colliery led to the expansion of Easington from a rural village to an industrial town. It was long seen as the 'capital' of East Durham until usurped by Seaham Harbour & Peterlee.

Easington Colliery

The construction of Easington Colliery began on the 11th of April 1899 when the first sod was cut by Miss Barwick of Thimderley Hall. The shaft sinking began the same year and continued until 1904 when water burst into the shaft killing one man.

The sinking was continued using continental engineers and a freezing process and the South Shaft completed on the 7th of September 1909. In 1910 the first coal was drawn. In 1989 the colliery was working the High Main, Main Yard and Low Main seams. Output was taken by rail to the Selby coalfield where it was used to upgrade local coal for powerstation use. By 1993 the Pit had ceased production and salvage work was taking place underground. By July 1994 the shafts had been infilled and with the exception of the power house and colliery office all surface structures had been demolished.

1. INTRODUCTION

The present study was initiated by The Limestone Landscapes Partnership Scheme, which is administered through Durham County Council and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The report has been assembled by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. with the collaboration of the local community. It provides a synthesis of the known history, ecology and geology of Easington and its immediate surroundings, including Easington Colliery and the historic settlements of Easington village and Little Thorpe, all defined and contained by the two current civil parishes of Easington Village and Easington Colliery. Amongst the material contained within are summaries of the area's ecology and geodiversity, a listing of known historic sites, plus a snap-shot view of the historic buildings, including churches and farms. The maps prepared for this document are designed to provide the most complete graphic portrayal of Easington's historical development yet attempted, but the report is not intended to be the final word. Indeed, it is hoped that it will inspire further study of particular aspects of the history of Easington and neighbouring settlements and their respective communities.

The study is not restricted to the area's built-up settlements, but instead seeks to place the development of those settlements firmly within the context of the wider landscape of which they form the focal points. In relation to historic villages like Easington the contextual landscape is most readily defined by the bounded territory, known as a 'township,' that was attached to the village and exploited by its community. However larger territorial units, notably the ecclesiastical parish, and landscape zones such as the Magnesian Limestone Plateau and Coast provide broader contexts for the study of Easington.

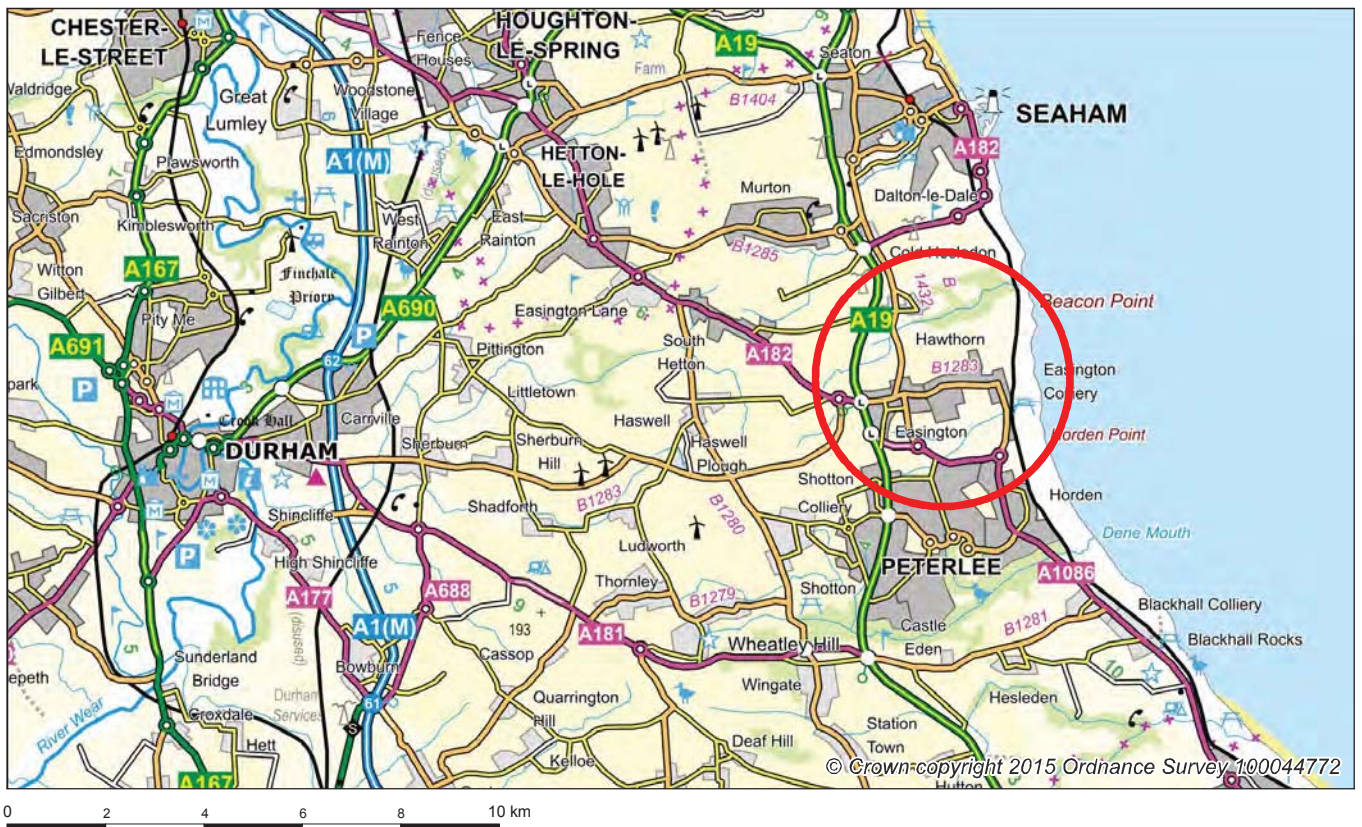
In order to carry out a study embracing the settlement core, the surrounding farmsteads and hamlets, and the full extent of the township/estate territory, whilst attempting also to understand it within the local and regional context, a variety of approaches have been taken. These used information from a wide range of sources, including existing archaeological and historic buildings records, historic maps and documents, historic and aerial photographs and published information, which are summarised in Chapter 3. The geology and geodiversity assets of the area are covered in Chapter 4 whilst the ecology and biodiversity are summarised in Chapter 5. Historic Environment Record, is set out in Chapter 6 and a survey of the historic buildings of Easington Village, Easington Colliery and Little Thorpe is contained in Chapter 7. This is followed by one chapter (8) examining the territorial units such as townships and parishes, which provide the framework for understanding the interrelationship between historic communities and landscapes, and another (9) summarising previous historical and archaeological investigation of village settlements in north-east England, including their development and morphology – the distinctive forms they take. The site gazetteer, compiled principally from the sites listed in the study area on the Durham Then Chapter 10 provides an overall synthesis of Easington's history up to the present. Some concluding thoughts and recommendations for future work are set out in Chapter 11. A full bibliography is included, plus a number of useful historical documents are reproduced in appendices.

The overriding aim in compiling this atlas has been to provide a summary of what is the present state of knowledge and the available data which can be studied as a starting point for those wishing to explore the past of Easington. There are many additional avenues of research which could be pursued in future. It is hoped that this work may provide some of the raw material to facilitate that future exploration.

Easington Atlas - Location Maps -



Broad regional view locating the Easington Atlas Study Area (circled in red) in the North-east of England.



Regional view of Easington and the Atlas Study Area (circled in red).

- STUDY AREA -



2. LOCATION AND LANDSCAPE

2.1 Location and Topography

Easington is situated in eastern County Durham between the larger settlements of Seaham and Peterlee new town, lying approximately 8½ miles (13.5km) east of Durham city centre and just over 8 miles (13km) south of Sunderland city centre.

2.1.1 The Study Area

In order to be able to analyse a consistent territorial unit over a long period of time, the **study area** corresponds to the combined historic townships of Easington and Little Thorpe. Together these encompass the present civil parishes of Easington Village and Easington Colliery, plus a strip of fields and farms along the western margins of the two townships which now falls within Shotton, Haswell and South Hetton civil parishes.

2.1.2 Topography

Easington Village and Easington Colliery are situated within the undulating landscape of the East Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau. Although now conjoined, the two settlements retain distinct identities, focussed on the ancient parish church and larger rectangular green of the historic village on the one hand and the coal-mining heritage associated with the 20th-century pit which closed in 1993 on the other. The centre of the old village lies some 3km inland and is dominated by St Mary's parish church, ensconced on a hillock above the north-west corner of the green which slopes towards the east and south-east. At over 140m aOD this is the highest point in the village and forms a landmark which can be seen for miles around across the plateau, and particularly from the north and south. The historic village core is now surrounded on all sides by 20th-century housing and other developments, including a school to the south and former rural district council offices to the east (now under redevelopment) which extend to the boundary with Easington Colliery.

The boundary between the two civil parishes lies in a dip and is marked by the public toilets, the ground rising up again to the east before dropping away again steadily towards the coast. The main west-east thoroughfare is Seaside Lane, which follows the course of valley leading towards the coast, between ridges of higher ground to the north and south. The ground rises particularly steeply on the south side where the ridge forms a series of low hills, comprising, from west to east, Comet Hill, Scaldershill Hill and Townfield Hill. Seaside Lane functions as the high street of Easington Colliery – forming a kind of extended linear core in the absence of a central square – most of the shops and other facilities being located alongside or in close proximity. The latter include the Miner's Welfare Institute ('the Welly'), with its splendid dance hall, and the parish church, the 1920s brick-built Church of the Ascension, immediately to the east, which form two of the settlement's principal public buildings. Just to the west on the opposite (north) side of Seaside Lane stand the imposing, Grade II listed, boys and girls classroom blocks and other buildings of Easington Colliery School, built in 1911-1913, all now disused and under threat of redevelopment. Further west still, occupying an elevated position on the south side the road, is the Healthworks health and community centre, established in 2007 in a converted office block of the impressive Thorpe Pumping Station of c. 1900, which stands alongside. The latter was the first major building in the area, predating the colliery itself, and is still in use by Northumbrian Water today. At the very eastern end of Seaside Lane the colliery site has now been fully reclaimed and restored to grassland with all trace of the buildings and pit heaps having been removed. The main colliery site and settlement itself are separated from the seashore by the coastal railway line which skirts the eastern edge of Easington. There is no longer a railway station however nor one serving Peterlee so the line makes relatively little contribution to the

local public transport services of Easington and its environs. There is an underpass beneath the line providing access to the coastal clifftops.

Much of the study area is not built up, however, and is still farmland, predominantly arable but with more grassland along the coast, where a number of environmental improvement schemes have been undertaken, to reduced the amount of gorse and improve biodiversity for example. The area's north and south boundaries follow Hawthorn Burn and Horden Burn, respectively, for much of their course and are especially clearly defined by the deeply incised, steep-sided and densely wooded denes – Hawthorn Dene and Horden Dene.

