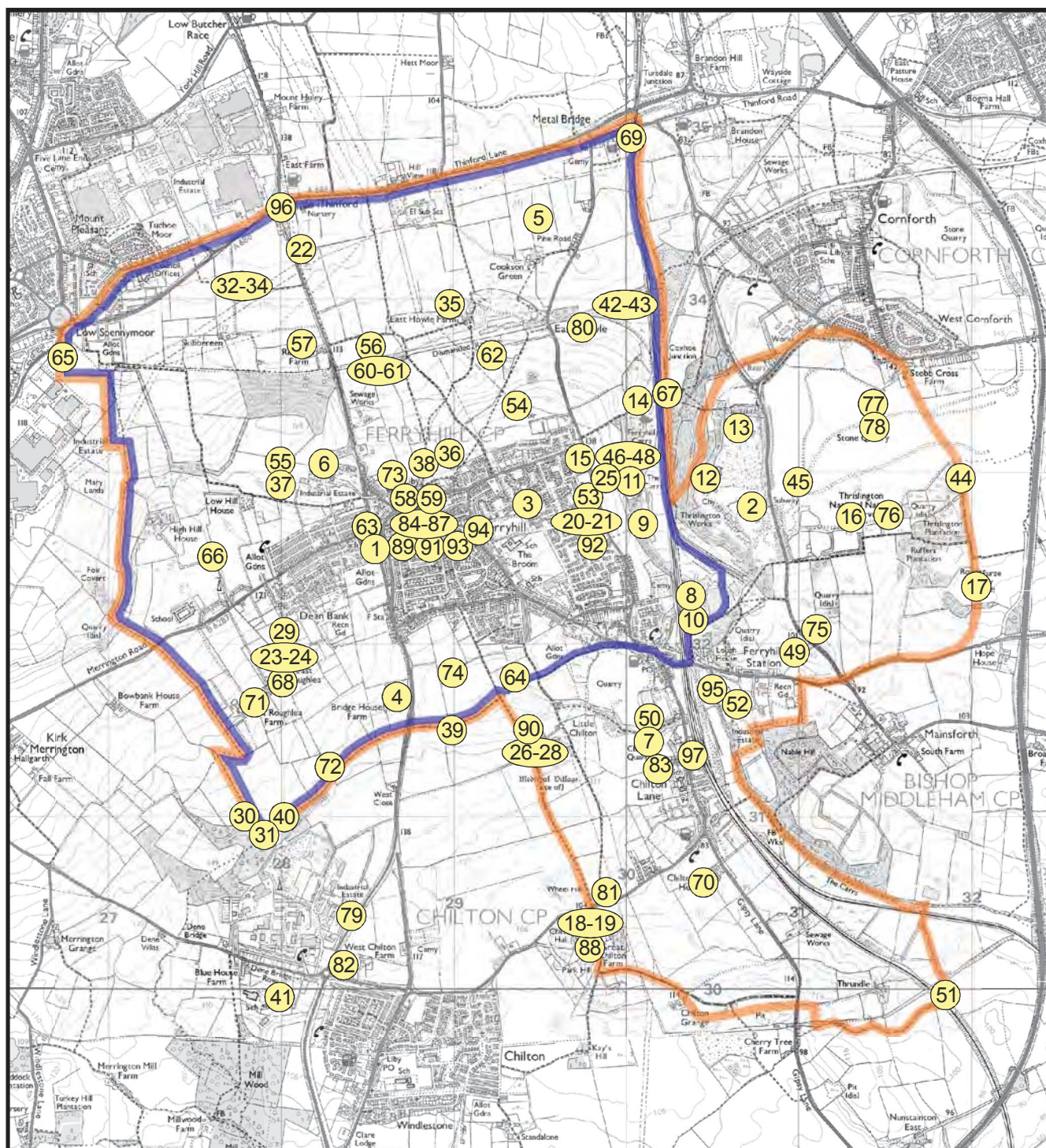# Ferryhill Village Atlas
- Map showing entries from the HER
(Historic Environment Record) -

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0   400   800   1200   1600   2000 m

= Village Atlas Study Area
= Historic Township of Ferryhill

6. CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

6.1 Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Sites

Summary gazetteers listing all the sites of significant cultural heritage interest in the Ferryhill Village Atlas Study Area are set out below with an accompanying location map. These include all the sites falling within the historic township of Ferryhill and in those parts of the townships of Chilton, Thrislington and Mainsforth, to the south and east, which have been incorporated in the present Ferryhill Town Council district. 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	188	Police Station, Ferryhill	Carved bone strip, timber building	Early Medieval	NZ 28620 32664
2	240	Chilton Quarry, Ferryhill	Spear	Prehistoric	NZ 308 328
3	254	Ferryhill Quarry	Inhumation cf. no. 25	Uncertain	NZ 295 329
4	376	Bridge House Farm, Ferryhill,	Rectilinear enclosure and 2 sub-circular features to E	Prehistoric (Iron Age)	NZ 28700 31700
5	412	Thinford, Ferryhill	Findspot	Roman	NZ 29500 34500
6	824	Dean & Chapter Mine	Engine House	Modern	NZ 28200 33100
7	825	Chilton Limeworks	Industrial, Lime Kiln	Post-Medieval	NZ 30100 31400
8	826	Ferryhill	Lime Kiln	Post-Medieval	NZ 30400 32200
9	827	Ferryhill	Lime Kiln	Post-Medieval	NZ 30100 32800
10	1101	Swan House, Ferryhill	Swannery	Medieval	NZ 30410 32290
11	1102	Chapel,Thrislington	Chapel	Medieval	NZ 30 33
12	1103	Thrislington Hall	Manor House	Post-Medieval	NZ 30580 33400
13	1104	Thrislington	Deserted Settlement, Village	Medieval	NZ 30700 33300
14	1105	Thrislington	Road, Trackway		NZ 30170 33400
15	1105	Thrislington	Road, Trackway		NZ 29740 33190
16	1110	Stob Cross Field, Cornforth,	Cist, Spearhead, Burial		NZ 31340 32890
17	1121	Bishop Middleham	AP Site: D-shaped enclosure	Uncertain Prehistoric?	NZ 32100 32300
18	1330	Great Chilton, Chilton,	Shrunken Settlement, Village	Medieval	NZ 29900 30300
19	1332	Chilton Hall	Country House	Post-Medieval	NZ 29710 30280
20	1333	Cleves Cross Platform, Ferryhill	Non Antiquity		NZ 29960 32710
21	1334	Cleves Cross, Ferryhill,	Cross		NZ 29860 32700
22	1337	Andrew Mill's Stob, Ferryhill,	Gibbet	Post-Medieval	NZ 29000 33000
23	1338	Prior's Hallgarth (*curia*), Ferryhill	Priory's demesne farm and hall (Hallgarth)	Medieval	NZ 291 330
24	1339	Chapel of St Nicholas & St Ebbe, Ferryhill	Chapel within the Prior's hallgarth (*curia*)	Medieval	NZ 2905 3295

25	1340	Ferryhill Quarry (cf. 3)	Burials in crevices	Prehistoric?	NZ 29990 33010
26	1341	Little Chilton SMV, Chilton,	Shrunken Settlement, Village	Medieval	NZ 29500 31300
27	1342	Little Chilton Hall, Chilton	Manor House	Medieval	NZ 29500 31430
28	1343	Little Chilton, Chilton	Chapel	Medieval	NZ 29500 31430
29	1344	Coal Pit, Ferryhill	Colliery in village	Medieval	NZ 287 328
30	2135	Kirk Merrington	Flake	Prehistoric	NZ 27890 31070
31	2136	Chilton	Lithic Working Site	Prehistoric	NZ 27940 30980
32	2889	Spennymoor	AP Site (Unclassified)		NZ 27800 34100
33	2890	Spennymoor	AP Site (Unclassified)		NZ 27600 34000
34	2891	Spennymoor	AP Site (Unclassified)		NZ 27800 33700
35	2963	East Howle Colliery, Ferryhill	Colliery		NZ 29 34
36	2964	East Howle Village, Ferryhill	Village		NZ 29 33
37	2965	Dean and Chapter Colliery, Ferryhill,	Colliery		NZ 28000 33000
38	2966	Ferryhill	Lime Kiln		NZ 29000 33000
39	2968	Chilton	Wagonway		NZ 29031 31515
40	2969	Chilton	Wagonway		NZ 28000 31000
41	2971	Chilton Limeworks	Lime Kiln		NZ 28000 30000
42	2981	Thinford Mill, Cornforth	Corn & Paper Mill, Mill Race	C18-C19	NZ 3035 3511; NZ 30 34
43	2982	Ferry Hill Iron works	Foundry		NZ 30000 34000
44	2983	Cornforth	Wagonway		NZ 32000 33000
45	2984	Cornforth	Lime Kiln		NZ 31000 33000
46	2985	Ferryhill	Lime Kiln		NZ 30000 33000
47	2986	Ferryhill	Lime Kiln		NZ 30000 33000
48	2987	Clarence Railway, Ferryhill,	Railway		NZ 30000 33000
49	2990	Bishop Middleham	Wagonway		NZ 31000 32000
50	2991	Chilton Limeworks, Ferryhill Station	Lime Kiln		NZ 30266 31521
51	2994	Clarence Railway, Chilton Branch	Railway	Post-Medieval	NZ 32000 30000
52	3648	Mainsforth	Colliery		NZ 30700 31600
53	3753	Cross Shaft, Cleves Cross, Ferryhill	Cross	Medieval	NZ 29860 32720
54	3800	Ferryhill	Aerial Photograph		NZ 29300 33420
55	3922	Red Hall Farm	Findspot	Roman	NZ 28000 33000
56	3923	Strawberry Lane	Findspot	Roman	NZ 28500 33700
57	3924	N of Red Hall Farm	Axe	Prehistoric	NZ 28100 33800
58	3925	East of Durham Road	Coin	Roman	NZ 28600 32900
59	3926	East of Durham Road	Spindle Whorl	Medieval	NZ 28600 32900
60	3927	Red Hill Farm	Findspot	Medieval	NZ 28500 33700

61	3928	Red Hall Farm	Findspot	Post Medieval	NZ 28500 33700
62	3941	South of East Howle	Scraper	Prehistoric	NZ 29300 33700
63	4376	Ferryhill Village	Village	Medieval etc	NZ 28500 32600
64	4679	Broom Colliery	Colliery	Post-Medieval	NZ 29450 31950
65	5692	Royal Ordnance Factory, Spennymoor	Industrial	Modern	NZ 26700 33700
66	5942	Ferryhill Windmill	Windmill		NZ 27578 32521
67	6325	Thrislington Hall	Non Antiquity, Canal	Roman	NZ 302 334
68	6384	Manor House, Ferryhill	Manor House	Post-Medieval	NZ 28000 32000
69	6385	Tursdale	AP Site (Unclassified)		NZ 30000 35000
70	6702	Chilton East Farmhouse, near Ferryhill Station	Farmhouse		NZ 30510 30678
71	7770	Lime Kilns	Lime Kiln	Uncertain	NZ 27920 31800
72	7778	Ferryhill	Enclosure	Uncertain	NZ 28400 31300
73	8001	Aerial photograph site, Ferryhill	Aerial Photograph	Uncertain	NZ 28760 33080
74	8002	Aerial photograph site near Ferryhill	Aerial Photograph	Uncertain	NZ 29000 31950
75	8013	Aerial photograph site near Mainsforth	Aerial Photograph	Uncertain	NZ 31100 32100
76	8014	Aerial photograph site near Thrislington Quarry	Aerial Photograph	Uncertain	NZ 31600 32800
77	8018	Aerial photograph site near Cornforth	Aerial Photograph	Uncertain	NZ 31400 33550
78	8021	Aerial photograph site near Cornforth	Aerial Photograph	Uncertain	NZ 31220 33300
79	8034	Chilton By-Pass	Unclassified Site	Uncertain	NZ 28320 30610
80	8082	Byers Green railway	Railway	Post-Medieval	NZ 29785 33913
81	15777	N of Great Chilton	Rectilinear enclosures & round houses noted on APs now excavated	Iron Age	NZ 29959 30652
82	34614	Gate Piers, entrance to Recreation Ground, Chilton	Gate Piers	Post-Medieval	NZ 28214 30189
83	34628	Limekilns c.100m south of Haig Street	Lime Kiln (Chilton Limeworks)	Post-Medieval	NZ 30243 31498
84	34629	Church of St. Luke	Chapel, Parish Church	Post-Medieval	NZ 28842 32705
85	34630	Former vicarage of church of St. Luke	Vicarage	Post-Medieval	NZ 28851 32633
86	34631	Manor House, including cottage, and walls attached	Longhouse, House, Sundial	Post-Medieval	NZ 28941 32852
87	34632	Walton memorial c.10m SW of town hall	Commemorative Monument	Post-Medieval	NZ 28800 32812
88	34647	Great Chilton Farm	Farmhouse	C17	NZ 29877 30319
89	34923	War memorial c.20m W of town hall	War Memorial	Modern	NZ 28792 32819

90	34951	Little Chilton farmhouse, mounting block attached	Manor House/ Farmhouse	Medieval	NZ 29502 31436
91	34952	Piers and statue c. 3m & 23m south of Manor House	Garden Ornament, Statue	Post-Medieval	NZ 28944 32842
92	35672	Cleves Cross c. 10m NE of no 28	Cross	Medieval	NZ 29849 32736
93	35674	Gate piers, quadrant walls, gates & overthrow N of St Luke's	Arch, Gate, Gate Pier, Wall	Post-Medieval	NZ 28847 32721
94	35691	Gateway and wall attached south of Manor House	Gate, Wall	Post-Medieval	NZ 28969 32803
95	35945	War memorial and memorial cottage	War Memorial	Modern	NZ 30609 31864
96	36593	The Thinford public house and restaurant	Public House, Restaurant	Post-Medieval	NZ 28054 34602
97	40227	Mainsforth Deserted medieval Village	Deserted Settlement	Medieval	NZ 304 314
98		Tithe barn, Ferryhill	Tithe Barn	Medieval & Early Modern	NZ 2892 3290
99		Coal Pit Garth, Ferryhill	Site of coal mine	Medieval & Early Modern?	NZ 2855 3280
100		Old Hall (site of)	Site of early manorial hall & demesne farm	Late Anglo-Saxon-Norman	NZ 287 328
101		Windmill Piece	Fieldnames – site of windmill	Medieval (pre-1765)	NZ 28 32
102		Upper watermill, East Howle	Site of watermill (later)	Early Modern (in ruins 1765)	NZ 2930 3388
103		Lower watermill, East Howle	Site of watermill (earlier)	Medieval/early Modern	NZ 29 33
104		Old Coal Pit, Pit Field, Ferryhill	Coal Mine	Late 1820s/1830s	NZ 2760 3245
105		Mason's Pit, Chilton Buildings	Coal Mine	c.1830	NZ 2850 2965
106		Wheatsheaf Public House	P.H. (oldest building in Chilton Buildings)	c.1830	NZ 2858 2974
107		Little Chilton Colliery	Coal Mine	c. 1834, 1840s–1865	NZ 3030 3154
108		Chilton Colliery, Dene Bridge Wood	Coal Mine	c. 1833/5 & 1870s-1966	NZ 277 306
109		Lime kilns & quarries near High & Low Hill House	Lime kilns and quarries	C18 and C19	NZ 275 328 NZ 274 329
110		Pickering Nook, quarries & lime kilns	Quarries & lime kilns	Mid-C18-C19	NZ 295 335
111		Goups of Lime Kilns, Ferryhill Station	Lime Kilns W, NW & N of Railway Station	Mid-C19	NZ 3034 3225, 302 320, 302 321
112		Well House Brewery	Brewery and Public House	C19	NZ 2830 3335
113		Ferryhill Station, Clarence Railway etc	Railway station, goods yards & engine shed	1835-1967 (goods-1984+)	NZ 303 319

FERRYHILL VILLAGE ATLAS

– Selection from the Historic Environment Record –

Legend:

- = Prehistoric
- = Romano-British
- = Early Medieval
- = Medieval
- = Post Medieval
- = Multiple Periods

H2982 : Ferryhill, Iron works
Site, slag and tar remains of Ferryhill Iron Works.

H254 and H1340 : Inhumations at Ferryhill
Four human skeletons found during quarrying operations. The bones lay in a rift in the limestone formation. Believed to be, "three adult boys and one female." The skulls are in good condition. Well stratified. These burials were only recorded as a short note in the Proceedings of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries in 1912. Possibly of Bronze-Age origin.

H1110 : Cist, Spearhead and Burial at Stob Cross Field
In July 1822, in Stobcross Field on the Thrislington Estate a workman uncovered at c.18in. below the surface, a cist containing a human skeleton and the nearly 8in. long iron head of a lance or javelin with some wood adhering. A second skeleton with an iron spearhead 7in. long was found 20 yards. to the northwest. Later, 8 or 9 other inhumation burials were found, without grave-goods, around the crown of the field. The graves were not dug east and west, but in various directions. The burials are believed to be pagan Anglo-Saxon. The field is now covered by a housing estate.

H1105 : Medieval Road/Trackway at Thrislington
The paved pathway across the marsh from Thrislington Hall to Ferryhill is mentioned in an agreement of 1262. Perambulation of the area revealed what is probably the remains of the pathway, a track now partly overgrown and used as a footpath. Many large stones are visible on the surface and in some places form a rough paved area. It continues as a covered way with an average width of 7m and with banks on each side up to 2m high. Large stones are visible in the banks. The low ground is crossed by a causeway 10m wide with a maximum height of 1. Large stones are visible on the surface.

H2987 : Ferryhill, Clarence Railway
Bridge abutments and traceable track of 1830 Byers Green Branch of the Clarence Railway.

H1101 : Ferryhill, Swan House
A farmstead at Ferryhill is still called Swan House. The ruins of the Swan House of the Medieval swannery occupy the southeast corner of the hill above the marsh between the Ferryhill-Thrislington and the Ferryhill-Mainsforth roads. It is described as, "a sort of troglodyte building, half practised in the rock." In 1262 the marsh was granted to the Prior and Convent of Durham, probably to increase their swannery. A former two-storey building, it is now in gross disrepair, built into a rock-face. The lower courses of the structure are of stone slabs, the upper of brick of various periods, giving a patchwork appearance. The roof and internal timberings, where remaining, are modern. There are no indications of a chimney, nor of domestic status. The latter use has been as a barn. No dateable architectural feature has been observed.

H4679 : Broom Colliery
This colliery site marked as already disused on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey but not appearing on 1st Edition. Visible earthworks now apparently used as pasture. A wagonway appears to have lead south, and joined the mineral railway running east to Ferryhill Station. Two shafts were sunk, both 8 ft wide - one at NZ 29355 31986 (186 ft deep), and one at NZ 29845 31962 (141 ft deep). Broom Cottages, to the north of the site, may well have been connected to the mine.

H3923 : Roman Pottery at Strawberry Lane
A large mortarium sherd was found on a track known as Strawberry Lane.

H412 : Roman Pottery at Thinford
A Scatter of Roman pottery.

H1337 : Ferryhill, Andrew Mill's Stob
"About half a mile north of Ferryhill, a portion of a gibbet remained on what was common by the roadside. The spot is now ploughed and enclosed". It is named after a youth executed for murder in 1683

H15777 : Enclosure, Great Chilton
(Site of Community-Based Archaeological Excavation). An aerial photograph shows a number of rectilinear enclosures including a large enclosure and a smaller one inside, which could be Iron Age or Roman. There is also two small circular enclosures inside.

H1330 : Medieval Village Site, Great Chilton
The probable remains of a deserted Medieval village. The earthworks (maximum height 0.5m) consist of low, wide banks dividing the land into plots, some of which contain rigg and furrow. There is no definite trace of buildings but the broken ground at grid reference NZ29953032, and irregularly shaped platforms and small level areas in other places, suggest building steadings. No reason has been discovered for the depopulation, or information regarding date. No existing building shows any trace of antiquity. A confusing andinchoate site.

H3922 : Roman Brooch at Red Hall Farm
Metal detector find of a Roman Trumpet Brooch.

H3927 : Spindle Whorl at Red Hall Farm
Medieval lead spindle whorl found by metal detectorist.

H3928 : Post Medieval Coins at Red Hall Farm
Metal detector find of coins of James I, quantity unknown.

Finds from the East of Durham Road:
H3925 : Roman Coin
Copper alloy coin.
H3926 : Spindle Whorl
Medieval lead spindle whorl

H376 : An Enclosure at Ferryhill, Bridge House
Rectilinear ditched enclosure. The source also identifies one or possibly two circular features east of the main road. The site is most likely to be a farmstead of the late Iron-Age or Romano-British period within a ditched enclosure.

H1342 : Chilton, Little Chilton
The old manor house of Little Chilton stands on ground that slopes gently eastward towards the Skerne valley. The house did not arouse any antiquarian interest prior to the re-listing survey of the 1980s, when it was recognised as a medieval building. Although we do known that it is mentioned in 1271, and in 1619 when the house passed from the Emersons to Edward Cropley.
Little Chilton is clearly a medieval house, doubtless with a wealth of features concealed beneath its external roughcast and internal plaster and stoothing. Its date remains uncertain; the arch of the main doorway might indicate a 13th or 14th century date, and the truncated principal roof (and hall ceiling beams) a remodelling in the later 15th or even early 16th century; dendrochronology could help here.

H2136 : Chilton, Lithic Working Site
Small, later Mesolithic flint scatter including two delicate end scrapers and a core trimmer. Retained by the landowner. It also includes waste material.

H240 : Bronze Spear at Chilton Quarry
A bronze socketed spear head discovered in Cleveland in soil brought from either Chilton Quarries or Redworth, Middridge. Soil analysis locates it at the former. An ogival spearhead with socket loops dated to 1600-1800 BC.

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Scale: 0 400 800 1200 1600 2000 m

— = Village Atlas Study Area
— = Historic Township of Ferryhill

FERRYHILL VILLAGE CORE
– Selection from the Historic Environment Record –

H1338 : Ferryhill Courthouse

"The Convent of Durham had a Court House at Ferryhill at an early date. Henry de Ferry assigned 14s, etc, for the support of one chaplain celebrating in the Chapel of St. Nicholas and St. Ebbe, in Ferie, within the Courthouse of the Prior,' resigned 1258.

H1334 : Cleves Cross, Medieval Cross

"An old grey stone, said to be the remains of a cross, is on the height of a hill near the farm of Cleves-Cross. It previously stood mounted on some large rude limestones, but when the ground was tilled it was removed to its position in the hedge near the farmhouse and next to the lane." The stone forms part of the coping of a wall. The fragment is 0.9m long and roughly square in section with sides of 25cm. The stone is badly weathered, and some crude tooling is the only sign of workmanship. The original site is not known.

H35672 : (Revised entry)

Fragments of medieval cross, set in ground near original site. Sandstone; c 1 metre high and 0.3 metre square, roughly shaped and with pecked marks. Plaque in wall to west records 'The large stone mounted on this site formed part of the CLEEVES CROSS where by tradition THE BRAWN OF BRANCEPETH was killed by Roger de Fery about the year 1200 AD'. (Brawn = boar).

