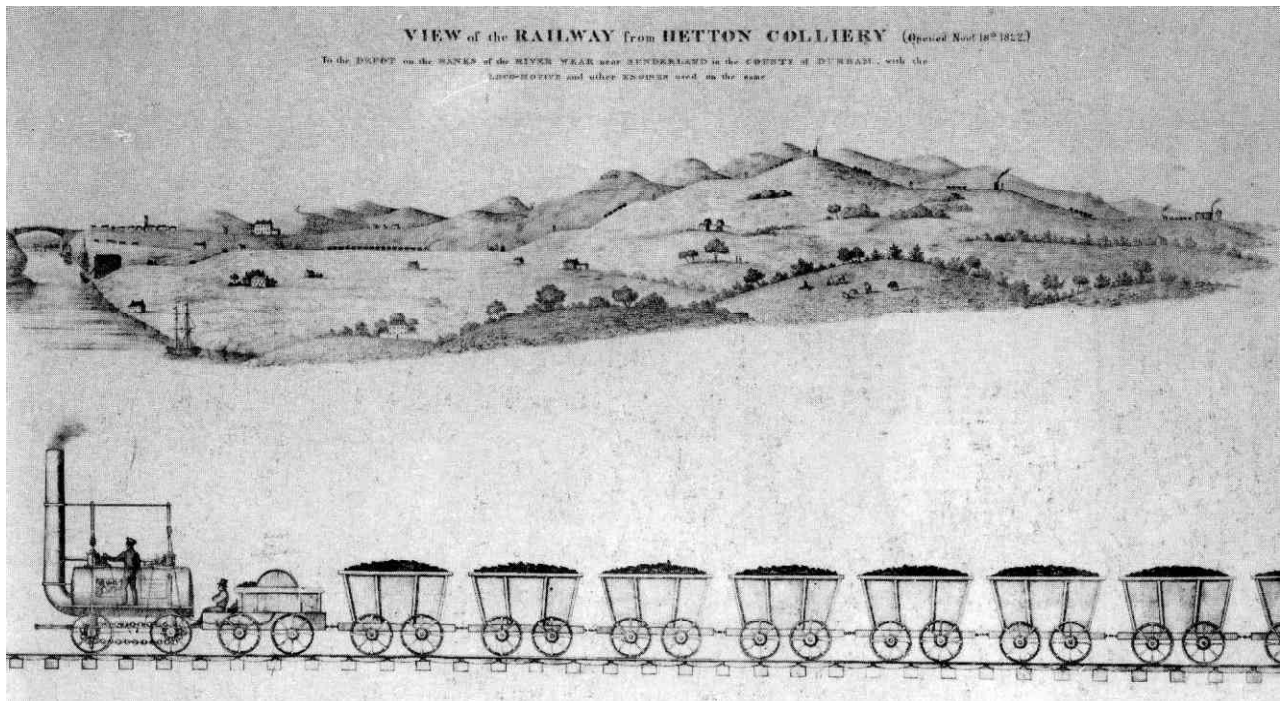


THE HETTON VILLAGE ATLAS

A Community, its History and Landscape



HETTON LOCAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

THE HETTON VILLAGE ATLAS

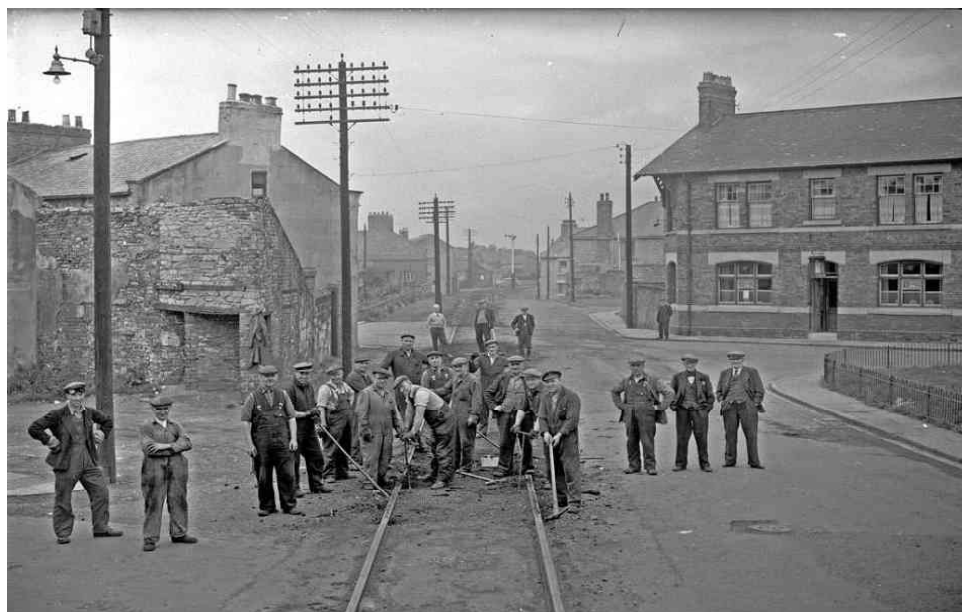
THE LANDSCAPE, HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENT OF HETTON-LE-HOLE AND NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES



Lyons Cottages at Hetton Lyons, with the cottage lived in by Robert Stephenson during construction of the Hetton Colliery Railway shown nearest to the camera.

Edited by Peter Collins, Alan Rushworth & David Wallace
with text and illustrations by The Archaeological Practice Ltd, Peter
Collins, Ivan Dunn, Brenda Graham, Alan Jackson, Ian Roberts, Pat
Robson, Peter Ryder, Bob Scott, Sue Stephenson, Mary Stobbart, Susan
Waterston, Paul Williams, David Witham and Peter Witham,
Joan Walton

Hetton Local and Natural History Society



Lifting the track of the Hetton Colliery Railway in Railway Street, Hetton, in 1959

© Hetton Local and Natural History Society and the individual authors and contributors

Published by Hetton Local and Natural History Society

Printed by Durham County Council

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PREFACE: Peter Witham

1. INTRODUCTION (Page 1)

FEATURE: Hetton-le-Hole and Hetton-le-Hill (Page 3)

2. LOCATION AND LANDSCAPE (Page 5)

3. SOURCES OF EVIDENCE (Page 7)

HISTORIC MAP FEATURE: Hetton Mapped through Time (Page 12)

4. THE GEOLOGY OF THE HETTON AREA (Paul Williams & Peter Witham) (Page 13)

5. LANDSCAPE AND BIO-DIVERSITY (Pat Robson, Bob Scott, Peter Witham & Ivan Dunn) (Page 29)

6. HYDROLOGY (Pat Robson, Bob Scott & Peter Witham) (Page 91)

7. HISTORIC SITE GAZETTEER (Page 117)

8. HISTORIC BUILDINGS (Peter Ryder) (Page 123)

9. COMMUNITIES AND SETTLEMENTS (Page 135)

10. HISTORICAL SYNTHESIS UP TO 1850 (Page 147)

APPENDIX: Signposts to a Lost Landscape – Hetton's Medieval Charters (Page 204)

11. MINING IN HETTON: PART 1 – THE MAJOR COLLIERIES (David Witham & Peter Witham) (Page 213)

- 12 MINING IN HETTON: PART 2 – THE MINOR COLLIERIES (David Witham & Peter Witham) (Page 245)
13. THE HISTORY OF HETTON COAL COMPANY (Peter Collins) (Page 265)
14. THE HETTON COLLIERY RAILWAY (Peter Collins) (Page 275)

APPENDIX: *'The Costs of the Hetton Railway'* by George Dodds (1825) (Page 315)

- 15 HOUSES, HOMES AND THE GROWTH OF COMMUNITIES (Peter Witham & Mary Stobbart)

FEATURE SECTION: The Street Names of Hetton (Susan Waterston and Joan Walton) (Page 348)

MAP FEATURE: Settlement Growth – the Ordnance Survey Record (Page 358)

- 16 THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF HETTON (Brenda Graham) (Page 359)
17. EARLY SOCIAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF HETTON 1800-1850 (Alan Jackson) (Page 455)
- 18 RELIGION IN HETTON (Shaun Newton) (Page 489)
- 19 EASINGTON LANE (Peter Witham & Mary Stobbart) (Page 523)
- 20 EAST RAINTON (Sue Stephenson) (Page 551)
- 21 MOORSLEY (Peter Witham & Mary Stobbart) (Page 571)
- 22 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK (Page 585)

GLOSSARY (Page 591)

BIBLIOGRAPHY (Page 594)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A large number and wide range of individual contributions have been made to the Hetton Village Atlas project by members of the local community. These contributions include 14 of the chapters contained here as well as the provision of photographs and documents, oral history recordings (interviewers and interviewees), project co-ordination and participation in events. This process was facilitated by a steering group composed drawn particularly from the Hetton Local History Group and Hetton Greenwatch (now merged to form the Hetton Local and Natural History Society – HLNHS), who provided accommodation for the project meetings and helped to publicise Atlas events, such as talks, workshops and guided walks. General project co-ordination was provided by Ken Bradshaw, Tony Devos and Angela Stoddart of the Limestone Landscapes Partnership.