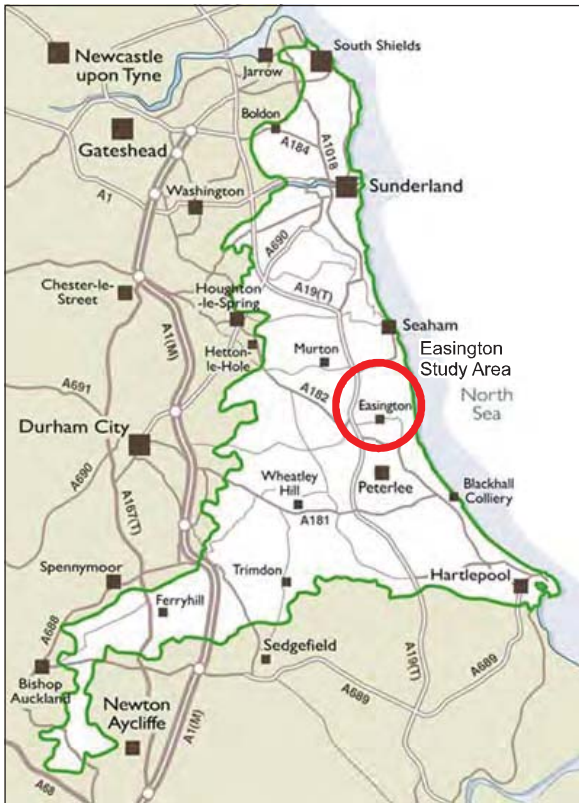
2.2 Landscape

In terms of landscape character, the Easington Atlas Study Area falls within the **Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau** – Natural England's *National Character Area 15* – which forms the basis of the Limestone Landscapes Partnership Area and roughly corresponds to **East Durham Limestone Plateau** County Character Area. This low upland plateau of Magnesian Limestone extends from South Shields in the north to Hartlepool Headland in the south. It falls eastwards to the sea and southwards to the Tees plain and is defined in the west by a prominent **Limestone Escarpment** overlooking the Wear-Tyne lowlands. Particularly in the north, this escarpment is deeply divided by minor valleys giving rise to distinctive 'spur and vale' topography, whereas in its central section it forms a more singular ridge. The soft Permian rocks that underlie the plateau are covered in most places by a thick mantle of glacial drift but outcrop on the escarpment and coast. The topography of the plateau is gently undulating and is deeply incised in the east by coastal denes. The **Limestone Coast** too has its own distinctive character, consisting of clay crested limestone cliffs, giving way in the south to low dunes, with a foreshore of sandy beaches and rock outcrops. This was heavily despoiled in the north by tipping of coal wastes, but now much improved by remediation works. This coastal landscape is generally demarcated inland by the coastal railway line.

The plateau itself can be subdivided into two different zones. Towards the coast is the gently rolling terrain of the **Coastal Limestone Plateau**, within which the settlements of Easington Village and Easington Colliery are both situated. Agricultural land-use here consists predominantly of arable cultivation of cereals and oilseed rape, whilst woodland is largely restricted to the steep-sided coastal denes. The magnesian limestone sometimes outcrops in these denes and in the low rounded hills, with some of the latter, nearer the coast, such as Beacon Hill, forming the remains of Permian reefs. To the west – beyond the A19 in general terms – the study area extends into the **Clay Plateau** of Central East Durham, where there are subtle changes in the character of the landscape, though, like the Coastal Limestone Plateau, it remains overwhelmingly a visually open landscape with little woodland. The limestone is overlain by thick glacial drift here and is rarely expressed at the surface and the landscape is sometimes flat rather than gently undulating or rolling. In addition agricultural land use is more mixed, the resultant field pattern forming a checkerboard of improved pasture and cereal and oilseed rape cultivation, in contrast to than the predominant arable cultivation further east and the grassland of the coast. However the study area does not stretch as far west as the dramatic Limestone Escarpment which marks the western edge of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau.

The more detailed descriptions of the constituent Landscape Character Areas provided below are taken from the County Durham Landscape Character Assessment.

The East Durham Coastal Limestone Plateau: A low coastal plateau of gently rolling terrain, incised by narrow steep sided denes. Soft magnesian limestones (dolomites) and shell or reef



The extent of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau.
Map courtesy of Limestone Landscapes and Durham County Council.

Easington and the Magnesian Limestone Plateau - Introduction to the Landscape



View southward looking over the reclaimed former colliery site and the coastline with the terraces of Easington Colliery visible at top right.



Looking south across a meadow
towards Easington village



Looking ENE towards
Thorpe Lea East



Looking across ridge and furrow
towards West Moor Farm, on the
clay plateau west of Easington

LANDSCAPE VIEWS



View south along the coast from near the east end of Petwell Lane



View east along the access road to White Lea Farm



View east towards Thorpe Lea East



View north west towards Thorpe Lea West and Hawthorn Village



Hawthorn Viaduct viewed from the south-west



Beacon Hill viewed from Hawthorn Village



Ridge and furrow earthworks near West Moor Farm



View north-east towards Jackson's Mill from the Easington Mill site

limestones are overlain generally by glacial drift of boulder clays and sands and gravels. Soils are heavy, seasonally waterlogged brown stony clay soils with pockets of lighter calcareous soils where there is no drift, and fertile brown earths over the deposits of sands and gravels.

Agricultural land use is largely arable and dominated by cereals and oilseed rape. Field boundaries are low, clipped, hawthorn hedges. Field patterns are semi-regular, and most date from the enclosure of the town fields of older villages in the 1600s. Field patterns have been heavily disrupted in places by the amalgamation of smaller units into very large arable fields.

Tree cover is generally very low with only isolated hedgerow ash or sycamore. There are, however, localised areas of parkland and estate farmland that is rich in hedgerow and field trees. The landscape is generally very open and exposed to the strong, salt laden winds and sea fets of the North Sea. Woodlands are almost entirely restricted to the sheltered denes that contain ancient woodlands of ash, oak, wych elm and yew.

Historically a settled landscape with a nucleated pattern of small agricultural villages of early medieval origins. A number of these survive and most have buildings of local limestone, or more durable sandstone imported from the west of the county, and roofs of red clay pan tile. Buildings are typically set around a central green. Old villages and scattered farms are connected by narrow winding roads and lanes.

The new town of Peterlee and large mining villages developed around major coastal collieries occupy a substantial part of the coastal plateau. They are made up of buildings from a number of periods including Victorian terraced housing of red brick and slate, estates of the inter-war and post-war public housing and more recent private development. Settlement edges are abrupt or fringed by allotment gardens and pony paddocks or large industrial estates.

Coal mining has had a substantial influence on the landscape, its main legacy being in the settlement pattern. Extensive areas of colliery land are currently being reclaimed to housing and industry. The coastal plateau is an important communications corridor and is crossed by the busy A19 trunk road and the coastal railway line.

The landscape is visually open and broad in scale, with spaces defined by the rolling topography. The sea is often visible, forming a strong distant horizon to the east. A densely settled landscape with a semi-rural or urban fringe quality in many places, but with a strongly rural character in some areas.

County Durham Landscape Characterisation Assessment: East Durham Limestone Plateau CCA/Coastal Limestone Plateau BLT/The East Durham Coastal Plateau BCA

The Central East Durham Clay Plateau: A low plateau of flat, gently undulating or gently rolling terrain. Soft magnesian limestones (dolomites) are overlain by glacial drift - mostly boulder clays with isolated pockets of sands and gravels – often to a substantial depth. Soils are heavy, seasonally waterlogged brown stony clay soils with pockets of lighter calcareous soils where there is no drift. Pockets of peaty clay soils occur in poorly drained areas.

Agricultural land use is mixed with a mosaic of improved pasture and arable cropping of cereals and oilseed rape. Field boundaries are hawthorn-dominated hedgerows, usually low and trimmed in arable areas but occasionally tall and overgrown around pastures. Field patterns are variable but are generally regular or semi-regular. Some date from the enclosure of the town fields of older villages, or enclosures from the manorial wastes associated with individual farms - often called 'granges' - from the late 1500s. Others date from the enclosure of open wastes from the mid 1700s – usually indicated by the place name 'moor' - and have the characteristic regular grid patterns of land enclosed by surveyors. Field patterns have been heavily disrupted in places by the amalgamation of smaller units into large arable fields.

Tree and woodland cover is low. The landscape is very open with thinly scattered hedgerow oak, ash and sycamore. There are few woodlands other than occasional small broadleaved woods and a

number of larger conifer plantations. Areas of scrub and young woodland are found on pockets of derelict colliery land, old railway lines and abandoned grassland.

Historically a sparsely settled landscape of scattered villages and extensive wastes on the heavy and poorly drained soils of the central plateau. Some older villages and farms survive. Most are of local limestone, or more durable Carboniferous sandstones imported from the west of the county, with roofs of red clay pan tile. Mining villages are scattered across the plateau, some having absorbed older villages. They are made up of buildings from a number of periods including Victorian terraced housing of red brick and slate, estates of the inter-war and post-war public housing and more recent private development. Settlement edges are abrupt or fringed by allotment gardens and pony paddocks. Villages are connected by a relatively dense network of busy roads, and old railway lines - many now in use as recreational cycleways.

Coal mining has had a substantial influence on the landscape. Much of its legacy has been removed by land reclamation in recent years, but some areas of dereliction remain. Areas of land restored to agriculture or forestry are found around the colliery villages. Many villages also had small brickworks associated with them and old flooded clay pits are common. Telecommunications masts and the pylons of overhead transmission lines feature frequently on the skyline.

The landscape is visually very open and broad in scale, and has a semi-rural or urban fringe quality in most places coming from its dense settlement pattern, busy roads, overhead services and areas of derelict land.

County Durham Landscape Characterisation Assessment: East Durham Limestone Plateau CCA/Clay Plateau BLT/Central East Durham Plateau BCA

The Durham Limestone Coast: A varied coastline of shallow bays and headlands. Much of the coastline is made up of cliffs, 20 to 30 metres in height, of pale, creamy yellow Permian limestones crested by steep slopes of boulder clay, with occasional caves and stacks. The limestones exposed in the cliffs vary in character and include soft dolomites, thinly bedded or "brecciated" by the collapse of underlying strata, oolitic and concretionary limestones, and fossil-rich reef limestones.

The foreshore is made up of beaches of sand and shingle or cobbles with occasional wave-cut rock platforms. Beaches are despoiled in places by the past tipping of colliery wastes, now being gradually eroded by the sea. Shallow denes cut down into the cliff-top boulder clay and the mouths of larger inland denes breach the limestone cliffs. In the south, low sand dunes bound by marram grass and sea couch mark the transition with the lower lying coastal plain.

Above the cliffs lie relatively flat or gently rolling open arable fields and rough coastal grasslands. These grasslands, and those on the clay slopes, have a varied flora of red fescue, sea plantain and bloody cranesbill. Patches of wind-shaped blackthorn scrub with occasional stunted hazel and juniper are found on clay slopes and cliff top denes. Ancient woodlands of ash, oak, wych elm and yew lie in the deeper and more sheltered denemouths.

The coastline has no natural anchorages and is relatively undeveloped. It is bordered inland by the coastal railway line and by the edges of mining settlement. Allotment gardens and industrial estates spill onto the coast in places. There are areas of recently reclaimed colliery land, restored to open grassland.

The landscape is exposed and visually open with extensive panoramic views out across the North Sea, and dramatic scenic views along the coastline. It has natural and elemental qualities, coming from its geology, its semi-natural vegetation and the influences of the sea, but has a despoiled or urban fringe quality in places.

