

## 20. EAST RAINTON

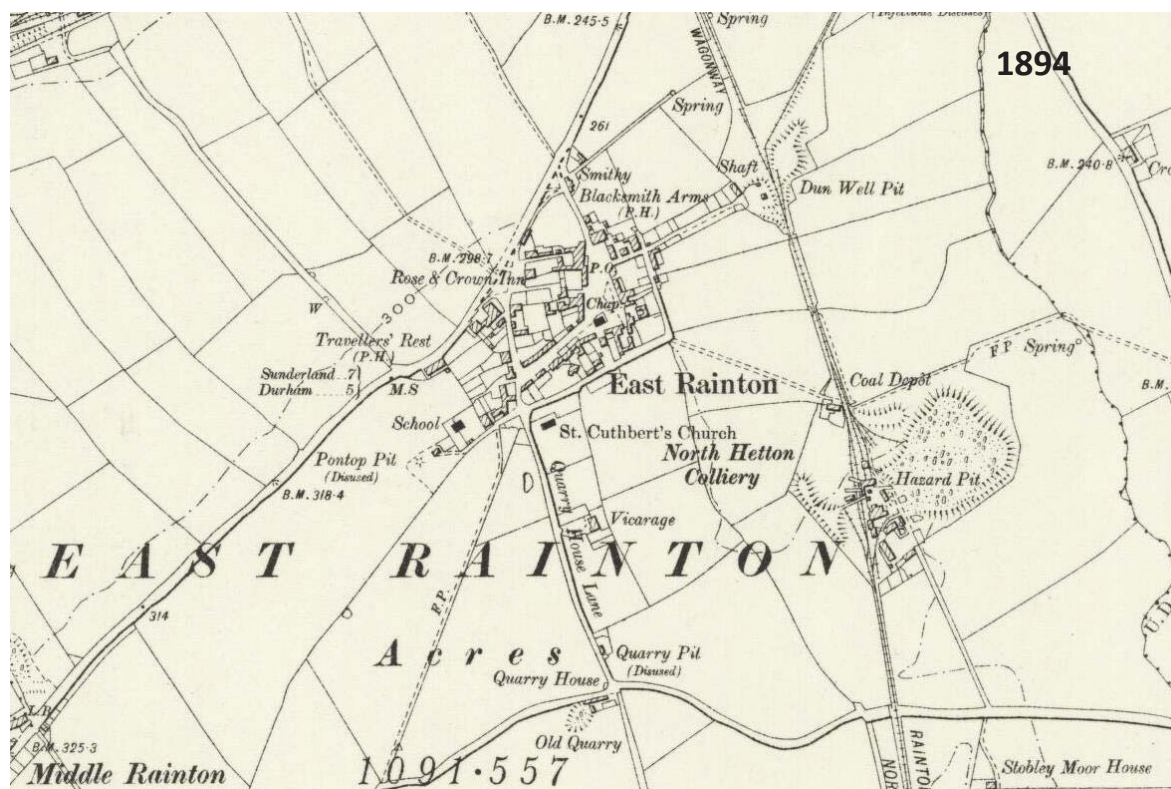
East Rainton is a former mining village which lies on the main road in a north easterly direction between Durham and Sunderland. It is one of five places with Rainton as their place names. Travelling from Houghton-le-Spring to Durham, one passes through Rainton Bridge, East Rainton, Middle Rainton, West Rainton and finally Rainton Gate.

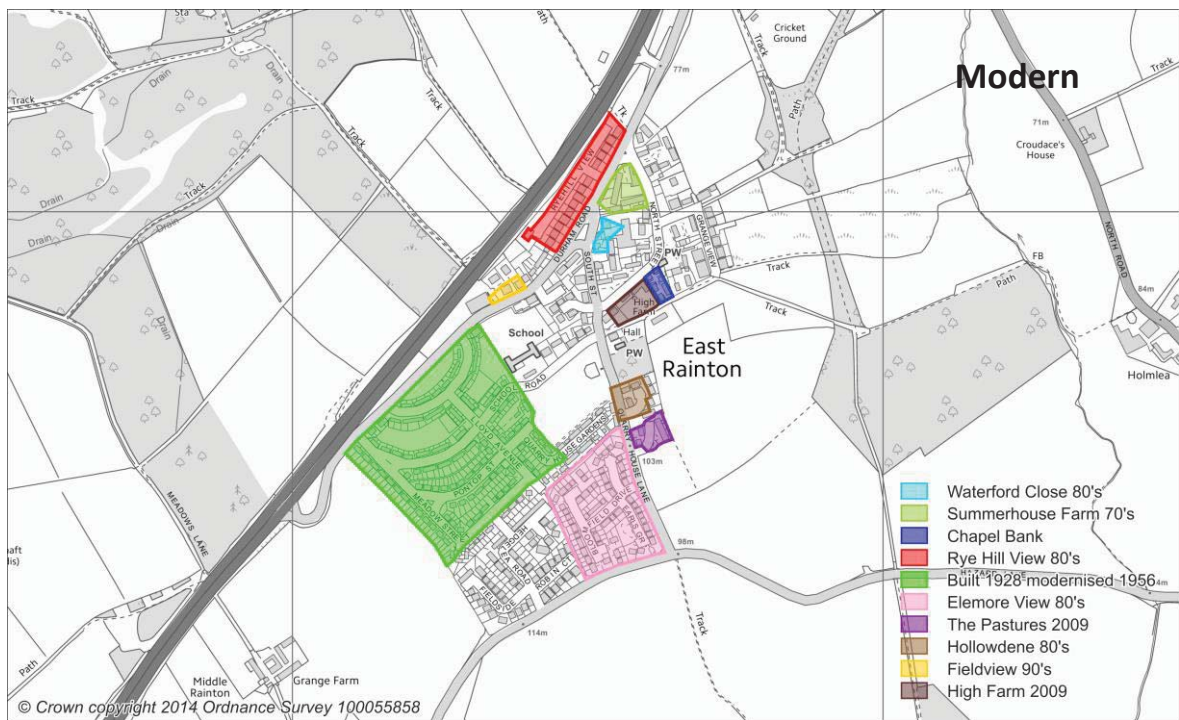
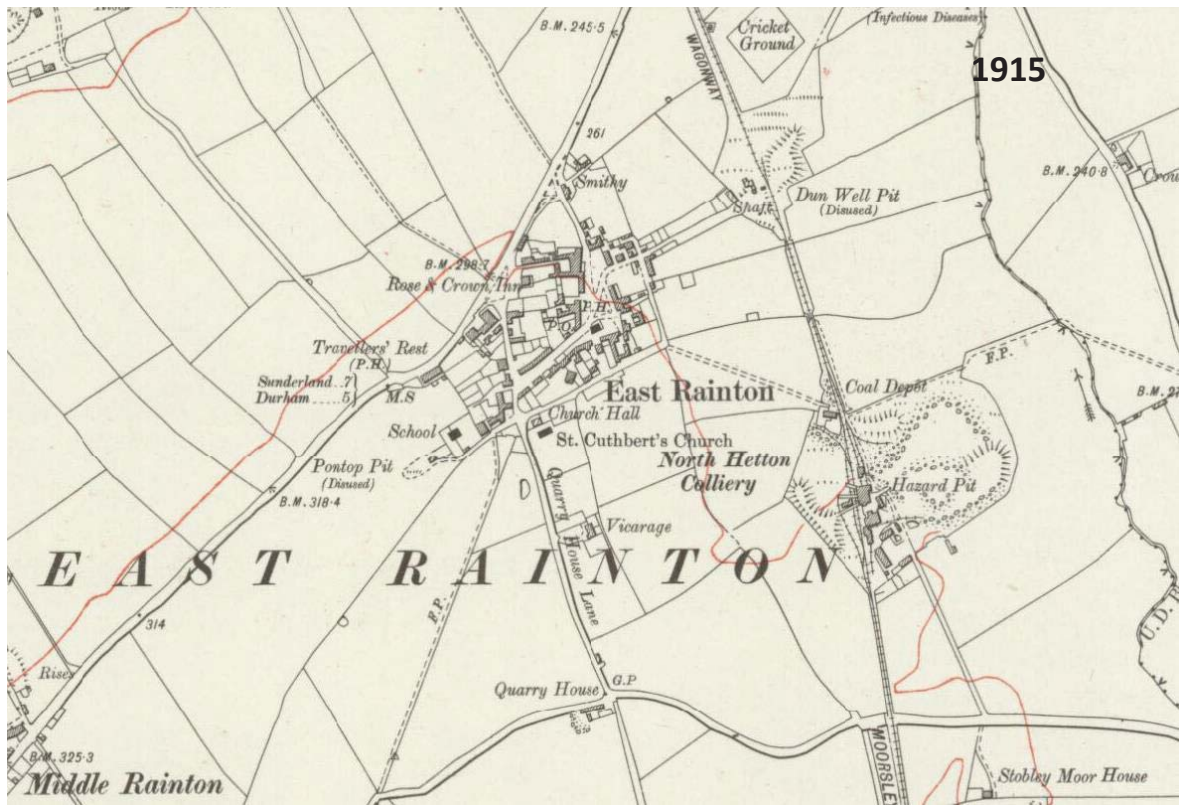
Rainton first appears as 'Raegnwalds Tun' a farming settlement or estate established in the early 900s by Raegnwald, whose father, Franco, was one of the seven monks who escorted St Cuthbert's coffin from Lindisfarne to Chester-le-Street in AD 883, a hundred years before it was brought to Durham city. By the 12th century two distinct settlements had emerged — 'Raintona et alia Raintona' — East and West Rainton. At this time the place name was spelt in a bewildering variety of ways, e.g. *Reinington*, *Renigton* and *Rainton*.

In the Middle Ages Rainton (both East and West) belonged to Durham Priory who had a manorial farm and park there. The appointment of a park keeper is recorded in 1338 and in 1508 Prior Thomas had a grant of free warren from Bishop Bainbridge. By the 19th century the Dean and Chapter of Durham were Lords of the Manor and the Marquess of Londonderry is the chief landowner (Robert Surtees *The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham* 1816-1840).

The old Durham-Sunderland road, running past East Rainton, also probably dates back to the Middle Ages. It has been improved over the centuries, beginning in the 1700s when it became a turnpike road, which is still commemorated by the name of the hamlet, Rainton Gate, where one of the road's toll gates was located, and culminating more recently in its transformation into the dual-carriageway A690.









Plan of the Old Village  
in the 1920's  
with groups of dwellings and  
other buildings and the  
people who lived there

A hand-drawn map of the Old Village in the 1920s. The map shows a network of streets including North Street, South Street, Earth Lane, and School Road. Various buildings are labeled, such as the Church Hall, Green House, and several houses. The map also depicts fields, a well, and a cemetery. A large area is labeled 'TO HERTON' with an arrow pointing towards the top right. The map is numbered 7 in the top left corner.



## GUIDE TO THE GROUPS OF COTTAGES ON THE PLAN OPPOSITE AND THE FAMILIES WHO LIVED THERE

By Robert Hope

- 1 Cottage where I was born, also families: Trevett, Darby, Pritchard, Lowerson Gay, Watson (Engineer - Hazard Colliery)
- 2 Families Green, Inman, Hackett
- 3 Brown, Cooper
- 4 Herd's Cottage (Walker)
- 5 Larks (shop), Buckley, Cummings
- 6 Browell (my Uncle Jack), Langley, Ramshaw, Young (Hardware shop)
- 7 Browell (my Uncle Charlie) Matthew, Coxon, Matthews
- 8 Walkers shop (later Post Office)
- 9 Mr Darby's Greenhouses
- 10 The Old C. Of E. School
- 11 Schoolmaster's House (Mr Tilley) Bailey (Wheelwright & ladder makers)
- 12 Policeman's House (PC Cuthbertson) Matthews, Bassick
- 13
- 14 Walker Family (with cellar type room), Scorer
- 15 Hunter, Gibbney, Chesney, Cummings
- 16 Rainton House (Fred Hutchinson)
- 17 An old public house in earlier days
- 18 Oliver's House and Walkers Farm entrance and buildings
- 19 Paddy's Row (5 or 6 houses)
- 20 Butcher's shop (Sager) later went to Australia
- 21 Nelson, Jones, Walker's Farmhouse
- 22 Makepeace, Henderson, Henry, Miss Forrest's shop
- 23 Swinburne, Hodgkiss, Tubman, Village Tavern (Matthews) Browell (Esther)
- 24 The Folds, Handley (Councillor), Darby, Hunter, Hodgkiss, Robinson, Redfern
- 25 House called 'Church View' (Adamson)
- 26 Weatherall (upstairs), Langley (my Uncle-downstairs) Travellers Rest Pub (Landlord Bones), Rowan, Fox
- 27 Jobling (on corner)
- 28 Wheelwright & blacksmith shop
- 29 Baileys Workshop, sign writers and farm vehicle repairers
- 30 Hutchinson's High Farm buildings
- 31 Mallinson, Crake
- 32 The cherry tree
- 33 What we children called 'Style Bank' when sledging





East Rainton has always been a popular place to live, John Gilpin said in 1800 when doctors fees where expensive, mothers would take their children with whooping cough to where the East Rainton Village Hall used to be 'so that they could breathe the pure air from where four currents met'. And a famous Elizabethan, Lord Burghley, after he had visited John Gilpin in Houghton-le-spring, was reputed to have said after he reined in his horse at Rainton Bank and looked over the surrounding countryside "Here is the enjoyment of life indeed! What more can a man want to make him great, or happier or more useful to his fellow man".

