

## 11. CONCLUSIONS

### 11.1 Conclusions

Early prehistoric remains are poorly represented in the area around Ferryhill. Only a handful of flint tool finds betray the presence of hunter-gatherer communities of the Mesolithic era (Middle Stone Age) and early farmers of the succeeding Neolithic (New Stone Age).

Bronze Age occupation in the area is scarcely any better known with only isolated finds of bronze implements having been retrieved. A series of inhumation burials found during the early 20th century in vertical crevices in the magnesian limestone escarpment on the edge of the Ferryhill Gap have also been tentatively assigned to this period, but there were no associated finds which would confirm this and the skeletons cannot now be located to enable radio-carbon dating.

It is possible that this area was not intensively settled in these periods, by comparison with the major river valley crossings where Neolithic and early Bronze Age monuments in the region seem to cluster, for example. However proximity to the wetlands of the Carrs would suggest the Ferryhill area would have been a relatively attractive location, particularly for hunter-gatherers, and it is likely that more intensive investigation would yield evidence of more activity.

In contrast Iron Age settlements are well represented in the area and moreover have been subject to recent investigation. The large, complex site just north of Great Chilton, previously known only as a set of cropmarks on aerial photographs, has been examined through geophysical survey and two seasons of community excavation, revealing the remains of round houses and sequences of ditched enclosures. Nor is this site alone. Cropmarks probably representing a similar kind settlement have been recognised beside the A167 just south of Ferryhill near Bridge House Farm, and others have been recognised in the wider vicinity, including an more curvilinear enclosure cropmark beside Rough Furze Quarry near Thrislington Nature Reserve. Some of these sites might belong to or begin life in the later Bronze Age, whilst others might continue into the Roman period.

Direct evidence of the Roman period within the Ferryhill study area is, however, again limited to stray finds – pottery and metalwork such as broaches. What precisely these signify in terms of local settlement is unclear. Indeed the overall pattern of rural settlement in East Durham in this period is less certain than was once thought since research has shown that many of the rectilinear enclosed settlements discussed above were restricted to the Iron Age or first century of Roman occupation. Significant numbers of villas have now been identified in the Tees valley, but only one, Old Durham, further north. As these sites have largely been found not through academic research but by developer-funded archaeological site evaluation involving excavation and geophysical survey and it is possible that more work of this kind in the environs of Ferryhill would reveal a similar pattern and perhaps also clarify what form lower status farmsteads took in the mid- and late Roman periods.

The nearest Roman fort is located at Binchester to the west of Ferryhill and the main Roman north-south highways, Dere Street and Cade's Road, pass to the west and east of the area. It has been often suggested that another Roman route ran east-west along the escarpment ridge crossing the Carrs where the present causeway leading from Ferryhill to Thrislington is located. No indication of official Roman involvement in the creation or maintenance of such a route has been found, however, whether in terms of forts or fortlets sited along it, the presence of inscribed milestones or its inclusion in a documented Roman itinerary. Nevertheless the existence of a 'ridgeway' route of this kind during the Roman period,

forming an element of secondary importance within the wider network of roads and tracks, is quite plausible. Indeed it is most likely to have originated even earlier, during prehistory, perhaps as a route for transporting salt panned around the Tees estuary into the interior

Nothing is known of Ferryhill in the early Middle Ages until the 10th century, though remains of an inhumation cemetery of probable 5th- to 6th-century date were found further east in Stob Cross field in Thrislington township in 1822. The earliest reference to Ferryhill is thought to be the grant of land 'at Feregenne', to the monastic community of St Cuthbert, mentioned by the *Liber Vitae Dunhelmensis* in 994. This suggests that Ferryhill was a distinct place with a designated arable territory by the end of the 10th century AD. A strip of carved bonework found during groundworks at the site of the new police station on Church Lane probably belongs to the same approximate timeframe (10th-11th centuries – the 'Viking Age'). The bone strip was recovered from a pit next to the post holes and wall slots of a rectangular timber building. Church Lane originated as the back lane which ran along the rear of south row of tenements belonging to the high medieval village of Ferryhill, so the excavated features were situated to the south of the later village core, perhaps implying a slight settlement shift at some stage.

It is in the high Middle Ages that Ferryhill comes fully into view. Though there has been relatively little archaeological work there is a very large documentary record, as Ferryhill was one of the townships held by the Benedictine priory of Durham Cathedral, following the division of the Anglo-Saxon Community of St Cuthbert's holdings between the bishop and his cathedral priory at the end of the 11th century. The priory's records, the Durham Cathedral Muniments, are held in Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections. They include charters rentals surveys and manor or 'halmote' court records. These make it possible to reconstruct the development and layout of the village, the number and different types of tenants, and the location of specific buildings such as the priory's manorial farm, enclosed by the 'hallgarth' or *curia*. The evidence of the documentary record may be combined with analysis of historic maps of the post-medieval era and the village's present form to build up a clear understanding of its layout – a large two row village framing a long rectangular green, aligned roughly east-west perpendicular to the course of the Great North Road. The documents and historic maps also make it possible gain an impression of the surrounding landscape, with its open arable fields divided into myriad strips of ploughland, its moors, mills, roads and tracks, coal mines and wetland pools complete with swannery at the southern end of the Carrs – a monastic estate in its heyday.

In contrast to the situation on so many other former monastic estates the dissolution of Durham cathedral priory in 1540 had little impact on the tenant farmers of Ferryhill as the Prior and Convent simply morphed overnight into the Cathedral Dean and Chapter, with the township remaining in the cathedral's hands. More important was the priory's policy in the 15th and early 16th century of reorganising its tenancies on its estates to form a syndicates of tenant farmers with equal shares. Established by 1509 the Ferryhill syndicate farmed all the customary and leasehold land and the priory's own manorial farm, greatly simplifying the tenurial structure and institutionalising a class of middling tenant farmers. Later attempts by the Dean and Chapter to raise rents to more economic levels in the face of the rampant inflation of the mid- to late 16th century, met strong resistance from these Ferryhill tenants, which proved to be relatively successful.

In the open fields and moorland of Ferryhill were divided up and enclosed in 1637, one of the most important changes to the landscape of Ferryhill (though it is possible that the introduction of the syndicate had led to some reorganisation and simplification of tenant holdings). Information on the pre-enclosure layout and the pattern by which the township was divided up is preserved on the 1765 plan of the Dean and Chapter estate.

The splendid 1765 estate map also depicts the form of the village prior to the onset of industrialisation. This 18th-century village was still primarily an agricultural and service centre, serving the needs of the local farming community and providing facilities for travellers along the Great North Road, with inns providing food and overnight lodgings and smiths able to reshoe horses and the like. The growth in traffic along the road must have greatly benefited the economy of the village, as journey times shrank owing to the road improvements initiated by the turnpike trust and the use of more efficient sprung carriages. Eventually the trust was to initiate the excavation of the Ferryhill Cut in 1832 so traffic could avoid the full climb up to the summit of the ridge, an ill-timed decision as it coincided with imminent work arrival of the railways. Work was abandoned almost a century when it was realised the investment would not generate sufficient return.