County Durham Landscape Characterisation Assessment: East Durham Limestone Plateau CCA/Limestone Coast BLT/The Durham Coast BCA

The Limestone Coast



General views north and south



*View looking north from
Beacon Hill*



*View looking south from
Beacon Hill*

3. SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

3.1 Location of Sources

Accessible regional and national archives, libraries and record offices consulted for documentary, cartographic and pictorial material relevant to the present study include the following:

Durham County Council Historic Environment Record (HER)

Durham County Record Office, County Hall, Durham (DRO)

Durham University Library, Palace Green – Archives & Special Collections (DUL-ASC)

Durham Library (DL)

National Monuments Record (NMR)

The Robinson Library, Newcastle University (NUL)

The Archaeological Practice archive (TAP)

3.2 Types of Evidence

Assembly of the research material required to produce the Atlas has been achieved by the following methods:

3.2.1 Documentary survey

Documentary records represent the principal source of information for certain aspects of a community's past, notably its medieval origins and development, and its tenurial and ecclesiastical framework. A targeted approach to the analysis of data from such sources was adopted in order to maximise the amount of information gained in the available timescale. Accordingly, primary data gathering focussed on cartographic, pictorial and photographic evidence, whilst the sections relating to Easington in the various county histories for Durham, most notably Volume I of Robert Surtees *History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham* (1816), were consulted to identify particularly important documentary source material worthy of further scrutiny.

Historic Maps

All available historic maps and plans were examined and, where possible, copied. These fall into several categories:

- County maps
- Tithe maps and apportionments
- Ordnance Survey editions
- Other surviving detailed mapping e.g. privately commissioned estate maps and colliery maps.

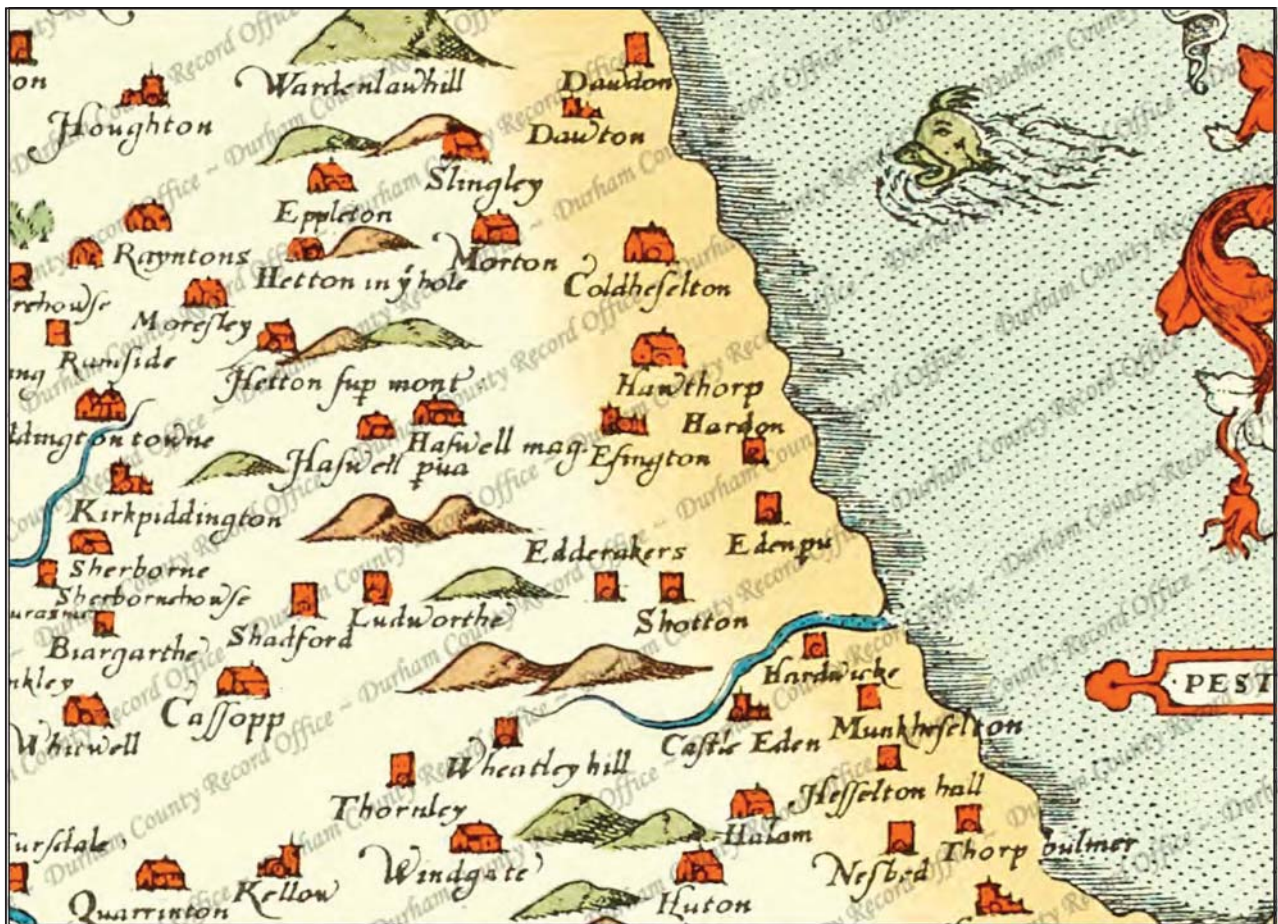
The **county maps** commence with Saxton in 1576 and are very numerous. They may be conveniently examined online at www.dur.ac.uk/picturesinprint/. A sample of the available county maps comprising Saxton (1576), Speed (1611), Morden (1695), Maire (1711/20), Armstrong (1768), Smith (1804) and Greenwood (1820) have been reproduced in the Village Atlas.

The earliest of these maps was compiled by the Yorkshireman, Christopher Saxton, in 1576. This is distinguished by careful use of symbols used to denote different types of settlement. Parochial centres, such as Easington itself (*Esington*), Castle Eden and Dalton le Dale (*Dawton*), are depicted by a symbol of a church with tower and spire (Monk Hesleden however is not so depicted as it ought to be). The other rural settlements in this part of the county are each depicted either as a gabled building or as a crenellated tower. Examples of the former include Hawthorn (*Hawthorp*), Great Haswell (*Haswell mag.*) and Little Haswell (*Haswell pva*, i.e. *Haswell Parva*), whilst Horden (*Hardon*), Shotton, Edderacres (*Edderakers*) and Little Eden (*Eden pv*) fall into the latter category. It is not clear whether the difference between these two symbols is significant, though the tower may indicate the presence of a fortified residence such as a tower house (larger castles are depicted with a symbol showing with two linked towers), or perhaps just any substantial gentleman's residence such as a sizeable manor house. All three symbols – church, tower and gabled residence – have what appears to be a wheel attached, perhaps signifying a watermill. Rather than directly signifying that there was a watermill associated with each of these villages or townships (Easington for instance had a windmill rather than a watermill like many of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau villages), it may represent a shorthand denoting the village was the seat of a manor, since ownership of a mill was a typical lordly attribute. It should also be noted that Little Thorpe is omitted though it clearly existed at this stage as a small village or hamlet, usually just labelled Thorpe in contemporary documents. It may have become conflated with Hawthorn which is also positioned close to Easington on the map. This would help to explain why Saxton labels Hawthorn as *Hawthorp*.

By contrast John Speed adopts Saxton's parish centre symbol indiscriminately for virtually all the rural settlements he depicts on the county maps he published in his *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine*, which appeared in 1611. Speed's maps were not based on a systematic resurvey. Instead he adapted the county maps of Saxton, Norden and others, acknowledging 'I have put my sickle into other men's corn'. However he did add features such as town plans, including one of Durham itself (probably based on Matthew Patteson's map of 1595, engraved by Christopher Schwytzer) and a vignette and description of the battle of Neville's Cross in 1346, for example.

Both Saxton and Speed depict a rural world characterised exclusively by nucleated villages or hamlets. This was perhaps still broadly accurate, although there is evidence that in some parts of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau the first isolated farmsteads were being established in the 16th and particularly the early 17th century. Over the course of the 17th and early 18th centuries the county maps provide relatively little additional information, since they often recycle earlier material, although the reality of rural settlement was changing rapidly. Some roads are shown from the late 17th century onwards, benefiting from Ogilby's itinerary maps of 1675, as can be seen on Robert Morden's map of 1695 and in particular Maire's map of 1711/20. The latter represents a significant step forward, both in terms depicting local highways and in marking additional settlements. Thus Sunderland Road, the forerunner of the present A19, is shown running north-south from Sunderland past Dalden le Dale, Cold Hesleden and Hawthorn and through Easington and Shotton and on past Castle Eden towards Billingham and Stockton. This route was to be turnpiked later in the century. A second route is depicted heading south-eastward from Easington, past the west end of Little Thorpe and on past Little Eden to the mouth of Castle Eden Dene. In addition to Little Thorpe, Pespool is shown for the first time as are the dwellings and farmsteads of Dene House and Oakerside (*Askersides*) in Little Eden and Shotton townships respectively.

The next step forward in the level of detail depicted is represented by Armstrong's County map (1768). This responded to the initiative launched by the newly founded Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce which was offering premiums for the production of maps at a more detailed scale of around one inch to one mile (Butlin 2003, 247). Armstrong's map shows a more extensive network of roads, although he doesn't



Extract from Saxton's Map of County Durham, 1576 (Durham County Record Office D/CL 23/2).
Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



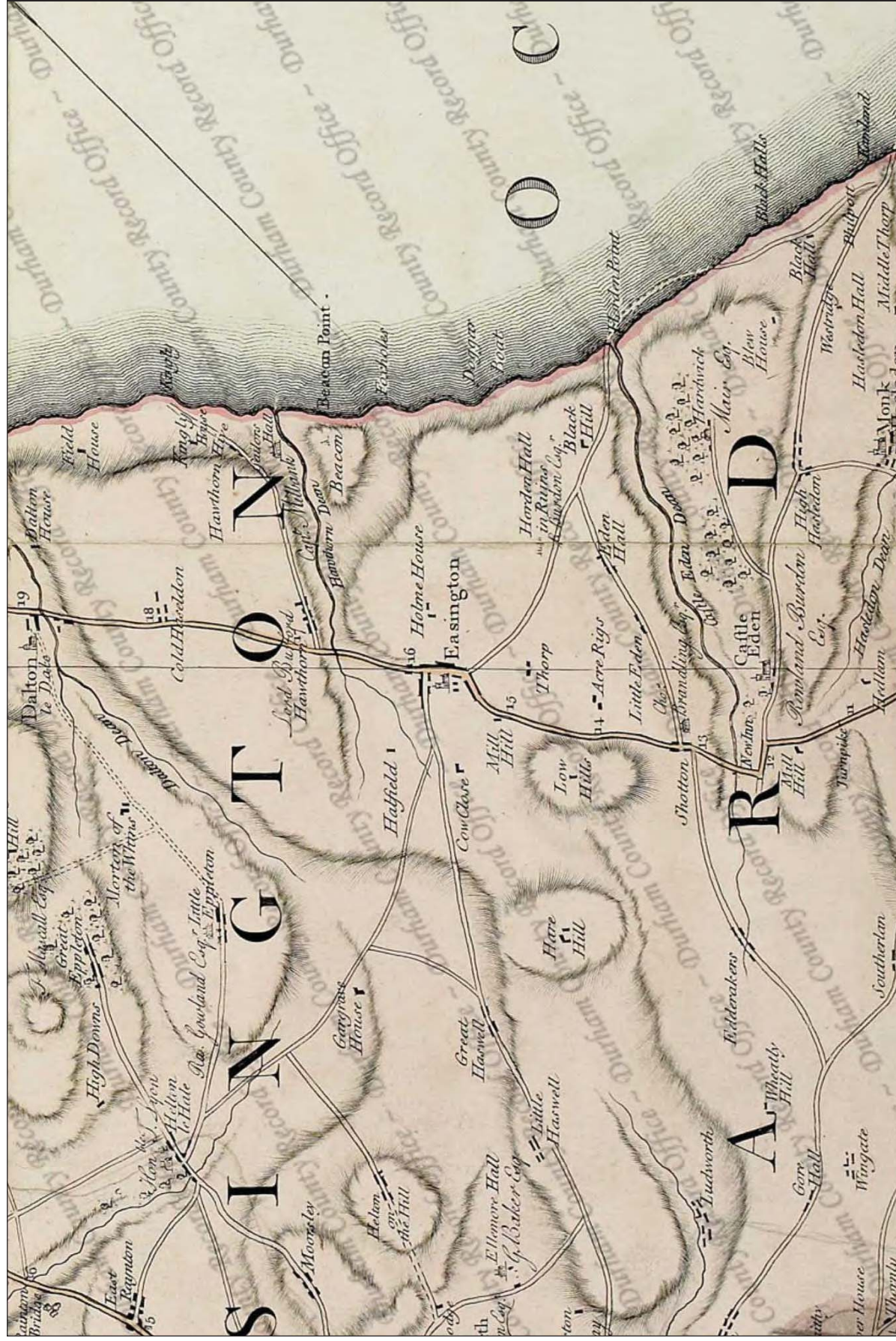
Extract from Speed's Map of County Durham, 1611 (Durham County Record Office D/XP 26).
Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