H34631 : Manor house, including cottage, and walls

House, probably originally a long house. Late C16/early C17 with later C17 and C19 alterations. Occupied by Arrowsmiths in 1834, and by Shaws before them. Painted render with painted ashlar dressings; part boulder, part sandstone block plinth. Roof pantiles with stone gable copings and brick-banded rendered chimneys. L-plan. Rubble wall attached to rear wing; stone- coped wall breaks forward from front. 2 storeys, 7 bays. 4-bay house at right originally separated by passage from lower down-house of 2 bays; down-house raised in C17; windows and stair altered in C19. Glazed door in third bay in chamfered, flat-Tudor-arched surround; long paired sashes on ground floor in first 2 bays, 2 wider sashes above these and door, and slightly shorter sashes grouped 2:1:1 in right part, all with late C19 glazing and projecting stone sills. Plinth to right of door only, with blocks in 2 bays to right of door and rough boulders beyond, interrupted by grated opening. Roof has raised gable copings, with curved kneelers at front, fading into stepped stacks with old brick bands.

H34629 : The Parish Church of St. Luke.

Dating to 1853 by G. Pickering; 1851 decision to replace 1820 chapel by Bonomi. Coursed limestone rubble with sandstone ashlar dressings, plinth and quoins; Welsh slate roof with stone gable copings and stone ridge. Nave with north porch; chancel with north vestry. Early English style. Steeply-gabled porch has boarded door with elaborate hinges in deep moulded surround with head-stopped dripmould. 4-bay nave has lancets, paired in second- bay from east, and plate tracery in 2-light window in east bay on north, and in westernmost bay on south; cusped lancets in set-back chancel, stepped in east elevation, and tracery in west bay on south. High gabled west belcote with central buttress. Coped buttresses in nave, gabled angle buttresses to chancel. Small stone turret at junction of vestry and chancel roofs. Interior shows painted plaster above boarded dado; wall-posts (stone-corbelled, and longer between windows), support arch-braced collars with struts to principal rafters, and short king posts. Double-chamfered chancel arch, the inner on nail-head-patterned shafts on head corbels. Rereaches to chancel windows. 1952 west gallery with organ. Glass includes 1953 L.C. Evetts east windows. Gothic-style carved wood altar with symbols of Passion in front panels. Octagonal stone pedestal font with single blank shield, and wrought iron straps on wood cover. Roll-moulded squared ends on pews. South nave wall monument to members of Tiplady family, died 1789 and 1809: marble with pilasters and fret panel below cornice; transferred from earlier chapel.

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H2965 : Ferryhill, Dean and Chapter Colliery

The site and buildings of the Dean and Chapter Colliery visible. It is now demolished and the area landscaped.

H824 : Ferryhill Engine House

At the Dean and Chapter Colliery was the Number 1 Steam Shaft Winder, a twin horizontal winder built by Markham of Chesterfield and erected in 1902. The cylinders were of 32 in diameter x 72 in stroke. The winding drum was 44 ft diameter. The whole was in excellent condition but has recently been demolished and the site cleared.

H188 : Viking find at Ferryhill Police Station

During building work for a new police station in 1982, post holes and beam trenches were revealed. Within a pit on the site a number of fragments of bone were found including one finely carved and worked piece in two fragments. The style of carving is characteristic of Viking age art of the 10th century. It is likely that the strip was Anglo-Scandanavian originally carved to form part of an ornate box composed of decorated bone strip similar strips rivetted together.
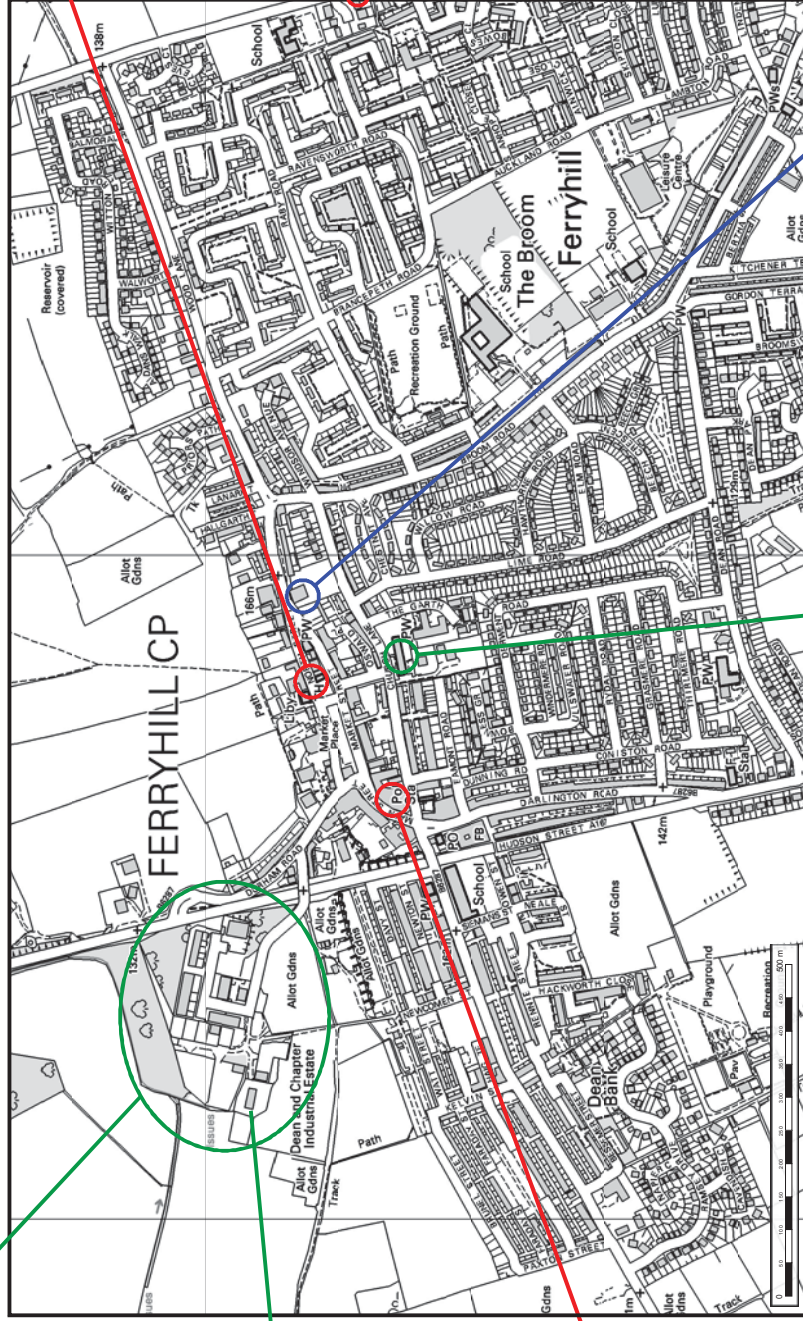
H4376 : Ferryhill - The history of the village from medieval times to modern day:

Ferryhill was referred to as Feregenne in Cartularium saxonicum in 1256 and seems to mean 'wooded hill'. Another translation put forward for the name is related to the 13th Century, Sir Roger De Ferry (or Ferie), who killed the last wild boar near Cleves Cross. The village may well be older than this as remains of timber framed buildings and late Anglo-Saxon carved bone-work have been found to one side of the village green (see SMR188). Before the Reformation, Ferryhill was the property of the Priory of Durham, and became a thriving agricultural community. After the Reformation the land transferred to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral. In 1599 the plague reached Ferryhill and 26 people died. A railway was constructed in1840 and a blast furnace was built in the 1850's. Coal mining increased substantially when a shaft was sunk 1902, this (the Dean and Chapter Colliery) became the main employer of the local inhabitants. When Mainsforth Colliery shaft was sunk in 1904, the population rose again as colliery houses were built to accommodate the ever increasing population.

Key-Map Showing Location of Historic Building Tours in Ferryhill

SE of The Broom
(Buildings 1-3)

Ferryhill Village Core
(Buildings 4-18)

Dean Bank
(Buildings 19-23)

FERRYHILL CP

Ferryhill

The Broom

0   200   400   600   800   1000 m

View of Historic Buildings in Ferryhill Village Core

Ferryhill Methodist Church

The Manor House

Chapel Terrace – C18 Kneelers

St. Luke's Church

The Old Hall

No 33 North Street

The Town Hall

WWI Memorial

Village Farm

Durham Road – Late C18th Terrace

The White Horse PH

C18th Building at the Police Station

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0   40   80   120   160   200 m

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 in Ferryhill. The tours focussed on the historic village centre of Ferryhill, the core of the township in terms of historic settlement, and the area of Dean Bank immediately to the west, which was developed at the beginning of the 20th century in association with the establishment of Dean Bank Colliery. It preserves an important group of contemporary public buildings (all of 1907) which demonstrates the range of facilities that a pit village of the period might be provided with. Short descriptions of the buildings examined during the walks are set out below keyed to an illustrated maps showing the location and appearance of the various buildings.

In addition longer sections on the history and architecture of certain selected buildings in Chilton which were visited in a further guided walk are also included below. Other buildings of interest are included in the photographic sections.

7.2 The Itineraries

7.2.1   The buildings of Ferryhill village core
In the fork of Linden Road and Station Road the **Church of St Martha and St Mary** is now Lazarus House, a funeral parlour; it is said to have been built in 1940 by Canon Lomax[1] but a church here first appears on the 3rd edition OS (c. 1920) ;brick built, Italianate style. On the south side of Station Road opposite the more recent and utilitarian **Kingdom Hall** of the Jehovah's Witnesses, windowless, its only notable feature a stone-built panel in the form of an embattled watchtower against the gabled end wall.

On the corner of Dean Road and Gordon Terrace, set with its north gable onto Dean Road, the former **Primitive Methodist Church** of 1927, in a free Gothic style built in orange brick (English Garden Wall Bond 1&5) with ashlar dressings. The gabled front, facing Dean Road on the north, has a shallow porch with an elliptical arch and the date in monogram form above, below a large window, and a gable panel with terracotta floral panels; on either side smaller lancet windows light former lobbies. The main body of the building, articulated by stepped buttresses has large segmental-arched windows, altered when the building was converted to a house and dormer windows inserted above. Below the windows are ashlar panels, as if for donors' names but left uninscribed. The south (liturgical east) end has a lower 'sanctuary' with an oculus window in the gable above.

The Manor House
Now a hotel, on the south side of the main street at the east end of the former green. The building has an inverted T-plan, the main range facing south (away from the road) with a long wing on the north, that has 20th-century extensions on its east side. The earliest documentary reference relating to the house may be the 1603 purchase by Lawrence Wilkinson of land corresponding to its later estate. In 1642 it was sold to John Shawe, whose family held it until c. 1700, whereupon it passed through various hands, in the 19th century being held by the Arrowsmiths, known as innovative farmers. By 1885 the estate had been sold off, and in 1891 the house was occupied by Henry Palmer, agent and manager of East

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[1]http://www.stlukeferryhill.btck.co.uk/ChurchHistory

Howle Colliery; in 1913 Canon Lomax had it converted into an orphanage, but it soon returned to private domestic use, until 1989 when it became a small hotel and restaurant.

The main east-west range, now rendered and whitewashed, appears to have begun as a traditional vernacular long house, with its cross-passage in the second bay from the west, which has doorways with flattened Tudor arches externally and into the main living room. The present windows are largely of 18th- and 19th-century date; some in the rear wing have some attractive Georgian Gothic detail. At the north end of the west wall of the wing is a worn 18th-century sundial with the motto 'Lux umbra Dei'. The downhouse is originally thought to have been lower than the main block, but was later raised to two full storeys, retains a blocked two-light mullioned window on the north, now a cupboard behind late 17th-century fielded panelling, which is thought to have been re-used from elsewhere. The two ground floor rooms of the main house are now thrown into one, but retain old beams, and fireplaces against each end wall; there is another good 17th-century fireplace upstairs. The roof of the main block is of four bays, with collared principal rafter trusses, but there are upper crucks over the downhouse, and over part of the rear wing.

In the garden on the south of the house are three pairs of late 17th/early 18th-century gate piers, the southernmost carrying damaged statues of Cupid and a boy carrying a (?) gourd.

The south wall of the garden fronts onto Church Lane and contains a **Gateway**, above which is gable with kneelers (one still carrying a ball finial), a worn sundial and a renewed stone inscribed:

<div align="center">

SIC SITI LAETANTUR LARES
How happily seated those lares are
Who feed on Prospect and fresh air
Dine moderately every day
And walk their Supper time away

</div>

The Old Hall
Opposite the Manor House on the north side of the main road is the **Rowlandson Masonic Lodge,** with a street frontage of early 20th-century character, but there are grounds for considering that parts of the property, including the Masonic Hall, which projects from the rear elevation, retain 18th-century fabric from the Old Hall, which in the mid-18th century was the home of a Mr Boulby for which Joseph Spense, canon of Durham and a celebrated landscape architect, designed a garden, the plans for which survive. It is not known whether the project was ever completed, but the dimensions for the planned garden tally closely with the plot of land behind the Old Hall.

No 33 North Street
The old house attached to the west end of the Masonic Hall has a doorway of 17th- or early 18th-century form, but as with Village Farm it looks as if the front wall may have been rebuilt. The end walls both reduced in thickness at mid height, suggesting the survival of early fabric; this is another house that might be worthy of detailed investigation.

Village Farm
An old farmhouse with a central Tudor-arched chamfered doorway, 17th- or even 16th-century in form, but with the incised inscription

<div align="center">

B
I:E
1729

</div>

The Manor House, Market Street, Ferryhill

THE MANOR HOUSE FERRYHILL

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

The Manor House in 1902. John Dinning, FHS, 2014. Note pillars closer to house.

Cherub sculptures on columns seen in 1989

Columns with sculptures replaced

Remains of a kitchen range uncovered during renovations to Dr. Brown's fireplace in 1989.

Bread oven found during work in 1989

Removal of this Victorian bedroom fireplace revealed an early C17th fireplace behind (right)

Restored C16/C17 fireplaces in the bar

Original beams exposed in the bar area

Jacobean staircase leading from the attics (1989)

1989 images courtesy of Ferryhill History Society (FHS)

The Manor House, Market Street, Ferryhill

Gateway through the Manor House garden

Inscription above gateway to the Manor House garden

Gateway through the Manor House garden

Earthworks visible in the Manor House gardens
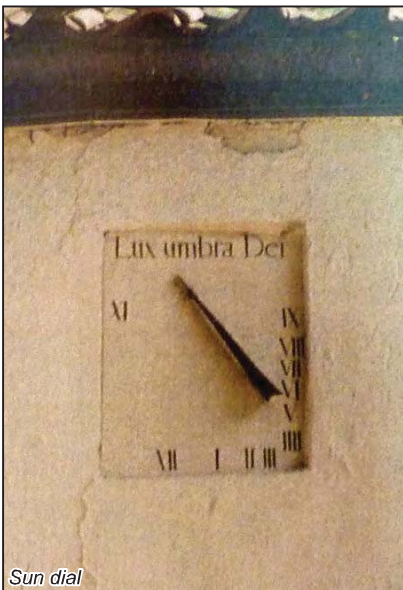
Sun dial

Exterior view, north side of the Manor House

on the head. The front wall itself, with large windows, looks as if it might have been rebuilt; the west gable end, with a projecting chimney stack, is rendered. A range of old farm buildings is set back to the west, with a brick-arched window in its south gable end, but has no real dating evidence.

Durham Road…
On the eastside of Durham Road at its south end, i.e. on the frontage that formed the west end of the original village green, are three properties – Ferryhill Off Licence, Boots and Evans and Co Solicitors, which form a three-storied terrace of late 18th- or early 19th-century character; the large windows to the upper floors – all with 20th-century glazing – have wedge lintels.

Methodist Church
Ferryhill Methodist Church stands at the east end of an island site at the east end of the former village green, between North Street and Chapel Terrace (on the south). Built in 1909 by the Primitive Methodists, on the site of an earlier and smaller building (which appears between the c.1860 and c.1896 editions of the Ordnance Survey) it is a building of orange brick, laid in English Garden Wall Bond 1 & 3, with ashlar dressings, in a simple Gothic style. The main church building has a gable front to the east and a shallow projecting porch with a four-centred arch; to the l. is a small octagonal turret, and then the side elevation of a pair of two-storeyed wings which front onto Chapel Terrace; the side wall has a series of stones with donors names, and adjacent to that an area of bricks with incised initials. The main church has a five-bay north elevation with a round window in the western bay, and a small 'sanctuary' flanked by flat-roofed single-storey sections.

The Town Hall
Occupying the western part of the island site at the east end of the former green, this is a fairly humble building of 1867, of two storeys and whitewashed; fronted by a garden, it has a central doorway with two windows on either side, but only three larger windows at first floor level, and a steep central gablet containing a clock; there is some minimal Gothic detail in the slightly shoulder arches and stop-chamfered lintels and the stepped hood mould over the door. Old photographs show the walls as exposed limestone rubble, and a tall louvred spirelet on the centre of the roof. In the front garden are a **World War I memorial** of granite topped by a marble statue of a Durham Light Infantryman, and on the south side a sandstone **memorial** inscribed:

'ERECTED

BY THE

OFFICIALS AND WORKMEN

OF THE DEAN AND CHAPTER COLLIERY

To the Memory

OF THE LATE

WILLIAM WALTON

(OVERMAN)

WHO SACRIFICED HIS LIFE
IN

SAVING THE LIVES

On the south side of the former Green (Market Street) is the **White Horse** public house, which faces west onto an un-named lane running south to Church Street; another rendered and whitewashed building, its proportions suggest a late 18th- or early 19th-century date although its earliest external features are a hundred years later. Further east, to the east of Church Road (where Market Street becomes Chapel Terrace) are a row of much-altered properties where a steeper-than-average roof and a couple of moulded kneelers again suggest the survival of 18th-century fabric.

At the west end of Church Lane the Police Station buildings, on the south, include a north-south block built of coursed and roughly-squared limestone, without any cut quoins or dressings, which now has a Welsh slate roof. It may again be of 18th-century date.

St Luke's Church
The present parish church, was built in 1853 to replace the 1829 chapel by Bonomi which stood where the Town Hall now stands; it was designed by G. Pickering and is a building of coursed limestone rubble with sandstone ashlar dressings, and a Welsh slate roof. A simple building in a broadly 13th-century style, with lancet and plate-tracery windows, it consists of a four-bay nave and a chancel, with a north porch and a north-east vestry. The porch has a moulded and trefoiled doorway; the four-bay nave is articulated by stepped and gabled buttresses and has a tall bellcote above a central bellcote at the west end, now covered by a 1984 church hall. The east end of the chancel has chancel has diagonal buttresses and a stepped triplet of lancets, and the south wall a trefoiled priest's door, now blocked. The interior is typical of the period, with painted plaster walls above a boarded dado, and wallshafts carrying trusses with arch-braced collars, and a double-chamfered chancel arch, its inner order carried on shafts rising from head corbels. The west gallery is of 1952. The oldest monument, to members of the Tiplady family (who died in 1789 and 1809) was brought from the 1820 chapel.

The Old Vicarage
The former vicarage, now a private house, is set back to the south of the church, and was built seven years earlier, in 1846, of coursed squared sandstone with ashlar quoins and dressings, and a Welsh slate roof. Elizabethan style, with a Tudor-arched moulded doorway to the porch on the west side, and mullioned windows, those on the ground floor with transoms as well. There is a projecting gabled bay at the east end of the south front with a canted two-storey bay window. Some shaped gables with heir kneelers carrying obelisk finials.

7.2.2   Dean Bank
Dean Bank is a development of Ferryhill on the west side of the north-south cutting that now carries the A167 (formerly the Great North Road); the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1895 shows the area still as open fields the 3rd edition of c. 1920 depicts an extensive built-up area associated with the establishment of Dean Bank Colliery; the cluster of attractive public buildings one encounters immediately beyond the bridge over the cutting are all of 1907.

The former **Baptist Church** (now a community centre) is roughcast above lower walls of orange brick and an ashlar plinth; the main body is a north-south gabled hall with a big Venetian window between two broad pilasters topped by pedimented ashlar panels with big

View of Historic Buildings in Dean Bank, Ferryhill

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View of Historic Buildings SE of The Broom, Ferryhill

© Crown Copyright 2015 Ordnance Survey 100044772
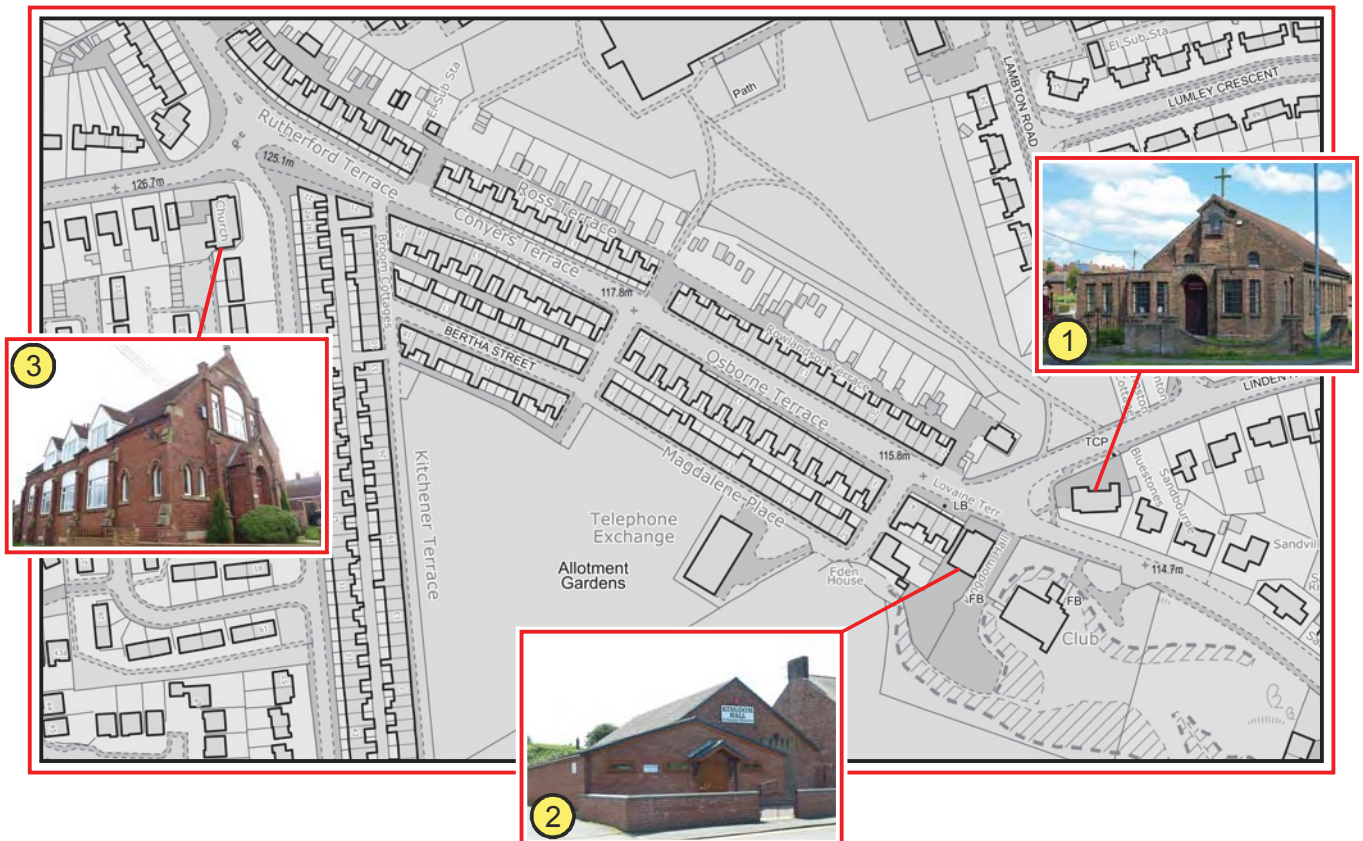
Ferryhill Station & Chilton Lane

Two views of Ferryhill Station Primary School. First opened in 1876 as Ferryhill Station Mixed School, the surviving buildings date to 1909 when the [   ] Infants School was added.