The Hetton Village Atlas project was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Limestone Landscapes Partnership Programme. HLNHS would also like to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund for providing an All Our Stories grant, the County Durham Community Foundation and the E.ON Great Eppleton Wind Farm Community Benefits Fund for providing further funding which has assisted with the programme of community research for the Atlas and the production costs of this work. The Limestone Landscapes Partnership provided further funding to subsidise publication of this book. Hetton Town Council and Limestone Landscapes also supported the celebratory event to launch the book.

The authors of chapters 4-6, 8 and 11-21 are named in the contents page. Those sections were edited by Peter Collins, Dave Wallace and Alan Rushworth. The remaining text was written by Alan Rushworth on behalf of the Archaeological Practice Ltd (Chapters 1-3, 7, 9-10, 22). Richard Carlton undertook additional research related to those sections. The illustrations accompanying the chapters contributed by the Archaeological Practice Ltd were prepared by Marc Johnstone, Claire MacRae and Alan Rushworth. Alan Rushworth and Richard Carlton took the modern photographs used to accompany those chapters.

Durham County Council generously permitted access to Elemore Hall School and its grounds, whilst Mrs S. Boddy kindly allowed access to her garden and flat interior at the Old Hall, Little Eppleton and discussed the history of the building with a visiting Atlas group. The staff of Tyne and Wear Archives, Durham Record Office, Beamish Museum, Bowes Museum the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers and Sunderland City Library Local Studies kindly hosted group visits and assisted in providing access to the collections and archives under their curation. Images of the following maps and plans held by Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections in the Durham Cathedral Muniments collection (DCD) are copyright of the Church Commissioners for England and reproduced with their permission: DCD E-AA-7-1 Moorsley 1805, DCD E-AF-2-1 East Rainton 1840, DCD E-AF-4-1 Moorsley 1843; tithe maps held there are reproduced by permission of the Durham Diocesan Registrar: DDR/EA/TTH/1/127 Hetton-le-Hole, DDR/EA/TTH/1/89 Great Eppleton, DDR/EA/TTH/1/90 Little Eppleton, DDR/EA/TTH/1/167 Moorsley, DDR/EA/TTH/1/189 Pitlington, DDR/EA/TTH/1/196 East Rainton; and maps and plans held in the Baker Baker Papers and the Shafto (Beamish) Papers by permission of Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections: Baker Baker 18-92 Hetton-le-Hill planting 1798, Baker Baker 119-11 18th-century plan of ElemoreHall, Baker Baker 119-12 Hetton on the Hill farm 1836, Baker Baker 119-14a Hetton-le-Hill and Low Haswell 1833, Baker Baker 119-16 Elemore Hall estate 1853, GB-0033-SHA Musgrave-Spearman Land at Hetton-le-Hole 1727;. The following maps are reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office (DRO): DRO D/CL

23/02 Saxton's map of County Durham 1576, DRO D/XP 26 Map of Durham County by John Speed n.d. [1611], DRO D/CL 23/14 Morden's Map of County Durham 1695, DRO D/CL 23/46 'A new map of the county of Durham' by Jones & Smith 1808, DRO NCB I/X 228 Rainton estate plan late C18, DRO D/Br/P 165 Hetton Coal Company Estate Plan 1824, whilst the following were maps and plans are reproduced by permission of the Marquess of Londonderry and Durham County Record Office: Durham County Record Office Londonderry Estate Archives D/Lo/P 239 The County Palatine of Durham Survey'd by Capt. Armstrong 1768, DRO D/Lo/P 242/1 Map of the Great Northern Coalfield – Hartlepool Coal District 1843 (J.T.W Bell), DRO D/Lo/B 309/8 Eye plan River Wear with Rainton-Penshaw railway 1820, DRO D/Lo/D 889 Sketch of Rainton coal mines 1815, D/Lo/B 309/14 Hetton coal dispute plan 1820; and the following map is reproduced by permission of Lord Strathmore and Durham County Record Office: DRO D/St/P 20/2 'A Map of the County Palatine of Durham ... by C. Greenwood 1820'.

Every effort has been made to contact copyright holders; in the event of an inadvertent omission or error, please notify the Hetton Local and Natural History Society via info@hettonlocalhistory.org.uk.

PREFACE

Peter Witham (1942-2014)

The members of the Hetton Local and Natural History Society have dedicated this Village Atlas to the memory of Peter Witham, our Archivist and Research Facilitator. His remarkable erudition and unquenchable thirst for knowledge about our local history and environment, his voluminous writings, and friendly stimulation and encouragement, have been the mainstay of the Society's activities ever since its inception. He is not only much the biggest contributor to this Atlas but he helped and guided many others with their input too. It is a tragedy that he has not lived to see its publication but we hope it will be seen as a worthy memorial. Its merits can, in large measure, be attributed to him but, of course, any defects are the responsibility of those of us who remain, mourning the sad and untimely loss of a great educator and friend.



1. INTRODUCTION

The present study was initiated by The Limestone Landscapes Partnership Scheme, which is administered through Durham County Council and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The report has been assembled by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. with the collaboration of the local community. It provides a synthesis of the known history of the communities of the present Hetton Town Council area, including East Rainton, Moorsley, Great and Little Eppleton, Easington Lane, Hetton-le-Hill as well as Hetton-le-Hole, a snap-shot view of the historic buildings, including churches and farms, all of which will provide context and historical depth to information gathered orally. It is intended that the document produced as a result of this work will provide the most complete history of the Hetton area and the surrounding area ever produced, but it is not intended to be the final word. Indeed, it is hoped that it will inspire further study of particular aspects of the history of these fascinating communities, and the project will aim to foster such research through a process of training, guidance and technical support

Settlements do not exist as self-contained units, but rather as focal points within the wider landscape. It is important, therefore, in attempting an understanding of the various historic communities of the Hetton Town Council district, that each is investigated in the context of its wider landscape which is most readily defined by the bounded territory, or 'township,' that was formerly attached to each village.

In order to carry out a study embracing the original rural villages, with their essentially agrarian character, the later urbanised settlement growth fuelled in particular by industries such as coal-mining and railways, plus the full territorial extent of the associated townships/estates, including the many dispersed farmsteads, a variety of approaches has been taken. These used information from a wide range of sources, including existing archaeological and historic buildings records, historic maps and documents, historic and aerial photographs and published information.

The final report represents a full collaboration between members of the local community and a number of specialists. Many members of the wider community have had an input to Hetton Atlas events throughout the last year. More formally, the members of Hetton Local History Group (HLHG), Hetton Greenwatch (now combined to form the Hetton Local and Natural History Society) and the Easington Lane Community Access Point (ELCAP) have contributed text and images to the atlas. Specifically, chapters covering various aspects of the more recent history of Hetton (post-1800/1850) and detailed analyses of the smaller communities of East Rainton, Moorsley and Easington Lane (11-21) have been compiled by members or associates of HLHG, whilst examination of the archaeological evidence and analysis of the earlier historical periods (up to 1850) has been undertaken by researchers from the Archaeological Practice Ltd. As well as a synthetic overview of Hetton's earlier history and archaeology (10), The Archaeological Practice and its associates have compiled the introductory chapters (1 & 2), a summary of source material (3), the archaeological/historical site gazetteer (7), principally based on Tyne & Wear Historic Environment Record data, and the historic buildings survey (8, by specialist Peter Ryder) and a background study of development of territorial communities and village morphology (9). The chapters on the geology/geodiversity (4), natural landscape and biodiversity (5), and hydrology (6) have been compiled by members of HLHG and Hetton Greenwatch with input from the relevant specialists, Paul Williams (Geology/geodiversity) and Ivan Dunn (biodiversity and hydrology). The conclusions and recommendations for future work (22) have been compiled jointly.