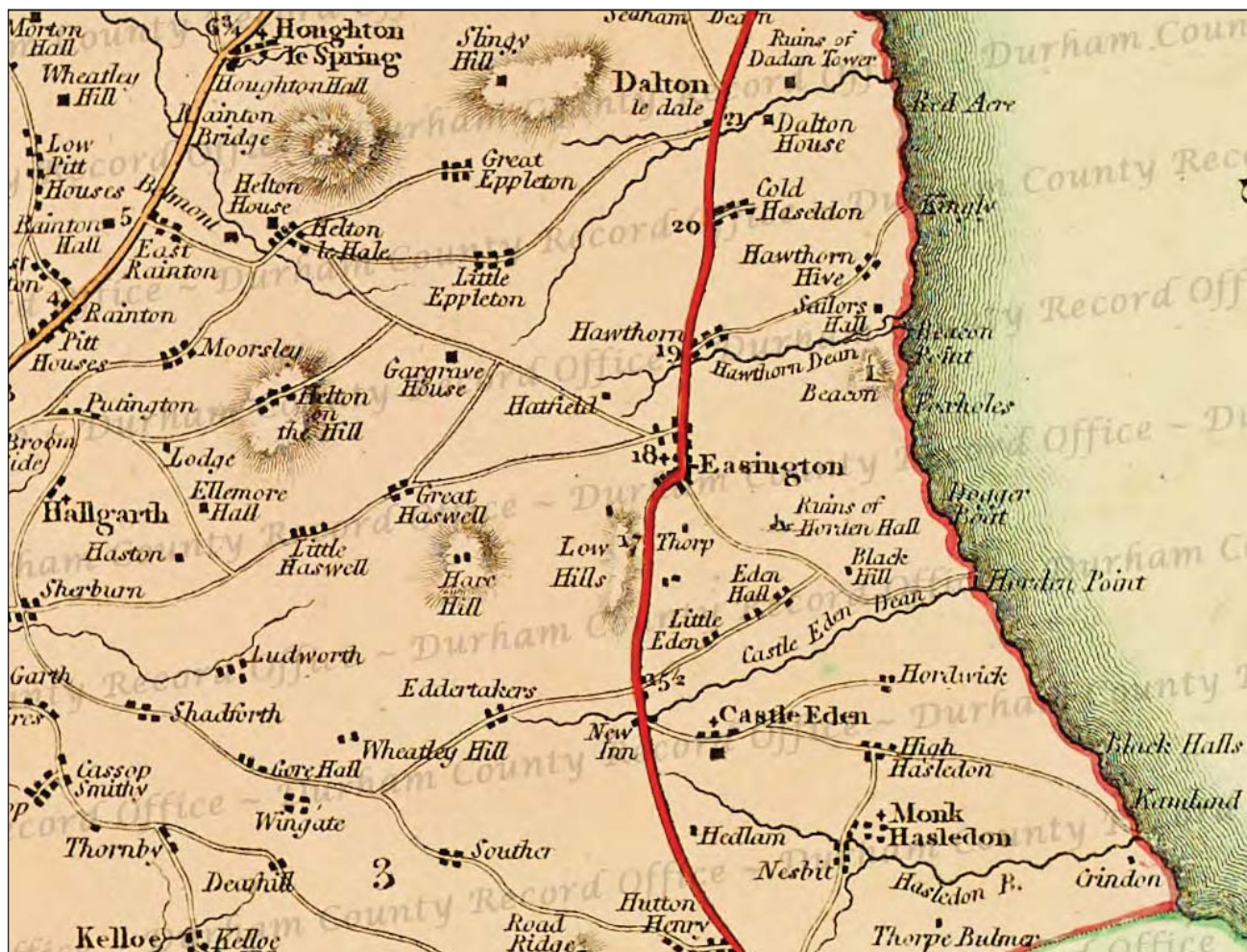
Extract from Morden's Map of County Durham, 1695 (Durham County Record Office D/CL 23/14).
Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



Extract from Maire's Map of 1711 (Durham County Record Office D/CL 23/15).
Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



Extract from the 1791 revision of Armstrong's 1768 Map of County Durham (Durham County Record Office, Londonderry Estate Archives D/Lo 239). Reproduced by permission of Lord Londonderry and Durham County Record Office.



Extract from Smith's Map of 1808 (Durham County Record Office D/CL 23/46).
Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



Extract from Greenwood's Map of County Durham, 1820 (Durham County Record Office D/St/P 20/2).
Reproduced by permission of Lord Strathmore and Durham County Record Office.

always accurately position settlements in relation to that network. One route not previously recorded is shown heading westward from Easington, then forking, with one branch leading north-west to Hetton-le-Hole and Houghton and the other heading west via Great Haswell and Sherburn to Durham. The main north-south route via Easington and Shotton is depicted in greater detail. On the 1791 edition of Armstrong's map this road is clearly defined as a turnpike road, following the establishment of the Bishopwearmouth and Norton Turnpike Trust in 1789, its course being shaded and delineated by bolder lines. The position of the turnpike bars is also marked and each mile from Norton¹ numbered, all features absent from the original 1768 edition. The route which ran south-east from Easington as far as the mouth of Castle Eden Dene is depicted as forming part of a coastal route leading ultimately to Hartlepool. From Hartlepool Point (erroneously labelled Horden Point by Armstrong) it is shown continuing in the sea itself, running parallel with the coast – presumably signifying that the route ran along the foreshore – coming ashore again near Black Hall, before re-entering the sea at the mouth of Crimdon Beck/Hesleden Dene and again running parallel with the coastline almost as far as Hartlepool Headland.

Perhaps of even greater significance, Armstrong's map is really the first to suggest the widespread shift to a more dispersed rural settlement pattern with a number of farmsteads being shown for the first time. Thus Cow Close, Halfield ('Halfield') and Holme House (Holm Hill farm on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey) are shown within the bounds of Easington township, as is a settlement labelled Mill Hill. No farmstead with the latter name is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey, but it may represent the building called White House shown just to the north of the hill called Mill Hill on that map. Similarly the farmsteads of Low Hills, Acre Riggs and Black Hills figure in Shotton and Little Eden, whilst Little Eden farm is distinguished from Eden Hall. Horden Hall is referred to as 'in ruins' though the location marked on the map would better fit the deserted medieval village site now termed Yoden. However, although Armstrong's map undoubtedly provides a more accurate impression of the rural settlement pattern, it clearly does not provide a comprehensive record. Farmsteads and manor houses such as Pespool, Fallowfield and Flemingfield, that had been in existence since the Middle Ages, do not feature on the map, so the absence of any of the relatively modern farmsteads from the map cannot be taken as evidence that they were established after 1768. Finally, one other feature to note is the beacon depicted on the summit of Beacon Hill.

Greenwood's map of 1820 is interesting above all because it depicts the Magnesian Limestone Plateau on the eve of industrialisation. It shows an essentially rural settlement pattern of villages, hamlets (the remnants of once larger medieval villages in some cases), and dispersed farmsteads, with most of the latter probably having been established after the Middle Ages. A great many farmsteads are depicted, quite a few of which are not even named on the map, though they are positioned with sufficient accuracy to enable them to be identified by reference to the slightly later tithe plan and 1st edition Ordnance Survey. Indeed, so numerous are these farmsteads that there is good reason to believe that the map may provide an outline record of settlement in 1820 which is comprehensive or at any rate close to being so.

There are a number of **estate maps** covering Easington and Little Thorpe. One group, dating to 1789-90 and 1808 relate to tenements and parcels of land in Little Thorpe and Thorpe Lea leased from the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral by William Archer and by Ralph Ferry (DUL-ASC CCB MP/138a-e). These properties probably ultimately derived from the freeholding in Little Thorpe acquired, in 1489, by Durham Priory, the Dean and Chapter's tenorial ancestor. The bulk of Easington, however, was in the Bishop of Durham's direct possession, being farmed by copyhold tenants in the early modern era, and other

¹ Norton, just north of Stockton was the junction with the earlier (1742) Catterick Bridge – Yarm – Stockton – Durham turnpike road.

maps are a product of this, including an 1830 survey encompassing Easington, Horden and Shotton townships (CCB MP/135).² Of particular interest is a detailed plan of Easington and Little Thorpe townships (DUL-ASC DHC 6/III/16), probably compiled in the 1880s using the 1:2500 1st edition Ordnance Survey as a base and designed to accompany new copies of 17th-century Easington Moor enclosure awards (CCB B/187/3-4), showing how the townfields and moor were divided up. The map and transcripts can be related to the surviving original copies of the awards dating to the 1650s-1670s (DHC6/IV/14-17). Another interesting plan, dating to 1764, covers John Nesham's Pespoo estate (DRO NCB/1/X/216), which embraces the territory of the Pespoo and Boisfield manorial farms which were carved out moorland waste of the greater Easington moor to the west of the village in the 13th century. Unfortunately no comparably detailed map of equivalent date has been discovered covering Easington itself during the course of this study.

A further class of specialised map are those relating to **coal mining**. These include maps depicting the entire Great Northern Coalfield and others relating to specific collieries. Examples of the former include Hall's 1861 map (DRO D/CL 23/73), but the most spectacular and detailed are the series by J T W Bell, produced between 1843 and 1861, with Easington featuring on the sheet covering the Hartlepool Coal District (DRO D/Lo/P 242/1) published in 1843.

Other plans relating to individual collieries and their related infrastructure, in particular Easington Colliery itself. Notable amongst these are a series of maps associated with the initial development of the colliery, showing the areas of the sea coal royalties (e.g. DRO D/Lo Acc 1251 (D) P375 & P376), and the plans of the explosion area and colliery ventilation system drawn from the official report on the 1951 Easington Colliery disaster (DRO D/XP 162/1-2). There are extensive records associated with these plans, particularly in the Londonderry Papers which would merit further analysis.