The transformation of the rural village into a much larger industrial settlement began in the 19th century with the arrival of the railways and the dramatic expansion of coal-mining. Both the Clarence Railway and the East Coast Main Line were to utilise the Ferryhill Gap. Ferryhill Station became the site of one of the North Eastern Railway's most important goods yards and the proximity of the railway lines made it possible to develop collieries throughout the district, which otherwise would not have been able to transport their coal to its customers, the furnaces, mills and householders of the north-east and beyond.

Many of the 19th century coal mines such as Little Chilton, Broom Colliery, and East Howle were relatively short-lived, though the latter was a substantial enterprise, until closure following exhaustion of its deposits at the beginning of the 20th century. It was the opening of Dean and Chapter Colliery and the reopening of Mainsforth Colliery from 1904 which had the most important impact on the development of Ferryhill. These two large pits provided employment for much of the male population up until closure in 1966 and 1968, a devastating blow made worse by the subsequent contraction of the railway goods yard. Over the subsequent decades Ferryhill has gradually recovered some measure of prosperity.

The main expansion of settlement occurred in the 20th century, beginning with the development of Dean Bank on the west side of the Great North Road and extending down Broom Road towards Ferryhill Station. This process has continued to the present day, creating a settlement which can now be classed as a town, though its 'centre', the old village core, lies on its northern edge, perched above the steep slopes of the magnesian limestone escarpment which have so far proved unattractive for housing.

**11.2 Recommendations for further study** The following recommendations for archaeological investigation are made:

1. Programmes of field-walking in the environs of Ferryhill plus palaeo-environmental work in the Carrs could lead to a clear understanding of earlier prehistoric activity in the area.
2. Investigation – perhaps by means of coring with powered augers – of the causeway across the northern end of the Carrs, which connects Ferryhill with Thrislington might yield information regarding the history of the causeway (first mentioned in medieval documents), and duration of its use, and by implication the east-west route associated with it.
3. Further detailed analysis of the medieval documents held in Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections.
4. Detailed survey of the earthworks of Little Chilton shrunken medieval village might help to clarify the form of this settlement whilst dendrochronological dating of

samples taken from the roof timbers of Little Chilton farmhouse (probably a medieval manor house), could provide greater precision regard the date of this important building's construction.

5. The façade of Chilton Hall at Great Chilton appears of one building phase perhaps of the 18th century, but the arrangements three gabled wings at the rear and other structural details evident there hint at the presence of earlier fabric and greater structural complexity which might be revealed by further analysis including detailed examination of the interior. Test-pitting in and around the settlement of Great Chilton might yield more information regarding the layout and development of that village.
6. Ferryhill is the site of some of the earliest coal-mining in the county extending back to the 14th century if not earlier. No bell-pits or shafts associated with this activity have yet been recognised but further aerial photography may eventually result in their identification. Further work on medieval charters might also help to pin down the location of the earliest activity.

## GLOSSARY

<b>Advowson</b>	the legal right to appoint a priest to a parish church.
<b>Agistment</b>	the grazing of livestock on pasture belonging to someone else.
<b>Alienate</b>	to grant land to someone else or to an institution.
<b>Assart</b>	land cleared for cultivation.
<b>Assize</b>	a legal procedure
<b>Bailey</b>	large enclosure attached to a motte or ringwork, usually fortified by a ditch and bank furnished with a timber stockade. Sometimes a castle might have more than one bailey.
<b>Barony</b>	the estate of a major feudal lord, normally held of the Crown by military tenure.
<b>Borough</b>	a town characterised by the presence of burgage tenure and some trading privileges for certain tenants.
<b>Bovate</b>	measure of arable land, normally equivalent to approx. 12-15 acres. This measurement especially popular in eastern and northern counties of England.
<b>Burgage</b>	a form of property within a <b>borough</b>
<b>Capital Messuage</b>	a <b>messuage</b> containing a high status dwelling house, often the manor house itself.
<b>Cartulary</b>	a book containing copies of deeds, charters, and other legal records.
<b>Carucate</b>	a unit of taxation in northern and eastern counties of England, equivalent to eight <b>bovates</b> or one <b>hide</b> (96-120 acres).
<b>Charter</b>	a legal document recording the grant of land or privileges.
<b>Chattels</b>	movable personal property.
<b>Common land</b>	land over which tenants and perhaps villagers possessed certain rights, for example to graze animals, collect fuel etc.
<b>Common law</b>	a body of laws that overrode local custom.
<b>Copyhold</b>	a tenure in which land was held by copy of an entry recording admittance made in the record of the manor court.
<b>Cotland</b>	a smallholding held on <b>customary tenure</b> .
<b>Cottar</b>	an <b>unfree</b> smallholder.
<b>Croft</b>	an enclosed plot of land, often adjacent to a dwelling house.

<b>Custom</b>	a framework of local practices, rules and/or expectations pertaining to various economic or social activities.
<b>Customary tenure</b>	an unfree tenure in which land was held “at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor”. In practice usually a copyhold of inheritance in Cumbria by the sixteenth century.
<b>Deanery</b>	unit of ecclesiastical administration consisting of a group of parishes under the oversight of a rural dean.
<b>Demesne</b>	land within a manor allocated to the lord for his own use.
<b>Domain</b>	all the land pertaining to a manor.
<b>Dower</b>	widow’s right to hold a proportion (normally one-third) of her deceased husband’s land for the rest of her life.
<b>Dowry</b>	land or money handed over with the bride at marriage.
<b>Enfeoff</b>	to grant land as a <b>fief</b> .
<b>Engross</b>	to amalgamate holdings or farms.
<b>Farm</b>	in medieval usage, a fixed sum paid for leasing land, a <b>farmer</b> therefore being the lessee.
<b>Fealty</b>	an oath of fidelity sworn by a new tenant to the lord in recognition of his obligations.
<b>Fee/Fief</b>	hereditary land held from a superior lord in return for <b>homage</b> and often, military service.
<b>Fine</b>	money payment to the lord to obtain a specific concession
<b>Forest</b>	a Crown or Palatinate hunting preserve consisting of land subject to Forest Law, which aimed to preserve game.
<b>Free chase</b>	a forest belonging to a private landholder.
<b>Freehold</b>	a tenure by which property is held “for ever”, in that it is free to descend to the tenant’s heirs or assigns without being subject to the will of the lord or the customs of the manor.
<b>Free tenure</b>	tenure or status that denoted greater freedom of time and action than, say, customary tenure or status, a <b>freeman</b> was entitled to use the royal courts, and the title to free tenure was defensible there.
<b>Free warren</b>	a royal franchise granted to a manorial lord allowing the holder to hunt small game, especially rabbit, hare, pheasant and partridge, within a designated <b>vill</b> .
<b>Furlong</b>	a subdivision of open arable fields.
<b>Glebe</b>	the landed endowment of a parish church.

