

# EASINGTON ATLAS

## - Selection from the Historic Environment Record -



**H36729 : Farnhouse and adjacent barn**  
Farnhouse and barn which may originally have been an oratory connected with Seaton Holme. Possibly C13 with extensive alterations, especially in the C19. Built mainly of limestone rubble with sandstone window and door surrounds. Long rectangular plan. 2 storeys.

**H3865 : Seaton Holme, Private Chapel**  
Range of medieval buildings associated with the former Rectory of Seaton Holme. Built in the later part of the 13th century the structure contains one large west window under a pointed arch together with several other pointed windows which have lost their tracery. On the south side is a window of two trefoil-headed lights. The building was formerly the oratory, or private chapel of the Rectory building (SMR66).



**H35455 and H6939 : Jackson's Mill**  
Windmill, 1832 by John Lamb of Hawthorn for John Henry Jackson. Extensively restored in 1980 when the top storey was removed and a single-storey house added to the east. Constructed in random limestone rubble. Circular plan and tapering elevation. 4 storeys. Door has monolithic cambered arch. Renewed windows retain original stone lintels.

**H66 and H35466 : Seaton Holme, Manor House/Vicarage**  
Reputedly built around AD 1249 for Bishop Farnham as a dwelling following his resignation. Little history is known about the building in the medieval period until the reformation when it became the Rectory and a principal residence of the Archdeacon of Durham. The building contains much of the original medieval manor house. Originating as an aisled hall it was rebuilt in the 15th century as an open hall. The wing to the east is 13th century and likely had service rooms with a solar over. The west wing was added no later than the 15th century. Dendrochronological analysis has shown that part of the building was re-roofed in 1479, again in 1572 with the west wing having roof repairs around 1511. The main building is supported by four buttresses on each of the north and south sides. The building has had its original windows removed and replaced with Georgian sash windows. Immediately to the north stands a second building of 13th century medieval origin, most likely the oratory. A store in the west end of the Manor House appears to refer to substantial rebuilding in 1747 or 1847. The property was sold by the church in 1921 to the Easington Coal Company and shortly after taken over by the poor law union. By 1964 the building was a home for the aged. In 1989 the building was extensively repaired for use as offices and a local interpretation centre. Archaeological recording was carried out during the works revealing much of the interpretation above. -Saxon date were observed.



**KEY:**

- = Prehistoric
- = Romano-British
- = Early Medieval
- = Medieval
- = Post Medieval
- = Modern
- = Village Atlas Study Area

**H7916 : Easington wooden houses**  
Temporary wooden accommodation to house workers of the Easington Mine.

**H3061 : Easington**  
Cropmarks show an iron Age/Romano-British rectilinear enclosure near Holm Hill Farm.

**H7918 : Easington wooden church**  
A 20th century Church built in wood and noted in a general review.

**H8385 : Hawthorn Hive**  
Lime kiln of 18th century date, likely to pre-date the coastal railway. Built partially into the cliff face and constructed of stone with brick arches. One central charge hole with three arches arranged on a curve. One arch has collapsed.

**H3846 : Beacon Hill**  
Site of fire beacon believed to date from medieval times.

**H8310 : Maritime rocket point at Shippersea Point**  
Maritime rocket post noted in early mapping of the area for the ASDJ 1998 gazetteer of archaeological and historical sites along the coastline (1: site number 184).

**H83 : Easington Colliery, Loom Banks 5**  
1 x untouched blade now in Skipton Museum  
**H80 : Easington Colliery, Loom**  
7 x untouched blades and flakes and 2 x gravers, found by Ralsbrick in Skipton Museum  
**H82 : Easington Colliery, Loom**  
2 x untouched blades found by Ralsbrick and now in Skipton Museum  
**H84 : Easington Colliery, Loom Point**  
2 x untouched blades, found, now in Skipton Museum  
**H85 : Easington Colliery, Loom Area**  
Cores, scrapers, microliths, untouched blades and flakes and other material collected by Ralsbrick and Gibbs in 1932 -4. It was found along the coast in fields and cliff sections.  
**H81 : Easington Colliery, Loom**  
1 x core, 1 x microlith and 58 x untouched blades and flakes, found by Ralsbrick and now in Skipton Museum

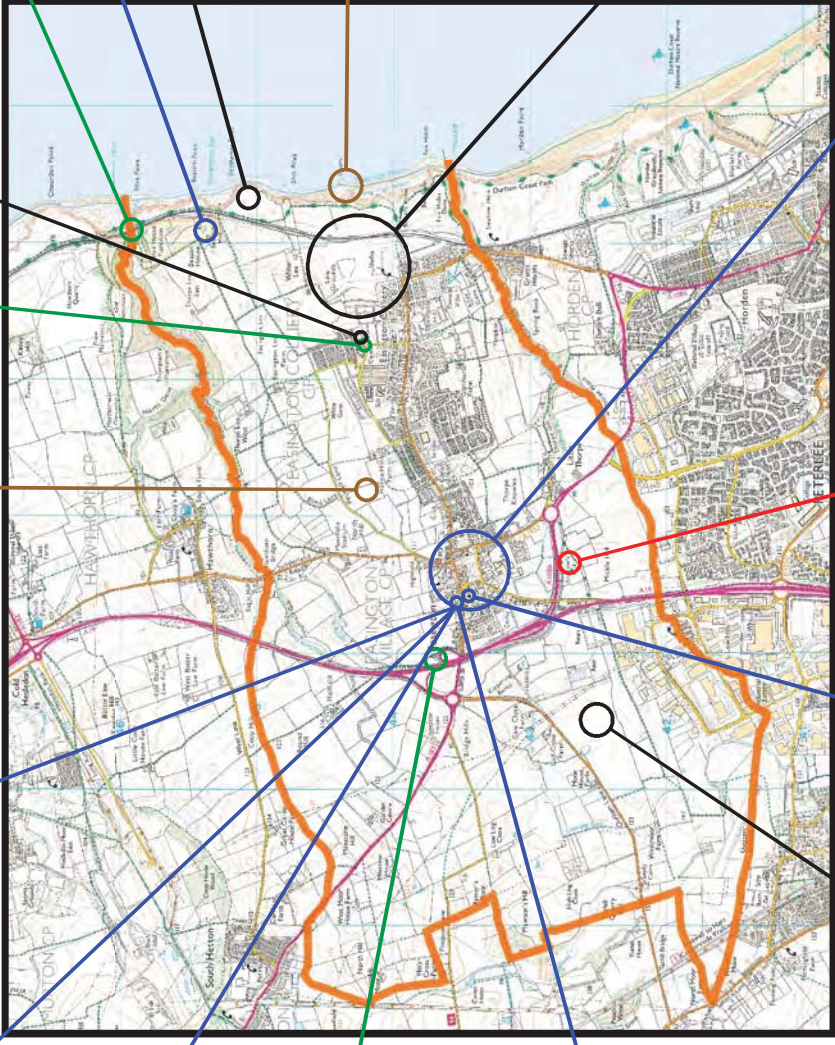
**H843 : Easington Colliery**  
The construction of Easington Colliery began on the 11th of April 1899 when the first sod was cut by Miss Barwick of Thimbleley Hall. The shaft sinking began the same year and continued until 1904 when water burst into the shaft killing one man. The sinking was continued using continental engineers and a freezing process and the South Shaft completed on the 7th of September 1909. The Colliery suffered its worst accident on the 28th of May 1951 when a serious underground explosion in the High Main Seam claimed the lives of 83 men. 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 power station 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.

**H4370 : Easington Village**  
First referred to as *Easington* in around 1050 in Historia de S. Cuthberto and later as *Easston* in the Pipe Rolls of 1196. The ancient parish consisted of Easington, Hawthorn, Haswell and Shotton. In the Boldon Book of 1183 we have a description of village life and the payments made to the Bishop by his tenants. In the 14th the village was destroyed by Scottish raids. Between 1656 and 1665 the moors of the parish were enclosed and divided between the tenants. The church is 12th century and stands on a prominent position. The earliest part of the church is the tower and the tower and font steps. Easington Colliery was built and in 1910 the first coal was drawn. 1951 saw disaster when 81 miners and 2 rescue workers perished in the Easington Pit Disaster.

**H51 : Easington, Andrew's Hill**  
An Anglo-Saxon cemetery identified by metal detecting and confirmed by trial excavation. This revealed a trackway and bank, and located graves in a plough damaged linear cemetery of 6th or early 7th century. Grave goods included cruciform, small-long and annular brooches, glass and amber beads and an iron chateleine set. Bone survival was very poor due to the ground conditions and modern deep ploughing. It is especially notable for being one of the few pagan Anglian cemeteries located North of the Tees.

**H248 : Easington, St. Mary's**  
Probable Anglo-Saxon foundation, the existing building has a Norman tower & C13 buttresses. The rest of the church is in Early English style. Restored in 1894. The Norman antecedent was pulled down in the late C12. A late Saxon relief cross is built into the base of the tower's west wall. Of historical significance is a fragment of limestone built in to the exterior of the south aisle, carved with delicate plaitwork belonging to the C8.

**H44098 : Easington Landing Ground**  
Used by 36 Squadron from October 1916 until the end of 1918.



## 6. CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

### 6.1 Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Sites

Summary gazetteers listing all the sites of significant cultural heritage interest in the Easington Atlas Study Area are set out below with an accompanying location map. These include all the sites falling within the modern civil parishes of Easington and Easington Colliery which broadly equate to the historic townships of Easington and Little Thorpe. The sites are principally derived from the Durham Heritage Environment Record (HER). Further sites noted during field examination have also been added.

ID.	HER No.	Description	Summary	Period	Grid Ref
1	3865	Seaton Holme	Private Chapel	Medieval	NZ 413 435
2	3866	Evidence of an Anglo-Saxon Building at Seaton Holme	Building	Early Medieval	NZ 413 435
3	4370	Easington	Village		NZ 415 436
4	66	Seaton Holme	Manor House, Vicarage	Medieval	NZ 4137 4352
5	35454	Walls, 10m E of barn to N of Seaton Holme	Garden Wall	Post Medieval	NZ 41347 43546
6	35466	Seaton Holme	Cross Wing House, Hall House, House, Vicarage, Local Government Office	Medieval	NZ 41364 43520
7	35467	Church of St Mary (Listed Building entry)	Gravestone, Parish Church, Effigy	Early Medieval	NZ 41428 43444
8	8592	Easington Village, AP Site	Aerial Photograph, Ring Ditch	Uncertain	NZ 41531 43698
9	2539	Easington	Tomb Effigy		NZ 414 435
10	248	Easington, St. Mary's (HER entry)	Parish Church	Medieval	NZ 414 435
11	36121	Milestone 75m North of the Manor House	Milestone	Post-Medieval	NZ 41601 43432
12	36129	Farmhouse & barn 15m to N of Seaton House	Barn, Farmhouse	Medieval	NZ 41440 43561
13	35453	The Manor House	Manor House	Post-Medieval	NZ 41614 43346
14	249	Easington, Low Row	House	Early Modern	NZ 418 434
15	5939	Jackson's Mill	Windmill	C19	NZ 40976 43710
16	35455	Jackson's Mill 150m N of Weetwood House	Windmill, isolation hospital & house	C19 C20	NZ 40978 43712
17	51	Easington, Andrew's Hill	Cemetery	Early Medieval	NZ 417 427
18	5940	Easington Mill	Windmill		NZ 40986 43102
19	44098	Easington Landing Ground	Airfield	Modern	NZ 405 425
20	5941	Thorpe Moor Windmill	Windmill		NZ 41153 42168
21	818	Easington	Milestone		NZ 412 420
22	67	Hawthorn, Mill	Mill		NZ 41843 45174
23	8088	Hawthorn rectangular enclosure	Rectilinear Enclosure	Uncertain	NZ 420 452
24	71	Hawthorn	Findspot		NZ 423 451
25	3061	Easington	Rectilinear		NZ 422 442

			Enclosure		
26	7916	Easington wooden houses	Building	Post-Medieval	NZ 43 44
27	7918	Easington wooden church	Church	Uncertain	NZ 43 44
28	35335	Masters House, Manual Instruction Block, Bicycle shed	Bicycle Shed, Boundary Wall, Classroom, Gate, Gate Pier, Railings, Teachers House	Modern	NZ 43137 43907
29	35627	Former Boys Block at Easington Colliery School	Classroom, Plaque, School	Modern	NZ 43106 43936
30	35628	Former Girls Block at Easington Colliery School	Classroom, Plaque, School	Modern	NZ 43176 43925
31	3843	Easington Colliery	Colliery		NZ 437 441
32	819	Easington Colliery	Industrial		NZ 44 44
33	747	Easington, St. Mary's	Sculpture	Early Medieval	NZ 4141 4345
34	92	Easington Colliery, Fox Holes	Findspot	Prehistoric	NZ 445 437
35	3853	Easington Beach.	Pillbox	Modern	NZ 445 437
36	10276	Unknown	Wooden Sailing Vessel	Modern	NZ 44473 43945
37	10284	Dido	Wooden Sailing Vessel	Post-Medieval	NZ 44473 43945
38	10285	Dover Excursion	Wooden Sailing Vessel	Post-Medieval	NZ 44473 43945
39	82	Easington Colliery, Loom	Findspot	Prehistoric	NZ 445 444
40	84	Easington Colliery, Loom Point	Findspot	Prehistoric	NZ 445 444
41	85	Easington Colliery, 'Loom Area'	Findspot	Prehistoric	NZ 444 444
42	81	Easington Colliery, Loom	Findspot	Prehistoric	NZ 445 444
43	83	Easington Colliery, Loom Banks 5	Findspot	Prehistoric	NZ 445 444
44	80	Easington Colliery, Loom	Findspot	Prehistoric	NZ 445 444
45	8269	Low Grounds Farm	Burial, Flint Scatter	Prehistoric	NZ 43939 44364
46	8268	White Lea Farm	Flint Scatter	Prehistoric	NZ 44003 44654
47	8280	White Lea cropmark	Aerial Photograph	Uncertain	NZ 43750 44949
48	8310	Maritime rocket point at Shippersea Point	Structure	Modern	NZ 4435 4504
49	276	Horden, "Stewarts Court"	Wreck	Modern	NZ 44 45
50	3849	Shippersea Bay	Maritime Structure		NZ 4435 4525
51	74	Hawthorn, Beacon Hill	Findspot		NZ 4407 4539
52	34485	Cropmarks near Beacon Hill, Easington	Site	Uncertain	NZ 43941 45241
53	5743	Beacon House Farm 1	Ridge And Furrow	Medieval	NZ 44011 45321
54	3846	Beacon Hill	Beacon		NZ 4410 4537
55	94	Easington Colliery, Beacon	Findspot	Prehistoric	NZ 444 455
56	3851	Hawthorn Dene	Unclassified Site	Post-Medieval	NZ 4409 4584
57	3845	Blue House	Farmstead		NZ 4385 4574
58	3838	Hawthorn Dene	Building		NZ 4397 4597
59	91	Hawthorn, Tower	Findspot	Prehistoric	NZ 438 459
60	3832	Sailor's Hall	Gazebo		NZ 4398 4594
61	3830	Hawthorn Tower	House	Post-Medieval	NZ 439 461
62	72	Easington Colliery	Findspot		NZ 441 459
63	36107	Hawthorn Dene Viaduct	Railway Viaduct	Modern	NZ 44094 45913
64	8320	Trenches at Hawthorn Dene	Earthworks	Modern	NZ 4405 4594



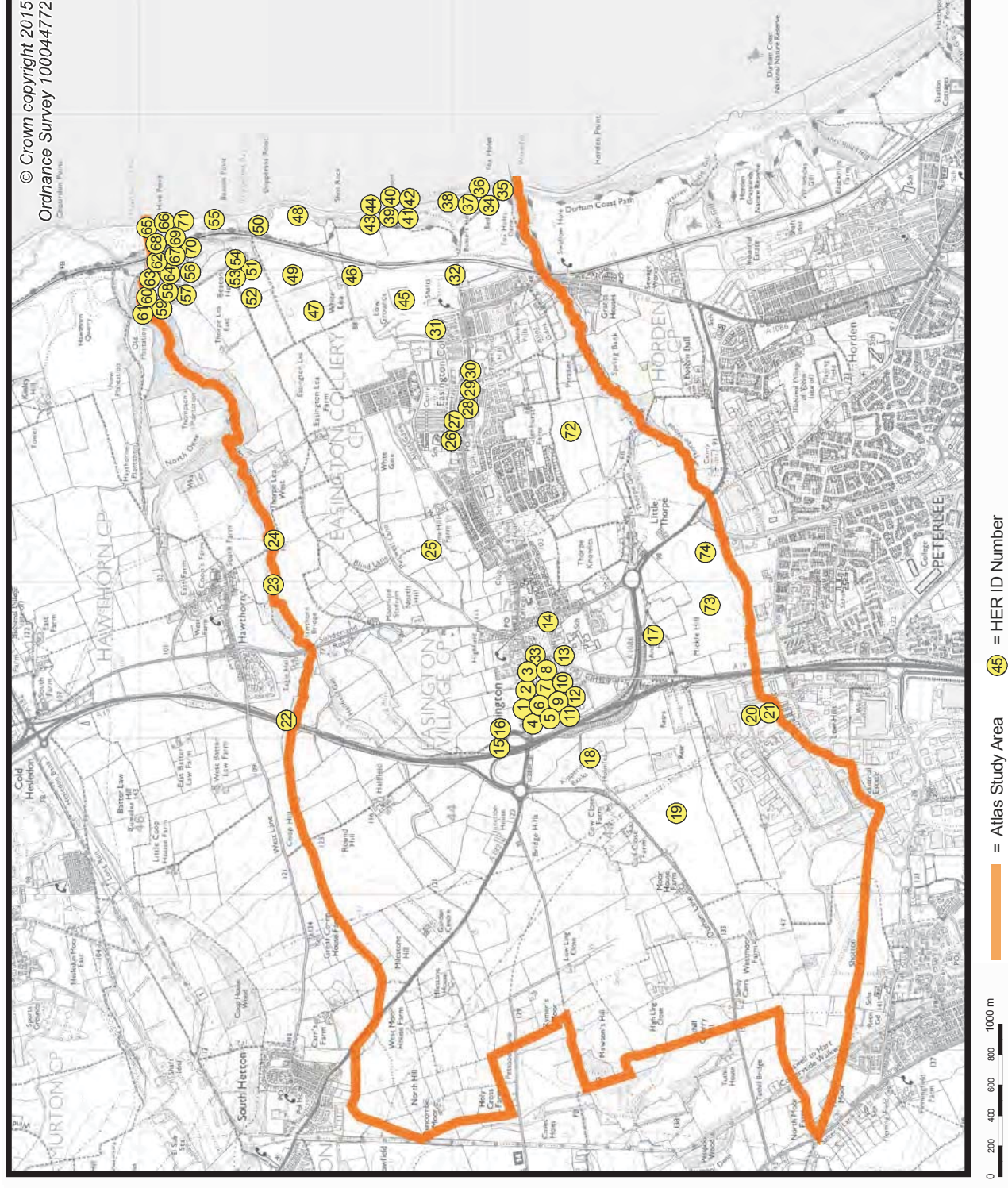
65	6571	Hawthorn Hithe, "Miss Thomas"	Ship	Post-Medieval	NZ 443 460
66	3850	Hive Point	Unclassified	Post-Medieval	NZ 4420 4586
67	3833	Hawthorn Hythe	Building		NZ 4404 4588
68	3834	Hawthorn Dene	Building		NZ 4405 4591
69	3835	Hawthorn Hive	Lime Kiln		NZ 4413 4592
70	3836	Hawthorn Hive	Pillbox	Modern	NZ 4415 4595
71	3837	Hive Point	Practice Trench	Modern	NZ 441 458
72		Rectilinear settlement enclosure near Glenhurst Farm	Double-ditched square enclosure	Iron Age/Romano-British?	NZ 4295 4315
73		Low Hills rectilinear enclosed settlement complex (a) and field system (b)	Trapezoidal ditched enclosure and field system	Iron Age/Romano-British?	NZ 4195 4235 (a) NZ 4220 4230 (b)
74		St Mary's Church, Easington. Carved stone reused in S wall of S aisle	Stone with C8 or C10/11 decorative relief carving	Early medieval	NZ 4142 4344
75		Mill Hill	Possible site of medieval corn mill	Medieval?	
76		Watermill 300m E of Little Thorpe	Watermill	Post-Medieval	NZ 4280 4287
77		Thorpe Mill (in ruins by 1857)	Windmill?	C19 Post-Medieval	NZ 4248 4284
78		Steam corn mill, Easington Southside	Steam corn mill	C19	NZ 4156 4332
79		Steam corn mill, Easington Low Row	Steam corn mill	Later C19	NZ 4177 4342
80		Rectory Farm, Easington village	Farmstead		
81		Claypool Farm, Easington village	Farmstead		
82		The Grange,	Farmstead		
83		South Grange Farm, Easington village	Farmstead		
84		East Grange Farm, Easington Village	Farmstead		
85		Dairy Farm, Little Thorpe	Farmstead		
86		Springwell Farm, Little Thorpe	Farmstead		
87		Littlethorpe Farm	Farmstead		
88		South Farm, Little Thorpe	Farmstead		
89		Blue House			
90		Beacon House			
91		Easington Lea East Farm			
92		White Lea Farm			
93		Low Grounds Farm			
94		Rise Bridge Farm			
95		Paradise			
96		Scalderish Hill Barn			
97		Holm Hill Farm			
98		Cow Close Farm			
99		Strawberry Hall Farm			
100		Thorpe Moor House			
101		Thorpe Moor Farm			
102		Westmoor Farm			
103		Sandy Carrs			
104		High Ling Close Farm			
105		Low Ling Close Farm			



106		Duncombe Moor Farm			
107		West Moor House			
108		Milestone House			
109		Hallfield Farm			
110		Petwell Barn			
111		Easington Lea			
112		Thorpe Lea West Farm			
113		Easington Lea Farm			
114		Thorpe Lea East Farm			
115		Easington Poor Law Union workhouse & Leeholme Hospital	C19 Workhouse and C20 hospital	C19-C20	NZ
116		Thorpe Hospital, Littlethorpe	Isolation and later maternity hospital	C20	NZ
117		Easington Railway Station	Railway station (passenger, goods)	C20	NZ

# EASINGTON ATLAS

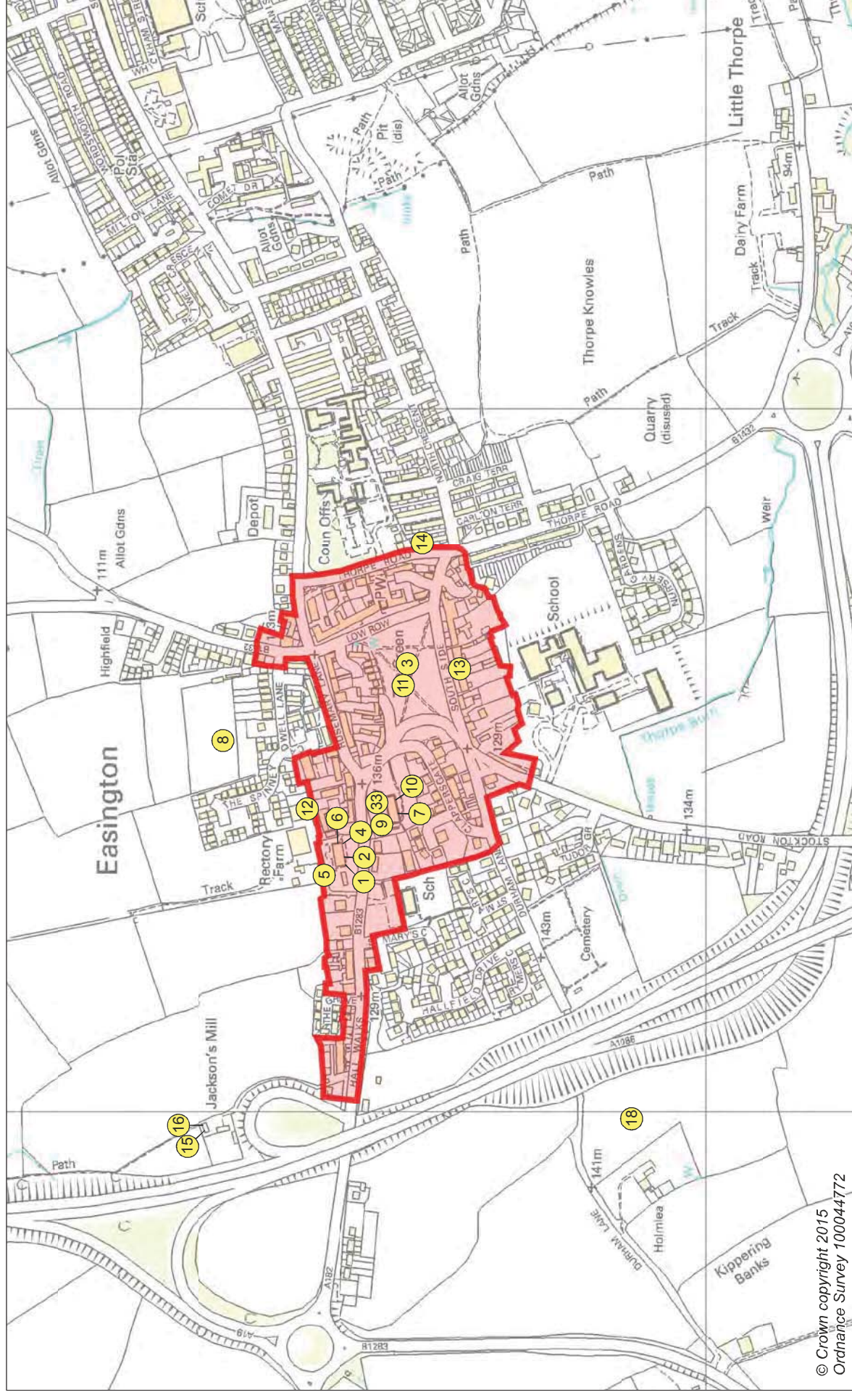
## - HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD -





# EASINGTON ATLAS

- VILLAGE CORE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD -

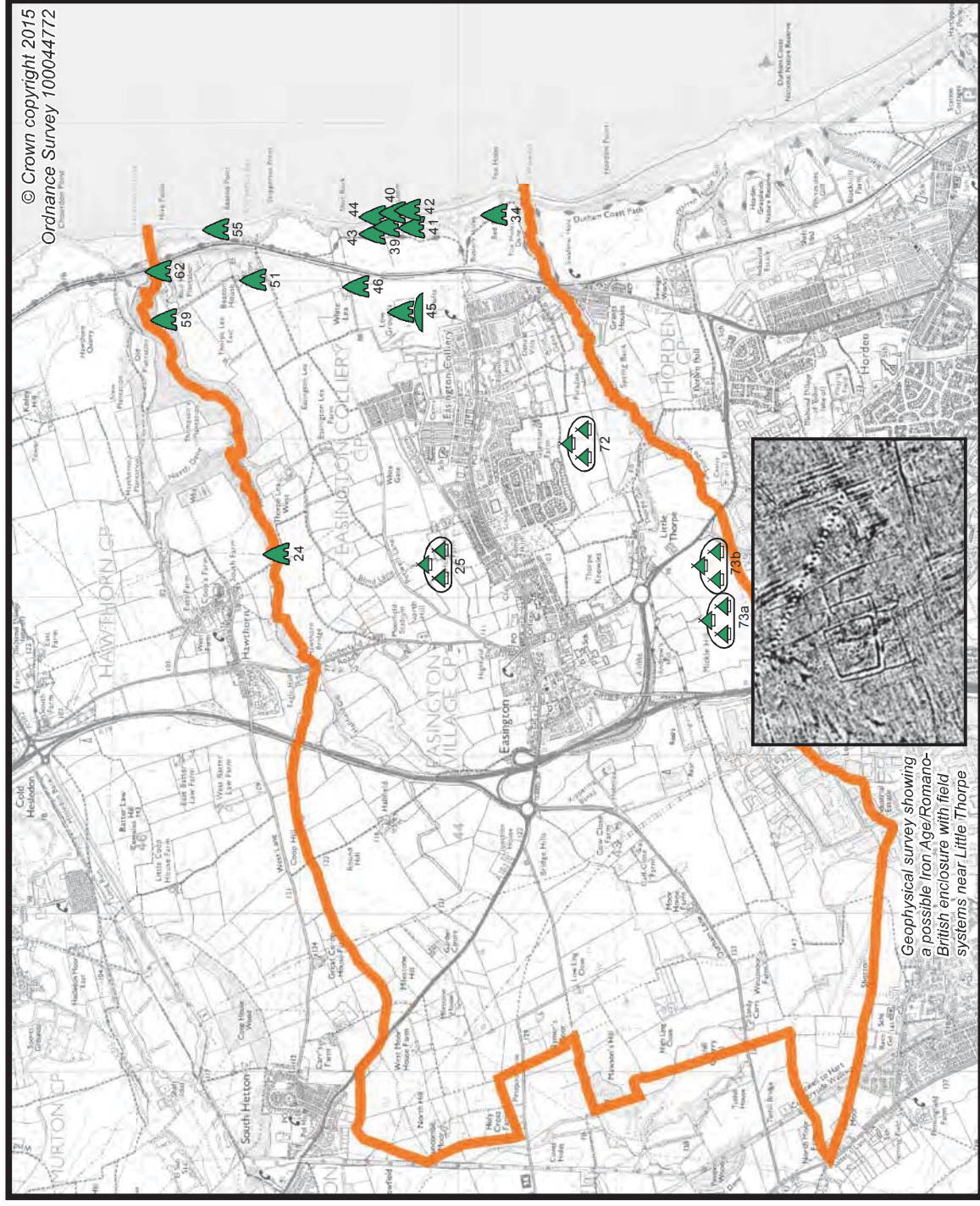


 = Easington Village Conservation Area



# EASINGTON ATLAS

## - PREHISTORIC SITES AND FINDS -





# EASINGTON ATLAS

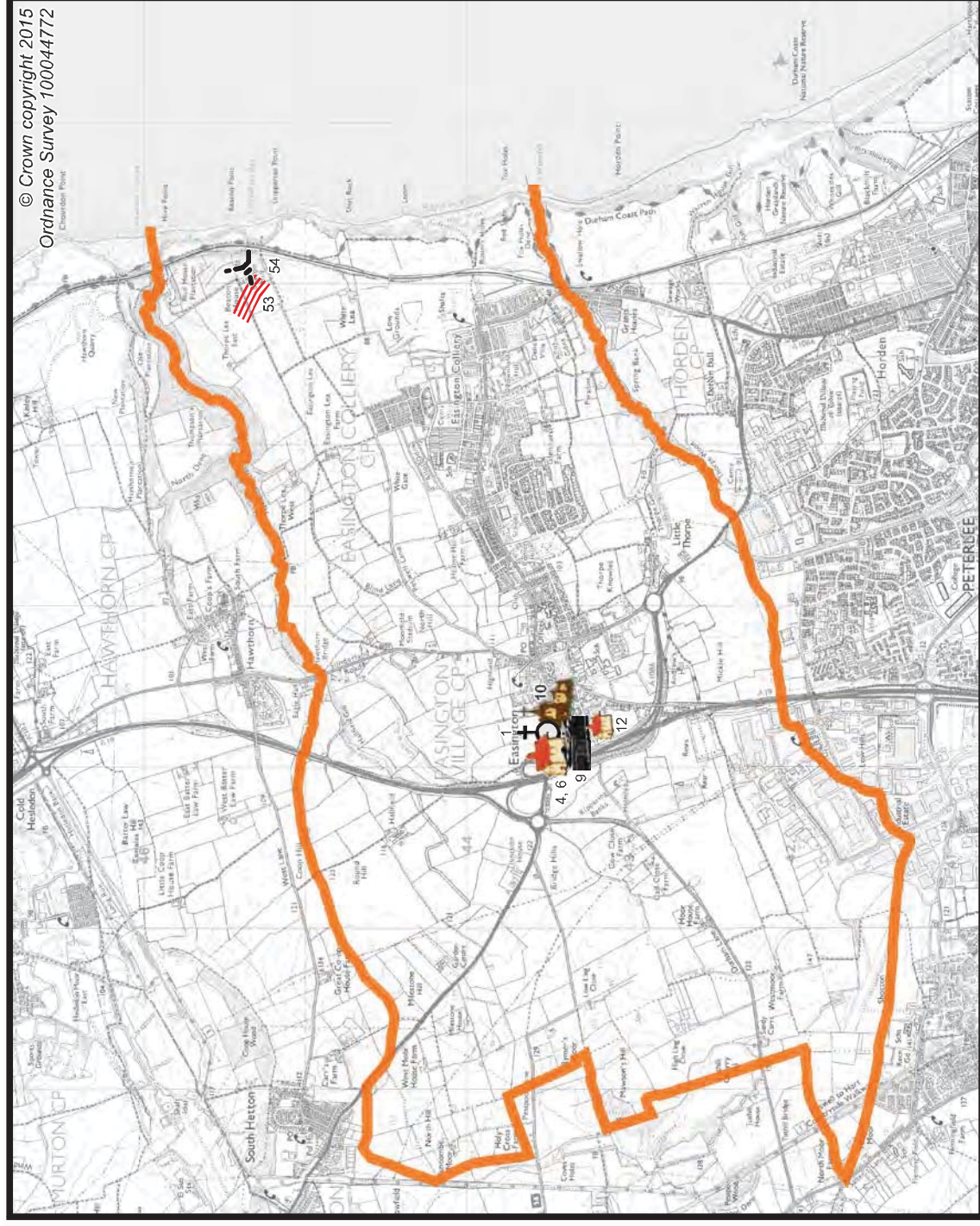
## - EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES AND FINDS -





# EASINGTON ATLAS

## - MEDIEVAL SITES AND FINDS -



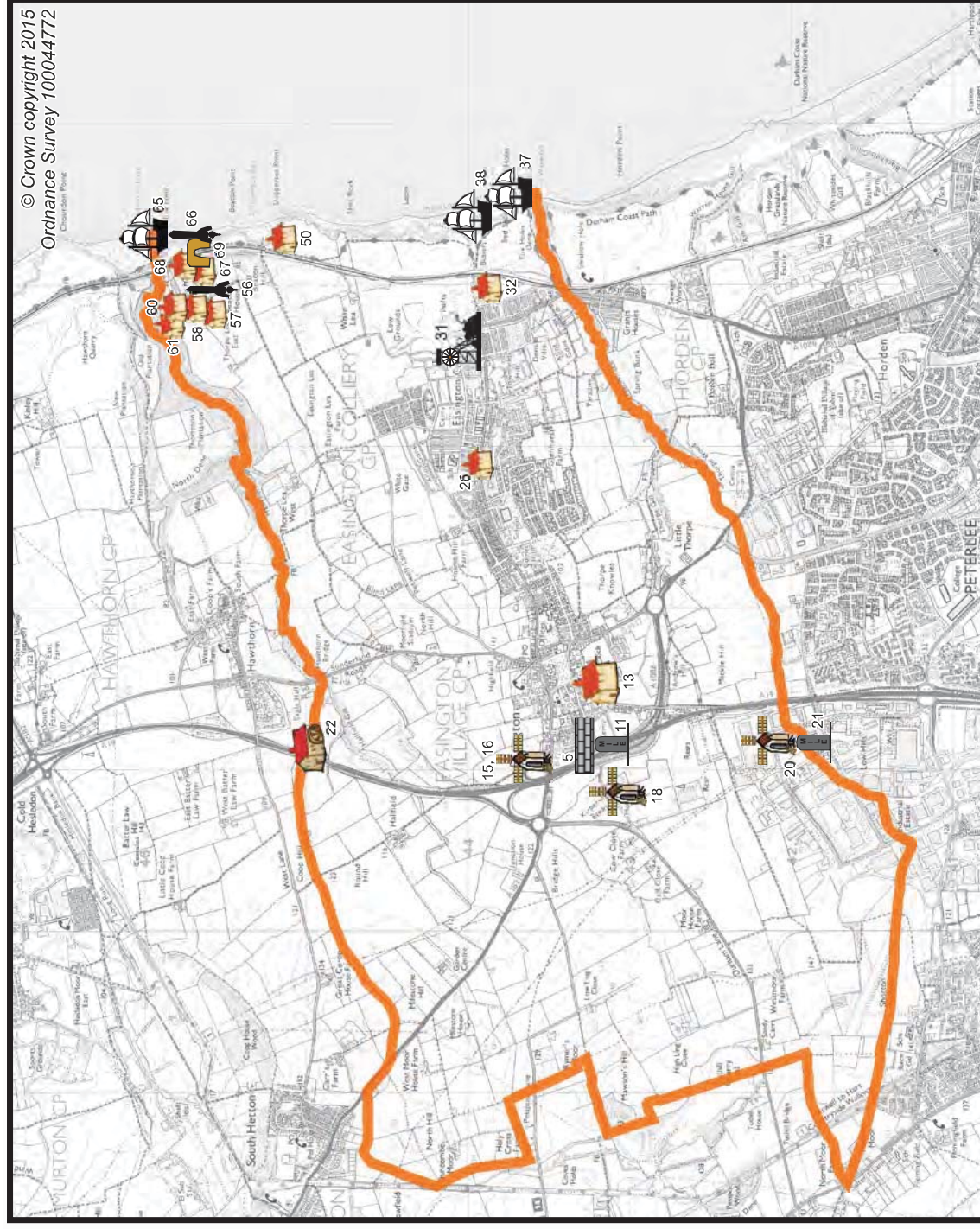
25 = Atlas Study Area  
= HER ID Number

♂ = Chapel  
= Ridge & Furrow  
= Beacon  
= Church  
= Farm  
= Manor House  
= Tomb Effigy



# EASINGTON ATLAS

## - POST MEDIEVAL SITES AND FINDS -



0 200 400 600 800 m

25

= Atlas Study Area

= HER ID Number

= Windmill

= Vessel

= Manor House

= Colliery

= Rocket Station

= Watmill

= Building

= Garden Wall

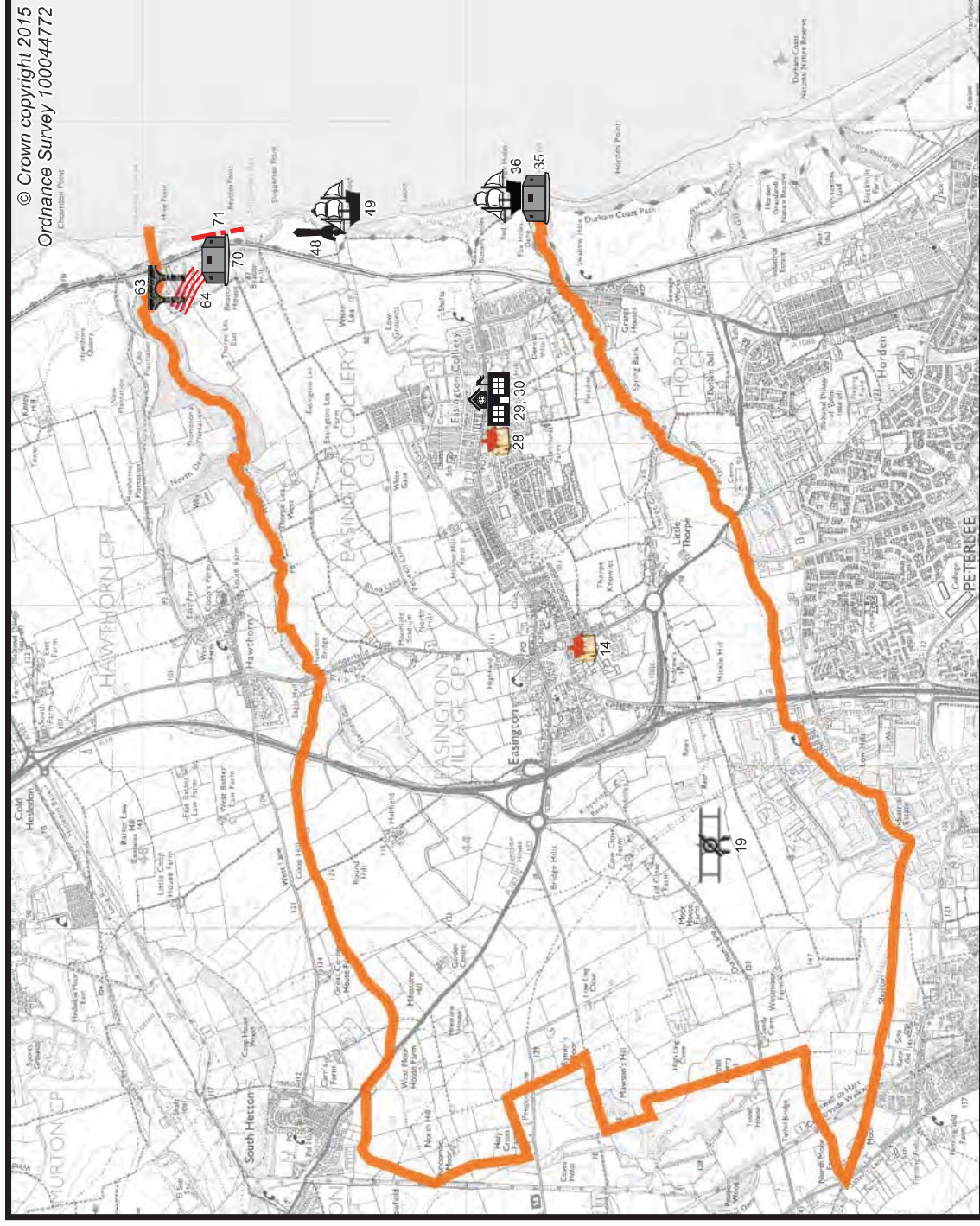
= Milestone

= Limekiln



# EASINGTON ATLAS

- MODERN SITES AND FINDS -

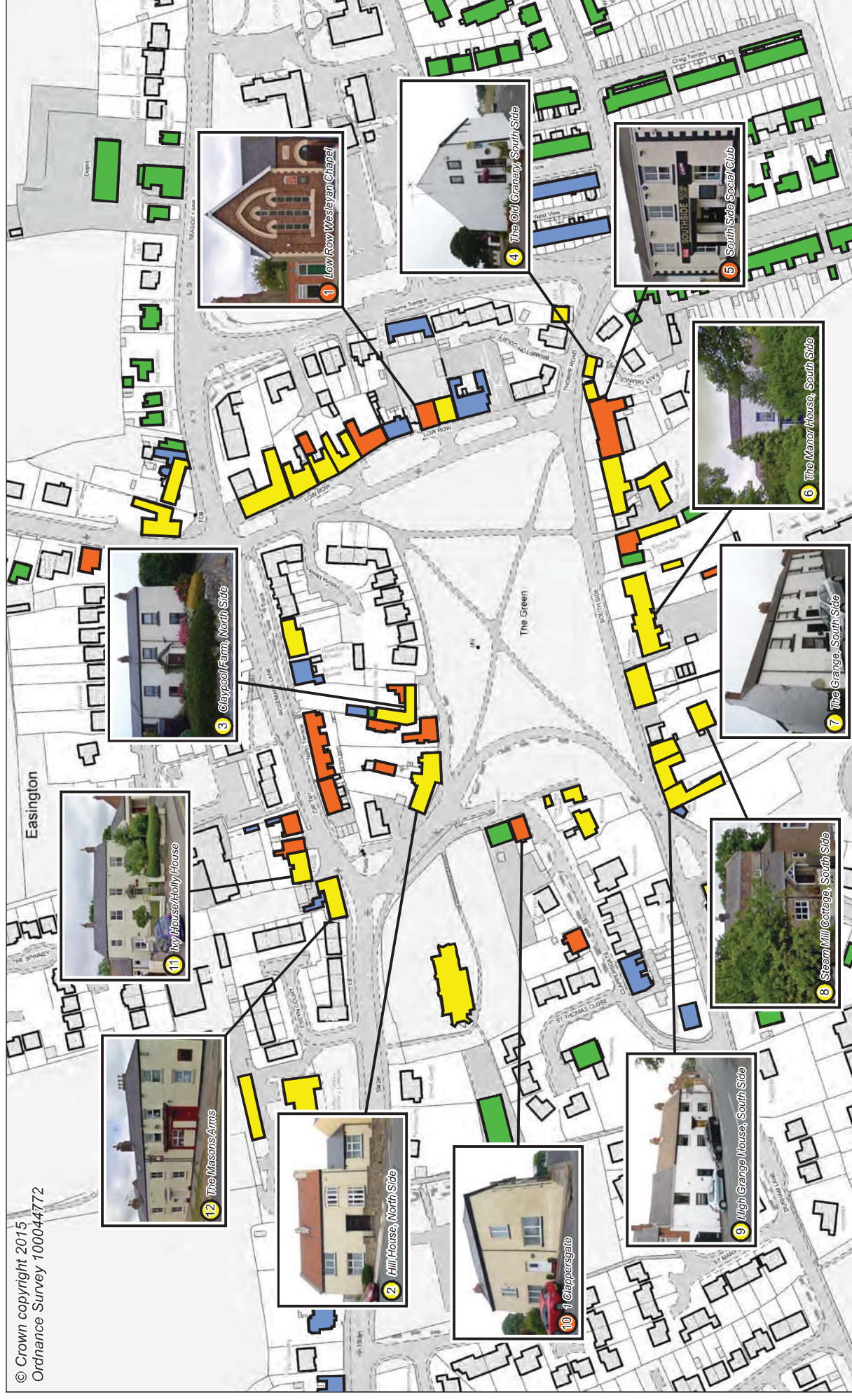


- = Atlas Study Area
- = HER ID Number
- = Airfield
- = Shipwreck
- = Building
- = Earthworks
- = Railway Viaduct
- = School
- = Pillbox
- = Rocket Station
- = WW2 Trench



# Key to Historic Buildings around Easington Village Green

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Ordnance Survey 100044772



- = Buildings visible on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1857.
- = Buildings visible on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1919.
- = Buildings visible on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1897.
- = Buildings visible on the Forth Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1939.