The Ferryhill Station branch of the Bishop Auckland Coop on Chilton Lane. Inset: its decorative roof cupola.

The back lane still surfaced with stone setts behind the former coop on Chilton Lane.

The centre of Ferryhill Station with the Eldon Public House in the centre and the ex-Mainsforth Colliery Welfare Institute up the hill to the right.

Mainsforth Colliery Welfare Institute, now Mainsforth and District Community Centre. The Commercial Hotel can be seen below to the right.

Looking east along High Street. The medieval road from Ferryhill crossed the Carrs here on a causeway-dam. From 1834 to 1876 a level crossing traversed the railway tracks.

Above: Heather House. Inset: Councillor John Lamb's memorial, 1910.

scrolled brackets, whilst to the east is a single-storeyed flat-roofed block of irregular plan including a semi-octagonal porch, and having a top cornice carrying a series of ball finials. Note also the brick-built former **Ferryhill Police Station**, now a house, on the west side of the Baptist Church.

On the north side of the road to the west of the former Baptist Church the **Dean Bank and Ferryhill Village Literary and Social Institute** proudly proclaims its title from a terracotta plaque over the arched entry in the tower at the r. end of the street front, with a pedimented window above and a '1907' date plaque on the parapet; built in orange brick (English Garden Wall Bond 1 & 3) with ashlar bands and mixed terracotta and ashlar detailing, it is an attractive building with some quirky detail. The single-storeyed central section of the surviving frontage has two canted bays with a round-arched window between, then the l. end is in the form of a two-storeyed gable with an off-centre ashlar doorcase with jambs of alternating half-columns and blocks, and a pulvinated frieze on big brackets. On the site of the present car park, a balancing, though not identical east wing, demolished in 1999, housed a cinema, The Majestic. Built with mineworkers' funds in 1906/7 and handed over 'in trust' to the people of Ferryhill to be used for community purposes, the Institute was refurbished in 2000, having steadily become more and more dilapidated over the period following the closure of Dean and Chapter Colliery in 1966.

On the opposite (south) side of St Cuthbert's Terrace are **the Boys and Girls' Schools**, also of 1907, again of brick – brown brick with bright orange for the segmental window heads with terracotta detailing, primarily to the range of five gables fronting onto the main street. The boys' entrance is at the east end, and the girls' as far from it as can be, at the south end of the Siemen's Street elevation on the west, and each has a terracotta plaque with the date and arms of Durham County Council.

On the west side of Siemens Street opposite the school is the former **Zion Methodist Church**, yet again of 1907, its exterior a mixture of brick, with rusticated pilasters, and roughcast, with the motif of a big Venetian window seen in the Baptist Chapel and Schools appearing again in the main east-facing gable end. The windows in the side walls are semicircular lunettes; the east end has the usual array of inscribed foundation stones.

7.3 Buildings of Chilton

7.3.1 Chilton Hall
A large but much altered house standing on a medieval site, now rendered and whitewashed, with the loss of virtually all its chimneys. Now an E-plan building with its main front facing west of 2.1.2 bays with a central Tuscan porch and large window openings of 18th-century proportions, a segmental two-storey bow window on the south return and hip-ended roofs; at the back three gabled wings; some big round-arched windows and the odd oversailing upper portion of the south return of the northern wing hint at earlier fabric, but well-disguised.

7.3.2 Great Chilton Farm
A substantial 17th-century and later farmhouse, now roughcast and painted. The main block, facing south, is of three storeys and two side bays, with large windows to the lower floors but much smaller ones tucked under the eaves above; the roof is now Welsh slate but the raised gable copings on moulded kneelers, and the massive end stacks, are from the original building. At the back is a two-storeyed outshut on either side of a gabled stair wing; here is a later two-storeyed wing, again with an outshut, to the east. Inside are two Tudor-arched fireplaces, the smaller brought down from a first-floor room, and a large panelled and corniced 17th-century fire surround imported from Gloucestershire.

To the north of the house are a group of planned farm buildings, all of limestone rubble and of early to mid-19th-century character, now converted into domestic use.

7.3.3 Little Chilton

Description
The old manor house of Little Chilton (NZ 295314) stands 1.5 km south of Ferryhill, and 8·00 m east of the A167, on ground that slopes gently eastward towards the Skerne valley.

The house does not seem to have aroused any antiquarian interest prior to the re-listing survey of the 1980s, when it was recognised as a medieval building.

The house consists of a two-storeyed block 22.5 by 7.5 m externally, set approximately north-south, with a wing 6.5 m long and 4.8 m wide set centrally on the west (rear) elevation, with a broader 19th-century wing to the south, and an outshut to the north. The walls of the main body of the house are c 1.0 m thick, and of the old wing c 0.80 m. The entire exterior of the building is roughcast; the only pre-19th century feature visible is the outline of a Gothic arch, through the render, above the front door.

This door is set north-of-centre on the east front, and leads into a cross-passage behind the hall stack, with a much-modernised kitchen to the north. The hall has old ceiling timbers, with chamfered beams and stop-chamfered joists. A recess in the south wall of the cross passage on the east of the hall stack may be an early staircase position. There is a second cross passage to the south of the hall; the southern room (parlour) has an old ceiling, but of plainer timbers, and a modern fireplace replacing an older one in the same position that had a timber bressumer.

At first floor level; the bedroom over the hall has a recently-exposed fireplace of 16th- or 17th-century character, that has had a flattened triangular head within a square frame, cut out square at some later date. At the north end of the house at this level a small bathroom is set within the thickness of the north end wall, at its west end, possibly occupying the position of an early garderobe.

Both the main block and old wing retain their medieval roofs. The main block roof is of eight

bays, with the hall stack occupying most of the fifth (from the south end). The trusses are of the truncated principal type, but with upper king-posts. These are now jowelled on one side only, with a cut-out (secondary?) now carrying a later ridge board; empty mortices show that there have been braces to the original ridge. There have originally been two levels of purlins, the upper carried on the ends of the collar. The second and sixth trusses have evidence of infill, whilst the fifth has a cut out, neatly chamfered round, to facilitate access alongside the hall stack. The attic is partly boarded out with very broad ancient floorboards, now in poor condition.

The wing has had a roof of three irregular bays; the trusses have each had a pair of very broad raking struts, trapping the purlins against the lower side of the rafters; the original rafters have been removed, but their position is indicated by the tenons on the ends of the struts.

Discussion
Little Chilton is clearly a medieval house, doubtless with a wealth of features concealed beneath its external roughcast and internal plaster and stoothing. Its date remains uncertain; the arch of the main doorway might indicate a 13th- or 14th-century date, and the truncated principal roof (and hall ceiling beams) a remodelling in the later 15th or even early 16th century; dendrochronology could help here.

There is no indication that this was ever a fortified house, although the possibility cannot be ruled out. The house stands in a large almost square garden, which has not changed shape since the first edition OS 6":1 mile map of c. 1860; it is possible that this could be an early enclosure, and there are certainly footings of a substantial stone wall beneath the fence that now forms the northern boundary. Otherwise there is nothing of pre-18th century date; an old wall joining the south-west corner of the house extends south towards some farm buildings that are probably of 18th- or early 19th-century date; the 1st edition OS shows these as a continuous range abutting on the house. A little to the north of the house, just within the northern boundary fence, there is an earthwork feature that may indicate buried foundations of some substantial structure. In the field to the south of the farm there are the earthworks of the village or hamlet community (*vill*) of Little Chilton (*Chilton Parva*) mentioned in medieval documents.

Great Chilton Hall

Facade of Great Chilton Hall

Rear of Great Chilton Hall
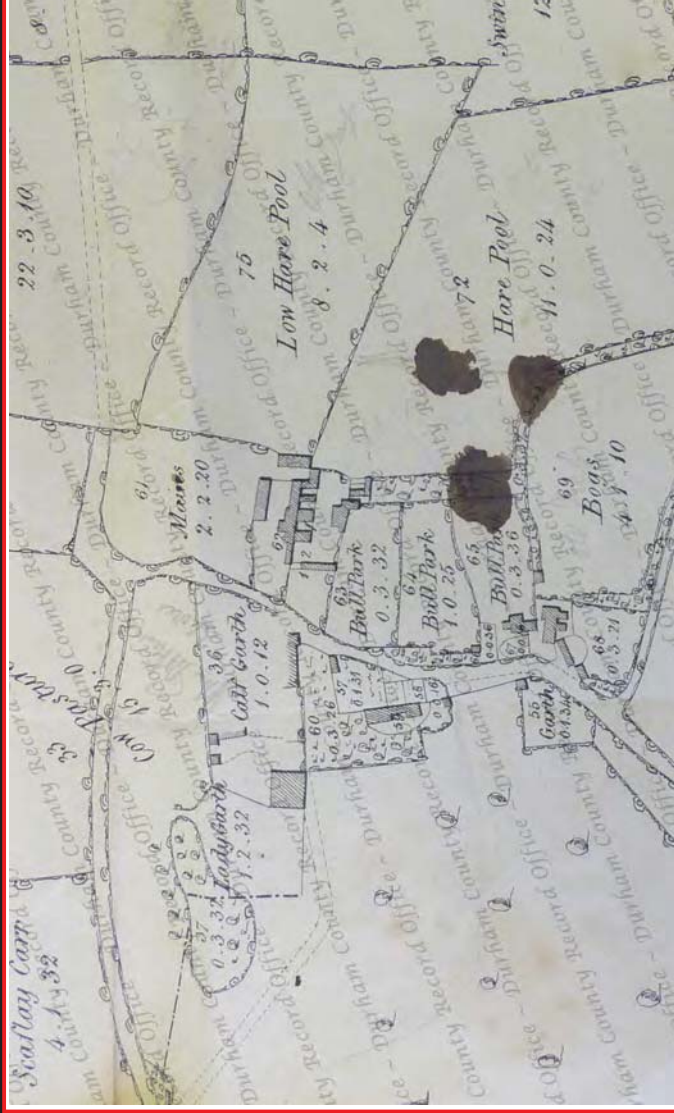
Extract from an 1834 Great Chilton estate plan (Durham County Record Office D/El 15/100), reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.

Entrance to Great Chilton Hall

Tree lined drive to Great Chilton Hall.

Pond below drive to Great Chilton Hall.

Lampost in hall grounds.

Lodge and drive to Great Chilton Hall.

Great Chilton Farm

Rear of the house from the north-east

Rear of the house from the WNW

The site of Great Chilton from the south

Note the stepped chimney - showing off the wealth of the 17th century farmer

General view from the south

The historic core of the 17th century farmhouse, from the south

Detail of unusual quoins used in an outbuilding to the west of the farm

Little Chilton Hall

LITTLE CHILTON
Survey 26 1 06 P F Ryder

0   5m   N

Extent of medieval house
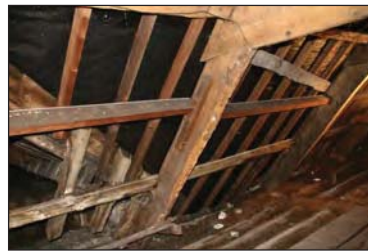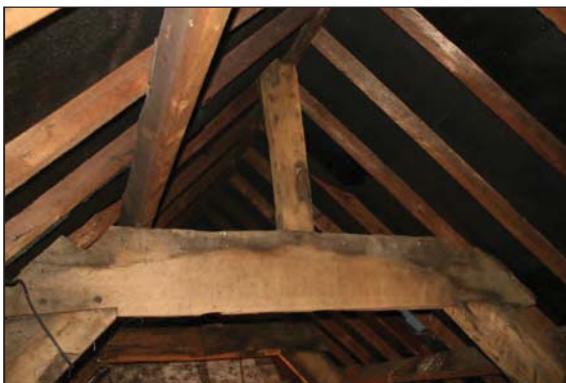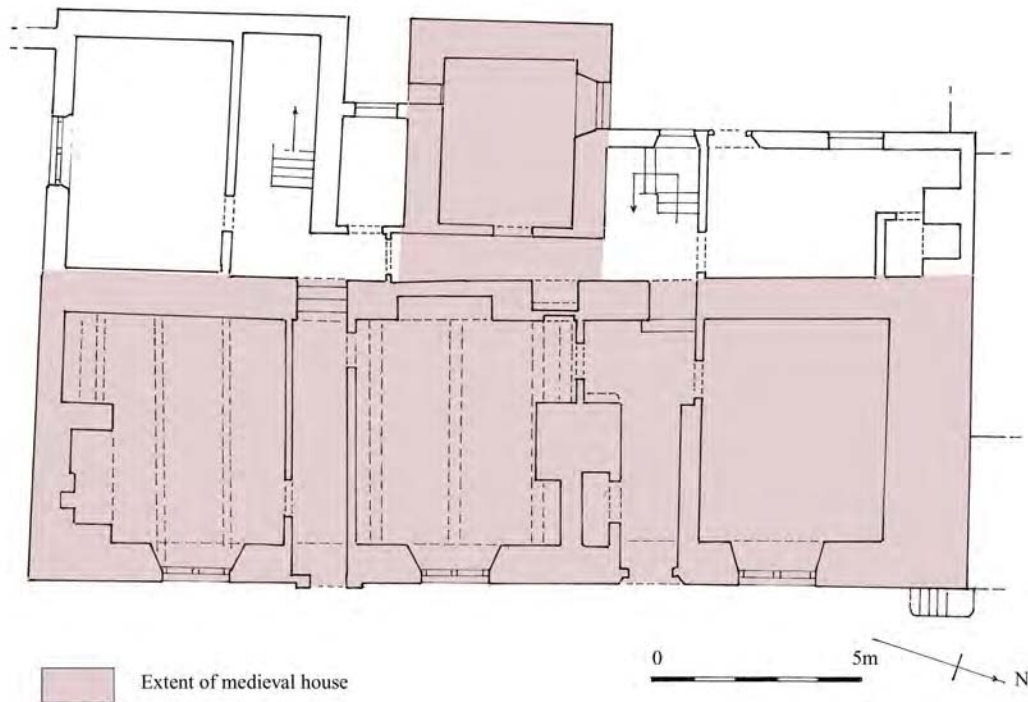
Large medieval roof timbers over the hall

Detail of an unusual window type in one of the C19 outbuildings

General view of Little Chilton Hall from the south-east

View of Little Chilton from NNE

8. COMMUNITIES AND SETTLEMENTS

8.1   Introduction: What is a Community?

Community is a much used word today. It has become a catch-all term for almost any grouping with some shared characteristic. Thus, in addition to communities of place, which notionally encompass all the inhabitants of a particular settlement, we encounter communities defined by ethnicity or race, by religious belief and practice, by gender or sexual orientation, and by professional or industrial association, what we might term 'conceptual communities'. In undertaking a study of Ferryhill, however, it is the community of place which we are primarily concerned with. The following chapter sets out the different ways that such communities were defined, particularly in a territorial sense, in the past.

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. 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, on regulated access to common resources, such as moorland grazing, as well as on ties of neighbourliness.

Today a village community will 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 the wider 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 Ferryhill 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.

With mental images and impressions of settlement norms which are largely derived from southern and central England – 'chocolate box' photographs of ancient parish churches nestling in picturesque honey-coloured Cotswold villages for instance – we now tend, almost unconsciously, to consider a church as being synonymous with a village and assume every such settlement was the centre of a parish. However this is far from being the case in 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. Merrington parish, which incorporated Ferryhill and Chilton, probably once contained a total of 6 medieval vill or township communities, not a unusual number for a parish in North-East England.[2] 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 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 Merrington parish, Durham Priory already possessed the constituent vills of Ferryhill, Hett and East (Kirk) Merrington when they first emerge in the documentary record and appears to have been the founder of the church by the mid-12th century (DCD 3.1.Reg.1; printed in *FPD*, Appendix no. II, pp. lxxxiii-lxxxvi) and would have received the great tithes accruing to it as rector. Powerful ecclesiastical corporations strenuously defended their legal and economic rights (Lomas 1996, 111, 116-17; Dixon 1985 I, 64), and to all intents and purposes put a block on the formation of new parishes. Instead the needs of the more distant township communities were 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 chapel mentioned at Ferryhill,

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[2] Counting Chilton as two vills – Great Chilton and Little Chilton – and adding in Shelom which adjoined the western end of Kirk Merrington village. The other vill, in addition to Ferryhill and Kirk Merrington itself, was Hett. The 'waste' of Spennymoor was also counted as part of Merrington parish, but, curiously, Middlestone (Mid-Merrington) and Westerton (West Merrington) were included in Auckland parish rather than Merrington, certainly from the mid-14th century onward, though it is not clear that this was always the case.

The map shows the ecclesiastical parishes of Durham c.1800 with the following labels:

Lanchester, Witton Gilbert & Kimblesworth, *Durham St Margaret*, Houghton-le-Spring, Dalton-le-Dale, *Esh*, *Durham St Giles*, Pittington, Easington, *Sherburn House (EP)*, Durham St Oswald, *Whitwell House (EP)*, *Croxdale*, Kelloe, Castle Eden, HETT, Monk Hesleden, Whitworth, CO, *Trimdon*, *Garmondsway Moor (EP)*, FH, *Merrington*, TH, *Auckland St Anne*, MM, KM, Bishop MF Middleham, BM, *Embleton*, WM, *Escombe*, CH, Sedgefield, Elwick Hall, Auckland St Andrew, *Auckland St Helen*, Grindon, Staindrop, Heighington, Aycliffe, Great Stainton, Norton, Gainford, *Denton*, *Redmarshall*, Bishopton, Stockton-on-Tees, Elton, Haughton-le-Skerne

0   2   4   6   8   10 miles

Merrington Parish Townships:
HETT = *Hett*   FH = *Ferryhill*   KM = *Kirk Merrington*   CH = *Chilton*
Bishop Middleham Parish Townships:
CO = *Cornforth*   TH = *Thrislington*   MF = *Mainsforth*   BM = *Bishop Middleham*
Merrington Townships within Auckland St Andrew:
WM = *West Merrington*   MM = *Middle Merrington*

(EP) = Extra-parochial

N

The ecclesiastical parishes and chapelries (italicised) of Durham c.1800 with Merrington parish highlighted in yellow and it's constituent townships abbreviated, and a view of the parish church, St John the Evangelist, inset. Alternative parish boundaries recorded in the 1424 Gilly-corn schedule are highlighted in green.

located within the enclosure walls (the *curia* or 'hallgarth') of the priory's manorial farm, was presumably established by the monastery for its farm staff and wider tenant population in this way (see 10.8.6 below).

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. Initially this was achieved by establishing subordinate 'chapels of ease' within the parish. Thus a chapel, St Luke's, was erected on the village green at Ferryhill in 1829, near the site of the present town hall, to provide more convenient access to religious worship for the inhabitants of the village and the surrounding farms. This chapelry was hived off from Merrington parish and elevated to the status of an independent parochial chapelry, comprising Ferryhill and Chilton, in 1843. Land was acquired for a vicarage and a new church and churchyard on the south side of the village, the vicarage being completed first in 1846 whilst the new St Luke's Church was built in 1853.

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 vills is provided by the occasional tax returns known as Lay Subsidy Rolls. In many areas these administrative vills correspond very closely to the territorial vills 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 hamlets and looser groupings of farms' prevails, Winchester has demonstrated that the administrative vills 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 vills were significantly larger than the later poor law townships. These relatively large, composite administrative vills correspond to what were termed *villae integrae* ('entire vills') 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

- 6in First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1861 -

Corsforth Vill

Thrislington Vill

Mainsforth Vill

FERRYHILL C.P.

Great Chilton Vill

Little Chilton Vill

CHILTON C.P.

Ferryhill Vill

Kirk & East Merrington Vill

Shelom Vill

Middle Merrington Vill

Tudhoe Vill

= Existing Civil Parishes of Ferryhill & Chilton

= Historic Township Boundary

= Boundary of Merrington Ecclesiastical Parish

= Medieval Village Sites
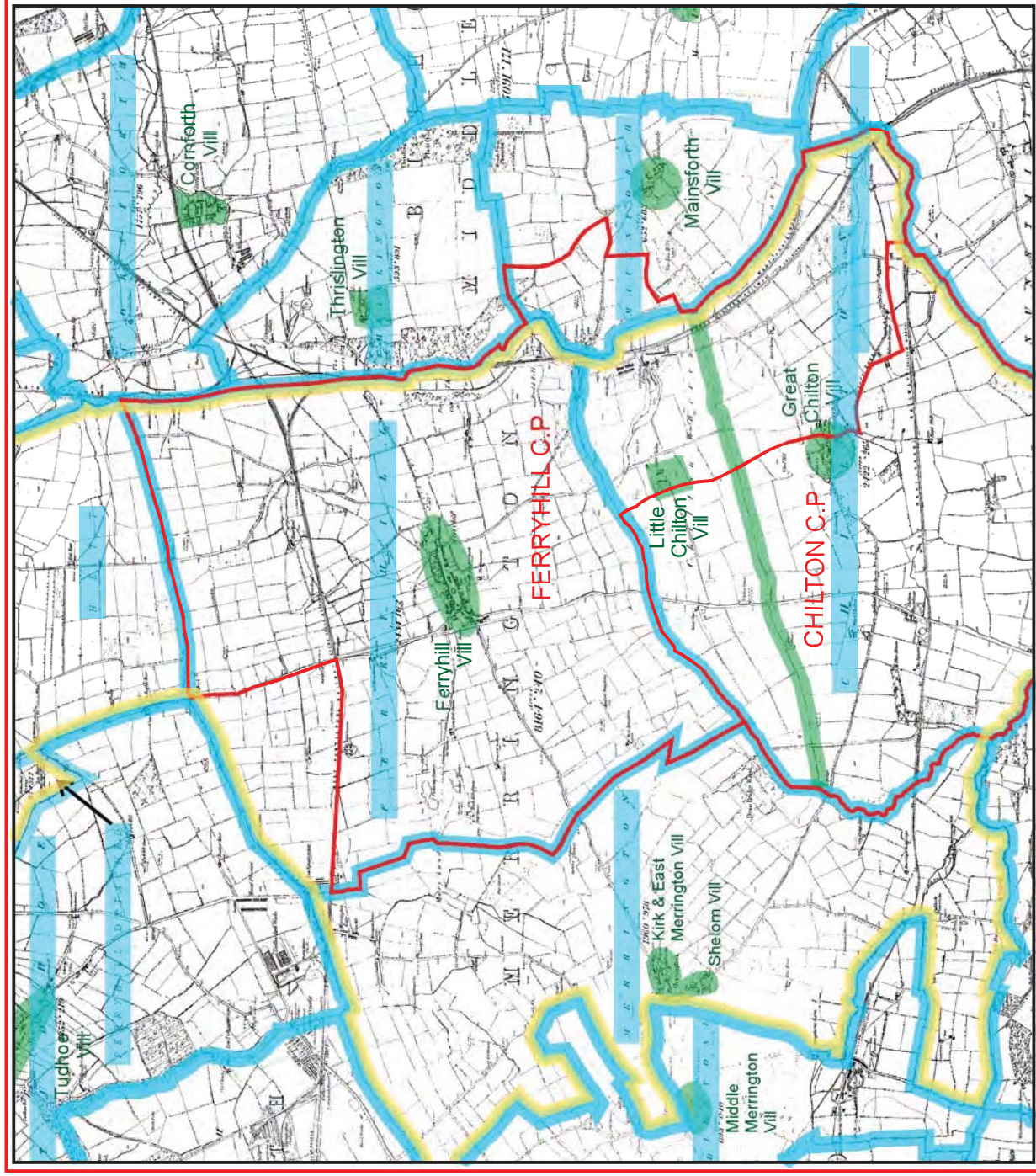
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.8 2km

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 vills . . . . the boundaries of vills 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 vills.