<b>Haybote</b>	the right to take undergrowth for the construction or repair of enclosures
<b>Headland</b>	a ridge of unploughed land at the head of arable strips in open fields providing access to each strip and a turning place for the plough.
<b>Heriot</b>	a death duty, normally the best beast, levied by the manorial lord on the estate of the deceased tenant.
<b>Hide, hideage</b>	Anglo-Saxon land measurement, notionally 120 acres, used for calculating liability for geld. See <b>carucate</b> .
<b>Homage</b>	act by which a <b>vassal</b> acknowledges a superior lord.
<b>Housebote</b>	the right to take undergrowth for the construction and repair of buildings
<b>Knight's fee</b>	land held from a superior lord for the service of a knight.
<b>Labour services</b>	the duty to work for the lord, often on the demesne land, as part of the tenant's rent package.
<b>Leet</b>	the court of a vill whose view of frankpledge had been franchised to a local lord by the Crown.
<b>Manor</b>	estate over which the owner ("lord") had jurisdiction, exercised through a manor court.
<b>Mark</b>	sum of money equivalent to two-thirds of a pound, i.e., 13s. 4d.
<b>Merchet</b>	a fine paid by <b>villein</b> tenants.
<b>Messuage</b>	a plot of land containing a dwelling house and outbuildings.
<b>Moot</b>	a meeting.
<b>Motte</b>	earthen mound deliberately raised or occasionally sculpted partially from pre-existing topography.
<b>Multure</b>	a fee for grinding corn, normally paid in kind: multure can also refer to the corn thus rendered.
<b>Neif</b>	a hereditary serf by blood.
<b>Pannage</b>	payment for the fattening of domestic pigs on acorns etc. in woodland.
<b>Perch</b>	a linear measure of 16½ feet and a square measure equivalent to one fortieth of a <b>rood</b> .
<b>Quitclaim</b>	a charter formally renouncing a claim to land.
<b>Ringwork</b>	alternative form of earth and timber castle – an enclosure smaller but more formidably defended than a typical bailey. Some ringworks were converted into mottes.

<b>Relief</b>	payment made by a free tenant on entering a holding.
<b>Rood</b>	measure of land equivalent to one quarter of an acre; and forty perches.
<b>Serf</b>	an unfree peasant characterised by onerous personal servility.
<b>Severalty</b>	land in separate ownership, that is not subject to common rights, divided into hedged etc., fields.
<b>Sheriff</b>	official responsible for the administration of a county by the Crown.
<b>Shieling</b>	temporary hut on summer pasture at a distance from farmstead.
<b>Socage</b>	a form of tenure of peasant land, normally free.
<b>Stint</b>	limited right, especially on pasture.
<b>Subinfeudate</b>	the grant of land by one lord to another to hold as a <b>knight's fee</b> or <b>fief</b> .
<b>Subinfeudation</b>	the process of granting land in a lordship to be held as <b>fiefs</b>
<b>Suit of court</b>	the right and obligation to attend a court; the individual so attending is a <b>suitor</b> .
<b>Tenant in chief</b>	a tenant holding land directly from the king, normally termed a baron.
<b>Tenement</b>	a land holding.
<b>Tenementum</b>	a land holding (Latin).
<b>Thegn or Thane</b>	Title given to a local lord during the Anglo-Saxon period, roughly equivalent to a Norman knight. His landholding his term a <b>thanage</b> .
<b>Tithe</b>	a tenth of all issue and profit, mainly grain, fruit, livestock and game, owed by parishioners to their church.
<b>Toft</b>	an enclosure for a homestead.
<b>Unfree tenure</b>	see <b>customary tenure</b> .
<b>Vaccary</b>	a dairy farm.
<b>Vassal</b>	a tenant, often of lordly status.
<b>Vill</b>	the local unit of civil administration, also used to designate a territorial township community (prior to the 14 <sup>th</sup> century)
<b>Villein</b>	peasant whose freedom of time and action is constrained by his lord; a villein was not able to use the royal courts.
<b>Villeinage</b>	see <b>customary tenure</b> and <b>unfree tenure</b> .



**Virgate**

a quarter of a **hide**; a standardised **villein** holding of around 30 acres. Also known as a **yardland**.

**Ward**

administrative division; the word implies a guarded or defended unit. The term most commonly relates to large administrative subdivisions of the county (usually 5 or 6) from the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

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- Simeon *Libellus/HED* Simeon of Durham, *Libellus de exordio atque procursu istius, hoc est Dunelmensis ecclesie, Continuatio Prima/Historia Ecclesiae Dunhelmensis*, SMO, I, 3-169,
- SMO *Symeonis monachi Opera Omnia*, ed. T Arnold, 2 vols., Rolls Series **75** (1882-85), London
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## APPENDIX: SELECTED SOURCES

### 1. Charters relating to land in Ferryhill

This is certainly not a comprehensive selection of all the charters relating to Ferryhill, but it does include a number of important ones which have been previously been printed, generally in the original Latin, in a variety of works.

#### 1.1 Durham Cathedral Priory exchanges rights of common of pasture in Ferry Moor in return for quitclaims of rights in lands in Ferry Marsh.

*Agreement made by Hugh the Prior and the Convent of Durham with Adam son of Roger de Fulthorpe, Knight, (manorial lord of Thrislington), Nicholas, son of Thomas de Thurstanton, Roger son of William de Thurstanton, Thomas the Dreng, John of Skyrburne and Alice his wife and Adam Paris and Beatrix his wife (five sets of free tenants of the vill)*

The Prior concedes that the owners and tenants of Thurstanton shall have sufficient common of pasture on the moor of Fery for 40 head of cattle, saving in such inclosures as the Prior holds at the present day; and if Thurstanton cattle trespass on the inclosures the fine shall be one penny for 13 head. Thurstanton shall have free pasture in the meadows or enclosures after Michaelmas (29 September), or earlier if the villeins of Fery enter sooner. Thurstanton shall also have pasture for ten score (200) sheep, from All Saints Day (1 November) to the Purification (2 February); but the Prior is at liberty to bring any part of the moor into tillage, if he leave sufficient common of pasture. And for this concession the owners of Thurstanton grant to the Prior all their marsh belonging to their land of Thurstanton by these boundaries: 'from the causeway which leads from Fery to Thurstanton, as far as the causeway to Mainsforth, as well the whole marsh which belongs to Nicholas de Thurstanton in right of his Mainsforth lands, betwixt the same two points

**Date:** 1262.

**Original:** DCD 4.12.Spec.18.

**Published:** Surtees 1823, 16; Austin 1989, 12.

#### 1.2. Grant of Carrs marshland by Richard son of Lord John of (Little) Chilton to Durham Priory

Richard son of Lord John of Chilton (*de Chyltona*) grants etc, . . . to God and the blessed Cuthbert and Prior Hugh and the Convent of Durham. All the land and marsh (*mariscum*) which I have between the great road (*magnam stratam*) which leads from Fery to Middleham, and the wood and marsh of the said Prior and Convent on the north side of Mainsforth-mere (*stagni de Maynesforthe*) . . .

