

# The Historic Environment of Elwick

## The Elwick Village Atlas Project

Hartlepool

2014





**Elwick Village Atlas**

**The Historic Environment of Elwick**

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## **The Historic Environment of Elwick, Hartlepool**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 As part of a Village Atlas project funded by the Heritage Lottery through Limestone Landscapes a series of studies of the village have taken place. These include its Geology, Hydrology, Buildings, Medieval History, Village Development, The Village in World War II and a collection of Oral Histories. In addition Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Excavations took place on the village green. A full list of the reports produced as part of this project is set out in the Bibliography.
- 1.2 This document draws all of this information together along with other sources of information to identify the significant elements of the Historic Environment of the Village core (Fig 1).
- 1.3 Elwick lies within the Borough of Hartlepool and lies to the west of the town (NZ 445 600). It retains a rural setting with working farms in the village and the neighbourhood and it is surrounded by farmland.
- 1.4 The settlement has a two-row green plan which was laid out somewhere around 1100 AD and many of the boundaries appear to respect the original concept (Fig 2).
- 1.5 The building stock is varied including elements from 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses, a 19<sup>th</sup> century terrace, 20<sup>th</sup> century bungalows and a block of 1960s buildings. Building materials range from fieldstone to limestone and brick.
- 1.6 The central green is an open space with a number of mature trees and contains a variety of structures including a spring head (non-functioning) and a bus stop.
- 1.7 The whole character and appearance of the village is very pleasant although this is offset by the significant quantity of traffic which cuts through the village on its way to and from Hartlepool to the adjacent A19 road.
- 1.8 There has been significant late 20<sup>th</sup> century development of the rear of the north side of the village but on the whole this has not impacted on the character of the settlement as experienced from the green.

### **2.0 The Historic Environment**

- 2.1 The Historic Environment can be defined as: 'All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible,

buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora'. (Dept for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2012, 52).

- 2.2 The Historic Environment contains a variety of Heritage Assets. A Heritage Asset comprises: 'A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)' (DCLG 2012, 52).
- 2.3 Heritage Assets are usually identified through the Historic Environment Record held by the relevant local authorities and this will also include information about archaeological finds. The latter are not heritage assets they may however indicate the location of a possible heritage asset.
- 2.4 Heritage Assets are material considerations within the planning system and in some cases have higher levels of protection afforded by various national and local designations. In addition there are tangential laws that might apply to heritage assets; these might apply to finds of treasure, ecclesiastical sites, military remains or non-military human remains.
- 2.5 Heritage Assets include nationally designated sites such as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Protected Wreck Sites, as well as locally recognised sites such as Conservation Areas and those sites recorded on the Historic Environment Record.

### **3. Historic Environment Records (HER)**

- 3.1 Historic Environment Records are the all-embracing information resource for the historic environment. They are usually held by the archaeological or historic environment service of a local authority. They started in the 1980's as 'Sites and Monuments Records' largely concerned with archaeological material but since then they have developed into sophisticated digital map based historic environment systems documenting everything from occasional finds of archaeological material, known archaeological sites, historic buildings, spaces and areas of ancient landscape, parks and gardens.
- 3.2 The HER represents the core record of the components of the historic environment of an area. They are used to provide information for a wide range of activities including planning applications, land management, local outreach and academic research.

- 3.3 The presence of a record in the HER means that it is a material consideration in the consideration of planning matters. There is also potential for discoveries of hitherto unknown archaeology to be included and new information is continually being added to HERs as new evidence is obtained. The HER for Elwick is held by Tees Archaeology, which holds the records for Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees. Information about aspects of the built heritage of the Borough of Hartlepool can also be found on the borough council's website, [http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?documentID=23](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=23)

#### 4.0 Nationally Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.1 The national designations that apply to Elwick are:-

Scheduled Monument

Listed Building

- 4.2 Scheduled Monuments: A Scheduled Monument is a Heritage Asset that has been afforded national protection through its inclusion on a list (schedule) of nationally important sites as set out in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979. It is usually applied to archaeological and industrial archaeological sites and the consent of the Secretary of State at the Dept for Culture, Media and Sport is required prior to any works being carried out. The designation and ongoing monitoring of these sites is the responsibility of English Heritage.
- 4.3 There is one Scheduled Monument within the Elwick area (Table 1). This comprises a medieval fishpond complex with an adjoin section of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing (Fig 3). The scheduling includes a World War II pillbox in the hedge line.