Now, one significant factor in the popularity of East Rainton is the re-routing of the A690 which makes for a pleasant bypassed residential area with quick links to two major centres, Durham and Sunderland and the A1. Many of the older properties encircling the old village green have been demolished and replaced with modern housing, yet it still retains enough of the older housing stock to keep the village feel. Herd's House (dating back to the 19th century and demolished in 1963), Rainton House (built in 1850 and demolished in 1965) and The Vicarage and rookery demolished in 2007, have all been replaced by modern estates. Only one village shop remains instead of the variety it once had; a bicycle repairs shop, butchers, tailor and draper, blacksmiths, boot and shoemaker, even the Post Office had gone by 2012. Industrially East Rainton was based on coal mining and once there were no fewer than eleven collieries operating in the Raintons area. Today there are few signs that the village was based on coal other than landscaped woods and footpaths. Fortunately East Rainton has retained the Church Hall and the Primary School, which provide a hub for the village. In 1937 East Rainton, which had previously



*View from Stobbley Moor Farm by the Old Village Green*

been included in the Houghton-le-Spring Rural District Council area, was transferred to the Hetton Urban District Council where it remained until 1st April 1974, when it was absorbed into the Borough of Sunderland, in accordance with the 1972 government act which created the county of Tyne and Wear, removing Hetton District from Co. Durham.

### **The Parish Church - St Cuthbert's**

St Cuthberts church was erected in 1866. It is a stone building built in the English style, with nave, chancel, south porch, vestry and turret and bell. There is a burial ground attached. It was built by



order of the Council in the Parish of West Rainton on the 10th November 1866, for what was to be called the 'Perpetual Curacy of East Rainton.' Dr Charles Baring, Bishop of Durham was invited to consecrate the church on the 19th December 1866 for the new Parish of East Rainton, formed by the amalgamation of East Rainton and Moorsley.

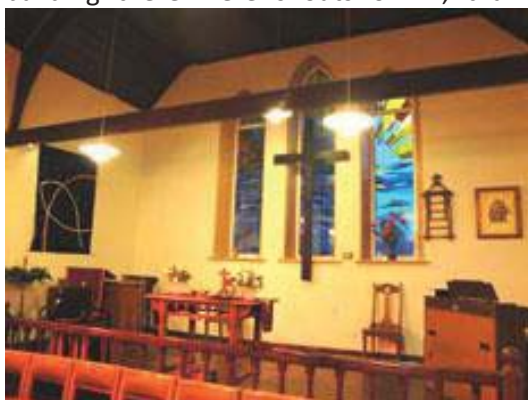


The church hall was built in 1882 with funds from the church, a sewing party, British Legion etc. and every member of the Mothers Union promised a chair for use in the hall.

It was the custom in earlier times for the Vicar to go out into the fields on 'Rogation Sunday' in a procession with his parishioners to bless the sown seed. Two harvest festivals were held, one on a week day when the grain was safely gathered in, followed by another in the church on the following Sunday.

### The Wesleyan Chapel

The Chapel in North Street in the old centre of the village was built in 1823, rebuilt and enlarged in stone in 1889, at a cost of £400. John Wesley preached here and wrote on Monday 6th April 1747 "Having been informed that there were many collieries three or four miles north or north-west of Durham I rode to a village called Renton in the midst of them and proclaimed the Lord God, gracious and merciful". He preached to a very large crowd and as he went into the building there were shouts of "A, tha'



not come sooner".

*Stained glass window by village resident*



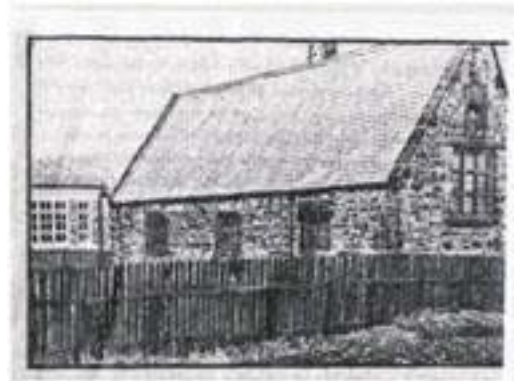
## East Rainton Primary School



A school was built in 1822, probably a 'Sunday School' provided by an arrangement with the chapel, as education was virtually unknown at this time except in Sunday Schools. The North Hetton Coal Company would have taken an interest in the school around 1828 when the Hazard Pit became the principal work-place in the village. 136 children were in attendance due to the employment level at the pit. It was enlarged in 1868 to cater for the expected influx of pupils prompted by the 1870 Education

Act. The school was replaced by the present school in 1933 built by Durham County Council. It provided education for 5-14 years, then after the war it was raised to 15 years. With the building of Hetton and Houghton secondary schools it now caters solely for primary age children. Mr James Tilley was the Headmaster in the 'old' school for twenty six years and in the 'new' school until

1948 when he retired. The present school is run by Sunderland Education Authority. The school is built on the top of the old Pontop Colliery which had developed little more than the original shaft which was used as a ventilating shaft. The playground was part of the original colliery yard. The well known murderer Mary Ann Cotton, who resided for a time in East Rainton, was said to have disposed of two of her babies down this mine shaft. The story goes that she administered soap pills to them so that they died of diarrhoea. So the playground songs included "Mary Ann Cotton she's dead, but not forgotten".



*Old school with new build behind*

### **An Account of 1888 20th September**

I, Robert Hall Jeffrey, lately first assistant of St Pauls School, High Elswick Newcastle and last year a Senior Student at St Bede College Durham, took charge of this school. Since the late Master's death the school has been in the charge of Mr J. McCulloch the assistant, who seems to have fulfilled the duties creditably.

I found the school in a very bad condition indeed, and it will need a great deal of labour, time and pains to raise it to anything like a state of proficiency.

The order is disgraceful, the children coming into school and simply sitting down. They have no orderly way of getting in and out of the desks or passing books. They make a disagreeable noise with their feet in walking about the room. They are lazy, seeming quite content to sit with folded arms doing nothing. They shirk work at every opportunity and much addicted to copying and talking. If not closely watched they will do no work at all.

The children come into school in a very dirty and untidy state. Very few have clean boots and many come with unwashed faces. The morals of the children seem to be low, swearing, fighting and lying being very common amongst them. They have scarcely the least sense of politeness and in many cases they even approach rudeness. Right through the school there is a very bad tone.



*East Rainton School 1949 class3*

### **Five pubs of East Rainton**

There were five pubs in East Rainton, The Fox and Hounds, Rose and Crown, Blacksmith's Arms, Travellers Rest, Village Tavern, but now only one remains, the Traveller's Rest, which has been renamed The Olde Ships Inn.



*Holiday outing from the Travellers Rest*





## The Travellers Rest Troughs



Two water troughs still remain at Rainton Bank and are equi-distant between Durham and Sunderland. These troughs were used to water horses travelling on the main road. Legend has it that they saved the life of Bernard Gilpin, Rector of Houghton in 1558. He was a protestant who had been summoned by the Catholic Queen Mary for trial and possible execution. As he stopped to water his horse on the way to London, he slipped and broke his leg so that he could ride no further. By the time his leg had

healed Queen Mary had died and as the next Queen, Elizabeth 1, was a protestant, the Rector's life was saved.

## The collieries of East Rainton

Mention of coal outcrops were made as early as 1531 and the colliers Richard and Robert Wright opened an open cast mine in 1604. With the development of mining in what proved a rich area the population increased and the standard of living improved enormously. Several shafts were sunk in and around Rainton and small collieries sprung up. The Hazard, Dunwell, Pontop and the Quarry Pit being some of around 20 pits in the near vicinity. It was the Hazard pit which opened in 1825 which lead to the major increase in population in the village. In 1896 the Hazard Colliery, owned by the North Hetton Coal Company, worked the Five Quarter seam at a depth of 53 fathoms, the seam being 3' 7" thick. The Maudlin seam at 73 fathoms at 3' 8" and the Low Seam at 84 fathoms. The output was 340 tons a day with employment of 293 men and boys. Tram lines were laid from Rainton through Colliery Row, Junction Row, Shiny Row and to the river at Penshaw Staithes where the coal was placed in flat bottomed keels, from where it was transferred to the holds of ships on the River Wear for export to the continent and London.



*Miners at Hazard Colliery Circa 1920*

In East Rainton in 1825, there were approximately 100 miners and their families. Miners were hired to a certain pit by a yearly bond. This was usually signed by a cross as most were illiterate, and sealed by their employer with a sum of money, usually half a crown. For breach of this agreement they could be imprisoned. Later the bond was for a week and then a month. Miners needed to know their rights and to this end the Miners Gala Day was initiated, where men could air their grievances to their fellow workmen from a public platform. Their grievances were then looked into and settled by the Miners Union. Often local Methodist preachers were chosen for the Union, men of strong faith, courage and goodwill. Great difficulties had to be overcome to reach the seams of coal beneath the 58 yards depth of magnesian limestone which covers the area. There were problems with safe lighting - originally lighted fish skins and candles were used before the Davy lamp, - problems with flooding - steam pumps replaced horse

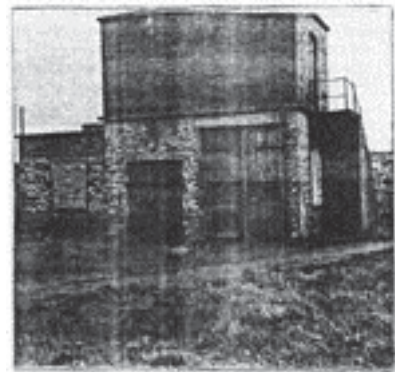
driven pumps used to combat the pressure of water in this strata - and problems of access- originally they used the hazardous loop method of lowering men by means of a loop of chain passed between the legs attached to a support structure. This was replaced with a cage to lower men to the coal surface. Eventually tubs of coal were brought to the surface by cage instead of being dragged along by women and children and later by pit ponies. With improved mining methods came the need for a better means of transport to take the coal to the customer at a reasonable cost and with this in mind, in 1819, the proprietors of the newly formed Hetton Coal Company invited George Stephenson to undertake the building of the necessary locomotives and machinery and the laying of a railway from Hetton to Sunderland. This success established not only the beginnings of the world's railways but also the mining industry as one of prime importance in the North east.



**Hazard Pit** - Situated within 400 metres of the village, Hazard Colliery was located to the east of East Rainton. Hazard Colliery was sunk in 1818 and opened in 1825. It was originally owned by Francis Ann Vane Tempest and then by her husband, Lord Londonderry. In 1850 it was transferred to the North Hetton Co. (Earl of Durham) then in 1911 it became part of Lambton and Hetton Collieries. It

closed in 1935 due to the depressed nature of the Durham coalfield around this time. The site where the colliery was located was cleared and environmentally improved during the late 1970's. The railway track between Moorsley and Hazard is now a footpath and where the colliery buildings stood trees have been planted. A railway embankment made from mine waste continues north and runs down past the cricket ground to Rainton Bridge.

**Dunwell Pit** - The precise opening date of the Dunwell Pit is unknown and it could have been as early as 1780. The ownership of the Dunwell is also a mystery, but when the Hazard opened it was still in production. For a short time the shaft may well have been used as a ventilation shaft for the Hazard colliery and its pump house existed into the 20th century. Little is known about it, other than it was a second shaft to the Hazard Colliery and connected to the Vane Tempest waggonway. There is a report that the cage could only take four men and a boy, and that Mr Tommy Rogers, the colliery winding engineman, had to work from 12am on Saturday till 6 pm on Sunday without a break to get one weekend off in three.



**Pontop Pit** - was the earliest pit in the area. It was situated on the site of the present primary school. Its owners and closing date are unknown.