The **tithe map and apportionment** for Easington (DDR/EA/TTH/1/77 of 2 November 1840, but plan dated 1839), which also includes Little Thorpe, has been examined, analysed and reproduced. This provides the earliest comprehensive record of the layout of the fields and a broadly accurate impression of the layout of the two historic village settlements. As with those marked on the estate maps described above, the field names recorded in the associated apportionment schedules can provide clues to much earlier land use. Although the tithe maps are broadly reliable, it should be noted that the surveyors who prepared these maps were not working to the same level of accuracy as implemented in the slightly later Ordnance Survey maps, particularly with regard to the precise details of settlement morphology, as it was not necessary for their purposes. It was not unusual for the tithe commissioners to make use of an old survey prepared by the noted local surveyors such as Thomas Bell.

For both villages the tithe plan and the **First Edition Ordnance Survey**, which was surveyed just under twenty years later in 1857 and published in 1861, represent the earliest detailed maps. The First Edition Ordnance Survey also constitutes the earliest comprehensive evidence for the layout of the villages, which can be subjected to close scrutiny to tease out elements of the medieval village plans. The cartographic assemblage for both villages is completed by later editions of the Ordnance Survey.

Pictorial representations

Pictorial representations – prints, sketches and paintings – and early photographs, were examined and, where possible, copied. The drawings predominantly focus on the ancient parish church, St Mary's Church. Many photographs of Easington have already been

² The plan excludes Little Eden but includes Horden estate as part of Easington township like Little Thorpe.

North
George Washington
West
New York
1811
East
A

The Quantity of Caves in the Hoovers
 The First Cask bore $137 \frac{1}{2}$ A
 The Second Cask bore $79 \frac{3}{4}$ B
 The Third Cask bore $71 \frac{1}{4}$ C
 288 $\frac{3}{4}$

The above three towns ~~was~~ ^{are} lot with other lands adjoining
to town North at 10⁰⁰ Dollars — but are now in the
Leprie's own Possession —

North North
John Head Late Mr. Sparks

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A B C 7:3:36 Each man B | A B C 7:1:14 Each man C |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|

South South
William Norton

East The Elder Land

1.9.2
3.1/5

E

North Lane

1.9.2
11.1.01

D

West Lane

South Ewington Road

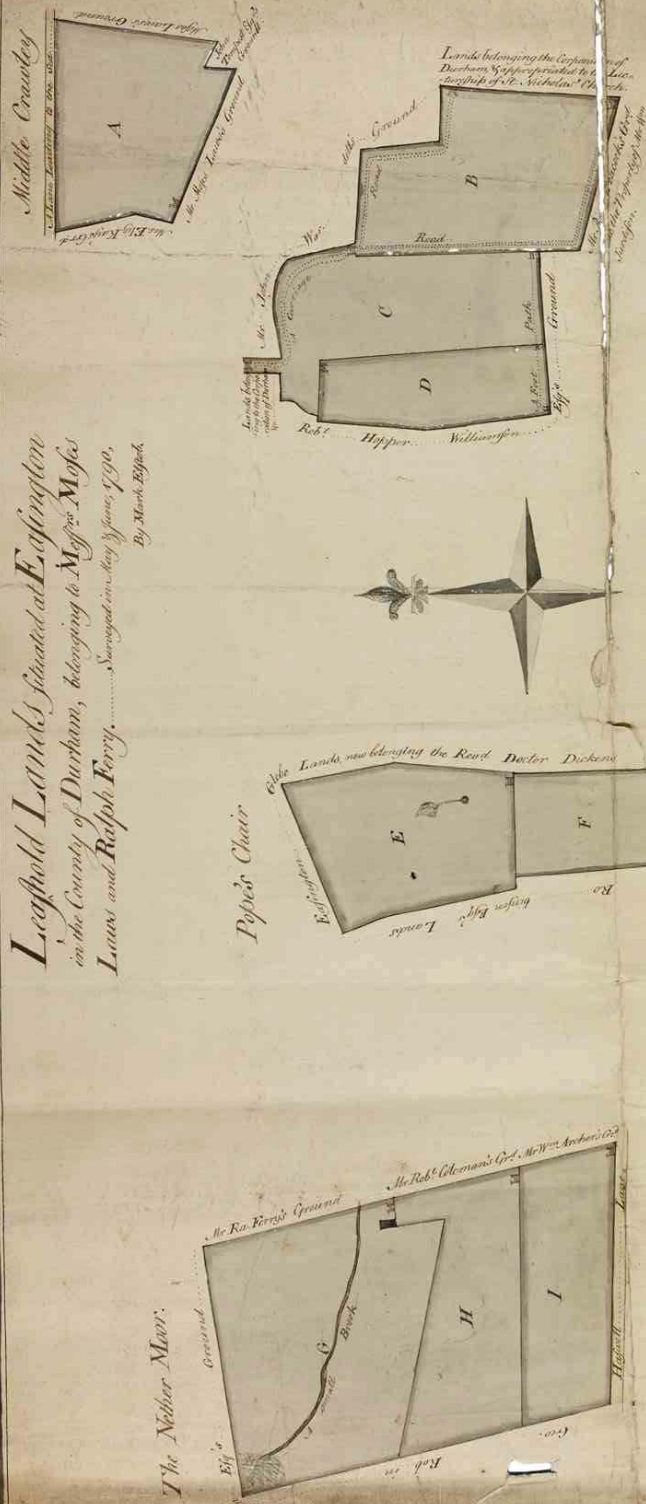
The Quantity of Acres in the Low Ground

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---|
| The First wood Class is | 11:1:32 | D |
| The Second wood Class is | 3:1:5 | E |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 14:2:37 | |

There are two close meadows along with other adjoining lands to Thomas Pratt the whole farm consisting of
by Acres is tot^{al} of 33 clear of all obstructions &c. which is nearly at the Rate of 10⁰ per Acre

*Leafhold Lands situated at Easingstone
in the County of Durham, belonging to Messrs Mosley,
Laws and Ralph Ferry,..... Surveyed on the 15th of June 1790.*

By Mark Elgab.



Contents

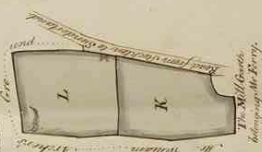
| | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------|------|
| A. | Wash County | 4. 2 | 1. 3 |
| B. | Swamp Lake | 12. 1 | 7 |
| C. | South Wash. Mts. | 9. 0 | 16 |
| D. | Madison | 3. 1 | 1 |
| E. | North Star's Chain | 9. 4 | 20 |
| F. | Smith's Pt. | 5. 2 | 2 |
| G. | North Star's Moor | 4. 1 | 9 |
| H. | Middle Pt. | 9. 0 | 40 |
| I. | Smith's Pt. | 8. 0 | 8 |
| K. | South Mill Slope | 2. 3 | 22 |
| L. | North Pt. | 2. 3 | 6 |
| | Total | 11 | 324 |

A. Scate of Chains.



The Mill Closes,

Is. sent to Mr. Ralph Perry, sold by Apportionment



The Republic in this Pan. are in favor for
peace to Mr. Wright of Mississippi.
Mr. Morgan of Kentucky is the favorite
and he says that the State, including the
two slave members L. K. Gilpin - to Mr. Torrey
~~is~~ is worth 30,000 votes the winner
~~will~~ catch Mr. Torrey's key in his (the
owner) own occupation -
Mr. Webb is Montague -

A Surveying Plan of the Lands belonging to Mr. Ralph Ferry
Thorp in Parish of Easington in the County of Durham made
in the 4th Day of March 1789

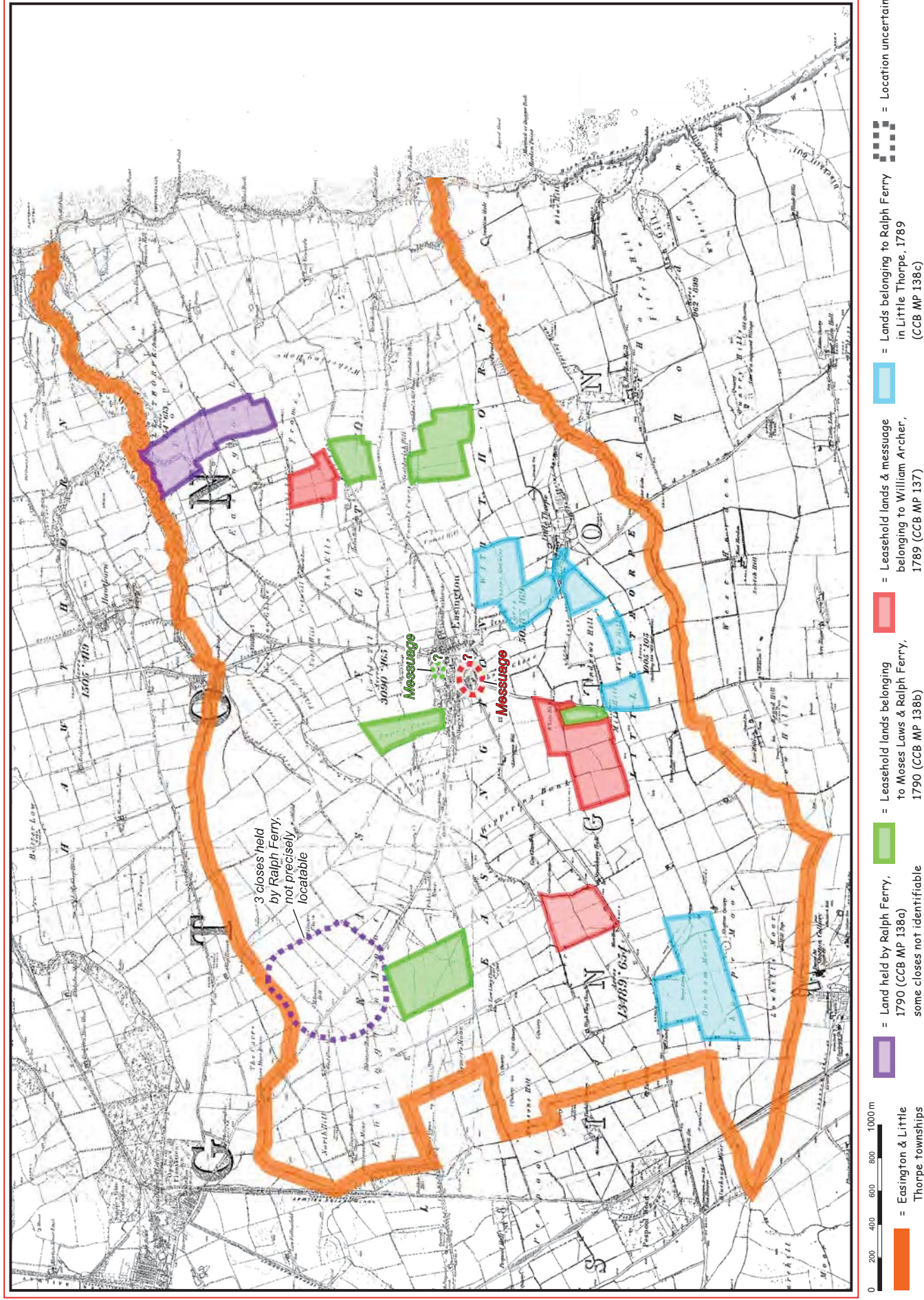
The Quantity of Acres in the in Land South