## 7. HISTORIC BUILDINGS

### 7.1 Introduction

Walks were conducted by historic buildings expert Peter Ryder and archaeologist Alan Rushworth, with members of the local community, to examine buildings of interest around the historic cores of Easington Village and Little Thorpe. A further perambulation was undertaken by Peter Ryder around Easington Colliery. Short descriptions of the buildings examined during the walks are set out below keyed to illustrated maps showing the location and appearance of the various buildings.

In addition longer sections on the history and architecture of certain selected buildings such as St Mary's parish church which were visited more than once by the study group are also included below. Other buildings of interest are included in the photographic sections.

### 7.2 The Itineraries

#### 7.2.1 Easington Village

##### **Low Row Wesleyan Chapel, Easington Green**

Gable end (west) to street; orange brick in English Garden Wall Bond 1&5 with painted quoins and dressings, Gothic, with three lancet windows under a two-centred arch, and lower porch to right with panelled door with fanlight, under round arch and '1884' date plaque. Side walls rendered, three stepped lancets in east gable. The adaptation of the Gothic style by all the main streams of Methodism in the later 19th century indicated a perception of respectability; thirty years earlier such chapels would almost certainly have been simple Classical buildings.

##### **Buildings around the Green**

**Hill House** (north side, west end); a much altered building, probably of 18th-century origin, in which the original main block and rear outshut have been united under a raised roof of symmetrical section, the east end and central chimneys of the old main body, formerly on the ridge, now breaking the front roof slope. The position of the front door suggests it leads into a passage behind the stack, with the main living room to the east.

**Claypool Farm**, in the centre of the north side, a whitewashed five-bay range, (the western two bays being an outbuilding); general proportions look late 18th- or early 19th-century. The present roof is of Welsh slates, but the raised coping to the east gable end suggests that this is secondary, implying that (perhaps) the house pre-dates the widespread import of purple (Welsh) slate that came with the development of the railways in the 1840s. The more recent house to the south-west abuts on the outbuilding section of the range in a very strange way, with the lower part of its corner being cut back to allow access between the two buildings, it almost looks as if an error was made in laying out the plans.

**The Old Granary** (east end of south side). A modern sign announces a '1773' date but the building is now rendered and whitewashed, with few openings, and pretty mute.

**Southside Social Club**. Rendered and whitewashed, with painted quoins suggesting at least two phases in date; the proportions of the openings suggest an early 19th-century date; roof probably lowered.

**The Manor House.** A three-bay farmhouse with quite a lofty frontage and no openings above the first floor windows – typical later 18th-century proportions.

**The Grange.** A humbler two-storeyed building, rendered and whitewashed, with possible earlier rubble fabric showing through at the east end.

**The Mill.** Set well back, perhaps of early to mid-19th-century date.

West of the Mill is the modern Mill House, and then an earlier rubble party wall between it and the next much-altered building, an example of how intermediate walls between properties survive when both are rebuilt – a phenomenon seen in Durham where some medieval fabric survives in similar circumstances.

At the end of the row **1 Grange farm Buildings** and **High Grange House**, which make up another two-storeyed whitewashed range, are probably of late 18th-century date; the west end gable is raised above the (modern) tiled roof, suggesting an earlier pantile or even thatched roof.

On the west side of the Green, **1 Clappersgate**; on a corner site, quite a tall building, as usual rendered, with its roof hipped at the corner. The walls seem quite thick, and batter out at the base, and there is a cogged brick cornice to the eaves, suggesting an 18th-century date, although even earlier fabric might survive.

On the north side of the main road to the north-east of the parish church **Ivy Lodge/Holly House** is a two-storeyed range with leaded cross-casement windows, which looks to be of early 19th-century date; set forward to the west is the **Masons Arms**, with a hipped Welsh slate roof, again of early-19th-century proportions.

## Little Thorpe 2



*Ivy House and Littlethorpe Farm outbuilding, viewed looking west along the street.*



*The newly built houses at the E end of the village, looking east.*



*View of Little Thorpe hamlet from the north-east.*



*View of the disused farm building of Dairy Farm on the north side of the settlement.*



*View from the north side of the hamlet, looking east.*



## Buildings Around Easington Village Green, part 2



*High Grange House*



*One Clappersgate*



*Ivy Lodge - Holly House*



*Masons Arms*



## Easington Board Offices (now demolished)



*The Council Chamber*

*Built in 1901-2 to accommodate the offices and meetings of the Board of Guardians of the Easington Poor Law Union and the Easington Rural District Council*





# Jackson's Mill







# Little Thorpe 1



*View along the street at Little Thorpe from the W end of the hamlet, with buildings attached to Springwell Farm in the foreground.*



*View of Springwell farmhouse from the west, with outbuildings of Littlethorpe Farm visible beyond.*



*Springwell Farm from the north-east.*



*The two houses of North View to the fore with the N-S aligned outbuilding of Littlethorpe Farm and Ivy House beyond, from the W.*



*North View: above - the two houses viewed from the north; right - a detailed view of the projecting chimney stack at the east end.*



## Little Thorpe 2



*Ivy House and Littlethorpe Farm outbuilding, viewed looking west along the street.*



*The newly built houses at the E end of the village, looking east.*



*View of Little Thorpe hamlet from the north-east.*



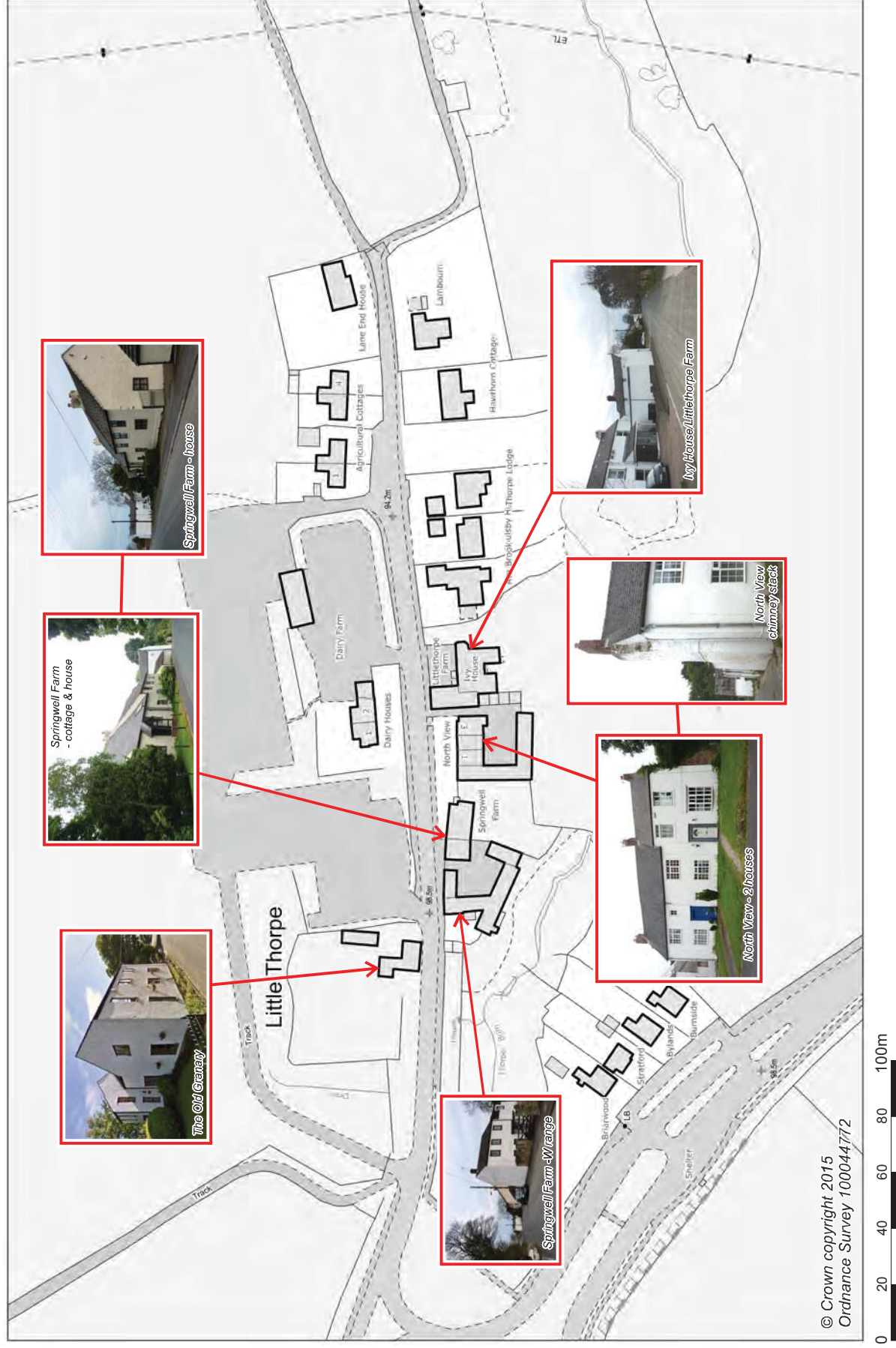
*View of the disused farm building of Dairy Farm on the north side of the settlement.*



*View from the north side of the hamlet, looking east.*



# Key to Historic Buildings in Little Thorpe



### 7.2.2 Little Thorpe

The buildings of the single-street village of Little Thorpe have been largely remodelled or rebuilt during the 20th century. Entering the street from the east, the first building on the north of the road is the **Old Granary** which looks to include a 19th-century structure, probably a farm building, now rendered and colour washed; it seems to appear on the 2nd edition OS 1:2500 map.

Then, on the south of the road, comes the first of three old groups of buildings. This is a two-storey and three-bay house facing south, roughcast and colour washed, with a Welsh slate roof extending down over a rear outshut; there is what looks like a later extension, set back a little from the frontage, at the west end. The general proportions of the house, and the projecting chimneystack on the west gable, hint at a pre-19th-century date. There is a yard to the south-west surrounded by much-altered buildings.

There follows an attached pair of houses. The western, of two narrow bays, has a Welsh slate roof; the second, lower and longer, has a modern tiled roof set at quite a steep pitch, and a projecting stack on the east gable end; its general proportions suggest an 18th-century date.

The third old group, **Ivy House** has a much-altered house facing north, with an outshut to the rear, and an attached outbuilding of whitewashed brick running north from its west end to the road.



### **7.2.3 Easington Colliery**

Bottom of main road on NW side single-storey pebble-dashed end brick eaves cornice hipped Welsh Slate roof orange tile ridge, institute or reading room? Several windows now blocked.

#### **Easington Colliery Methodist Church.**

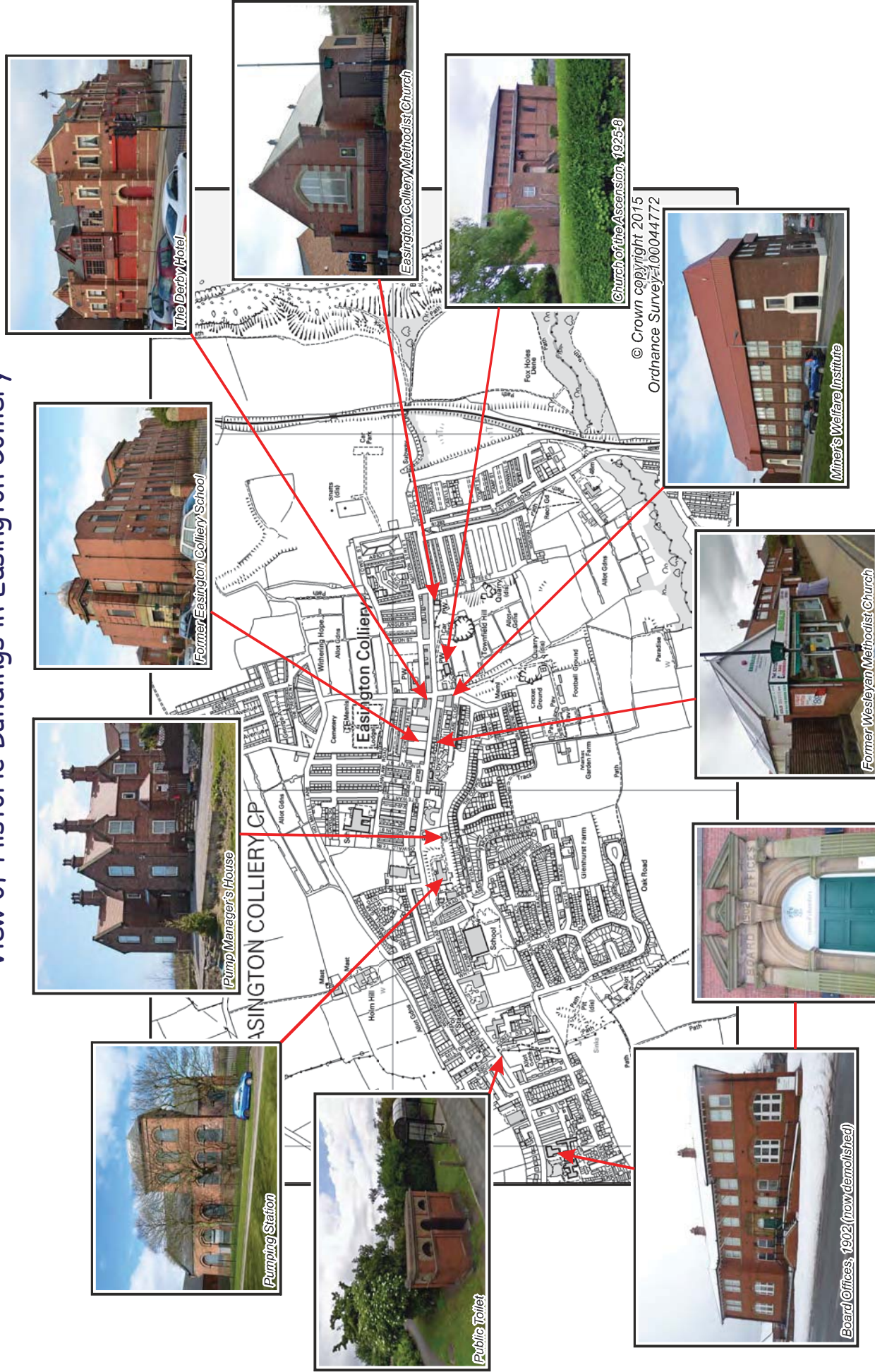
Early 20th century, and set gable-end to street, of bright orange brick laid in stretcher bond, with ashlar dressings; in the (north) gable end a larger window with a four-centred arch, and below it an ashlar band, perhaps intended for names of donors etc. but uncarved. On either side lower extensions (that to west a porch) perhaps later. The side walls of the main hall are articulated by buttresses, and have windows with chamfered ashlar lintels and coloured leaded glazing. Welsh slate roof with raised ventilators on ridge.

#### **The Church of the Ascension**

An Italianate basilica, built of brick in Flemish bond, in 1925-8 by C Hodgson Fowler, with round-arched windows and an entry unusually set in the eastern bay of each aisle; the fact that it was unfinished is given away by the plain square-headed openings in the west gable end – presumably there was intended to be a tower. The interior was 'richly redecorated' by Sir Ninian Comper in memory of the victims of the 1951 Easington Colliery Disaster, with a painted and gilded screen and altar set off by white walls (Pevsner)

**Wesleyan Methodist Church**, now Emerald Furniture. Early 20th century; its designation suggests it is pre-1930. Quite a humble building set gable end to the street, with a modern porch and a corrugated sheet roof, with nothing other than its form now visible to indicate an ecclesiastical origin.

# View of Historic Buildings in Easington Colliery





## Pumping Station and Healthworks with Manager's House





## ('The Welly') Easington Colliery Welfare



*View of the original Miner's Hall and Institute before burning down in 1929*





## Easington Colliery School (now disused)





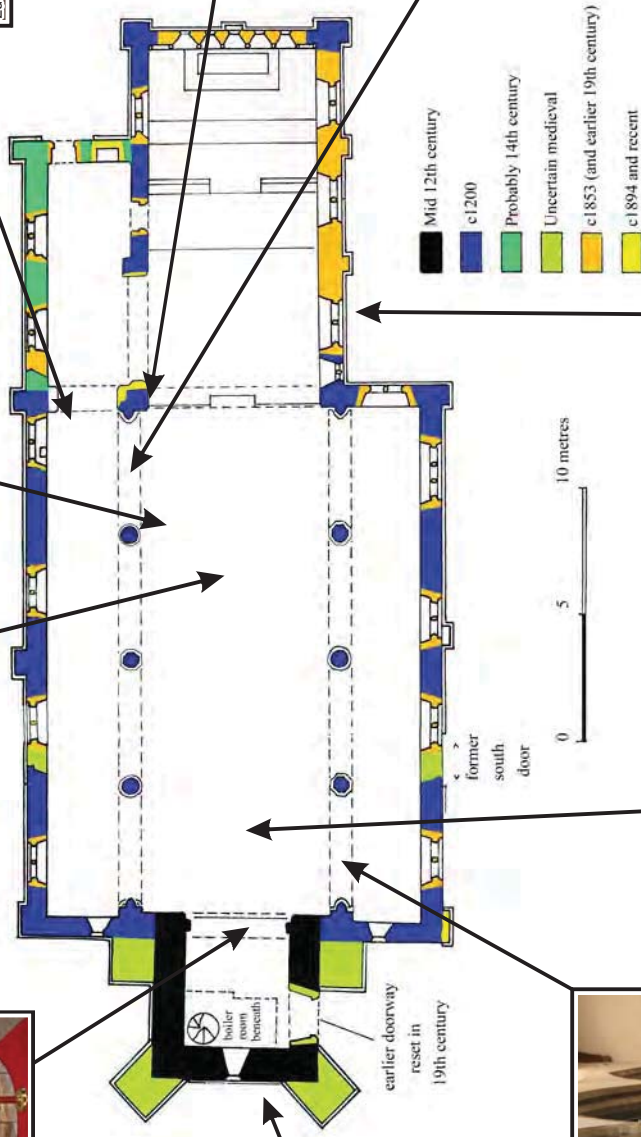
## Hawthorn Railway Viaduct







## View of St. Mary The Virgin's Church, Easington with Provisional Phased Plan



### 7.3 St Mary's Church, Easington

Easington parish church on its hilltop is a prominent landmark in East Durham, lying 3 km inland from the sea, and 15km east of the City of Durham. It stands at the west end of the old village of Easington, arranged around a square green; across the road to the north of the church is Seaton Holme, the medieval rectorial manor house.

The church consists of a west tower, a four-bay aisled nave, and a chancel with organ chamber and vestries on the north.

#### 7.3.1 Architectural Description

##### The Exterior

Unless otherwise stated the external walls of the church are of mixed rubble (largely Magnesian Limestone, but with some sandstone), only roughly coursed, and in places heavily mortared. Dressings are usually of sandstone.

The **West Tower** is divided into four external stages by chamfered set-backs on south and west, the upper two of which become string courses (apparently chamfered above and below) on the north. There is also a broad chamfered plinth; at the western angles are massive four-stepped diagonal buttresses, rising as high as the base of the fourth (belfry) stage. The steps of the buttresses (the uppermost of which is carried round all three faces of each buttress) do not relate to the set-backs on the tower, and at their base is a chamfered plinth just above the tower plinth. Below plinth level the south-west buttress has an exposed stepped footing.

The church is now entered by a doorway in the south face of the tower; this has a pointed arch with a continuous roll moulding. This doorway has been re-set from elsewhere, and its dressings have incised numbers (Roman on the east jamb, Arabic on the west) cut to aid in re-assembly; only two of these numerals, weathered into near-illegibility, are now visible, on the west jamb.

The lower part of the west side of the tower has some intriguing features. Set centrally just above the chamfered plinth is a stone with a relief-carved splay-armed cross, which could be a re-used section of gravestone, or possibly a dedication cross. A little above that is a patch of secondary masonry (noticeable in that the stones have a marked horizontal bedding, now picked out by erosion) which may be the infill of a small opening, although its form is not clear. A little above this, and c 3m above the ground, there appears to be a socket, cut into two walling blocks, and coming back down from this to the north is a clear diagonal line formed by the trimmed-off corners of large walling blocks, much as one might find with the coping of a gable. A southern slope to the gable can be seen as well, in large blocks, although these do not have been specifically shaped to form a coping. It is difficult to make sense of this, as if this ever was a gable, then the side walls of the structure can have risen little above plinth level.

The second stage of the tower has two openings on the west. The lower is a quite broad round-headed light, its head cut into a single slab; it may be an authentic 12th-century feature. Directly above it is a small group of whitish stones, which might conceivably form the apex of an earlier gable; below and to the l. there is a diagonal line of larger blocks (unlike the lower apparent gable line in that they are not distinctively shaped in themselves); with the eye of faith corresponding northern slope can be discerned, although the most obvious part of this turns out on closer inspection to be simply a dark stain. The significance of these apparent gable lines is discussed below, under 'Structural History'.

A little higher in the wall, with its square head formed by the course of the second set-back, is a rather rough opening that seems to be an insertion. At the same level, immediately below the



set-back, the eastern jamb of a blocked opening is visible on the south; refacing or rebuilding must have erased any further external evidences of this opening.

The third stage of the tower has no external openings at all, although on north and south are the cruciform iron plates marking the ends of inserted tie-bars; there are two more on each face of the belfry. Just above the tie-bar plate on the south is a large limestone block with a marked concentric pattern, but this is probably an interesting piece of geology, in the form of some sort of sedimentary structure (cf. the concretionary limestones of Fulwell, Sunderland) rather than anything of archaeological significance. The east face of the belfry shows traces of two earlier higher roof lines (the upper would have its apex at parapet level); on the west there is clear rebuilding line above the head of the belfry opening, with whiter stone (presumably limestone) above. The sills of all four belfry openings are at the level of the third set-back. The western opening is relatively small, and has a rather ragged square head; the eastern, which is partly concealed by the apex of the present nave roof, has a monolithic round-arched head. The northern and southern openings are much taller, and have plain round-arched heads; they look to be of 18th- or early 19th-century date.

The tower is capped by a projecting embattled parapet, carried on small curved corbels; the positioning of a clock face on the east seems to have occasioned considerable damage to the corbelling. At each corner of the outer face of the parapet is stepped slightly forward, in what is apparently the base of a former pinnacle.

The western angles of the **Nave** are concealed externally by massive buttresses, generally similar in character to those at the western angles of the tower, which infill the angles between tower and the west walls of the aisles. These have a double chamfered plinth, and sloped tops at the level of the tops of the aisles roofs; above the tops of the buttresses a few stones of the original west gable of the nave can be seen, heightened when the clerestory was added.

The walling at clerestory level incorporates rather more large blocks (of limestone) than elsewhere in the church; the clerestory lights, four on each side, are small lancets, which look genuine medieval work (although perhaps re-set; see 'the structural history of the church'). On the south, to the east of the easternmost light, is a patch of masonry that appears to infill a blocked (square-headed?) opening. The wall is capped by a parapet, with a moulded string at its base and a moulded coping, that, together with the coping of the east and west walls, appears to be completely 19th-century work.

The west wall of the **South Aisle** retains an original lancet window; above it the original steeped roof pitch of the aisle is seen, before the wall was heightened in greyer stone. At the west end of the south wall of the aisle is a buttress that rises to above half the present height of the wall; it has a chamfered plinth and a sloped top. The buttress appears to have been rebuilt relatively recently, re-using some old stone (although the plinth looks new). There is a similar but unrebuilt buttress at the east end of the wall, and a shorter buttress midway between. A chamfered plinth commences to the east of the former position of the south door, and rounds both central and eastern buttresses; the first few stones at the west end of the plinth project further from the wall face than the remainder, suggesting that the wall above has either been thinner back or rebuilt. All that is visible of the former south door are two blocks at the base of the west jamb. There are four windows in the wall; three of two lights (the easternmost above and slightly east of the central buttress) and one of three lights close to the east end. The two-light windows are each square-headed, and two trefoiled ogee-arched lights, with cusped piercing in the spandrels, under hoodmoulds with shaped stops. The three-light window has a semicircular arch, with three trefoiled lancet lights; the hoodmould is similar to that of the two-light windows. The stonework of all four windows is tooled-and-margined sandstone ashlar, of 19th-century date.

The chamfered plinth is continued along the east wall of the aisle which, like the west wall, shows the original roof-line. The east window is of two trefoil-headed lights with a quatrefoil above, under a pointed arch with a hoodmould terminating in carved bosses of foliage. All the stonework looks to be of 19th-century date, although the tooling is of a different character to the other windows in the aisle.

The **North Aisle** is generally similar in character to the south aisle, with a chamfered plinth (stepped down beneath the position of the former north door, and somewhat patched in places), and half-height buttresses at the ends and centre of the north wall. The west wall has an original lancet, and shows the old roof-line, as on the south. The remains of the north door, now blocked, lie a short distance west of the central buttress; both chamfered jambs are visible (the eastern partly destroyed by one of the later windows). The topmost stone of the western jamb, at about the level of the springing of the head, has two grooves, which may have continued round the arch. The north wall has four square-headed two-light windows, of the same type and masonry as those in the south aisle; the eastern two appear to lie within the jambs of earlier windows. As on the south, the aisle is capped by a 19th-century parapet.

The **Chancel** was largely rebuilt in 1853, in squared and coursed stone; medieval fabric, where it survives, is of rubble, with cut dressings. The plinth, of a broad double-chamfered section, appears largely original. The south wall is divided into three bays by tall stepped buttresses, which have been rebuilt above plinth level. Old masonry survives in the lower courses at either end of the wall; the section at the west end includes a low-side window which consists of two four lights, divided both by a bifurcating mullion and a transom, under a pointed arch with a moulded hood. The two-light window in each bay, with Y-tracery, a hoodmould with stops like those of the windows on the south of the south aisle, and a relieving arch above the hoodmould, is entirely 19th-century.

The east end has clasping buttresses at the angles; their lower parts are of medieval square stone. The wall between is of old rubble up to a set-back below the windows; in the centre of the wall is a small buttress, ending below the set-back. Above the set-back are a group of five stepped lancets, all enclosed under a four-centred relieving arch; in the apex of the gable is a circular window with quatrefoil cusping.

The exposed section of the north wall of the chancel is largely old rubble, although the one window is of the same date and character as the three in the south wall. To the east of it, and just above the level of its sill, is a long block in the wall that may be the remains of a cut-back string-course.

The double-stepped plinth of the chancel is continued round the **Vestries**. On the east the plinth is broken by a doorway with a chamfered pointed arch, set north of centre. The dressings of this are wholly 19th-century; a patch of yellowish masonry above the doorway seems coeval with it, as does the blocking of a window (its shape is not clear) immediately to the south of it. At a higher level in the wall the chamfered south jamb of another window is visible, that would appear to have been blocked up before the insertion of the doorway.

At the east end of the north wall of the vestries is a low two-stepped buttress, which appears coeval with the wall. In the wall are two two-light windows, with Y-tracery under pointed arches, and hollow-chamfered hoods with turned-back ends. Their jambs are formed of upright stones, not coursed in with the adjacent walling, and their dressings are tooled in a different manner to those of the 19th-century windows in the chancel and side walls of the aisles (although little tooling remains visible as the dressings are badly eroded). A trace of what may be the east jamb of an earlier opening is visible east of the easternmost window, and more substantial remains (the chamfered west jamb and parts of the head and sill) of a small square-headed window, possibly another 'low side', is exposed west of the westernmost. The west wall of the vestries overlaps the eastern buttress of the north wall of the north aisle; the quoining of the



north-western corner of the vestries commences a course above the head of this buttress, showing that the vestries were constructed before the heightening of the aisle wall. The vestries have the usual 19th-century parapet.

## The Interior

The interior of the church is now plastered and whitewashed, except for the exposed stone dressings around openings.

The **West Tower** opens to the nave by a lofty round-headed arch of two orders, with narrow chamfers at the angles (except for the outer order towards the tower, which is left square); towards the nave there is also a hoodmould, chamfered beneath. The jambs are of the same stepped section, with chamfers stopped just above the base; the projecting imposts are chamfered beneath (the projection of the impost eastward has been cut away, perhaps to accommodate the timbers of a gallery), and there are two-stepped chamfered bases. The west window has a plain semicircular rear arch. A wrought-iron spiral stair in the north-west corner of the tower ascends to the ringing chamber, and also descends to the boiler room beneath the tower floor.

The boiler room is set in the north-west corner of the tower, and does not occupy the whole underfloor area; its south and east walls are of late 19th or 20th century brick, whilst the north and west walls are of coursed rubble, without any old features.

The ringing chamber has a blocked recess, c 1.5 m high and 1.0 m wide, set north-of-centre in the east wall, its sill 1.2 m above the floor; this is rebated for a wooden frame (which still remains, although the opening is infilled), with hinges for a door; brick is visible in the rebate, suggesting that the opening, in its latest form, was of no great age.

The west wall of the ringing chamber has a set-back 2.8 m above the floor; at the same level in the north and south walls are traces of infilled joist holes, indicating a former floor level.

A ladder stair leads up to the belfry. The internal wall faces of the belfry were archaeologically recorded in April 1994, when the bell frames were renewed (Ryder 1994). The belfry floor (of uncertain date) is carried by heavy east-west beams, supporting substantial flat-section joists, and has a trapdoor near the south-east corner.

The belfry is slightly trapezoidal in plan, with internal wall faces measuring from 4.12 and 4.30 m. The walls, somewhat obscured by heavy pointing, appear to be of roughly-coursed sandstone rubble, largely sandstone, although on the external wall faces the upper courses are clearly Magnesian limestone. There are largely and better-squared blocks adjacent to the internal angles, except perhaps at the north-east corner.

The internal faces of the north and south walls of the belfry have a set-back of c 0.08 m; on the north this is 0.52 m above the present floor, but on the south 0.60 m. Four rough corbels project from each wall face; on the north their upper faces are flush with the set-back, but on the south they are a little below. The sawn-off stubs of the iron girders that carried the recently-removed bell frames rest asymmetrically on these corbels in a manner which suggests the corbels pre-date the girders.

There is a belfry opening set more or less centrally in each wall. Those on the north and south are tall openings with their jambs cut at right angles to the wall face; externally they have semicircular heads, and internally segmental-pointed arches. There is a patch of brickwork near the top of the eastern internal jamb of the southern opening; it is not clear whether this is part of the jamb, or perhaps an infilled socket adjacent to it. In both cases the internal sills of

the opening have been raised; on the north by 0.35 m but on the south by 0.80 m. It would appear that these openings are post-medieval in their present form. Below the internal sill of the northern opening the wall face has been cut back (destroying part of the set-back), and there are hints of a possible blocked opening.

On the west is a square-headed opening with a broad internal splay; this has been considerably modified from its original form. Internally the flat-pointed rear arch, of roughly-tooled blocks, may be of 19th-century date, and there are also traces (much obscured by mortar) of a possible narrower opening below the present sill. Externally, the opening has chamfered jambs but a lintel, probably later, which is left square.

The eastern opening has had its sill, originally 0.80 m above the floor, raised by 1.00 m; there are one or two oldish bricks amongst the infill. The splay is irregular, perhaps suggesting a re-cutting; internally there is a timber lintel, but the external head is round-arched and chamfered, and apparently cut in a single block. The raising of the sill seems to correlate with the construction of the present (19th-century) nave roof; externally traces are visible of an even more steeply-pitched roof line rising to parapet level, which would have completely covered the opening.

A projecting brick flue, of late 19th- or 20th-century date, climbs up the west wall, starting near the south-west corner then running diagonally northwards before straightening again.

The **Nave** has four-bay arcades. The responds are keel-shaped and the piers alternately circular or octagonal – on the south the central pier is circular, on the north the central octagonal. The arches are pointed and of two chamfered orders, with a chamfered hoodmould towards the nave. There is some interesting variety in the treatment of capitals and bases, and of the hoodmould stops above the piers. The iron clamps in the two circular columns of the north arcade are thought by Downs and Curry (1989 Quinquennial Report) to be part of the original construction.

On the south, the eastern respond has a triple-stepped chamfered base (partly concealed by the pulpit) and a moulded capital; the eastern pier has both base and capital mouldings with nail head, although the capital is now in such a seriously-decayed state that only a trace of its ornamentation is visible. The central pier has 'holdwater' mouldings to its base and a circular moulded capital, again greatly decayed. The western pier again has a 'holdwater' base, but its capital is a total wreck; the western respond has a moulded base and capital with foliage of waterleaf type, continued across both the moulded bell of the shaft and the square pilaster behind. The badly-decayed capitals were all replaced in new stone c. 1997.

On the north the eastern respond has holdwater mouldings to its base, continued south the full width of the pilaster, but cut away on the north by the inserted arch into the organ chamber; below is a 19th-century plinth. The eastern pier has a moulded base and stiff-leaf triple leaves (a common Romanesque form) to its capital, rather simpler towards the aisle; the central pier has a holdwater base and a capital with nailhead, and the western pier a holdwater base and a capital with broad waterleaf-type foliage, again seen in the capital of the western respond, which incorporates in its base what appears to an earlier base from a semicircular respond, with a hollow chamfer; Savage (1895 , 287) sees this as a re-used piece from an earlier Norman aisled nave. The two circular piers have old iron cramps, possibly part of their original construction (Quinquennial report 1989 by C.Downs & I Curry)

The hoodmould stops on the south are in poor condition; that above the eastern pier is a human mask, but the others are too worn to decipher. On the north that of the eastern pier is a foliate cross, as may have been the stop above the eastern respond; that over the second pier has gone, but that over the third may have been a mask; the stop above the western respond is very worn.



The clerestory windows are not aligned with the arches below; their rear arches are of segmental form, but do not have any exposed dressings.

The nave roof is of four bays; the trusses have brattished tie-beams, carried on wall-posts resting on simple stone corbels; above the tie-beams are curving struts rising to the principals, and a central 'king post' rising to an arch-braced collar, which in turn supports a central strainer beam; the whole arrangement seems to be of 1894-5, perhaps re-using some earlier 19th-century timbers (see faculties).

The east window of the **South Aisle** has a segmental-pointed rear arch, with a chamfer to the head only; its stonework may be medieval. The eastern two windows in the south wall have internal surrounds of 19th-century date, set slightly proud of the wall face, with segmental rear arches, and hollow chamfers stopped c 0.30 m above the sill. The western two windows have plastered jambs and chamfered rear arches of shallow segmental form; that of the third window is clearly recent, whilst that of the fourth is more decayed, but may still be of 19th-century date. In the west wall of the aisle is an original lancet with a blunt-pointed rear arch.

At the east end of the **North Aisle** is a late-19th-century arch into the organ chamber, of segmental-pointed form and of two chamfered orders, the inner dying into the jambs and the outer continuing to the ground. In the north wall are four windows; the eastern three are of similar form the western two windows in the south aisle; the rear arch of the third window looks to be relatively recent, whilst the other two are quite decayed. Beneath the sill of the first window in a trefoiled recess, with a narrow edge chamfer, that seems to be the remains of a piscina (a cavity in the sill presumably represent the remains of the inner part of the bowl). West of the third window the west jamb and half of the segmental rear-arch of the blocked north doorway are exposed. The western window has a raised 19th-century internal surround like the eastern two windows in the opposite wall. In the west wall of the aisle is a lancet like that in the south aisle; its internal dressings are in better condition than those of its counterpart.