Table 1: Scheduled Monument

English Heritage ID No	HER No	Name	Period	Location
1016353	0640	Fishpond, enclosures and section of field system 165m north west of Elwick Hall.	Medieval	NZ 45141 32298
	0872	WWII Pillbox	World War II	



- 4.4 The absence of a site from the schedule does not necessarily mean that it is not of national importance. New sites are being discovered all the time and known ones re-evaluated. Details of Scheduled Monuments can be found on the English Heritage website and from the HER
- 4.5 Listed Buildings: A Listed Building is a heritage asset that has been deemed by the Secretary of State at the Dept for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to have special architectural or historic interest and as such is included in a list compiled under the 'Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990'. This system is administered by English Heritage on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- 4.6 Buildings are graded on the list:-  
Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest;  
Grade II\* (grade two star) buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest;  
Grade II buildings are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them. (DCMS 2010)
- 4.7 The presence of a building on the list means that a specific consent (Listed Building Consent) must be obtained before carrying out any works to that building and it is expected that any works will have a neutral or beneficial impact on the historic or architectural character or significance of the building.
- 4.8 There are four Listed Buildings in Elwick, the church is Grade II\* (Fig 4) and the other three are Grade II (Table 2). Details of all listed buildings can be found on the English Heritage website and in the HER.

Table 2: Listed Buildings

English Heritage ID	HER No	Grade	Building	Period
1139819	6419	II	Wilton Cottage and right extension	17 <sup>th</sup> Century cottage with 19 <sup>th</sup> century extension
1139820	0576	II	The Forge, 29 Elwick Village	Mid to late 18 <sup>th</sup> century
1139821	0566	II*	The Church of St Peter	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> century with later additions and alterations
1311041	0564	II	Elwick Hall	Former Rectory of mid to late 18 <sup>th</sup> century

## 5.0 Locally Designated Heritage Assets

**5.1 Conservation Areas:** Conservation Areas are designated by Local Authorities, sometimes in consultation with English Heritage and are areas (rather than individual sites) of special historic or architectural interest where the overall character of the area rather than that of an individual building is valued. Designations are carried out under Sections 69 and 70 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (English Heritage 2011).

5.2 Elwick is designated Conservation Area and further information about it can be found on the Hartlepool Borough Council website.  
[http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?documentID=23](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=23)

**5.3 Local Lists:** Local Lists may be drawn up by local planning authorities. These usually comprise buildings, structures, parks and gardens of historic interest that while not of national importance make a contribution to the local character and sense of place. Local lists have no statutory weight but once adopted are a material consideration in determining planning applications. They are often drawn up with public involvement to better capture what is prized locally.

5.4 A local list has been drawn up for Hartlepool and is under constant review. There are ten buildings on the local list for Elwick at the moment (August 2014). Table 3 sets out those buildings

**Table 3: Local List Buildings (Figs 5 & 6)**

HER No	Address	Description
8102	Elwick House, Elwick Road	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Villa
8103	16 The Green, Elwick	Two storey property
8104	Elwick WI, The Green	Former Wesleyan Chapel 1867/68
8105	Home Farm, the Green, barn to front of farm	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> /early 18 <sup>th</sup> century former dwelling
8106	Holmlea, The Green	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> / early 19 <sup>th</sup> century house
5176, 5177, 5178	North Farm, Including outbuildings	19 <sup>th</sup> century farmhouse with 18 <sup>th</sup> century outbuildings
8107	McOrville, 34 The green	Public House from late 18 <sup>th</sup> or early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
8108	Spotted Cow, The Green	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> century building, alehouse from 1790
8109	Village Shop, The Green	Two storey traditional shop front
8110	Bus Shelter, the Green	1937 bus stop commemorating coronation of George VI

## 6. Sites and Monuments of local archaeological interest

- 6.1 The HER contains records of archaeological finds and sites, the majority of these are of local interest however a number will be of regional importance while a few may be of national importance but have not been designated as such for a variety of reasons. These might include a lack of investigation and therefore an inability to assess its true significance or a site being under no threat. The situation in relation in HERs is set out above and any site recorded in it is a material consideration in the planning process.
- 6.2 There are thirty one HER records for the area of Elwick being considered (see Fig 1). Those not already recorded above are set out below in Table 4.

**Table 4: Sites recorded on the HER and not set out in Tables 1-3 (Figs 7 & 8)**

HER No	Name	Description
0010	Elwick	Medieval Field System
0605	Field System north of North farm	Medieval Ridge & Furrow
0639	Sculpture, St Peter's Church	Early Medieval Sculpture
0903	Elwick	Medieval Village
3481	Enclosure	Prehistoric Enclosure
4456	Churchyard, St Peter's Church	Medieval Churchyard
4511	Sandpit to east of Home Farm	Sandpit
4613	Mill	Former site of windmill
6843	Sculpture, 29 The Green	Medieval Sculpture built into fabric
6926	North Farm, Elwick	Medieval trackway
6951	Manor House< Elwick	18 <sup>th</sup> Century building
8354	Home Farm, Elwick	Pillbox
8385	Village Farm, Elwick	17 <sup>th</sup> and later Farmstead

## 7 Heritage Assets at Risk

- 7.1 In recent years English Heritage has developed a programme to assess the condition and level of risk of the most important heritage assets in England in order to prioritise actions to ensure they are safeguarded and improved. At

present this survey covers Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Grade I and II\* Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.