These (being witnesses, Lord Richard the chancellor then steward (seneschal) of the Lord Bishop, Lord Marmaduke son of Geoffrey, Lord Roger de Eppleton, Lord Walter Herun, rector of the church of Ford, Lord Adam de Fulthorpe, Colin de Thurstanton (Thrislington), Gilbert de Fery, Meldred de Merrington, Alan son of Dionis, William clerk of Fer and many others.

**Date:** c. 1260s.

**Original:** DCD 4.12. Spec. 6.

**Published:** *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis*, p. 171 n.; cf. Surtees 1823, 290.

The following are also related:

Gift by Prior Hugh to Richard of Chilton of licence to have a private chapel within his manor house (*infra curiam suam*) of (Little) Chilton in 1272. (DCD **2.12. Spec. 21b**; cf. Surtees 1823, 290, n. l).

An earlier licence for a chapel at Chilton, Merrington. **2.12.Spec.21a** [1244 x 1258]

Richard of Chilton grants leave to the Prior to make a cut five feet in breadth and of what depth he pleases in Chilton-marsh as a waster to Ferry-mere (the Swannery). (Surtees 1823, 290, n. 1)

**1.3. Grant of a freehold in Ferycliff to Bernard de Thurstanton by Durham priory in return for for waving all except post harvest grazing rights in an enclosure made by the prior in the common moor of Ferryhill.**

This written chirograph [indenture] made on the Wednesday after the feast of St Nicholas [6 December] AD 1309 between Lord William [de Tanfield] prior of Durham and the convent of that same place on the one hand, and Bernard de Thurstanton (*Thurstaneston*) on the other, witnesses that the same Bernard has granted . . . to the aforesaid prior and convent . . . all right and claim that he had on this present day of completion, or that he could in any way have in the future, in all the newly broken land (*frussura*) made in the common moor of Fery (*communi mora de Fery*), saving to the said Bernard and his heirs common in that same newly broken land at the open time, just as the right of common obliges. And [he has granted] all right and claim which he had or could have in future in all the marsh (*marisco*) between Fery and Thrislington (*Thurstaneston*), just as it is enclosed by the ditch/embankment (*fossatum*), that is to say, from the paved way (*calceta*) which leads from Fery to Thrislington as far as the paved way of Mainsforth (*calcetam de Maynesford*). And if it comes to pass that the said ditch is in any way filled up the said prior and convent and their successors shall be allowed to make and repair that ditch, both on the ground of the said Bernard and in the said marsh, to a maximum width of 8 feet (*de latitudine viii pedum in summitate*).

For this concession . . . the aforesaid prior and convent have granted to the aforesaid Bernard a certain piece of ground (*placeam*) in that same marsh, as much as is enclosed by a ditch on this present day of completion. To have and to hold himself and his heirs in perpetuity. Paying in respect thereof 18d annually to the aforesaid prior and convent and their successors at their Durham exchequer . . . in return for all other services.

These (being) witnesses, Lord Thomas de Whitworth knight, John Sherlock, then steward (*seneschallus*) of Durham priory, William de Hebburn, John de Aldwood, Peter de Bolton and others.

**Date:** December 1309.

**Original:** DCD 4.12. Spec. 11.

**Published:** *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis*, p. 66-7 n.4.

**1.4. Charter recording the grant by Roger de Fery to the priory of ploughland lying next to the gate into the priory's manorial courtyard** [13th century]

Roger de Fery (*de Ferie*), to everyone, . . . greetings. Know all of you that I grant . . . to my beloved lords the prior and convent of Durham all my 'culture' (*cultura* – piece of ploughland, furlong, flat) in the vill of Fery (*in villa de Ferie*), which lies next to the courtyard gate (*portae curiae*) of my aforesaid lords the prior and convent in that same vill to the east . . .

These (being) witnesses, Walter de Ferie, Alan de Pitingdune, William de Fulwell, Patrick de Heworth, John Long, William son of Turstan, William *genere* Turstan, Robert the chaplain of Merrington, William de Bishopton, Robert de Birkenside, John de Carlaue and many others.

**Original:** DCD 4.12. Spec. 1.

**Published:** *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis*, p. 170 n.1. Cf. Surtees 1823, 285.

**1.5. Charter recording the grant of 12 acres of land by Matilda, daughter of Roger de Fery, to Walter son of Tunnoc, in free marriage with Matilda's daughter lueta [13th century]**

Matilda, formerly wife of Alan de Merrington, in my own widowhood, grant, give and by this charter confirm to Walter son of Tunnoc, in free marriage with my daughter lueta, the 12 acres of land in the fields of Fery (*in campis de Feri*), with toft and croft, which Gunnilda formerly held in that same vill (*villa*), namely:

- ❖ ½ acre in the Chesters (*in Chestris*) which Alexander held
- ❖ 1 rood in the southern part of the Chesters
- ❖ at *Cragthornmere* 1 rood on one side of the land of William the clerk (*clerici*) and 1 rood on the other side of the aforesaid William's land
- ❖ 1 acre in the eastern part of *Westuuelleleche* (Westwell Letch), which Alexander held
- ❖ 1 rood above/upon (*super*) Holm
- ❖ ½ acre between the streams (*rivulos*) on the west side of the road
- ❖ 1 rood on the east side of the road at the same place
- ❖ 1 rood at the *Seggyz* next to Gilbert's land towards the east
- ❖ ½ acre next to the road at *Cresswell*
- ❖ ½ acre next to *Hipsidegate* [?] between the land of Rainnilda and the land which Brunnolf formerly held
- ❖ ½ acre at *Northemeduemor* (North Meadow Moor or North Middle Moor?), between the land of William the clerk and and the land of Hugh servant of Rainnilda (*servientis*)
- ❖ ½ acre in *Suthemeduemor*, next to the land of Hugh *servientis Rainnildae*
- ❖ 1 rood next to the lane/footpath (*semita*) leading to Thrislington (*Thurstantun*)
- ❖ At Joylaue, next to the next to the land of Hugh *servientis Rainnildae*, ½ acre on one side and 3 roods on the other side
- ❖ 3 roods of *laya* (lough?) on the eastern side of the mere
- ❖ 3 roods at *Layflath* (Layflatt) on the west side of William the Clerk's land
- ❖ ½ acre along the length of *Fildingate*
- ❖ 1 acre in *Sigereshope* beside the hall furlong (or cultivated land of the hall – *cultura aula*)
- ❖ 1 rood in that same hope beside William the clerk's land in the north (*in aquilone*)
- ❖ 1 acre in the northern part of *Elle*

The same Walter and lueta and their heirs who proceed from the body of the said lueta to have and to hold, freely . . . from me and my heirs. Paying from there annually to me and my heirs 6d . . . and three days work with one man in autumn, for all other service . . . and if by chance common feudal aid or foreign service shall come to pass for all the lord Prior's land, the aforesaid Walter and lueta and their heirs shall be answerable for the aforesaid land as much as pertains to so much land of that same tenement in the same vill of Fery, however the aforesaid land shall be revalued with a duplicate lease as 12d in perpetuity . . . And if by chance it shall come to pass that the said lueta dies without heirs of her body, at the end of the lives of the aforesaid Walter and lueta the aforesaid land shall revert to its rightful heirs. Witnesses etc.