The overriding aim in compiling this atlas has been to provide a summary of what is the present state of knowledge and the available data which can be studied as a starting point for those wishing

to explore the past of Hetton. There are many additional avenues of research which could be pursued in future. It is hoped that this work may provide some of the raw material to facilitate that future exploration.

Hetton-le-Hole Village - TIMELINE -



A third of Heppedun (Hetton on the Hill) was granted to Finchale Priory by Bertram de Heppedun

1349
Cecilia, the Laton, heiress marries Peter de Brackenbury who holds the manor of Hetton, for a quarter of a knight's fee. In the 15th century Hetton is divided into three parts (moieties).

c. 1200
William de Laton mentioned in charters as lord of Hetton (Hetton-le-Hole), the earliest reference to the village.

1187

Bertram de Heppedun, lord of Hetton-le-Hill, mortgages the vill to Henry du Puiset, son of Hugh du Puiset, Bishop of Durham, who subsequently gave it to Finchale Priory. Finchale keeps a third of Heppedun. Bertram eventually recovers the rest.

c.900

Raingwald, son of Franco (one of the porters of the coffin of St Cuthbert), founded Reinington vill (Symeon of Durham writing c. 1105)

Mid-late Anglo-Saxon period (8th-11th centuries AD)

The community (vill or township) of Hetton established. Other neighbouring communities formed in same period
Hetton-le-Hill - Heppedun: the hill where wild roses grow
Eppleton - *Eppelindene*: 'the valley where apple-trees grow'
Rainton - *Reiningtun*: 'the estate called after Rægna'
Moorsley - *Moresleor*, perhaps 'Morulf's hill'

Late Bronze Age/Iron Age (1000BC-AD 70)

Curvilinear settlement identified by geophysical survey next to Eppleton Quarry. A possible rectilinear enclosure identified at Bracken Hill (HER 5300).

Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (3000-1500 BC)

Stone axe (HER 251) found in 1962 at Carr House Farm. The Castle Cairn or 'Fairies Grave' tumulus (HER 249) is said to have contained burials.

Mesolithic Period (8000-4000 BC)

Scatters of flint found at Great Eppleton



St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne



Bronze Age Beaker



Neolithic Flint Arrowhead

Eppleton pit closes
1986

Hetton Lyons pit closes
July 1950

1947

Collieries nationalised, including Hetton Lyons, Elemore, Rainton and North Hetton, coming under NCB control

1923

Hetton Hall demolished having been unoccupied since 1902 (HER 7706).

1901

St. Nicholas Church rebuilt



Mid-19th century

Hetton Hall re-built and occupied by Nicholas Wood a mining engineer. "An excellent mansion, though in a low sequestered situation", with an ice house, walled gardens and park.



1831

St. Nicholas Church (HER 7005) built 1831

19th century The success of the colliery led to the expansion of Hetton-le-Hole from a rural village to a large industrial town, its population growing from 264 in 1811 and 919 in 1821, to 12,726 by 1891.

1822

Opening of the Hetton Colliery Railway (HER 2843) built by George Stephenson - the first in the world specifically designed for locomotives and at that stage the world's longest stretch of railway with an 8 mile route. The north end of the railway was at Hetton Drops (HER 2808), and the southern end at the Colliery.



1617
Hetton's open townfields and common moor enclosed by agreement

1507/1516

First record of the place-names
Hetton In la Hole and Hetton on the Hill

1686 Hetton Hall bought by John Spearman.

His grandson John Spearman sold Hetton to the Countess of Strathmore, who gave it to her younger son, Thomas Lyon.

1758

Hetton Smithy, the blacksmith's shop is erected



1819 the Hetton Coal Company formed and three new pits developed including Hetton Lyons pit (HER 2988), sunk in 1820.

Some of the colliery buildings still survive on Colliery Lane, along with workers' cottages on Lyons Avenue where the great engineer, Robert Stephenson once lived.



Eppleton Colliery in 1898
Opened in 1825
Closed in March 1986

FEATURE: HETTON-LE-HOLE & HETTON-LE-HILL

HETTON and HEPPEDON-HEPDON-HEPTON

According to the standard account of the early development of Hetton, formulated by Surtees in the early 19th century, Hetton-le-Hill and Hetton-le-Hole originally formed a single manor and vill designated by the placename 'Heppedun', derived from the Saxon words 'hēope' and 'dūn', together meaning 'Wild Rose Hill' or perhaps 'Bramble-hill'. This name subsequently mutated into 'Hepedon', 'Hepden' and 'Hepton' finally forming the modern name of Hetton. After the Norman Conquest, Surtees further argued, the manor of Hetton was then split into two parts, or moieties, represented by present-day Hetton-on-the-Hill and Hetton-in-the-Hole (Surtees 1816, 120, 212-13; Watts 2002, 59; cf. Hetton Community Association 1973, 1). Surtees was followed by later county historians, Mackenzie and Ross (1834, 368) and Fordyce (1857, 579), and has never been systematically reconsidered since.

This was always a rather confusing and problematic account of manorial development. Firstly the two settlements lay within separate ecclesiastical parishes, namely Pittington (Hetton-le-Hill) and Houghton-le-Spring (Hetton-le-Hole). A township would normally be contained within the bounds of a single parish. Secondly the suggested division into moieties was extremely unequal. Surtees suggests that Hetton-on-the-Hill was the original core of the manor, not unreasonably since the placename Heppedun implies a hilltop location. Yet this 'core' is situated at the south-western extremity of the combined area and moreover encompasses only a small fraction of the area of Hetton-le-Hole township, had an extensive territory.

Close reading of the medieval sources however has shown that there were in fact two separate placenames from the beginning – Heppedun/Heppedon which mutates to Hepden' and 'Hepton', acquiring the tag 'on the Hill' by the early 16th century; and Hettona, Hettune and Hetton, which is similarly qualified 'in the Hole' from the early 16th century onwards when such labels became fashionable.

A key source is the various records relating to Pittington parish tithe payments. These include Hetton-le-Hill which lay within Pittington parish, but must exclude Hetton-le-Hole which fell in Houghton parish instead.

PITTINGTON PARISH TITHE RECORDS (references to Hetton-le-Hill)

1270 Rent Roll	Hepedon
1343 Sale of tithes	Decima (tithes) de Hepdon
1396-7 Rental	Hepton
1464 Inventory	Hepton
1495-6 Rent Book	Hepton
1539 Bursar's Rental	Heptone super montem
(cf. 1516 IPM	Hepton on the Hill – the earliest reference with the additional qualifier)

As can be seen Hetton-le-Hill is referred to as Hepedon, Hepdon and Hepton but never as Hetton during this period.

Similarly grants and confirmations of land to Finchale Priory in the 12th and early 13th century relate almost exclusively to land in Heppedon made by Bertram de Heppedon, his son Geoffrey and Alice, daughter of Richard de Heppedon (presumably another branch of the same family)

However the much fewer grants to Finchale made by William de Laton, lord of Hetton-le-Hole at the beginning of the 13th century, refer to Hetton not Heppedon, Hepdon or Hepton (DCD 3.7.Spec.5; 4.1.Finc.41; cf. 3.7.Spec.5*). Likewise other 13th-century charters contained in the Greenwell Deeds (unrelated to Durham Priory) refer to land in *Hettona*, *Hettune* and Hetton (see Chapter 10 Appendix: Heppedon, Hetton & Eppleton Charters). Individuals mentioned include the superior lord, William de Laton, known to be lord of Hetton-le-Hole in the early 13th century, plus his various descendents named Gilbert and William plus their free tenants to whom the grants were made.