The **Chancel** is entered under a broad arch of slightly four-centred form, of two chamfered orders; there is a hoodmould, chamfered beneath, both to nave and chancel, the former terminated in carved stops (possibly flowers). The inner order is carried on quite elaborately-moulded corbels, the outer dies into the wall on the chancel side, but towards that nave has its chamfer, reduced in width, carried down the jambs to ground level.

The low-side window at the west end of the south wall has evidence of fittings, apparently for hinges and a latch, to the western of its lower lights.

The other internal features of the chancel are all of 19th-century date. On the north the segmental-pointed arch to the organ chamber is of similar form to that from organ chamber into aisle, and is presumably of c. 1894-5. East of this is the doorway into the vestry, with a moulded shoulder-headed arch.

The eastern wall is occupied by a composition of five stepped lancets, flanked by lancet-headed niches, the whole with moulded chamfered arched heads and hoodmoulds carried on shafts of dark crinoidal limestone; all this internal detail seems to have been applied to the face of the wall, and so must post-date the 1852-3 reconstruction, although the shafts appear to be shown on the pre-1894 plan reproduced by Savage. Pevsner & Williamson (1983) are in error in identifying the shafts both as Frosterley marble and as apparently genuine medieval work.

The chancel has a boarded wagon roof, of 1894-5.

In the **Organ Chamber** the northern window has a segmental rear arch, plastered over. The northern window of the **Vestry**, externally similar, retains part of the west jamb, and one stone

of the head, of the elaborately moulded rear arch of a previous window, which seems to have been rather narrower than its successor. On the east of the vestry is a plain square-headed recess or wall locker to the south of the external doorway (in the position of a pre-1894 window); on the south the rear arch of the doorway to the chancel appears to have some medieval stonework in its jambs.

### 7.3.2 Fittings and Furnishings

The 17th-century furnishings are of some importance; Billings (1846,13) implies that they may have designed by James Clement of Durham (d.1690), designer of the choir stalls in the Cathedral: Savage (op.cit 296-8) queries this, and suggests an earlier date, quoting a reference in the parish registers, dated 1634, to 'stalls, seats and pews...lately made newe and erected uniforme'.

Pevsner & Williamson (op.cit) suggest that the bench ends date from after 1662 (the date when Bishop Cosin, who had very similar work in his Bishop Auckland Chapel, made Dennis Granville, his son-in-law, Rector of Easington), although they consider that the pews themselves may be of 1634.

In the nave the pews have good bench ends with poppyheads, decorated with ribbonwork and bunches of hanging leaves; the rear pew on the south has the initials 'TS' at its north end, which Savage (op.cit. 299) tentatively links to a Thomas Sharpe who rebuilt the vicarage at Dalton-le-Dale in 1665.

The boarded dado round the aisle walls re-uses the sides of 18th-century box pews; on each side, between the third and fourth window from the east, are four pieces with oval panels.

The **Pulpit** is also, in part, Cosin-style woodwork, with hanging leaves in its panels; the elaborately-carved reading desk is of the late 19th century.

The present low **Chancel Screen** is largely mid-19th century work, but re-uses a 17th-century acanthus frieze; the original screen was removed in the 1852-3 restoration, and taken to Durham; when Savage wrote in 1895 (294) he had been told that 'a great part' of the screen was still in Durham, but had been unable to trace its whereabouts, but in 1897 (Proc Soc Ant Newcastle VIII, 52-3) he noted that remains of the screen had been shown to him by Canon Greenwell, in the treasury at Durham. The choir stalls and panelled dado in the chancel are all of 19th-century date, but the woodwork of the **Reredos**, with canopies containing ribbed vaults, is again good-quality work of the Cosin period; its original location is uncertain.

The **Organ** is of 1852, although pre-Victorian in style; it was altered in 1984.

The **Font** receives little mention in published accounts: Boyle (1892, 565) dismisses it as 'a rude circular basin, with short cylindrical shaft and moulded base. The two steps are circular, and seem to be ancient'. The steps, except for an addition on the west, are clearly medieval as, probably, is the moulded base. The shaft and plain bowl are more puzzling; they might be re-tooled 13th-century work, or a piece of surprisingly-unassuming Victorian medievalism.

An old **Text Board**, perhaps of the later 18th century, is now fixed to the easternmost of the heavy square beams carrying the first floor of the tower; it bears the painted inscription:

'Blessed are all they who hear  
the Word of God and keep it'

The present **Clock** in the west tower has a plate stating 'W Potts & Sons Makers Leeds 1895'; a previous clock, set in the infill of the tower arch prior to its re-opening in 1894, was dated '1798'.



## The Bells

The bells, rehung in 1994, comprise two 17th-century examples, inscribed:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | + IESVS BE OVR SPEDE ANO DMI 1618 I C |
| 2 | IESVS BEE OVR SPEED S S 1664          |

along with one Victorian bell and 5 modern ones.

### 7.3.3 Sepulchral Monuments

There are two medieval effigies, both of considerable importance:

The descriptions below are from accounts by Hunter Blair (1929, 21 & 37-8)

(i) Effigy of a knight, sandstone, at the east end of the south aisle; somewhat weathered but generally in good condition. Thought to be Richard fitz Marmaduke, d.1318. The head in a mail coif, bound by a fillet decorated with quatrefoils, rests upon two cushions, the edges carved with foliage. The surcoat, short to the knees in front but longer at the back (cyclas), girded around waist, is worn above a mail hauberk. The legs and feet are in mail with leather knee-cops; prick spurs; the right leg is crossed over the left; the foot-rest a lion fighting a dragon. The heads are bare and joined in prayer. The sword has sloping quillons and a round pommel, belt broad and fastened to the scabbard by interlaced thongs, the tag falling down the left side. The shield is of concave heater shape, borne at the left side by a strap over the right shoulder. The arms are (Gules) a fess between three popinjays (silver).

Fordyce (353) records this monument as having been 'found, during the recent (ie 1853) repairs, under the foundation of the south wall of the nave, below the tablet to the Conyers family'.

(ii) Effigy of a lady, in good condition, at the east end of the north aisle. Frosterley marble. A lady of the Fitz Marmaduke family, c. 1300-1305. The head, resting upon a single square cushion, is covered by a kerchief bound by a plain fillet around the temples and falling in graceful folds upon the shoulders; a small curl of hair shows at each side. Beneath the chin is a wimple of pointed style. The costume is a kirtle with tight sleeves, above it a cote-hardie slightly cut out at the sides, fitting close to the waist, and then falling in loose ample folds over the feet. Above this is a robe or mantle draped over the shoulders and caught up on the right side beneath the forearm. The right hand lies open upon the waist, the left holds up a fold of the mantle. The feet rest upon an oblong block covered by the folds of the mantle. Against this, looking towards the head, has been a small figure, now destroyed except for the heads on the edge of the block. The arms, upon the upper part of the cote-hardie in low relief are (gules) a fess between three popinjays (silver).

There are two further medieval monuments:

(iii) Cross slab grave cover now lying at west end of south aisle; tapering slab of fawn fine-grained sandstone, with moulded edges and relief design, worn in parts. Cross with fleur-de-lys terminals rising from an trefoiled ogee arch base, with sword on r. Probably 14th century. An illustration of this slab (Ryder 1985, plate 26) is taken from an unpublished drawing by C C Hodges in the Society of Antiquaries Library, Newcastle; it was not in evidence when the writer visited the church in 1984.

(iv) Tapering slab of blue limestone, set in the floor beneath the tower; this has a matrix for a brass plate with a demi-figure of a civilian (?) above; some of the rivets remain in situ.

The church has relatively few post-medieval monuments. At the east end of the south wall of the south aisle is a **Wall Tablet** to Francisca Conyers, d.1635, with a carved marble surround and an old helmet set above (this was at one stage dated '1644'; there were also 'several fragments of old armour' recorded by Fordyce (353) as being preserved in the tower, now lost). Further west on the same wall is pedimented marble tablet to three mid-19th century members of the Tower family of Elemore Hall.

#### 7.3.4 Carved Stones etc

1) Built into the external face of the west wall of the tower, just above the ground, is a small slab of Magnesian Limestone with a relief-carved design of an expanded-arm cross with a circular raised boss at its centre (Ryder 1985, plate 26). It is thought either to be a gravestone or perhaps a dedication cross, possibly of 10th- or 11th-century date (Cramp 1984, 75).

2) A stone first noted during an Archaeological Assessment of St Mary's Church made in 1994, when it was built into the external face of the south wall of the south aisle, 1.6 m above ground level and more or less directly above the base of the jamb of the former south door. It appeared to have escaped previous notice, and may have been concealed by mortar. The visible face measured 0.20 by 0.13 m and was of white Magnesian limestone, carved with relief motifs including a line of quite delicate plaitwork. It was tentatively identified as possibly of 8th-century date, and an architectural fragment (pers.comm. Professor R.Cramp).

It was thought that the carved stone was at risk, both from erosion and possible vandalism, and faculty permission was sought to remove it from the wall. This was done on 16 July 2001. By this time the exposed face had suffered surprisingly seriously from erosion; however, when removed from the wall, an adjacent face preserved relief carving of animals and a looped and branching motif, perhaps intended as a tree. The other faces of the stone had been re-cut, almost certainly in the medieval period, when the stone appears to have served as part of a small opening with a chamfered surround and an internal rebate.

The 'end' of the stone shows two parallel lines of plaitwork, one regular (but almost erased by erosion over the last seven years) and the other better-preserved but somewhat confused, and still partly obscured by adhering mortar. The newly-exposed face has a design carved in relief, the various motifs having a flat upper surface and steeply-sloped sides, with a level field between. On the right is an animal, probably a dog, facing to the right; its head is missing; left of this is a serpentine form descending the left edge of the stone then twisting back upwards to a well-shaped snake-like head, with drilled eye, biting at a motif continuous with its fore-leg, with a number of loops and branches reaching upwards towards the more damaged upper edge of the stone.

Whilst the carving is of good quality, the rather loose and irregular nature of the plaitwork, and the appearance of a serpent- or dragon-like beast hint at Scandinavian influence; on balance it would seem more likely that the carving is associated with the late (10th/early 11th-century) revival of good-quality carving typified by work such as the cross heads from Durham Cathedral Chapter House rather than the earlier period previously suspected.

(3) At the east end of the south aisle, adjacent to the male effigy, is a very large medieval stone coffin, 2.16 m long internally; Hodgkin (1913, 120) states that it was 'found recently under the floor'

(4) Built into the south-east face of the south-western buttress of the tower, a metre or so above the ground, a re-used stone with an incised border, date uncertain

(5) Stone built into the south-west face of the north-western buttress of the tower, at about the level of the head of the round-headed window in the west wall, a tapering slab with an incised border, the upper end missing; probably a medieval grave slab.



### 7.3.5 Historical Notes

900-915 Easington is mentioned as amongst the places that Cutheard, bishop of the Cuthbert Community (then at Chester-le-Street) leased to Elfred, son of Birihtulfinc.

1217-1222 Easington church is refounded or endowed by Bishop Marisco. A chantry of St Mary in the church is referred to at this time; it may have been situated in the south aisle.

1249 The medieval house, formerly the rectory and now known as Seaton Holme, is thought to have been built for the retirement of Bishop Nicholas de Farnham, although there is some question as to whether he actually resided here or at Stockton.

1256 The perpetual union of the rectory of Easington and the Archdeaconry of Durham is decreed.

1526 A chantry founded, on November 17, to 'Our Ladie of Pittie'; this is thought to have been at the east end of the north aisle.

1787 The historian Hutchinson prints a relatively detailed description of the church: 'At the upper end of the town, on an eminence, is the church, a lofty building; a sea mark for mariners. The chancel of this church is twelve paces long and six wide, with three steps ascending to the table; is ceiled, stuccoed and neatly wainscotted, with some tabernacle work above the table. The east window is formed of three lights, under a pointed arch, with rose work tracery; and there are three windows to the south, of two lights each, under pointed arches. The chancel is divided from the nave by a pointed arch, rising from corbels, and closed from a neat screen, ornamented with foliage and open work in oak. You descend by four steps into the nave, the length of which is eighteen paces; divided uniformly by two side aisles, formed by three pillars on each side, supporting pointed arches, the whole width being thirteen paces; the pillars are light; on the south side two are octagonal and one round, and on the north side two round and one octagonal: The capitals are formed by two tresses of square projections, and one roll, which hath a good effect. The pulpit is supported by the first south pillar. The belfry rises on a circular arch, and the tower is about sixty feet in height. The nave is lighted by three windows in the south aisle, and four upper windows on each side of the centre aisle; and is stilled with oak, ornamented with fleur-de-lis. In the south aisle is a burial vault for the family of Conyers of Horden....

1816 Surtees' description of the church adds a few points to Hutchinson's earlier account. The south aisle windows were of two pointed lights under square labels, and the tower arch was concealed by a flat modern ceiling. The old south door had been closed up, and an entrance made through the south side of the tower, 'under the belfry'.

1846 Billings (p.37-8) prints a view of the church from the south-east, and dates the nave and chancel walls to c.1270, with the nave aisles being rebuilt c.1400. In his plates II and III he gives vignettes of the east window, chancel stalls, a south aisle pier and a bench end.

1852-1853 Major restoration by Hardwicke; works included the rebuilding of most of the chancel; Savage (291) refers to an account for 'taking down wall south side of chancel to ground, as per estimate'. Later Victorian opinion was not kind to Hardwicke; Boyle (1892, 564) describes the church as 'having suffered deplorably at the hands of the restorers, who have done their work in as ignorant and ugly a fashion as could well be imagined'.

1888 On 15th January there was a fire in the tower, but the damage was confined to some beams (Anderson Aird)

1894-1895 A second restoration by W.S Hicks (for this and subsequent works see faculty list)

### **7.3.6 Faculties and other records of structural work**

Faculty no. and date Works

365 (4 Jan 1894) Restoration of church by W.S.Hicks. Works include lowering of roof (re-using old timbers), vestry being opened into chancel and north aisle, new organ chamber, floor being lowered to original level, re-opening of tower arch, and trench round walls. (no drawings with faculty)

2634 (28 Nov 1936) Alterations and improvements to the bells.

2677 (27 July 1937) The giving up of part of the churchyard for road widening.

3152 (14 Jan 1949) Repairs to roof structure.

4752 (19 Jan 1965) Archdeacon's Certificate. Repairs to tower ('major consolidation' - 1989 Quinquennial report).

5548 (8 April 1975) Introduction of an aumbry.

5701 (10 November 1977) General tidying of churchyard with removal of damaged headstones.

1981 Structural repairs to south-west buttress of south aisle, north-east buttress of north aisle and north-east angle of vestry (1989 Quinquennial Report)

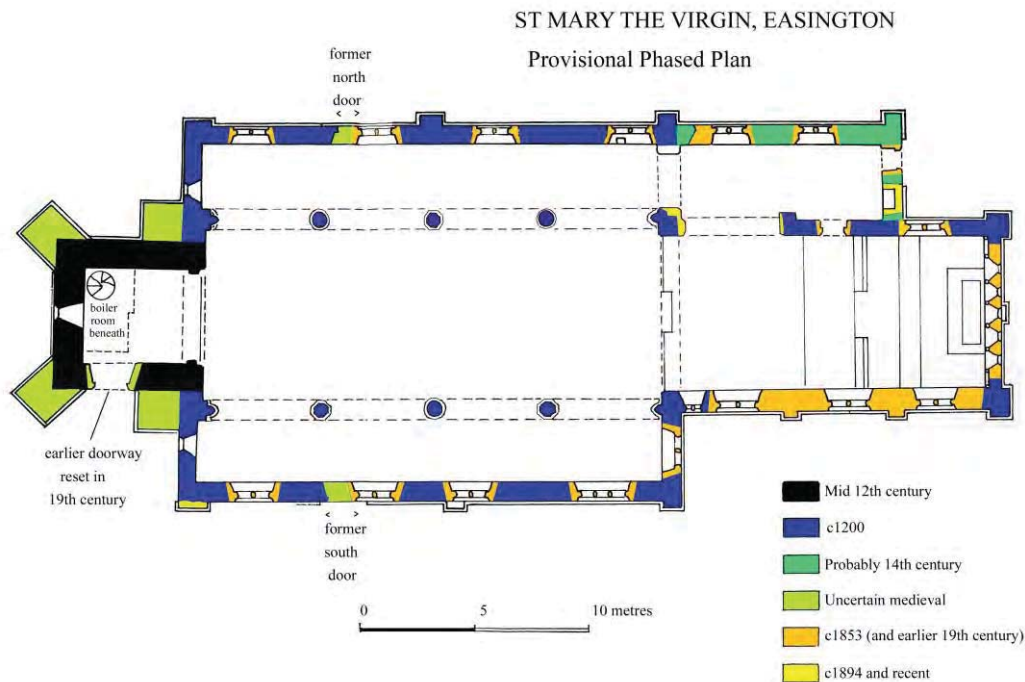
1994 Bell frames renewed

### **7.3.7 The Structural history of the Church**

The recent discovery of Pre-Conquest sculpture, and the apparent evidence of earlier gable lines in the west side of the tower, raise the possibility that Pre-Conquest work may survive in the present building. If the structural evidence in the tower indicates a gabled western porch or porticus, then this would be a strong indicant of a Saxon, and relatively early Saxon, structure.

The usual diagnostic features of Pre-Conquest work are fabric and in particular angle quoins. At Easington the fabric offers no real clue as to date; it is of roughly-coursed local limestone, virtually identical above and below the apparent gable lines, and the angle quoins of tower and west end of nave are all concealed by later buttresses. There is no sign of quoining or a straight joint at the south-east corner of the nave, where one might expect to see one, were the south aisle an addition, although it could be of course that quoins were removed to bond new walling in.





PFR 94/07

The tower does have a chamfered plinth and a chamfered set-back (below the upper gable-line) which both look of 'medieval' (12th/13th-century) character. So the apparent gable lines must remain an enigma; and the usual interpretation of the tower as of simple Norman character and mid-12th-century date remain the best hypothesis until further evidence comes to light. Its belfry openings have been simple, quite small, round-headed openings; only the eastern remains in anything like its original form.

A major remodelling of the church appears to have taken place in the late 12th century or c. 1200, when everything but the tower was completely rebuilt. Savage suggests that the Norman nave had been the same width as the tower, but there is no clear evidence of this; from discrepancies in the depth of the western responds he deduces that the arcades were constructed from the east end, implying that the earlier nave had been removed. The late 12th-century nave was of the same dimensions as present; its elevations would have been rather different, as there was no clerestory, and the side walls of the aisle had a very low eaves line; the original rooflines of both nave and aisles are clearly visible at the west end. The church at this stage had both north and south doorways. The chancel was also of the same dimensions as at present, although little of it remains except the north wall; its east end had a range of four or five lancets, apparently of equal height (to judge from Billings' plate).

It is not clear at what period the structural stability of the west end started giving cause for concern, but the massive diagonal buttresses at the western angles of the tower have been cited both as 13th- and 15th-century work; the similar heavy buttresses flanking the tower may be part of the same scheme.

The vestry/organ chamber block would appear to be an addition of the later 13th or early 14th century; it is clear from its junction with the north aisle that it was built before the aisle walls were raised in the 14th century.

## Historic Prints of St. Mary's Church, Easington



*Billings Print of 1846 showing the south-east view of St. Mary's Church, Easington*



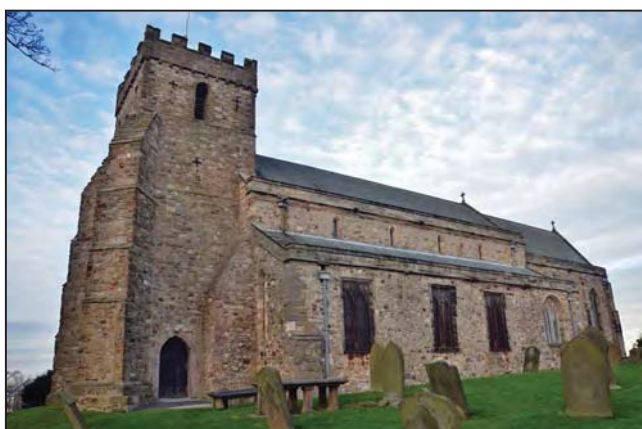
*Blore's Print of 1815 showing the south-east view of St. Mary's Church, Easington*



## St. Mary's Church today



*View from the north-west*



*View of the church from the south*



*Exterior view of the chancel at the E end of the church*



*The altar at the east end of the chancel*



*The tower with its massive corner buttresses*



*C10/11 cross-head reused in the W wall of the tower*



*C10-11 or C8 carved stone found in the S aisle S wall*



A further remodelling of the church took place in the 14th century, when the aisle walls were heightened, and the chancel refenestrated. Unfortunately, little original architectural evidence of this phases, or phases, survived the 1853 'restoration'. To judge from Billings' plate of the pre-restoration church the south and south-east windows of the south aisle were in the geometrical Decorated style; their form is approximately retained by their successors. Rather later flowing tracery forms were used in the windows of the chancel, but not followed by those which replaced them; beneath the central window on the south side of the chancel was a priest's door, shown blocked in Billings' plate. The simpler square-headed windows in the side walls of the aisles, which have been reproduced more or less accurately, may be a little later still.

It seems possible that the clerestory also dates to this phase, and that its small lancets are the original windows from the side walls of the aisles, re-set.

Savage (292) suggests that the nave was given a new low-pitched roof in the 'Perpendicular period' (i.e. late 14th or 15th century); this would seem to post-date the addition of the clerestory (here linked with the 14th-century works) as two old roof-lines are visible on the east face of the tower, both enclosing the eastern belfry opening. The lower may relate to the first construction of the clerestory; the upper relates to the roof 'of inordinate pitch' constructed in 1853.

Savage also mentions a doorway at the west end of the north wall of the chancel, removed in 1894 when the arch to the organ chamber was constructed, as being work of this period.

In addition to these major changes, there have been a number of more minor alterations, mostly probably post-medieval, which it is difficult to date. The blocking up of the side doorways to the nave, and the removal of one doorway to the south wall of the tower, clearly pre-date the 19th-century changes, as may the remodelling of the top of the tower (although Savage saw this as 'Perpendicular') and the alteration of the belfry openings. Alterations to the vestry/organ chamber may be of late 18th or early 19th-century date.

Easington is one of those churches unfortunate enough to suffer two phases of Victorian 'restoration', the second partly aimed at undoing the archaeologically-uninformed excesses of the first. The first, by Hardwicke in 1853-4, saw the rebuilding of much of the chancel and the wholesale removal of its 14th-century fenestration; the stonework of the chancel windows is reported to have been placed in the rectory gardens, where it remained when Savage wrote, but has since been lost (except perhaps for the fragment lying outside the east end of the vestry).

The W. S. Hicks' restoration of 1894-5 saw the nave roof reconstructed to a rather lower pitch, the tower arch opened out again, and the western half of the vestry converted into an organ chamber. Since this date what structural works there have been have mostly been in the nature of repairs.

### **7.3.8 The Churchyard**

The churchyard is roughly rectangular in plan, elongate east-west with the north-east angle rounded (presumably where ground was given up for road widening in 1937 - see faculties); the ground falls away from the church on all sides, most steeply to the north and west. The present boundary walls are of no great age; the southern, a meandering rubble wall, may be the oldest. The churchyard monuments are mostly 19th-century; a number are in poor condition, and in some areas at least they have clearly been thinned out (see 1977 faculty). Close to the south-west corner of the south aisle is a worn 18th-century box tomb. South of the east end of the chancel is a small railed enclosure of 19th-century date, but immediately north of this is a tapered medieval slab 2.20 m by 0.67 m (head) by 0.52 m (base), with any design worn away but retaining a moulded edge. Lying on the north side of the chancel are one piece, and a tiny fragment, of 14th-century mouldings (probably from one of the chancel windows removed in



1852), and a broken gable finial which may be of 19th-century date. On the north side of the tower are the brick footings of a 20th-century outbuilding, perhaps an external boiler room.

### 7.3.9 Archaeological Assessment

There have been several pointers to Easington being an important site prior to the Norman Conquest, but the discovery of the carved fragment in the south aisle wall, perhaps of the 10th century, is the most substantial evidence yet of an early ecclesiastical (and perhaps monastic) settlement here. The hilltop position of the present church makes it almost certain that any earlier buildings stood on the same site, and that their remains may underlie the present fabric.

As often, it is difficult to assess the degree of survival of sub-surface archaeological evidence. Inside the church the heating chamber will probably have removed most archaeological deposits beneath the western half of the tower. Elsewhere the relaying of floors conceals evidence both of burials and of 19th-century underfloor heating systems; it is only reasonable to suppose some degree of disturbance, especially in view of the floor having been 'lowered to the original level' in 1894. Nevertheless, in view of the importance both of the site and of the present building, any sub-floor works will require archaeological inspection and recording. There is said to be a vault beneath the east end of the south aisle.

The internal wall faces in the church are all plastered; it is not clear whether earlier plasters survive beneath. Any renewal of plaster (except perhaps on the south side of the chancel, where the wall is known to have been completely rebuilt in the mid-19th century) should also be accompanied by the recording of the fabric exposed.

Externally, the drainage trench which runs round the whole perimeter of the church (another part of the 1894 works) is another common but archaeologically-destructive feature. The churchyard itself does not have a great number of interesting monuments, but is potentially of considerable archaeological importance. In view of this, any ground works in the vicinity of the church at all will require archaeological monitoring.

Peter F Ryder November 1994, revised January 2014

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# LISTED BUILDING INVENTORY

## HISTORIC BUILDINGS

### **Seaton Holme** (Site: 6, HER: 35466, NZ 41364 43520)

Originally a rectory. In Local Authority use c.1930-1970. House of high social standing. C13 or early C14 with alterations and additions c.1600, late C18 and early-mid C19. Limewashed sandstone and limestone rubble; dressed sandstone buttresses, quoins and chimneys; several renewed brick stacks and steeply-pitched C19 and C20 Welsh slate roofs. Rough H-plan: original hall with parlour bay and cross-wing to right; cross-wing added c.1600 to left of hall range. Street facade: 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 bays, 2 storeys. Hall range: C13 or early C14; 4 bays; 2 narrow stepped buttresses to front and rear; doorway in left bay. Major late C18 alterations involved insertion of 12-pane sashes and renewal of hall roof. Low parapet masks eaves. Rear has scattered fenestration including several 12 and 16-pane sashes and a C19 2-light window with round-arched heads. C20 brick gable stacks. Projecting step-gabled cross-wing to right of hall range: C13 or early C14; one bay; 2 narrow stepped buttresses to front and rear. Roof entirely renewed c.1600, of curved-principal-rafter type(c.f. West Auckland Manor House, Co. Durham). Two 16-pane sashes with doorway to left. Traces of a large first floor lancet to rear. Early C19 2-bay wing attached to right has three 16-pane sashes and a moderate- pitch roof

Projecting cross-wing to left of hall range: c.1600, street frontage and left return rebuilt early C19; 3 bays. Chamfered plinth and dressed quoins. Two 16-pane sash windows on ground floor and 3 above with chamfered reveals. First floor windows have projecting sills. Cornice with low parapet above. Moderate pitch roof. Corniced stacks project slightly beyond gable and rest on a row of 3 corbels. Fenestration of left return and rear renewed mid C19 in Tudor style. Tudor-arched doorway at rear also C19 but may incorporate older stonework. Remains of curved- principal-rafter roof. Interior: Hall range has late C18 staircase. Cross wing to right has 2 doorways opening onto former screens passage

### **Hawthorn Tower**, (Site: 61, HER: 3830, NZ 43900 46100)

Although medieval in appearance Hawthorn Tower was entirely 19th century. It was built in 1821 for Major Anderson of Newcastle by the architect John Dobson also of Newcastle. It was enlarged around 1850 by Thomas Moore of Sunderland. Originally the property was called Hawthorn Hive Cottage. After 1856 the house came into the ownership of the Pemberton family of Low Barnes, Sunderland. The house was occupied until the second world war but soon after was abandoned and became ruinous.

### **Master's House, Manual Instruction Block and bicycle sheds**, (Site: 28, HER: 35335, NZ 43137 43907)

Master's house, manual instruction block, bicycle sheds and walls, piers, gates and railings. 1911-13 by J Morson of Durham. Red brick and cast-iron with concrete dressings and slate roofs. South side has stepped low brick walls with chamfered concrete coping and iron railings between square brick piers with chamfered caps. Gates have similar piers with domed caps and large iron gates. At south-east corner master's house, 2 storey with single doorway to left with panel door and overlight to right a single sash window, above 2 through eaves dormer windows with sashes and flat roofs. Single tall brick stack. At south-west corner manual instruction room with single blind Diocletian window with double keystone to street front and to east 3 tall through eaves glazing bar windows with flat roofs and to left single doorway with moulded concrete surround glazed door and overlight, west front has 3 tall through eaves windows flanked by single blind windows. West side has stepped brick wall with concrete coping. To north corner single storey bicycle shed with open front with iron columns to playground. North side has stepped low brick wall with concrete coping and iron railings between square piers with chamfered caps. Gates have similar piers with domed caps and large iron gates. These walls attached to another central bicycle shed. These structures are included for group value with the remaining buildings at Easington Colliery School (qv).

### **Former Boys block at Easington Colliery School**, (Site 29, HER: 35627, NZ 43106 43936)

School classroom block. 1911-13 by J Morson of Durham. Red brick with concrete dressings and slate roofs. Baroque Revival style. EXTERIOR: 2 storey. South entrance front has rusticated surround with double glazed doors in moulded surround topped with plaque inscribed BOYS. Above tall glazing bar stair window with keystone and brick rustication above again moulded band and 3-

# Seaton Holme



*View of the south frontage of the archdeacon's hall with solar wing (the lord's private suite) to the fore.*



*A second view of the rectory with the east service wing in the foreground and the hall and solar beyond.*



*The main building viewed from the NE. Until 1832 this was the residence of the Archdeacon of Durham.*



*View from the NW, with the solar wing closest, the hall in the centre and the service wing beyond.*



*The north range viewed from the SW (left) and SE (right). Built in the late 13th/14th-century, it probably formed guest lodgings, though termed an 'oratory' by Surtees (1816, 13). By 1792 it had become a barn (glebe terrier).*



*The west gable end of the north range. A bedroom is mentioned here in 1873. In the early 20th century this became the original farmhouse of Rectory Farm.*



*View of both the main rectory building and the north range from St Mary's churchyard to the south-east.*



light attic window. Moulded cornice above topped with octagonal drum and concrete dome with flag poll. Either side 3 glazing bar casement windows one to each floor. North front has similar window arrangement. West elevation 21 windows arranged 3:6:3:6:3. Central projecting block has brick rustication and bracketed concrete cornice, with 3 tall glazing bar windows with double keystones to both floors. Either side 2 sets of 3 glazing bar windows with broader central windows and taller central windows on upper floor. Projecting end pavilions also have 3 tall glazing bar windows with broader central windows and taller central windows on upper floor under segment arched parapet, plus double doors to each pavilion in moulded concrete surrounds. East front has similar window arrangement without entrance doors. INTERIOR: entrance at front facing the street, central cross hall with corridor off on each side leading to four classrooms, with cloakrooms and lavatories beyond, stairs at each end. This pattern is repeated at first floor, with mezzanine floor between each end. Classrooms have wood and glass screens to corridor, and wooden parquet floors. Halls have low stage at east end. Skylights on first floor corridors. This block and the girls block are identical.

**Former Girls block at Easington Colliery School, (Site: 30, HER: 35628, NZ 43176 43925)**

School classroom block. 1911-13 by J Morson of Durham. Red brick with concrete dressings and slate roofs. Baroque Revival style. EXTERIOR: 2 storey. South entrance front has rusticated surround with double glazed doors in moulded surround topped with plaque inscribed GIRLS. Above tall glazing bar stair window with keystone and brick rustication above again moulded band and 3-light attic window. Moulded cornice above topped with octagonal drum and concrete dome with flag poll. Either side 3 glazing bar casement windows one to each floor. North front has similar window arrangement. East elevation 21 windows arranged 3:6:3:6:3. Central projecting block has brick rustication and bracketed concrete cornice, with 3 tall glazing bar windows with double keystones to both floors. Either side 2 sets of 3 glazing bar windows with broader central windows and taller central windows on upper floor. Projecting end pavilions also have 3 tall glazing bar windows with broader central windows and taller central windows on upper floor under segment arched parapet, plus double doors to each pavilion in moulded concrete surrounds. West front has similar window arrangement without entrance doors. INTERIOR not inspected.

## 8. COMMUNITIES IN THE LANDSCAPE: Parishes, Townships and Manors

### 8.1 Introduction: What is a Community?

This chapter examines local communities and their landscape territories. It sets out the different types of rural community that had a territorial dimension, which existed in the past. Today we have many different kinds of community, defined by ethnicity or race, by religious belief and practice, by gender or sexual orientation, and by professional or industrial association. Indeed it has perhaps become rather over-used – a catch-all term for almost any group with some shared characteristic. When studying the history and environment of Easington, however, we are essentially concerned with a traditional community of place, which encompasses all the inhabitants of a particular settlement.

Before c. 1800 most of the population of Britain belonged to rural communities, living in villages, hamlets or scattered farmsteads, and working on the land. This is true of Easington and the other communities on the East Durham Plateau. The bonds of association and the institutional structures tying their members together were much stronger in the past than today, being based on shared labour in the fields, particularly during ploughing and harvest time, or in pits, quarries or other local industrial enterprises, and on regulated access to common resources, such as moorland grazing, as well as on ties of neighbourliness. By the early 1900s this picture had changed with the growth of substantial pit villages right across East Durham, of which Easington Colliery was about the last to be established. However the fact that a single industry represented the predominant employer in these communities fostered bonds of association and solidarity amongst their inhabitants which were perhaps even greater than those of their medieval farming predecessors.

Today neither agriculture nor mining are the major sources of employment in the area. The pits have all closed and agriculture is now capital- rather than labour-intensive and employs only a few people on a relatively small number of farms with very large acreages of land. A modern village community will therefore typically represent merely a place of common residence, with the majority of its inhabitants most likely commuting some distance to their place of work, a pattern made possible by the widespread car ownership. Modern settlement can therefore be substantially disconnected from its surrounding landscape. In contrast, a comparable medieval village community was organised around the exploitation of a defined tract of land, the vill or township, which formed the territorial resource of the people living in the settlement, whether the latter was a village, one or more hamlets or a group of scattered farmsteads. This would have been inscribed in the landscape in the form of large open fields, walled or ditched and embanked head-dykes, and moorland markers such as cairns or natural topographic features. Familiarity with the territory's limits would have been periodically reinforced by senior members of the community 'walking the bounds'.

Such village townships were not, of course, islands, entirely isolated from one another. Their inhabitants might in some cases rent land in neighbouring villages and be tenants of more than one lord, whilst patterns of landholding by lords and free tenants could be very complex indeed, but the bonds of collective labour and membership of common institutions gave each community a distinct identity or personality.

Overlain on top of these basic territorial units of rural subsistence was the tenurial framework of manorial estates, which extracted rents and labour from the cultivators of the village townships. The priests who ministered to these communities' spiritual needs were supported by yet another kind of the territorial unit – the parish – each of which, in the north of England, usually incorporated several townships.



To understand the more distant past of settlements like Easington it is therefore necessary to distinguish, define, and as far as possible map the various different territorial units within which the villages were incorporated, and which provided the framework for the development of those communities. Each of the units related to a different aspect of the settlements' communal relations – religious, economic and administrative, and seigneurial – and their function changed over time. Parish and manor are still terms familiar to us today, if not always perfectly understood, but the term township has largely dropped out of use (its modern equivalent being the civil parish), though it is, in many respects, the most important of these territorial institutions for the study of historic village settlement and its development was remarkably complex.

## 8.2 The Parish

### 8.2.1 Medieval ecclesiastical parishes

The basic unit of ecclesiastical administration was the parish, which essentially represented 'a community whose spiritual needs were served by a parish priest, who was supported by tithe and other dues paid by his parishioners' (Winchester 1987, 23). It was the payment of tithes – established as a legal principle since the reign of King Edgar 959-75 (Platt 1981, 47) – which gave the parish a territorial dimension so that the boundaries of the parish came to embrace all that community's landed resources. Only the most remote areas of upland waste were left outside the parochial framework, but in some cases territories which fell under the control of ecclesiastical corporations over a long period, evolved into 'extra-parochial' townships.

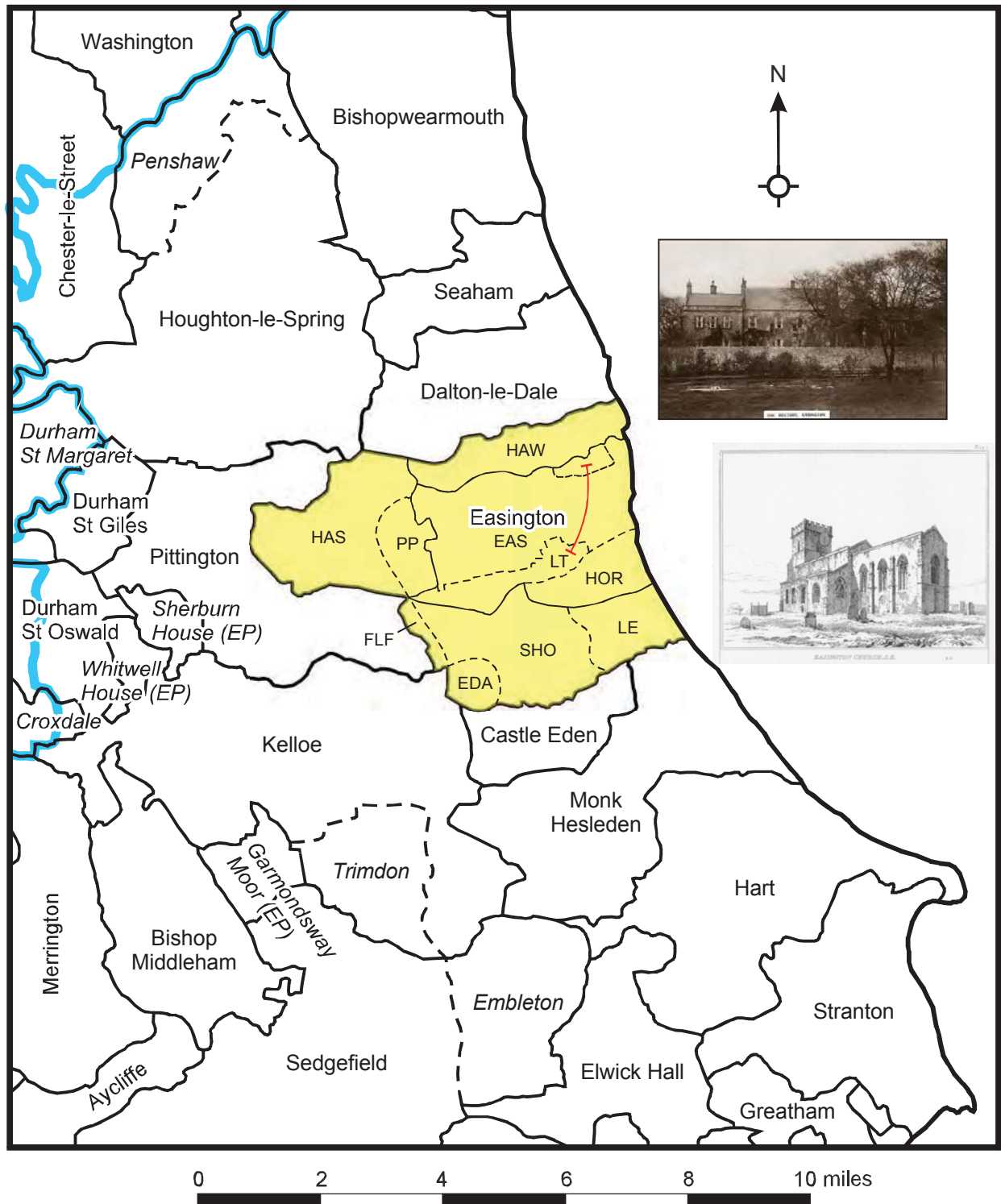
Today we have been conditioned by 'chocolate box' photographs of ancient parish churches nestling in picturesque villages to think, almost unconsciously, of a church as being synonymous with a village and assume every ancient settlement was the centre of a parish. Such images more often relate to settlements in southern and central England, where parishes were smaller – such as the honey-coloured villages of the Cotswolds for instance – and are less relevant to the North of England. Ecclesiastical parishes in County Durham typically incorporated several townships and those in sparsely populated west of the county, embracing Pennine dales such as upper Weardale and Teesdale were very large indeed. Easington itself was the centre of a large parish, which probably once contained a total of eight medieval village communities – Hawthorn, Horden, Shotton, Little Eden/Yoden, Great and Little Haswell (now High and Low Haswell)<sup>1</sup>, and Little Thorpe, as well as Easington itself – each of which was the centre of its own township or 'vill', plus about five separate farmsteads or small hamlets which had been carved out of Easington Moor in the 12th and 13th centuries – Edderacres, Flemingfield, Pespool, Boisfield, and Fallowfield (Britnell 2004, 33-7). This total was not an unusual for a parish in North-East England. Indeed many parishes contained considerably more villages and townships.