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.[3] The boundaries of these territorial communities were mapped 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. In the case of Ferryhill, the Dean and Chapter estate map (DCD E/AA/17/1) demonstrates that the township possessed the same boundaries in 1765 as definitively recorded on the tithe map and 1st edition Ordnance Survey in the middle of the next century. In Chilton the earliest detailed record of the whole township territory is provided by the tithe map (DDR EA/TTH/1/42 – 1838), confirming boundary traced by the contemporary estate maps recording various parts of the township. Greenwood also marks township boundaries on his county map of 1820.

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

In Merrington parish itself similar post-medieval changes are evident, reflecting adaptations to cope with Poor Law administration, which had the effect of simplifying the pattern

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[3] 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 welfare of the poor and collecting the county rate.

somewhat. In particular the two Chiltons, Great and Little, had merged to form a single township of Chilton, whilst the vill of Shelom was entirely subsumed within Kirk Merrington. Shelom had in any case always been treated as part of Kirk Merrington in official, late medieval documents such as the bursar's rentals and inventories, and for the purposes of tithe payments, though it does figure separately in the gillycorn schedule, which, though produced in 1424, harked back to pre-1200 arrangements.

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). Today's civil parishes, however, are generally somewhat larger than the preceding townships, in part as a result of more recent amalgamations.

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. However Ferryhill and Chilton appear to have been relatively little affected by these processes.

Ferryhill

The boundary of Ferryhill, as shown on the earliest detailed map, the 1765 Dean and Chapter estate map (DCD E/AA/17/1), is the same as that shown on the 1838 tithe map (DRO EP/Mer 41/2) and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey, with the exception of the detached portion of the township to the north at Monk's Close and Butcher Race on the west side of the Great North Road which is omitted from the estate map and its schedule. The boundaries of the main township were probably established in the Middle Ages and demarcate a coherent territory. The process by which the eastern boundary of the township was established is documented by the charters recording the grants of areas of the Carrs marshland which neighbouring landowners made to the priory in return for grazing rights on Ferryhill Moor and other privileges (see below 10.10.2). The northern boundary may have been formed by carving land out of the Spennymoor as the fields along the northern edge of the township are given this name on the 1765 estate map. This too may have occurred in the Middle Ages, for, whereas tenants from all the neighbouring townships to the north and west are listed as renting parcels of Spennymoor in 1340-41, none figure from Ferryhill. This could imply that Ferryhill had already been permitted to, in effect, annexe a portion of the moor to form part of its exclusive common moor, rather than being shared between many townships as was the remainder of Spennymoor.

Ferryhill Detached

The detached portion of Ferryhill, recorded on the 19th-century maps, was sandwiched between the townships of Hett, Tudhoe and Sunderland Bridge to the east, south and west, and north, respectively. It comprised 10 fields attached to the farm of Monks Close, totalling just under 68 acres. Apart from the Ferryhill tithe map itself, only the tithe map for Hett (DDR EA/TTH/1/126 – 1839) acknowledges the presence of this detached portion of Ferryhill on its boundaries. The Sunderland Bridge (DDR EA/TTH/1/231 – 1842) and Tudhoe (DDR EA/TTH/1/238 – 1839) tithe maps do not include the area within their own bounds but treat it as though it fell within Tudhoe and Sunderland Bridge respectively. The detached portion is clearly shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 and 6 in maps, however. The origins of this curious little portion are unclear. Medieval records such as the bursar's rentals do not record that any groups of Ferryhill tenants were renting parcels of land in Spennymoor, from the priory during the 14th century, unlike their counterparts in many of the

Ferryhill Township
in 1765
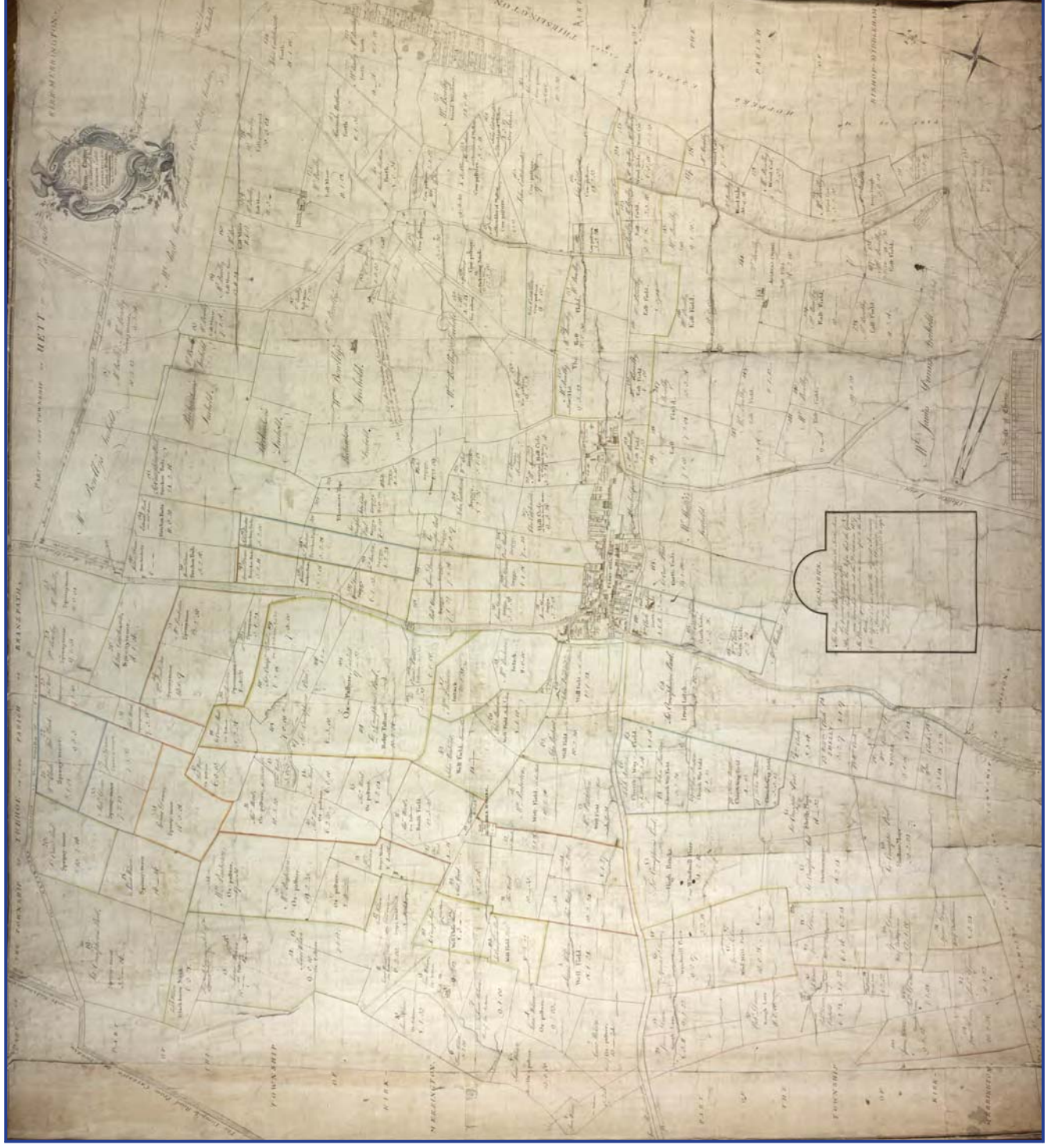
Ferryhill Township Tithe Map c.1838 (Durham County Record Office EP/Mer 41/2).
Reproduced by permission of Merrington Parish and Durham County Record Office.

Ferryhill Detached

View looking north-west.

View looking west.

Extract from the 1838 Ferryhill Tithe Plan (DRO EP/Mer 41/2), showing Ferryhill Detached. Reproduced by permission of Merrington Parish and Durham County Record Office.

The Coach and Horses, Low Butcher Race

Little Chilton and
Great Chilton boundaries

Ferryhill - Chilton township boundary looking east

Ferryhill - Chilton township boundary in the mid-ground.

Little Chilton - Great Chilton boundary looking west.

Little Chilton - Great Chilton boundary viewed from the south

Extract from an 1859 plan of Little Chilton Estate (Durham County Record Office D/EI 21/75), reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office. The township boundary is shown in red and the Little Chilton - Great Chilton boundary in blue.

neighbouring townships (*bursars rentals*, 62-4 – 1340-41). However two tenants are recorded holding small parcels at 'les Brakes in Spenningmor' and 'Westbrakes in Spenningmor' in the early 15th century (see Appendix 2) and more significantly two Ferryhill syndicate tenants listed in the 1539 bursar's rental, Thomas Richardson and Milo Rutter, are also recorded jointly renting land in Spennymoor for 30s in that year (FPD, 322-3), which would imply a much more substantial holding. Perhaps the land they were renting corresponded to the Monk's Close and this association continued with the result that this portion was attached to Ferryhill for administrative convenience when Spennymoor was divided up between the neighbouring townships, probably in the 17th century. The name of the farm associated with the portion, Monks Close, certainly suggests an association with the Priory.[4]

Chilton

The earliest detailed maps covering Chilton date to the 1830s. The 1838 tithe map (DRO EP/Mer 42/2 – 1838) is the first to show the entire township, though there are slightly earlier maps of just the Great Chilton estate (DRO D/El 15/99-100 and D/El 15/109 – 1834). In addition Greenwood's county map of 1820 depicts the same boundaries as shown on the tithe map. These follow a curving, sinuous course, demarcating a coherent territory, almost 'organic' in form, typical of medieval townships.

The 19th-century township contained both Great and Little Chilton. A continuous very slightly sinuous boundary separated the Little Chilton estate from Great Chilton and East House estates to the south. It is tempting to interpret this boundary as a surviving medieval boundary line separating Little Chilton and Great Chilton vills. However a passage contained in a footnote in Surtees' description of Little Chilton provides grounds for caution (1823, 290p):

> The southern border of the estate (with the Cloven-laws and Cleves-cross) consists of a line of bold swelling hills and knowls, their sloping base green pasturage, and their summits covered with heath and fern. A small rugged ravine opens through the breast of the hills, with its little clear stream, winding towards the marsh under beetling crags of grey limestone. Higher up, the pass expands into a small smooth strath, and just at its head stands the lonely house of Little Chilton, an old gavel-ended mullioned hall of second or third class. Just behind one of the swelling sand hills is a small isolated marsh, covered in summer with cotton grass and marsh-cinquefoil. The whole scene, without tree or a shrub taller than the lady-fern, is a Highland hill and glen in miniature. *But whilst I write, an ugly line of demarcation is crossing the brow and the glen, in regular despite to every natural line, and the plough is on the green hill*.

Given that Surtees was probably writing a year or two before the date of the publication (1823) it seems too early for the 'ugly line of demarcation' to refer to one of the railway lines such as the Clarence Railway's Durham, Chilton or Merrington branches which were constructed in the mid-1830s. Instead it may signify that the Little Chilton-Great Chilton boundary was not laid out until the early 1820s and that previously the two former townships had been separated by a zone of uncultivated heathland. Once a clear boundary had been marked on the ground between the estates the area could be ploughed up to grow cereal crops and generally cultivated more intensively. Unfortunately there is no map of Chilton of 1823 or earlier that is sufficiently detailed to confirm or refute this suggestion. All that can be

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[4] Monks Close formed part of the estate of Bryan John Salvin in 1838, the remainder of which equated to Mr Boulby's freehold on the 1765 estate plan and also the freehold ground of Mr Reed Surtees, Thomas Dunn and Richardson, all in the northeast part of the township.

definitely said is that the boundary line was in existence by 1834 when it is shown on the earliest Great Chilton estate map.

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 County Durham much land was held directly by the bishop or by the cathedral priory. Thus the inhabitants of Ferryhill, were all tenants of Durham Priory as were those of neighbouring Kirk Merrington, Middlestone (formerly Mid-Merrington), Westerton (West-Merrington). However many manors were granted to other lords, usually men of lesser rank, a process known as sub-infeudation. This was the case in neighbouring Chilton, where Little Chilton and Great Chilton were held by separate manors held by different lords (though the priory held some land there too). At Thrislington (then called Thurstanton) the lord of the manor belonged to a local family which took its name from the village – 'de Thurstanton', later changing it to Fulthorp when they acquired more land around that settlement. In Mainsforth and Middleham, on the other hand, the bishop of Durham was the main landowner. Indeed documents show how the bishop deliberately acquired more and more land and property in Middleham during the 12th century, in order to gain full control there, turning it into one of his most important manors, with the result that the village is now known as Bishop Middleham (Scammel 1956, 206; see 10.6.1 below).

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 vills 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.

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 seigneurial 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   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 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).

THE ESTATES & FARMS OF CHILTON
- Historic Maps & Documents -

Facade of Great Chilton Hall

General view of Little Chilton Hall from the south-east

The historic core of the 17th century farmhouse, from the south

The Chilton Township Tithe Map c.1838 (Durham County Record Office EP/Mer 42/2). Note the construction of several Clarence Railway branch lines since the 1834 Great Chilton estate map was surveyed. Reproduced by permission of Merrington Parish and Durham County Record Office.

Plan of Great Chilton Estate, November 1834 (Durham County Record Office D/El 15-100). Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.

PARTICULARS, &c.

MANSION

WITH THE

GARDENS, VINERY, AND OUT-OFFICES,

AND A COMPLETE RANGE OF

Agricultural Buildings attached,

ADJOINING THE VILLAGE OF GREAT CHILTON;

INCLUDING A THRASHING MACHINE, WHICH IS WORKED BY
A STEAM ENGINE OF NINE-HORSE POWER.

Nos. on Plan.	Name of Field.		Quantities. a. r. p.
1	Far Brocks, divided into two Closes	...	17 1 19
2	Dean Bridge Field	...	14 2 35
3	Hill Field	...	16 0 22
4	West Moor, divided into four Closes	...	31 0 22
5	East Moor, divided into two Closes	...	13 1 27
6	Burnt Land Field, including Plantations at the North and West ends thereof	...	14 2 15
7	Little Pasture	...	9 1 21
8	Brocks	...	18 1 36
9 & 10	Little Meadow Field, the upper part called the Plane, and the lower part Little Meadow Field,	...	13 0 5
11	Kiln Field, divided into two Closes	...	23 2 30
12	High Street Field	...	23 3 30
13	Low Street Field	...	6 3 39
14	An excellent Farm House, called Swine Hill, or West Chilton, with the Farm Buildings, Garth, and Orchard, and a Field called Swine Hill		
15	Brick Kiln Fields or Horse Pasture, divided into two Closes	...	13 1 16
16	High Cow Pasture, with the Dwelling-house and Conveniences erected thereon	...	22 2 13
17	Low Cow Pasture	...	16 2 10
18	Lancelot Low Moor	...	7 0 23
19	Lancelot High Moor	...	10 1 33
20	Poor Man's Fields with the Paddock No. 25, adjoining	...	11 1 34
21	High Street Field	...	14 3 33
22	Three Nooked Field, divided into two Closes	...	15 3 21
23	Buckle's North Field	...	10 3 29
24	Buckle's South Field	...	12 0 0
	Carried forward		336 2 15

Nos. on Plan.	Name of Fields.		Quantities. a. r. p.
	Brought forward		336 2 15
24a	Paddock	...	2 1 27
25	Paddock	...	2 1 32
27	Road or Stripe, with a Dwelling-house erected thereon	...	1 3 5
28	Butcher's Pasture divided into two Closes	...	11 3 24
28a	Plantation	...	0 1 31
29	Floor Fields, divided into three Closes	...	16 2 19
30	Copy Nose Hill, divided into two Closes	...	9 2 11
31	Pennistone Platt	...	13 0 14
32	The East part of Butcher's Pasture, or Scaffay's Car, with three Cottages thereon	...	4 1 32
33	Cow Pasture	...	15 2 37
	N.B. The South-Western Part of this Field now forms Part of the Park No. 52.		
34	Hill Field	...	6 0 0
35	Meadow Field	...	9 0 34
36	Calf Garth, with the Stables and Buildings standing thereon	...	1 0 12
37	Lady Garth, now planted	...	1 2 32
38	Plantation	...	1 0 11
39	Paddock	...	1 3 32
40	Paddock	...	2 0 18
41	Paddock	...	2 0 9
42	Plantation	...	0 3 26
43	High Street Field or High West Field, and Plantation	...	3 0 5
44	Low West Field	...	10 3 7
45	Mark's Middle Field	...	10 1 31
45a	Mark's Great Field	...	12 0 33
46	West House Field	...	5 1 7
47	West House Field	...	5 3 12
48	West House Middle Field	...	8 2 5
49	A Messuage formerly called West Moor House, and Garden	...	0 1 7
50	Mark's Little Field	...	4 1 29
51	Broomy Crooks	...	18 1 2
52	The Park	...	41 0 33
52a	Lodge	...	0 2 18
52b	Plantation	...	0 0 27
53	Willow Garth Field	...	2 1 38
54	Willow Garth	...	3 1 16
55	Garth and Cottage	...	0 1 34
58	Garden	...	0 0 10
60	Plantation	...	0 3 26
61	White	...	0 3 20
62	Fold Yard and Agricultural Buildings	...	2 1 2
63	Bull Park	...	10 3 32
	Carried forward		381 2 25

The Owners and Occupiers of two adjoining Farms, called Key's Hill and Stand-alone, are entitled to a Right of Road for all purposes, through this Field and into Chilton Lane.

Sales Catalogue for Great Chilton Estate, 1838 (Durham County Record Office D/EI 15-110). Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.

Nos. on Plan.	Names of Fields.					Quantities.		
						A.	R.	P.
					Brought forward	581	2	23
64	Bull Park	....	....	....	....	1	0	25
65	Bull Park	....	....	....	....	0	3	36
66	Garden ..	....	....	....	....	0	0	36
68	Burnt Garth	....	....	....	....	0	3	21
69	Bogs	....	....	....	....	4	1	10
70	Far Hare Pool	....	....	....	....	10	2	22
71	Plantation	....	....	....	....	0	3	37
72	Hare Pool	....	....	....	....	11	0	24
73	Plantation	....	....	....	....	0	0	11
74	Swinbank Field	....	....	....	....	12	1	5
75	Low Hare Pool	....	....	....	....	8	2	4
76	Low Pasture	....	....	....	....	8	2	32
77	Old Pasture	....	....	....	....	22	3	10
78	Wheel Hill	....	....	....	....	8	1	20
79	High Wheel Hill	....	....	....	....	10	1	11
80	East Wheel Hill	....	....	....	....	7	2	10
					Total	690	2	17

HOUSES
IN THE VILLAGE OF CHILTON,
WITH THE
GARDENS ADJOINING THERETO.

Nos. on Plan.	Description.
36	THREE COTTAGES, occupied by Ra. Oliver, Alice Burden, and James Atkinson.
58	TWO COTTAGES, one of which is occupied by Thomas Burden, the other is empty. These Cottages are Leasehold for a Term of 1000 and odd years.
59	TWO COTTAGES, one of which is Leasehold for a term of 1000 years, and occupied by Anthony Parker, with a Butcher's Shop adjoining thereto; the other Cottage is empty.
67	A DWELLING-HOUSE and GARDEN occupied by William Bowron, and Mary Heaviside.
62	OLD HALL occupied by George Turnbull, and Ann Turnbull.
68	FOUR COTTAGES, one of which is occupied by — Hankey, the others are empty.
	A newly-erected and well-accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the Sign of *The Duke of Cleveland's Hounds*, with the Stables and Conveniences attached, in the occupation of William Atkinson.
	Also TWENTY-SIX COTTAGES adjoining, four of which are occupied by Tenants at will, the others are unoccupied.

Sale catalogue for Great Chilton Estate, 1838 (Durham County Record Office D/El 15-110 p.8). Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.
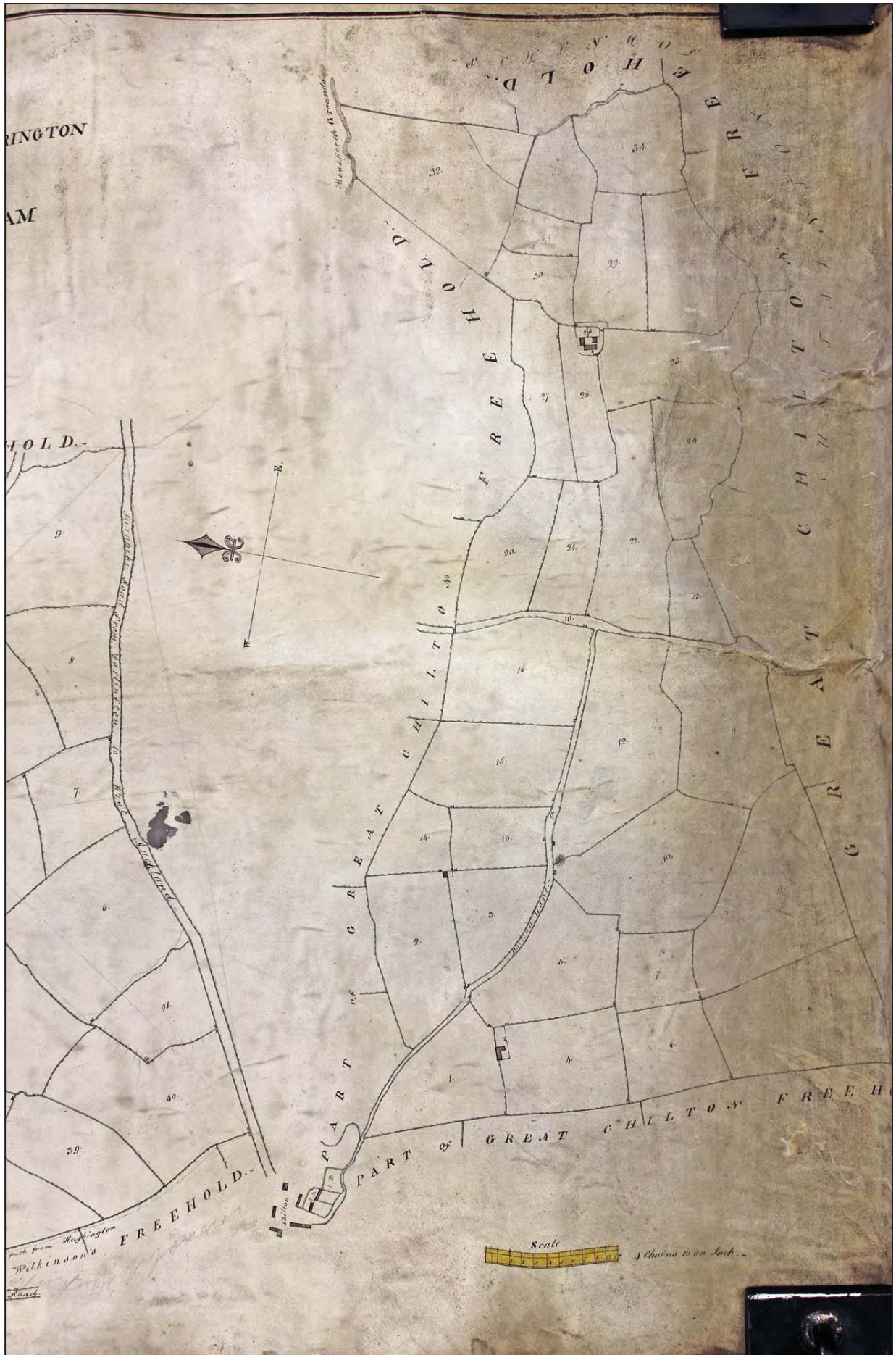
Plan of the Dean and Chapter's estate in Chilton township in 1808 (DCD/E/AA/14/1), incorporating the farms of Chilton Grange and Thrundle. Reproduced by permission of the Chapter of Durham cathedral.