NB. Note also the grant by William de Laton to Finchale of one of his serfs Philip, son of Osbert de *Hetona* (DCD 4.1.Finc.41; printed in *Finchale*, p. 164). The witnesses include Geoffrey de Heppedon.

CONCLUSION

Heppedon, Hepdon , Hepton = Hetton-le-Hill;
Hetton, Hettona, Hettune = Hetton-le Hole.

The common manorial origin of the two Hettons can thus be seen to be an antiquarian invention, a consequence of the gradual process whereby Hetton-le-Hill's original name, Heppedon, shrank to become Hepton by the end of the Middle Ages, at which point it more closely resembled Hetton. The contemporary early 16th-century fashion in north-east Durham for adding descriptive labels to placenames – 'on the Hill', 'in the Hole' – later given a French flavour, –le-Hole, le-Hill, le-Street, le-Spring and such like – must have further encouraged people to think of the two settlements as a valley and hill-top pairing, thereby completing the transformation of Heppedon into Hetton, which was in turn to lead Surtees and other local historians astray.

This enables us to better distinguish which Hetton, Hill or Hole, is being referred to in the documents, something that has hitherto been rather problematic. It will have significant benefits going forward in terms of enabling us to relate medieval documents, such as charters, to the correct settlement and community, thereby gaining a clearer understanding of the medieval landscape described therein and the activities of the individuals mentioned. For it is clear that, local medieval scribes knew the difference between the two settlements as William de Laton's grant of Osbert de Hetona to Finchale demonstrates, even if more recent generations lost sight of the distinction.

2. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Location and Topography

Hetton-le-Hole lies some 6 miles SSW of Sunderland, 1½ miles south of Houghton-le-Spring and 5 miles north-west of Durham city centre. It represents the principal community within the present Hetton Town Council area, which also includes East Rainton, Moorsley, Great and Little Eppleton, Easington Lane, Hetton-le-Hill. This area may conveniently be labelled simply 'Hetton'. Today it forms the southernmost part of Sunderland City, within the county of Tyne & Wear, but formerly it was part of County Durham and, historically, its links were more focussed on Houghton-le-Spring the centre of the ecclesiastical parish and Durham the county town. Economically, however, Sunderland became more important in the modern era, as the principal port and focus of the coal trade for districts like Hetton.

2.2 Landscape and Geology

The geology and landscape of Hetton are covered in detail in Chapters 4 and 6 below. This section is intended to provide readers with a very brief introduction.

2.2.1 Landscape character

Hetton sits on the interface between two distinctive areas of broadly different landscape character, the *Magnesian Limestone Plateau* to the east, which extends all the way from South Shields down through East Durham to Hartlepool, and the *Wear Valley Lowlands* to the west.¹ The Magnesian Limestone Escarpment, roughly bisects the study area running through Moorsley, Easington Lane and High Downs, forming a deeply dissected low escarpment of well defined spurs and valleys which forms the western edge of Magnesian Limestone Plateau, overlooking the terraces and often deeply incised river channel of the Wear Valley Lowlands.

The landscape of the *Limestone Escarpment* comprises a patchwork of arable fields and improved pastures, with areas of limestone grasslands on the steeper slopes of spurs and valley sides. Field systems generally have their origins in town field enclosures of the 16th and in particular the 17th century and have suffered varying degrees of fragmentation from field enlargement in the 20th century. They feature old hedges, clipped low, or tall and overgrown, and few hedgerow trees. Ancient ash woodlands are found occasionally on steep slopes but woodlands are generally sparse. There are areas of hawthorn or gorse scrub on steeper slopes. Valley floors are incised in places by shallow denes, or flat-floored glacial melt water channels containing semi-improved pastures and

¹ These both constitute or form part of *National Character Areas* designated by Natural England, specifically the *Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau* and the *Tyne and Wear Lowlands*. The County Durham Landscape Characterisation Assessment (CDLCA) has designated corresponding landscape units in a nested hierarchy of comprising *County Character Areas* (CCA) composed of several *broad landscape types* (BLT) which in turn can be broken down into a number of *broad character areas* (BCA). Thus the **Northern Limestone Escarpment** is a broad character area comprising the northern section of the **Limestone Escarpment**, itself a distinct broad landscape type forming the western edge of the **East Durham Limestone Plateau** County Character Area. The equivalent CDLCA hierarchies in the *Wear Lowlands* County Character Area are *Lowland Valley Terraces BLT/Eastern Valley Terraces BCA* and *Incised Lowland Valley BLT/Northern Wear Valley BCA*. The landscape descriptions given here are largely derived from these documents.

areas of scrub. Colliery villages are scattered across the escarpment, often on prominent ridgetop or valley side sites. Active and abandoned limestone quarries are a regular feature of the landscape.

Where not built over, the ridge slopes and level terrace between the Limestone Escarpment and the incised valley of the River Wear are largely given over to arable farmland with sub-regular patterns of old hedges, fragmented in places, with scattered hedgerow trees and few woodlands. This open landscape becomes more wooded towards the Wear where parklands and wooded estates spread onto the terraces at Lambton. The terrace landscape runs up to the escarpment and into the escarpment vales where it becomes more wooded in places.

There are large areas of reclaimed colliery land and restored opencast land which contain young hedges, plantations and shelterbelts. The frequent mining towns and villages are connected by a network of busy modern highways and older, narrow, winding lanes. The escarpment forms a strong horizon to the east.

Coal mining has had a substantial influence on the landscape. Much of its legacy has been removed or ameliorated in recent years, notably in the form of the Hetton Lyons Country Park. Quarrying, for sand, for example, at Eppleton, remains a significant presence in the landscape.

2.2.2 Geology

The division into two landscape zones largely reflects the difference in underlying solid geology. In the Wear Lowlands, Carboniferous rocks of the Lower and Middle Coal Measures (Westphalian period) dip gently towards the east. These soft and thinly bedded strata of coal, sandstone and mudstone have been eroded to form gently sloping valley sides where occasional steeper bluffs mark thicker beds of harder sandstones. To the east the Coal Measures dip beneath the younger Permian limestone of the escarpment and the plateau beyond which gently dips towards the sea. This comprises a soft and easily weathered dolomitic limestone (magnesian limestone) formed by the bodies of marine organisms settling in the bottom of shallow Permian seas.

Much of the solid geology of the county is covered by a thick mantle of glacial drift, made up largely of boulder clay, with pockets of fluvio-glacial sands and gravels, morainic drift and lacustrine clays. Alluvial and river terrace sand and gravel deposits are found in the corridors of major rivers.