Matilda's seal describes her as '*filia Rogeri de Feri*' and bears a boar's head.

**Original:** DCD 4.12.Spec.27

**Published:** *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis*, p. 170 n.1 (Latin text).

**5. Gift of land in Ferryhill by Prior Bertram to Walter of Fery, noting earlier gifts by Priors Roger, Lawrence and Absalom to his father Huhtred de Fery [1189 x 1212].**

Prior Bertram and the Convent of the church of Durham give . . . to the faithful men of St Cuthbert and our Walter de Fery all that land which Priors Roger (1138 x 1149), Lawrence (1149 x 1154) and Absolon (1154 x 1158)) of blessed memory gave to his father Huhtred in Fery, in fee and inheritance, for his homage and service, that is to say 48 acres on one side of the village of Fery (*villae de Feria*) and 48 acres on the other side of that same village, in return for half a carucate of (arable) land, and 16 acres and 3½ roods of newly broken in ground held of us by Walter himself and his heirs in fee and inheritance, wherefore we wish that the aforesaid Walter and his heirs shall have and hold and possess by hereditary right in perpetuity all the aforesaid land with that toft in which they now dwell and with 4 acres of pasture (*prata*), and with all other easements . . . quit of all service . . . except that Walter and his heirs shall return from there each year half a mark of silver, that is to say 40d at Rogation Sunday (5th Sunday after Easter) and 40d at the feast of St Martin (11 November). Moreover we concede to Walter and his heirs in fee and inheritance in that same vill, that toft which his father had and held during his life, as a gift from the Lord Prior Germanus (1163 x 1189), that is to say where the old hall (*vetus aula*) stood. And knowing that as often soever as we impose a common aid (*commune auxilium*) on all our land Walter himself and his heirs shall give us 5s in aid, half a mark in relief, 2s in forfeiture (*forisfactum*).

These (being) witnesses, Philip the sheriff, Robert de Watteuil, Jordan Escolland, Richard de Punchardon, Roger Burdon, Roger de Punchardon, Ilger Burdon, Roger de Audrai, Osbert de Laton, Walter de Mustiers, William de Wutton, William de Ketton, Roger de Bellasis, Roger de Fery, John de Kettun, John Burdon, Adam, Alan, Henry de *celarius*, Hugh Hauet, Stephen de Maiduil, Helya the doorkeeper (*portarius*), Richard the Fleming, Pe de Fer and many others.

**Endorsed:** Lease made by Prior B(ertram) to Walter de Fery of 1 toft and 96 acres of land and 4 acres of pasture.

And this land was amortised in the time of Prior John de Washington.

**Original:** DCD 1.13. Spec. 10.

**Printed:** *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis*, p. 64 n.1 (Latin text only).

## 2. Ferryhill Survey of 1424/6 (Bursar's Book E folios 16v, 17r)

(reproduced from Campey 1987 Appendix A, cf. Lomas *Bursars Rentals*, 11)

Margin Entry	Tenant	Tenement	Rent p.a. s/d	Free-hold Toft No.
		<b>South Row at East end</b>		
	Heirs of Roger de Fery, Robert Dovdale & Sir William Eure	Hold freely for military service, 1 wasted cottage on SUTHRAW & ½ bovate containing 7½ acres		1
	Heirs of John Percy de Kyledale	Freely, 1 wasted cot. for mill. ser. & ¼ part of 1 bov. of same land cont. 3 ac. & 3r.		1
	Heirs of Lord Richard Scrope de Bolton	Holds freely for mill. ser., 1 wasted cot. & ¼ of 1 bov. of same land cont. 3 ac. & 3r.		1
	Heirs of Peter Clerk & Will Peerson de Fery	Free, 1 capital messuage & 6 bovates containing 90 acres, for military service	2s 8d	2
	Heirs of Peter Clarke de Fery & William Peerson de Fery	Freely, for military service, 2½ parts of two cottages lying together		
	Heirs of Roger de Fery, William Eur, Thomas Broune	Free, the other half of same cottage		
	Heirs of Roger de Fery & Thomas Broune	Free, 1 messuage & 2 bovates ... 30 acres military service	11d	3
	Heirs of Roger de Fery, Robert Dovdale & William Eure	Free, 1 messuage & 4 bovates ... 60 acres, military service	21d	4
	John Boys	1 cottage & 3 acres	3s 6d	
	Margaret Hoton	1 messuage & 1 bovate viz. 15 acres formerly of Walter Tunnok	10s Cornage 12d	
	Procurator of chapel	Free, 1 cottage & 8 acres, Prestland & for this toft accustomed to pay per annum 5s, now he pays:	4s 4d	5
	John Gauge	1 cottage & 2 acres	6s	
	William Watson	1 empty cottage with garden without land	12d	
	Walter Thaker	1 messuage & 1 husbandland 30 acres	17s	
	Roger de Staynton	alias Johnson 1 messuage & 1 husbandland 30 acres	16s	
bond1	Robert Woderfolde	bondland primus 1 messuage bondland 2nd, messuage & 30 acres	17s	
bond2	John Huchonson	1 bondland 3rd, messuage & 30 acres	20s	
3	John Peerson	1 bondland 4th, 1 messuage & 30 acres	20s	
4	John Boys	bondland 5th, 1 messuage & 30 acres	20s	
5	William Watson	bondland 6th, 1 messuage & 30 acres	20s	
	Almoner free  Commoner free	<del>1 messuage with dovecot &amp; 2 bovates containing 30 acres,</del> formerly Hugh son of Henwyste messuage with dovecot & 2 bovates & 30 acres formerly Hugh son of Wawysie & after Lord John Nevill	7/6	6
6	John Boys	1 bondland 7th, 30 acres	20s	
	William Lanx	1 cottage & 3 acres	6/8	
	William Lanx	1 cottage & 9 acres on <i>Moreknoll</i>	9s	
	William Lanx	1 cottage wasted & 3 acres	5s	