- 7.2 None of the designated sites at Elwick are currently viewed as being at risk.

## **8. Historic Environment Constraints and Potential**

- 8.1 A significant amount of the Historic Environment has local and national protection (see above). This section will try to identify those aspects of the village which have archaeological and architectural potential to which attention should be paid when any development is proposed or indeed in the case of future research.
- 8.2 Prehistory: There is little Prehistoric material from Elwick however a possible Prehistoric enclosure (HER 3481) lies to the immediate west of the village and this field would be worth investigating further.
- 8.3 Early Medieval: The evidence for Early Medieval activity comprises two pieces of 10<sup>th</sup> century stonework built into the church (Fig 8: HER 0639). These probably indicate that the present building occupies the site of an earlier structure and it is possible that an Early Medieval Hall / Church complex occupies this area. It will be difficult to discover much further information about this although it should be borne in mind if there are any significant alterations to the church.
- 8.4 Medieval: The main components of the settlement; the village with its green (HER 903), the church, hall and fishpond all originated in the medieval period (Figs 1, 3, 4). The hall and church are listed, the fishpond is scheduled and the village and green are conservation areas. These all provide a significant level of protection to the settlement as a whole.

There are two parts of the medieval village that may be available for development; individual properties and the surviving fields of ridge and furrow of medieval farming.

If development is proposed for individual properties on the green or in their gardens then there would be the possibility of finding evidence of medieval buildings and activities and an appropriate level of archaeological investigation should take place.

Ridge and furrow is the earthwork remains of medieval farming. A small amount is preserved within the scheduled monument adjacent to the fishponds, however there is a larger complex to the northeast of the village (HER 605) and while this

is being encroached on by development every effort should be made to preserve what remains as a link to the agricultural past of the village.

- 8.5 World War II: The physical aspects of World War II are represented by two concrete pillboxes. One of these is protected as part of the scheduling of the fishpond area, the other is not as yet protected (HER 8354). Consideration should be given to including this second pillbox on the Local List to raise its profile (Fig 8). In addition archaeological investigations on the village green identified a well preserved air raid shelter (Fig 9). This is unlikely to be developed but consideration might be given to providing some interpretation for the site.
- 8.6 Buildings: the buildings of the village date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards and many either have protection by virtue of Listing, or are a material consideration in the planning process by virtue of Conservation Area status or Local Listing. There are three structures or groups of structures which may be worth further consideration.

Village Farm clearly (HER No 8385) dates from at least as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century and has a fine decorated wooden doorcase, now leading into an adjoining building which was originally part of the same complex (Fig 10). This structure should be put forward for the Local List and perhaps for national Listing.

There is a small group of former council houses on the western side of north lane which retain their character as group of immediate post World War II buildings and these can be contrasted to a group of 1960s buildings which equally retain their character (Figs 11 & 12). It may be worth considering extending the Conservation Area northwards along North Lane to take in these two groups of buildings which bear witness to the renewal of the village in the second half of the 20th century.

## 9. Conclusion

- 9.1 The Elwick Village Atlas project has identified a range of heritage assets in and around the settlement. A significant number of these currently enjoy protection through both national and local designations.
- 9.2 There is however scope to provide protection to as yet unprotected Heritage Assets, particularly Village Farm and the Pillbox at Home Farm, while consideration might be given to extending the Conservation Area to include two blocks of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century housing on North Lane

- 9.3 There are aspects of the settlement that would re-pay further investigation particularly properties on the green frontage and to their immediate rear and this should be a requirement of any development in this area.

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English Heritage 2011 Understanding Place: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management

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Tees Archaeology 2014a Medieval Elwick