It is thus evident that these large medieval parishes contained many distinct communities and the church was often too distant to conveniently serve all the spiritual needs of the parishioners in the outlying townships. However, there are relatively few instances of new parishes being carved out of a well-established parish, and practically none after 1150. The

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<sup>1</sup> The medieval settlements in Haswell have a bewildering number of names – Great and Little Haswell (*Hessewell Magna*, *Hessewell Parva*), and Over and Nether Haswell (*Hessewell Superior* and *Hessewell Veterior*), all of which probably represent the same two (now shrunken) village settlements, respectively High and Low Haswell; see Surtees 1816, 17n. In addition Finchale Priory had a demesne farm at *Hessewell Grange* (probably now the site of Elemore Grange Farm south of Elemore Hall).

## - Parish & Townships -



### Easington Parish Townships:

HAS = Haswell  
EAS = Easington  
(EP) = Extra-parochial

PP = Pespool  
HAW = Hawthorn  
HOR = Horden  
LE = Little Eden

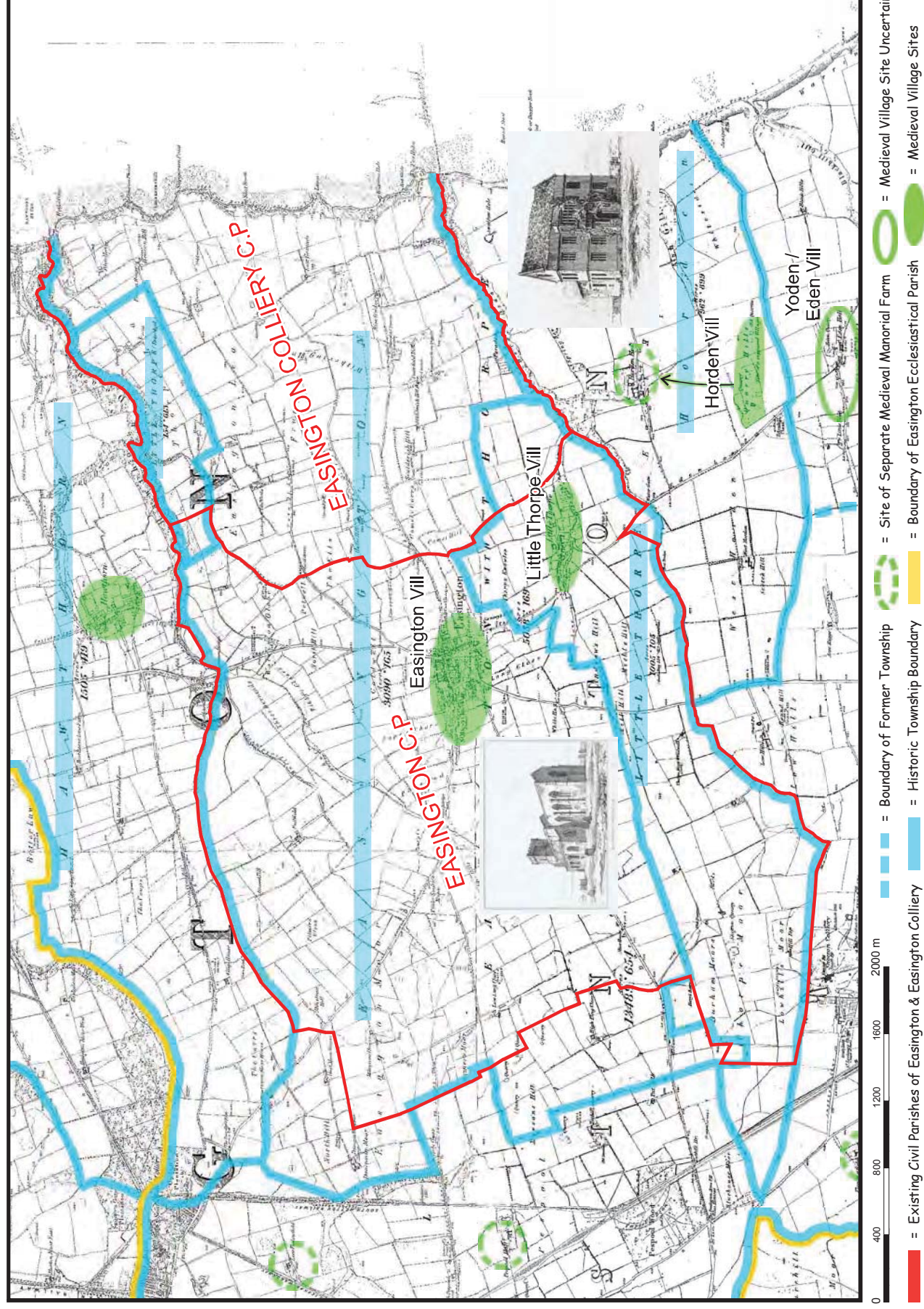
FLF = Flemingfield  
LT = Thorpe Little  
SHO = Shotten  
EDA = Edderacres

*The ecclesiastical parishes and chapelries (italicised) of East Durham c.1800 with Easington parish highlighted in yellow and it's constituent townships abbreviated. Inset are historic views of St Mary's Church (lower: 1815 print by Blore showing the church from the SE; upper: photograph showing the parish rectory Seaton Holme before removal of the wall in front).*



# MEDIEVAL TOWNSHIP AND PARISH BOUNDARIES MAP

- First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1857, Scale: 6" per mile -



payment of tithes created a strong disincentive to do so, since creating a new parochial territory would inevitably reduce the income of the priest in the existing parish. The widespread programme of ecclesiastical reform in the 12th and early 13th centuries gave added impetus to the fossilisation of parish territories, as ownership of the parish churches was transferred from the hereditary priests or local secular lords whose predecessors had founded the churches, over to monasteries and other ecclesiastical corporations. In the case of Easington, the bishopric retained control of the parish and its church and to all intents and purposes put a block on the formation of new parishes (cf. Lomas 1996, 111, 116-17; Dixon 1985 I, 64). Instead the needs of the more distant township communities were sometimes catered for by the construction of dependent chapels of ease, which were established either by the ecclesiastical institutional patrons or on the individual initiative of local lords (Lomas 1992, 107-8). The ruined chapel between High and Low Haswell is one example of such chapels of ease (DCHER 1150; SAM 1019917) and the traces of foundations mentioned by Surtees in the field called Chapel Hill, next to the remains of Little Eden tower, may mark the site of another (Surtees 1816, 36-7; cf. DCHER 63: Eden Hall, Peterlee).

### **8.2.2 The later evolution of the parish**

In the medieval era the parish was a purely ecclesiastical institution and was to remain so until the beginning of the 17th century when the Elizabethan Poor Law Act of 1601 made this territorial unit responsible for the maintenance of the poor through the appointment of overseers for the poor and the setting of a poor rate (*Statutes* 43 Eliz. I c.2; cf. Winchester 1978, 56). This is in many respects typical of the history of English local government whereby 'new administrative units have generally been created by giving new functions to existing territorial divisions' (Winchester 1987, 27). Thereafter parochial administration of poor law was particularly prevalent in southern and midland England, where parishes were generally smaller and often coterminous with the civil townships. However, in northern England even these additional functions tended to devolve down to the constituent townships, which were a more convenient and manageable size than the extensive parishes. The modern civil parishes were established by the Local Government Act of 1889 and were substantially based on the earlier townships rather than the ecclesiastical parishes (*Statutes* 52/53 Vict. c.63).

Over the same period, the increasingly dramatic growth in population associated with industrialisation eventually made it necessary to subdivide the great ecclesiastical parishes in the 18th and 19th centuries in order to improve pastoral care. Thus, in 1845 the ecclesiastical commissioners proposed that the townships of Shotton and Haswell in Easington Parish should be formed into distinct ecclesiastical district, or chapelry, under the terms of the Church Endowment Act. A church was built for this purpose in Shotton between 1852 and 1854 and initially served as a chapel of ease before a permanent endowment was established (Fordyce 1857, 363).

## **8.3 The Township or Vill**

The basic territorial unit in County Durham was the township or vill (*villa* in medieval Latin), not the ecclesiastical parish. The term *vill* can be defined in two ways, on the one hand as a territorial community, which may be labelled the *territorial vill*, and on the other as the basic unit of civil administration in medieval England, the *administrative vill*. The two units were related and they could indeed cover identical territorial divisions, but this was not always the case and they must therefore be carefully distinguished.

### **8.3.1 The territorial vill**

In its most basic sense *vill* is synonymous with the English words *town* or *township*, deriving from the Old English *tun*, the commonest element in English place names, i.e. a settlement



with a distinct, delimited territory, the latter representing the expanse of land in which that particular community of peasants lived and practised agriculture. A township/territorial vill was not the same as the village itself, which was simply the nucleated settlement which commonly lay at the heart (though not necessarily the geographical centre) of the township, and where the bulk of the individuals who made up the community might reside. A classic township, centred on a nucleated village settlement, was composed of three main elements, the village itself, the cultivated arable land and meadows, and the moorland waste or common. However a township community might live scattered about in dispersed farms instead of or as well as being grouped together in a nucleated village or hamlet. Any combination of these elements was possible, but some permanent settlement was required for there had to be a community for a township to exist. Writing between 1235 and 1259, the lawyer Henry de Bracton defined the township thus (*De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliae*, iii, 394-5; cited by Winchester 1978, 69; Dixon 1985, I, 75-6):

If a person should build a single edifice in the fields, there will not be a *vill*, but when in the process of time several edifices have begun to be built adjoining to or neighbouring to one another, there begins to be a *vill*.

A township's consciousness of itself as a distinct community would have been reinforced by the communal agricultural labour required to work the land. This is particularly obvious in the cases where the township was centred on a nucleated village, its members living and working alongside one another, but even in townships composed of scattered hamlets or farmsteads it was just as vital to regulate access to the use of communal resources such as the upland waste or commons. Such activities would have generated a sense of communal cohesion however fragmented the framework of manorial lordship and estate management in the township might have become over time.

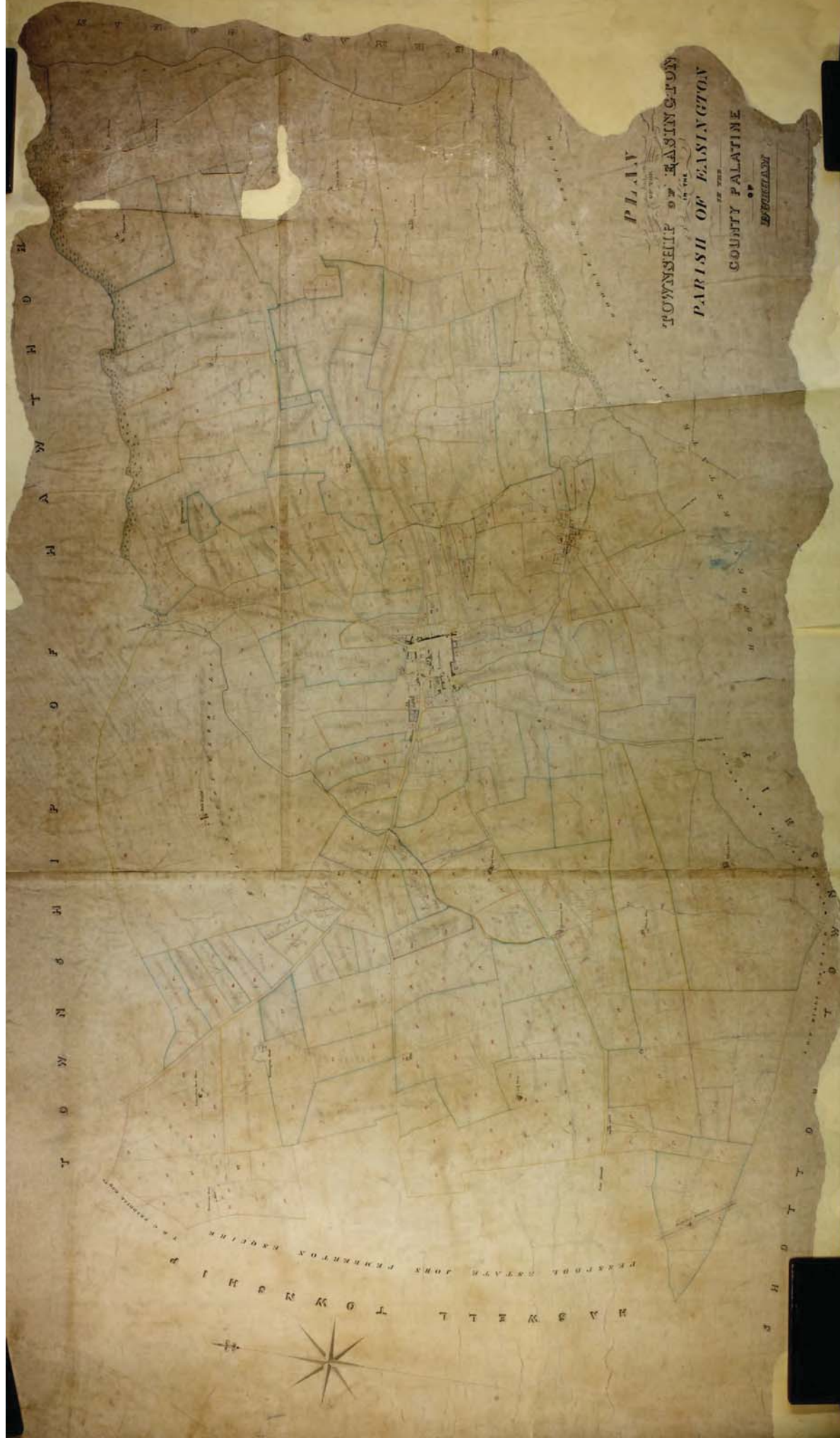
The boundaries of such township communities would have become fixed when the land appropriated by one community extended up to that belonging to neighbouring settlements (Winchester 1987, 29). In the lowlands intensive cultivation had been practised for millennia prior to the medieval period, when townships are first documented. It has been argued that many of these boundaries were of considerable antiquity, particularly where obvious natural features such as rivers and streams and watersheds were followed, although such antiquity is difficult to prove conclusively. In the uplands, settlement is thought to have experienced successive cycles of expansion and contraction in response to a variety of stimuli, including environmental factors such as climatic change, but doubtless also political and economic issues. This may have resulted in periodic obscuring of the boundaries when communities were not fully exploiting the available resources and hence had less need to precisely define their limits. In all areas the definitive boundary network recorded by the first Ordnance Survey maps is obviously a composite pattern, in which precise delineation occurred in a piecemeal fashion over the centuries.

### **8.3.2 The administrative vill**

The term vill also designated the basic unit of civil administration in medieval England, representing a village or grouping of hamlets or farmsteads, which were obliged to perform a range of communal administrative duties. The latter included the delivery of evidence at inquests, the upkeep of roads and bridges, the apprehension of criminals within its bounds and the assessment and collection of taxes (Vinogradoff 1908, 475; Winchester 1978, 61; 1987, 32; Dixon 1985 I, 78). The most comprehensive listing of these administrative villis is provided by the occasional tax returns known as Lay Subsidy Rolls. In many areas these administrative villis correspond very closely to the territorial villis and with the later poor law townships (see below). Dixon has shown this to be the largely case in north Northumberland (north of the Coquet), for example (1985 I, 78-9). This was by no means the case everywhere in the border counties, however. In the district of Copeland in West Cumbria, where a predominantly dispersed settlement pattern of scattered 'single farmsteads, small

# EASINGTON ATLAS

## - Tithe Plan of 1840 -



Tithe Map of Easington Township (including Little Thorpe), 1839 (DDR/EA/TTH/1/177). Reproduced by permission of the Durham Diocesan Registrar..





Plan of Easington Parish (on 6in 1857 1st edition OS base) showing Hawthorn township (highlighted) and other township boundaries (CCB MP/136). Reproduced by permission of the Church Commissioners for England and Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections.

hamlets and looser groupings of farms' prevails, Winchester has demonstrated that the administrative villas had a composite structure, frequently embracing several 'members' or 'hamlets' which correspond to the basic territorial townships (Winchester 1978, 61-5). In many instances administrative villas were significantly larger than the later poor law townships. These relatively large, composite administrative villas correspond to what were termed *villae integrae* ('entire villas') elsewhere in England. Finally, Winchester also suggests that the term vill gradually acquired a more specific administrative connotation as the organisation of local government became more standardised after the Statute of Winchester in 1285, with the result that in his Copeland study area, from the end of the 13th century, the term was restricted to the administrative units and no longer applied to the basic territorial townships (1978, 66-7).

This idea of the vill as an area of land with defined boundaries, potentially enclosing a number of settlements, rather than the territorial resource of a single community, is expressed in a passage by Sir John Fortescue, writing towards the end of the medieval period, and makes an interesting contrast with Bracton's description over two hundred years earlier (Fortescue, 54-55; cf. Winchester *ibid.* n.27):

Hundreds again are divided into villas . . . . the boundaries of villas are not marked by walls, buildings, or streets, but by the confines of fields, by large tracts of land, by certain hamlets and by many other things such as the limits of water courses, woods and wastes . . . . there is scarcely any place in England that is not contained within the ambits of villas.

### 8.3.3 The Poor Law Township

Angus Winchester (1978) coined the term 'Poor Law township' to describe the form of township community which is most familiar today. Along with the parish, it is these townships which form the basic geographical territories described and analysed in the various county histories for Durham, from Hutchinson (1794) onwards, providing the framework for the historical narrative of individual localities.<sup>2</sup> The boundaries of these territorial communities were mapped as part of the tithe commutation process (Easington Parish townships: DDR EATTH/1/77 maps dated 1839) and by the First Edition Ordnance Survey in the mid-19th century and they have generally been presumed to have had a long and largely uninterrupted history stretching back in most cases to the townships of the medieval period. Greenwood also marks township boundaries on his county map of 1820, though not always with the same level of accuracy.

The assumption that the medieval administrative vill was the direct ancestor of the post-medieval poor law township, and hence of the modern civil parish, was a reasonable one since functionally they are somewhat similar, representing the most basic level of civil administration. However the actual line of descent is more complex.

The administration of poor relief was originally established at parochial rather than township level, with the requirement of the Elizabethan Poor Law Act of 1601 that overseers for the poor be appointed in every ecclesiastical parish in England (*Statutes* 43 Eliz. I c.2; cf. Winchester 1978, 56). Following pressure in parliament to permit the subdivision of the huge ecclesiastical parishes in the northern counties into smaller, more convenient units, the 1662 Poor Law Act allowed 'every Township or Village' in northern England to become a unit for poor-rate assessment and collection with their own overseers (*Statutes* 14 Charles II c.12, s.21; cf. Winchester 1987, 27). Winchester has argued, on the basis of the

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<sup>2</sup> Surtees (1816-40), however, uses the term 'constabulary', deriving from the parish constables who performed many of the administrative tasks required in each township, such as managing welfare relief for the poor and collecting the county rate.



arrangements he documented in the Copeland district of west Cumbria, that it was the territorial townships rather than the administrative vill which were most frequently adopted to serve as the new poor law townships.

In Easington parish itself similar post-medieval changes are evident, reflecting adaptations to cope with Poor Law administration, which had the effect of simplifying the pattern somewhat. In particular Shotton township absorbed Little Eden or Yoden township and the farmsteads of Edderacres and Flemingfield west of Shotton. High and Low Haswell or Over and Nether Haswell, which had sometimes been treated as distinct vill and sometimes as a single one in the Middle Ages, were definitively merged forming a township (Haswell), which also absorbed the farmsteads of Fallowfield (North and South), Pespool and Boisfield. Like Edderacres and Flemingfield, these farms had been carved out of the moorland waste west of Easington during the Middle Ages. All of this waste including that to the west of Shotton seems to have been termed the moor of Easington which once seems to have served like a great shire moor accessed by many different communities.

It is from the 'Poor Law townships', however ancient or recent their origins, rather than the medieval administrative vill, that the modern civil parish is directly derived in northern England. The Local Government Act of 1889, which established the civil parish, specifically stated it was to be 'a place for which a separate poor rate is or can be made' (*Statutes* 52/53 Vict. c.63 sec. 5).

#### **8.3.4 Township boundaries**

The changing nature of the township as an institution, which has been outlined above, also resulted, in some instances, in alterations to their territorial boundaries. These boundaries were not fixed in stone since time immemorial, as is sometimes assumed, but were in fact subject to quite a lot of alteration in the post-medieval period as a result of the disruption of the late Middle Ages, changes in land ownership patterns and the creation of Poor Law townships in the 17th and 18th centuries.

#### **Easington and Little Thorpe**

In the case Easington and Little Thorpe (usually just labelled 'Thorpe' in medieval documents), the developments of the early modern centuries formalised the boundaries between the two townships. Although generally treated as separate vill or townships, they are often listed together in historic documents in such a way as to indicate that they were intimately linked, as might be expected given the close proximity of Little Thorpe to Easington. Indeed the tithe map depicts the combined area as a single territory with no differentiation between the two, all being treated as Easington township, as likewise does Bell's Great Northern Coalfield map (Hartlepool Coal District: DRO D/Lo P242/1) of 1843. However the 6 in 1st edition Ordnance Survey surveyed in 1856 and published in 1861 clearly demarcates the two townships and indicates that there was a small detached portion of Little Thorpe in the north-east corner of Easington township adjoining Hawthorn township.

#### **Little Thorpe Detached**

The detached portion of Little Thorpe, recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey, totals 154 acres. It also bears the label **Thorpe Lea**, whilst the area immediately to the south is designated **Easington Lea** on the map. This suggests that the two village communities originally shared grazing or other rights in this area near the coast, known as the Lea, a further testament to how intimately they were connected. When the townships' open fields, pasture and moorland were divided up and transformed into enclosed fields during the mid-17th century it would have been necessary to partition the Lea proportionately to enable both communities to continue to retain their respective stakes this area. It was presumably at this stage that Thorpe Lea and Easington Lea came into existence as distinct areas with the township boundaries being adjusted to reflect this partition.

### Later changes – the development of local government

Although the Easington and Little Thorpe are still shown as separate townships with their own defined territories on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey this was already in the process of change with 'Easington with Thorpe' appearing in the bottom margin – a township which was to combine not only Easington and Little Thorpe but also Horden. Indeed these three townships already formed a single constabulary in the early 19th century (Surtees 1816, 10).<sup>3</sup> Likewise Shotton township and constabulary had already absorbed Little Eden as well as the ancient medieval farms of Edderacres and Flemingfield by that date. Townships were replaced by civil parishes after 1889 and by the early 20th century Horden had been transferred to Shotton civil parish, which consequently contained both the newly opened Horden Colliery and the attendant pit village of Horden, which lay well to the south of the site of the deserted medieval village and the early to mid-17th century Horden Hall. Eventually Easington was split into two civil parishes, Easington Village and Easington Colliery, in 1983. The population of the two communities had grown substantially over the course of the 20th century, but they had retained distinct identities despite now forming a continuous built-up area all the way along either side of Seaside Lane almost to the new A19 west of the Village. Easington Village Residents Association was formed and following measures to allow parish boundary changes a questionnaire showed that a majority of village residents wanted their own parish council. The new Easington Village Civil Parish which was established in 1983 was able to purchase the old rectory, Seaton Holme, which was now redundant in its role as an old people's home. Refurbishment of the building in conjunction with Groundwork East Durham provided a home for the two organisations, which the parish council still occupies though Groundwork moved out some years ago (Hopper 2011, 8-9).<sup>4</sup>

Another important innovation of this period was the introduction of **Rural District Councils** following the 1894 Local Government Act. These were much larger circumscriptions, with their own elected council, embracing several civil parishes and followed the pattern established by the **Poor Law Unions** which had been formed in the wake of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 to administer poor relief and manage the Union's workhouse. Thus the Easington Poor Law Union covered a similar territory to the later rural district council, including the parishes of Burdon, Dalton-le-Dale, Castle Eden, Monk Hesleden, Thornley, Wingate, Kelloe, Nesbitt and Seaham as well as Easington itself. When Easington Rural District came into being by 1897 it incorporated a very large area which extended as far north as Seaton, Burdon and Wardon Law (but excluding Seaham and Seaham Harbour) and as far south as Sheraton, Monk Hesledon, Wingate and Hurworth Bryan, whilst to the west it included Haswell, Thornley and Wheatley Hill. It thus encompassed the majority of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau, comprising not only the area of the historic ecclesiastical parishes of Monk Hesledon, Castle Eden, and Easington itself, but also large parts of Kelloe, Seaham and Dalton-le-Dale, confirming Easington's status as the most important settlement between Seaham and Hartlepool.

The fine Board Offices, built beside Seaside Lane to house the business of the Board of Guardians of the Poor and the Rural District Council, were completed in 1902 and officially opened on 19 March of the following year. The rural district council's significance was somewhat reduced by creation of Peterlee New Town with its own Development Corporation from 1952, but a district council continued to function at Easington until 2009 when the conversion of County Durham into a unitary authority brought about its abolition. The Board Offices were, regrettably, demolished in 2013. Although it might seem like the district was an

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<sup>3</sup> There is no distinction between the territories of Easington and Little Thorpe on the 1839 Easington tithe plan (DDR/EA/TTH/1/77B). Horden is not mapped but is labelled as an estate on the southern edge of Easington rather than a separate township like Shotton or Hawthorn.

<sup>4</sup> Some of the westernmost fields and farms formerly included in Easington and Little Thorpe townships now fall within Shotton, Haswell and South Hetton civil parishes.



artificial, bureaucratic construct, the communities of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau shared many commonalities, not least a recent history of coal mining, and a distinctive landscape of plateau coast and escarpment which now forms the focus of the Limestone Landscapes Partnership. At any rate in the 1960s a local headmaster, William Moyes, was sufficiently inspired by these common threads to write a comprehensive history of the rural district, entitled *Mostly Mining* (1969)<sup>5</sup>.

### **The medieval administrative district – the Ward**

It is worth noting that there was a much earlier precedent for Easington as the centre of a large administrative district, in the shape of the medieval Easington Ward. The Durham Bishopric was divided into three wards up until 1293 – Chester, Easington and Darlington, plus the Wapentake of Sadberge along the southern edge of County Durham – which had administrative but not judicial functions. Stockton was added as a fourth ward in 1293. Each ward had a coroner, appointed by the bishop, who assisted the sheriff in policing, collecting fines and making enquiries in the county. These palatine coroners had specific responsibilities for investigating cases of sudden death (a national duty then as today), holding inquests into other matters and collecting certain revenues (Lomas 1992, 80). The wards are still depicted on county maps of the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries (e.g. Morden 1695, Maire 1711/20, Armstrong 1768, Bowen 1777 or Smith 1808) showing Easington Ward as bounded by the Wear to the north and west, the sea to the east, and incorporating Kelloe and Monk Hesledon Parishes to the south<sup>6</sup>. Thus the ward encompassed the larger part of the East Durham Plateau like its 19th- and 20th-century counterparts.

## **8.4 The Manor**

The manor was the basic unit of estate administration and territorial lordship. Jurisdiction was exercised by the manorial lord over the estate, its assets, economic activities and customary and legal rights, through his manor court sometimes termed the *court baron*.

### **8.4.1 Feudal lordship: baronies and manors**

Manorial lordship represented only one link in the chain of feudal and tenurial relationships which extended from the lowly peasant through to the baronial superior lord and ultimately right up to the king himself.

In the Bishopric or Haliwerfolc, as County Durham was termed in the Middle Ages, the bishop was the universal, superior landlord, subordinate only to the king and all other landlords notionally held their estates from the bishop as the king's 'tenant in chief' (Liddy 2008, 25). Much land was held directly by the bishop or by the Durham cathedral priory. Thus Easington and Thorpe and Shotton were held directly by the bishop at the time of the Boldon Book, c. 1183, and remained in the bishopric's hands thereafter, although for some reason Shotton is omitted from Bishop Hatfield's Survey in the 1380s. Durham Priory acquired a single freeholding in Little Thorpe in 1489, but its main estates on this part of the East Durham Plateau lay at Dalton-le-Dale to the north and Monk Hesledon to the south (see Lomas and Piper, *Bursars Rentals*, 206-7). These were amongst the priory's original properties, and figure in earliest full list of Durham priory's estates, a diploma purportedly issued by Bishop William of St Calais in 1083 (*Daltun and Hæseldene: DEC*, no. 3, p. 8; *FPD*, xxxviii-xliii; cf. Aird 1998, 159-62), but actually a forgery compiled by the Durham

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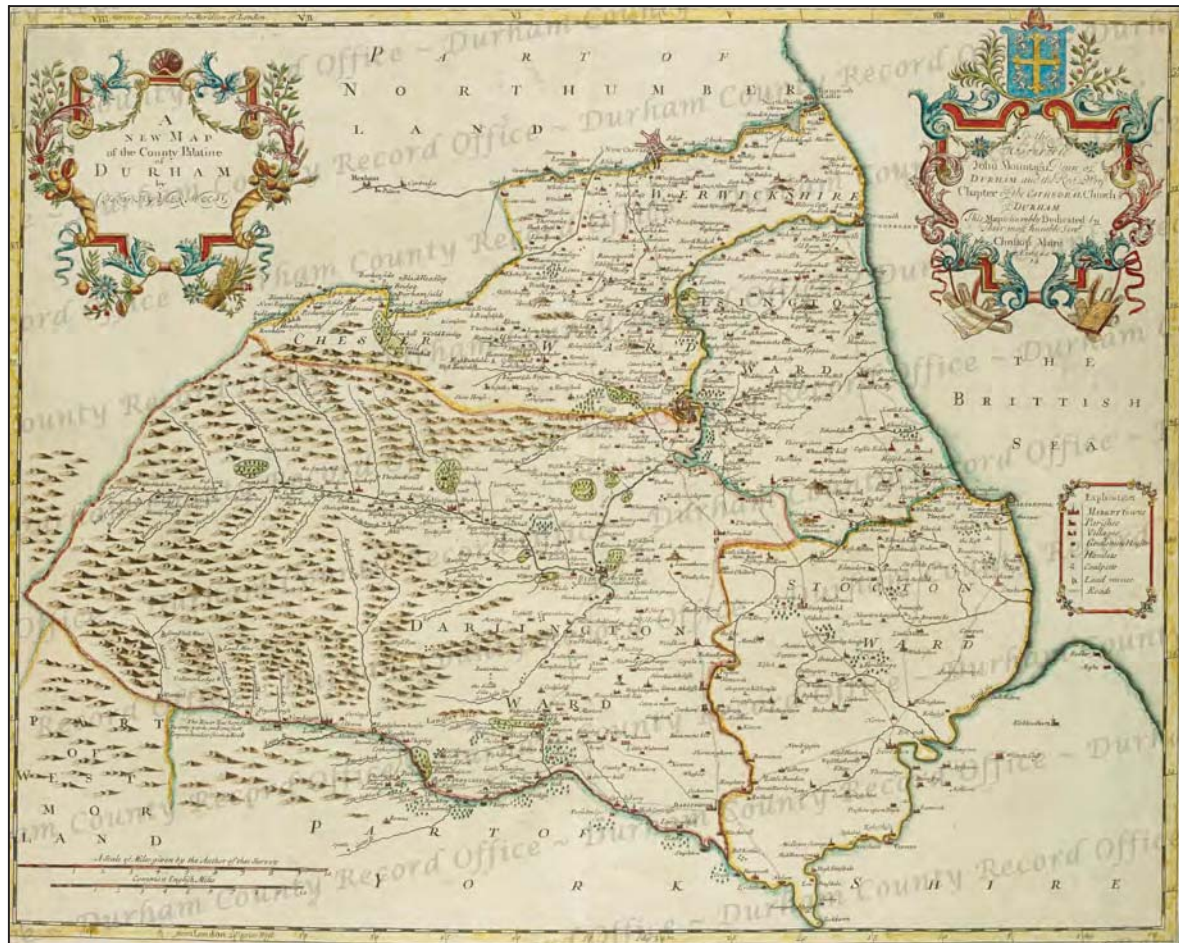
<sup>5</sup> Moyes was headmaster at Wingate Modern School from 1963 onwards.

<sup>6</sup> The composition of the four wards is set out in the early county histories, most notably the four volumes of Robert Surtees' *History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham* (1816-40), providing the structural framework of that work. The wards occasionally subdivide parishes.





# Easington Ward and the Durham Bishopric



Above:  
The administrative  
wards of the Durham  
Bishopric (later County  
Palatine) shown on  
Maire's map of 1711/20  
(DRO D/CL 23/15).

Right: Extract from the  
same map showing  
Easington Ward.

Reproduced by  
permission of Durham  
County Record Office.



monks in the early 12th century (certainly post-1107 and probably c. 1123). The priory's dependent cell, Finchale Priory, also held considerable land in the western part of Haswell centred on its farm (*manerium*) of Haswell Grange, near present-day Elemore Hall.

However many manors were granted by the bishop to other lords, usually men of lesser rank, a process known as subinfeudation. Others estates, usually smaller in extent were not held by feudal tenure at all, but instead were treated as freehold tenancies and figure in the two main episcopal estate surveys, the Boldon Book and Hatfield's Survey. Hawthorn, Horden, Little Eden (Yoden) and Great and Little Haswell fall into the former category whilst Edderacres and the later farms of Pespole, Boisfield, Fallowfield and Flemingfield represent examples of the latter type.<sup>7</sup>

Feudal tenants held the manors granted to them as a 'fief' or 'fee' in return for an oath of homage and fidelity, becoming the baronial lord's vassals, 'his men'. As such they were expected to perform a stipulated amount of military service and generally support and counsel their lord, attending his court periodically (a service known as 'suit of court'), and perhaps providing an annual gift of a sparrowhawk or pound of pepper or something similar. Military service was measured in terms of a knight's fee, or a multiple or fraction thereof representing, notionally at least, a certain number of days service. This might involve guarding the baron's principal castle (*caput*), a duty known as 'castle guard', logically enough, or campaigning by his side when the lord was called upon to contribute forces to a royal army.

#### **8.4.2 Manor, township and parish**

In its simplest form a single manor would encapsulate an entire township and the two would therefore have the same territorial limits. Indeed parish, township and manor could all be coterminous, with a small parish serving the spiritual needs of a single township community whose landed resources formed a single manorial estate and whose members were bound by a variety of personal and tenurial relationships to a single lord. However this simple arrangement was highly unusual in County Durham. As we have seen, the number of villis or townships greatly exceeded that of the parishes, whilst the number of manors would have been greater still. The 'classic' manor which encapsulated an entire village and its township was much rarer than primary school history lessons might have us believe. Then as now, the processes of succession and inheritance and the inevitable variability in human fortunes resulted in the amalgamation or, more often, fragmentation of estates. If the male line of a seigneurial family died out, the estates were usually divided between all the surviving female heiresses and this frequently involved subdividing individual manors rather than simply distributing different intact manors to the various heiresses (perhaps with the aim of ensuring the division was absolutely equitable). The detailed tenurial histories contained in the volumes of Surtees' county history provide plenty of examples of such processes at work and their impact on specific Durham manors. In other cases portions of the township which had originally formed part of the original manor might be granted to other lords, to free tenants, or to institutions of the church, such as neighbouring monasteries. Most townships therefore were divided between a number of manorial landholders (cf. Bailey 2002, 5-7).

#### **8.4.3 The structure and development of the manor**

A manor typically consisted of two principal elements, on the one hand land known as 'demesne' over which the lord maintained direct control – what we would today perhaps term the home farm – and on the other hand a series of permanent unfree tenant holdings. These two elements were integrated together with the tenants being compelled to provide labour to work the lord's demesne as part of their rent.

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<sup>7</sup> Confusingly, the term 'manor' (*manerium*) was commonly used in north-east England to denote such self-contained farms, cf. *Hatfield's Survey*, 127: *manerium de Pespole*; *manerium de Edirdacres*..



### **Demesne farming**

The management of the demesne varied over time and depending on the size of the manorial lordship. A lord who just held one or two manors in a compact holding might supervise the farming of the demesne himself. In addition to the rents provided by any tenants he would retain all the profit from the demesne, using the produce to feed his household and selling any surplus to provide money to purchase anything else the household might need. On larger estates, however, such direct supervision by the lord was impossible. Instead two management strategies were possible. The lord might simply lease the demesne out for a predetermined annual sum in money or produce to someone who could directly manage the land, a local free tenant or a lesser manorial lord who resided on an adjacent estate perhaps, or even to the township community as a whole. By doing so the lord of course lost control over the full produce of the demesne, some of which the leaseholder would retain as his share, but the system was simple to administer and the lord gained a predictable income, with the leaseholder in effect bearing the risk of any fall in production as a result of a bad harvest, for example. The lease would run for a set number of years, or for the lifetime of the lessee and even one or more of his heirs. The rent paid by the lessee, rather than the landholding itself, was referred to as the farm (*firma*) and the lessee was accordingly known as the farmer (*firmarius*), the modern terms having shifted in meaning over time.

This system of leasing was prevalent throughout England (and indeed the rest of Europe) right up until the late 12th century when it began to give way to a system of direct seignorial management by means of paid employees who acted as the lord's agent supervising the workforce, including the tenants' compulsory labour services, paying any expenses and maximising the profit. By the 1220s this system of demesne farming had become the norm on large estates across England (though it was adopted nowhere else in Europe). This required more elaborate record keeping than was necessary for the old system of demesne leasing, with the lord's agent, variously entitled a reeve, bailiff or sergeant, having to prepare annual accounts which could be audited by a hierarchy of more senior officials. In addition various other types of document were drawn up using juries of local tenants: surveys were detailed written descriptions, rather than drawn maps or plans, which itemised all the manor's assets – buildings, land, stock and tenants; custumals listed all the rents and services owed by the tenants; extents added leasehold valuations to the assets listed in a survey; terriers were detailed topographic descriptions of the manor, parcel by parcel; whilst rentals listed the tenants with the rent in money or produce due from each. As a result England has the most detailed and informative manorial records of any country in Europe (for excellent introductions to manorial records and their usefulness as a source for local historians see Ellis 1994, Harvey 1999 and, incorporating translations of numerous examples, Bailey 2002).

### **The tenants**

The second key component of a typical manor were the unfree tenants known as bondmen or bondagers, who are more generally labelled 'serfs' today (although that term is not usually encountered in medieval manorial estate records such as Inquisitions Post Mortem). These tenants formed the core of the community. They would usually have numbered between ten and thirty and were allotted standard-sized holdings or tenements, notionally around 24-30 fiscal acres, though the actual area might be more variable. They paid the same rents in cash and in kind and were bound to perform a certain number of days labour on the lord's demesne farm – the amount of each type of work – ploughing, harvesting, carting etc being carefully specified.

In addition there were usually also a number of lesser tenants known as cottars, cotmen or cottagers who held little or no land and had to earn a living by labouring for a wage or providing some specialised service such as smithing. Finally there would be a number of

free tenants whose rights and obligations were much closer to those of feudal tenants. These would have been fewer in number than the unfree tenants and in many instances their holdings may have been smaller, but they had greater security of tenure and may have held land in more than one manor.

#### 8.4.4 Estates before the manor – Great estates and Shires

The pattern of relatively small, bipartate manorial estates, comprising demesne farm and tenant holdings, and embracing one or two villas at most, which has been described above, is typical of the Middle Ages from the 11th or 12th centuries onwards. However a different framework may have prevailed earlier in the medieval period. This was characterised by very large, integrated estates, forming coherent, contiguous blocks of territory, with outlying settlements providing renders in kind and labour for the lord's central hall and home farm (cf. Dyer 2003, 26-31). Various terms are used to designate such estates – 'great estates', 'multiple estates', 'composite estates' or 'shires' (the latter deriving from Old English *scir*, signifying something detached from a larger whole, such as a kingdom).

Two entries in the *Historia de sancto Cuthberto*, compiled in the late Anglo-Saxon or very early Norman period, relate to one such shire or composite estate, or perhaps two conjoined shires centred on Monk Hesleden and Easington (*HSC* 19b, 22; cf. commentary, pp. 95, 104-5; appendix II, pp. 124-9):

19b. So then, before God called this faithful king [Alfred] to himself from this life [[in 899], certain estates were added to the church of the holy confessor [St Cuthbert]. For Eadred the above mentioned abbot [of Carlisle] bought from the aforesaid King Guthred, and from the Danish host which under him had divided the land among themselves, these villas: Monk Hesleden (*Seletun*), Horden (*Horetun*), the two Yodens (*duas Geodene*, i.e. Little Eden and Castle Eden), Hulam (*Holum*), Hutton Henry (*Hotun*), *Twilingatun* (location unknown), and conferred them on St Cuthbert.