**Quarry Pit** - Little knowledge has survived other than it being at the junction of Quarry House Lane and Robin Lane



## East Rainton Cricket Club



The cricket ground is reputed to be the oldest in County Durham. It was not known when the club had been founded until a newspaper clipping was found dated Monday 14th July 1851 which gave details of a game between Rainton Bridge Cricket Club (the original name) and Houghton-le-Spring Church Cricket Club. Rainton Bridge originally played in a field next to the Hazard ground and in 1888 the name changed to 'Hazard Colliery Cricket Club'. It was in this period that the club moved from its old ground – which at one time held a Durham County

cricket match- to its present ground. By 1907 the club was playing in the North Durham Junior Division. The original buildings contained changing rooms, which still stand and now house the toilets, and the Groundsman's storage building. The old tea hut burnt down in the 1950's and a new one was erected, running water being introduced in 1982. Before that water had to be collected from a well at the top end of the field, and this spring water was also used for watering the square and making the tea, but it was shared with the farmers cows!. Electricity is still not connected in 2013 and so the water is still heated by a copper boiler! The original plans show a two storey pavilion with viewing gallery but this was later scaled down to the present tea hut. In 1935 with the demise of the pit, it changed its name to East Rainton Cricket Club. The club has been part of the North-East Durham Cricket League since its formation and it is the only original club to have survived into the present day. The club has won many league cups and other competitions including the City of Durham/ Vaux Scorpion lager plate, Glenn Pattinson cup, Vinton trophy, Roseberry Group trophy and were the North East Durham Division 1 winners in 1941,48,50,57,58,59,60, 63,65,83,87,89,90,91,98,2000,01,02,03,04,05,06.



*Cricket Ground overlooking Houghton Cut*

Taken from <http://eastraintoncc.webs.com/>

**The Hazard Colliery Cricket Club by Robert Hope** (Taken from his book 'Recollections of Life in the Village of East Rainton in the 1920's') Now the East Rainton Cricket Club since the colliery closed. It is blessed with a lovely pitch in a rural setting with other fields on three sides. The rest of it is partly circled by the embankment carrying the railway from the Hazard (colliery). I have happy memories of Hazard cricket field –my dad was groundsman there for two or more years. Each year, about May, a pit pony would be brought out of the Hazard pit and loaned to the club to pull the grass cutting machine. There was a small shed next to the pavilion where he was stabled. On practise evenings we children would play cricket on the margin of the field and help push and pull the big roller over the pitch. The exciting day was of course Saturday's game.

My dad and us would arrive at the field early to prepare things. Dad would light a fire in the brazier at the back of the pavilion to boil water for tea in a big pan. The water, we brought from the well in Bailey's field.

The best moment for us was when the teams had their teas supplied by the ladies, then we would have ours. There would be salmon sandwiches and cakes. Great summer days – my dad received £5 (old pounds) for the season as a groundsman.



### A Potted History



In East Rainton Mr J. Bailey brewed beer and Mr Tom Sutheran manufactured bottled mineral water as well as bottling beer and stout. The mineral waters were sold in bottles with glass marbles in the necks of the bottles, the gas from the mineral waters made the marble fit tight and the marble had to be forced down with the thumb to open it. This small business known as Sutherans bottling factory in Sutherans Yard North Street employed 4 men inside and 2 cartmen who travelled as far away as Consett and Stanley.

In 1892 when a colliery dispute occurred the Co-operative Society installed a soup kitchen to provide meals for the needy. They supplied goods free to the soup kitchen, allowed their goods to be sold at



wholesale prices and gave generous donations to the relief fund. Such acts endeared the Co-Op to the miners and their trade expanded. The Moorsley Co-Op purchased some land in Durham Road



*The Folds*

East Rainton in 1925, but because of the coal strike in 1926 the building was delayed till 1931, although trading occurred in a rented house from 1927. In 1931 the new branch was opened, business was transferred to it and it became the foremost premises in the area, capable of satisfying the whole of the requirements of the people of East Rainton. About this time Co-operative Dairies were founded and modern, fully equipped dairies were built. Milk was purchased from local farmers and

pasteurised and bottled before being sold to the Co-operative customers. Up until then milk had to be bought from the local farmers who measured the milk to the customers requirements, having been strained and cooled but not pasteurised.

The women played a vital role in the household such as collecting water from wells and springs. Water in East Rainton was brought from the seven local wells to the village on a donkey cart and sold to customers at a penny a pail. Later water was laid on in pipes by means of a pump or tap at the end of the street so families could fetch their own water. Inside the house, the water was kept in stone jars and covered with wooden tops. The fireplaces were all built with round ovens and set pots, which were used to boil water for the baths, for the miners always had a daily bath when they returned from work. There were specific days for baking, washing and cleaning and polishing the brass. Evenings were spent knitting, sewing and mending. When her husband worked shifts his meals and hot baths had to be ready. Miners were paid fortnightly, the week when they were not paid was known as 'baff week'. In 'baff week' it was often difficult to make ends meet. Washing tubs and poss-sticks were a common sight each Monday when the weekly wash was done, including the starched table and bed linen, the 'pit-hoggers' and dress clothes of her husband, and the elaborate pinafores which were all meticulously clean. Then to the ironing which was a tedious task. Irons had to be heated in the fire, removed by placing a poker into a hole in the heater which was placed in a 'box-iron'. The heat in the iron did not remain for long and spare heaters had to be kept in the fire in readiness. In earlier times women used the communal wash house at Rainton Bridge Farm but when wages increased they preferred to use their own tubs, poss-sticks and mangles.



*WW1 Victory Bonfire*

Women made proddy mats and patchwork quilts out of disused clothes. They made 'Durham Quilts' which were light but warm enough to be used as eiderdowns on beds. They were made of wadding or feathers put between two pieces of material and stitched together in beautiful patterns, a kind of quilting synonymous with County Durham and still practised today. Gypsies in Fleming field near Rainton Bridge taught the women how to crochet and knit for a few pennies. On special occasions such as 'Houghton Feast', the fair at Durhams Sands on Easter Monday, and the Durham Miners Gala Day, the gypsies made their money by selling their wares and telling fortunes.

Also the housewife had to bake her bread on certain days of the week, when it was her turn to use the communal oven which was located at Rainton Bridge Farm, in the boiler house. Each woman knew her bread by a special 'stamp' on top of the loaf. The 'stamp' was made by hammering nails into a piece of wood to form a pattern.



Almost everyone kept an allotment and regular leek shows were held in the 'Tavern' and the 'Travellers Rest'. Scraps of food from the table were given to the pigs and hens on the allotment. Hens provided eggs and meat, while the pig was usually killed around the time of Houghton Feast or Christmas, to provide extra meat for such festive occasions. The village had one butcher who killed three beasts each week. Mr Robson carried on this business for sixty years.

### **Paddy's Row**

In the village there was a small street of houses known as Paddy's Row. Every Saturday night Paddy, an Irish miner, got drunk, and when the pubs closed he moved very slowly and deliberately along the street trailing his coat behind him. This was a recognised challenge to anyone in the village wanting to fight him for the right to live for a week in the first house in Paddy's Row. The house appeared to belong to no-one, but Paddy had taken possession of it and if anyone accepted the challenge and beat him (which few did!), Paddy slept under a hedge. He was probably one of the many Irish labourers imported into Rainton and Seaham by Lord Londonderry during the strike of 1844. Not surprisingly the strike breakers were resented and fighting was common. Such expressions as "He's in a rare paddy" stem from the bitterness and brutality of those times.

### **The Village Hall**

In 1926 the Miners Welfare Hall was constructed, with reading rooms and a sprung dance floor. But with the closure of the Hazard Pit in 1934 it was given to the village as a Village Hall. The organisations that used it included the football and cricket clubs the British Legion and the Women's Institute. The WI started in East Rainton in 1948. Many of the women were members at Leamside and West Rainton but it was decided to start one in the village to include women from Rainton Bridge too, and the membership soon rose to 130. The British Legion was founded after the First World War. In the past the members attended the church armistice service and their banner was carried into the church. After the service the 'last post' was played over the grave of the only soldier of East Rainton who was brought home to be buried, a Mr William Kirtley of the Durham Light Infantry. His grave is looked after by the war graves





commissioners. The Church hall was built and then the village hall fell into disrepair so it was demolished in 1990 and the Field View houses were built on the site after some controversy over who owned the land.

## Farms

There were six farms connected with East Rainton and these have been farmed by some families for several generations. The only working farm at the present time is Mr J Bailey at Rainton Bridge Farm. Although originally a racing stable and dairy farm, it is now solely arable and has been in the Bailey family for two hundred years. The High and Low Farms were farmed by the Hutchinson family, Summer House Farm by the Walkers and North Pit Farm by the Weightmans, who were all mainly



*Stack at Summerhouse Farm*



*Summerhouse Farm*

much needed employment to the village.

Except for Summer House Farm, which was owned by Lord Londonderry, the farms were the property of the Dean and Chapter of Durham. The High and Low Farms were leased from the Hetton Coal Company and then the National Coal Board. Years ago when the last cart-load of corn was brought in from the fields some was made into a 'corn betty' and carried in the cart with great rejoicing to the stack yard. Afterwards there was a barn supper with free beer, followed by dancing. Many farm labourers were needed before mechanisation and this gave

## Oral History

### *Iris Langley*

"I started East Rainton School in 1934 on the day I was five years old, there were no set dates to start school then, you started on the day you were five. I remember my first day, it was raining and I fell down the steps. We had a teacher called Miss Turnbull, there was a huge open fire with a very large fireguard on which Miss Turnbull dried our socks. The toilets were outside where the cars are parked now. In the winter the toilets froze!! The top class were two rooms when I came to this school. In the top class was a very naughty boy, we used ink pens to write with and the ink powder had to be mixed with water, having done this the naughty boy threw the ink at the teacher. The boy was caned by Mr Tilley, the Headmaster, who was very strict, he insisted on the boys playing at one side of the yard and the girls at the other. The dinner hall was used for woodwork, science and cookery lessons. After the war had started and everything was rationed we were making meatless broth, I peeled a turnip but the peelings were too thick so I had to peel the peelings! During the war if the air raid sirens went when we were at school we went into the air raid shelter in the school field and had concerts. We carried our gas masks in a cardboard box with a string through to hang round our necks. There were no school dinners and everyone went home at lunch time. We stayed there

until we were 14 years old, unless we were clever, then we went to Houghton Grammer School which is no longer there. We played hopscotch, skipping, 'tiggy touchy' and 'hitchy dabbers'. The boys played 'oily gigs and bowlers' this was hoop and stick. In the winter they played football with jackets as goalposts and a heavy leather football, there were no free kicks, penalties or fouls, it was just a hustle and bustle! When the snow came the sledges came out. These were made of wood and two pieces of iron fastened to the wood runners and a rope handle. Our two favourite places to slide were Chapel bank in front of Stobbley Moor Farm and the back lane behind Baileys farm known as Style bank".

*Mr Walker and farm hands at Summer House Farm*



***Growing up in East Rainton by Keith Rennie***

"I was born in East Rainton at 30 Pontop Street. I had a brother, George and two sisters, Dorothy and Betty, who unfortunately passed away some years ago. I, like my siblings before me, attended East Rainton School, played football for both junior and senior teams, as well as on the cricket team and cross country running. My sister Betty never left the village and resided at Stobbley Moor Farm. I spent lots of time on the farm, used to play in the granary and help at milking time, the old byre has gone now. I remember the shops, Joneses having the shop and fish shop, now gone and replaced by the Highfield Hotel. Remember going to the Co-Op (now the Mini centre) with my mum. Then there were the Larks, Larky as the kids called him, he ran the shop and the ice cream parlour. Great gentleman he was, organizing annual bus trips to the seaside. At 13 I delivered newspapers in the old village, cycled along to Middle Rainton delivering papers to Yeomans Farm and up the street, the Rectory where the Vicar for East and West Rainton lived (both morning and night), even remember the old Coulson's fish shop at Middle Rainton. We moved to Quarry House Gardens. Here I stayed until I was 21, got married and moved to Gilesgate. East Rainton was a place where everyone knew one another, certainly a great place to live as a kid".