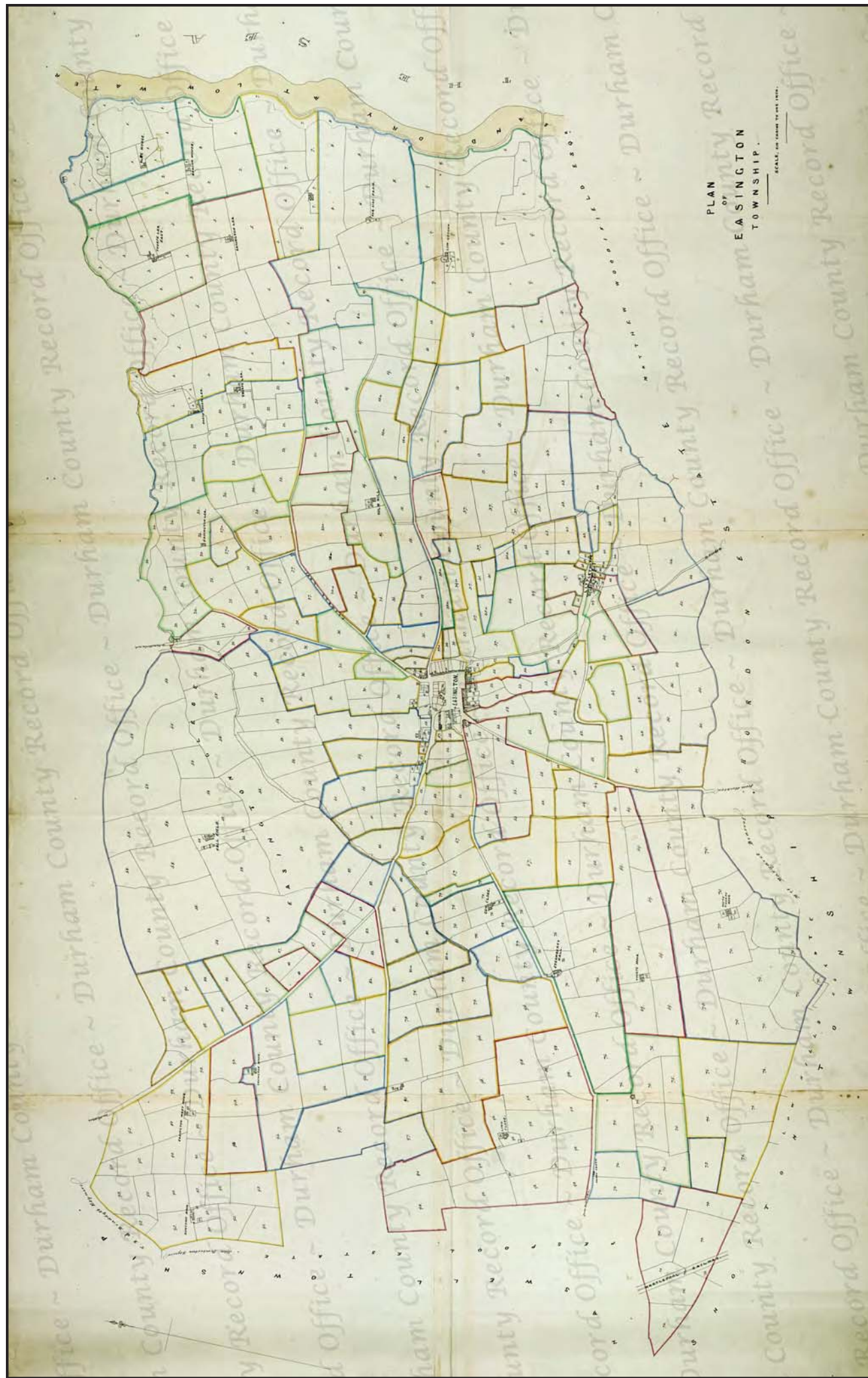
My Mill Field is 8-1-28
Middle Field is 9-1-12
South Field is 8-0-26
West Barnard is 12-1-20
North Barnard is 12-1-20
South Barnard is 8-0-26
The Above together 61-2-12



Some leasehold tenements in Easington & Little Thorpe 1789-1790

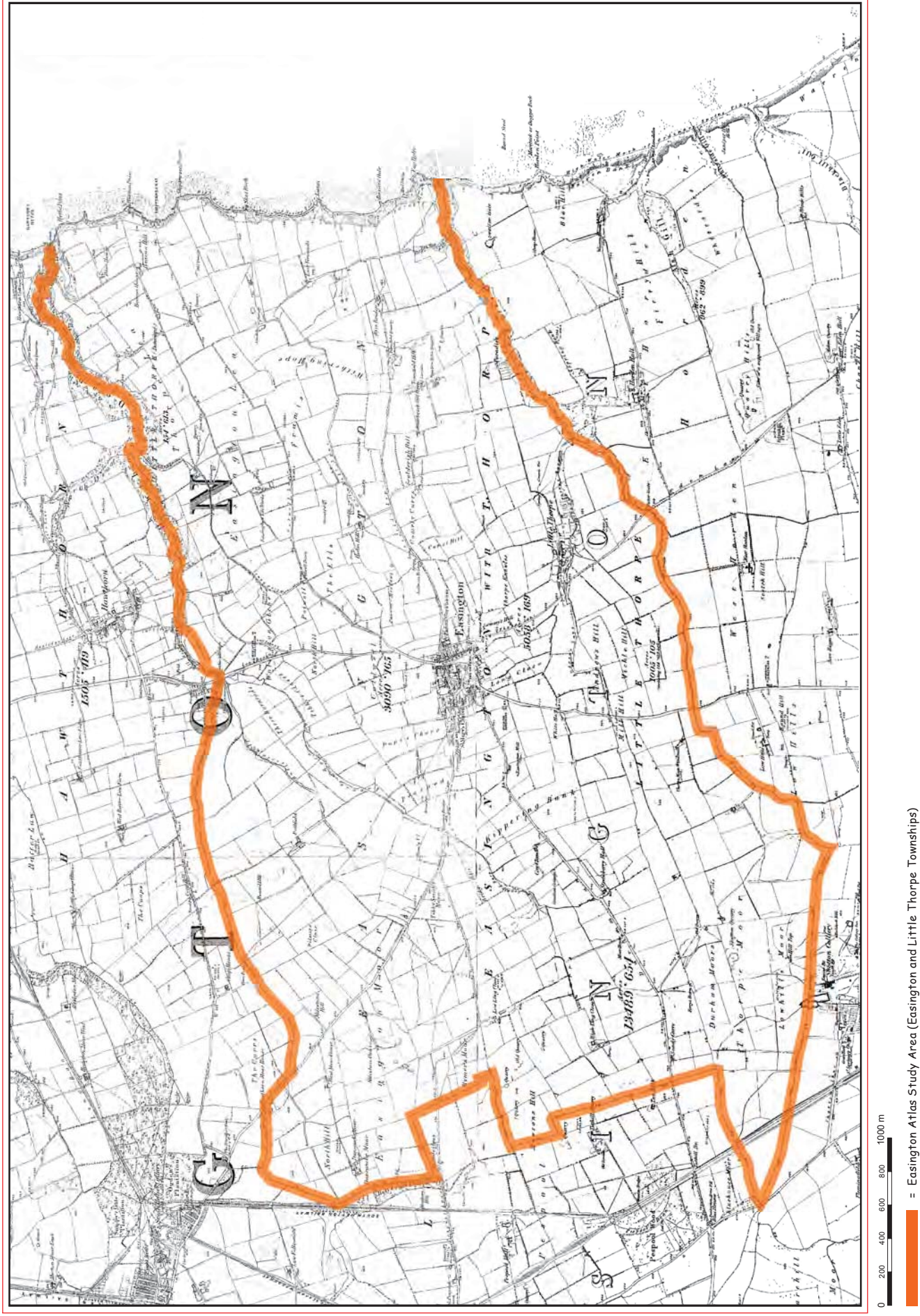
(Based on maps at Durham University Library Archives & Special Collections) - Shown on the 6" First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1857 -