	John Saffteley	1 cottage with garden & without land	12d	
		<b>North Row at West End</b>		
	William Peerson free	1 toft & croft wasted called Bieufrent & 4 acres which Richard Prior gave through his charter to Eustache de Fery	20d	7
	Robert Wodyfelde	1 cottage. & 3 acres on <i>Moreknoll</i>	6s	
	Alice Randson	1 cottage & 6 acres	9s	
7	Walter Dawson	1 bond. 8 <sup>th</sup> 1 mess. & 30 acres	20s	
	John Tailour	1 cottage & 3 acres lying next to Firmarus of manor (2 cottages together)	6s 3s	
	Thomas Sharpharwe	1 cot. ½ bov. i.e. 7 ½ ac.	7/9 Cornage 6d	
	Alice Randson	1 mess. & 15 ac. Called <i>Smethyland</i>	8s	
	Heirs of John Kyllynghall & Will Heton de Herdwyk	free land & 1 toft with garden & one ' <i>carbonem lucranto</i> ' formerly of Walter de Fery	16d	8
	Thomas Browne	1 mess. & 5½ acres & 6½ acres meadow formerly freeland of Walter de Fery, after Thomas de Fery	53s	
	John Stevenson	1 bond. 9 <sup>th</sup> 1 mess. & 30 ac.	20s	
	John Stevenson	1 cot. & 7 ac.	6/8	
	William Drycluke	1 mess. & 18 ac.	11s	
	William Drycluke	1 bond. 10 <sup>th</sup> 1 mess. Wasted & 30 ac.	20s	
	Alex Swynton	& after Alex Wolyfeld, 1 mes. & 30 ac.	20s	
	Heirs of Robert Hudd & Roger de Staynton	Free 1 t. & c. & 1 bov. , 15 ac.	2s	9
	Richard Barton	1 toft & croft 1 bovate, 15 ac.	10s	
	Heirs of Peter Clerk & William Peerson de Fery free, (formerly Gregory de Fery)	toft & croft 1 bovate & 15 acres	2s	
	Walter Dawson	1 toft & 1 bovate viz. 15 acres	11s	
	William Thomson	1 cottage & 4 5 acres (former free land of Hugh son of Hawysie) 1 cottage with garden where now is the tithe barn	6s 12d	
	John Tailour	1 wasted place & 10 acres	5s	
	Heirs of Isabel Peersdoghter & Robert Mabson & now heirs of William Peerson de Fery	free, 2 cottages & 19 acres	2/8	11
	William Randson	1 cottage & 8 acres	8s	
	William Randson	1 messuage & 20 acres	13/4	
	John Peerson	1 messuage & 20 acres	13/4	
	William Symson	1 toft & 1 bovate viz. 15 acres	10s	
	William Drycluke	1 'shippam' in the middle of the vill (now leased with his tenement written above)	12d	
	John Tailour	common oven	11s	
	Robert Wodefeld	common forge	11s	
		<b>Forland</b>		
	Heirs of Barnard de Thurstanton, William Fulthorpe	Freely by indenture with William Coton, Prior 4 ac. at North end of Ferycliff	18d	
	Walter Thekar	3 ac. Called Fyfland	12d	
	Walter Thekar	1 ac. Called Almensacre	4d	

	Robert Wodefelde	3 ac. Called Ketilthorne next to Colpottes	18d	
	John Shepherd	6 ac. at les brakes in Speningmor	4/4	
	William Drycluke	3 ½ ac. In Westbrakes in Speningmor Herbage de Feryclyff leased	20d 26/8	
	Wind Mill	Leased	40s	
	Coal Mine	In hands of Lord		
	Vicar of Merrington	Has 3 ac. lying towards the south in the woods on the east side of MeryngtonFyrth	3s	

**3. Confirmation of Freehold Toft Positions in Ferryhill Village c.1400**  
(reproduced from Campey 1989, 74-6, table 2)

Toft No.	Feodary Survey FPD., pp.64-68 (1430)	R.B.S.E. fol. 29v (1424)	Charters
F1	Eure, empty cottage, on South Row, east end & 7 acres Kildale, empty cottage, on west side of above cottage & 3 acres Scrope, empty cottage, on west side of above cottage & 3 acres		
F2	Cleric, capital messuage & 2 messuages lying together on South Row & 6 bovates*; Tenements of Scrope to east, Broun to the west.	Peerson, messuage on South Row & 6 bovates	
F3	Broune, 1 toft & 2 bovates	Browne, 1 messuage & 2 bovates	<i>1.13.Spec.31</i> (1433) Browne, 1 messuage & ½ cottage on South Row & 2 bovates
F4	Doudale, messuage on South Row, between tenements of Broune on east and Prior on west & 4 bovates	Eure, messuage on South Row & 4 bovates	
F5	Procurator of Chapel, a toft on South Row & 8 acres		
F6	Commoner, 2 parts of 1 messuage on South Row, with dove-cot, & 2 bovates	Commoner, messuage on South Row & 30 acres	<i>4.12.Spec.5</i> (1349) (messuage pertaining to this land described as being to east & west of other tenements)
F7	Eustace de Fery, toft with croft called Bieufronte on North Row at west end & 4 acres		
F8	Herdwyc, 1 empty tenement on North Row & 20 acres	Hardwick, toft & 20 acres	<i>1.13.Spec.16</i> (1426) Hardwik, grants to Prior coal beneath his empty toft at north end of village. Prior's property on both sides
F9	Hudd, toft & croft on North Row & 1 bovate	Stainton, 1 messuage & 1 bovate	
F10	Cleric, 1 toft on North Row between tenements of Prior on both sides & 15 acres	Peerson, 1 messuage on North Row & 1 bovate	
F11	Peersdoghtyr, 2 tofts lying together, on North Row, on east side of tithe barn & 19 acres	Peerson, 2 tofts near the tithe barn & 19 acres	

\* 1 bovate = 15 acres



#### 4. 1424 Schedule of 'Gilly-Corn' (Fraser 1955, 58-60)

From the Rental of the farms of the Durham Almonry 1424-1440 (DCD, Almoners' Large Cartulary II, ff. 27v.-30, 'R(entale de) B(ladis) S(ancti) E(gidii)')

##### Corn of St Giles

Rental of the corn of St Giles due to the office of the almoner of Durham from the tenants of the Prior in the time of Sir John Fyssheburne, almoner, AD 1424.

##### Parish of Aycliffe

(Entries for the vill of Aycliffe and Newton Ketton, and the hamlet of Newhouses, then:)

- ❖ In the vill of Chilton there are 4 husbandlands, each of which contains 30 acres, and they render 4 thraves.  
(Followed by the vill of Woodham – blank entry)
- ❖ Sum total of the corn in the parish of Aycliffe 17 thraves.