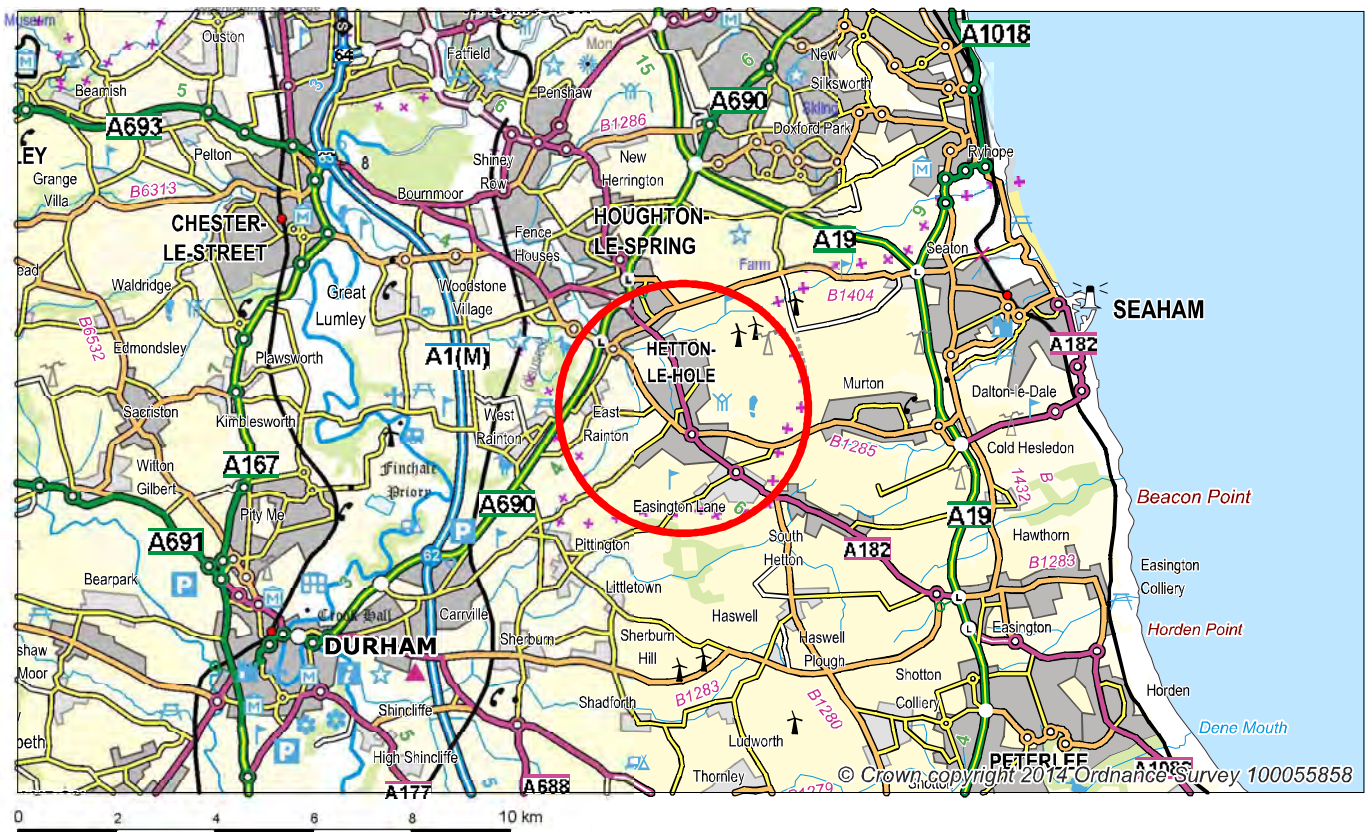
Soils are mainly heavy, poorly drained gleys derived from glacial boulder clays with pockets of lighter soils associated with glacial sands and gravels. Brown earths and alluvial soils occur along the main river valleys. Calcareous brown earths are found on limestone outcrops along the escarpment.

Hetton Village Atlas

- Location Maps -

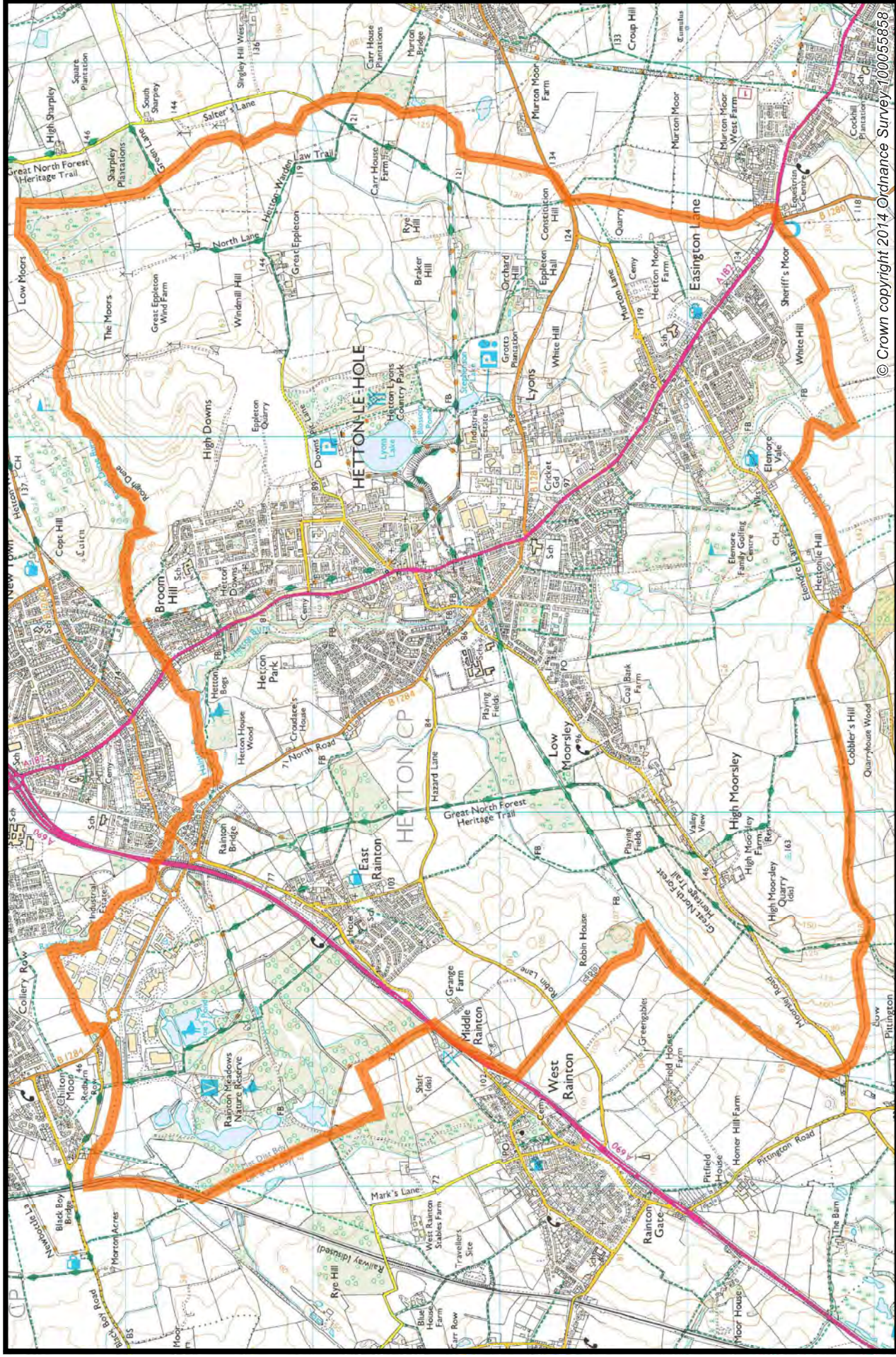


National view of the Village Atlas Study Area (circled in red) near the city of Durham in the northeast of England.



Regional view of Hetton-le-Hole and the Village Atlas Study Area (circled in red).

HETTON VILLAGE ATLAS - STUDY AREA -



© Crown copyright 2014 Ordnance Survey 100055858

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1km
= Village Atlas Study Area

3. SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

3.1 Location of Sources

Accessible regional and national archives, libraries and record offices consulted for documentary, cartographic and pictorial material relevant to the present study include the following:

Tyne & Wear Historic Environment Record (HER)

Tyne & Wear Archives, Discovery Museum, Blandford Square (TWA)

Durham County Record Office, County Hall, Durham (DRO)

Durham University Library, Palace Green – Special Collections (DUL)

Sunderland Central Library – Local Studies (SCL)

Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

Durham Library (DL)

North of England Institution of Mining and Mechanical Engineers (NEIMME/Mining Institute)

National Monuments Record (NMR)

The Cowan Library, Great North Museum (CL)

The Archaeological Practice archive (TAP)

3.2 Types of Evidence

Assembly of the research material required to produce the Atlas has been achieved by the following methods:

3.2.1 Documentary survey

Documentary records represent the principal source of information for certain aspects of the township's past, notably its medieval origins and development, and its tenorial and ecclesiastical framework. A targeted approach to the analysis of data from such sources was adopted in order to maximise the amount of information gained in the available timescale. Accordingly, primary data gathering focussed on cartographic, pictorial and photographic evidence, whilst the sections relating to Hetton-le-Hole, Great and Little Eppleton, East Rainton, Moorsley and Hetton-le-Hill in the various county histories for Durham, most notably Volume I of Robert Surtees *History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham* (1816, 120, 210-21), were consulted to identify particularly important documentary source material worthy of further scrutiny.

Historic Maps

All available historic maps and plans were examined and, where possible, copied. These fall into several categories:

- County maps
- Tithe maps and apportionments
- Ordnance Survey editions

- Other surviving detailed mapping e.g. privately commissioned estate maps and colliery maps.