COUNTY OF DURHAM.

PARTICULARS AND PLAN

OF HIGHLY

VALUABLE FREEHOLD AND OTHER ESTATES

SITUATE IN THE

TOWNSHIP OF GREAT CHILTON, IN THE PARISH OF MERRINGTON

IN THE COUNTY OF DURHAM,

COMPRISING A DESIRABLE FREEHOLD ESTATE,

CALLED

"KAY'S HILL,"

WITH THE

COAL MINES AND SEAMS OF COAL AND OTHER MINERALS,

WITHIN AND UNDER THE SAME;

AND ALSO, AN EXCELLENT FARM,

CALLED

"CHILTON GRANGE,"

CONTAINING TOGETHER,

THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE ACRES, THREE ROODS AND TWENTY-SIX PERCHES,

WHICH WILL BE

OFFERED FOR SALE BY AUCTION,

AT THE VANE ARMS HOTEL, IN STOCKTON,

IN THE COUNTY OF DURHAM,

ON WEDNESDAY, THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF JUNE, 1855,

At two o'clock in the Afternoon :

BY MR. GEORGE HARDCASTLE, AUCTIONEER;

Either together or in such Lots as may then be determined upon, and subject to such Conditions as will be then and there produced.

The Tenants will shew the Farms ; and copies of these Particulars, with Lithographic Plans annexed, may be had at the Offices of Mr. MATTHEW BOWSER, Land Agent, ; or of

MR. JOSEPH DODDS,

Solicitor, Stockton-on-Tees,

Stockton, 9th May, 1855.

Of whom further Information may be obtained.

Sale catalogue for Kay's Hill and Chilton Grange c.1853 (Durham County Record Office D/El 16-28). Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.

Particulars.

A VALUABLE FREEHOLD ESTATE.

Called "KAY'S HILL,"

Situate in the Township of Great Chilton, in the Parish of Merrington, in the County of Durham, consisting of a good FARM HOUSE, with requisite Outbuildings, together with the following Closes or Parcels of Arable, Meadow and Pasture Land, viz.—

No. on the plan of the estate or admeasurement	NAME OF FIELDS	STATE OF CULTURE or OCCUPATION	QUANTITY

"CHILTON GRANGE."

AN EXCELLENT FARM,

Called "CHILTON GRANGE,"

Situate in the Township of Great Chilton aforesaid, consisting of the following Closes or Parcels of Arable, Meadow and Pasture Land, viz.—

No. on the plan of the estate or admeasurement	NAME OF FIELDS	STATE OF CULTIVATION	QUANTITY

COAL MINES AND SEAMS OF COAL,

AND OTHER MINERALS,

WITHIN AND UNDER THE ABOVE-MENTIONED FARM.

Particulars of the sale catalogue for Kays Hill and Chilton Grange Farms, c.1853 (Durham County Record Office D/EI 16-28). Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.
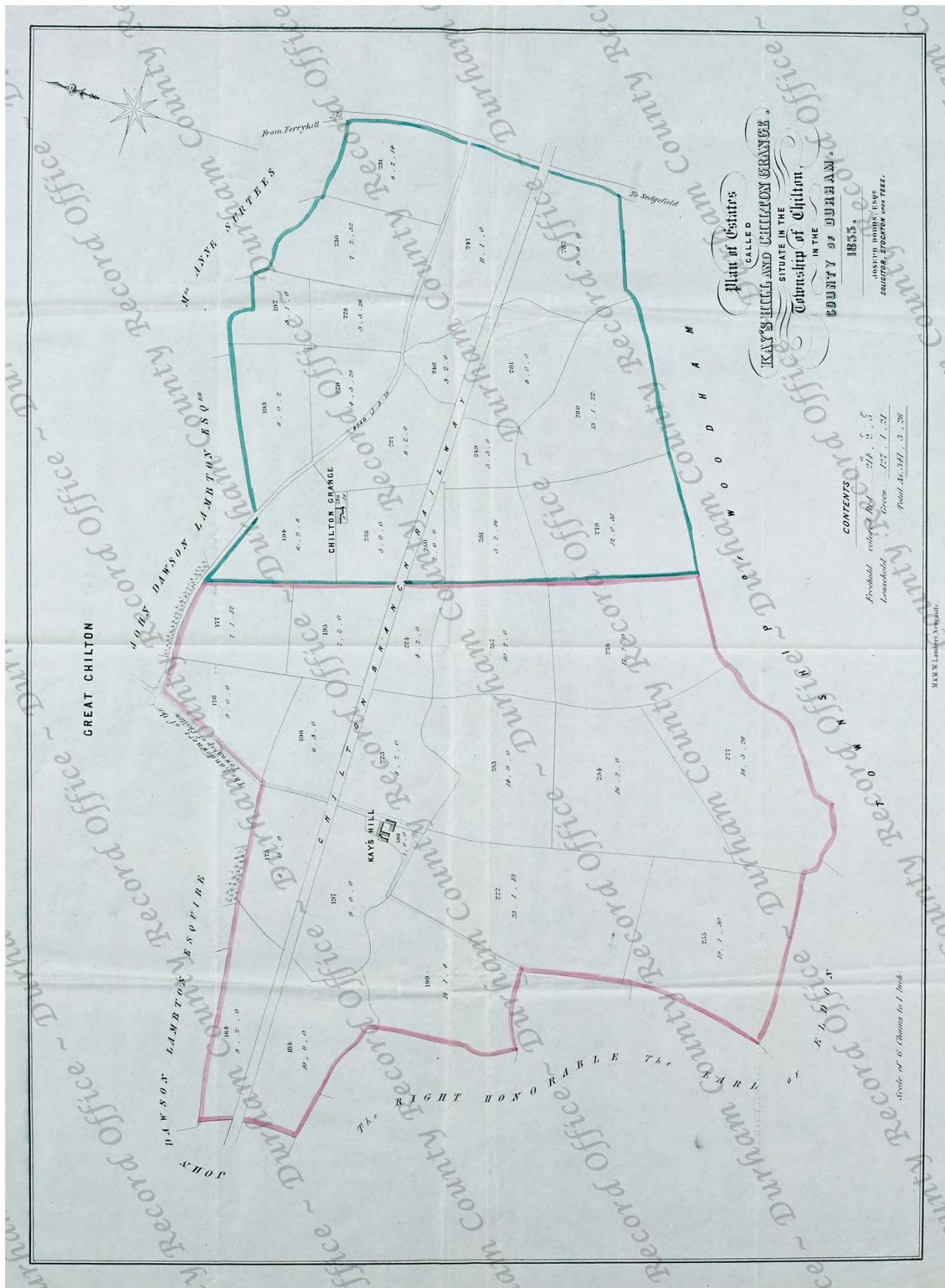
Plan of Kays Hill and Chilton Grange Farms c.1855 (Durham County Record Office D/EI 16-29). Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.

Plan of Standalone Farm c.1844 (Durham County Record Office D/EI 14-64). Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.
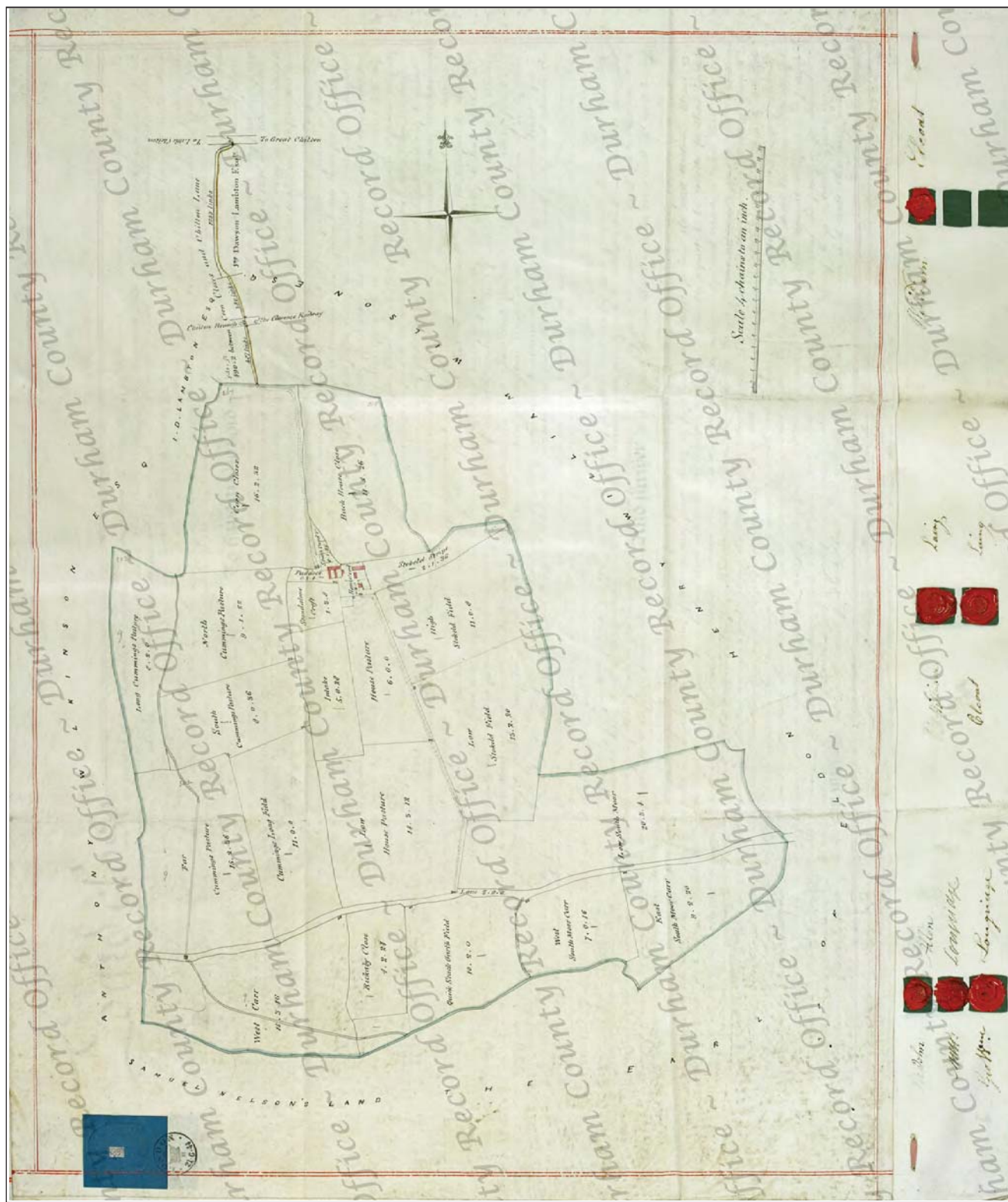
Plan of Standalone Farm in Chilton Township, 1844 (Durham County Record Office D/EI 14-62). Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.
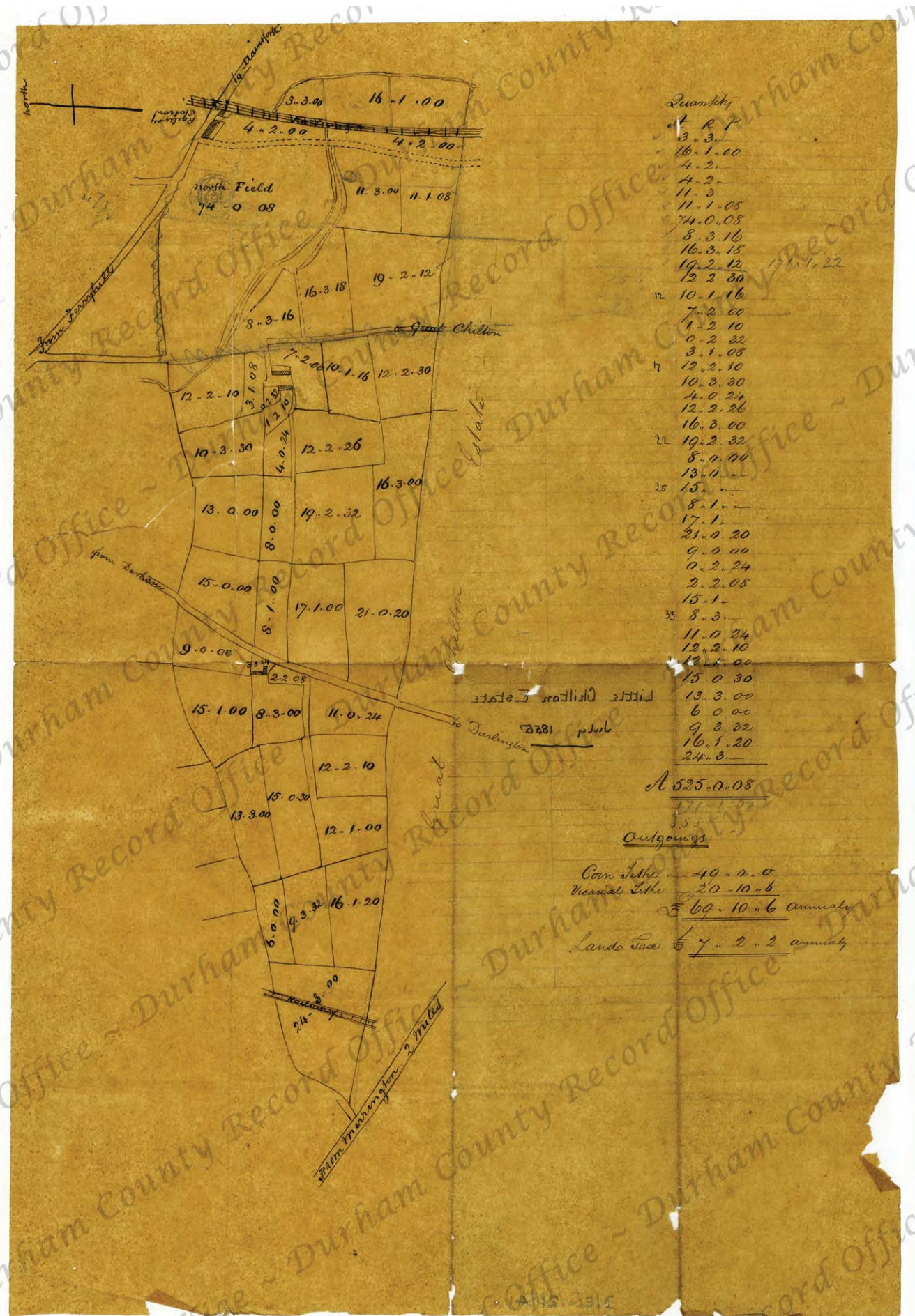
Plan of Little Chilton Estate c.1856 (Durham County Record Office D/El 21-41). Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.

Plan of Little Chilton Estate, January 1859 (Durham County Record Office D/El 21-75). Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.

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; 1977a, 1977b; 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 provides a useful way of classifying villages, but it is difficult to determine what these different morphological characteristics actually signify. Dixon (1985, I,) 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 particular 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. He is especially dismissive of the presence or absence of a green as a significant factor in village

Little Chilton

Extract from the 1838 Chilton Tithe Plan (DRO EP/Mer 42/2), showing Little Chilton farmstead and shrunken village site. Reproduced by permission of Merrington Parish and Durham County Record Office.

Below: View of the shrunken medieval village site from the south-east.
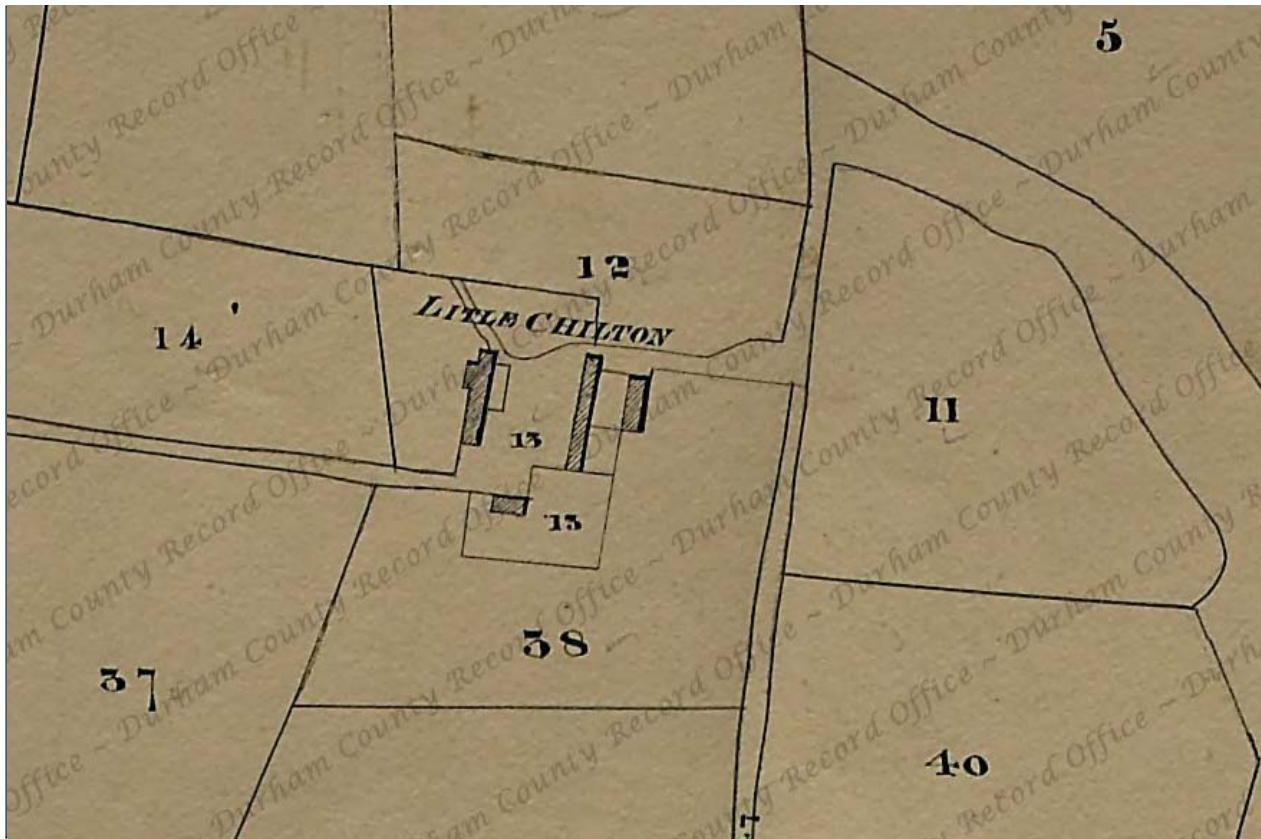
Above: View of the shrunken medieval village site from the south-west.
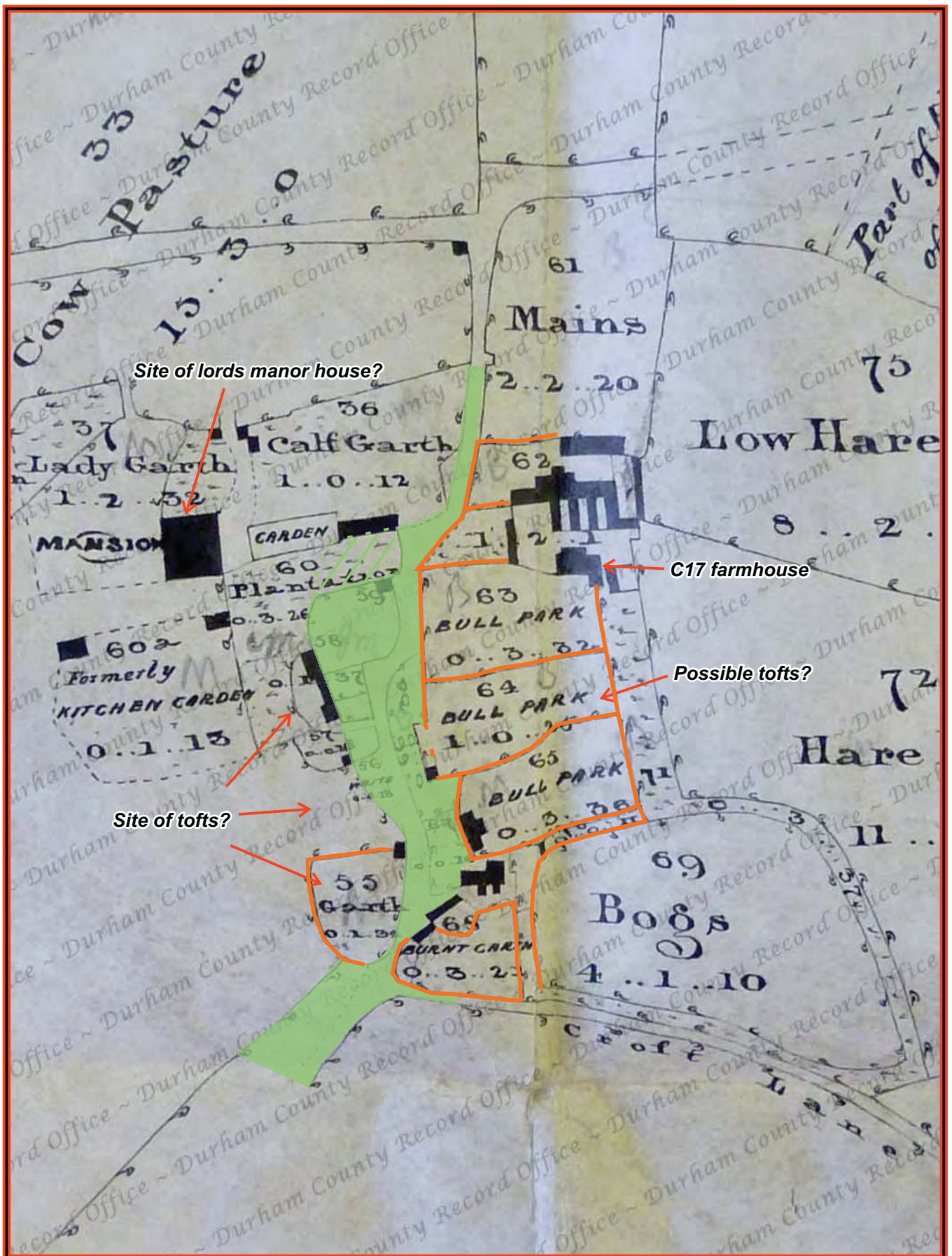
Great Chilton

Extract from a plan of Great Chilton estate in 1834 (Durham County Record Office D/El 15/100), with features highlighted to show the possible earlier layout of the village settlement including a green and toft enclosures. Reproduced by permission of Lord Eldon and Durham County Record Office.