##### Parish of Kirk-Merrington

- ❖ In the vill of Ferryhill (*Fery*) William Eure, knight, freely holds 1 messuage on the *Southraw* and 1 carucate of land (or 4 bovates), containing 60 acres, and renders yearly 1thrave.
- ❖ Item, Thomas Browne freely holds there 1 messuage and half a carucate (or 2 bovates), containing 30 acres, and renders yearly a half-thrave.
- ❖ Item, William Peerson freely holds there 1 messuage on the *Southraw* and 1½ carucates of land (or 6 bovates), containing 90 acres, and renders yearly 1thrave.
- ❖ The same William freely holds there 1 messuage on the *Northraw* and 1 bovat, containing 15 acres, and renders 6 sheaves.
- ❖ The same William freely holds there 2 tofts near the tithe barn and 19 acres, and renders 6 sheaves.
- ❖ Item, Roger of Stainton freely holds there 1 messuage and 1 bovat, containing 15 acres, and renders 6 sheaves.
- ❖ And be it remembered that:
  - the Prior has there 1 messuage and 120 acres, formerly the land of Thomas Fery;
  - and William Hoton of Hardwick has 1 toft and 20 acres of the same land;
  - and the commoner has 1 messuage on the *Southraw* and 30 acres, formerly the free land of Sir John Nevyle;
  - and the Prior has 10 acres of the same land,(all of) which lands were formerly given by charter of the Prior and Chapter and therefore render nothing.
- ❖ Item, there are 2 messuages there on the *Northraw* and 2½ bovates of former free land, containing 40 acres, and they render 15 sheaves.
- ❖ Item, there are 3 husbandlands there, each of which contains 30 acres, and all render yearly 3 thraves.
- ❖ Item, there are 10 bondages there, each of which contains 2 bovates (or 30 acres), and they render yearly 5 thraves.
- ❖ Total 11 thraves and 21 sheaves.

(Further entries cover the vills of Kirk-Merrington, Shelam, Middle Merrington, West Merrington and Hett.)

- ❖ Sum total of corn in the parish of Kirk-Merrington 48 thraves 18 sheaves.

## 5. Feodary Survey of Ferryhill freeholdings in 1430

(excerpted from Greenwell (ed.) *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis*, Surtees Society 58 (1872), 64-7, and translated from the Latin.)

*Book of fees, rents and services pertaining to the exchequer of the Prior of Durham compiled and extracted from the ancient feodary of Thomas Melsonby former prior of Durham [1233 x 1244] and other ancient muniments and rental registers of the prior of Durham, in AD 1430.*

### Fery

- ❖ The heirs of Roger Fery, Robert Doudale, Ralph de Eure and William de Eure hold there freely of the prior of Durham 1 messuage on the South Row (*Suthrawe*), between the tenement of Thomas Broune on the east side and the prior's tenement on the west side, and 4 bovates containing 60 acres of land, by military service and suit of [i.e. attendance at] the Prior's court in Durham every fifteenth day and work on the manor, as is clear in the ancient feodary of Prior Thomas Melsonby (*Melsamby*), and they pay 21d per annum.
- ❖ The heirs of Thomas Broune hold there freely of the prior of Durham 1 toft and 2 bovates of land containing 30 acres of land, by military service and suit of the Prior's court in Durham every fifteenth day and work on the manor, and pay 11d per annum.  
*Margin entry (in a later hand):* now is ours
- ❖ The heirs of Peter Clerk. John son of Peter, Richard son of Peter and William son of Peter de Fery hold there freely from the Prior of Durham, 1 capital messuage [i.e. manor house] and 2 messuages lying together on South Row (*Suthrawe*), between the tenement of Lord Scrope on the east side and the tenement of Thomas Broun on the west side, and 6 bovates of land, containing 90 acres of land, by military service and suit of the Prior's court at Durham every fifteenth day, and work on the manor and pay from there to the terrar 2s 8d per annum.  
*Margin entry (same later hand):* now George Fery's; (*a different hand*): 5s 4d.
- ❖ The same heirs hold there freely of the prior of Durham, by military service, 1 toft with croft, called *Bieufronte*, on North Row (*Northrawe*), at the west end of the village, and 4 acres of land, which Prior Richard gave to Eustace de Fery, by his charter, and they pay 20d per annum.  
*Margin entry (in the first later hand):* now is ours
- ❖ The same heirs hold there freely of the prior of Durham, 1 toft on North Row (*Northrawe*), between the prior's tenement on either side, and 15 acres of land, which was formerly Gregory [*interlined* George] de Fery's and afterwards John Peerson's, by military service and suit of court, and they work at the manor, and they pay 2s per annum.  
*Margin entry (in the first later hand):* now George junior's
- ❖ The same heirs hold there freely of the prior of Durham, 2 tofts lying together on North Row (*Northrawe*), on the east side of the tithe barn, with only 1 wasted place (*placea*) [plot, open space, piece of ground] intervening, and 19 acres of land, which formerly belonged to Robert Dickinson (*Diconson*) and Isabel Peersdaughter (*Peersdoghtyr*), by military service and attendance at court, three times a year, and work on the manor, and pay from there 2s 8d per annum.  
*Margin entry:* is ours. Thomas Gawdy
- ❖ The heirs of Robert Hudd, John son of Henry, John Milner and Roger de Staynton hold there freely of the prior of Durham, 1 toft and croft on North Row, and 1 bovate of land, containing 15 acres, which was formerly Henry the doorkeeper's (*janitor*), by

military service and suit of court, and they do work on the manor, contained in the Prior's ancient feodary, and pay 2s per annum.

*Margin entry:* Ralph Melot

- ❖ The commoner (*comunarius*) of Durham holds there two parts of 1 messuage on South Row, with a dovecote (*columbarium*), and 2 bovates of land containing 30 acres of land, which formerly belonged to Hugh son of Hawysiae and afterwards to Lord John de Neville (*Nevyle*), and he does work on the manor contained in the charter of Prior Thomas, issued to Robert de Fery (*Ferya*), and pays 7s 6d per annum.
- ❖ The Procurators of the chapel of Fery hold there freely from the prior of Durham in soccage 1 toft on South Row, and 8 acres of land pertaining to the chapel there, and they pay 4d per annum.
- ❖ The heirs of Roger de Fulthorpe and William de Fulthorpe hold freely from the prior of Durham in soccage 4 acres of land at the north end of Ferycliff (*Feryclyff*) towards Thrislington (Thurstanton) enclosed within the ancient ditch (*fossatum*), as appears from the indenture made between Prior William Couton and Bernard de Thurstanton in AD 1309, and return from there 18d per annum.
- ❖ *Note:* [the date indicates that Prior William de Tanfield (1308 x 1313) not William de Cowton (1321 x 1341) should be credited with issuing the charter]
- ❖ The heirs of William de Eure hold freely from the prior of Durham, by military service, 1 waste cottage on South Row, at the east end of the village and 7 acres of land.
- ❖ The heirs of John Percy de Kildale hold freely of the prior of Durham, by military service, 1 waste cottage on the west side of the aforesaid cottage, and 3½ acres of land.
- ❖ The heirs of Lord de Scrope of Bolton hold freely in that same place of the prior of Durham, by military service, 1 waste cottage on the west side of the aforesaid cottage, and 3½ acres of land.
- ❖ The heirs of William Huton de Herdwyc hold freely of the prior of Durham there, 1 waste tenement on North Row, and 20 acres of land, for which they were accustomed to pay to the heirs of Walter de Fery 16d per annum, as is clear by charter, which rent has now been amortized to the prior, together with the land of Thomas de Fery.