### ***Gertie Bowden***

Gertie Bowden is 100 years old and has lived in her present house in Handley Crescent, East Rainton for 72 years. Gertie was born on 10 July 1913 in 10 Lane Cottages Front Street (which is now The Folds). She had two sisters and her father was a pitman at the Hazard Pit and at Hetton Downs. She went to the village school which was a three roomed building. The first room had 5, 6, 7 years old, the second room 8, 9, 10 years old and there was a partition for the Head master and the third room 11, 12, 13 years and then you left school at 14 years old. She can remember a happy time, coming home for lunch and delivering 7 cans of milk from the farm twice a day around the village. At 15 she became a home help and a nanny in Houghton. At 17 she moved to Lanchester to become a housemaid for Sir Francis and Lady Greenwell at Greenwell Ford, they were 78 and 76 at the time. She had ½ day off a week and 1 day off a month for 30 shillings a month. Gertie became ill and needed to go to the isolation hospital at Langley Park, whilst there Lady Greenwell visited and said they wouldn't be needing her anymore and within a short time they had both died within 24 hours of each other. Gertie then moved to Ramside Hall and worked for Judge Pemberton for 7 months as he resided in London in the winter, she moved to Elemore Hall to work for an Admiral as a parlour maid. He had a summer house in High Buston near Alnmouth, but then he also died so she left at 19 to work at St Mary's College Durham. In 1933 she married her husband Billy, who she had met originally in Greenwell Ford, but met again at the College whilst being presented with a medal for a world speed record in cycling. Billy was a pitman at High Pittington, Houghton Meadows and Cocken Drift as well as Finchale Abbey and East Herrington. For the first two years they lived with his mother but they fell out and her father offered them a cottage in Sutherans Yard next to the Tavern and bottle house. There were two bedrooms in the loft space but they made a staircase in one room. After the birth of her fourth child in this one roomed cottage, the doctor asked the council if they could be rehomed. So in 1942 they moved to Handley Crescent. In the house they had a scullery, a set pot and slab, an enormous range that covered one wall and a coal house. Her husband had to dig 20 tubs of coal a day, he could take home the 21st. He was paid 35 shillings a week and felt lucky when he could work on a Saturday for £2.

During the war Billy had an allotment out the back and her father also kept a large allotment. Although there was rationing and life was a struggle the war didn't affect Gertie or East Rainton. At the time in the village in North Street there were the two pubs, the Ramshaws and Langleys who kept a bike repair shop, Miss Forest who had a general dealers selling paraffin, Mr and Mrs Jones general dealers, a butchers shop, bakery and blacksmiths. Gertie had two more boys in Handley Crescent. Gertie knitted for the whole family as well as making clothes, often using old sheets put to another use by hand sewing, she was given a treadle machine that eventually had an electric motor put on. She walked everywhere, into Houghton to get the tram into Sunderland, walking to Leamside to get the train into Durham, and Fencehouses to get the train to Newcastle. In 1943 Billy was enlisted into the army, then in 1947 he returned to coal mining at the Dorothea (Dolly) pit in East Herrington. He was injured in an accident and eventually went to work as a wagon driver for Reg Vardy. She can recall Middle Rainton which was very dilapidated, there was the Wilsons pub, a junk shop and a few houses. Billy had a motorbike which he made a single and double sidecar for, he regularly took all the children to Seaham Harbour but petrol was expensive at 11 1/2d a gallon. Gertie has 17 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and 9 great great grandchildren at the last count!



*Hazard Colliery (Courtesy of the Bob Moody Collection)*



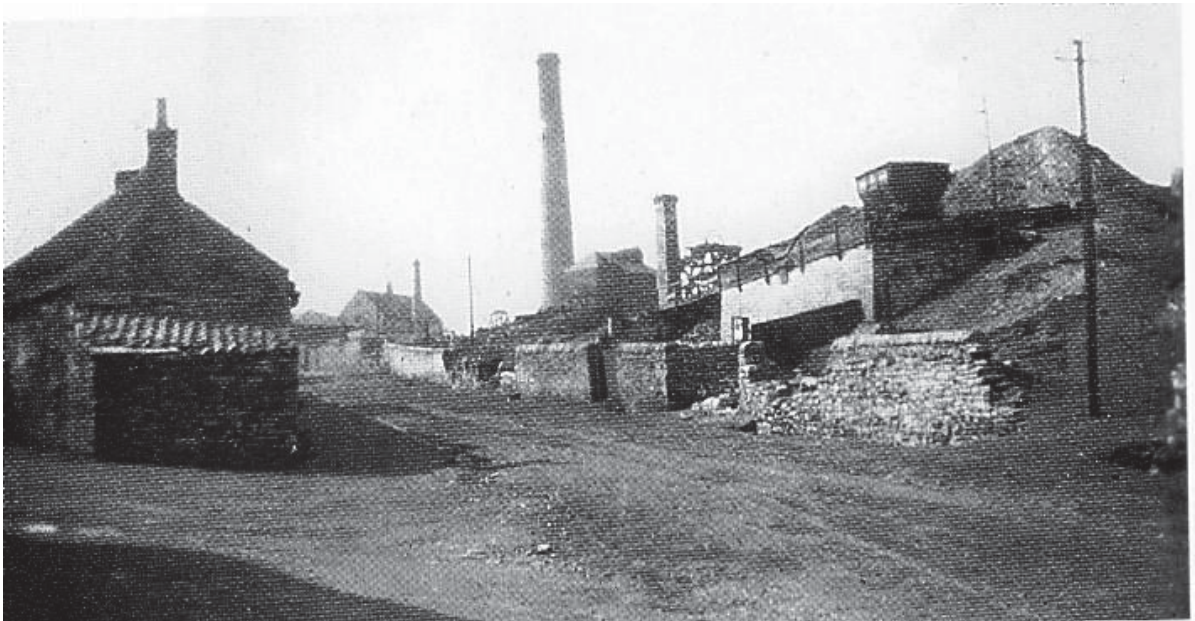
*Nicholson's Pit Heap*





*Meadows Pit*

## 21. MOORSLEY



*North Hetton Colliery*



The township is old and was first mentioned during the reign of Henry II (1154- 1189) as Moreslav or Moreslawe. In a document the land owned by Adam de Moreslawe was given away by him to the monks and Prior of Durham. As a result he was admitted into the Prior's household to carry out menial tasks. His son Helyas followed him but his wife, because she was a woman, was not allowed and was given a toft and 2 acres of land rent free for the rest of her life. Adam may have been admitted to the church to atone for some indiscretion.

There were still a small number of freehold pieces of land left in Moorsley although one of 7 acres was given to the Convent of St. Cuthbert. Thus a large part of Moorsley passed into the possession of the church while the rest became leasehold land belonging to the Dean and Chapter.

By Elizabethan times a hay tithe was paid to the Rector of Houghton. Much of the land was being cultivated but one must assume that there were still areas of rough grazing and heathland. Roads to and from the hamlet on the hillside existed merely as simple tracks, one leading west in the direction of Pittington the other east toward the hamlet of Hetton.

High Moorsley farmhouse was possibly Tudor, as legend has it (from Mr Richard Swinburn) that when it was demolished, due to subsidence, a Priest Hole was discovered! so it had been occupied by Catholics after the dissolution of the monasteries.

A Poor Law Book compiled by the overseers in 1821 suggests that there were 7 inhabited houses accommodating 10 families. There were 8 families employed in agriculture, 1 independent and 1 employed in craft work. The total population comprised 28 males and 20 females.

IN 1831 the population had grown to 748, due to the opening of local collieries. These included Hetton, Eppleton, Elemore, Dunwell, Hazard, Alexandrina (Lecht), Pittington, Belmont and Lady Seaham and of course North Hetton colliery at Moorsley.

It seems likely that sinking at Moorsley began in 1821 with the colliery opening within four years. Even though the Dunwell colliery had been in operation for a few years the Hazard colliery was developed around the same time as the North Hetton colliery at Moorsley. The principal owners were the Marchioness of Londonderry, Thomes Bellerby and Thomas W. Robinson and they leased the land from the Dean & Chapter.

The population expanded during the 1820s, 1830s 1840s and throughout the remaining decades of 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Lamb Inn is mentioned in the 1838 Tithe register as being a homestead owned by George Robinson esq. and tenanted by an Edmund MacDonnell esq. The first title deeds currently held by the present occupants are dated Aug 1939 when Robinson Brothers Brewers Ltd of Castle Street, Sunderland, who became insolvent in May 1939, transferred ownership to Vaux. There does not seem to be any connection with Lamb's Brewery in Hetton.

### The population of Moorsley

1801	36
1811	43
1821	48
1831	748
1841	821
1851	942
1861	973
1871	1025
1881	1078
1891	1108

The chief land owners in those days were the Dean & Chapter, Lord Londonderry, Hon Francis Bowes Lyon, Robert Greenwell and the Robinson Family.

Two chapels were built by the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists as well as a Mission church belonging to St. Cuthberts of East Rainton. (situated 50m below the point where the houses forming Valley View now exist). The latter was known as the tin church and it was demolished in the 1940s. The land on which it stood is still visible today behind a rubble wall. Due to the fact that it is church land no building has taken place at this location. The church seated about 180 people.

The first houses were located close to the colliery in Low Row (later to become Blue Row), Jewitt's Row, Back Row, Green Row and High Row. The houses which formed the four rows at High Moorsley were not built until the 1860s Rows 1-3, and Westgarth's Row. High Row housed the officials. Opposite the school was a group of 5 houses known as the "Half Way Houses", (i.e. half way between Low Moorsley and High Moorsley). The church was set back about 15 feet from the road with a hard stand 10-12 feet wide leading from the road to the entrance of the church. On the lower side some 20 feet from the end of the church was a rough dirt track which ran alongside the gable end of the uppermost Half Way House.

During the 1940s and 50s the top cottage was occupied by Mr and Mrs Thompson and their two sons. One son was a hawker by trade and his horse was stabled in a large wooden shed which also acted as a cart shed, situated on rough ground behind the Mission Church. Unlike most of the miners' cottages, the coal houses were built on to the end of the pantry which projected from the back wall. Due to poor access the coal had to be carried to the coal houses in sacks. Pit workers in those days received an allowance of 12 cwt (approx 1200 kgs) every 3 months. The other houses were occupied by Mr and Mrs Parkin, Mr and Mrs Crake, Mr and Mrs Turnbull and Mr Sidaway the Church Army Captain who took over the house from Mr and Mrs Bilton who moved to the Lyons Colliery .Mr Bilton was responsible for training the pit ponies at the colliery. Mr Sidaway did much work for the Mission Church. All five houses had concrete floors in the rear room (kitchen) and the pantry and wooden floors supported on joists in the front room. A straight flight of narrow stairs led from the front room up into the loft. The two bedrooms were exposed to the roof of the cottage



supported by two cellar beams and purlins holding up lathe and plaster beneath slate external roofs. The exposed roof beams, lathes and plaster were all painted white with whitewash.

There was a dormer window complete with sash cords in one roof and a metal skylight in the other. If one looked out of the front window in 1948-50 it was possible to see the middle reservoir on the right hand side, where the pit yard had been and beyond it the Moorsley pit heap. The present Moorsley hut at the bottom of the hill would have been obscured by the size of the pit heap which has since been removed and landscaped. Below the houses there was a dirt track leading from the main road to the reservoir which was made of brick and concrete. The reservoir was in use long after the war and was surrounded by a 9 foot wooden fence with access through locked wooden gates. The reservoir held water pumped up in two stages, firstly from the Hazard Colliery and then up the to the reservoir which was constructed on the top of the hill at High Moorsley. Apparently tap water from the reservoir was on occasions totally undrinkable due to the amount of chlorine added every few weeks. The people who lived at High Moorsley in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Rows as well as Westgarth's Row regularly used water from a well (spring) which came out of the ground some 300 metres below in a field on Moorsley Banks. This water was not only sweet but really clean and during hard winters became the only source of running water when water froze in the pipes from the reservoir to the standpipes in the streets and houses in High Moorsley. The spring was one of two accessible to villagers, the other being in a field to the north, below the location of the colliery. It was said that the "Green Lady", a ghost who frequented Moorsley Bottoms where the well was situated, looked after the well. This water from the well brought luck to all who drank it if the Green lady had passed that way.