22. In these days Elfred son of Brihtwulf, fleeing pirates, came over the mountains in the west and sought the mercy of St Cuthbert and Bishop Cutheard so that they might present him with some lands. Then Bishop Cutheard [901-15] out of devotion to God and out of love for St Cuthbert presented to him these townships (*villas*): Easington (*Esington*), Monk Hesleden (*Seletun*), Little Thorpe (*Thorep*), Horden (*Horedene*), Yoden (*Iodene*, i.e. Little Eden), the two Shottons (*duas Sceottun*), South Eden (*Iodene Australem*, i.e. Castle Eden), Hulam (*Holum*), Hutton Henry (*Hotun*), *Twilingatun*, Billingham with its dependencies (*Billingham cum suis appendiciis* – probably another, separate composite estate), Sheraton (*Scurufatun*). All these townships, as I said, the bishop presented to Elfred, provided that he be faithful to him and the congregation and render full service for them.

These territories correspond almost exactly to the later medieval parishes of Monk Hesleden, Castle Eden and Easington, apart from the omission of the villas of Hawthorn and Haswell, which formed northern and north-western districts of Easington parish. Easington and Monk Hesleden were named first, as the estate centres, which in the case of Monk Hesleden displaced it with regard to the strict, north-south geographical order otherwise maintained by both lists. The character of the territories with their compact form and hierarchical structure with a centre or *caput* and numerous dependent villas (*appendiciis*), appears typical of composite estates or shires, as recognised elsewhere. The events described in the above passages relate to the very end of the 9th and early 10th centuries, but the *Historia de sancto Cuthberto* was compiled somewhat later. A mid-10th century date used to be favoured, but the most recent edition, though not entirely excluding the possibility of 10th-century compilation, argues that a mid- to late 11th century is more plausible.



Another indication of Easington's origin is provided by references to Easington Moor and the farms which were carved out of it by means of Episcopal grants in the 12th and 13th centuries. Thus, the farms of Pespool and Boisfield (in or around present-day Pespool Wood), which lie directly to the west of Easington, were said to have been granted to John Haldan and John du Bois respectively by successive bishops of Durham out of their waste in Easington Moor (*de vasto nostro in mora de Esingtona*), according to the terms of their initial charters (Pespool: DCD, Misc. Ch. 5150 (1249/1260); Boisfield: DCD, Misc. Ch. 6153 (1261/1273), 6151 (1283); cf. Britnell 2004, 34). Still more striking is the case of Flemingfield Farm, located to the west of Shotton. This parcel of land, granted to John the Fleming of Newcastle by Bishop Robert de in 1283, was carved out of the Episcopal moor of Shotton and Easington (*placeam de vasto nostro in mora nostra de Schotton(a) & de Esington(a)*: DCD, Misc. Ch. 6158, 7083; Britnell 2004, 34-5). In Bishop Hatfield's survey of 1383 'the field (*campum*) called Flemyngfeld' is simply stated to be *in mora de Esyngton* (Hatfield Survey, 127). Thus Easington Moor was originally even more extensive than it appears on mid-19th century maps and probably functioned as a 'shire moor' on which the inhabitants of many townships were able to intercommon and graze their livestock (Britnell 2004, 33).

By the time the Boldon Book was compiled in the late 12th century this system of composite estates or shires was breaking down and transforming into a pattern of smaller manorial estates focussed on individual townships, but it appears to have survived longer on the bishop's estates than elsewhere. Several groups of contiguous townships bearing a 'shire' label figure in the survey, including Quarringtonshire (*Queringdonshire*), Heighingtonshire and Aucklandshire, in County Durham and Norhamshire and Bedlingtonshire in Northumberland, suggesting that these clusters represent the remains of integrated, multiple estates. However there is little indication of this in relation to Easington. Only Easington and Thorpe (which are listed as a single estate), and Shotton remained directly in the hands of the bishop by that stage and both Easington/Thorpe and Shotton have their own demesne farms (*dominium*), with associated sheep farms, plus mills, implying they were separate, fully autonomous manorial estates. Monk Hesleden was in the hands of the cathedral priory and most of the other villis listed had been granted by the bishop to his feudal tenants – barons and knights, sometimes termed the Knights of St Cuthbert – whilst Edderacres and Twizel (*Tuisela*)<sup>8</sup>, were each granted in their entirety to one free tenant (Adam fitz John and Walter Buggethorp respectively) and Sheraton was divided between two *drengs*, John and Thomas. (Drengage was an archaic type of service tenancy, similar to free tenancy, but having more servile obligations, such as carrying messages for the bishop and attending the bishop's hunt or 'great chase' in Stanhope Park with a greyhound, ropes and men.)

#### 8.4.5 Manors in the late medieval period: the growth of the manor court

The nature of the manor changed in the later medieval period. As a result of economic and social shifts, population decline and recession (following the Black Death), The labour shortages resulted in the progressive extinction of serfdom as unfree bond tenants, dissatisfied with the terms of their tenure could simply migrate to find a lord who was willing to set less onerous conditions. Hence terms like bondmen or bondagers and bondage holdings (*bondagium*) disappear from the documentary sources along with the unpopular labour services on the demesne lands which could no longer be enforced and were replaced by husbandmen and husbandland (*terra husband*). The husbandmen paid rents in cash. No longer able to compel tenants to labour on the demesne and with the cost of wages spiralling upwards, lords, both secular and ecclesiastical, found direct management and cultivation of their demesne farm was no longer viable and simply leased the land out to one or more tenants instead. At the same time the manor court became more prominent in the definition

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<sup>8</sup> Twizel/*Tuisela* may represent the same place referred to as *Twilingatun* in the *Historia de sancto Cuthberto*. Its position in the lists above, following Hutton Henry in both cases, suggests it lay at the southern end of the composite estate.

of manorial status so that by the 15th century a new definition of the manor was emerging: a property was only a manor if its owner held a court for the tenants – a court baron (Harvey 1999, 2-3, 55). In the words of the Chief Justice, Sir Edward Coke, in the early 17th century ‘a Court Baron is the chiefe prop and pillar of a Manor, which no sooner faileth but the Manor falleth to the ground’ (Coke 1641, 56-7, cited in Harvey 1999, 2).





## 9. VILLAGES

### 9.1 Villages, Hamlets and Farmsteads – Definitions

The territorial labels discussed above can all be defined with relative ease, despite the complexity caused by their changing role over time (which is especially marked in the case of the township), since they describe specific entities which figure in legislation and other formal records from the medieval period onwards. However it is a very different matter when it comes to precisely defining the terms used to describe different types of settlement, such as 'village' or 'hamlet'. As the foremost scholars of landscape and settlement studies have admitted (e.g. Roberts 1996, 14) it is extraordinarily difficult to define these terms with precision in such a way as to impose any absolute consistency of usage upon them.

For the purposes of this study the following definitions of settlement were used, all drawn from Brian Roberts' extensive work, in particular the succinct discussion provided in *Landscapes of Settlement* (1996, 15-19):

**FARMSTEAD:**

'An assemblage of agricultural buildings from which the land is worked'

**HAMLET:**

A small cluster of farmsteads

**VILLAGE:**

- A clustered assembly of dwellings and farmsteads, larger than a hamlet, but smaller than a town;  
[and] A rural settlement with sufficient dwellings to possess a recognisable form (Roberts 1976, 256).

**TOWN:**

A relatively large concentration of people possessing rights and skills which separate them from direct food production.

### 9.2 Village Morphology

#### 9.2.1 Village plans

The most substantial body of work on village morphology is that undertaken by Brian Roberts (e.g. 1972; 1976; 1977; 1990) much of it focussed on County Durham. Roberts has identified a complex series of village types based on two main forms, termed 'rows' and 'agglomerations', multiplied by a series of variable factors – such as their complexity (e.g. multiple row villages), degree of regularity, building density and the presence or absence of greens.

This certainly provides a useful way of classifying villages, even if it is difficult to determine what these different morphological characteristics actually signify in terms of the history and development of a particular village. It is tempting to suppose, for instance, that a village with a very regular plan, composed of two rows of tenements arranged on either side of a broad rectangular green, must have been deliberately laid out at a particular point in time, perhaps with some overarching external direction. By contrast a settlement which takes the form of an irregular agglomeration might be assumed to have developed organically over a more prolonged period. However the documentary and archaeological evidence to support such hypotheses is normally lacking in any given case and it would be no surprise if the actual



circumstances were usually more complex, even if the overall principle of regularity = planned foundation whilst irregularity = gradual ad hoc development is valid. Indeed Dixon (1985, 1) is sceptical of regularity or irregularity as a significant factor, noting that irregularity does not necessarily mean that a village was not laid out in a certain order at a particular time; that the regularity of a layout is a subjective judgement; and that an irregular row may simply be a consequence of local terrain or topography. He also points out that however irregular it might appear, by its very existence the row constitutes an element of regularity. Dixon is especially dismissive of the presence or absence of a green as a significant factor in village morphology, arguing that a green is simply an intrusion of the common waste into the settlement; if such a space is broad it is called a green, if narrow it is a street or gate. Many of these points are valid though some may stretch his case too far. A broad green could surely fulfil a wider range of functions than a street, notably providing some scope for grazing livestock, for example and more room for communal facilities such as the pinfold and the common bakehouse and forge.

A much greater problem is that not all villages survive equally well and they are not equally well recorded by historic maps and ancient documents. Easington was not mapped in detail until the mid-19th century when the tithe commutation award was accompanied by a plan of the whole township and the 1st edition of the 1:2500 and 6in Ordnance Survey plans were subsequently produced. Nevertheless the village was clearly then still a sizeable rural community, an impression also conveyed by medieval documents such as the Boldon Book and Hatfield's Survey. Despite much modern growth the core of the ancient village is still recognisable today, with its roughly square green, dominated by the parish church to the northwest and surrounded by rows of houses on all four sides. These probably occupy the same positions as the medieval peasant tenements which would have been set in enclosed plots known as 'tofts', complete with farmhouse and associated buildings and gardens.

At the other extreme some villages have almost entirely disappeared. All that remained in Horden township by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey was Horden Hall to the north-east, built in the early to mid-17th century and West Horden Farm. It is possible that the medieval village site was adjacent to Horden Hall and that the latter occupied the site of the medieval manor house, but it appears more likely that Horden village was represented by the deserted village site at Quarry Hills c. 0.5km south of the hall. This is now identified as Yoden village (DCHER 78; SAM 1019913), but it lies within the bounds of Horden near the southern edge of the township and it therefore seems preferable to associate with that community rather than Yoden, i.e. Little Eden township to the south.<sup>9</sup> The latter village has also disappeared but may have lain next to Eden Hall where the ruins of a medieval tower are recorded and the site of a chapel (DCHER 63).

Indeed some communities even ceased to exist during the course of the Middle Ages. Thus the Easington/Monk Hesleden estate grant and lease recorded by the *Historia de sancto Cuthberto* (see above) include mention of a site called *Twilingatun*, which may represent the same site as the Twizel (*Tuisela*) mentioned by the Boldon Book and probably lay somewhere at the southern end of Monk Hesleden parish. The Easington/Monk Hesleden lease also mentions two Shottons (*duas Sceottun*), one of which must later have ceased to exist – perhaps the population from two hamlets was merged into a single village or

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<sup>9</sup> If the Quarry Hill deserted medieval village earthworks do represent Yoden/Little Eden then the medieval boundary between Yoden and Horden townships must have lain further north than its 19th-century counterpart, but this would still leave the Eden Hall tower and chapel site, which presumably represent the manorial centre isolated from the village. The same is true of Horden Hall and the DMV if the latter is associated with Horden vill, but Horden Hall may mark a shift of the manor house's location in the 17th century after the village had been abandoned.

conceivably one of the Shottons represents the farmstead termed Etherdaces in the Boldon Book (i.e. 'Ethelred's acres' or 'cultivated land' – now Edderacres).

### 9.2.2 Village morphology in Easington Parish and its surroundings

#### Easington

It is illuminating to compare the plans of Easington and the neighbouring villages of Easington, Castle Eden and Monk Hesleden parishes, as recorded by the 1st edition 6in Ordnance survey. The most immediately striking aspect is how much larger and more complex the plan of **Easington** is by comparison with all the other villages confirming its status as the capital of this part of the East Durham coastal plateau. The village is centred around a large rectangular green, which is relatively broad in relation to its length, surrounded by well-defined rows of tenements on all four sides.

The east row ('Low Row') and north row both have back lanes demarcating the rearward limits of the tenement plots or tofts. That running behind the north row ('Rosemary Lane') is relatively broad as it forms part of a through east-west route leading from the coast through Easington to Hetton, Houghton and Chester-le-Street (Seaside Lane – Rosemary Lane – Hall Walks, forming the present B1283 and A182), and is lined on its north side by a further row of tenements. Indeed if one simply looked at the map in isolation it would be possible to imagine the main north row as a later intrusion into a green that had originally been even larger. When examined on the ground however it is clear that the north row sits on the ridge of higher ground closing off the north side of the green and was probably an original component, whereas the row on the north side of Rosemary Lane sits below and beyond the crest when viewed from the other rows. The parish church sits at the highest point in the north-west corner, overlooking the entire settlement, which slopes down from north-west to south-east. Immediately to the north, facing the church on the opposite side of Hall Walks is the medieval rectory, Seaton Holme. Roberts categorises the village as a *complex multiple row settlement*.

#### Villages of the Magnesian Limestone Coastal Plateau

By comparison with Easington all the other villages appear smaller and many have a somewhat denuded aspect in plan, giving the impression that they had probably shrunk, if not in their overall extent certainly in the number of tenements, since the Middle Ages. Perhaps closest in overall form to Easington's village green is that of **Shotton**, which appears rectangular or sub-rectangular in plan and fairly broad in relation to its length, its long axis being aligned north-south. Buildings line all four sides of this green, though the east side was not completely built up and the green narrowed towards its southern end, where there was space for only a few buildings. It is uncertain, however, to what degree the original form of this settlement had been altered by the laying out of the grounds of the 18th-century Shotton Hall, immediately to the east (cf. Pevsner and Williamson 1985, 378). A possible small, square or triangular green was also apparent at Church Hesledon (also called Low Hesledon), the settlement associated with Monk Hesledon parish church (St Mary's), some 0.8km south of the main village of High Hesledon, but this was essentially just a hamlet, though it could conceivably predate the establishment of the main village.

In general linear arrangements tend to predominate, typically comprising one or two well-defined rows of tenements flanking a long green or street. The green could be rectangular and quite regular, but often swells around the midpoint and tapers at either end. Examples of row settlements include **Little Thorpe** – categorised by Roberts as a two-row irregular street settlement – where buildings and plots clearly line the south side of a street. A row of small enclosures along north side of the street probably represent the remains of former tofts implying there was once a full row of peasant farmers' tenements on this side as well, although only two of them actually contained farms or buildings of any kind by the 1850s. At



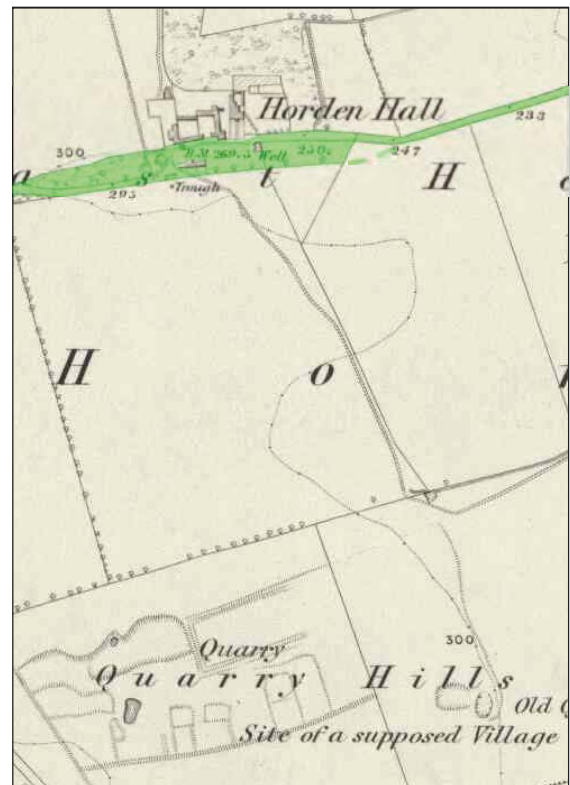
**Hawthorn**, to the north of Easington, post-medieval development of the village had again resulted in uneven survival with the west side of the narrow, NNW-SSE aligned green being shown significantly more built-up than the east side on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Even so, some buildings remained on the east side and the former toft enclosures still survived there, confirming that this was another irregular two-row settlement. At the south end of the village the green was closed off by an east-west aligned road which was lined on its south side by another short row of farms, giving the overall plan an L-shaped aspect. A somewhat similar arrangement prevailed at **Sheraton**, in Hesleden parish, where relatively few buildings still remained along the north and south sides of the green, most being concentrated in a short north-south aligned row at the west end, some encroachment on the green being evident there as well. Earthworks associated with the medieval/early modern phases of this settlement still survive (NMR 27151; DCHER 160).

Two-row settlements are also evident at High Haswell, Hutton Henry and Monk Hesleden (also termed High Hesleden on the tithe map and Bell's 1843 map of the Great Northern Coalfield's Hartlepool District for example). At **Monk Hesleden** the building rows, both to the north and the south, were set back from the line of the lane running through the village, implying it was originally a green village. The north row is very clear, whereas the only trace of the former south row is a very fragmentary line of buildings towards the east and west ends of the settlement, set well back from the edge of the road. Regular toft compartments can be seen associated with both building rows, the rear fence lines of the north and south compartments forming continuous toft-tail lines (though somewhat interrupted in the case of the south row). Hence the original form of Monk Hesleden can be restored as a two-row, regular green settlement. **Hutton Henry** appears to have been an extensive and fairly regular two-row village with green and associated linear toft compartments. Back lanes demarcated the rear of the southern and north-eastern compartments. By contrast **High Haswell** was more shrunken, but traces of two rows were evident, though probably always shorter than those of Hutton Henry, for example. It is classed as a two-row irregular street village by Roberts, but the 'street' appears to be every bit as wide as the greens of Hawthorn, Hutton Henry or Sheraton, so it should perhaps be categorised as a green village as well. There was a second settlement, **Low Haswell** (formerly Little Haswell – *Haswell Parva*), to the north which was probably never much more than a hamlet, but the site of medieval chapel between the two hints at greater complexity.

### **Deserted and shrunken villages**

In some cases the settlements were entirely deserted and subsequently swept away by post-medieval remodelling, as at **Castle Eden**, for example, where earthwork remains of the village survived in the parkland laid out to the west of the mid-18th century stately Castle until destroyed by ploughing in 1971 (NMR 27116; DCHER 165). Subsequent excavation revealed some of the settlement's history (Austin 1987). The site of **Hulam** village was still named on the 1839 tithe map for Sheraton and Hulam townships (DDR/EA/TTH/1/208), though there was no settlement remaining there, and surviving earthworks were evident on early aerial photographs (NMR 27113, cf. 27204; DCHER 168, cf. 65), before they were bulldozed and ploughed over, again in 1971, evidently a bad year for local DMVs (Deserted Medieval Villages). By the mid-19th century settlement in the former vill was limited to two post-medieval farmsteads, Langish Hill (now Hulam) and Battersley, both situated further to the east.

Perhaps most intriguing, if slightly perplexing, cases of desertion or shrinkage relate to the townships of Horden and Little Eden immediately to the south of Easington. The remains of a deserted medieval village survive in the centre of modern **Horden** (SAM 1019913; NMR 27217; DCHER 78 & 8050). A row of toft enclosures can be traced on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey at 'Quarry Hills' which may represent the south row of a two-row village, the north side having been destroyed by the later quarrying. These earthworks can be traced on early aerial photographs of the 1940s and 1950s and still survive today. Though labelled



## VILLAGES IN EASINGTON PARISH

### 1st edition 6in OS Comparative Plans

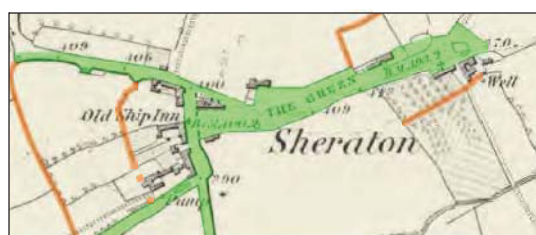
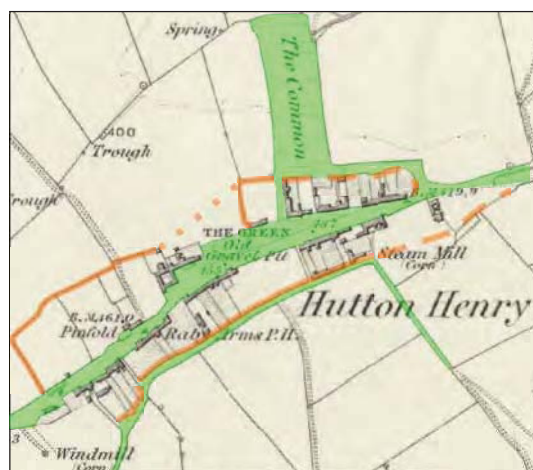
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# VILLAGES IN MONK HESLEDEN PARISH

## 1st edition 6in OS Comparative Plans



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Yoden (i.e. Eden) by English Heritage scheduling documentation, these lie within the township of Horden as recorded by the mid-19th century maps rather than the former Little Eden township (already absorbed by Shotton township by the mid-19th century). Although relatively close to the southern boundary of Horden township such eccentric positioning is not unusual and it would seem preferable to identify the DMV remains with the medieval vill of Horden rather than Little Eden (*Iodene*), as already indicated by Austin (1973).

By the mid-19th century there were no dwellings at the former village site and settlement, overall, was limited to the farmstead and small manor house at Horden Hall in the centre of the township, plus another farmstead at West Horden and an isolated house to the east, Warren House. Horden Hall was built in the first half of the 17th century (NMR 27222; DCHER 8249 & 35379; Pevsner and Williamson 1983, 327-8) and it would be logical to assume this followed on from the final abandonment of the village. However the existence of a 2-metre thick rear wall, visible in cellar of the house, which may possibly be medieval, hints at a more complex history. Moreover it is also noteworthy that the east-west oriented lane which passes in front of the hall broadens out in a manner reminiscent of a village green. It is therefore conceivable that the original village was abandoned at a relatively early date, perhaps in the aftermath of the Black Death, when the population level was drastically reduced, and a new smaller settlement, perhaps just a hamlet was established to the north beside a manor house. Indeed it may be significant that Horden is described, in the Inquisition Post Mortem for William Claxton in 1431, as 'a wasted village' (*villa vastata*), comprising eight messuages (toft farm plots) and eight cottages, all waste and of no value (Surtees 1816, 26; cf. Britnell 2004, 23-4). The site of the manor (*manerium*), that is the lord's farm and house, was also recorded as being of no value. Excavation at the DMV site in 1884, reportedly yielded green-glazed pottery of 14th- to 16th-century date (Middleton 1885), which, if correctly identified would imply the village was not abandoned quite so early. Unfortunately the pottery is now lost and since less was known of medieval pottery typology in than 19th century than today it is quite possible that the assemblage did not span the full period mentioned. Further investigation at the DMV and the hall using modern excavation and survey techniques would surely clarify the medieval and early modern settlement sequence in this part of Easington's environs.

As regards **Little Eden**, there is a plausible candidate for the site of a medieval village, beside Eden Hall, a little further south of the Quarry Hills DMV. Surtees refers to the demolition of 'the remains of an oblong square tower, the *Turris de Parva Eden*,' there during the first decade of the 19th century (Surtees 1816, 36) and further noted that traces of foundations were still visible in the field adjoining the site of the tower, called Chapel Hill. As well as marking 'site of a chapel' west of Eden Hall, the 1st edition Ordnance Survey shows Chapel Hill lying to the south of Eden Hall, whilst documents cited by Surtees dating as early as 1617 mention Chapel Hill and Chapel Hill Close (1816, 37), suggesting that the tradition of a chapel in this location/area was long established. It is unlikely therefore that the placename refers to the tower, and it is probable that the manorial complex of Little Eden, including a towerhouse and perhaps a nearby chapel, were located at the later Eden Hall. An associated medieval village may have been located in the vicinity, perhaps extending westward along Howletch Lane towards the later farmstead of Little Eden shown on mid-19th century maps. A number of closes or plots labelled garth – Chilton's Garth, Hutcheson's Garth, Hordengarth and Barne Garth – are also named in early 17th-century documents (ibid.) and these may represent the remnants of village toft enclosures, though their precise location is unclear.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> The dispersal of settlement away from the village may have begun relatively early in Little Eden, as Dene House, above Castle Eden Dene, well to the south of Eden Hall, was already in existence by 1619 (Surtees 1816, 37n). It may be significant that the late medieval documents cited by Surtees (1816, 36-7) refer to Little Eden as a 'manor' (i.e. demesne farm) rather than a vill.



Patterns of land ownership may have played a significant role in the differing patterns of post-medieval survival. It is noteworthy that those village settlements which were totally or almost entirely deserted were generally those where there was one dominant secular landowner in the township, such as Horden, Little Eden and Hulam. Such lords were nominally feudal or free tenants of the bishop, but, in practice, had full control of their respective vills, or manors (*manerium*). In townships held directly by ecclesiastical landowners, namely the bishop (Easington, Little Thorpe and Shotton) and Durham Priory, later the Cathedral Dean and Chapter (Monk Hesleden), village settlements tended to fare better. In some cases this was a direct result of the ecclesiastical institution's policy towards its tenants. In the late Middle Ages, following the Black Death, Durham Priory created tenant syndicates in most of the vills it held, the members of which each leased an equal share in their particular vill, often including the priory's demesne farm. Although the resultant number of tenants in each township was lower than had typically prevailed before the mid-14th century this policy, which was maintained by the Dean and Chapter after the Priory's dissolution in 1539, effectively entrenched a class of middling, leasehold tenant farmers in these communities. When established in 1425 there were four tenants in the Monk Hesleden syndicate, for example, increased to six by the end of the 15th century (Lomas and Piper, *Bursars Rentals*, 156-7 (1495-6), 207; *FPD*, 137-8 (1464), 313-14 (1539)). In addition one or two other tenants leased the manorial farm at Low Hesleden separately, and another the mill. Equivalent syndicates were not established on the bishop's estates, but nor was there the kind of radical reorganisation witnessed by some secular estates, which could result in the settlement dwindling to a single gentry hall and farm complex, with one or more farms in the remainder of the township. A partial exception to this pattern is Castle Eden where Guisborough Priory held a majority of the vill and Durham Priory much of the rest. However both monasteries' lands passed into lay hands after the Dissolution, and were held by a succession of absentee landlords until the manor was finally acquired by Rowland Burdon in 1758, builder of the present 'Castle', so the pattern of lay ownership correlating with village desertion still essentially holds true.

### **Parish church and village settlement**

One final point of comparison worthy of analysis is with other parochial centres in East Durham. At Easington the parish church is located in the village, as one might assume. However this is by no means the universal pattern in the wider area. In Monk Hesleden, Kelloe and Pitlington, by contrast, the parish church is situated in a separate hamlet – Low Hesleden or Church Hesleden, as opposed to High Hesleden/Monk Hesleden, Church Kelloe/Little Kelloe (*Kyrkkellawe*, *Parva Kellawe*), as distinct from Town Kelloe (*Est Kellawe*, *Magna Kellawe*), and Pitlington Hallgarth/South Pitlington as opposed to North Pitlington (cf. Watts 2002, 79, 68, 95). As noted above, 19th-century High (Monk) Hesleden formed the somewhat shrunken remnant of a very regular two-row green village, giving every impression of having been laid out at a single moment in time to accommodate the dependent bondmen and cotmen who formed the bulk of the vill's agricultural labour force in the 12th and 13th centuries. North Pitlington too was a sizeable, regular, two-row green settlement, and Town Kelloe, though smaller, with only a single row clearly evident in the mid-19th century, may have had a similar origin and purpose, accommodating the bulk of the medieval vill's peasant workforce. Nor is this pattern restricted to East Durham. For instance Alwinton in the Northumberland uplands of upper Coquetdale forms another pairing of church hamlet and larger agricultural village occupying separate sites.

Why were these parish churches not sited in the larger village settlements, as was the case at Easington? One possible answer is that the church hamlets preceded the creation of the main villages, but were not themselves, for one reason or another, deemed suitable for development as the main nucleated settlement of their respective communities. Thus Kelloe and Hesleden churches occupied awkward, sloping sites beside Kelloe Beck and Hesleden Dene respectively. It is conceivable that the church hamlet originally formed one of a number

of hamlets or individual farmsteads dispersed throughout the territory of the vill, which have yet to be recognised archaeologically. When a decision was taken, perhaps by new Anglo-Norman lords, to concentrate the bulk of the farming population in a single location all these other settlements were swept away leaving only the new village and the hamlet attached to the church which had already acquired too much sanctity to move. Churches were prestigious symbols of lordship as well as places of communal worship and were very often placed in close proximity to the other elements of seigniorial infrastructure, the lord's hall and farm complex, in the late Anglo-saxon period as much as the Anglo-Norman era. It is likely therefore the hamlets furnished with churches formed the estate centres within their respective vills and wider shire estates and, in some cases at least, this relationship persisted. Thus the manorial farm complexes – the *manerium*, *curia* or 'hallgarth' – at Monk Hesleden and Pitlington, both of which were in the hands of Durham Priory, continued to be located near their respective churches at Low Hesleden and Pitlington Hallgarth right through to the mid-16th century when the priory itself was dissolved.

### 9.3 Archaeological Investigation

If Brian Roberts, using the methods of historical geography, has perhaps done more to shape current thinking on the overall pattern of medieval village settlement than any other scholar, at the micro level of the individual village and its components the seminal investigations in the North-East have been Michael Jarrett's archaeological excavation of the deserted village of West Whelpington in Northumberland and David Austin's rescue excavation of Thrislington near Ferryhill (Austin 1989). Jarrett's work was conducted over a period of fifteen years from 1966 onwards and revealed a substantial proportion of a medieval village (Evans and Jarrett 1987; Evans *et al.* 1988). Lomas (1996, 71-86) has recently emphasised the fundamental degree to which our understanding of life in a medieval Northumbrian village rests on the programme of research at West Whelpington. Austin's Thrislington excavations were carried out over a briefer timeframe of only two seasons (1973-1974), but it was successful in establishing the plan of the medieval village and remains the most extensive excavation of a medieval rural settlement in County Durham and certainly on the Magnesian Limestone Plateau.

More recently, work in advance of opencast coal mining at Shotton, near Cramlington in south-east Northumberland, has shed potential light on the early development processes of medieval villages in the region. Two successive phases of early medieval settlement were uncovered there, each occupying a different location c. 300m from the site of the later medieval village (McKelvey 2010; Muncaster *et al.* 2014). This process, whereby village settlements were initially established on different sites from those currently occupied and then underwent one or more shifts of position between the 8th and 12th centuries, before reaching their present locations, has been documented for certain sites elsewhere in England and is sometimes termed 'the Middle Saxon shuffle'.

This represents one of the clearest sequences yet observed in the North-east of England and differs from the suggested pattern dispersed smaller settlements followed by concentration into a nucleated village discussed above (though both models may of course be valid in different places). It brings to mind the positioning of a 6th- to 7th-century Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Andrew's Hill, south-west of the village. Nevertheless, given the evident importance of Easington as a composite estate centre, with a parish church yielding fragments of early medieval carved stonework, it is tempting to assume that a settlement was established on the site of the present village rather earlier than was the case at the medieval village at Shotton, Northumberland. A date in the 10th or 11th centuries, or perhaps even slightly earlier, would not seem unreasonable, but only more intensive archaeological investigation in and around the village could yield decisive confirmation.



# Hawthorn Village



# EASINGTON VILLAGE & LITTLE THORPE

- Historic Map Regression -



*Aerial view of Easington Village looking west*

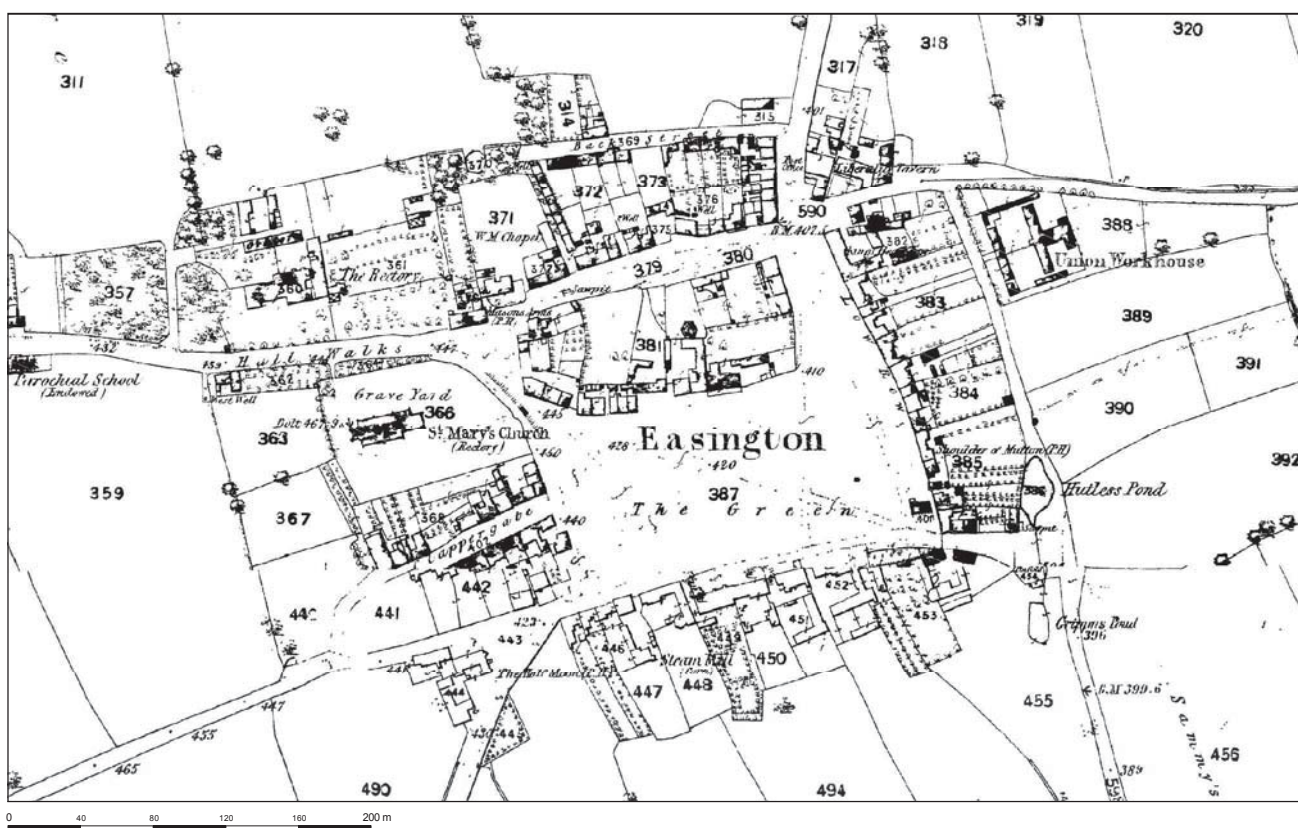


Extract from the Easington Tithe Plan and Apportionment,  
1840, showing Easington Village Core



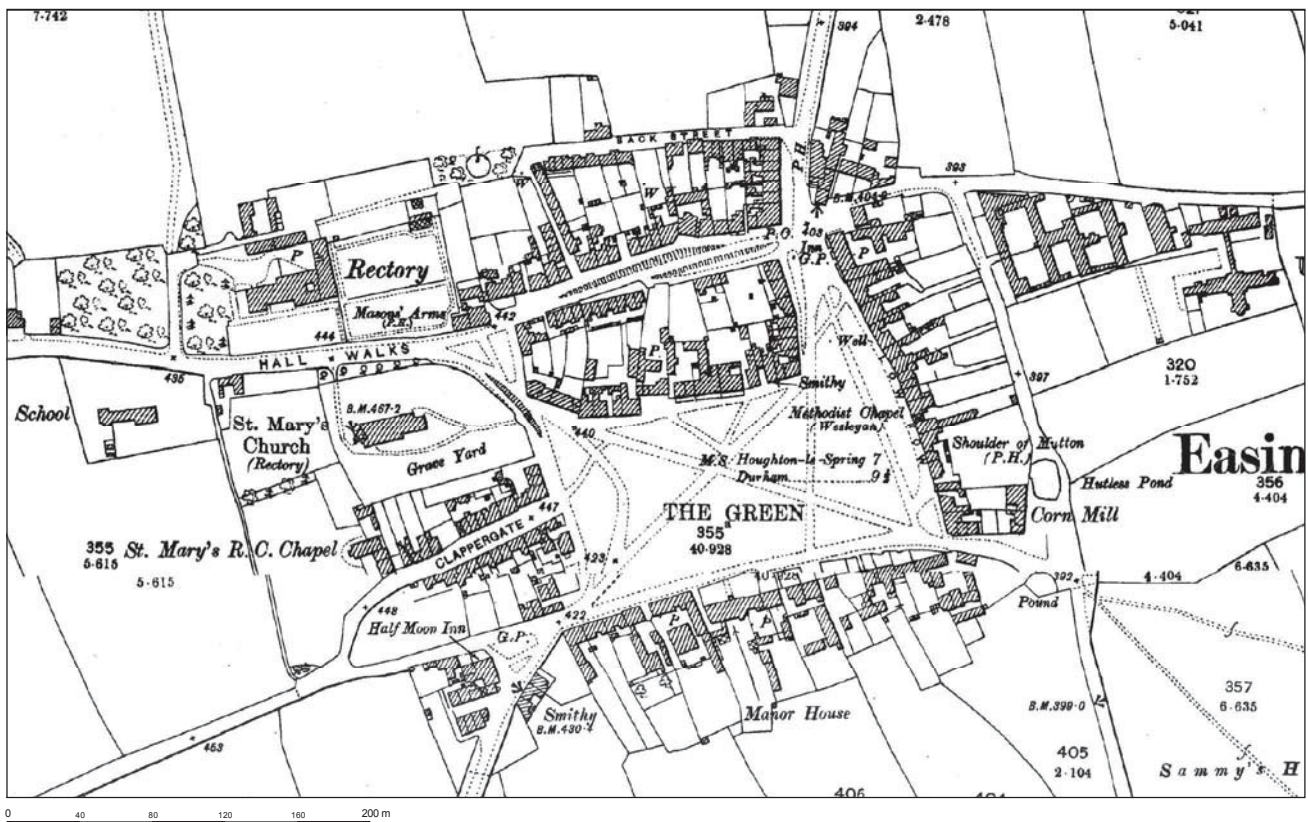
*Extract from DDR/EA/TTH/1/77, reproduced by permission of the Durham Diocesan Registrar.*

Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1857 (1:2500), showing Easington Village Core