The **county maps** commence with Saxton in 1576 and are very numerous. They may be conveniently examined online at www.dur.ac.uk/picturesinprint/. A sample of these comprising Saxton (1576), Speed (1611), Morden (1695), Armstrong (1768), Anonymous (1804) and Greenwood (1820) have been reproduced in the Village Atlas.

The earliest of these maps was compiled by the Yorkshireman, Christopher Saxton, in 1576. This is distinguished by careful use of symbols with parochial centres (such as Houghton) being depicted by a symbol resembling a church with tower and spire. Other five villages of the Hetton area are all shown as gabled cottages, but other nearby settlements figure as crenellated towers (e.g.). It is not clear whether the difference between these two symbols is significant, though the tower may indicate the presence of a gentleman's residence such as a manor house or tower house. By contrast John Speed adopted Saxton's parish centre symbol for virtually all the rural settlements he depicted on the county maps published in his *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine*, which appeared in 1611. Speed's maps were not based on a systematic resurvey. Instead he adapted the county maps of Saxton, Norden and others, acknowledging 'I have put my sickle into other men's corn'. However he did add features such as town plans, including one of Durham itself (first engraved by Christopher Schwytzer in 1595) and a vignette and description of the battle of Neville's Cross in 1346, for example. Both Saxton and Speed also included country parks on their maps. These are depicted as palisaded enclosures which would have been capable of holding deer, cattle or other livestock, but none are shown on the East Durham Plateau, whilst roads are only indicated by the presence of the occasional bridge.

Both Saxton and Speed depict a rural world characterised exclusively by nucleated villages or hamlets. This was perhaps still broadly accurate, although there is evidence that the first isolated farmsteads were being established in the 16th and particularly the early 17th century. Over the course of the 17th and early 18th centuries the county maps provide relatively little additional information, since they often recycle earlier material, although the reality of rural settlement was changing rapidly.

The next step forward in the level of detail depicted is represented by Armstrong's County map (1768). This responded to the initiative launched by the newly founded Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce which was offering premiums for the production of maps at a more detailed scale of around one inch to one mile (Butlin 2003, 247). Armstrong's map shows roads such as the turnpike route from Durham to Sunderland which passes East and West Rainton and marks some of the local gentry residence such as that of the Earl of Strathmore at Hetton-le-Hole (Hetton Hall) and Major Gowland's residence Little Eppleton Hall. Other important county maps include Smith (1804, 1808), and Greenwood (1820) which introduces a further level of detail.

There are many **Estate** and **Colliery maps** which constitute the earliest maps which provide a comprehensive understanding of the post-medieval field patterns and building locations. Particularly important is the collection of the Durham Cathedral Dean and Chapter's maps which cover Moorsley and East and West Rainton townships often with exceptionally detailed insets enlarging coverage of the village settlements. However, other sources, contained in Durham Record Office for example, provide coverage of Hetton, so that of all the parts of the study area only Eppleton is not covered by a late 18th- or very early 19th-century estate map.

The **tithe maps and apportionments** for Hetton-le-Hole, Great Eppleton, Little Eppleton, East Rainton, Moorsley and Pitlington (for Hetton-le-Hill) provide the earliest record of the layout of the entire Hetton area including the field pattern the location of all the dispersed farmsteads and the various constituent hamlets and a broadly accurate impression of the layout of the historic village settlements. There are however discrepancies in the detail of the villages by comparison with the only slightly later Ordnance Survey maps and it is clear that surveyor who prepared the tithe map was not working to quite the same level of accuracy, particularly with regard to the precise details of settlement morphology, as it was not necessary for their purposes.

For all the villages the tithe plans followed by the **First Edition Ordnance Survey** about twenty years later represent the earliest detailed maps. The First Edition Ordnance Survey also constitutes the earliest comprehensive evidence for the layout of the villages, which can be subjected to close scrutiny to tease out elements of the medieval village plans. The cartographic assemblage for both villages is completed by later editions of the Ordnance Survey.

Pictorial representations

Pictorial representations – prints, sketches and paintings – and early photographs, were examined and, where possible, copied. The principal source of such representations was the collections of the Hetton Local History Group and ELCAP. Also useful for researchers are archives held by Beamish Museum, Sunderland Central Library Local Studies, Tyne & Wear Archives and Durham Record Office. Such photographs show the appearance of buildings shown in plan on historic maps, as well as features not included on such plans. In some cases they also provide useful information on the function of such buildings.

Published Syntheses and published collections of sources

Existing published research covering the historic village has been summarised for inclusion in the historical synthesis. The principal work of reference is the section devoted to Houghton-le-Spring Parish in Volume I of Robert Surtees *History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham* (1816, 145-223) and specifically the sections relating to Hetton-le-Hole and the other constituent townships or constabularies of the Hetton area (pp. 210-21; Hetton-le-Hill in Pitlington Parish: 120). Also relevant are the many articles published by the local historian C. A. Smith in Hetton Urban District Council's Civic News Letter and the Sunderland Echo from the 1950s, through to the 1970s.

- Other county history syntheses e.g. Hutchinson (1794/1822), Mackenzie & Ross (1834), Fordyce (1857) and the Victoria County History (Page (ed.) 1905-1928).
- Medieval and early modern documentary sources published by the Public Record Office, Surtees Society (SS) and others, or reproduced in works such as Surtees *History and Antiquities*. Collections which proved particularly useful comprised:
 - i. *The Priory of Finchale: the Charters of Endowment, Inventories and Account Rolls of the Priory of Finchale* (ed. J Raine SS 1837/2
 - ii. *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis*, ed. W. Greenwell, Surtees Society **58** (1872), Durham, London & Edinburgh
 - iii. *Halmota Prioratus Dunelmensis*, ed. J. Booth and W. H. D. Longstaffe, Surtees Society **82** (1889), Durham, London & Edinburgh
 - iv. *Durham Cathedral Priory Rentals I. Bursars Rentals*, ed. R. A. Lomas and A. J. Piper, Surtees Society **198** (1989), Newcastle upon Tyne
 - v. *The Greenwell Deeds* (*Archaeologia Aeliana* 4 ser, 3 (1927) and 7 (1930))
 - vi. *Durham, Cursitors Records: Inquisitions Post Mortem etc.*, Appendix to the 44th and 45th Reports of Deputy Keeper of Public Records
 - vii. *Wills and Inventories from the Registry at Durham* (4 vols., SS 2, 38, 112, 142, 1835, 1860 1906, 1929).
 - viii. *Durham Hearth Tax, Lady Day 1666* (Green et al. 2006)

- Trade directories
- Relevant specialist archaeological and historical literature.

County Durham is fortunate in being well covered by early documentary material. This is the result of its distinctive history with much of the county being held directly by the church in the Middle Ages, either by the bishop of Durham or by the Benedictine priory attached to the cathedral. At some stage towards the end of the 11th century or early in the 12th century the estates of the former Community of St Cuthbert were divided between the bishop and the priory. For villages and townships which were directly held by either of these institutions copious records survive including estate/manorial surveys such as the Boldon Book (initially compiled c. 1183 but surviving only in a series of 14th- and 15th-century copies) and Bishop Hatfield's Survey (a similar though even more detailed survey of c. 1380). For the priory's lands there are similar survey documents such as the Feodary, compiled in around 1430, but essentially based on much earlier information, as well as records associated with the priory's manorial, or 'Halmote', court and copious accounts. Many of these documents have been published in volumes produced by the Surtees Society, for example, or by Robert Surtees himself in his county history (*History and Antiquities ... 1816-40*) though there is still a great mass of charters and Priory accounts material which is unpublished – fuel for future PhDs and other academic research. A third category of estates is not on the whole so blessed, however, namely those held by secular lords. It is in this category that Hetton-le-Hole, Eppleton and Hetton-le-Hill wholly or partially fall. However these can be charted by reference to the *Inquisitions Post Mortem* (IPMs), which were drawn up on the death of each lord and originally stored at Durham from the 14th century onwards (now at the National Archives, Kew and printed in very summary form in the Appendices of *Cursors Records* included in the 44th and 45th Reports of Deputy Keeper of Public Records), and through a number of collections of charters and deeds, which have survived and been excerpted, notably the *Greenwell Deeds*.