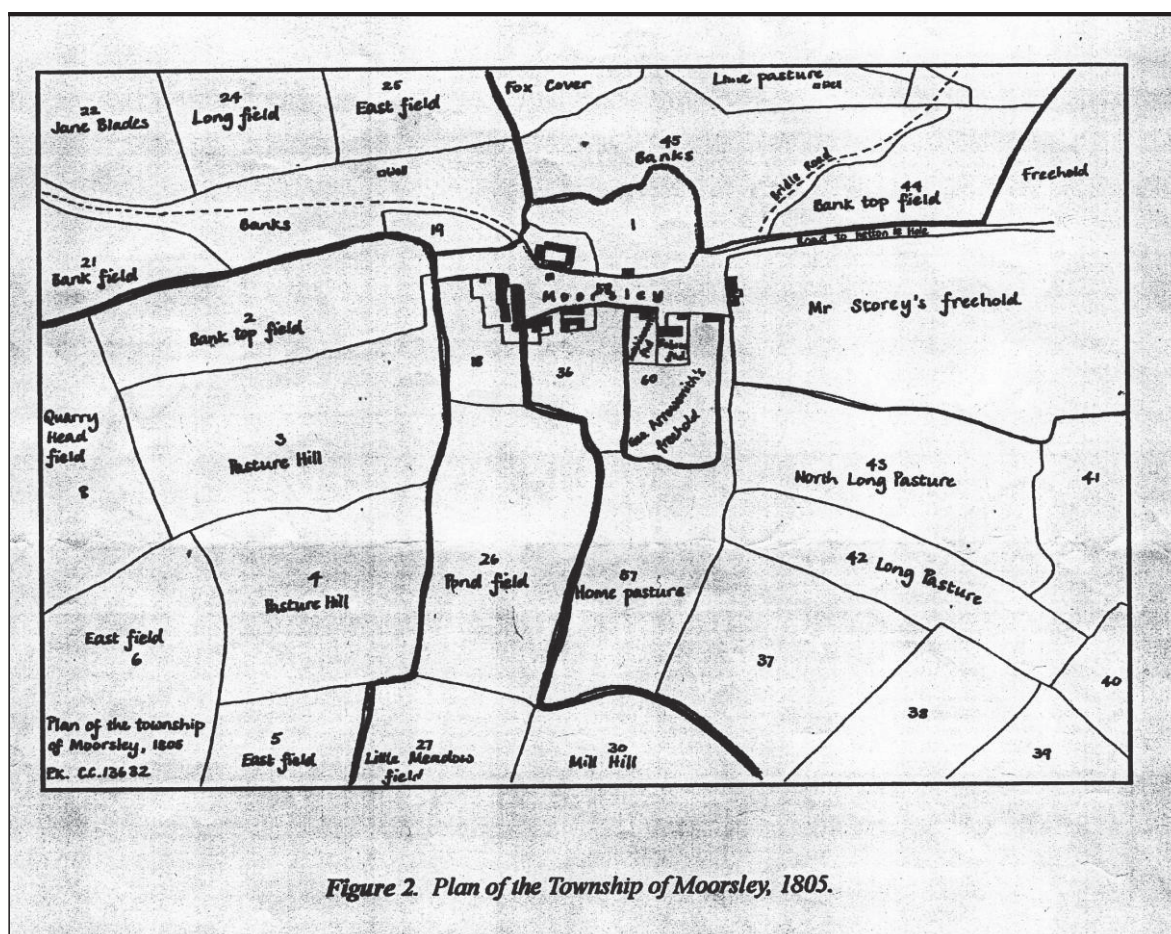
Of the two wells used for drinking by the people of High and Low Moorsley the one at Low Moorsley was capped when the site was ploughed over, but the other, the lucky well, still runs with benefit to those who drink its sparkling water. The Ranters, an old singing group, used to extol the virtues of the lucky well by chanting their old refrain "Hurrah for the well, hurrah, its blessings are pure and free. Hurrah for the well, hurrah, she's the best girl for me".

Moorsley has an SSSI that contains rare grasses brought down by the glaciers which is why the present owners named the re-built school 'Moon Fern Lodge' as 'Moon Fern' was the gypsy name for the sort of grass found on Moorsley bank. The school itself was demolished (having also been a fibreglass factory after the school closed) and the bungalow was built in its footprint using the stone from the school as facing material.

The wood next to the old Lamb Inn at the top of the bank, was replanted in the 1980s/90s as the southern-most section of the Great North Forest (not a huge success as it has been left to run wild – it isn't managed. Possibly the money for maintenance ran out). Other sections of the Great North forest were planted in the valley to the north of the villages.

Low Moorsley Village Hall (where the current Hut is) was erected in c1927 by the North Hetton Coal Co. and was paid for, in part, by miners' subscriptions. It was extremely well used with something going on every day of the week. It was transferred to the management of Moorsley & District Community Association in the early 1970s but then demolished in 2005 due to its disrepair and the discovery of asbestos in the construction. The newly formed Community Association then acquired the new Hut in December 2012, having been successful in winning a £30K grant from the

Neighbourhood Challenge scheme promoted and run by NESTA in conjunction with the Big Lottery Fund. It is run successfully, entirely by volunteers. There was also a Moorsley & District Working Men's Club and Institute on the site of the house called 'Rainton View'.



During much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were at least 7 pubs in the village and occasionally an eighth. As far back as 1828, Joseph Winship held the Black Boy, George Muster was at the Wheatsheaf, John Waugh at the Lamb, Matthew Brown the North Hetton Tavern, James Cook held the Dun Cow, Henry Gardiner was at The Bonny Pit Lad, Joseph Timperley at the Crown, and Mary Ann Fenwick at The Grey Horse. There is a reference to the existence in 1820 of a Board Inn and later in 1856 of a Lambton Arms. By 1894 Whelland's Directory lists only seven pubs left in the village, the North Hetton Tavern, Lamb Inn, Crown Inn, Grey Horse, Bonnie Pit Lad, Black Boy Inn and Wheatsheaf Inn. Today there are just two pubs left and both are hanging on to a tenuous existence, namely The Wheatsheaf and The Black Boy. At High Moorsley the building which was once the Lamb Inn and then the Ponderosa stands on its own near the crest of the hill as a private house. One must assume that the large number of pubs in the two relatively small villages must have been remarkably well attended by thirsty miners for them to have lasted for so long.

The school was erected in 1871 by the North Hetton Coal Company for infant and mixed age pupils up to 14 years of age. It could accommodate 360 children and in the 1890s the average attendance was 320. There must have been some form of school before this time, probably run by one of the chapels, since listed among well-known residents in the 1850s is William E. Cochrane (Schoolmaster)

and Jane Brown (Schoolmistress). Low Moorsley had two butchers in residence around this time, John Scott and William Westgarth. Westgarth Row at High Moorsley was named after the family to which William belonged as they were in some part responsible for putting up money to build the houses. William Bellerby and Hunter Emmerson were the two principal farmers in the village and various colliery officials are listed, William H Carry, Ralph Day, William Little, William Ramshaw and George Spoors. Ralph Day was later to become Viewer at the Hazard Colliery and he took a great interest in the promotion of sport in both East Rainton and Moorsley by encouraging football and cricket teams.

The Co-op (Part of Pitlington Co-op?) was formed in the 1870s. There was a post office, 2 grocery shops and a butchers shop. There were 3 farms, High Moorsley, Coal Bank and a small farm just below the school.

North Hetton/Moorsley Colliery was sunk by the North Hetton Coal Company but had fallen in the hands of the Lambton group by 1910s, a sister pit to the Hazard Colliery. Situated north of Front Street Moorsley (though the shafts were more to the west) the Mine was close to those of rival coal owners. The Alexandrina Colliery (Londonderry) was to the west and to the east was the Lyons Colliery, (Hetton Coal Co.), to the north the Hazard Pit (Hetton Coal Co.) and to the south the Elemore Colliery, (Hetton Coal Co.) and Pitlington (Londonderry) and Lambton pits, giving it a limited life expectancy. It closed in 1935 and other than the former Wagon Way to the North the area has been landscaped and nothing now remains. It merged with Hazard Colliery in 1915 as part of the Lambton and Hetton Collieries Group and then taken over by the Joicey company in the late 1920s to become part of Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Empire.

Both the Hazard Pit and Moorsley colliery worked the same seams of coal even though they initially acted independently. When they combined they continued to work separate areas. The five quarter seam was worked at a depth of 52 fathoms (312 feet) and was 3 feet 8 inches thick. Mr Ernest Gilliland of Brookside, Rainton Bridge indicated more than 50 years ago that early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century three miners who were hewing in the five quarter seam suddenly found themselves in the open air and emerged in a field close to the road leading to Pitlington. Their names were Dick Metcalf, Jos Patrickson and George Hawkins. This is really no surprise since that particular area was subject to the earliest form of coal mining, namely bell-pit mining during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Bell Pits worked the seams close to the surface.

Other seams worked by the collieries included the Main Seam found at 62.5 fathoms (375 feet) and four and a half feet thick as well as the Low Main seam located at 83.5 fathoms deep (501 feet) and three feet thick. The coal was generally of good quality but the narrowness of the seams inevitably led to the closure of the mines when working became uneconomic. Long before the advent of gas and electricity at Moorsley the "cowpie" wagons brought the coals from the Hazard to the Moorsley Bottom to be discharged into the Hetton Drops for loading on to the Durham to Sunderland Railway. In front of each set of wagons was a loud clanking bell perched on a small bogie warning people of its approach. On its return the bogie was at the back of the set so the clanking bell once again came into operation both by day and night.

The Colliery had an extensive firebrick works attached, producing in excess of 60,000 bricks per week. Clay pipes for agriculture and water and sewage distribution were also made here. They used



Seggar, a clay-like material found close to seams of coal. In the mid 1880s a gas works was founded with a number of retorts and coal gas was distributed locally for domestic use.

A waggon way ran down hill to link in with the Hazard Pit and then on to the Hetton Railway. There was also a link with the Durham & Sunderland Railway. Much of the downhill section including a bridge over the D&S line was raised on a wooden gantry.

Initially the miners' cottages were made of limestone which came from the two local quarries, High Moorsley quarry and Low Moorsley quarry. In addition agricultural lime was produced in a lime kiln in the quarry at Low Moorsley. Lime plaster decorated the inside of many of the old miner's cottages both in Moorsley and in Hetton. The limestone from the quarries was taken to the lime kilns and then the cured lime was taken to a lime depot where it was stored and distributed. Altogether about 80 -90 men were engaged in the lime trade in one capacity or another.



*The Lamb Inn on the right and the miners cottages at High Moorsley just before demolition in the 1950s.*

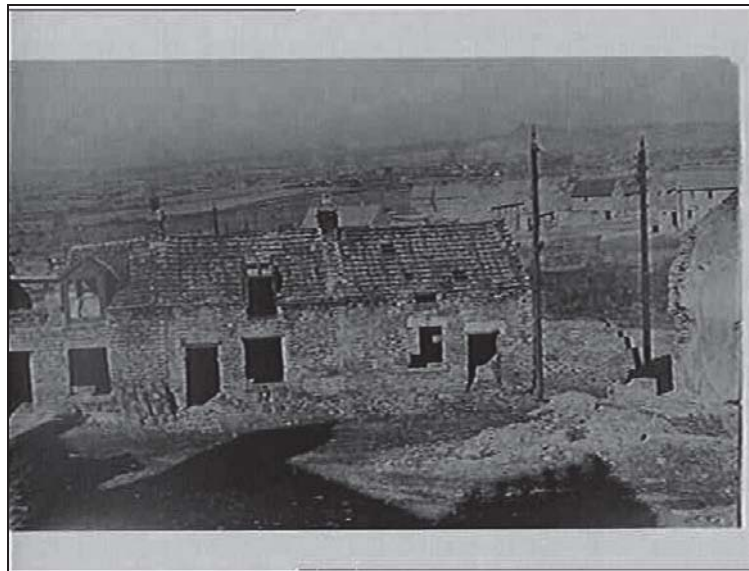
Following the closure and demolition of Moorsley Colliery in the 1930s, by the 1950s the houses at High and Low Moorsley were in a poor state of repair. It was decided by the then County Durham Council to classify both villages as "Schedule D" where "D" stood for demolition. Thus most of the old miner's cottages were demolished and High Moorsley ceased to exist as a village. Today the site where the rows of miners' houses once stood is a small piece of woodland close by a track which leads across the fields to Hetton-on-the-Hill.

In Low Moorsley the old miners cottages which stood behind the main Hetton road on the steepest part of the bank were also demolished with a view to replacing them with new post-war council houses. Today these houses form part of the small community of Low Moorsley next to the much larger Coalbank and Peat Carr estates. The old limestone built Co-op building, half way up the bank, was eventually closed and demolished in the 1970s as was probably the nearby oldest house, and the first to be built in the village( this fact really can't be confirmed), called "The Castle". One chapel remains alongside the road and is used as a storage for boats and fibre-glass boat hulls.

Very few of the original families who lived in the village still live there. There is however a highly active Community Group who meet in a small portable building situated at the bottom of the bank at Low Moorsley.