Great Chilton Village

The row of cottages on the west side of the village today

The south end of Great Chilton

A sunken lane at the south end of the village leading to Kay's Hill Farm
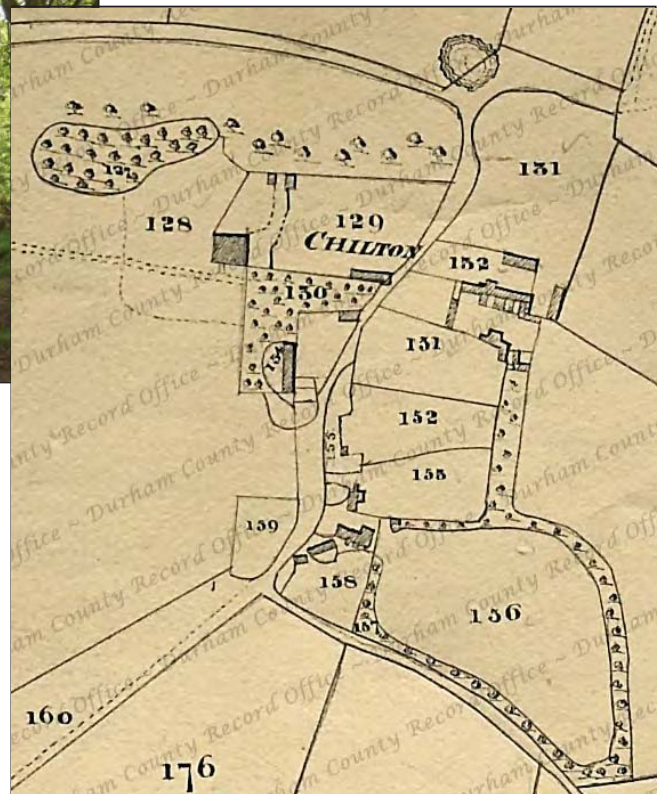
Extract from the 1838 Chilton Tithe Plan (DRO EP/Mer 42/2), showing the hamlet of Great Chilton. Reproduced by permission of Merrington Parish and Durham County Record Office.

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.

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. Thus Ferryhill is depicted by an excellent estate map of 1765. It is recorded by abundant medieval documents including one early 15th-century survey which lists all the tenant tenements in geographical order. Also it has remained a populous community so its plan doesn't appear to have been subjected to radical reorganisation in the period between the end of the Middle Ages and the drawing up of the first detailed maps and plans in the 18th and 19th century. Despite much modern growth the core of the ancient village is still recognisable, with the broad green still represented by the modern car park and market place.

At the other extreme some villages have almost entirely disappeared. When it was first recorded in detail on the tithe map of 1840 (DDR EA/TTH/1/236), Thrislington had shrunk to just one big house, Thrislington Hall, with an attached farm. Surviving earthworks to the east and south of the hall provided some clues as to the layout of the earlier settlement, but it was archaeological excavation in 1973-74 which was to reveal the plan of this medieval village much more fully (Austin 1989). A similar picture holds true at Little Chilton. Again the earliest map is the 1838 tithe map (DDR EA/TTH/1/42) which reveals a pattern similar to that of today with a substantial farm house surviving to the west which represents the remains of a late medieval manor house, with surviving medieval roof timbers, plus an associated 19th-century farm to the east. Earthworks associated with the medieval settlement survive here too, on the south side of the farm, but there has been no modern excavation to reveal the pattern fully.

Somewhere in the middle is a site like Great Chilton. The earliest maps are a group of estate maps of 1834, with further estate maps, plus the tithe map, being drawn up in 1838. More remained of this settlement, though it was probably a somewhat denuded and shrunken remnant of its former medieval layout. A large 17th-century farmhouse was located at the north-east corner of the settlement, whilst Chilton Hall sits on a knoll above the north-west corner. The façade has 18th-century proportions but the rear of the building provides evidence of earlier fabric (see above 7.3.1). To the south there are hints of short rectangular green, aligned north-south and already partially encroached upon by gardens by1834. A row of possible toft enclosures lies to the east, only a few of which still contained buildings. The west side is even less clear with only one possible toft enclosure visible, and a row of possibly fairly recent workers' cottages, but this side may have been more affected by alterations associated with the landscaping of the area surrounding Chilton Hall so it is possible that earlier features including a west row of toft enclosures has been swept away. Overall, the relatively late date of the first detailed map and the potential degree of late 18th/early 19th century alteration mean only a tentative interpretation of this village plan can be offered.

9.2.2   Village morphology in Merrington Parish and its surroundings

It is illuminating to compare the plans of Ferryhill and the neighbouring villages of Merrington, Bishop Middleham and Auckland parishes, as recorded by the 1st edition 6in Ordnance survey. **Ferryhill** and **Kirk Merrington** appear substantial and regular, villages with well-defined linear rows of tenements flanking roughly rectangular greens. At its west end, Kirk Merrington has the surviving remnants of the former vill of **Shelom** attached roughly perpendicular to its own east west alignment and extending south-eastwards along the lane heading towards Chilton and Windelstone. **Middlestone** (originally Middle Merrington) and **Westerton** (West Merrington) display a reduced number of tenements, but their overall form is very similar with regular linear rows on either side of a green (cf. Roberts 1972, 44-8 and 2008, 132-9 for further illuminating discussion of the plan of these villages). It is tempting to see in these rather uniformly laid-out settlements, collectively known as the

Comparative Villages Plan, extracts of
the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1857, 6inch

Ferryhill

Kirk Merrington

Westerton

Middlestone

Hett

Comparative Villages Plan, extracts of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1857, 6inch
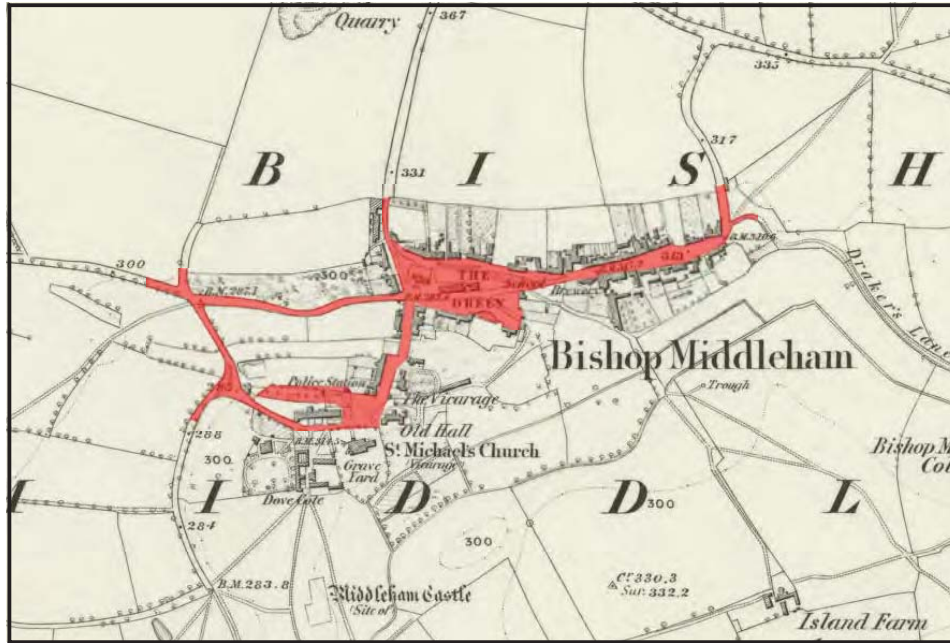
Bishop Middleham

Mainsforth


Medieval village plots (tofts)
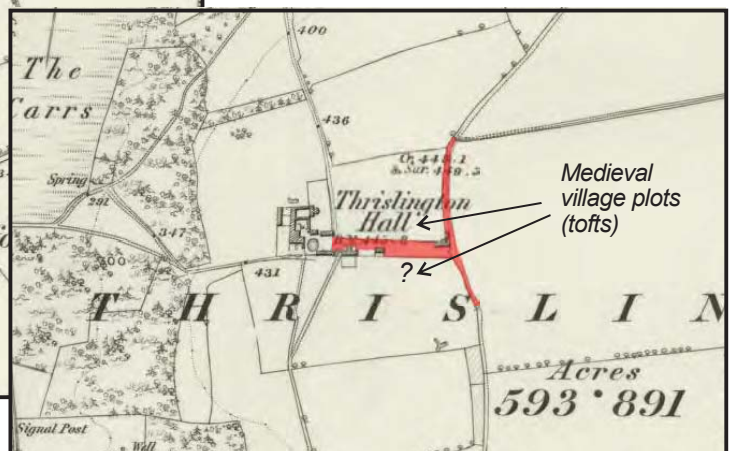
Thrislington

Great Chilton
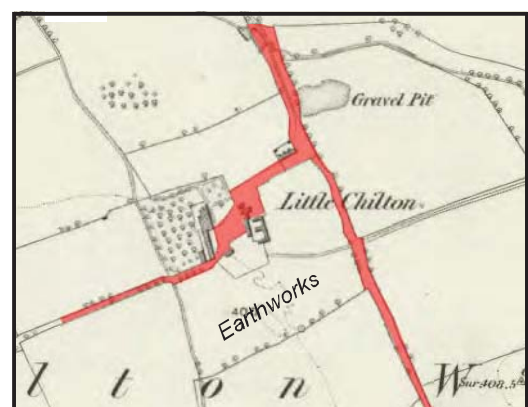
Little Chilton

Merringtons, the work of Durham Priory, developing its Merrington-Ferryhill estate in the 12th and early 13th centuries perhaps. It must be admitted that the topographic situation of these four villages, strung out in a line along the ridge of the Magnesian Limestone Escarpment, very much lends itself to this particular plan-form, but **Hett**, in the northern part of Merrington parish, was similar in plan, albeit aligned north-south. This was a village which switched from the priory's control to that of a secular feudal lord and then back again.

The shrunken villages of Thrislington and the Chiltons present a striking contrast to the large and regular Ferryhill and Kirk Merrington. Nevertheless we can see from the excavated plan of **Thrislington** that, although relatively small, it too was originally a village with regular rows of tenements and a manor house and chapel at one end. The surviving earthworks at **Little Chilton** hint at something similar with perhaps one short row, at least, to the south of the present farm. It is also possible that the remains of a corresponding north row lie buried beneath the buildings of the present farm. And, as discussed above, there are hints of regular rows of tenement plots ('tofts') in the contemporary plan of **Great Chilton**. **Mainsforth** is a rather similar settlement, in that its plan has been severely deformed by the development of a substantial 18th/19th-century gentry residence, Mainsforth Hall, home of the celebrated county historian, Robert Surtees, at the north-west end of the village, with its extensive surrounding grounds. This may have resulted in much reorganisation the surviving parts of the village.

Finally, in a category of its own is **Bishop Middleham**, as might be expected from such an important settlement with a complex history, for a time one of the principal residences of the bishop within the county. Its large size and complex form is a reflection of this. Rows are evident, in particular a very long, continuous north row, but to the west this faces onto a very broad green which extends only a relatively short distance along before narrowing markedly so that it is unclear whether this eastern section should be classed as a green or a street. It is possible that the latter represents a secondary addition to an original settlement core centred on the short Green, extending the village eastwards. However, the south row appears particularly complex in this area and it is also possible that the eastern section was originally somewhat broader and has been narrowed by later encroachment of tenements on the street/green. Moreover there are multiple other foci in this settlement, particularly to the south, including the parish church, the Old Hall, the bishop's castle beyond, as well as the broad green and its narrower, street-like, eastern continuation.

If some degree of regularity was originally common to all the settlements, their very different patterns of survival must be the result of their later history. Here the different patterns of land ownership may be significant. Thus the priory divided each of its villages and townships between a number of tenants who were each given an equal share of all the tenements and land, including the prior's demesne land, in their particular village. Only the settlement's surviving freehold tenements remained outside this reorganisation (Lomas 1977, 36-7). This had the effect of creating fairly substantial, viable tenancies, but ensured that no one landowner became dominant. Instead there were a series of generally middling tenants (Brown 2014). The number of tenements may have been reduced from the 13th/early 14th-century maximum, with the amalgamation of toft plots clearly visible in the surviving earthworks and aerial photographs of Middlestone, for example (Roberts 2008, 138; 1972, 46-7, pl. VIIb), but they remained recognisable villages or at least hamlets, as the number and size of the tenancies was not altered by the priory's successor, the Cathedral Dean and Chapter, after the dissolution. Moreover, in cases like Ferryhill, where the proximity of the Great North Road doubtless generated steady income and prosperity for the village's many inns and taverns, the settlement remained a very substantial village.

In contrast, where there was one dominant landowner and the township was fairly small, as in Thrislington and Little Chilton, the settlement could dwindle to a single gentry hall and farm complex, with perhaps one other farm in the remainder of the township.
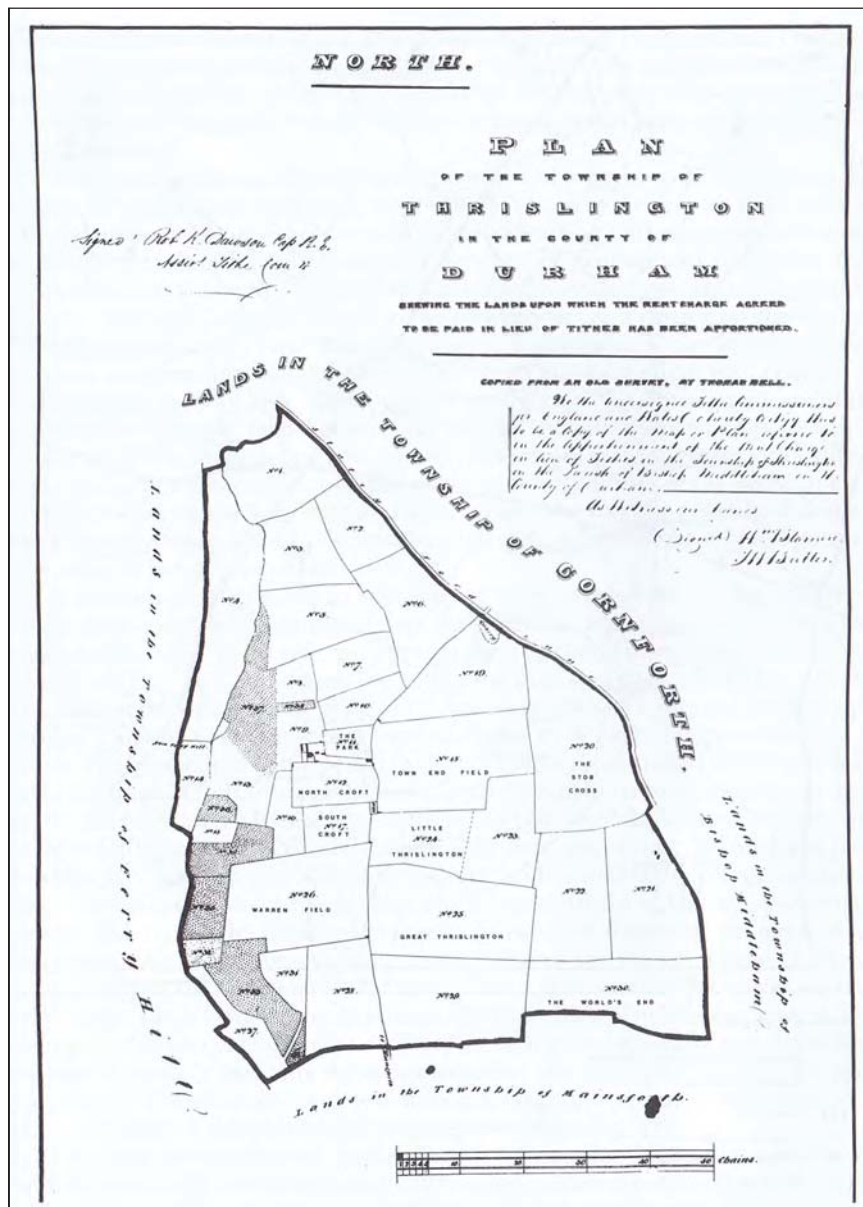
Tithe Plan of Thrislington (Austin 1989. 6, fig.4)

A. THRISLINGTON HALL. Frontage, summer 1974, from S.

Photograph of Thrislington Hall in 1974 (Austin 1989, plate XIA).

Great Chilton appears to have maintained some limited service functions which prevented it shrinking to just a hall and farm, though most of the farms were distributed throughout the township by the early 19th century.

Syndicates were not adopted on the bishop's estates, so there was no equivalent freezing of the tenant holdings there. Nevertheless the impetus towards the concentration of holdings seems to have been lacking there too, so Bishop Middleham remained a large and relatively populous community.

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 investigation in the North-East has been Michael Jarrett's archaeological excavation of the deserted village of West Whelpington in Northumberland and David Austin's rescue excavation of Thrislington (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 village settlement sequences yet observed in the North-east of England, but it is not the only possible model for village development. A feasible alternative pattern would see villages being formed by concentrating the population of a number of smaller hamlets or isolated farmsteads, scattered throughout a particular territory, into a single, much larger nucleated settlement. Both models may of course be valid in different places, but only a great deal of further archaeological investigation will determine which most closely matches the origins of Ferrryhill and neighbouring medieval village communities.

Aerial Photograph of Thrislington in 1973 (Austin 1989, plate IA).
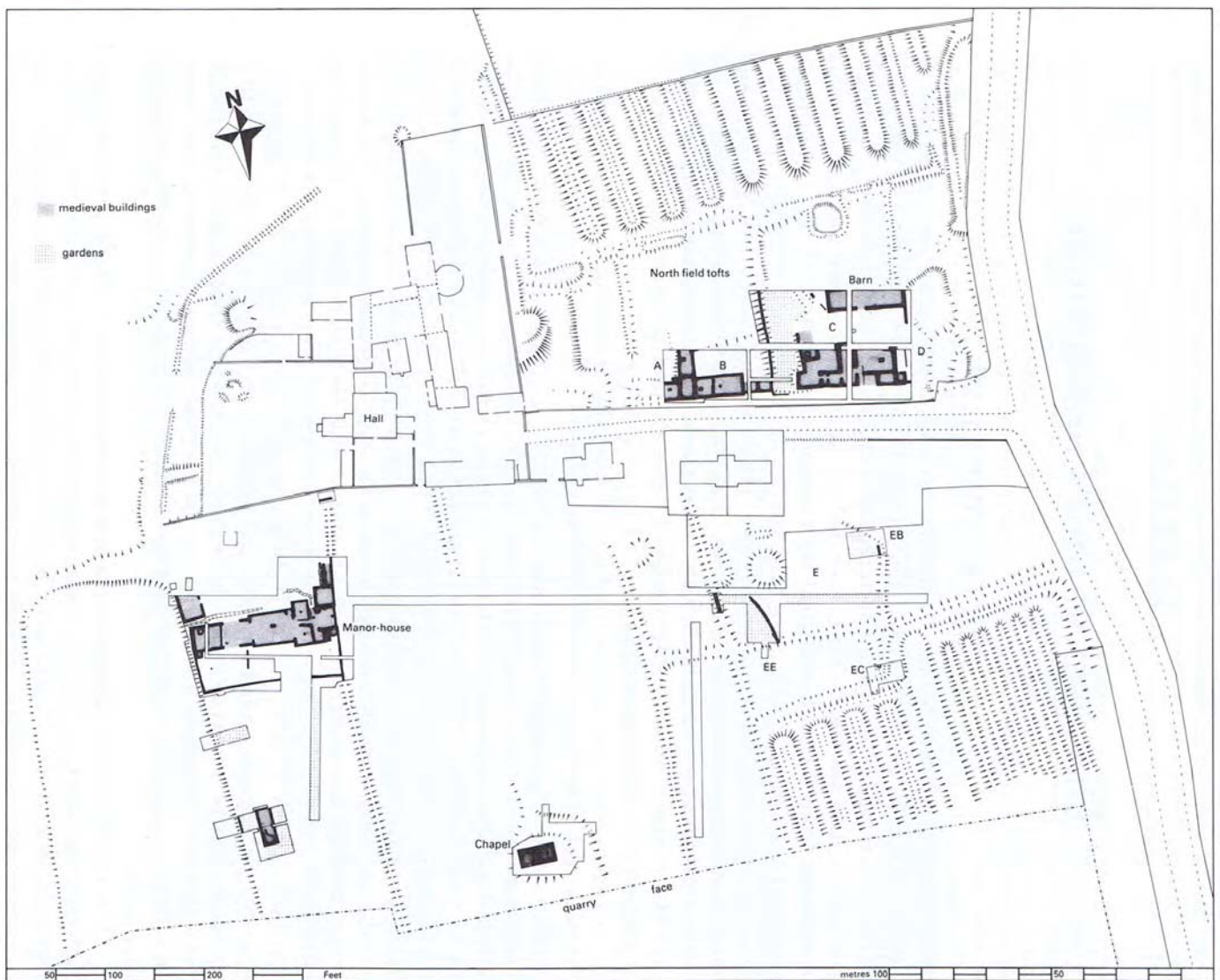
Survey of Thrislington village with excavated features (Austin 1989, 160, fig 65).
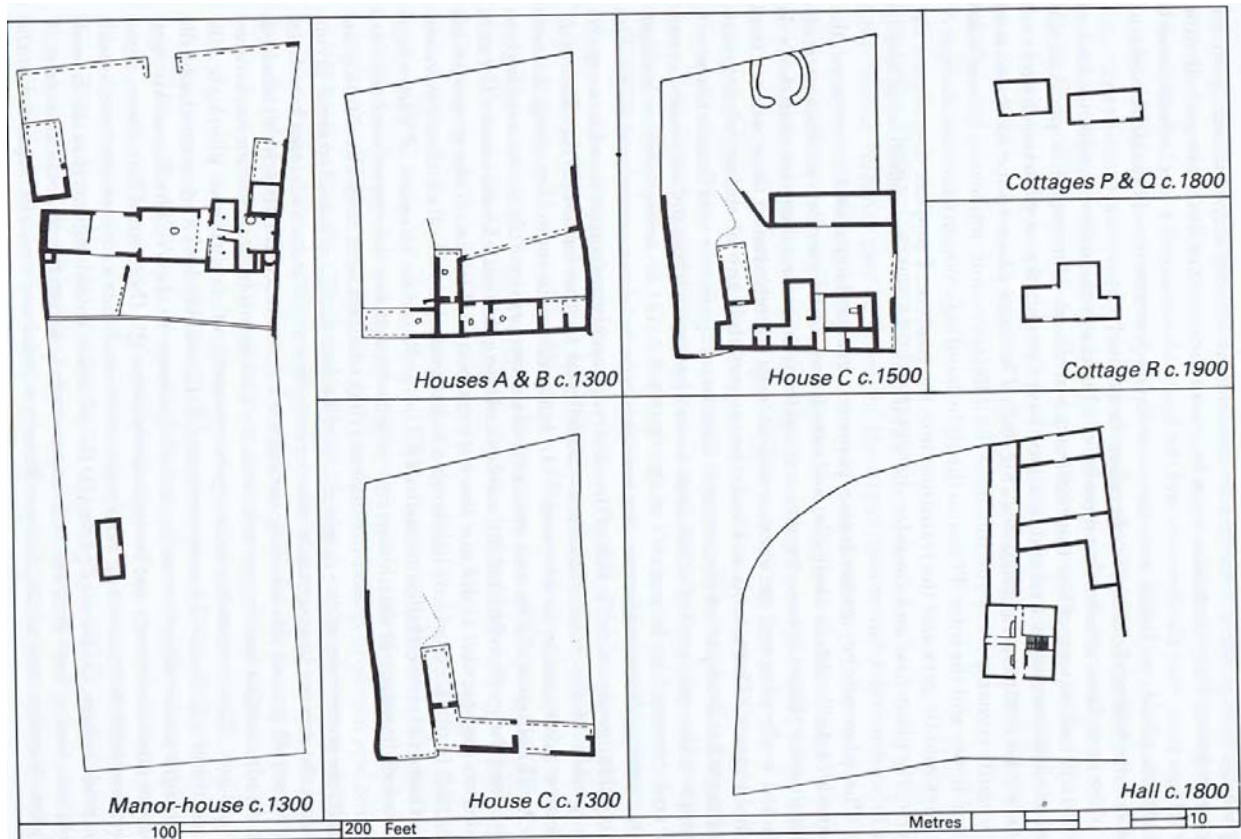
Thrislington DMV - Comparative plans of buildings and tofts (Austin 1989, 176, fig 69).