3.2.2 Archaeological Survey

The Durham County Historic Environment Record was consulted in order to prepare a summary gazetteer of all archaeological sites recorded in the study area, including industrial archaeological monuments, find spots and communications routes. Sites newly identified during the course of the study have also been added to the gazetteer (see Chapter 7).

The built-up area has been examined by a historic buildings specialist, and buildings of historic interest have been described (see Chapter 8). Photographs of the exterior of each building have been incorporated in the archive gazetteer.

3.2.3 Air Photographic coverage

The existing aerial photographic coverage for Hetton, held by the NMR has been examined and significant features noted. The detailed colour coverage provided by Google Earth has also been consulted. The coverage extends right back to series of vertical runs made by the RAF in the mid 1940s and these are in themselves now a valuable historical record of features which, in some instances, have been damaged by more recent agricultural practices and activities such as quarrying.

3.2.4 Survey of Village environs

The wider setting of the village settlements has been assessed for the Historic Atlas, using the territorial framework of their respective historic townships, through a combination of aerial photographs, historic maps, documents, previous historical syntheses and site visits. Where possible the various components - infield arable and meadow, outfield pasture, woodland – have been identified and different phases of activity evidence of change over time have been noted in the historical synthesis. Information regarding the extent of outlying settlement has also been summarised in the synthesis.

3.2.5 Site inspections

Site visits were undertaken to examine all the village settlements, farms and wider township settings, their principal monuments, built environment and field systems. Rather than being a comprehensive field survey, this was carried out to enable the project team to characterise the built fabric, archaeological landscape features and wider landscape setting of the village and to examine features which other data collection methods (air photography/documentary survey etc.) identified as being of particular importance. Photographs were taken of all the historic buildings and other sites or features of especial significance.

3.2.6 Public information and involvement

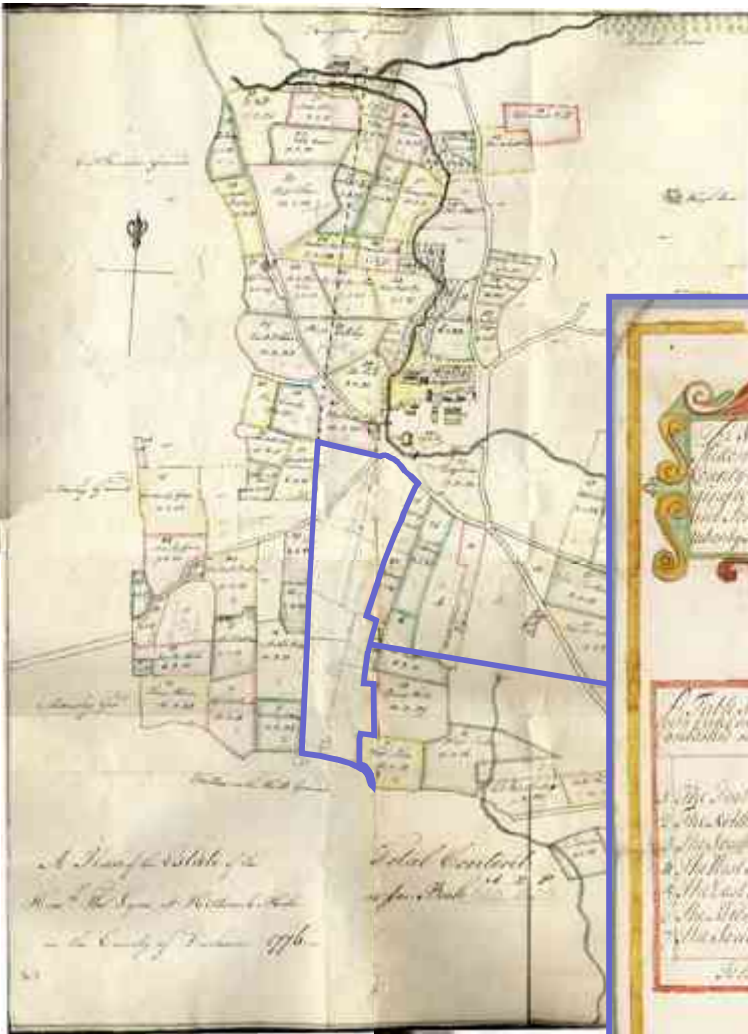
Several guided, walks and tours of the sites of interest and of notable archaeological monuments, geological features and sites of ecological significance in the wider environs (e.g. Hetton town centre, Great Eppleton farm and medieval village site, Little Eppleton Hall and Carr House Farm and Elemore Hall) were undertaken,, conducted by staff of the Archaeological Practice, historic buildings expert Peter Ryder, geologist Paul Williams and ecologist Ivan Dunn.

In addition visits were organised to Tyne & Wear Historic Environment Record, Tyne & Wear Archives, the Beamish Museum Regional Resource Centre, Bowes Museum (Anglo-Saxon archaeology exhibition) and the North-East Mining Institute (NEIMME).

A programme of oral recording has also been initiated, with advice and instruction from Dr Ian Roberts, but predominantly undertaken by the local participants themselves. Through structured enquiry and conversation with long-standing residents, this is intended to preserve a record of key happenings, past livelihoods and a wealth of other recollections of life in the two communities during the 20th century.

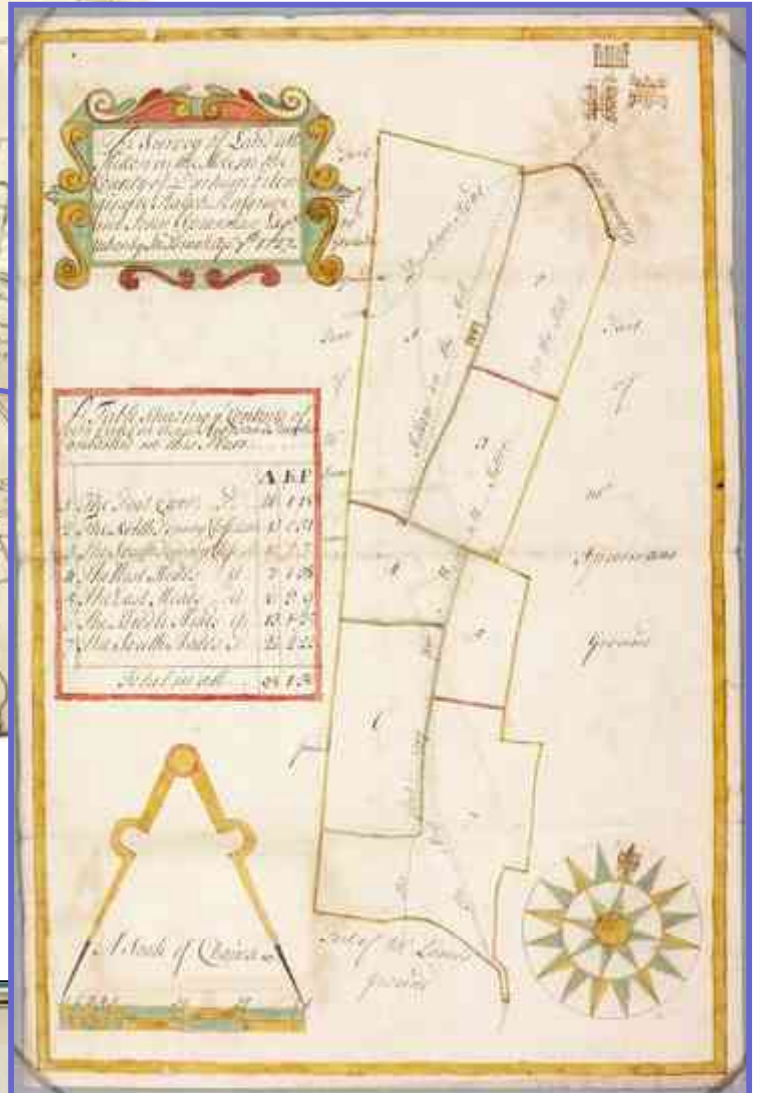
Above all the members of Hetton Local History Group and Hetton Greenwatch, now combined to form the Hetton Local and Natural History Society (HLNHS), have contributed the majority of this work.