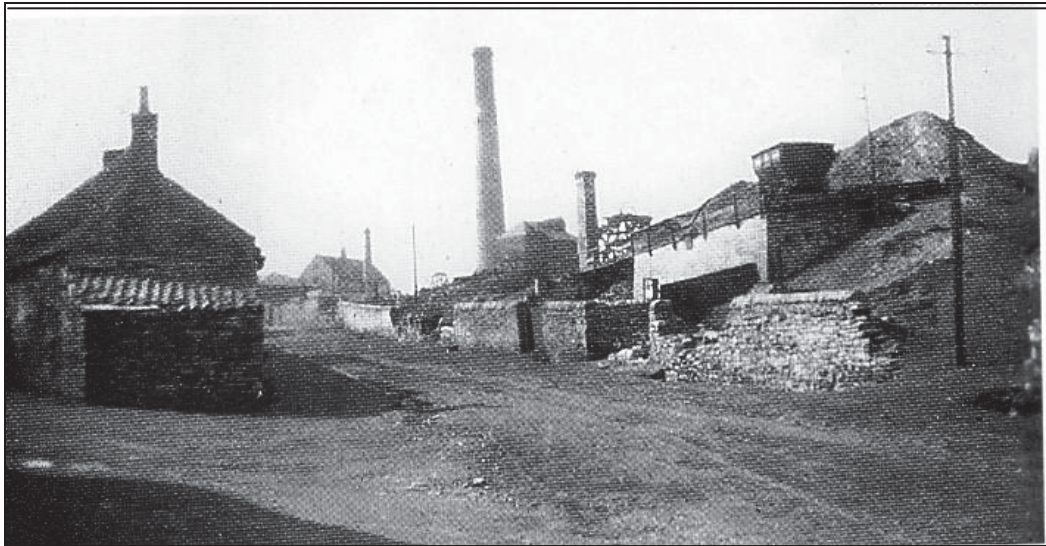


*North Hetton Colliery Banner setting off for the Miner's Gala circa 1905*

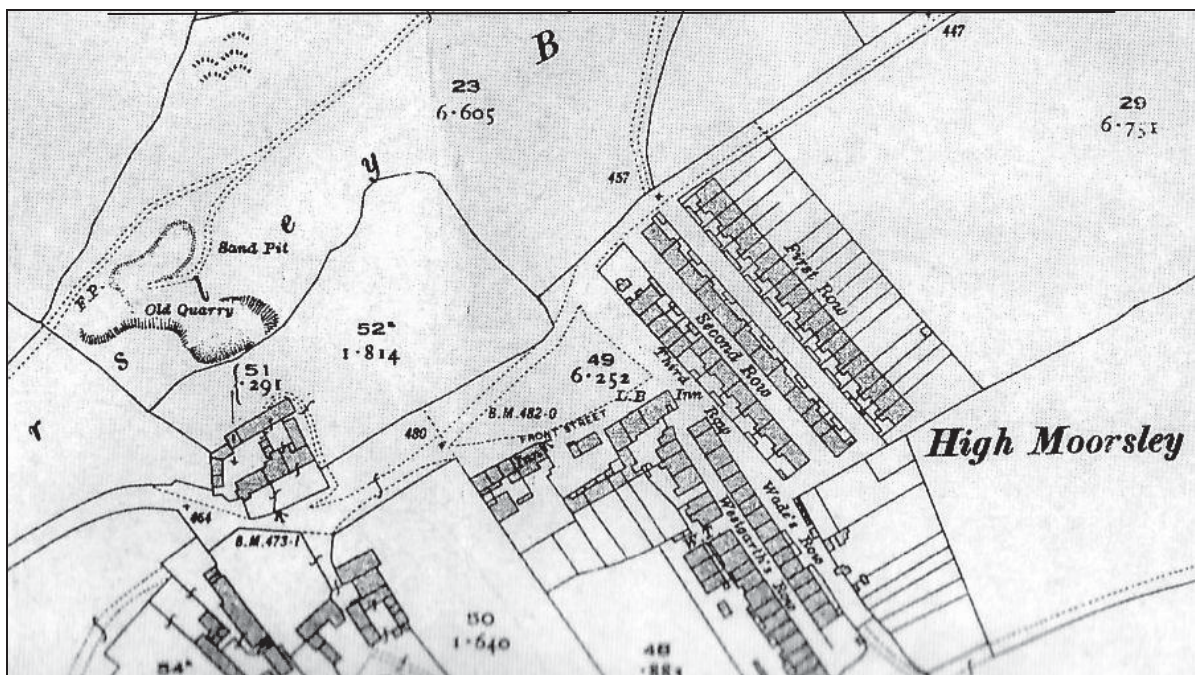


*Miners' cottages being demolished at Jewitts Row Low Moorsley in the 1950s. In the background can be seen the new council houses being built. Hiding behind the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> pole is Eppleton Colliery pit heap.*



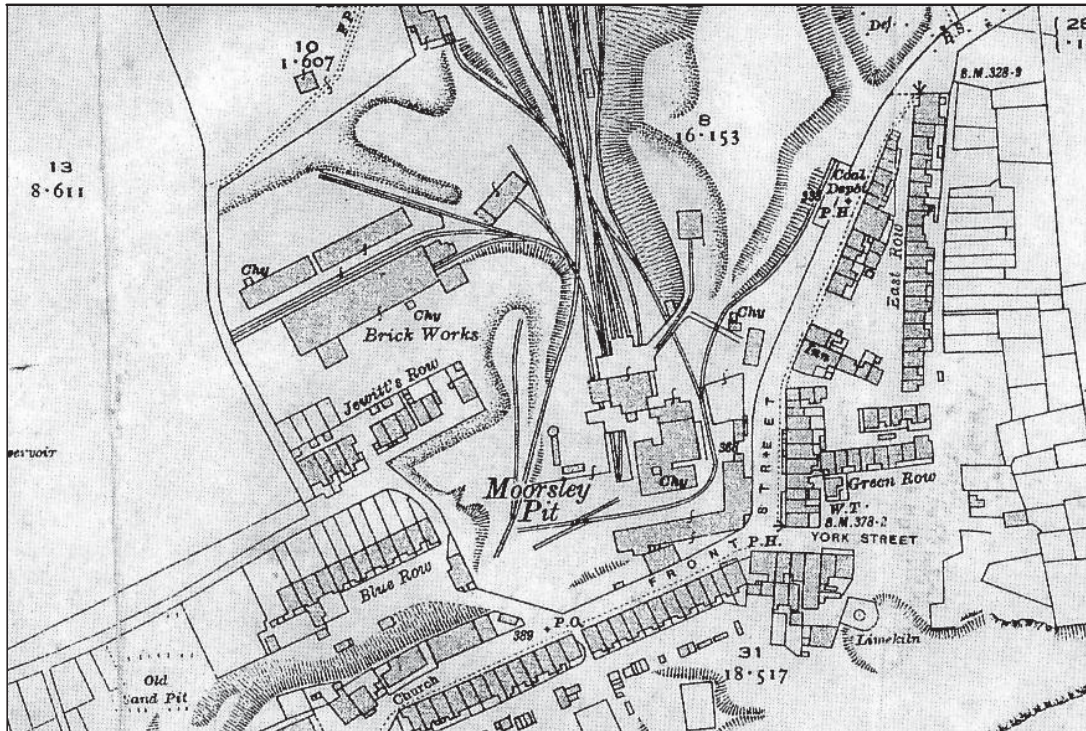


*A view of Moorsley c 1880 showing the pit on the right and the chapel roof middle background. On the left is one of the miner's cottages and on the right the coal depot where coal was emptied into carts to be distributed. Part of the pit heap can be seen behind the depot. Note the unmade road and the broken down walls.*



*High Moorsley in 1896*





*Low Moorsley in 1896*

### **Moorsley Co-operative Society**

1868 April 20<sup>th</sup> - First general meeting, Society formed.

1868 Summer - First premises rented and opened (a house in Low Moorsley).

1868 October – First P/T employee started work.

1868 October – P/T assistant becomes full time employee.

1872 April. New business premises bought in York Street, Low Moorsley (close to Black Boy pub).

1872 Staff increased as new Drapery, hardware and furnishing departments were opened in addition to grocery.

1878 Ten years of steady growth. The present check (metal token) system for sales was withdrawn.

1892 Significant miners' strike. Co-op gave goods to the soup kitchen to relieve distress among miners' families.

1894 Green grocery business opened as part of the grocery department. Progress steady with 4s 2d in the £ being paid out as dividend.

1895 New rules for capital spending and employee hours drawn up.

1896 Society needed to expand. In September land below the PM Methodist chapel purchased from the Hetton Coal Company to build new premises which would include a butchery department and stables for horse and carts.

1897 New premises opened in April. Property built of bricks purchased from the Coal Company.

1898 Decision made to build a house next to Butchery Dept. for the butchery manager.

1899 Full-time appointment of General Secretary.

1901 Shop rented at No. 39 Front Street Low Moorsley for the expanding green grocery dept.

1907 Introduction of a Collective Life Assurance Scheme for members. This proved very popular and was free for all Co-op members.

1908 July Bankers changed from North Eastern Banking Company to the C.W.S bank. (Co-operative Wholesale Society).

1909 More land purchased at rear of central premises in order to open a cobbling business. A new warehouse, Committee room and offices opened on the site.

1910 Boot and shoe section opened along with a cobbler. Rented shop near to Black Boy purchased.

1914-18 Sales soared to a very high level due to inflation. All goods, including food were scarce and queues built up on a daily basis to get whatever was available. Profit margins reduced to help people.

1915 North Hetton Colliery (Moorsley) closed and this affected sales. Some staff had left the store to join up and fight. Temporary female staff brought in for the first time in 1915. Rationing started in 1917 sugar, and flour in addition.

1919 Separate dividends paid to grocery and butchery sales due to restrictions.

1920 Bonnie Pit Laddie bought and converted to trading purposes. Motorised transport used for the first time with the purchase of a 3 ton Daimler lorry.

1921 First Miners' strike and another difficult period for the Co-op. Unemployment became common. To reduce expenses the trading premises were closed for one or two days each week.

1922 Dividend down to 6d in the pound due to poor sales.

1925. Dormant capital held by the Co-op was used to buy land at East Rainton but a further coal strike in 1926 and poor trade delayed the opening of a new building until 1931. However the first branch of the Society opened in 1927 at the White House in East Rainton

1931/2 New premises opened and the Society became members of the East Durham Co-op Dairies.

1936 The Northern Co-operative Boot Repairing Society was formed ( A Federal Society) and as a consequence the Boot and Shoe Dept at Moorsley Joined and their operation closed down.

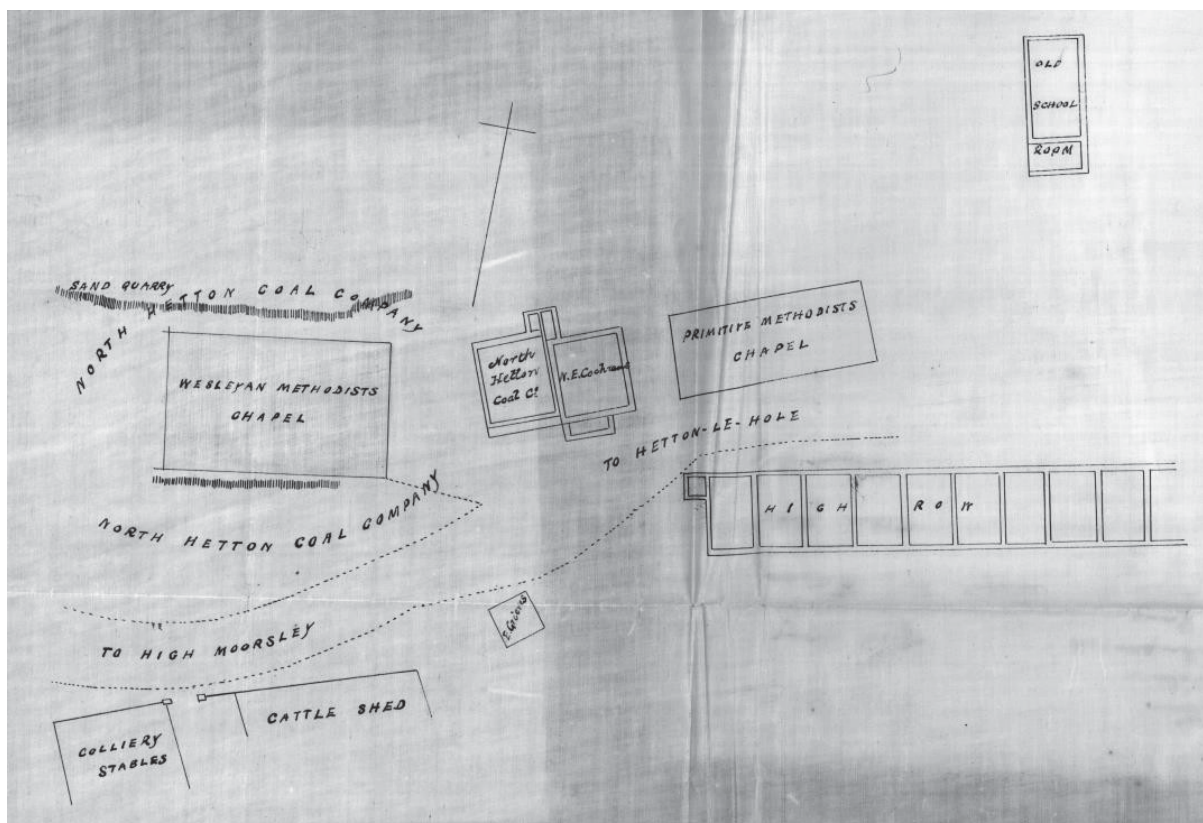
1939 Pressure to open a new premises in Hetton resulted and a new branch was opened later that year. The Pittington Branch in Hetton closed and a new agreement drawn up between Moorsley and Pittington Co-ops to realise a new joint venture in Hetton in 1940.