Tees Archaeology 2014b The Historic Environment of Elwick





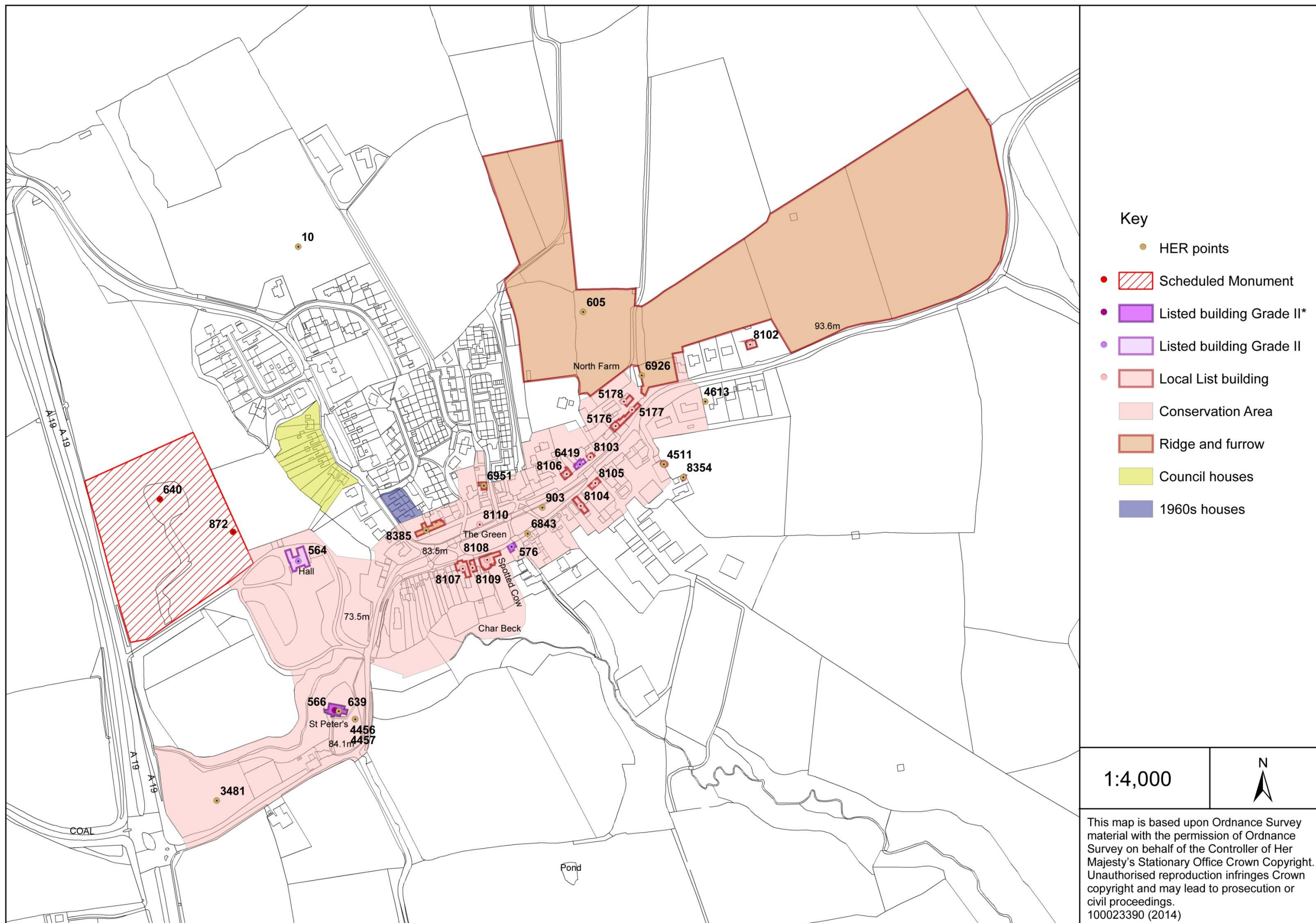


Figure 1: Plan of Elwick showing Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets





Figure 2: Aerial Photograph of Elwick, with the church, hall and fishponds in the background



Figure 3: Aerial Photograph of Elwick Medieval Fishponds





Figure 4: St Peter's Church, Elwick (Courtesy of Penny Heslop)



Figure 5: The Barn, Home Farm, Elwick



Figure 6: Bus Shelter, Elwick



Figure 7: Early Medieval Sculpture, Elwick Church



Figure 8: World War II Pillbox, Home Farm, Elwick



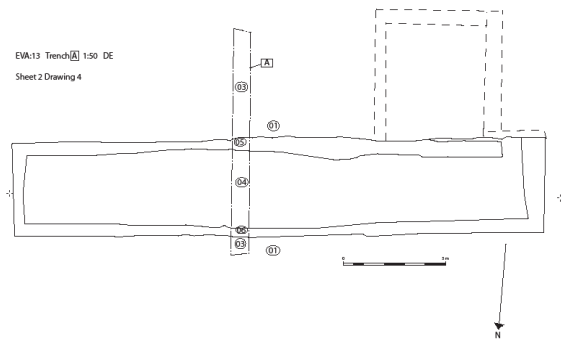


Figure 9: Site and plan of Air Raid Shelter, Elwick Green



Figure 10: Village Farm, Elwick





Figure 11: Former Council Houses, North Lane, Elwick



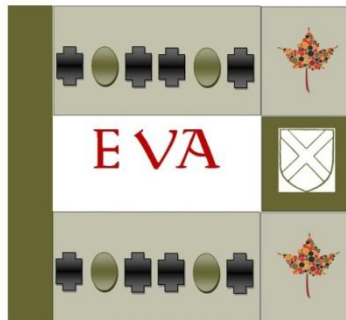
Figure 12: 1960s Houses, North lane, Elwick







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