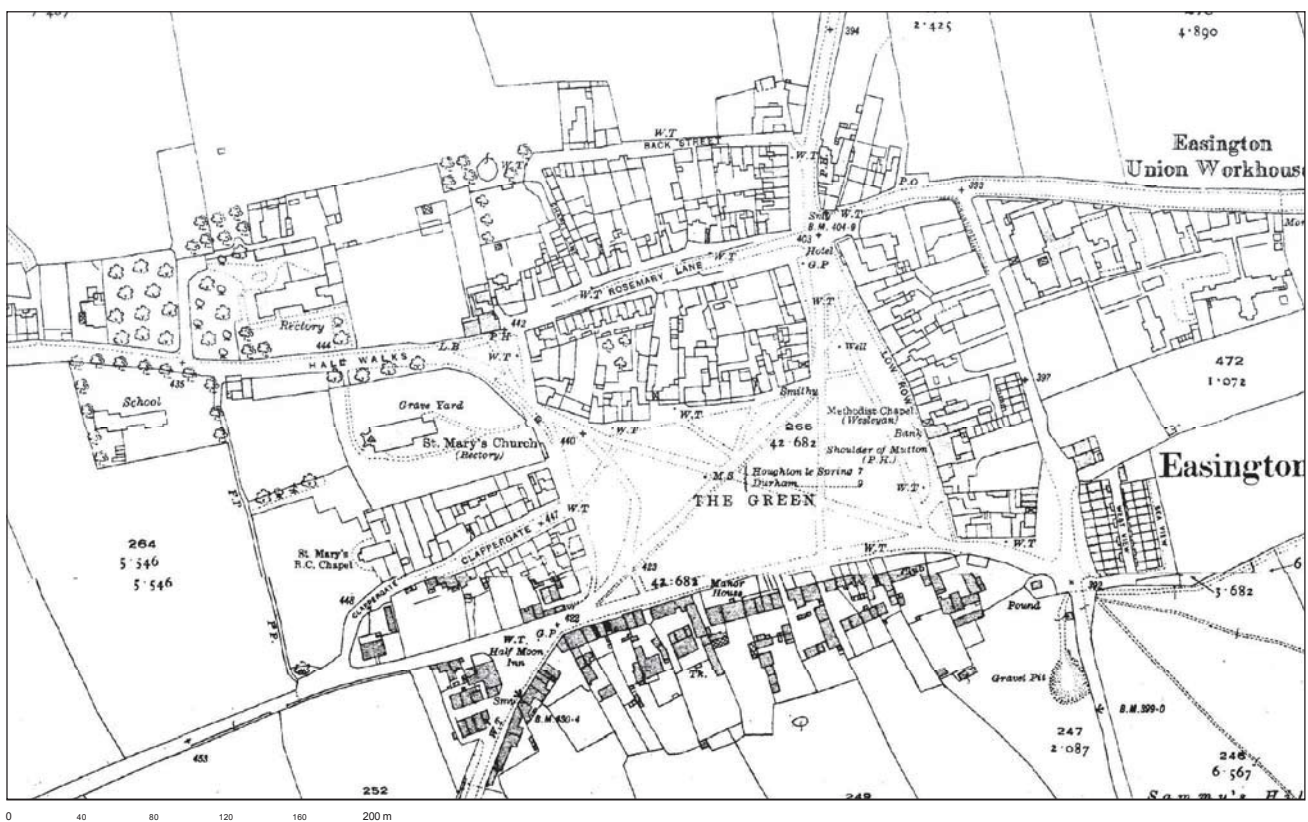




Extract from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1897 (1:2500), showing Easington Village Core

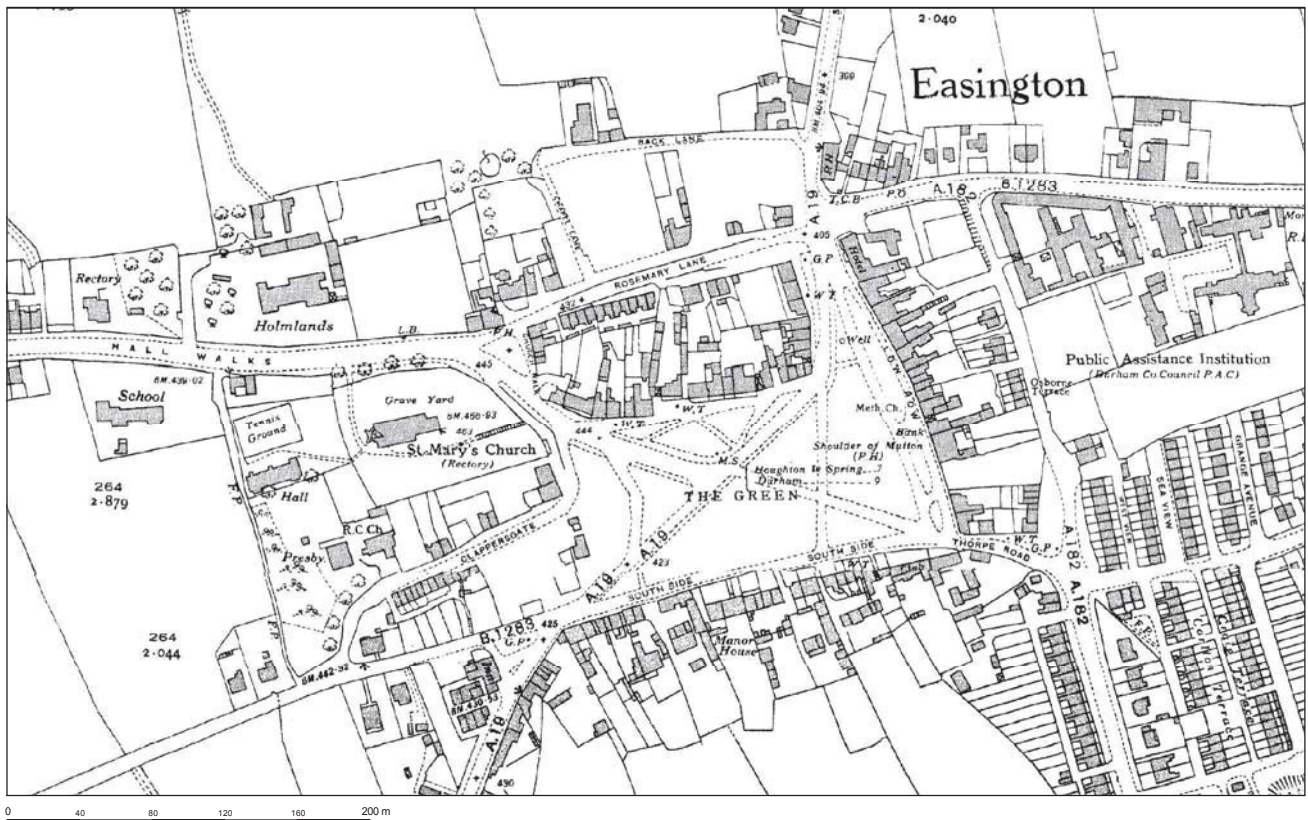


Extract from the Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1919 (1:2500), showing Easington Village Core





Extract from the Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1939 (1:2500), showing Easington Village Core



Extract from the 1957 Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500), showing Easington Village Core



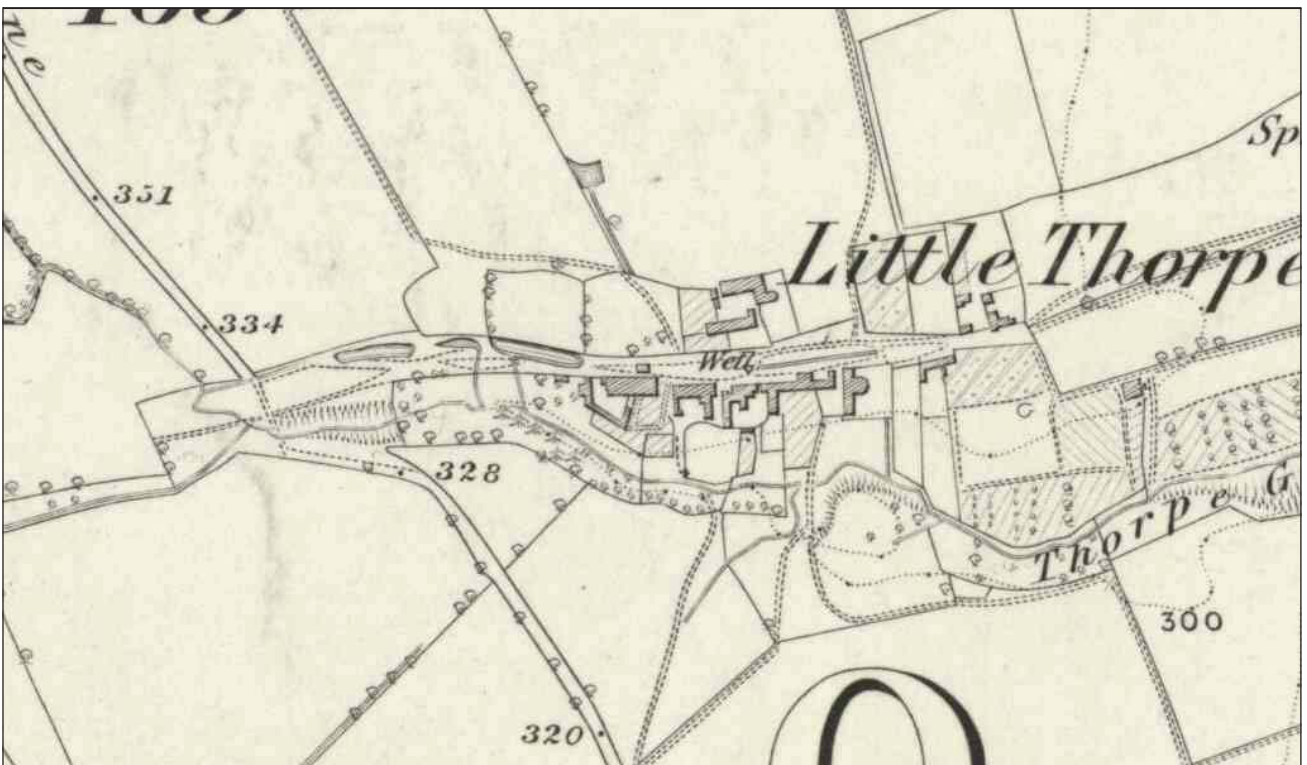


Extract showing Little Thorpe from the  
Easington Tithe Plan and Apportionment, 1840

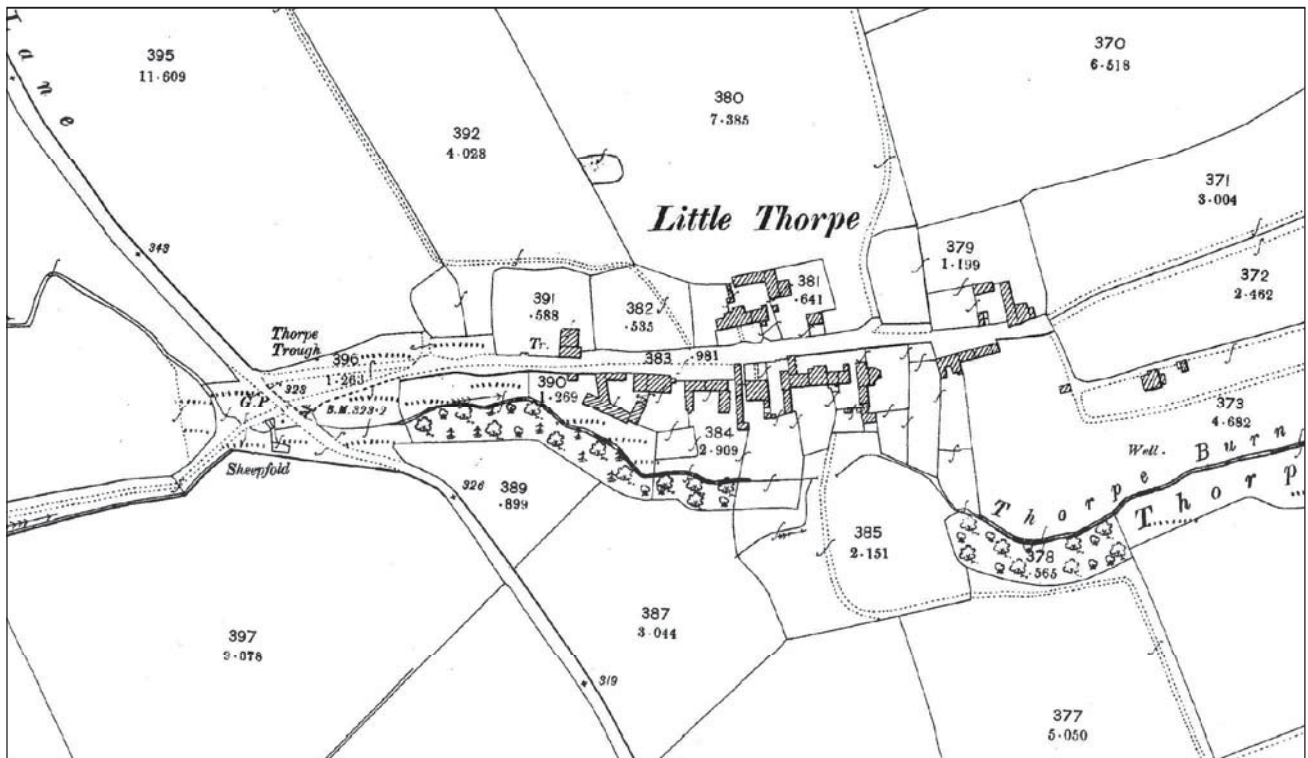


*Extract from DDR/EA/TTH/1/77, reproduced by permission of the Durham Diocesan Registrar.*

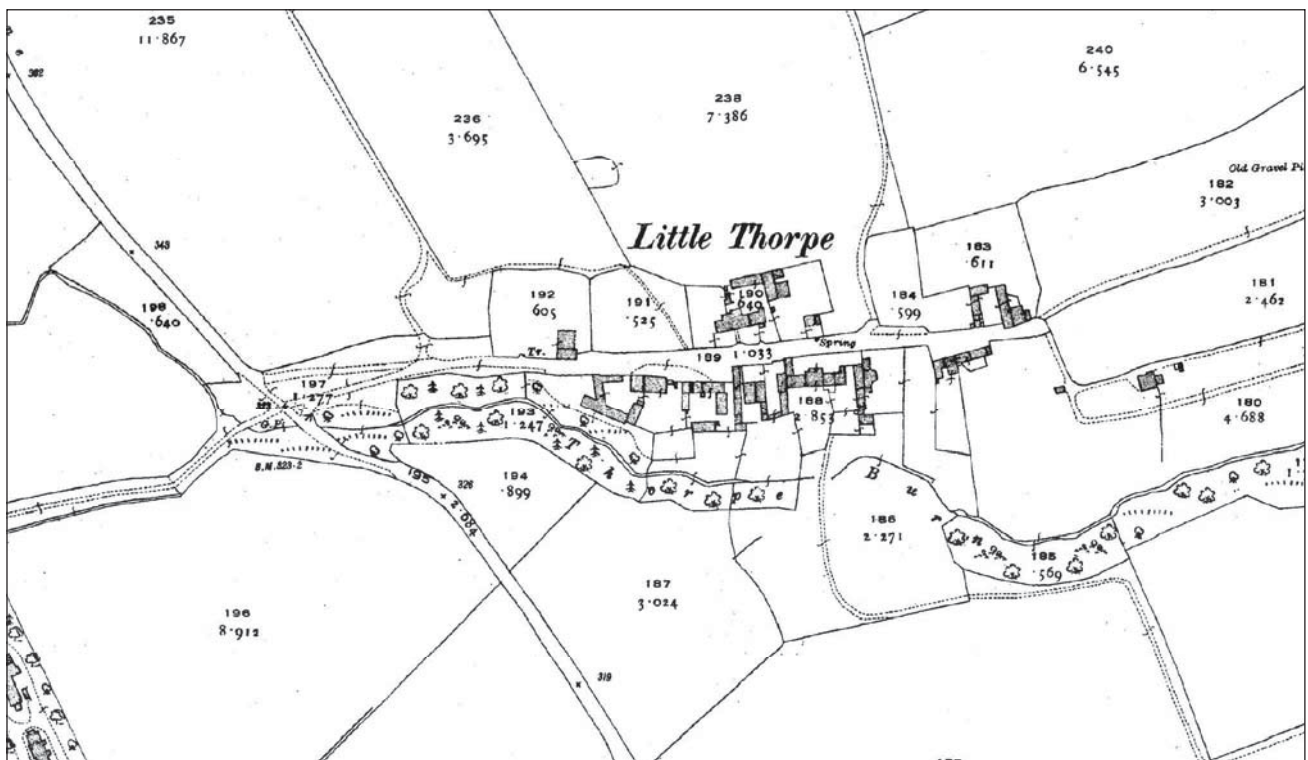
Extract showing Little Thorpe on the  
First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1857 (6" per mile)



Extract from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey  
Map, 1897 (1:2500), showing Little Thorpe

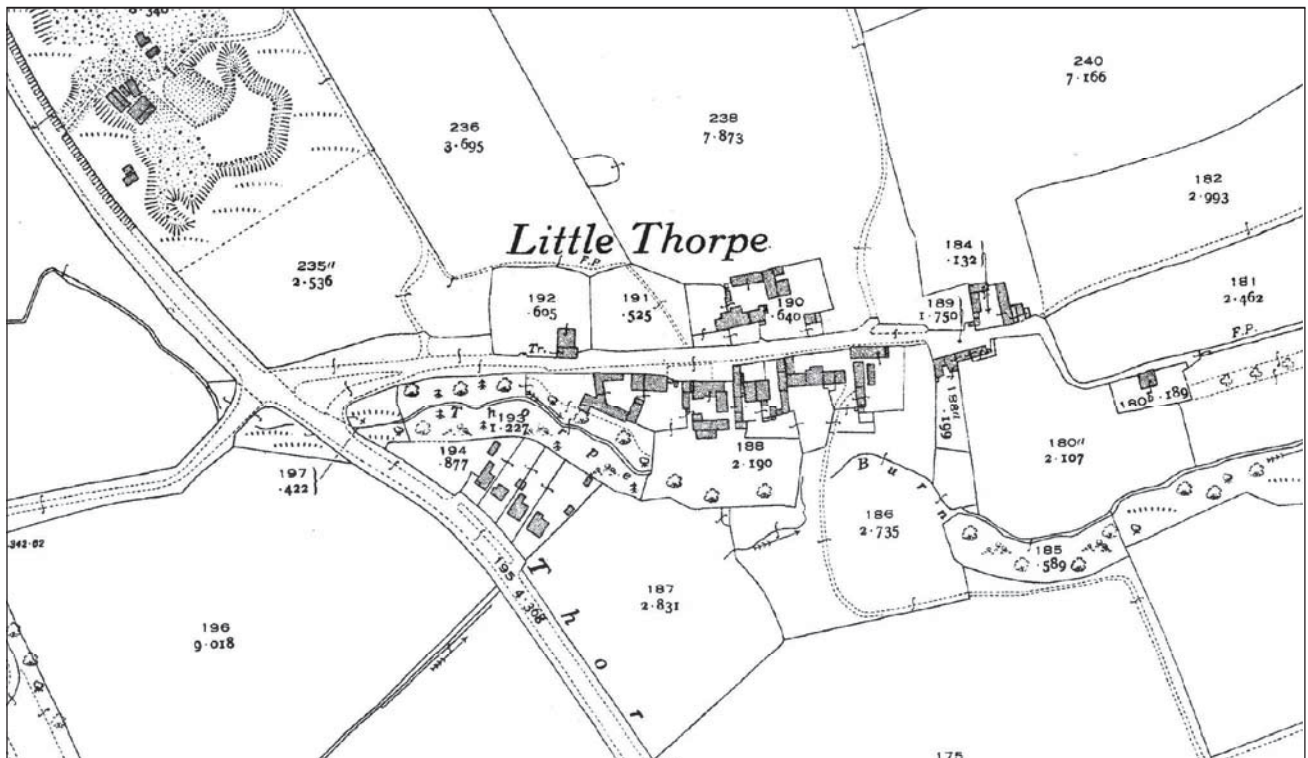


Extract from the Third Edition Ordnance Survey  
Map, 1919 (1:2500), showing Little Thorpe





Extract from the Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey  
Map, 1939 (1:2500), showing Little Thorpe



0 40 80 120 160 200 m

Extract from the 1957 Edition Ordnance Survey  
Map (1:2500), showing Little Thorpe



0 40 80 120 160 200 m



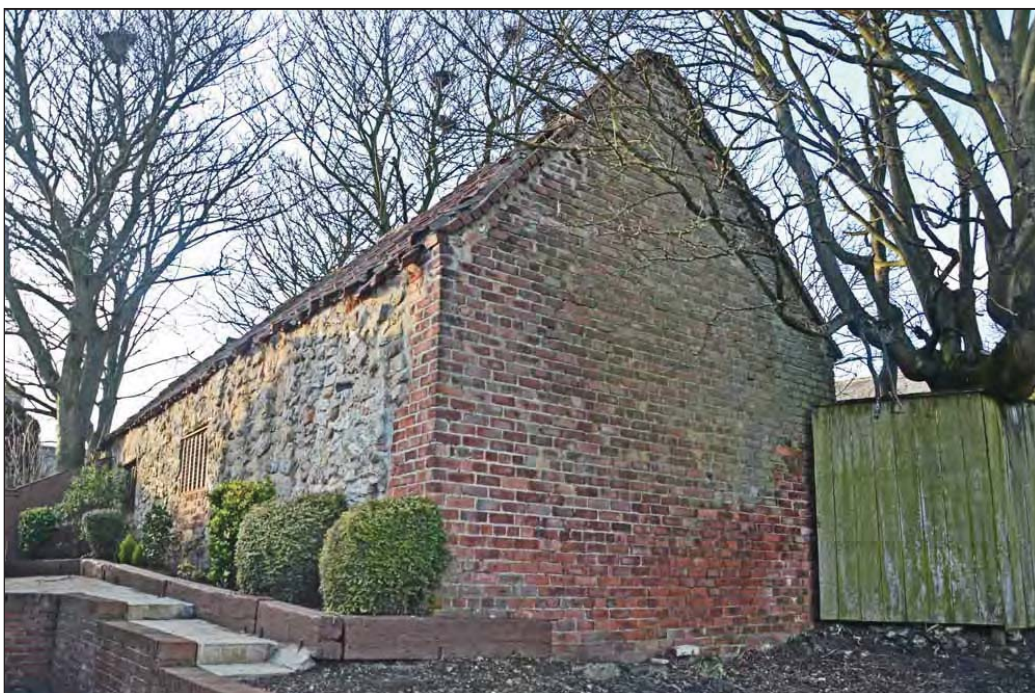


# THE FARMS OF EASINGTON

## - Historic Map Regression -



*Thorpe Lea East Farm viewed from the south-east*

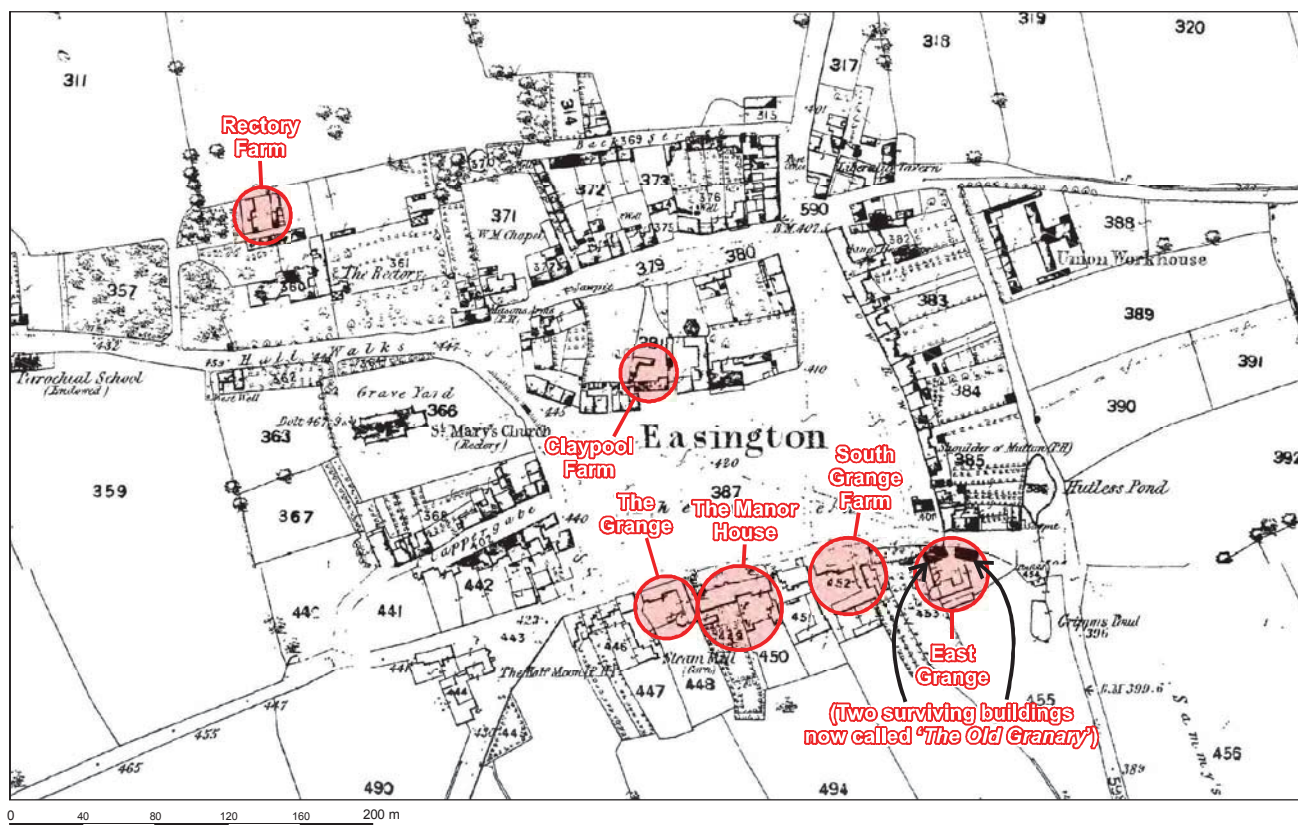


*The barn at Claypool Farm in Easington Village*



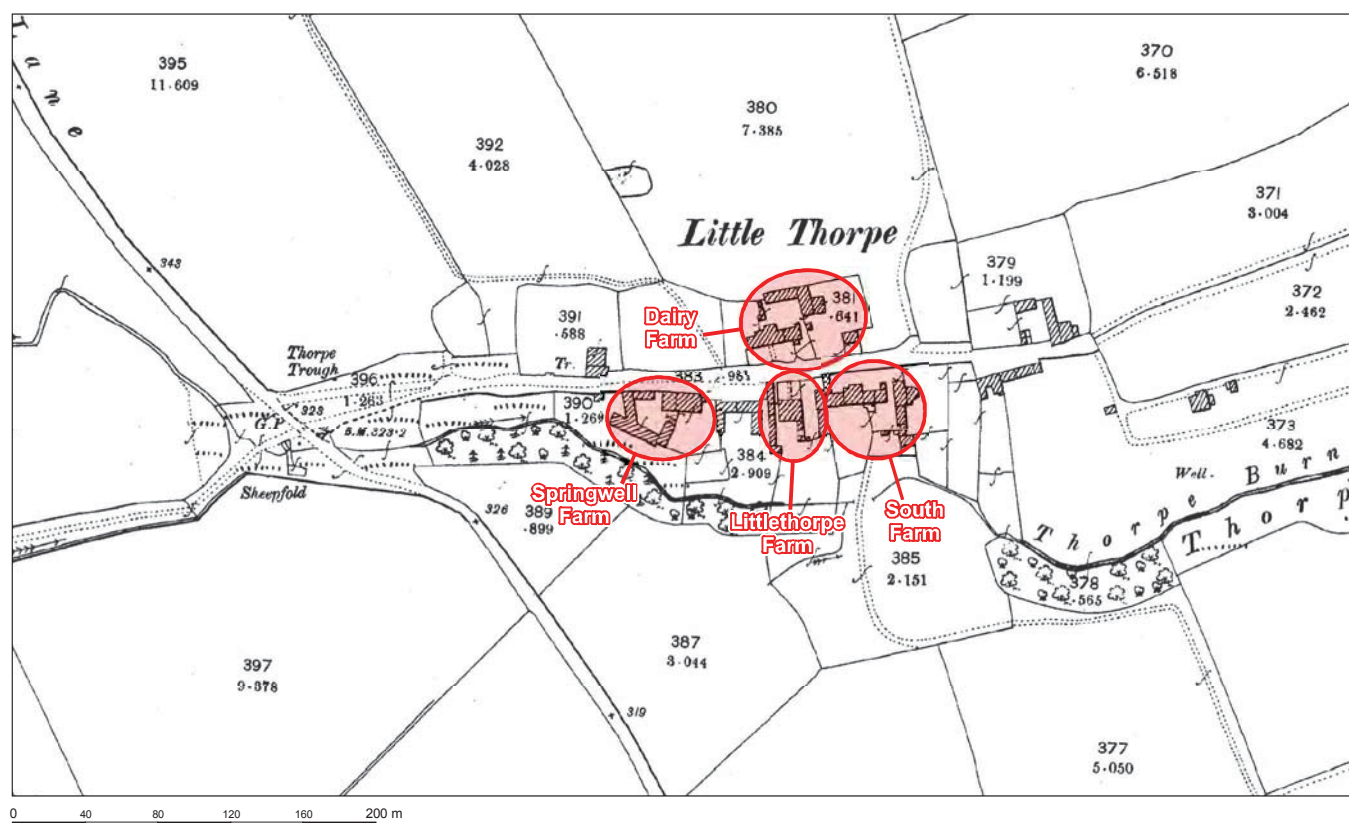
## FARMS IN EASINGTON VILLAGE CORE

### First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1857 (1:2500)



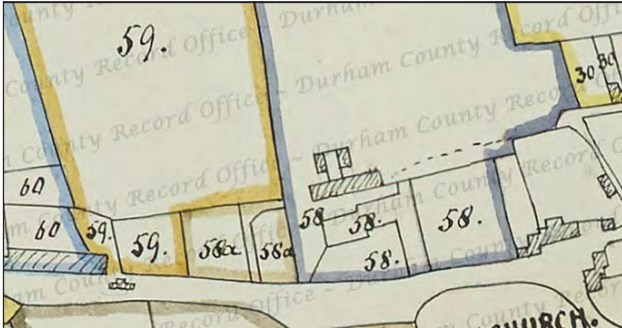
## FARMS IN LITTLE THORPE

### Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1897 (1:2500)

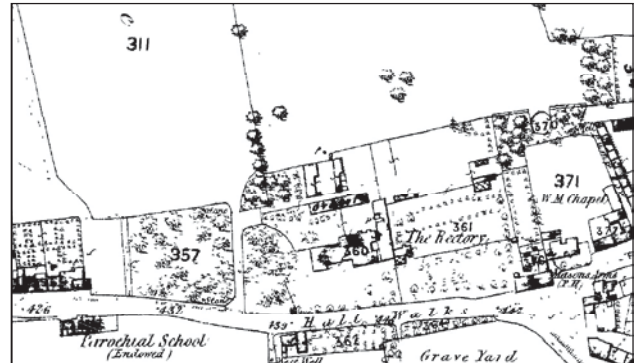




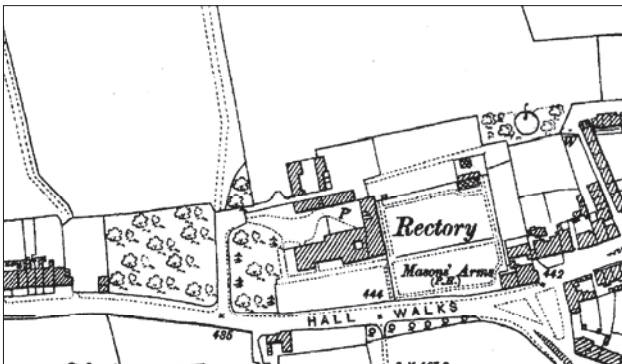
## Farms in the Easington Village Core - Rectory Farm -



Survey of Easington Township 1840.



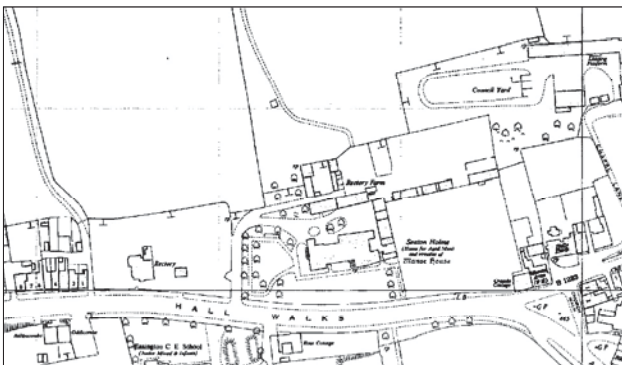
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1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.

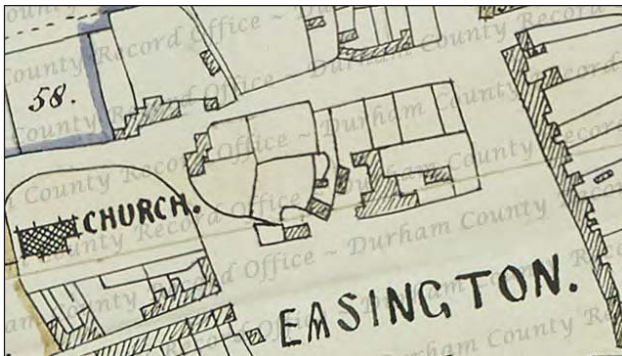


1:2500 1957 Edition Ordnance Survey.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

## Farms in the Easington Village Core - Claypool Farm -



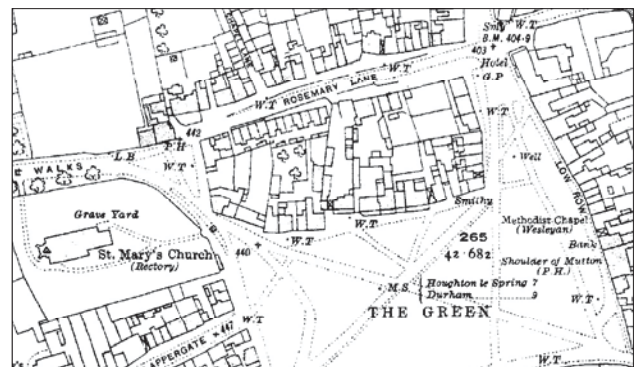
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



1:2500 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1857.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1919.



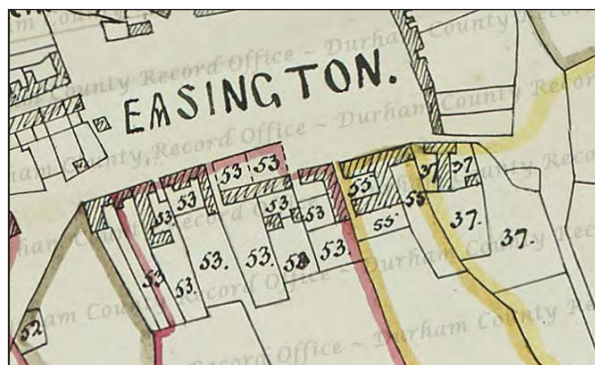
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Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.



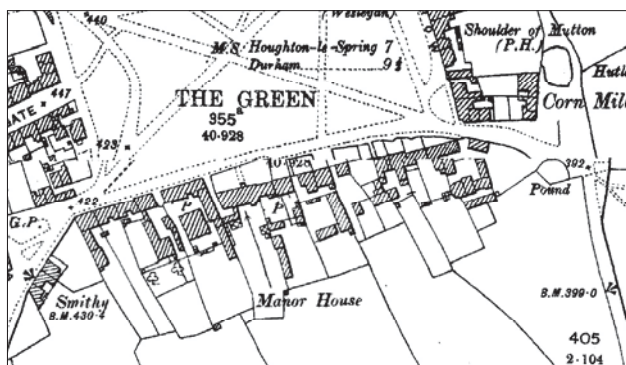
## Farms in the Easington Village Core - Granges on Southern Edge of the Green -



Survey of Easington Township 1840.



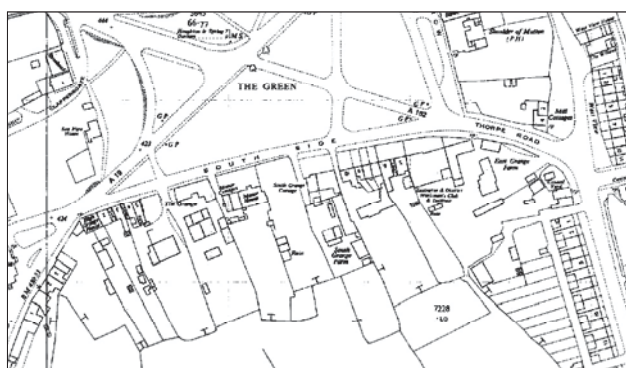
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1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.

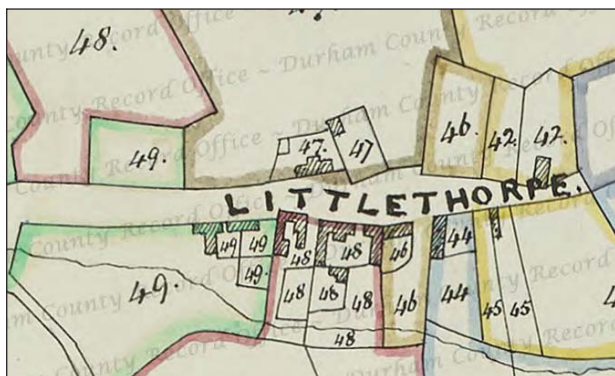


1:2500 1957 Edition Ordnance Survey.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

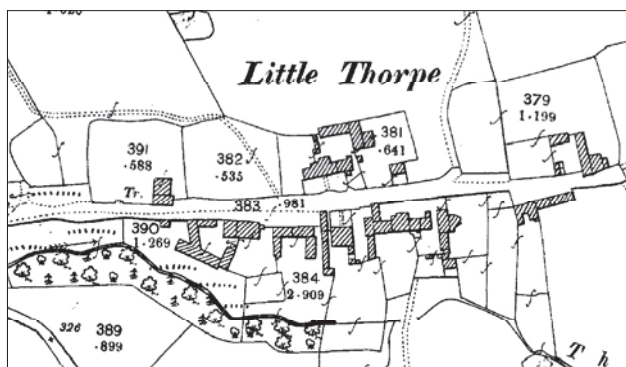
## Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Little Thorpe -



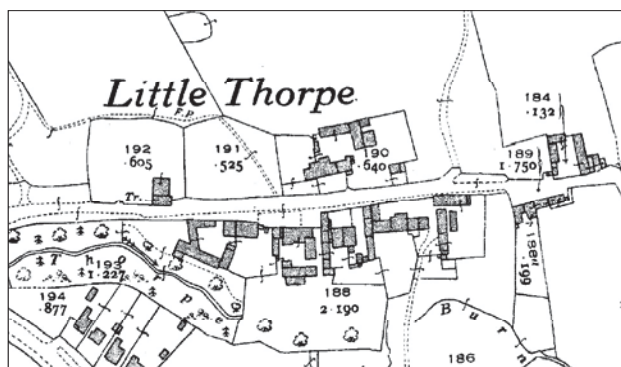
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



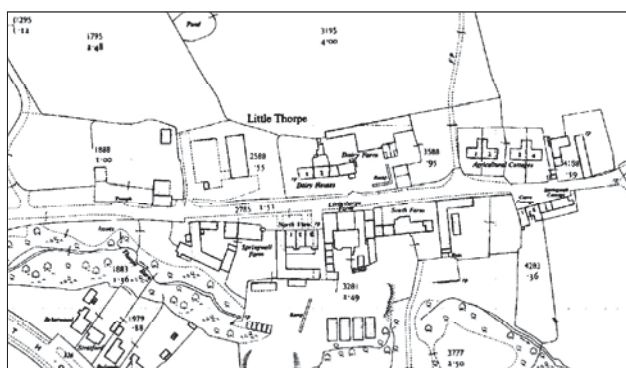
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



1:2500 1957 Edition Ordnance Survey.