1939-45. Travel restrictions meant that a new building was opened in 1942 at Coalbank Terrace. Rationing however continued after the war and sales in the co-ops fell dramatically. At the end of the war there was a revival but by the 1950s competition from other businesses increased. The whole co-operative movement suffered decline in the late 1950s and early 60s. Branches closed including the Hetton Branch.

1960s By this period families were becoming more mobile. The first supermarkets were making their appearance. Some of the trading operations were closed at Moorsley. In spite of new houses being built in Low Moorsley to replace old miners' cottages, trade failed to pick up.

1970 The writing was on the wall. Poor trading results at Moorsley Co-op meant that it had eventually to close having traded for 100 years. The empty buildings were pulled down as part of a general clear up in the village in the 1970s.. This was the end of a piece of important village history.

### Chapels and a Church.





The sketch map shown above is a drawing of the location of the two chapels in Low Moorsley. Both were built within a stone's throw of the colliery and both were built initially on Coal Company land. The larger of the two was the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel built in 1855 and this building stands today but is used as a store for fibre glass boats. The Primitive Methodist Chapel was demolished during the late 1940s as the population of the village had by this time decreased to level where the chapel could no longer be supported.



*The former Wesleyan Chapel in 2008*

Below is a photo taken around 1910 of the Mission Church which was a Mission Church for the C. of E. ST Cuthbert's Church at East Rainton. Constructed with a corrugated iron skin it was referred to as the "Tin Church" and was located a short distance up the hill from the Wesleyan Chapel high enough to be located in High Moorsley. As stated earlier the church was demolished in the 1940s and only a broken-down limestone wall on the roadside below Valley View indicates its location.



*The Mission Church*



## 22. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

### Conclusions

The previous chapters have analysed the landscape and history of Hetton in considerable detail, including its geology, biodiversity, and hydrology and the successive phases of settlement which can be identified in the area.

The prehistory of the area is still very opaque. An important monument, one of the most significant prehistoric sites in Tyne and Wear, the Seven Sisters barrow on Copt Hill, lies just beyond the northern boundary of the study area, and Hetton-le-Hole once had its own round burial cairn, the Fairies Cradle or Maiden Hill, sadly destroyed in the 19th century. Otherwise, however, there are only isolated finds, such as the Carr House polished stone axe, and a few sites identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs or through geophysical survey. Nevertheless more intensive research and fieldwork would undoubtedly yield interesting results.

The same comments apply to the Romano-British period and to the early medieval era where the patterns of settlement in Hetton are even more obscure. Nevertheless it is probably within the early Middle Ages (400-1100) that the district's ancient village communities – Hetton, Rainton, Eppleton, Hetton-le-Hill – with their defined territories (townships), first originated. Only in the case of Rainton, however, is there actual documentary evidence to substantiate the emergence of a territorial community at this time and shed light on its origins. Thus there are few historical periods more important in the story of Hetton and any improvements in our knowledge would be of the greatest significance.

The documentary record shows that all the ancient village communities of the Hetton area were in existence by the 12th and early 13th centuries – Hetton-le-Hole, Great Eppleton, East and West Rainton, Moorsley and Hetton-le-Hill. Study of the western half of the area is facilitated by the vast corpus of medieval documents – charters, rentals, accounts and court rolls, relating to the estates of the Benedictine priory of Durham Cathedral, which was lord of East and West Rainton and Moorsley. It is therefore possible to study these communities in great detail and explore the landscapes of their associated territories (vills). However, even in the eastern half of the study area some progress in revealing the lost medieval landscape is possible using charters and other documents.

One step forward in particular has been to resolve the confusion over the original names of Hetton-le-Hole and Hetton-le-Hill. Analysis of the references in the medieval documentary sources has shown that Hetton-le-Hole was always called Hetton (or a closely similar variant such as Hetona or Hettune), whereas Hetton-le-Hill was initially Heppedun, later shortened to Hepden, then Hepton, but never called Hetton before the later 16th century. This in turn enables us to disentangle which family was lord of each community and understand better what they were doing with their landholdings in terms of grants to religious communities like Finchale Priory, and to other lords and freeholders, and enclosures of the common waste, and potentially therefore to improve our understanding of the medieval landscape of Hetton.

The story of Hetton and its landscape in the 16th, 17th and early 18th centuries falls into a common pattern for north-east Durham, with the enclosure of the former open townfields and common moors in the early 17th century, dividing these open expanses into numerous closes, bounded by quick-set hedges. This was followed by the gradual redistribution of farmsteads away from the old villages into the wider township territories, where they were centrally located in coherent, remodelled farm tenancies. The Dissolution of Durham Priory caused little upheaval in East Rainton



and Moorsley as Prior and Convent were seamlessly replaced as landlords by the Cathedral Dean and Chapter. The gentry in the western part of the study area were also involved in the growth of coal-mining to feed the capital's voracious appetite for house-coal, promoting developments in waggonway technology which were a wonder to visitors to the region.

Coal mining in Rainton is amongst the earliest in the region, extending back to the Middle Ages, especially to the west, nearer the river in West Rainton, Moorhouse and Rainton Park. This importance has been recognised by the scheduling of the area of Mallygill Woods where archaeological remains of this earlier activity can still be identified. However the collieries of East Rainton too played an equally important role in the 17th and 18th centuries, notably those established by Sir John Ducks ('Rainton Ducks' or 'Old Ducks' Colliery) in the second half of the 17th century to exploit the High Main Seam. This was one of the most productive pits supplying the London house-coal market, and under the management of Jane Wharton and later, John Tempest, Rainton Colliery was instrumental in the development of waggonways on Wearside, to transport coal from Rainton to staiths at Penshaw for onward movement by keelboat to the ships waiting in the port of Sunderland (see Chapters 10.8 and 12). There is much documentary evidence associated with this activity, from the records of Durham Priory and its Finchale cell relating to the medieval mining, to the large collections, such as the Londonderry Estate Papers and the Watson Collection in Durham Record Office and the North-East Mining Institute (NEIMME) respectively, which cover the early modern mining operations.

Hetton played an equally if not more prominent role as coal prospection and mining moved eastwards onto the Magnesian Limestone Plateau of East Durham in the 19th century. Hetton was the site of the first mine to be sunk through the magnesian limestone to reach the underlying coal measures, in 1820-22, a feat only made possible by improvements in coal mining technology (Chapter 11). This achievement, which unleashed a wave of colliery expansion across the East Durham Plateau, was driven forward by a public company, the Hetton Coal Company, the first major enterprise of its kind in County Durham (see Chapter 13). Furthermore the development of the pits was accompanied by the construction of a railway to transport the mined coal all the way to staiths at Sunderland, where it could be loaded onto ships for the voyage to London.

The Hetton Colliery Railway was not simply another horse-drawn waggonway with occasional rope-hauled sections as was being developed elsewhere south of the Wear. Instead it represents the first designed and built to be operated, in part, by steam locomotives and the first to be powered throughout by steam engines – locomotive and stationary – with little use of horses, making it one of the most significant of all early railways. Moreover the involvement of both George and Robert Stephenson in its design and initial operation confers additional significance. Nevertheless, individually none of the railway's constituent structures have been regarded as possessing sufficient architectural or historical merit to deserve listing or scheduling which would have accorded them some measure of protection from the processes of development. The result is that, with very few exceptions, the structures in the Hetton Study Area have been demolished and for the most part all that survives is the course of the line (see Chapter 14). This makes the preservation of those elements that remain, such as the cottage where Robert Stephenson lived in Colliery Lane and the Hetton and Joicey Waggon-shop all the more important.

The social history of Hetton, the community's involvement in political radicalism and the development of trade unionism, and the developments in religious worship in the 19th and 20th centuries have been covered in Chapters 16, 17 and 18 respectively. The treatment is thorough but in truth such is the abundance of documentation available in county record offices and other archival repositories that almost any aspect covered could have been pursued further. Similarly, the

chapters devoted to the peripheral settlements of Easington Lane, East Rainton and Moorsley (19-21) demonstrate that even the smaller communities have fascinating micro-histories to be explored.

### Recommendations for further study

The following recommendations for further research, archaeological investigation and heritage protection work are made:

1. The **Tomb of Nicholas Wood** located in the churchyard attached to the now demolished St Nicholas Parish Church in the centre of Hetton-le-Hole is becoming somewhat dilapidated. Though listed its status is more vulnerable now that the church has been demolished, raising the question of the future role and ownership of the churchyard. The tomb is an important monument, relating to a figure of the utmost significance in the industrial development of the region (as a visit to the Mining Institute in Newcastle will testify). Appropriate measures to ensure its protection are therefore essential.
2. The site of **Hetton Mill** and the various water management features – leats, pond, dam – associated with that mill and with Rainton a little further downstream (now built over) would merit further study and recording of the earthworks, plus targeted excavation. The site could form part of a multi-disciplinary historical/archaeological-ecological-hydrological project focussed on **Hetton Bogs** and the mills to better understand the area as a whole and how its past has influenced the present form of the Bogs.
3. The ancient trackway of **Salters Lane** skirts the eastern edge of Hetton District. It is thought to have been involved with the transport by packhorse of salt from the bishop's salt-pans on the Wear to markets further south, but its origins are unclear and it is possible that it has a much older history. It would merit further documentary research as a first step.
4. Detailed examination of **Little Eppleton Hall** could attempt to disentangle the development of this complex building and determine whether the building still preserves parts of the three-hearth, 17th-century farmhouse, Eppleton Field House, mentioned in contemporary documents. Earthworks to the east of the settlement, including the remains of the pond shown on the tithe map and 1st edition Ordnance Survey also merit analysis. These were presumably closely associated with house at some stage and may indicate that it originally faced east, rather than west as at present.
5. The site of the manor house of the de Latons, lords of Hetton, and their successors remains uncertain – did it lie on or adjacent to the site of **Hetton Hall**? Some charter evidence exists which would be compatible with that interpretation. **Elemore Hall**, the present 18th-century mansion, stands on the footprint and incorporates elements of a house newly built by the Newcastle merchant, Bertram Anderson, in the third quarter of the 16th century, but Finchale Priory's medieval manorial farm, **Haswell Grange**, was probably located a little further south at **Elemore Grange Farm**. A project to study and compare the 'Halls of Hetton', both those still standing and those which have been demolished could yield interesting results.
6. A wider programme of **field-walking** may over time identify new archaeological sites and begin to fill the blanks in the area's past. Targeted excavation could explore those sites which are already known through aerial photography and geophysical survey.

7. More detailed study of **medieval documents** associated with the settlements of the Hetton Study Area held by Durham Record Office (principally the Greenwell Deeds) and in particular Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections (DCD Durham Cathedral Muniments) has the potential to yield further significant information regarding the medieval villages, their surrounding landscape and agricultural economy,.
8. East and West Rainton are important in the history of early coal-mining from the Middle Ages to end of the 18th century. Although that history has been described here, more work is possible to accurately plot the sites of the old pits, stationary pumping engines and waggonways shown on historic maps, and then identify and investigate the surviving remains on the ground.
9. The **development of local government** in Hetton, including the history of the **Hetton Urban District Council**, the Poor Law Unions and preceding system of parochial poor relief, has not been explored in this work, and certainly merits study,
10. Similarly, **transport**, other than railways has not been covered in the foregoing chapters – the development and closure of the tram network, and the motor buses which replaced them, for example – and would merit further research.