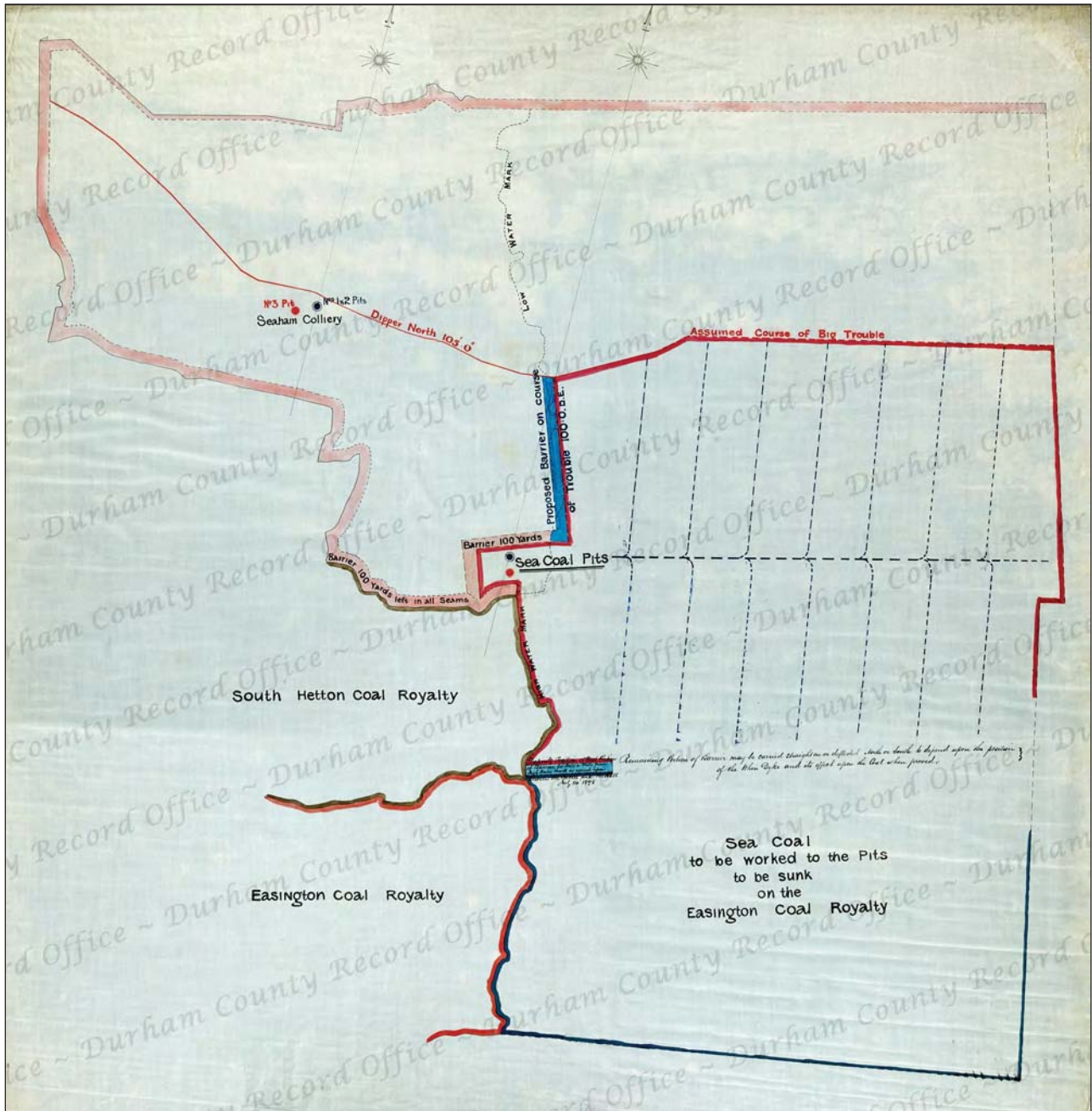




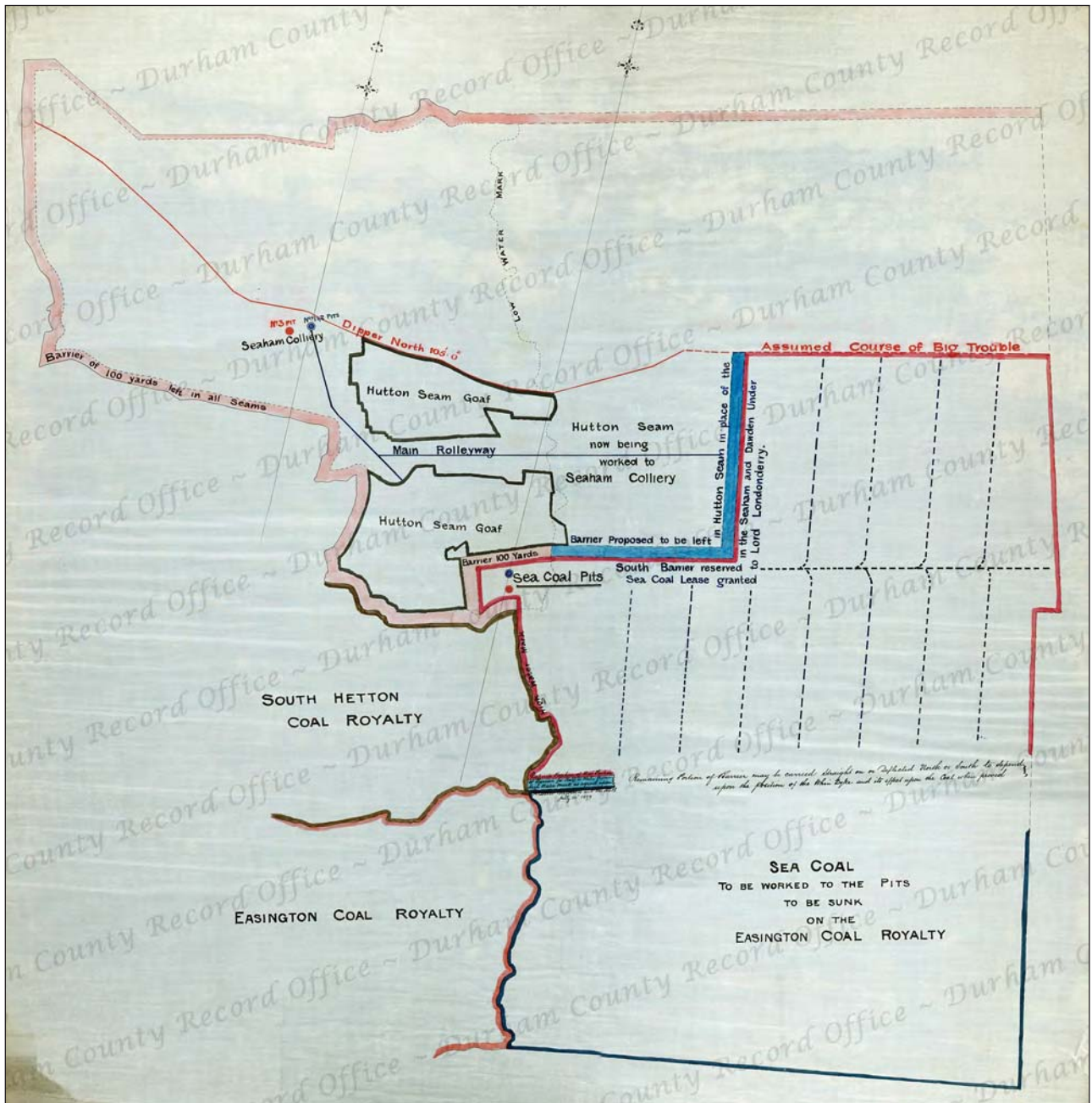
Easington Estate Map (Durham County Record Office D/Bo/G16/(ii)) c.1839/40; perhaps the survey on which the tithe map was based. Reproduced by kind permission of Durham County Record Office.

Easington on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1857, Scale: 6" per mile

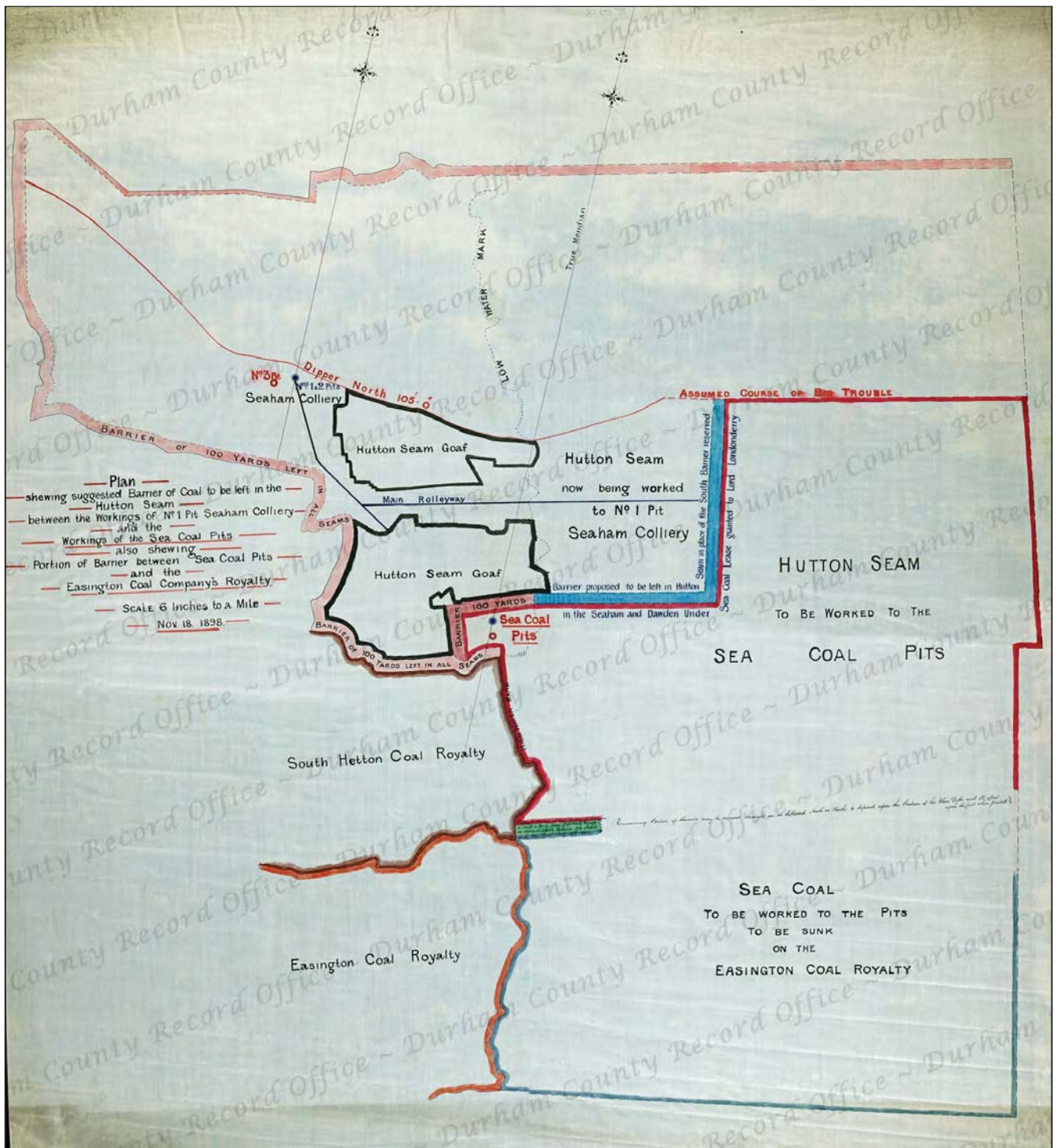




Initial proposed division in 1898 of Sea Coal Working between Easington Coal Company and the collieries belonging to Lord Londonderry - Seaham Colliery and the new Sea Coal Pits (Durham County Record Office, Londonderry Estate Archives D/Lo Acc 1251 (D) P376). Reproduced by permission of Lord Londonderry and Durham County Record Office.



Amended version of the 1898 proposed division of Sea Coal Working between Easington Coal Company and the collieries belonging to Lord Londonderry - Seaham Colliery and the new Sea Coal Pits (Durham County Record Office, Londonderry Estate Archives D/Lo Acc 1257 (D) P378). Reproduced by permission of Lord Londonderry and Durham County Record Office.



Final proposed division of Sea Coal working between Easington Coal Company and Lord Londonderry's Seaham colliery and his new Sea Coal Pits, 18 November 1898. (Durham County Record Office, Londonderry Estate Archives D/Lo Acc 1251 (D) P375). Reproduced by permission of Lord Londonderry and Durham County Record Office.

published by Eileen Hopper in her pair of pictorial studies, *Easington The Way We Were* and *Easington Through the Years*. Accordingly it was not deemed necessary to reproduce so many here.

Published Syntheses and published collections of sources

Existing published research covering the historic village has been summarised for inclusion in the historical synthesis. The principal work of reference is represented by Volume I of Robert Surtees *History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham* which includes a section devoted to Easington parish (1816, 10-39, 119-22) and specifically Easington and Little Thorpe townships or constabularies (pp. 10-11) and Easington church and rectory (11-14).

- Other county history syntheses e.g. Hutchinson (1794, 735-45), Mackenzie & Ross (1834, I, 386-95), Fordyce (1857, II, 351-65) and the Victoria County History (Page (ed.) 1905-1928).
- Medieval and early modern documentary sources published by the Public Record Office, Surtees Society and others, or reproduced in works such as Surtees *History and Antiquities*. Collections which proved particularly useful comprised:
 - i. *Boldon Buke* (ed. & trans. Greenwell 1852: Surtees Society **25**)/*Boldon Book* (ed. & trans. Austin 1982)
 - ii. *Bishop Hatfield's Survey* (ed. Greenwell 1857: Surtees Society **32**)
 - iii. *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis*, ed. W. Greenwell, Surtees Society **58** (1872), Durham, London & Edinburgh
 - iv. *Halmota Prioratus Dunelmensis*, ed. J. Booth and W. H. D. Longstaffe, Surtees Society **82** (1889), Durham, London & Edinburgh
 - v. *Durham Cathedral Priory Rentals I. Bursars Rentals*, ed. R. A. Lomas and A. J. Piper, Surtees Society **198** (1989), Newcastle upon Tyne
 - vi. *Durham, Cursitors Records: Inquisitions Post Mortem etc.*, Appendix to the 44th and 45th Reports of Deputy Keeper of Public Records
 - vii. *Wills and Inventories from the Registry at Durham* (4 vols., Surtees Society **2, 38, 112, 142**, 1835, 1860 1906, 1929).
 - viii. *Durham Hearth Tax, Lady Day 1666* (Green et al. 2006)
- Trade directories
- Relevant specialist archaeological and historical literature.