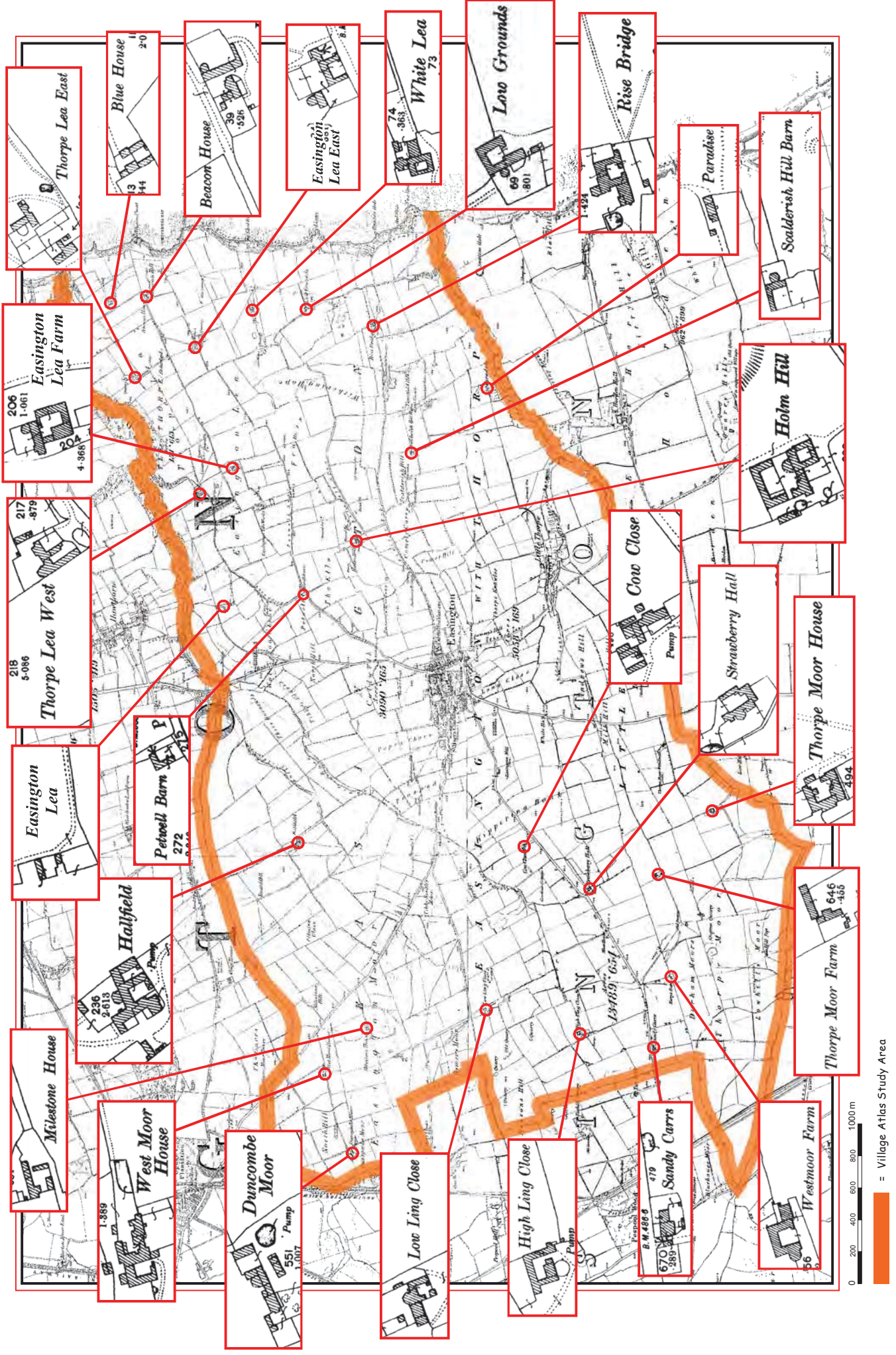


Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

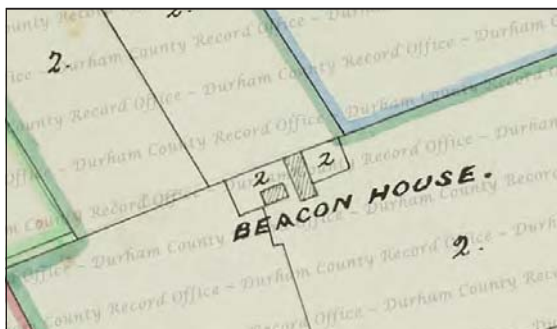


# DISPERSED FARMS IN THE EASINGTON ATLAS STUDY AREA

- First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1857, Scale: 6" per mile; Insets from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1896, Scale: 1:2500 -



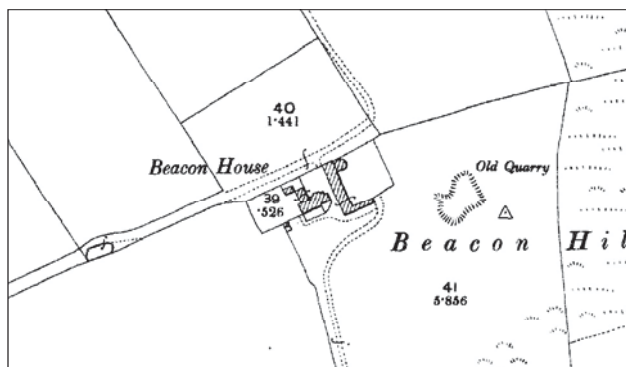
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Beacon House -



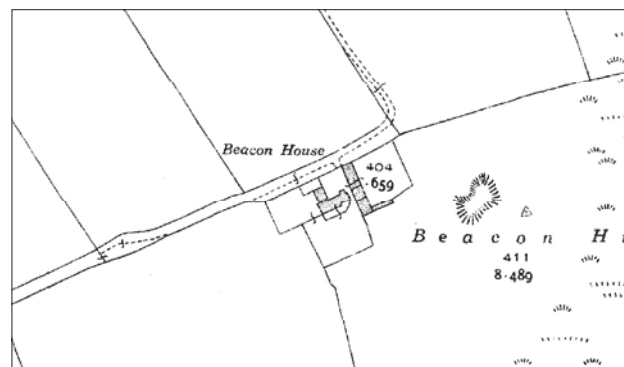
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



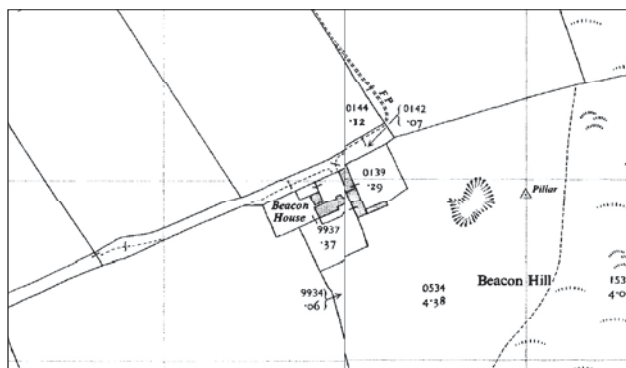
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1896.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



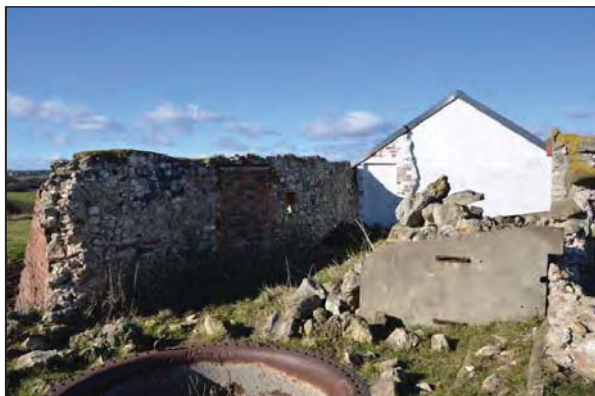
1:2500 1958 Edition Ordnance Survey.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.



## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Beacon House -



- Photographs of the present Beacon House site -

## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Blue House -



*Survey of Easington Township 1840.*



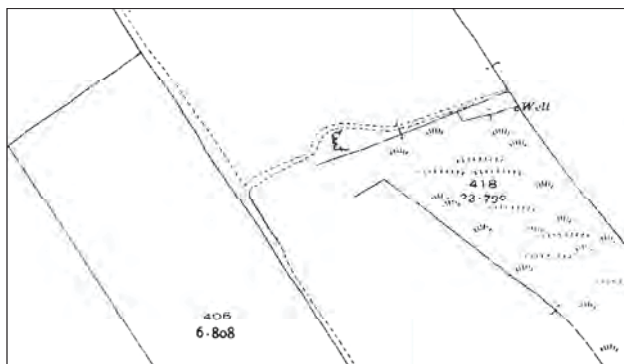
*6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.*



*1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1896.*



*1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1920.*



*1:2500 1939 Edition Ordnance Survey.*



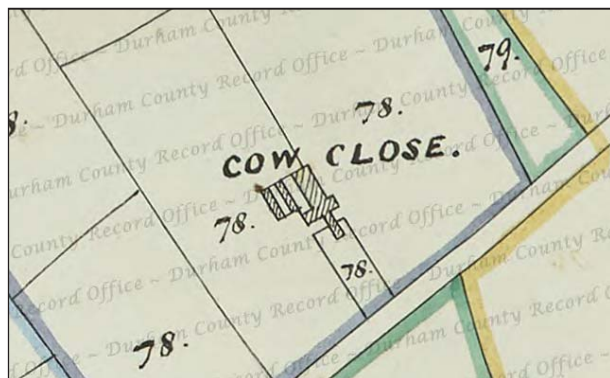
*Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.*

### *- Photographs of the present Blue House site -*





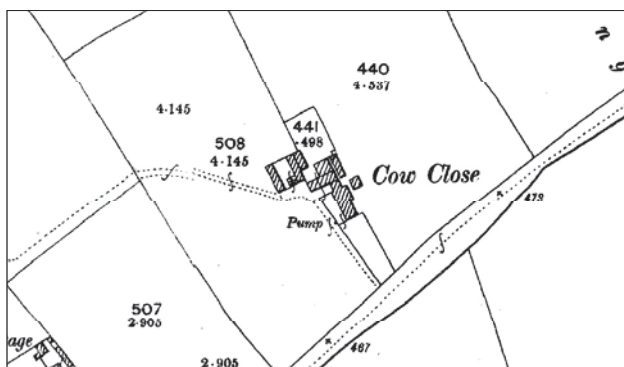
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Cow Close -



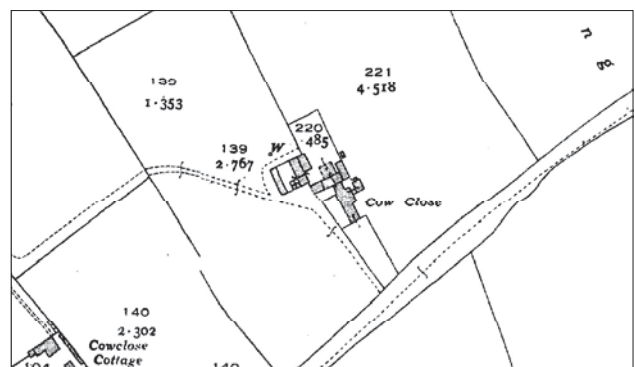
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



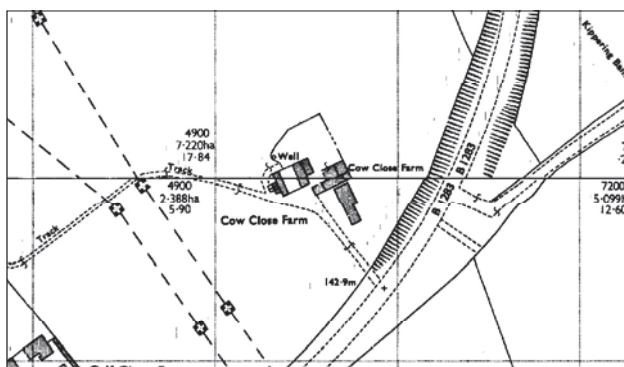
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



1:2500 1974 Edition Ordnance Survey.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Cow Close -



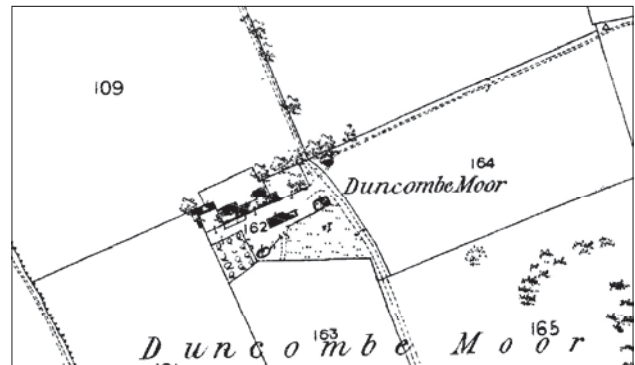
- Photographs of the present Cow Close site -



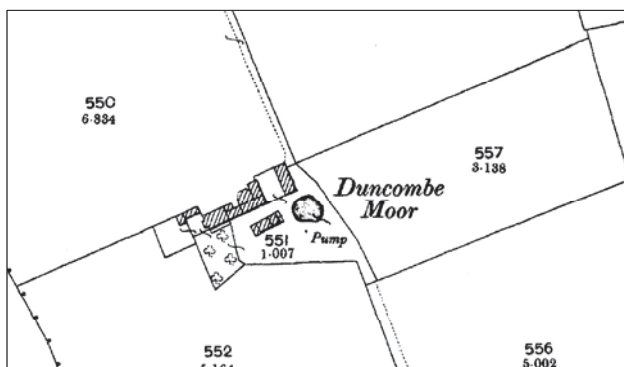
# DiaporaoHFdry a in tho EdaingtSn Atlda mtuHB Arod - DuncSy eo s SSr -



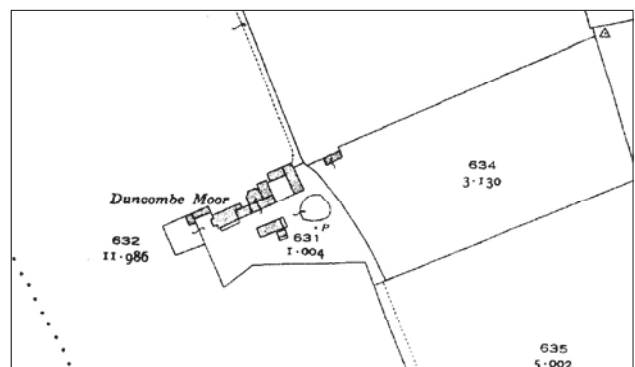
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



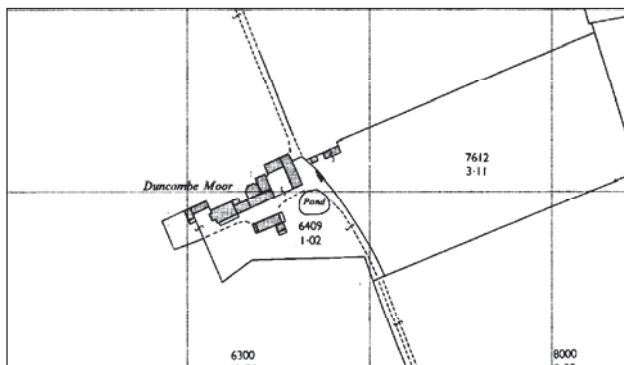
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1:2500 1969 Edition Ordnance Survey.

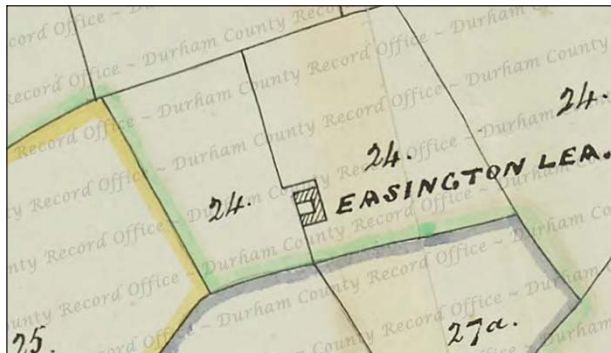


Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

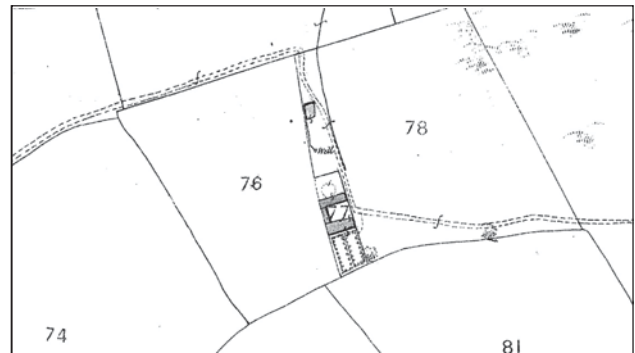
- Photographs of the present Duncombe site -



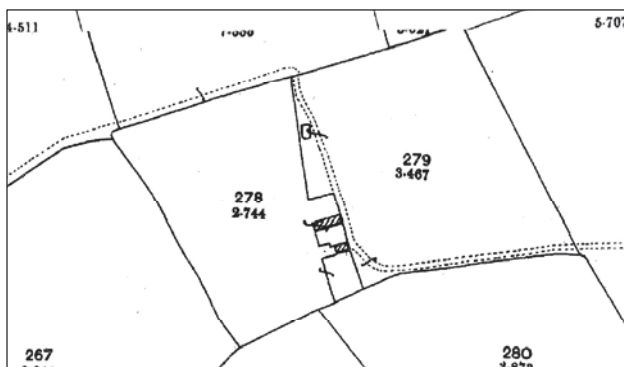
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Easington Lea -



Survey of Easington Township 1840.



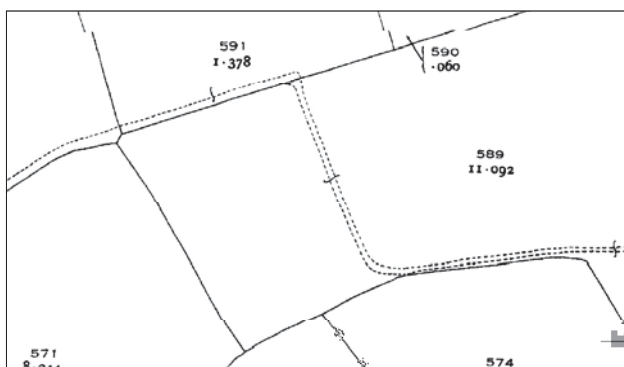
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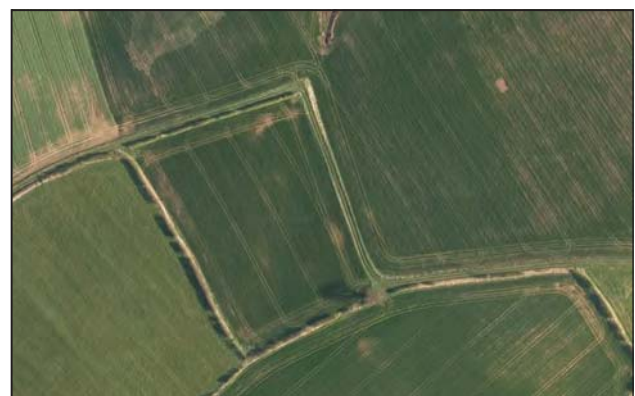
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1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1919.



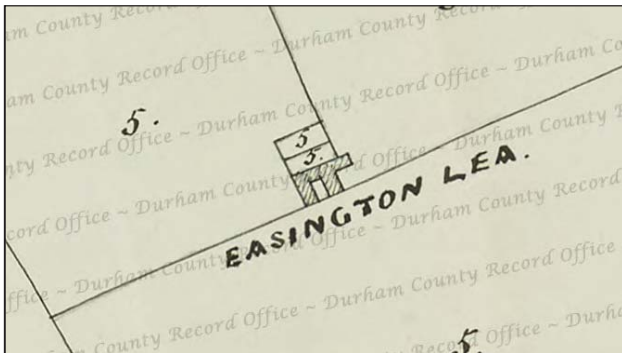
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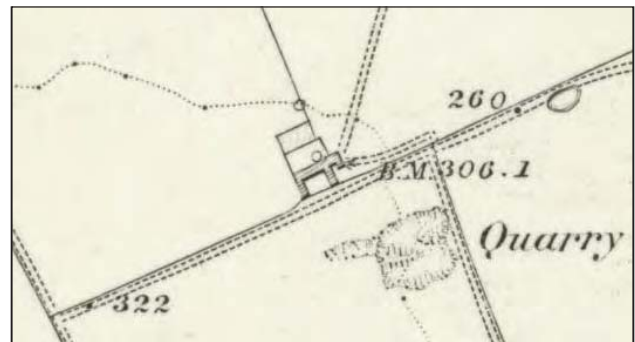
Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.



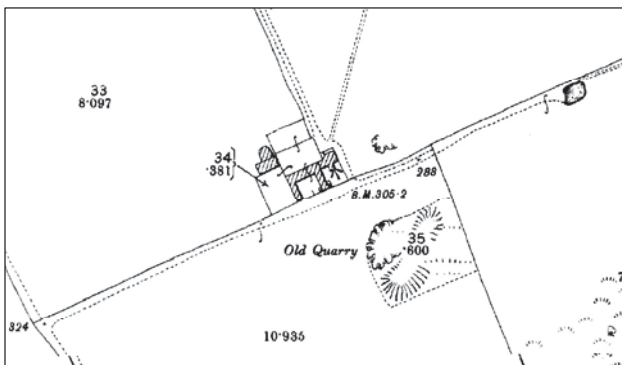
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Easington Lea East -



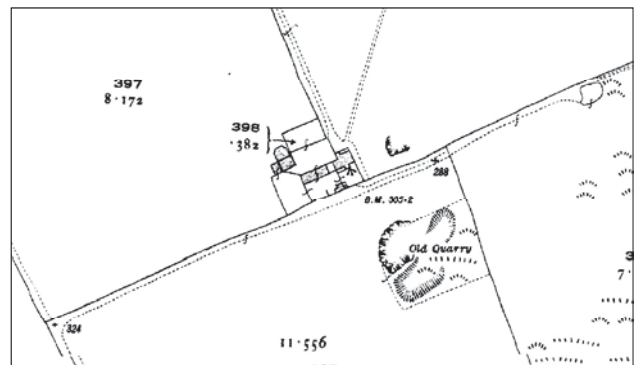
*Survey of Easington Township 1840.*



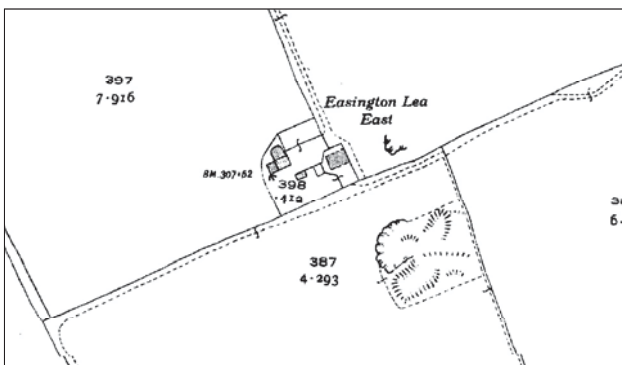
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*1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1896.*



*1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1920.*



*1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.*

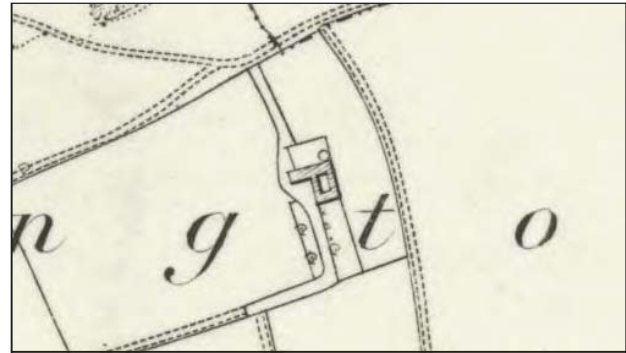


*Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.*

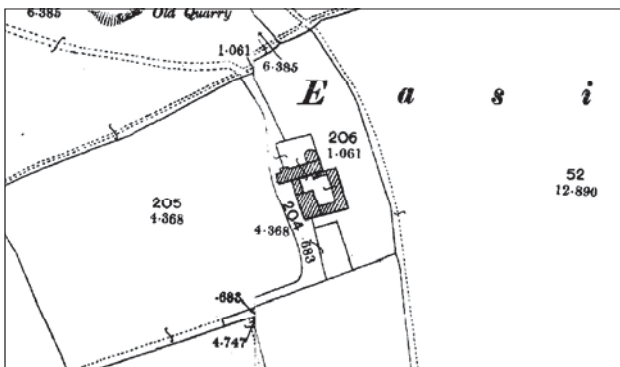
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Easington Lea Farm -



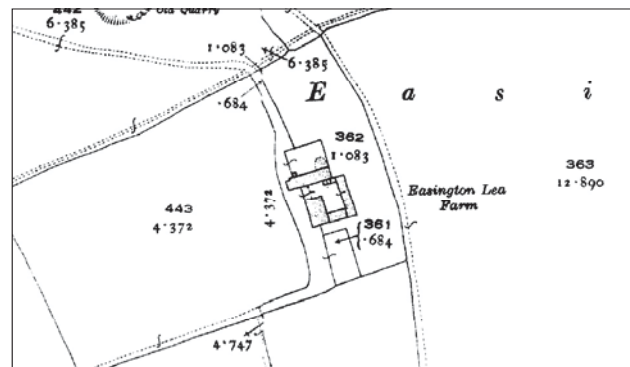
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



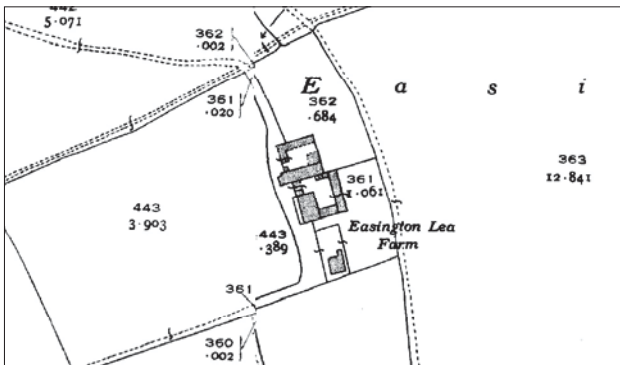
1:2500 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1919.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

Photograph of the  
modern Easington  
Lea Farm site

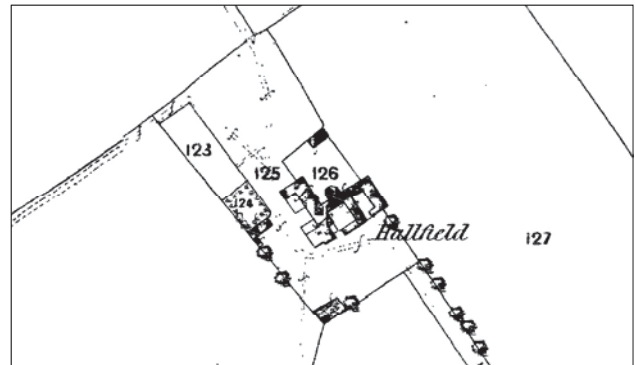




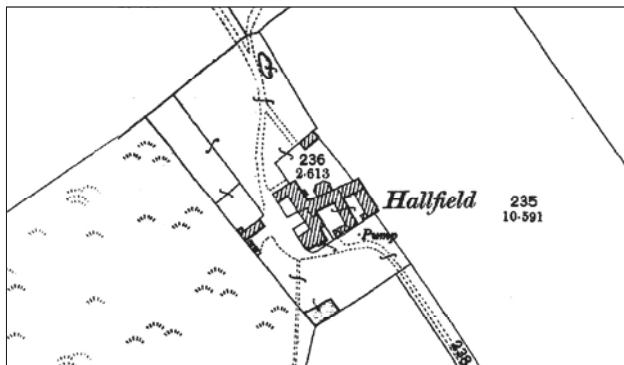
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Hallfield -



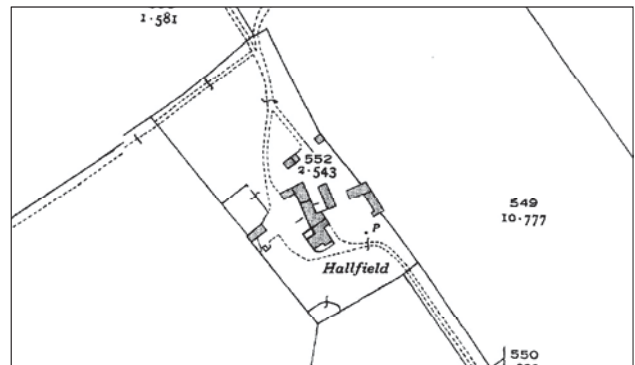
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



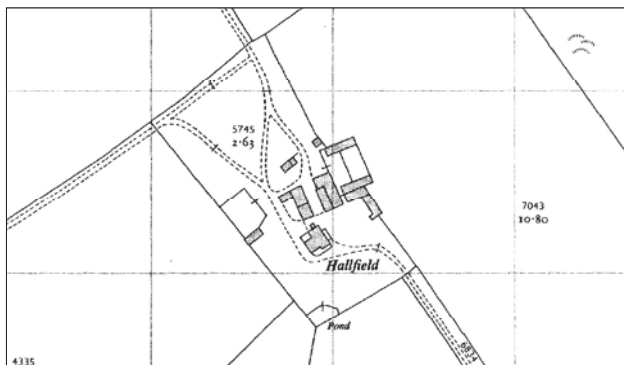
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1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



1:2500 1958 Edition Ordnance Survey.

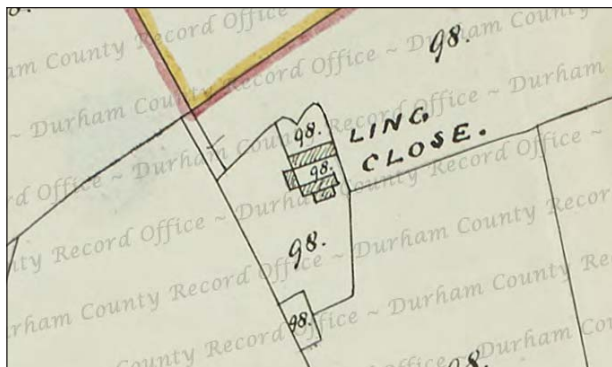


Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.



Photograph of the present  
Hallfield site

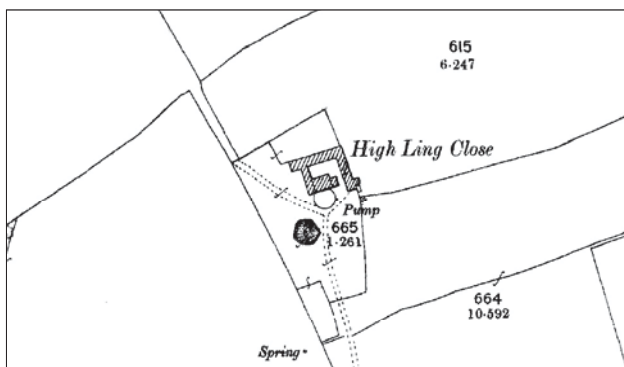
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - High Ling Close -



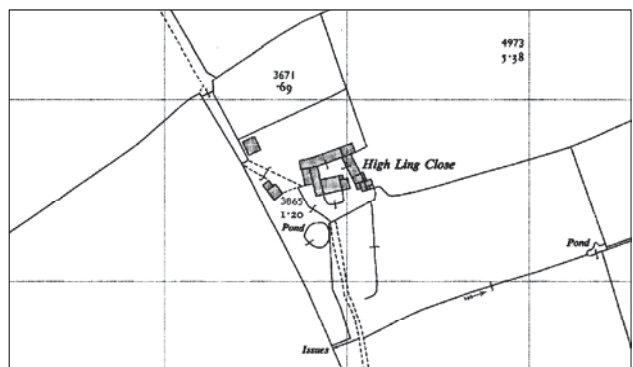
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



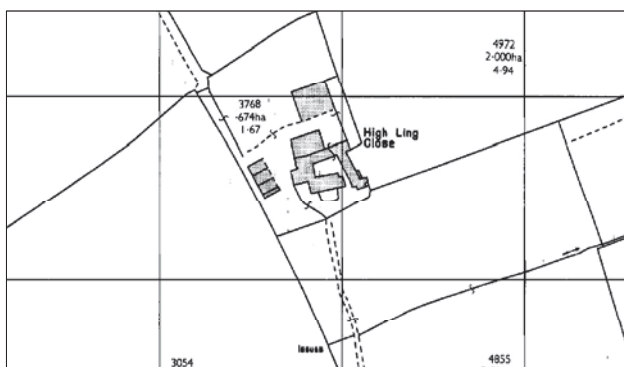
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1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 1959 Edition Ordnance Survey.



1:2500 1977 Edition Ordnance Survey.



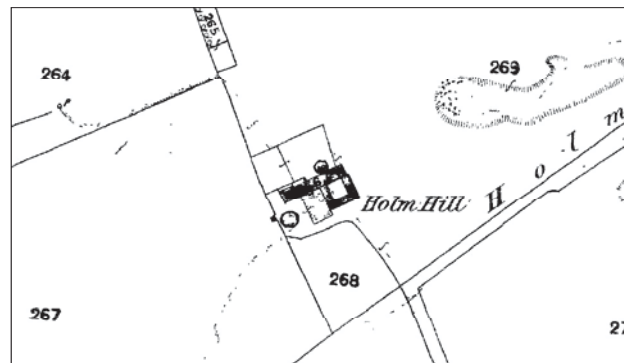
Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.



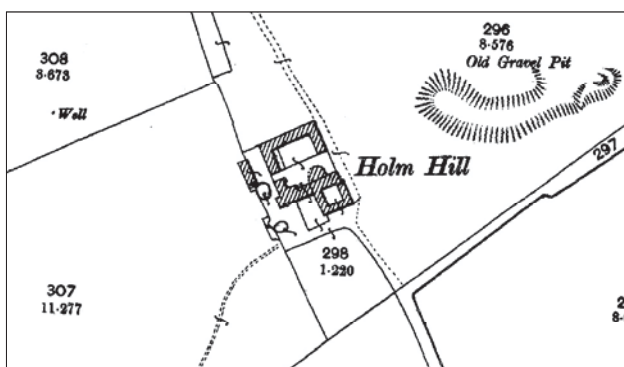
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Holm Hill -



Survey of Easington Township 1840.



1:2500 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1857.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.

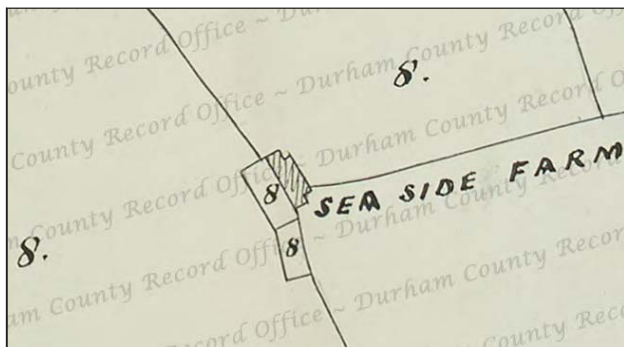


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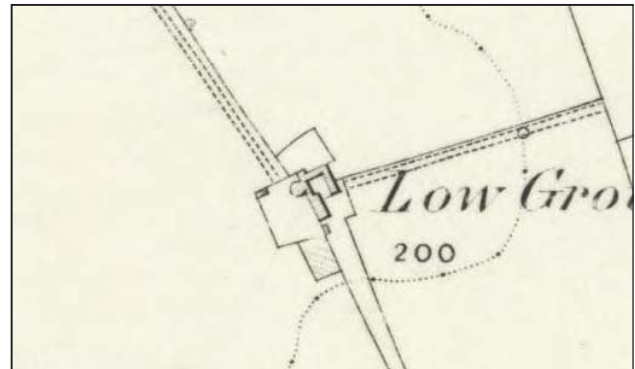


Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

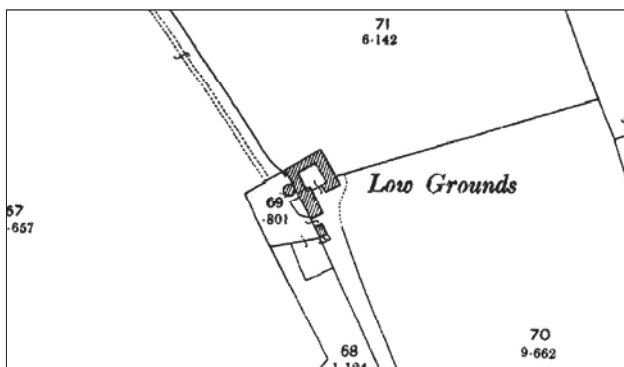
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Low Grounds -



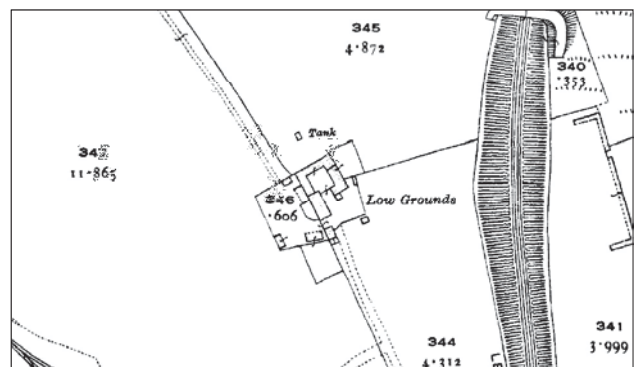
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



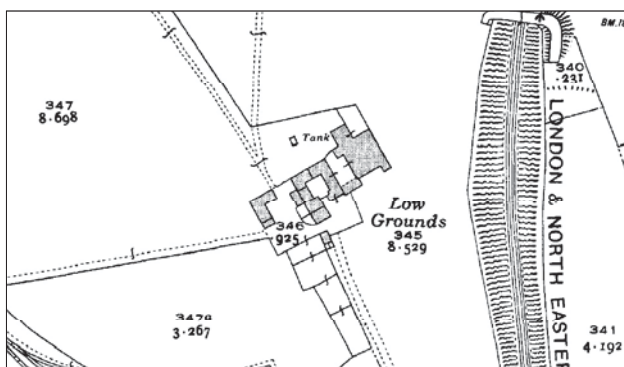
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1896.



1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1919.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.



BN 439-70

4326  
4'46'

4817  
2'85'

5229  
0'80'

5820  
1'15'

5718  
1'04'

Pond

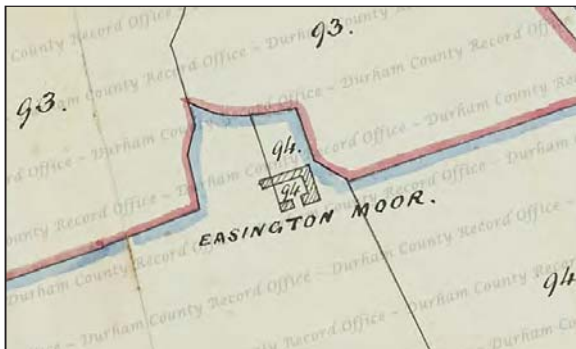
Ramp

Low Long Close

6726  
9'75'

*Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.*

## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Milestone House -



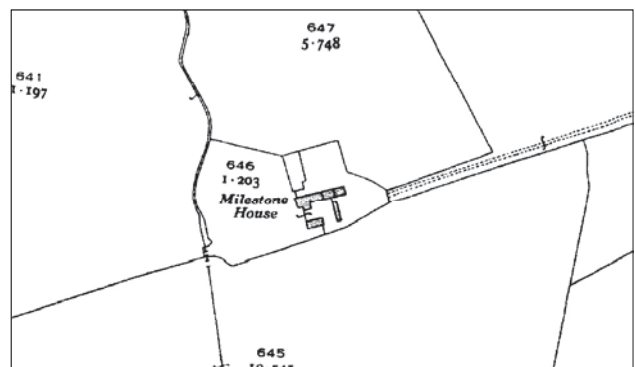
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



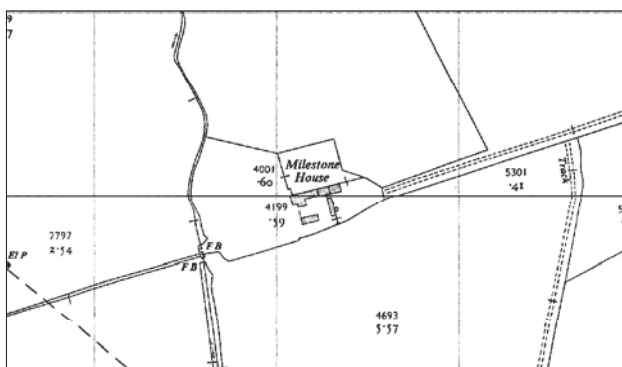
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



1:2500 1959 Edition Ordnance Survey.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.



## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Milestone House -



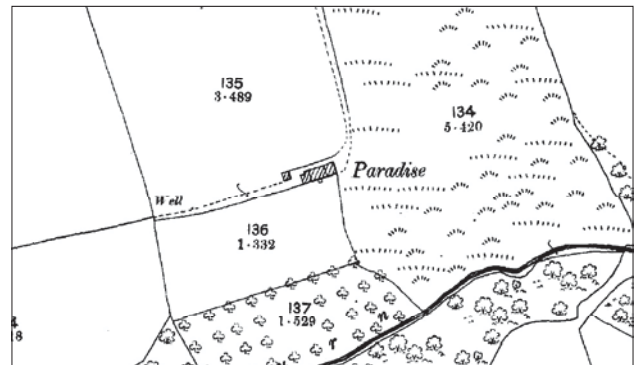
- Photographs of the present Milestone House site -



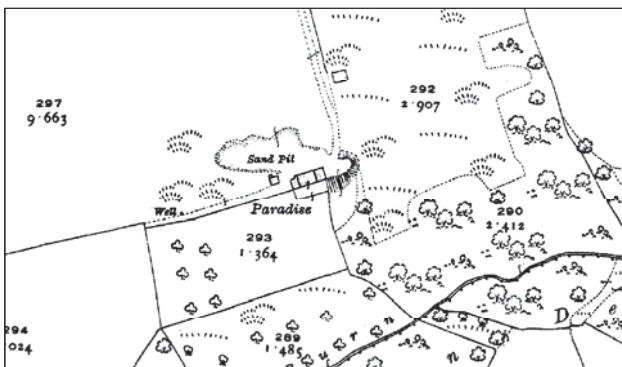
# Fispersed garms iHthe EasiHAtoHl t-as Study l rea n Daradise n



6in 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1857.