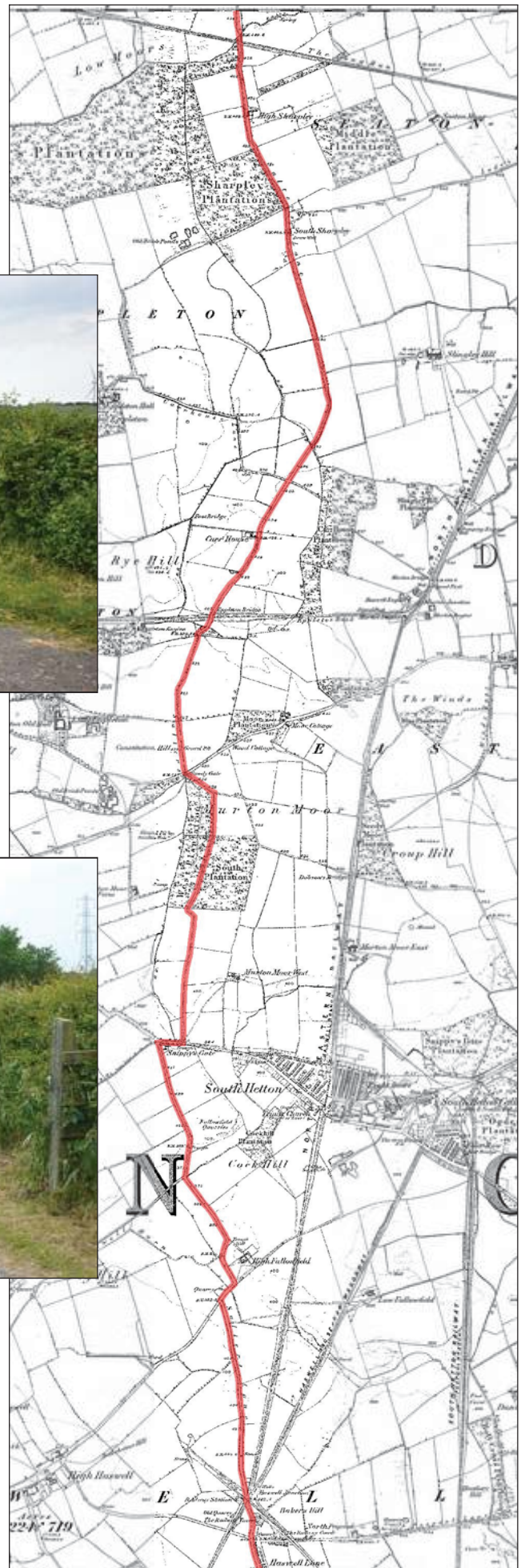
# SALTERS LANE



*Salters Lane, looking north of Carr House Farm*



*Salters Lane, looking south of Carr House Farm*



*Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey  
1857 6" per mile, with Salters Lane highlighted*



## GLOSSARY

<b>Advowson</b>	the legal right to appoint a priest to a parish church.
<b>Agistment</b>	the grazing of livestock on pasture belonging to someone else.
<b>Alienate</b>	to grant land to someone else or to an institution.
<b>Assart</b>	land cleared for cultivation.
<b>Assize</b>	a legal procedure
<b>Bailey</b>	large enclosure attached to a motte or ringwork, usually fortified by a ditch and bank furnished with a timber stockade. Sometimes a castle might have more than one bailey.
<b>Barony</b>	the estate of a major feudal lord, normally held of the Crown by military tenure.
<b>Borough</b>	a town characterised by the presence of burgage tenure and some trading privileges for certain tenants.
<b>Bovate</b>	measure of arable land, normally equivalent to approx. 12-15 acres. This measurement especially popular in eastern and northern counties of England.
<b>Burgage</b>	a form of property within a <b>borough</b>
<b>Capital Messuage</b>	a <b>messuage</b> containing a high status dwelling house, often the manor house itself.
<b>Cartulary</b>	a book containing copies of deeds, charters, and other legal records.
<b>Carucate</b>	a unit of taxation in northern and eastern counties of England, equivalent to eight <b>bovates</b> or one <b>hide</b> (96-120 acres).
<b>Charter</b>	a legal document recording the grant of land or privileges.
<b>Chattels</b>	movable personal property.
<b>Common land</b>	land over which tenants and perhaps villagers possessed certain rights, for example to graze animals, collect fuel etc.
<b>Common law</b>	a body of laws that overrode local custom.
<b>Copyhold</b>	a tenure in which land was held by copy of an entry recording admittance made in the record of the manor court.
<b>Cotland</b>	a smallholding held on <b>customary tenure</b> .
<b>Cottar</b>	an <b>unfree</b> smallholder.
<b>Croft</b>	an enclosed plot of land, often adjacent to a dwelling house.
<b>Custom</b>	a framework of local practices, rules and/or expectations pertaining to various economic or social activities.
<b>Customary tenure</b>	an unfree tenure in which land was held "at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor". In practice usually a copyhold of inheritance in Cumbria by the sixteenth century.
<b>Deanery</b>	unit of ecclesiastical administration consisting of a group of parishes under the oversight of a rural dean.
<b>Demesne</b>	land within a manor allocated to the lord for his own use.
<b>Domain</b>	all the land pertaining to a manor.
<b>Dower</b>	widow's right to hold a proportion (normally one-third) of her deceased husband's land for the rest of her life.
<b>Dowry</b>	land or money handed over with the bride at marriage.
<b>Enfeoff</b>	to grant land as a <b>fief</b> .
<b>Engross</b>	to amalgamate holdings or farms.



<b>Farm</b>	in medieval usage, a fixed sum paid for leasing land, a <b>farmer</b> therefore being the lessee.
<b>Fealty</b>	an oath of fidelity sworn by a new tenant to the lord in recognition of his obligations.
<b>Fee/Fief</b>	hereditary land held from a superior lord in return for <b>homage</b> and often, military service.
<b>Fine</b>	money payment to the lord to obtain a specific concession
<b>Forest</b>	a Crown or Palatinate hunting preserve consisting of land subject to Forest Law, which aimed to preserve game.
<b>Free chase</b>	a forest belonging to a private landholder.
<b>Freehold</b>	a tenure by which property is held “for ever”, in that it is free to descend to the tenant’s heirs or assigns without being subject to the will of the lord or the customs of the manor.
<b>Free tenure</b>	tenure or status that denoted greater freedom of time and action than, say, customary tenure or status, a <b>freeman</b> was entitled to use the royal courts, and the title to free tenure was defensible there.
<b>Free warren</b>	a royal franchise granted to a manorial lord allowing the holder to hunt small game, especially rabbit, hare, pheasant and partridge, within a designated <b>vill</b> .
<b>Furlong</b>	a subdivision of open arable fields.
<b>Glebe</b>	the landed endowment of a parish church.
<b>Haybote</b>	the right to take undergrowth for the construction or repair of enclosures
<b>Headland</b>	a ridge of unploughed land at the head of arable strips in open fields providing access to each strip and a turning place for the plough.
<b>Heriot</b>	a death duty, normally the best beast, levied by the manorial lord on the estate of the deceased tenant.
<b>Hide, hideage</b>	Anglo-Saxon land measurement, notionally 120 acres, used for calculating liability for geld. <i>See carucate</i> .
<b>Homage</b>	act by which a <b>vassal</b> acknowledges a superior lord.
<b>Housebote</b>	the right to take undergrowth for the construction and repair of buildings
<b>Knight’s fee</b>	land held from a superior lord for the service of a knight.
<b>Labour services</b>	the duty to work for the lord, often on the demesne land, as part of the tenant’s rent package.
<b>Leet</b>	the court of a vill whose view of frankpledge had been franchised to a local lord by the Crown.
<b>Manor</b>	estate over which the owner (“lord”) had jurisdiction, exercised through a manor court.
<b>Mark</b>	sum of money equivalent to two-thirds of a pound, i.e., 13s. 4d.
<b>Merchet</b>	a fine paid by <b>villein</b> tenants.
<b>Messuage</b>	a plot of land containing a dwelling house and outbuildings.
<b>Moot</b>	a meeting.
<b>Motte</b>	earthen mound deliberately raised or occasionally sculpted partially from pre-existing topography.
<b>Multure</b>	a fee for grinding corn, normally paid in kind: multure can also refer to the corn thus rendered.
<b>Neif</b>	a hereditary serf by blood.
<b>Pannage</b>	payment for the fattening of domestic pigs on acorns etc. in woodland.
<b>Perch</b>	a linear measure of 16½ feet and a square measure equivalent to one fortieth of a <b>rood</b> .
<b>Quitclaim</b>	a charter formally renouncing a claim to land.

<b>Ringwork</b>	alternative form of earth and timber castle – an enclosure smaller but more formidably defended than a typical bailey. Some ringworks were converted into mottes.
<b>Relief</b>	payment made by a free tenant on entering a holding.
<b>Rood</b>	measure of land equivalent to one quarter of an acre; and forty perches.
<b>Serf</b>	an unfree peasant characterised by onerous personal servility.
<b>Severalty</b>	land in separate ownership, that is not subject to common rights, divided into hedged etc., fields.
<b>Sheriff</b>	official responsible for the administration of a county by the Crown.
<b>Shieling</b>	temporary hut on summer pasture at a distance from farmstead.
<b>Socage</b>	a form of tenure of peasant land, normally free.
<b>Stint</b>	limited right, especially on pasture.
<b>Subinfeudate</b>	the grant of land by one lord to another to hold as a <b>knight's fee</b> or <b>fief</b> .
<b>Subinfeudation</b>	the process of granting land in a lordship to be held as <b>fiefs</b>
<b>Suit of court</b>	the right and obligation to attend a court; the individual so attending is a <b>suitor</b> .
<b>Tenant in chief</b>	a tenant holding land directly from the king, normally termed a baron.
<b>Tenement</b>	a land holding.
<b>Tenementum</b>	a land holding (Latin).
<b>Thegn or Thane</b>	Title given to a local lord during the Anglo-Saxon period, roughly equivalent to a Norman knight. His landholding his term a <b>thanage</b> .
<b>Tithe</b>	a tenth of all issue and profit, mainly grain, fruit, livestock and game, owed by parishioners to their church.
<b>Toft</b>	an enclosure for a homestead.
<b>Unfree tenure</b>	see <b>customary tenure</b> .
<b>Vaccary</b>	a dairy farm.
<b>Vassal</b>	a tenant, often of lordly status.
<b>Vill</b>	the local unit of civil administration, also used to designate a territorial township community (prior to the 14 <sup>th</sup> century)
<b>Villein</b>	peasant whose freedom of time and action is constrained by his lord; a villein was not able to use the royal courts.
<b>Villeinage</b>	see <b>customary tenure</b> and <b>unfree tenure</b> .
<b>Virgate</b>	a quarter of a <b>hide</b> ; a standardised <b>villein</b> holding of around 30 acres. Also known as a <b>yardland</b> .
<b>Ward</b>	administrative division; the word implies a guarded or defended unit. The term most commonly relates to large administrative subdivisions of the county (usually 5 or 6) from the 13 <sup>th</sup> century.

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- DDR/EA Durham Diocesan Records – Records of episcopal administration held by Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections. Includes tithe maps and apportionments (DDR/EA/TTH).
- DRO Records held by Durham County Record Office. Includes the Greenwells Deeds (D/Gr), the Londonderry family and estate papers (D/Lo), the Brancepeth Estate records (D/Br), the many county and other maps held in the Durham County Library collection (D/CL) and records from the National Coal Board (NCB) which include 18th-century estate plans.
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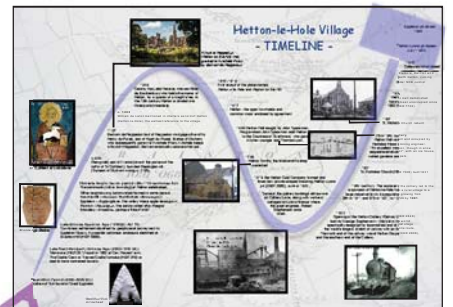
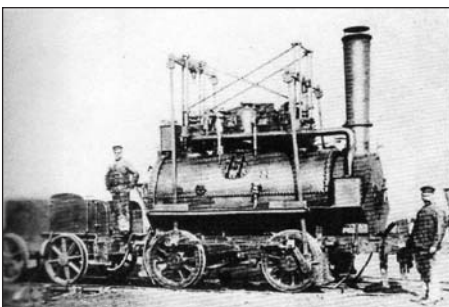
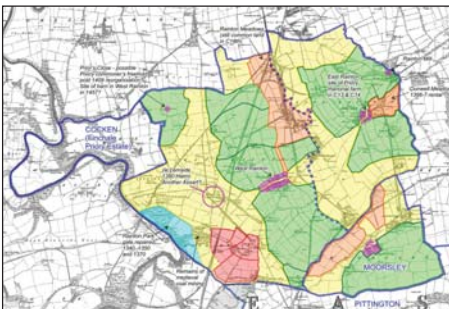
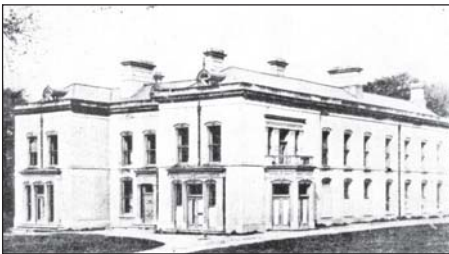




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