A. WHITTLE-TANG KNIFE (Iron object no. 16)
B. SCALE-TANG KNIFE WITH COPPER ALLOY SHOULDER
PLATE (Iron object no. 17)
C. SCALE-TANG KNIFE WITH COMPOSITE BONE AND WOOD
HANDLE (Iron object no. 20)
D. SCALE-TANG KNIFE WITH BONE HANDLE (Iron object no. 21)
E. PADLOCK KEY WITH COPPER ALLOY SPIRAL INLAY (Iron
object no. 48)
F. BUCKLE (Iron object no. 98)
Phh.: R. H. Daggett
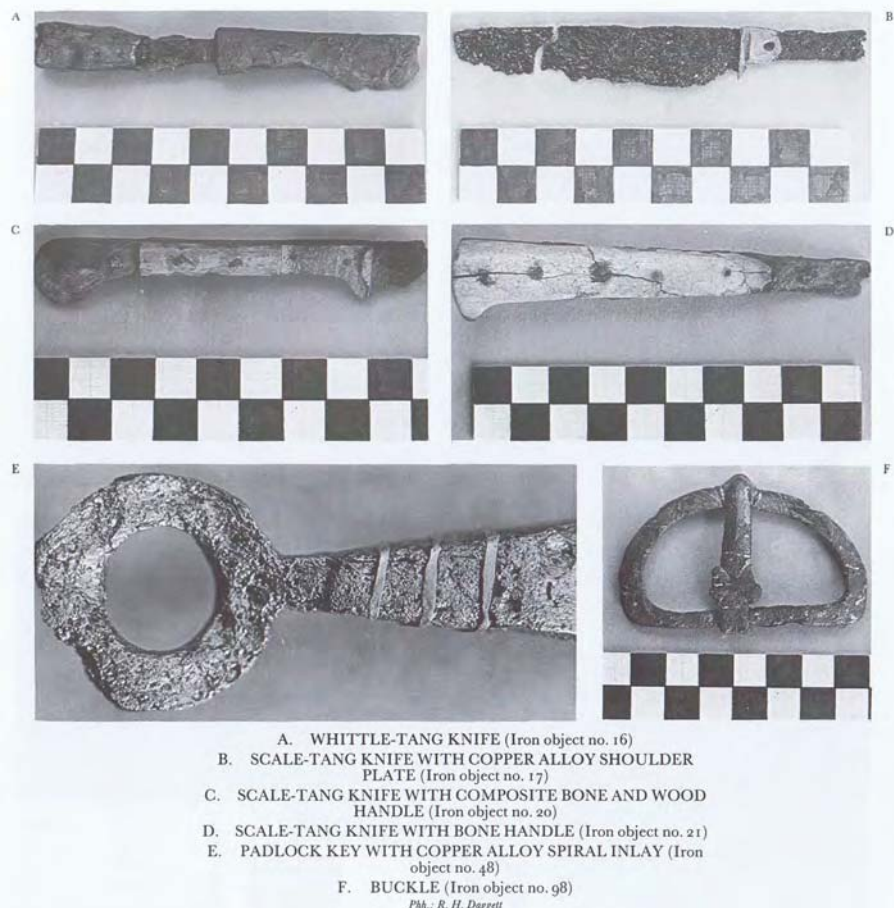
*Selection of excavated finds from Thrislington Deserted Medieval Village
(Austin 1989, plate XII).*

THE FARMS OF FERRYHILL
- Historic Map Regression -

Farm Buildings at Little Chilton

Aerial Photograph of Cleves Cross Farm before demolition in the 1960s

FERRYHILL VILLAGE ATLAS
- Farms Visible on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1856 -
Scale: 6in to the mile for main map, 1:2500 for extracts

West Howl

East Howl

Cookson's Green

Red Hall (P.H.)

Red Hall Farm

Thrislington Hall

High Hill House

Ferryhill

Low Hill House

Cleves Cross

West Roughlea

Little Chilton

East Roughlea

West Close

Great Chilton

Bridge House Farm
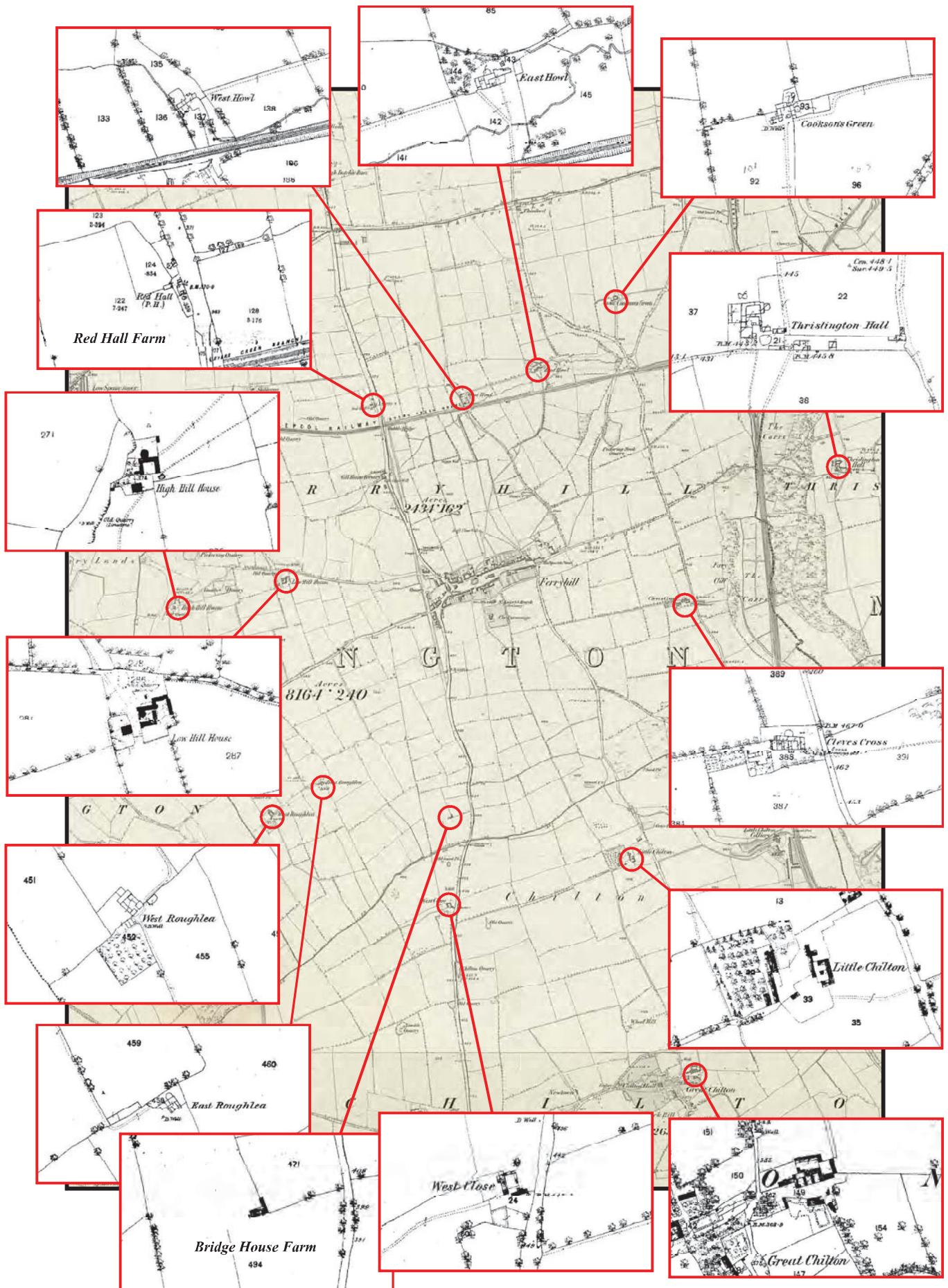
FERRYHILL VILLAGE ATLAS

- Farms Visible on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1896 -
Scale: 6in to the mile for main map, 1:2500 for extracts
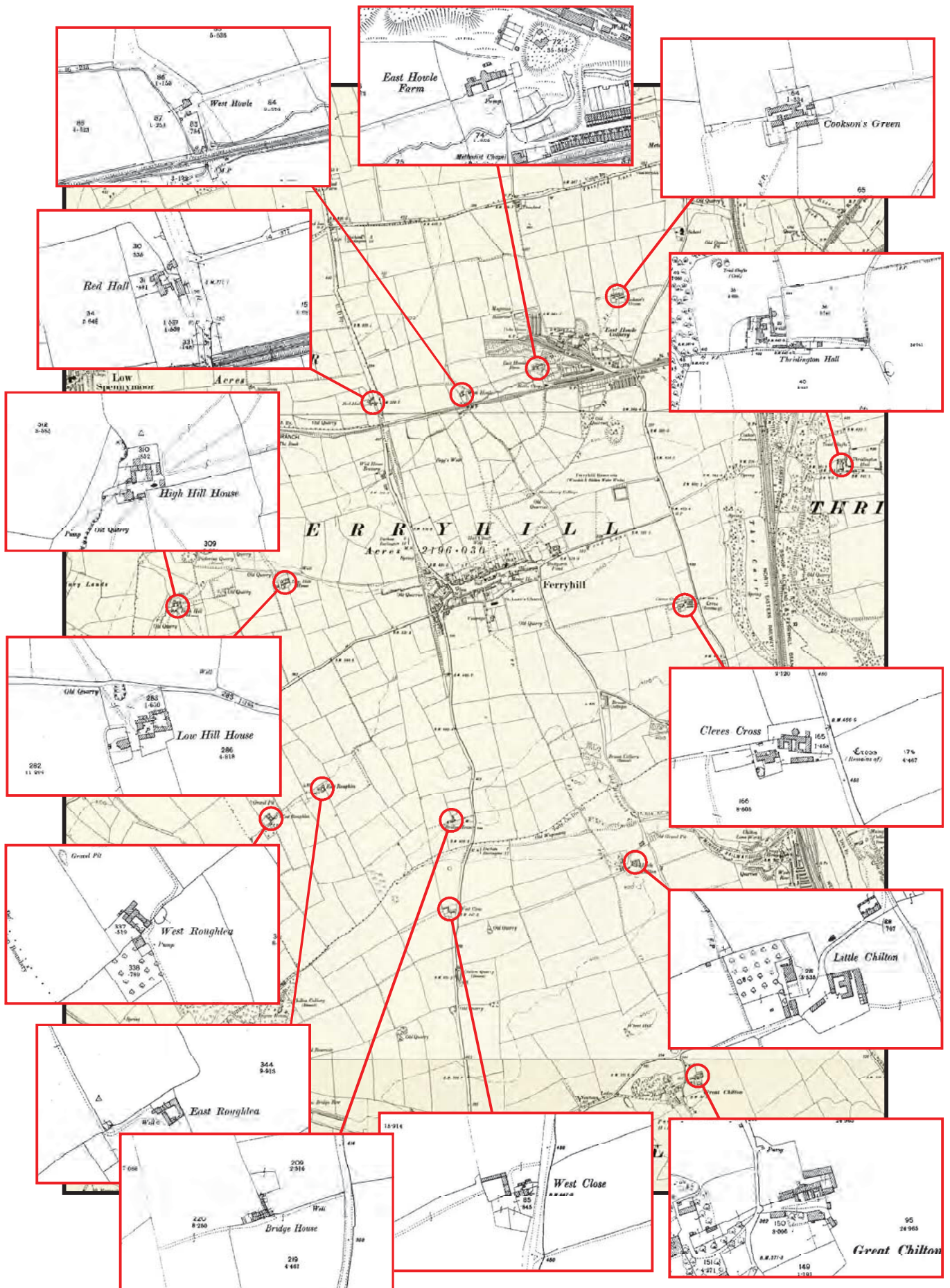
FERRYHILL VILLAGE ATLAS
- Farms Visible on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1913-15) -
Scale: 6in to the mile for main map, 1:2500 for extracts (1919)
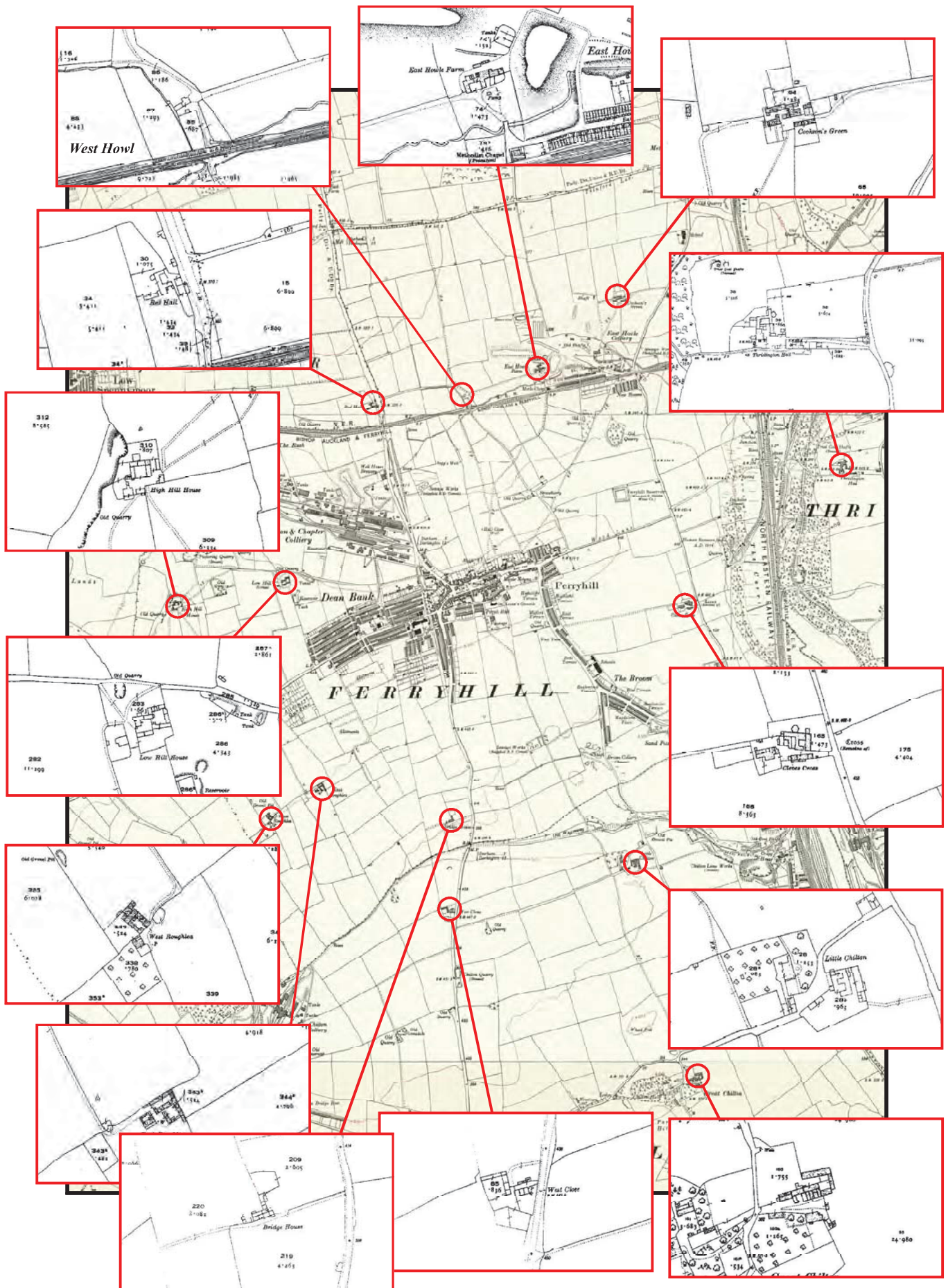
FERRYHILL VILLAGE ATLAS
- Farms Visible on the Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1939 -
Scale: 1:2500 for main map and extracts
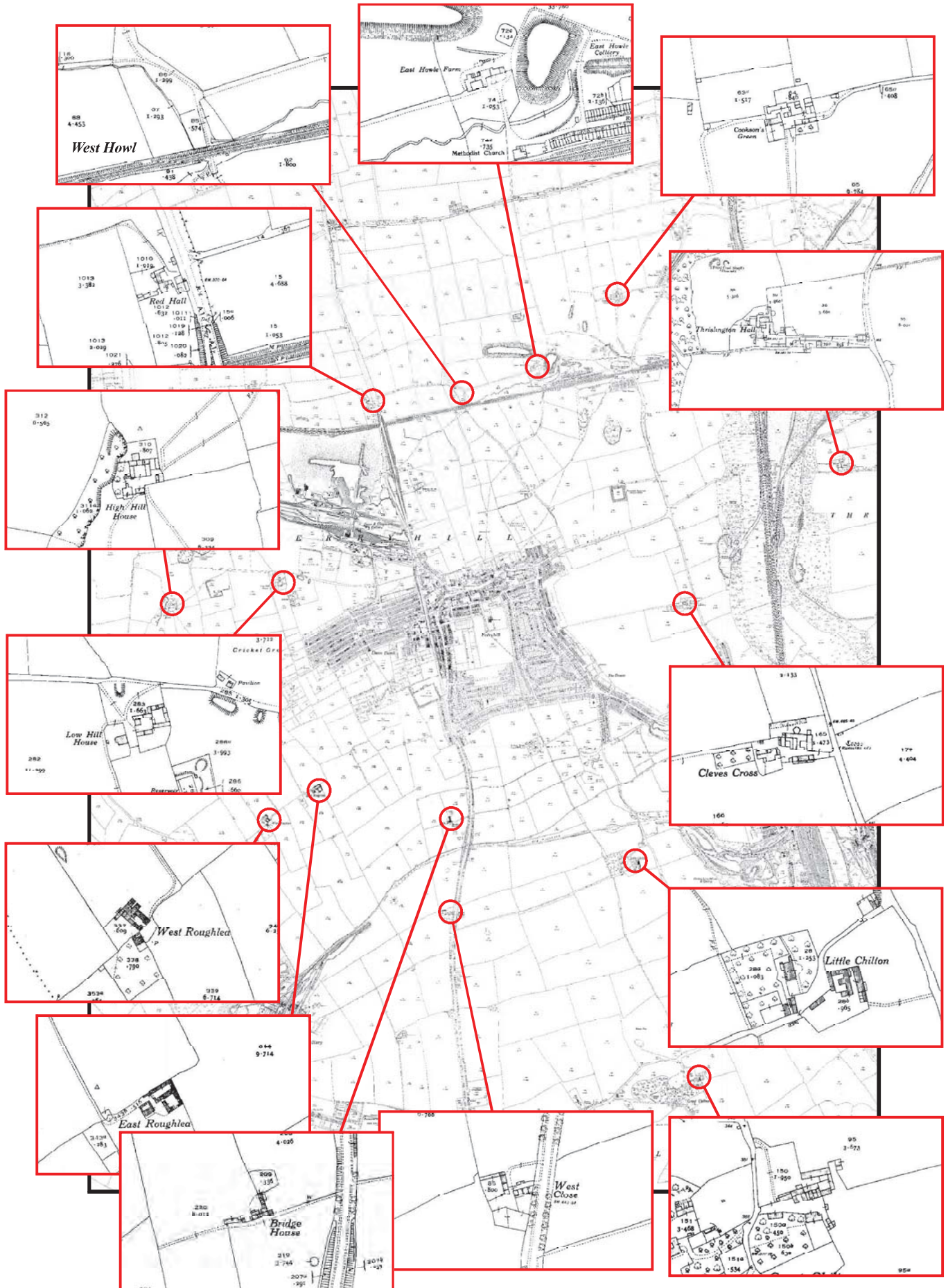
FERRYHILL VILLAGE ATLAS
- Farms Visible on the 1967 Edition Ordnance Survey Map -
Scale: 6in to the mile for main map, 1:2500 for extracts (1962)

Central Farms in the Ferryhill Atlas Study Area
- East End Farm -

Ferryhill Dean and Chapter Estate Map 1765 (DCD/E/AA/17/1), reproduced by permission of the Chapter of Durham Cathedral.
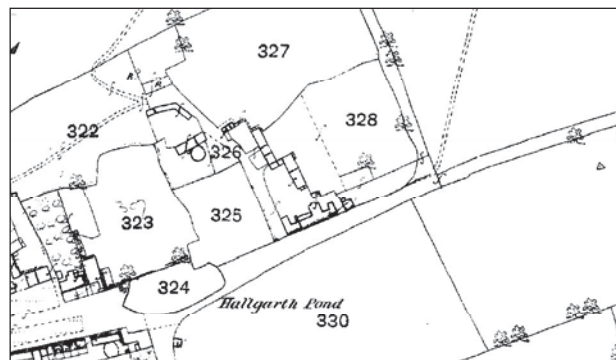
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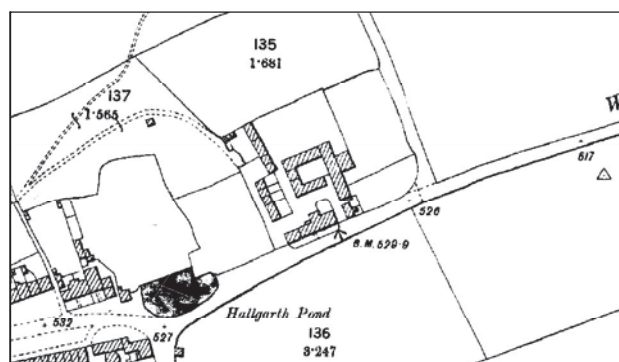
1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1896.

1:2500 1989 Edition Ordnance Survey.

Aerial Photograph of Farm Area, now the site of Tenlands nursing home.