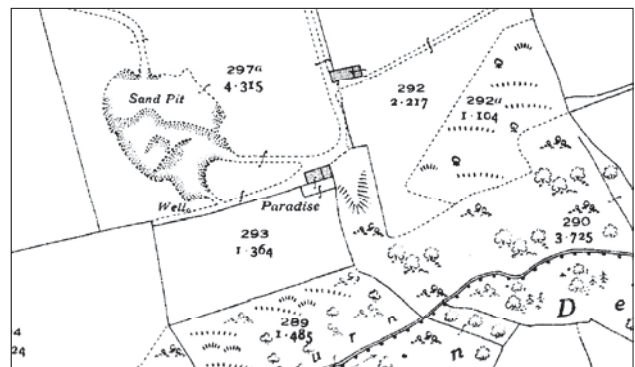


1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1919.

- Photographs of the present Duncombe site -



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



View of Paradise Farm from the east.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.



View of Paradise Farm from the south-east.



Field to the south-west of Paradise Farm.



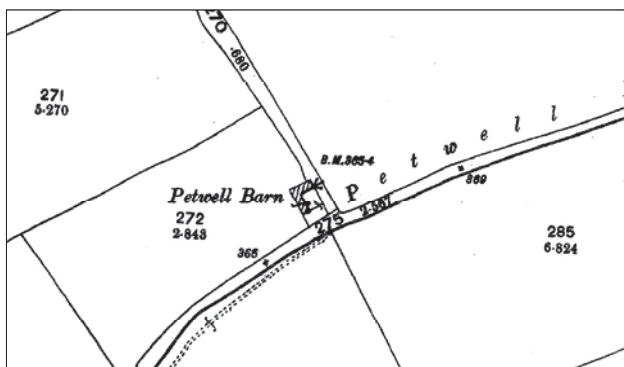
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Petwell Barn -



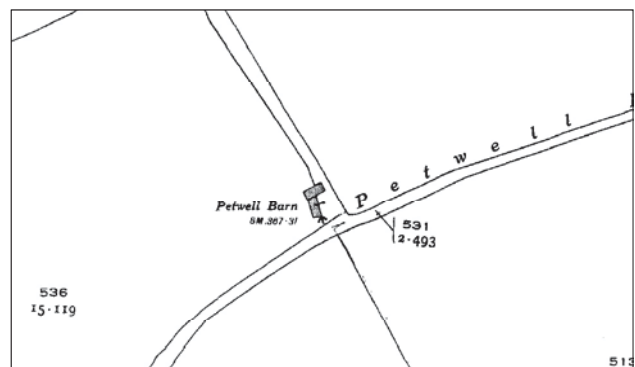
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



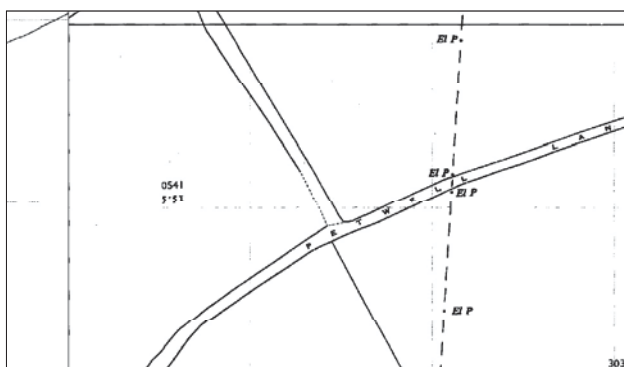
1:2500 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1857.



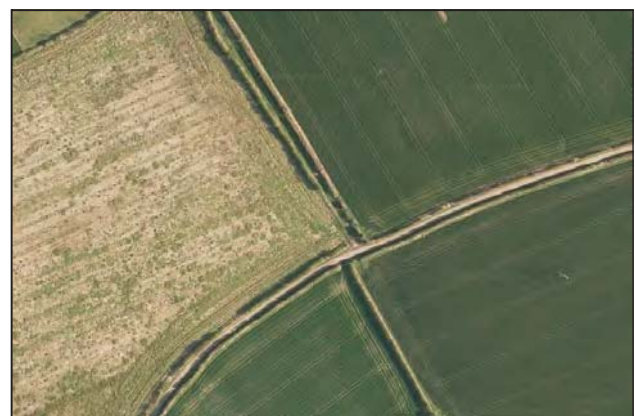
1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.

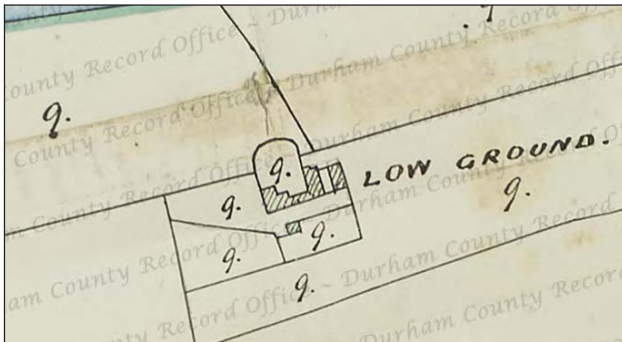


1:2500 1958 Edition Ordnance Survey.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

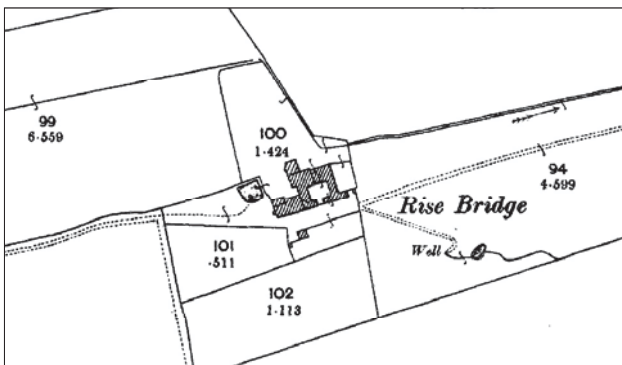
## Dispersed Farms in the East to H Atlas Study Area n - ise Bridge n



Survey of Easington Township 1840.



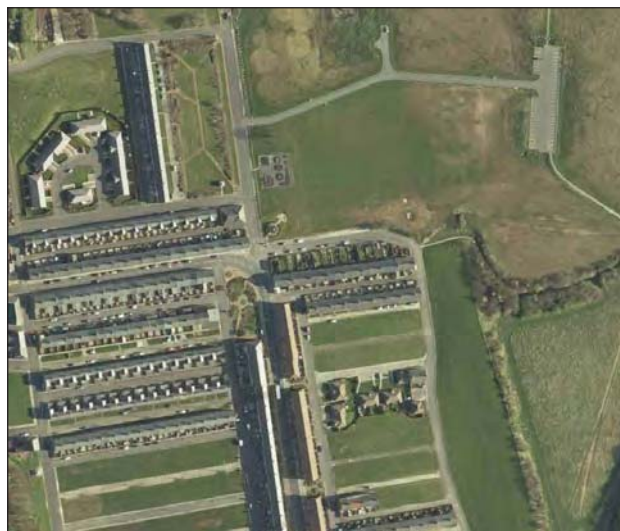
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1896.



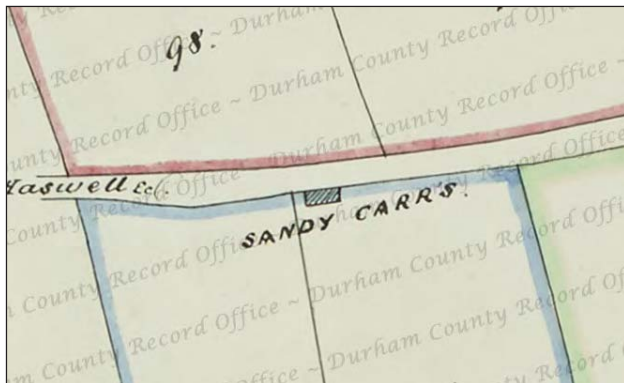
1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1919.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.



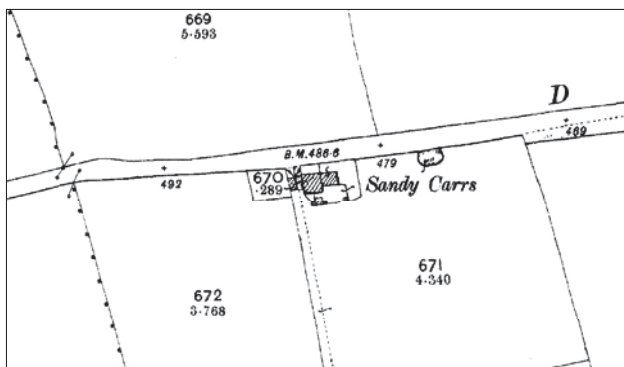
# Development of the Easington Area Study - Sandy Carrs -



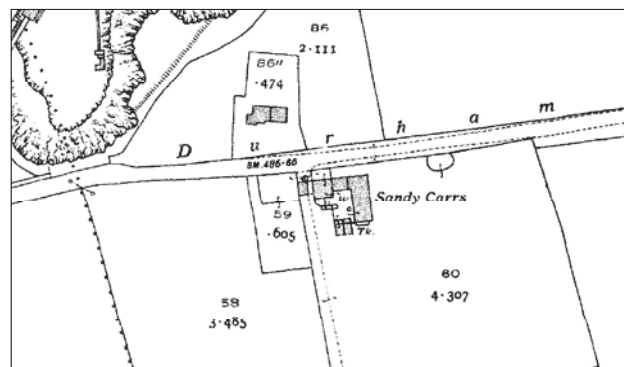
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



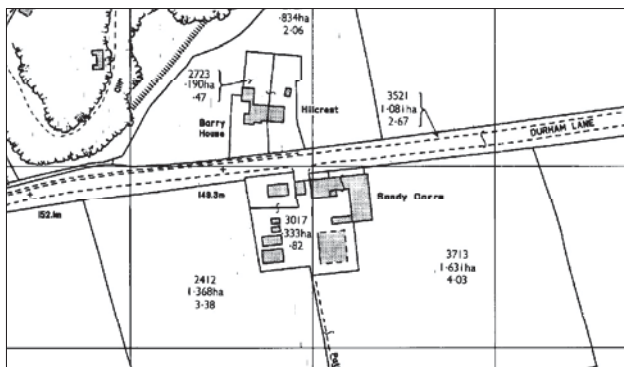
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



1:2500 1977 Edition Ordnance Survey.



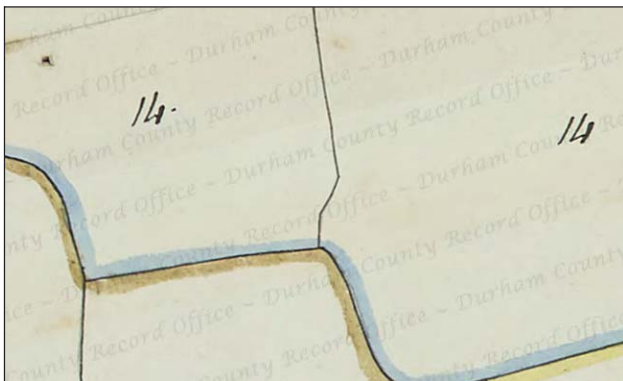
Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.



- Photographs of the present Sandy Carrs site -



## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Scaldershill Barn -



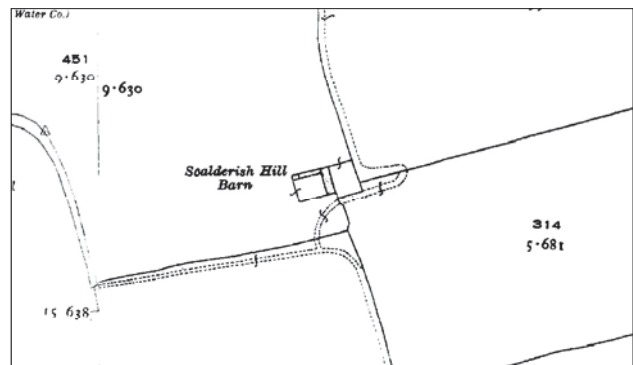
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



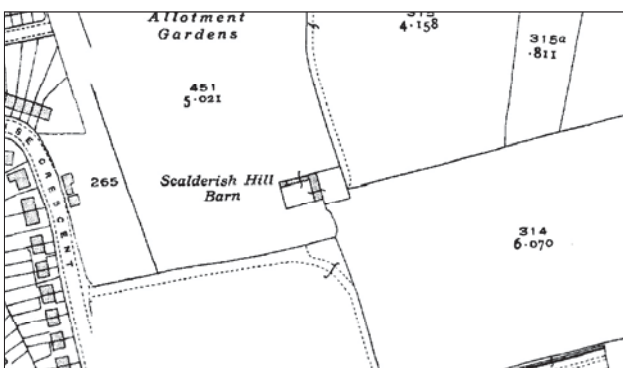
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



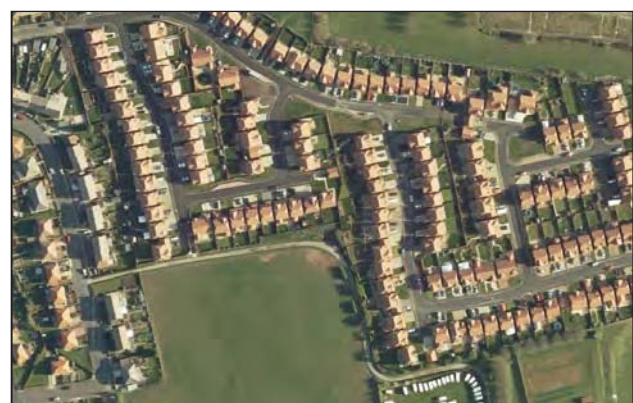
1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1919.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

### - Photographs of the present Scaldershill site -





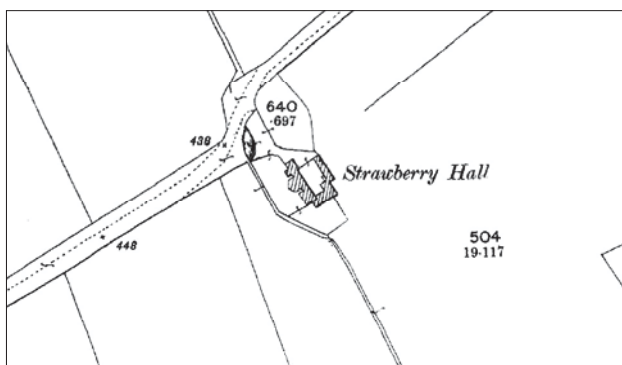
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Strawberry Hall -



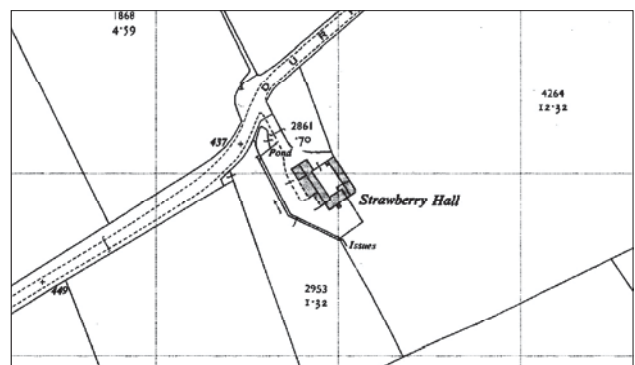
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



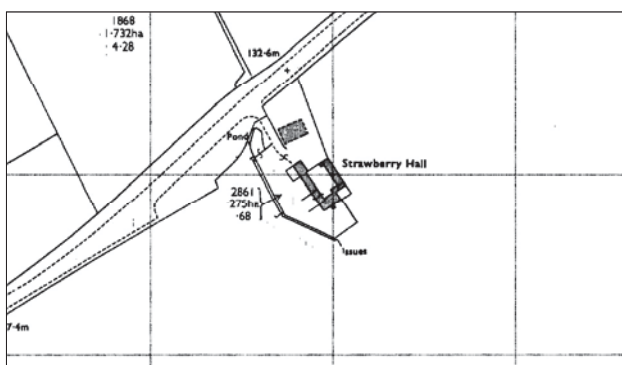
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



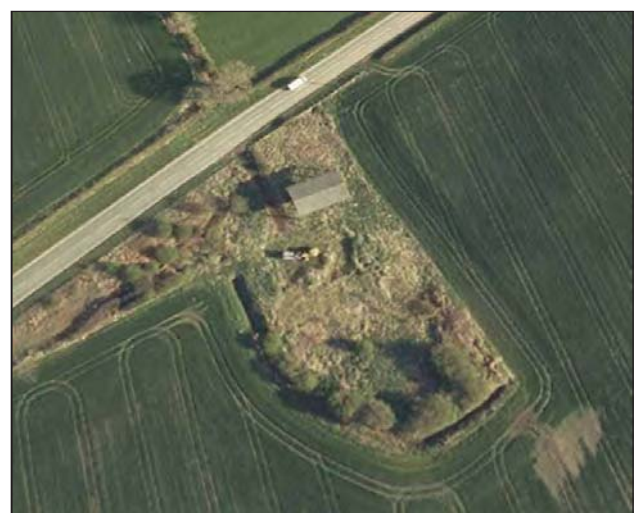
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1:2500 1958 Edition Ordnance Survey.

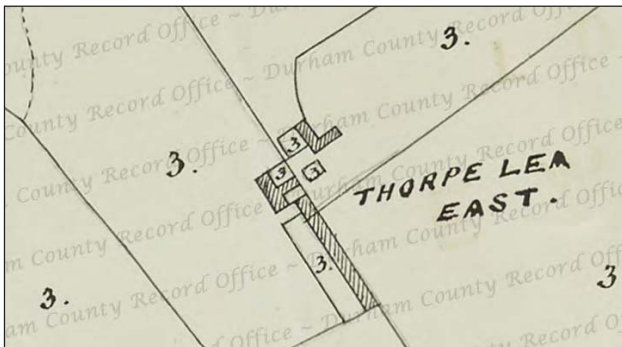


1:2500 1974 Edition Ordnance Survey.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

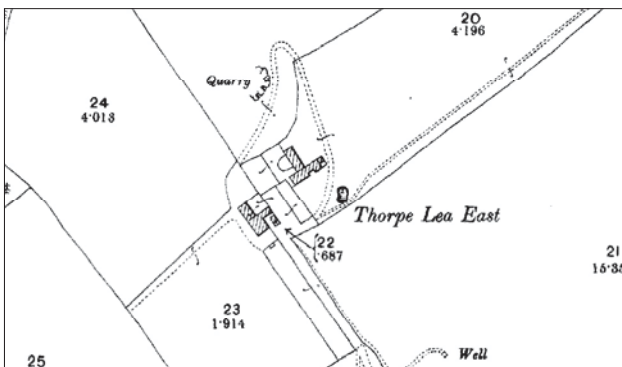
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Thorpe Lea East -



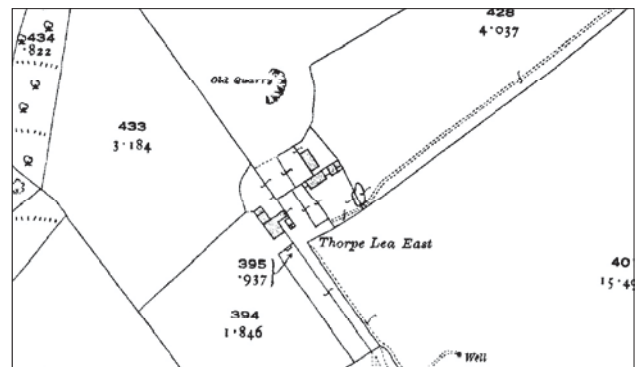
*Survey of Easington Township 1840.*



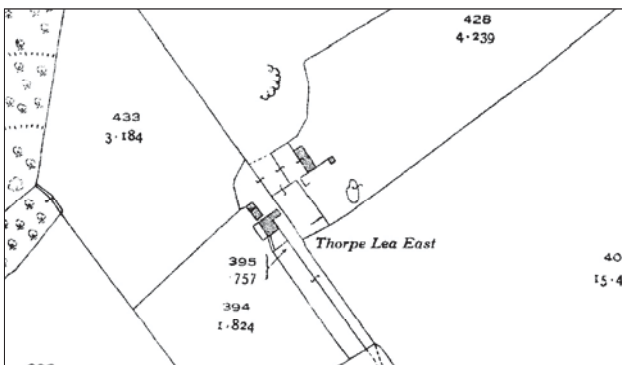
*6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.*



*1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.*



*1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1920.*



*1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.*



*Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.*

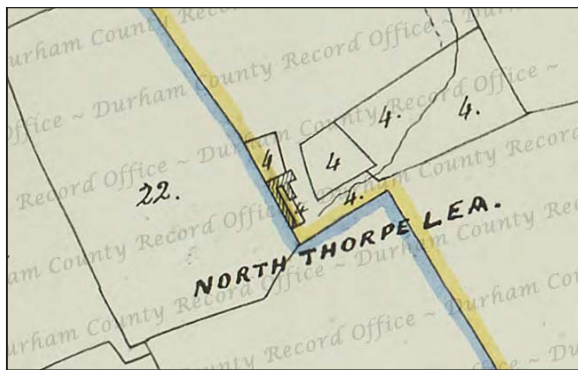


## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Thorpe Lea East -



- Photographs of the present Thorpe Lea East site -

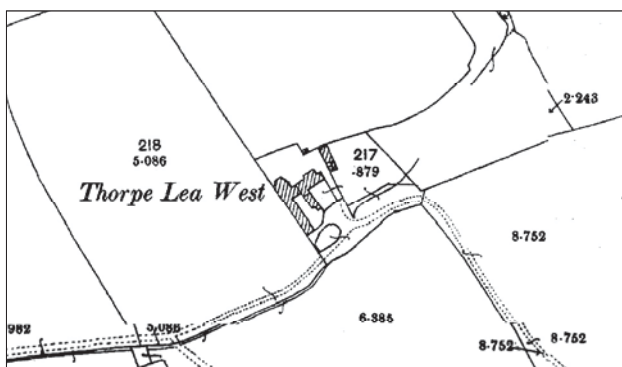
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Thorpe Lea West -



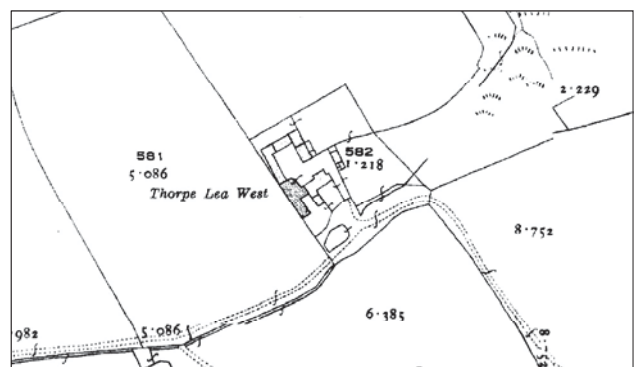
*Survey of Easington Township 1840.*



6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



*1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.*



1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1919.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



*Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.*

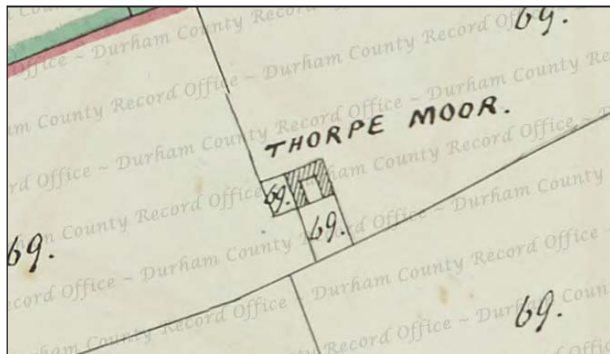


- Photographs of the present  
Thorpe Lea West site -





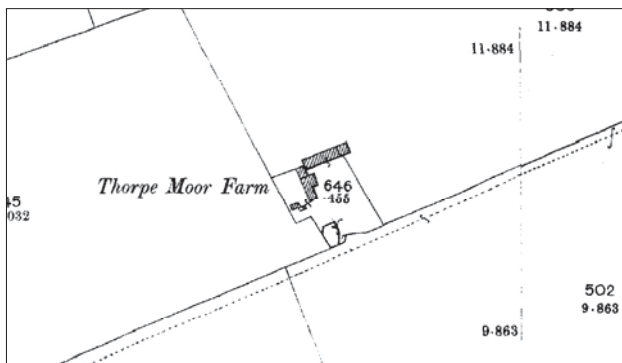
- Thorpe Moor Farm -



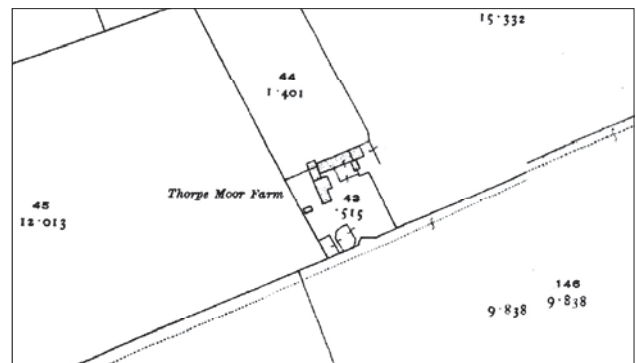
*Survey of Easington Township 1840.*



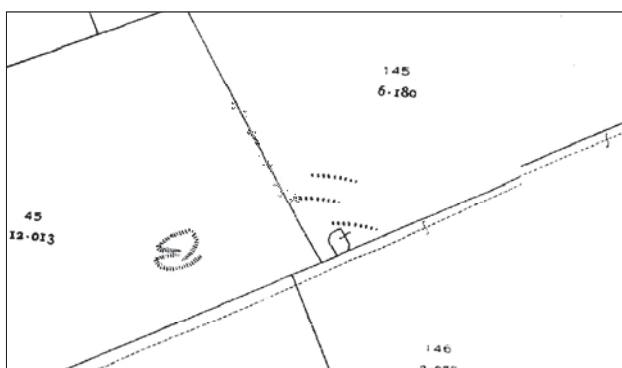
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1919.

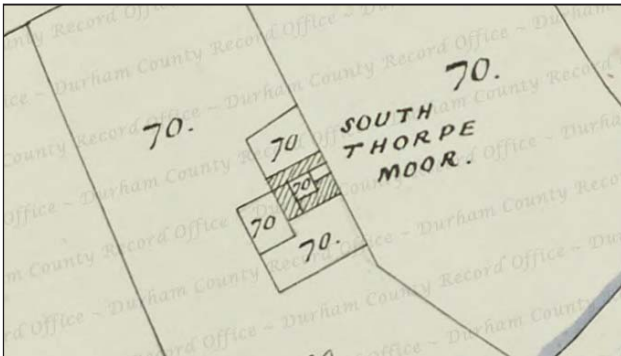


1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.

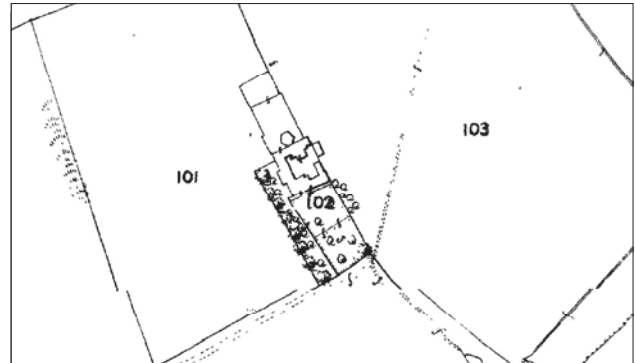


*Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.*

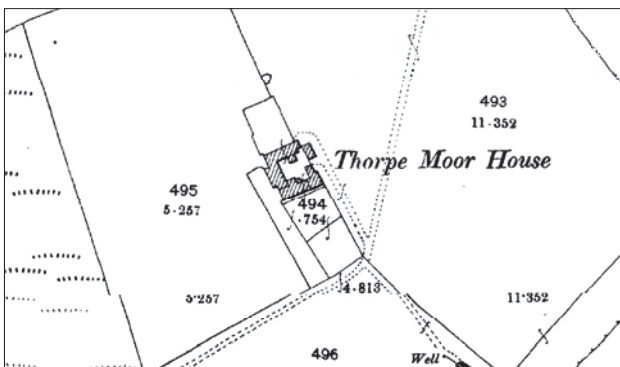
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Thorpe Moor House -



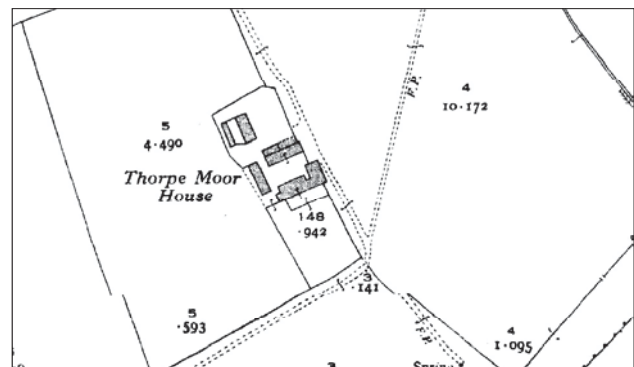
*Survey of Easington Township 1840.*



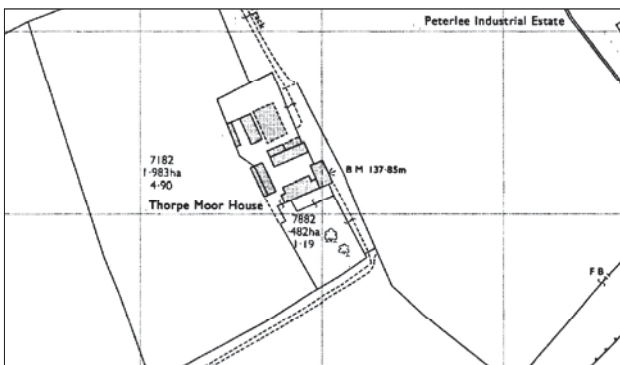
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



1:2500 1973 Edition Ordnance Survey.



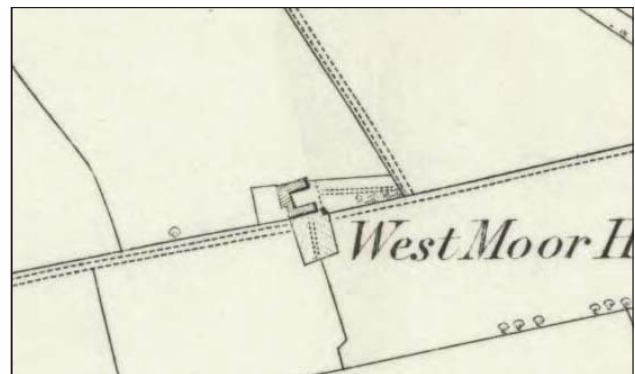
*Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.*



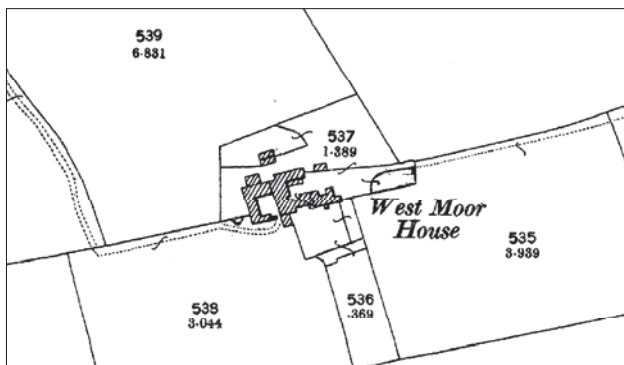
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - West Moor House -



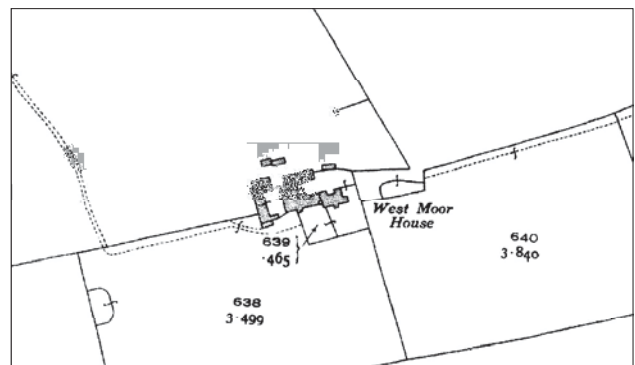
*Survey of Easington Township 1840.*



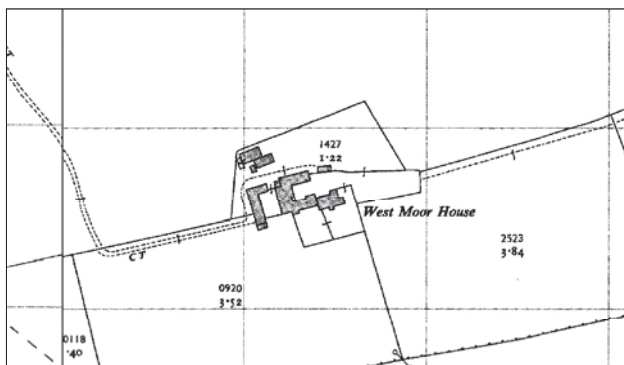
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.



*Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.*

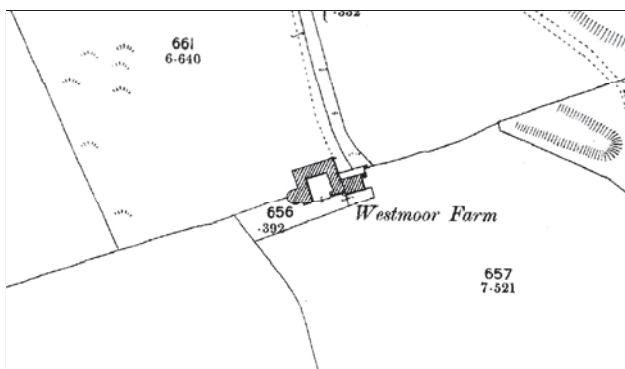
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - Westmoor Farm -



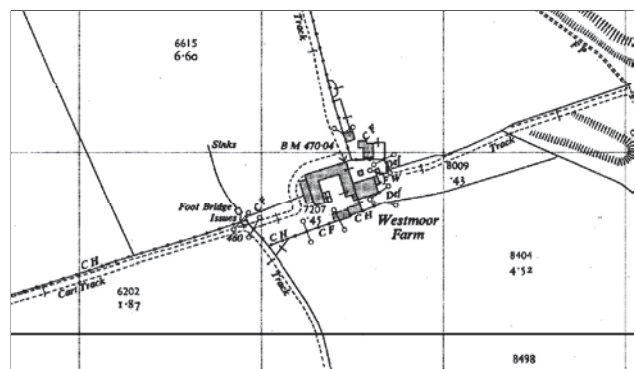
Survey of Easington Township 1840.



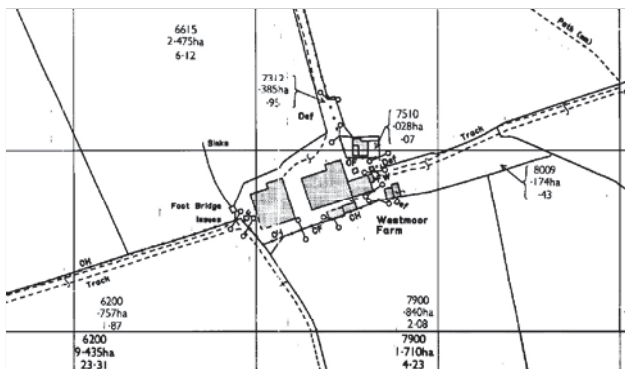
6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.



1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



1:2500 1959 Edition Ordnance Survey.



1:2500 1977 Edition Ordnance Survey.



Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

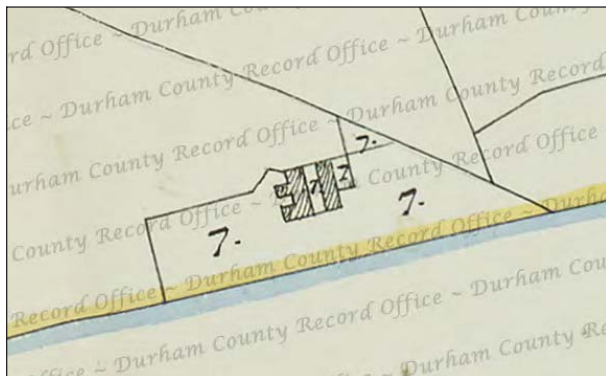


- Photographs of the present  
Westmoor Farm Site -

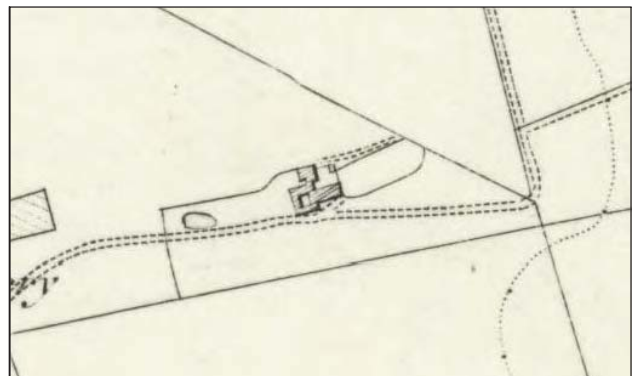




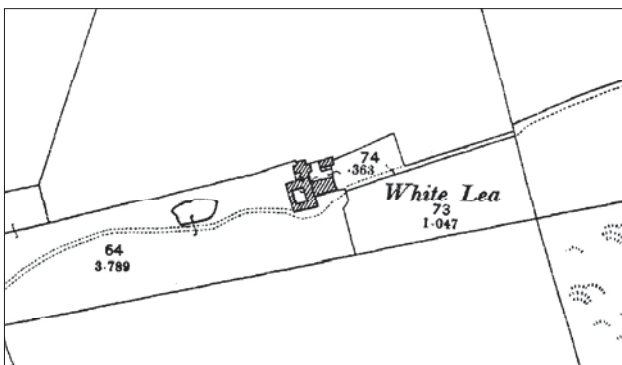
## Dispersed Farms in the Easington Atlas Study Area - White Lea -



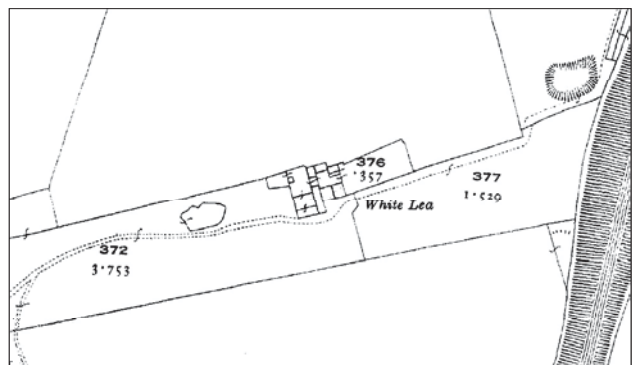
*Survey of Easington Township 1840.*



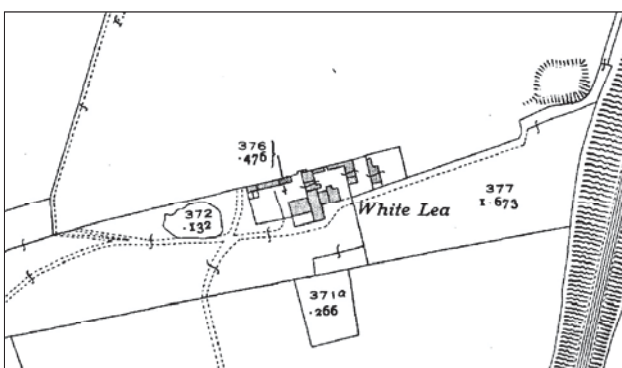
*6" 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.*



*1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1896.*



*1:2500 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1919.*



*1:2500 4th Edition Ordnance Survey 1939.*



*Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.*