County Durham is fortunate in being well covered by early documentary material. This is the result of its distinctive history with much of the county being held directly by the church in the Middle Ages, either by the bishop of Durham or by the Benedictine priory attached to the cathedral. At some stage towards the end of the 11th century or early in the 12th century the estates of the former Community of St Cuthbert were divided between the bishop and the priory. For villages and townships which were directly held by either of these institutions copious records survive. In particular, for estates like Easington, which were held directly by the Bishop of Durham, there are two detailed estate surveys, the famous Boldon Book (initially compiled c. 1183 but surviving only in a series of 14th- and 15th-century copies) and Bishop Hatfield's Survey (a similar though even more detailed survey of c. 1383). For the priory's lands there are similar survey documents such as the Feodary, compiled in around 1430, but essentially based on much earlier information, as well as record's associated with the priory's manorial, or 'Halmote', court and copious accounts. This material is less relevant for the study of Easington, although the priory did acquire a single freeholding in Little Thorpe in 1489 (Lomas and Piper, *Bursars Rentals*, 207, citing DCD 2.10.Spec.29). Many of these documents have been published in volumes produced by the Surtees Society, for example, or by Robert Surtees himself in his county history (*History and Antiquities* ... 1816-40) though there is still a great mass of charters and Priory accounts material which is unpublished – fuel for future PhDs and other academic research.

3.2.2 Archaeological Survey

The Durham County Historic Environment Record was consulted in order to prepare a summary gazetteer of all archaeological sites recorded in the township, including industrial archaeological monuments, find spots and communications routes. Sites newly identified during the course of the study have also been added to the gazetteer (see Chapter 6).

Both villages have been examined by a historic buildings specialist, and all buildings of historic interest have been described (see Chapter 7). Photographs of the exterior of each building have been incorporated in the archive gazetteer.

3.2.3 Air Photographic coverage

The existing aerial photographic coverage for Easington, held by the NMR has been examined and significant features noted. The colour satellite imagery provided by Google Earth has also been consulted. The coverage extends right back to series of vertical runs made by the RAF in the mid 1940s and these are in themselves now a valuable historical record of features which, in some instances, have been damaged by more recent agricultural practices and activities such as quarrying.

3.2.4 Survey of Village environs

The wider setting of Easington has been assessed for the Atlas, using the territorial framework of the historic townships of Easington and Little Thorpe, through a combination of aerial photographs, historic maps, documents, previous historical syntheses and site visits. Where possible the various components - infield arable and meadow, outfield pasture, woodland – have been identified and different phases of activity evidence of change over time have been noted in the historical synthesis. Information regarding the extent of outlying settlement has also been summarised in the synthesis.

More detailed recording of the surrounding field systems could form the basis of future community-led study. These might involve recording the wavelength of ridge-and-furrow and identifying ancient hedge-lines by the variety of flora present. The data gathered could then be interpreted using the assembled resource of historic maps, aerial photographs and documented history provided by this report.

3.2.5 Site inspections

Site visits were undertaken to examine the settlement and wider township area, their principal monuments, built environment and field systems. Rather than being a comprehensive field survey, this was carried out to enable the project team to characterise the built fabric, archaeological landscape features and wider landscape setting of the village and to examine features which other data collection methods (historic map analysis/air photography/documentary survey etc.) identified as being of particular importance. Photographs were taken of all the historic buildings and other sites or features of especial significance.

3.2.6 Historic Building survey (see Chapter 7)

All buildings of note were photographed in the course of site visits. Summary descriptions of those located in the historic core of Easington Village, in the hamlet of Little Thorpe and in the centre of Easington Colliery are provided in Chapter 7.

Particular emphasis has been devoted to St Mary's Church with a detailed analysis being included in Chapter 7.

3.2.7 Public information and involvement

Several guided walks around Easington and Little Thorpe villages and its wider environs were undertaken to examine historic buildings, notable archaeological monuments, geological features and sites of ecological significance, such as St Mary's Church, Seaton

BEACON HILL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Aerial Photograph of Beacon Hill, 2001.



Aerial Photograph of Beacon Hill, 2008.

THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HAWTHORN DENE



NW side earthworks



Former Bandstand Site in open enclosed area



Wall enclosing the south side of the open area



Limestone quarry



Wall curving around hill above the quarry



Remains of cottages



Earthwork outline of a cottage west of the viaduct



The limekiln - the restored north-west facing pot



The Viaduct, with unrestored north- and south-east facing pots of the limekiln in the foreground



The Viaduct viewed from the east, with pillbox on the Hawthorn side of the stream.

Holme medieval rectory, Easington Raised Beach, Townfield Quarry and the Permian reef formations of Beacon Hill. These were conducted by staff of the Archaeological Practice, historic buildings expert Peter Ryder, geologist Paul Williams and ecologist Ivan Dunn. A variety of ecological monitoring activities were led by Ivan Dunn (see Chapter 5 for full details).

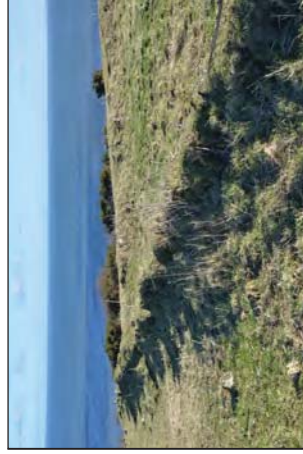
A number of public talks were given by the various specialists involved in the Atlas programme. These included an exploration of the early medieval development of Easington by Eric Cambridge, which looked at the archaeology of Northumbrian monasteries and Easington's possible emergence as the centre of a group of estates held by the Community of St Cuthbert, the monastic community focussed on the cult of St Cuthbert and based successively at Lindisfarne, Chester-le-Street and Durham. Workshops delivered Alan Rushworth and Ian Roberts included the use of archives and methods of analysing historic landscapes using historic maps, documents and aerial photographs. Talks on geology and the analysis of historic buildings were delivered in the course of guided walks. Visits to the Durham Historic Environment Record, Beamish Museum Regional Resource Centre, Bowes Museum (where the Andrew's Hill Anglo-Saxon cemetery finds were on display), plus various regional archives, such as Durham County Record Office and the North-East Mining Institute, were also organised.

A programme of oral recording has also been initiated, with advice and instruction from Richard Carlton and Dr Ian Roberts. Through structured enquiry and conversation with long-standing residents, this is intended to preserve a record of key happenings, past livelihoods and a wealth of other recollections of life in the two communities during the 20th century, including the 'Alternative History' of Easington (see below following Chapter 10).

3.2.8 Schools Programme

A programme of classroom-based and outdoor sessions was delivered to the pupils of Easington Colliery and Easington Village Church of England primary schools and Glendene Academy by geologist Paul Williams, ecologist Ivan Dunn and archaeologist Paul Mercer.

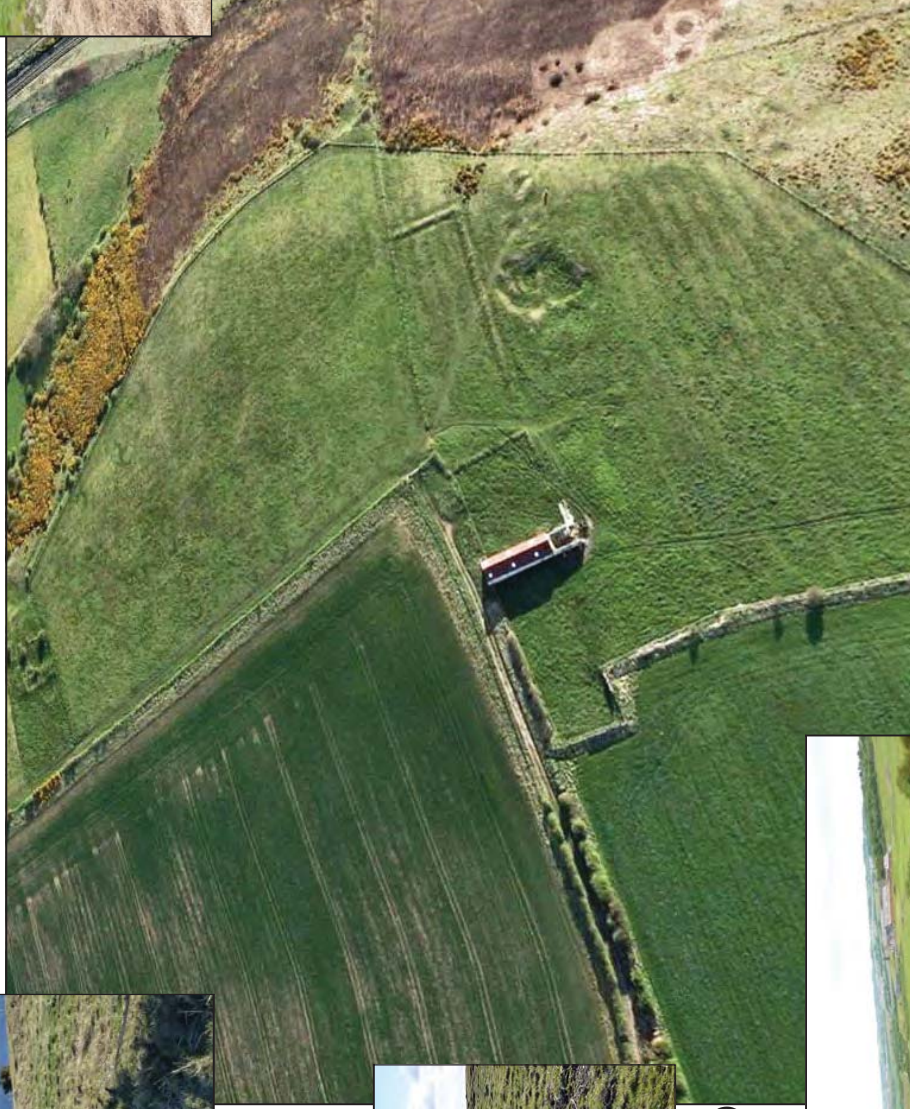
FEATURE: Interpreting Historic Landscapes - Beacon Hill



The footings of the stone wall running eastward from Beacon Hill Farm down the slope towards the sea.



The junction of earthen bank (foreground) and stone wall footings (L-R beyond) at the NE angle of the garth east of Beacon Hill Farm, viewed looking north.



Stone wall footings (foreground) and earthen banks (middle distance) enclosing the garth or paddock east of Beacon Hill Farm, viewed looking SE.



The SE corner of the low bank - perhaps the remains of a sod-cast bank - enclosing the rectangular garth east of Beacon Hill Farm.



A drystone field wall still standing to its full height further down the hillside. Elsewhere these survive only as grass-covered footings.



Ridge and furrow in the field immediately south of Beacon Hill Farm



Beacon depicted on Armstrong's Map of 1768 (DRO D/Lo 239). Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



Beacon depicted on Smith's Map of 1808 (DRO D/CL 23/46). Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



6in 1st Edition OS Map 1857, showing remnant corner of vanished enclosure.

1:2500 2nd Edition OS Map 1896, showing quarry already disused by the 1890s but not revealed on the 1st Edition OS.

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Ridge and Furrow.

Trace of earlier enclosure not shown on historic maps and compare 1st Edition OS.

Earthen embanked enclosure different from walled fields.



Surviving building at Beacon House Farm.



Building analysis - note blocked opening in the wall.



View of Beacon Hill and Beacon House farm building from the south-west.