## **6. Inventory of Durham Priory made in the year AD 1464**

(these entries relating to Ferryhill and environs excerpted from Greenwell, *FPD*, 168-74, and translated from the Latin.)

### **Chilton**

Three tenants hold certain lands there and return £4 10s per annum.

### **The Manor of Ferryhill (*Manerium de Fery*)**

The manor there is leased to John Richardson without fixed term, indenture or stock, with repair works included, and he returns £10 per annum for that manor. The livestock of the manor was consumed in the monastery, the dead stock (tools and equipment) was removed to the manor of Pitlington (Pytyngton).

### **Ferryhill (*Fery*)**

The township (*villa*) there, including free rents, renders net £21 5s 6d. Decays/losses 34s 4d. Waste 38s 8d. Repairs to the tenements and cottages there are assessed at £8.

### **The Manor of East Merrington (*Manerium de Est Meryngton*)**

The manor there is leased to William Wille, for a term of 12 years, this being the fourth year, and by indenture, returning £13 6s 8d per annum. Stock there: in the first place 18 oxen delivered to the said William, and nothing more, from that residue which remained in the hands of the farmers Henry Jacson and Robert Meryngton recently farmers in that place, that is to say two ploughs with all apparatus for 12 oxen, 18 quarts of corn, 18 quarts of barley and 18 quarts of oats, in unsown grain. And moreover the cause is that the aforesaid farmers have inadequate goods to make satisfaction for the said stock.

### **East Merrington (*Est Meryngton*)**

The vill (*villa*) there returns £16 6d net, including freehold rents. Decays 28s. Waste 10s 8d. The mill of Shelom is leased to John Milner for 33s 4d. Decays of that mill 20s, however it was accustomed to return 66s 8d, of which decays 13s 4d. Repairs to the said mill are assessed at £10. Repairs to diverse tenements are assessed at 40s.

### **Middle Merrington (*Mid Meryngton*)**

The vill (*villa*) there returns net £16 8s 6d per annum. Decays 12d. Wasted 8s 8d.

### **West Merrington (*West Meryngton*)**

The vill there is leased to William Robinson and his sons, with repairs (included), and renders £11 2s 6d net per annum. Decays 24s 11½d. Repairs of one tenement and one barn (*grangia*) there are assessed at 53s 4d.

### **Hett**

Johanna Gower pays free rent for two parts of the manor of Hett, and 6 bovates of land that vill, and for half the waste and common pasture in that same vill, and returns 13s 4d per annum.

## 7. 1666 Hearth Tax Records for Ferryhill and Great Chilton Townships

(NB. Great Chilton probably includes Little Chilton here)

Ferryhill and Great Chilton ('Lady Day Assessment 1666') Schedules of householders paying and non-solvants unable to pay and exempted through poverty (*Durham Hearth Tax, Lady Day 1666*, Green *et al.* 2006,4, 6-7, 108,110)

### Darlington Ward South-East Division

<b>Chilton Great: Householders paying</b>	<b>No of hearths</b>	<b>Non-solvants</b>	<b>No of hearths</b>
Robt Hutchinson	1	Michael Munday	1
Lodowick Hall Esqr	8	Wm Hearing	1
Robert Rickerby	2	John Steward	1
Robt Wall	2	Eliz Maltby	1
Jno Jefferson	1	Jane Hunter	1
Christ Pearson	2	Willm Haddby	1
Geo Chandler	1	Robt Hunter	1
Jno Hickson	1	Jane Fishburne	1
Richard Hickson	1	Tho Musgrave	1
Richard Grierson	3	Math Hawell	1
Robt Buckle	1	Ann Morner	1
Humphrey Moorley	1	John Summer	1
Jno Stephenson	1	Robt Kely	1
Lawrence Bracke	7	Gilbert Ware	1
Robt Hutchinson	1	John Sober	1
Geo Ellingson	1	Raphe Whitfield	1
Jno Buckle	1	John Willinson	2
Mich Munday	1	Robt Joblins	2
		Richd Harryson	1
		Jane Richdson	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>		<b>22</b>

<b>Ferryhill: Householders paying</b>	<b>No of hearths</b>	<b>Non-solvants</b>	<b>No of hearths</b>
Robert Hearon	1	Robt Lodge	1
Jno Shaw Gent	6	Robt Key	1
Jno Dunn	2	Tho Blocke	1
Bryan Heavyside	1	Widd Doothfull	1
Robt Dun senior	1	John Richdson	1
Robt Dun junior	1	John Carr	1
Henry Lax	2	John Harow	1
Eliza Rose	1	Richd Richdson	1
Ann Pearson	1	John Newton	1
Robt Richardson	5	Ann Gelson	1
Jno Ferry	1	Wm Laybourow	1
Jno Pearson	1	Ann Watson	1
Jno Lax	5	Wm Gobling	1
Thom Foster	1	John Stodert	1
Ralph Tattum	4	John Luck	1
Jno Bracke	1	Raphe Sweetin	1
Jane Kirkhouse	2		
Jno Brasse	2		
Ralph Darnton	2		
Robt Hickson	4		
John Vacy	2		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>46</b>		<b>16</b>

Totals of households and hearths, Lady Day (25 March) 1666 (*Durham Hearth Tax, Lady Day 1666*, Green *et al.* 2006, cxiv)

<b>MERRINGTON, Darlington South-East Division</b>													
		No. of hearths										Total house holds	Total hearth s
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
<b>Ferryhill</b>	Paying	10	6		2	2	1					21	46
	Non-paying	16										16	16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>					<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Great Chilton</b>	Paying	12	3	1				1	1			18	36
	Non-paying	18	2									20	22
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>38</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Hett</b>	Paying	11	4	1								16	22
	Non-paying	23	1									24	25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>								<b>40</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Kirk Merrington</b>	Paying	17	10	2	1							30	47
	Non-paying	17										17	17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>							<b>47</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Merrington</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>162</b>	<b>231</b>









## - The Ferryhill Village Atlas -

This report on the Ferryhill Village Atlas project, explores the landscape and history of Ferryhill from its geological origins to the present day. Ferryhill has a rich and fascinating heritage, with something to satisfy every interest, whether it is the remains of Iron Age settlements beneath fields of corn and traces of its medieval origins in the modern town centre, the complex industrial history of railways, collieries and quarries, the wetland wonder of the Carrs and flower-rich grasslands of Thrislington Nature Reserve or the fossil evidence of past geological aeons preserved in quarry faces. In sum, as the community enters the 21st century, it is clear that the people of Ferryhill have good cause to be proud of their heritage.