Dispersed Farms in the Ferryhill Atlas Study Area
- Cleves Cross -

Ferryhill Dean and Chapter Estate Map 1765 (DCD/E/AA/17/1), reproduced by permission of the Chapter of Durham Cathedral.
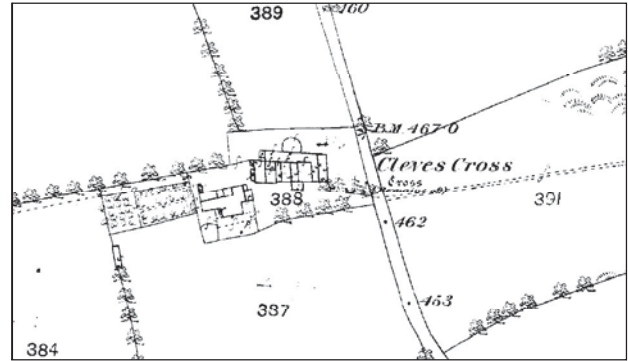
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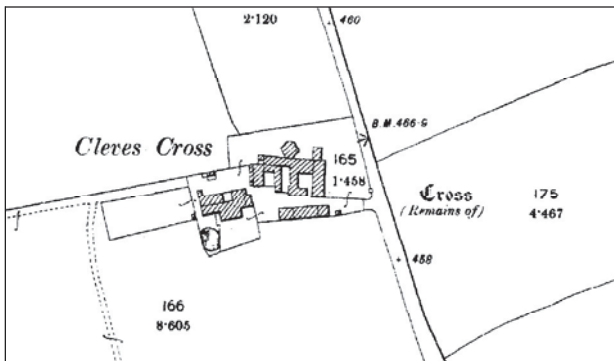
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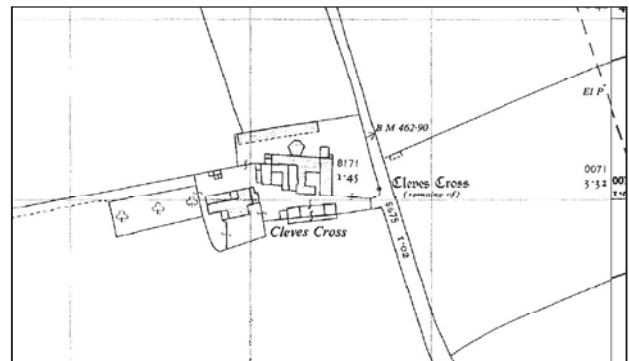
1:2500 1962 Edition Ordnance Survey.

Historic Aerial Photograph of Cleves Cross Farm (Courtesy of Michael Ord).

Historic Photograph of Cleves Cross Farm (Courtesy of Michael Ord).

Dispersed Farms in the Ferryhill Atlas Study Area
- Little Chilton -

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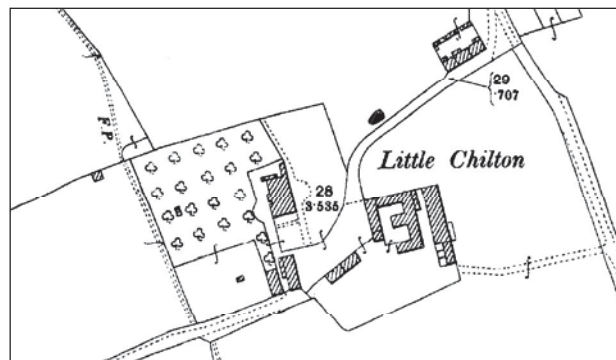
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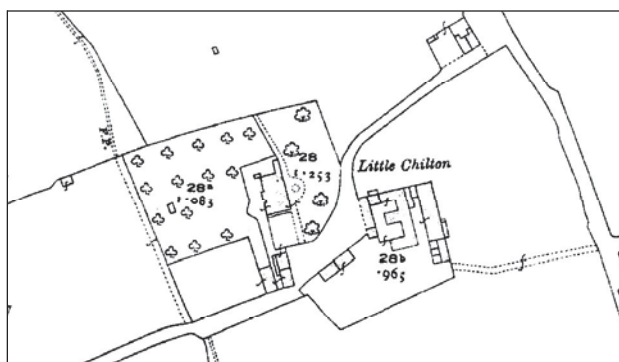
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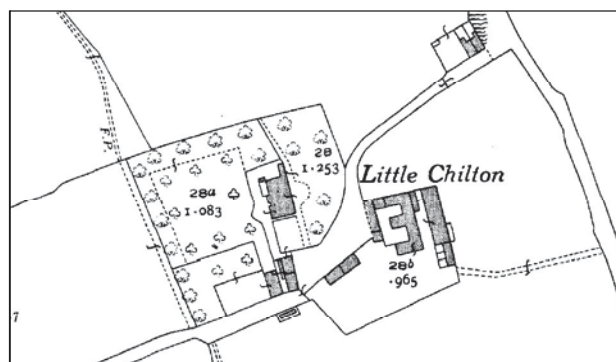
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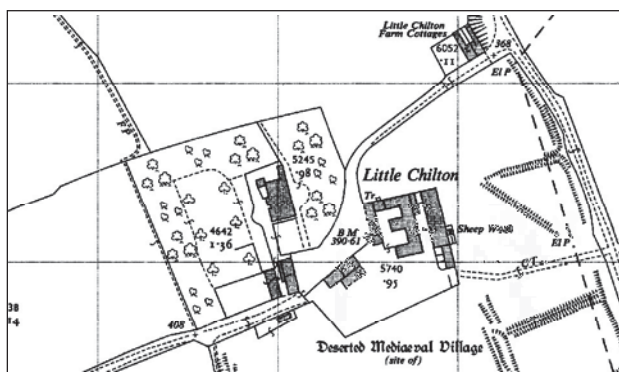
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Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

Dispersed Farms in the Ferryhill Atlas Study Area
- Great Chilton -
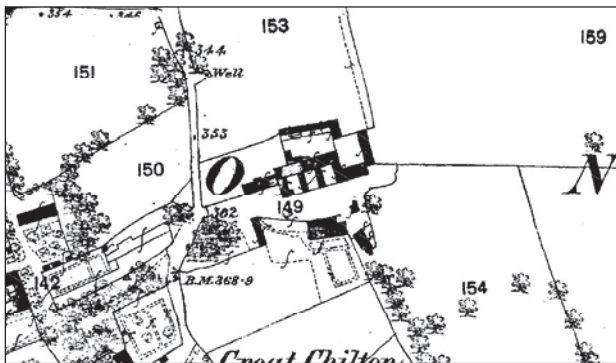
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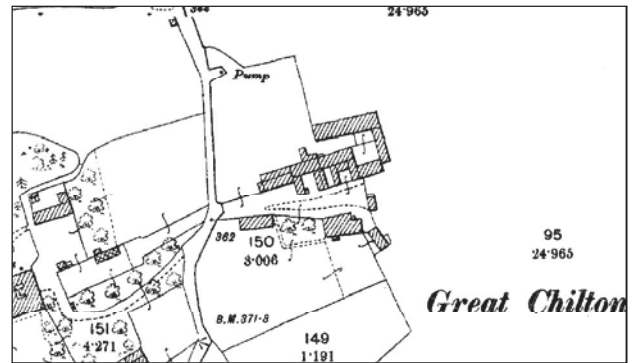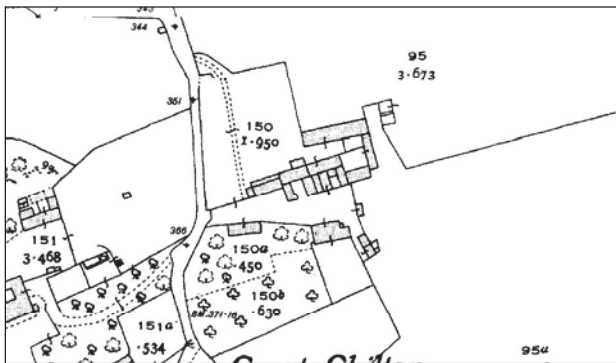
1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1896.

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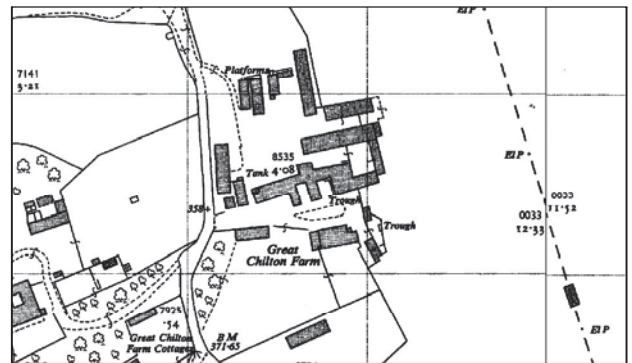
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Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

Dispersed Farms in the Ferryhill Atlas Study Area
- Bridge House Farm -
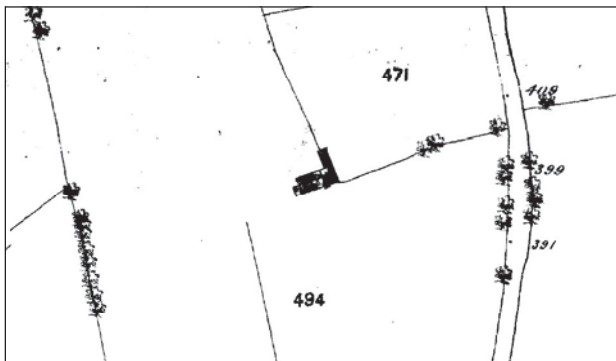
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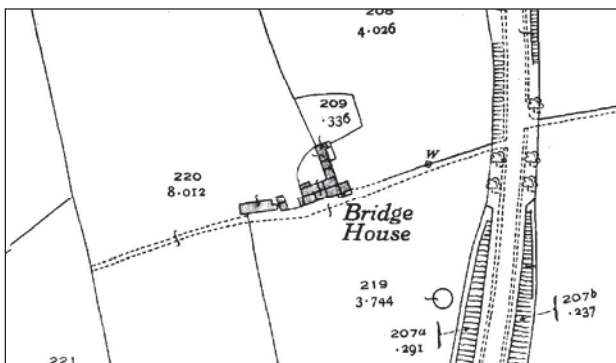
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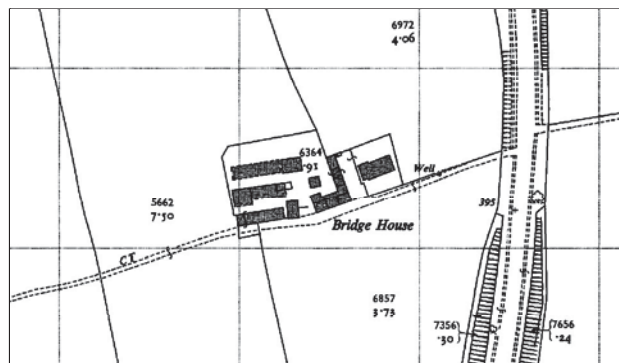
1:2500 1962 Edition Ordnance Survey.

Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

Dispersed Farms in the Ferryhill Atlas Study Area
- East Roughlea -

: brrm) imFbaHaHd C) ap5or Es5a5o Map 1l 6P
ÆCF/E/vv/1l /18, rbpreducbd t mpbrSissieHef
5) b C) ap5or ef Fur) aS Ca5) bdrano
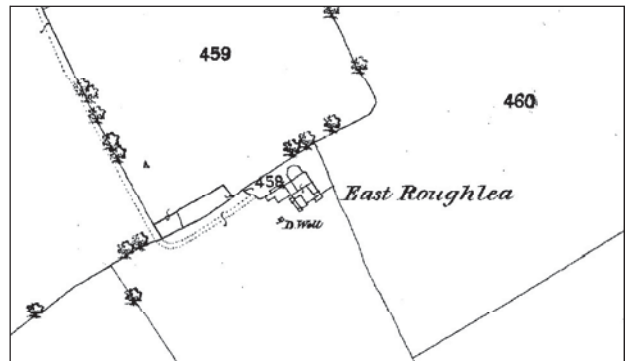
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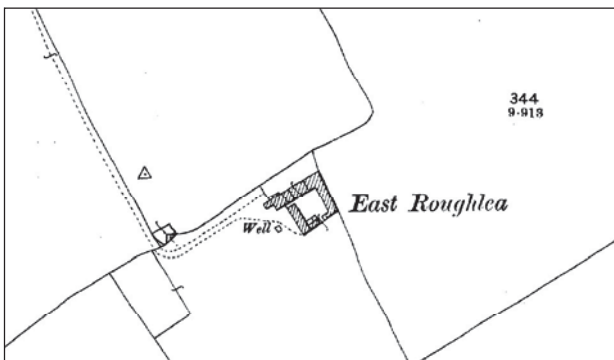
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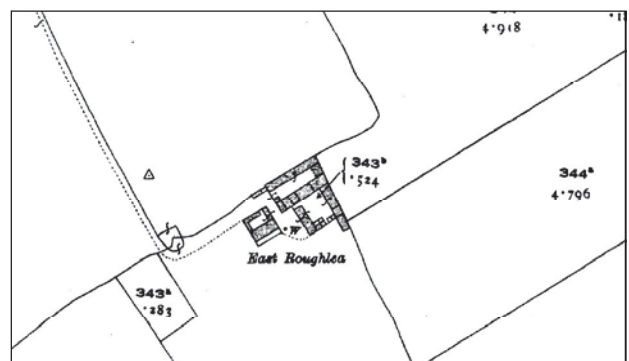
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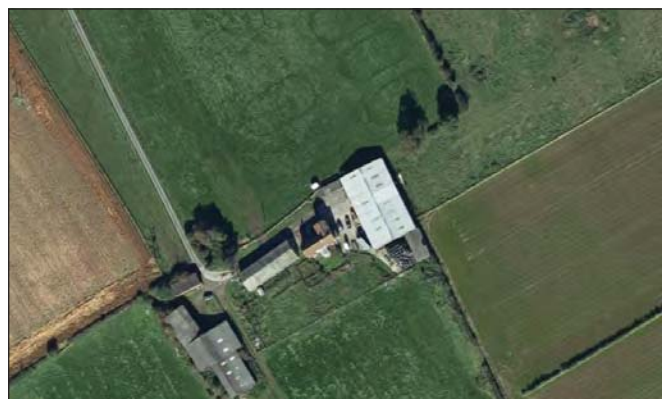
v brianD) e5e(rap) ef : arS v rbao

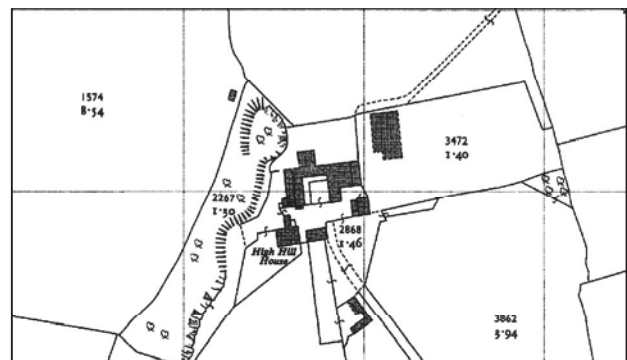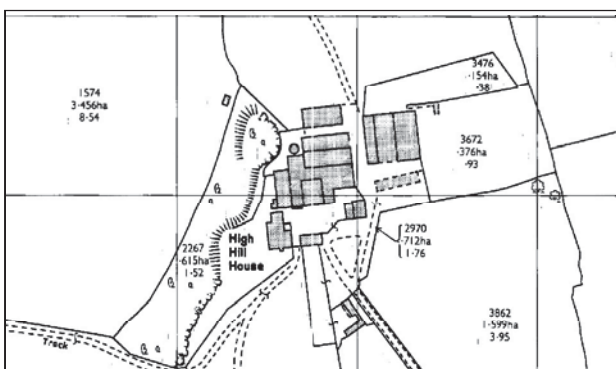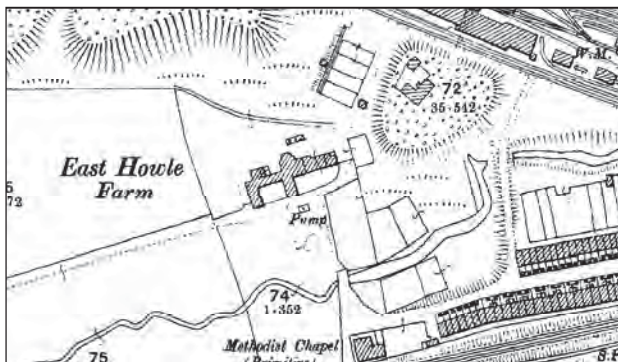# Dispersed Farms in the Ferryhill Atlas Study Area
- Low Hill House -

: brrm) imF baH aHd C) ap5or Es5a5o Map 1l 6P
Æ CF/E/v v /1l /18, rbpreducbd t mpbrS issieH ef
5 b C) ap5or ef Fur) aS Ca5j bdrano

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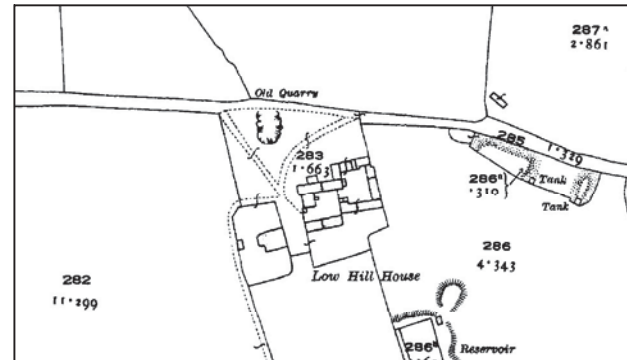
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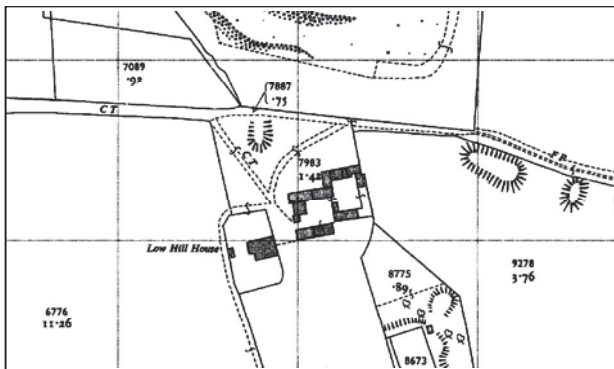
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v brianD) e5e(rap) ef : arS v rbao

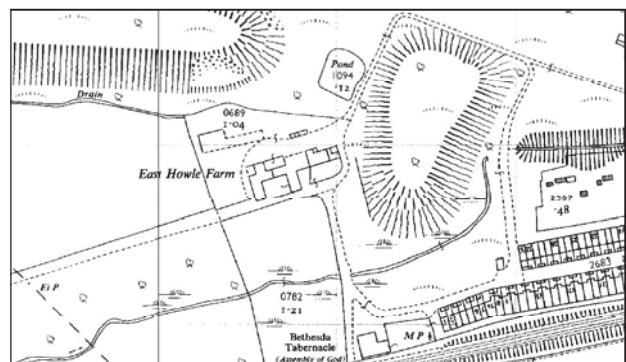# Dispersed Farms in the Ferryhill Atlas Study Area
- High Hill House -

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1:2500 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.
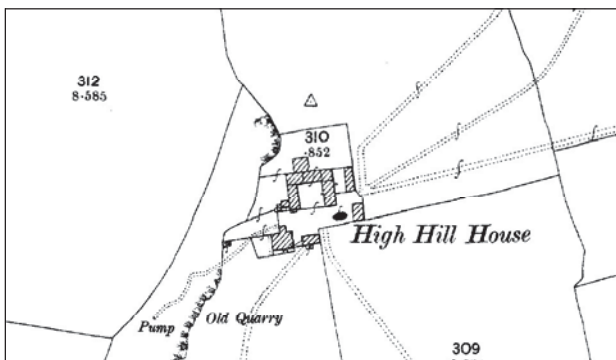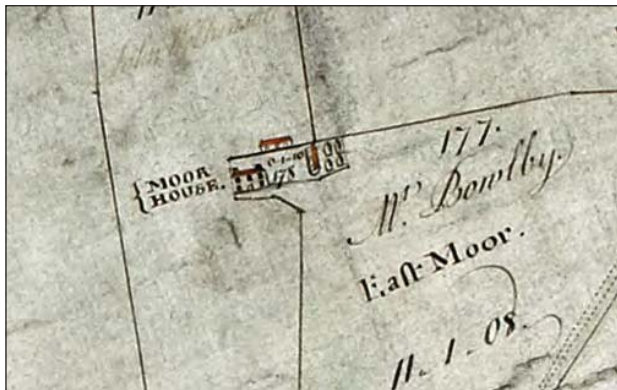

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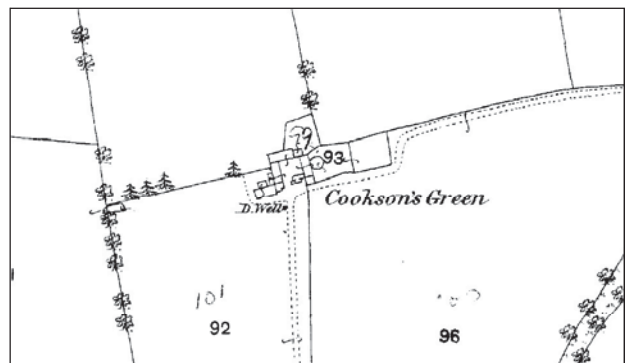

1:2500 1962 Edition Ordnance Survey.

1:2500 1977 Edition Ordnance Survey.

Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

Dispersed Farms in the Ferryhill Atlas Study Area
- East Howle -

Ferryhill Dean and Chapter Estate Map 1765 (DCD/E/AA/17/1), reproduced by permission of the Chapter of Durham Cathedral.

1:2500 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.

1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1896.

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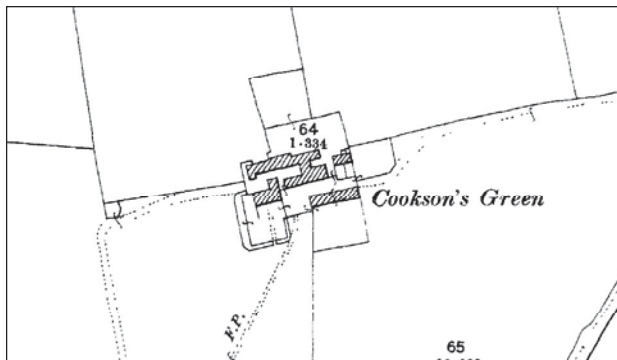

Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.

Dispersed Farms in the Ferryhill Atlas Study Area
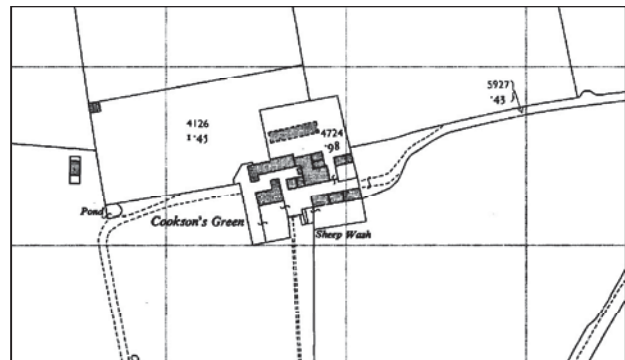## - Cookson's Green -

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1:2500 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1856.

1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1896.

1:2500 1962 Edition Ordnance Survey.

Aerial Photograph of Farm Area.