Hetton and neighbouring communities mapped through time...



Thomas Lyon's Estate at Hetton-le-Hole, 1776, with Musgrave-Lyons (formerly Spearman) land highlighted

HISTORIC MAP FEATURE



Land at Hetton-le-Hole belonging jointly to Ralph Musgrave and John Spearman, 1727 (SHA/499). Reproduced by permission of Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections.



Map of Hetton-le-Hill and Low Haswell Farms, in the Estate of G. Baker Esq., 1833 (Baker Baker 119/14a). Reproduced by permission of Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections.



Extract from Saxton's Map of County Durham, 1576 (Durham County Record Office D/CL 23/2).
Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



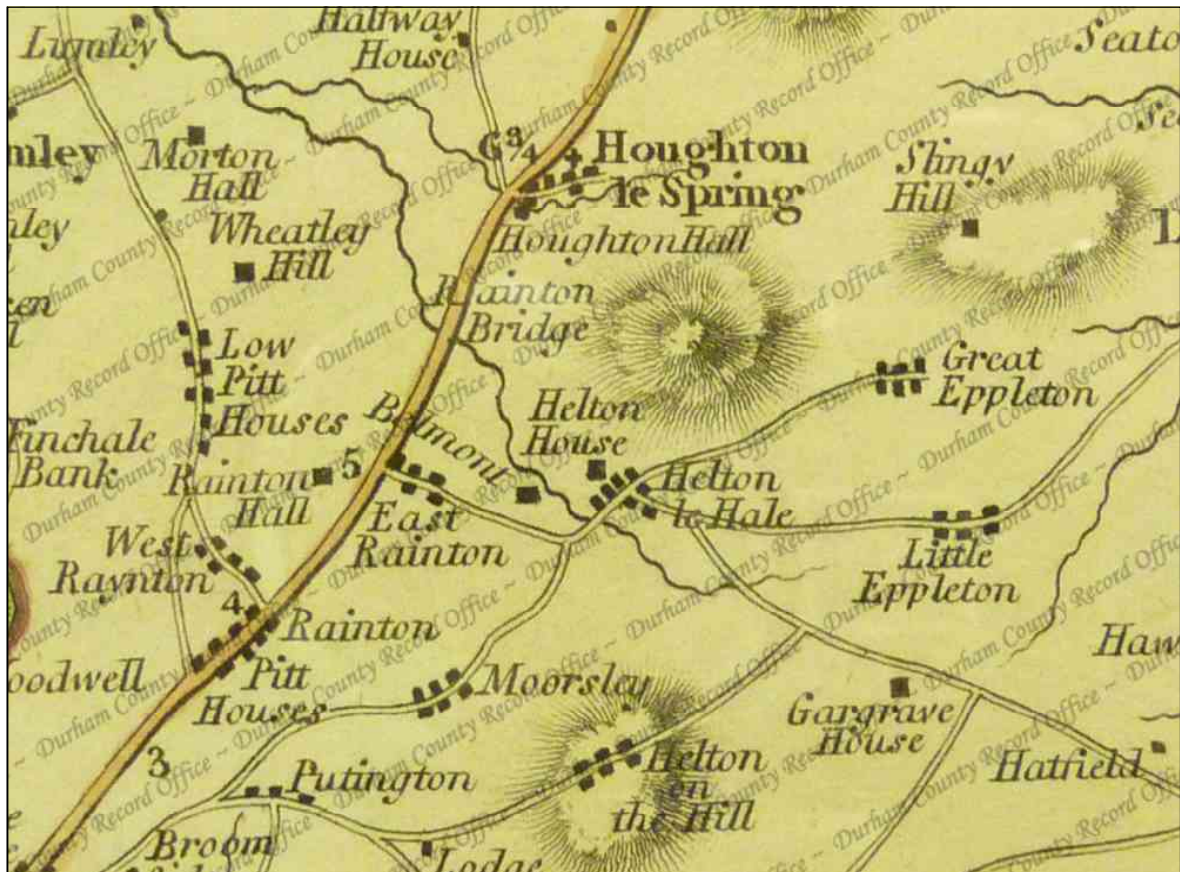
Extract from Speed's Map of County Durham, 1611 (Durham County Record Office D/XP 26).
Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



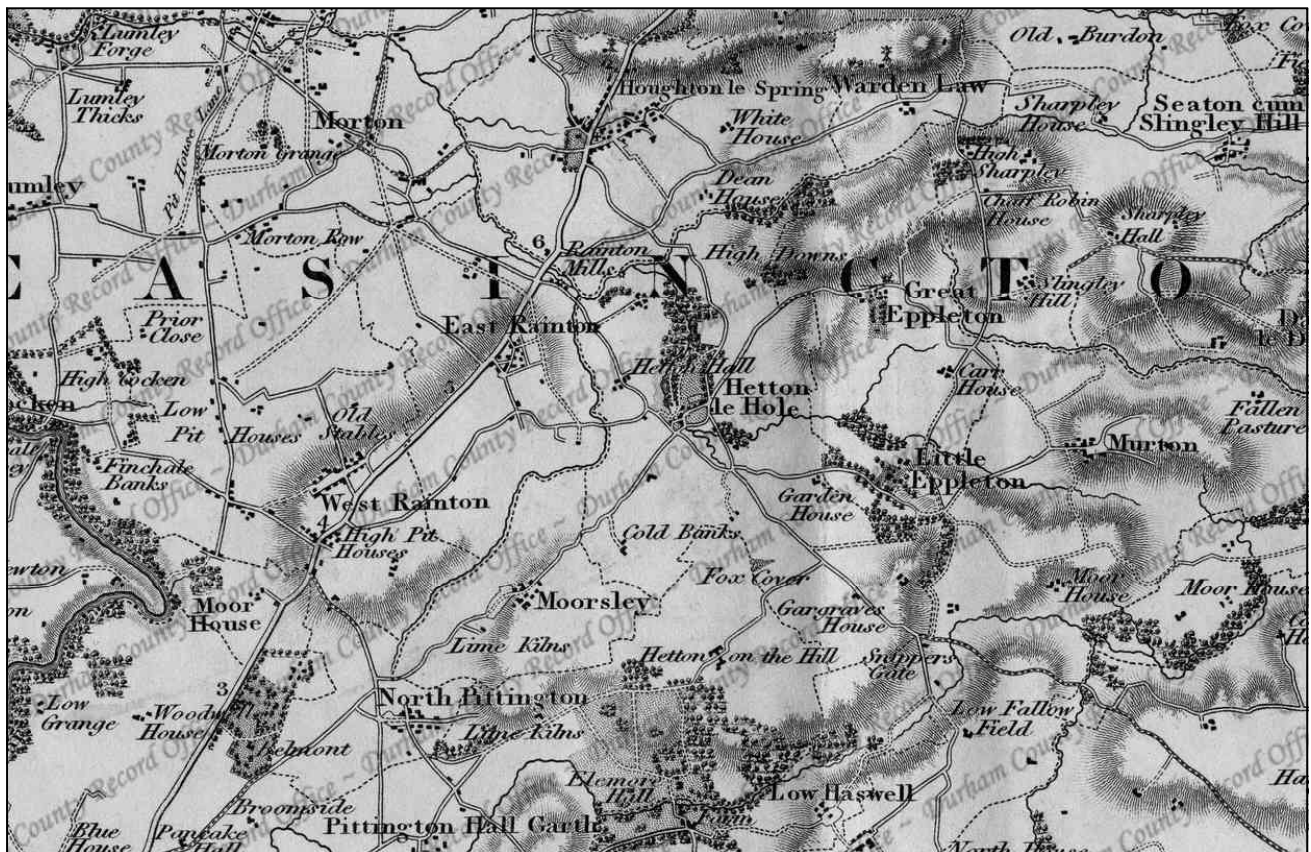
Extract from Morden's Map of County Durham, 1695 (Durham County Record Office D/CL 23/14). Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



Extract from Armstrong's Map of County Durham, 1768 (Durham County Record Office, Londonderry Estate Archives D/Lo 239). Reproduced by permission of Lord Londonderry and Durham County Record Office.



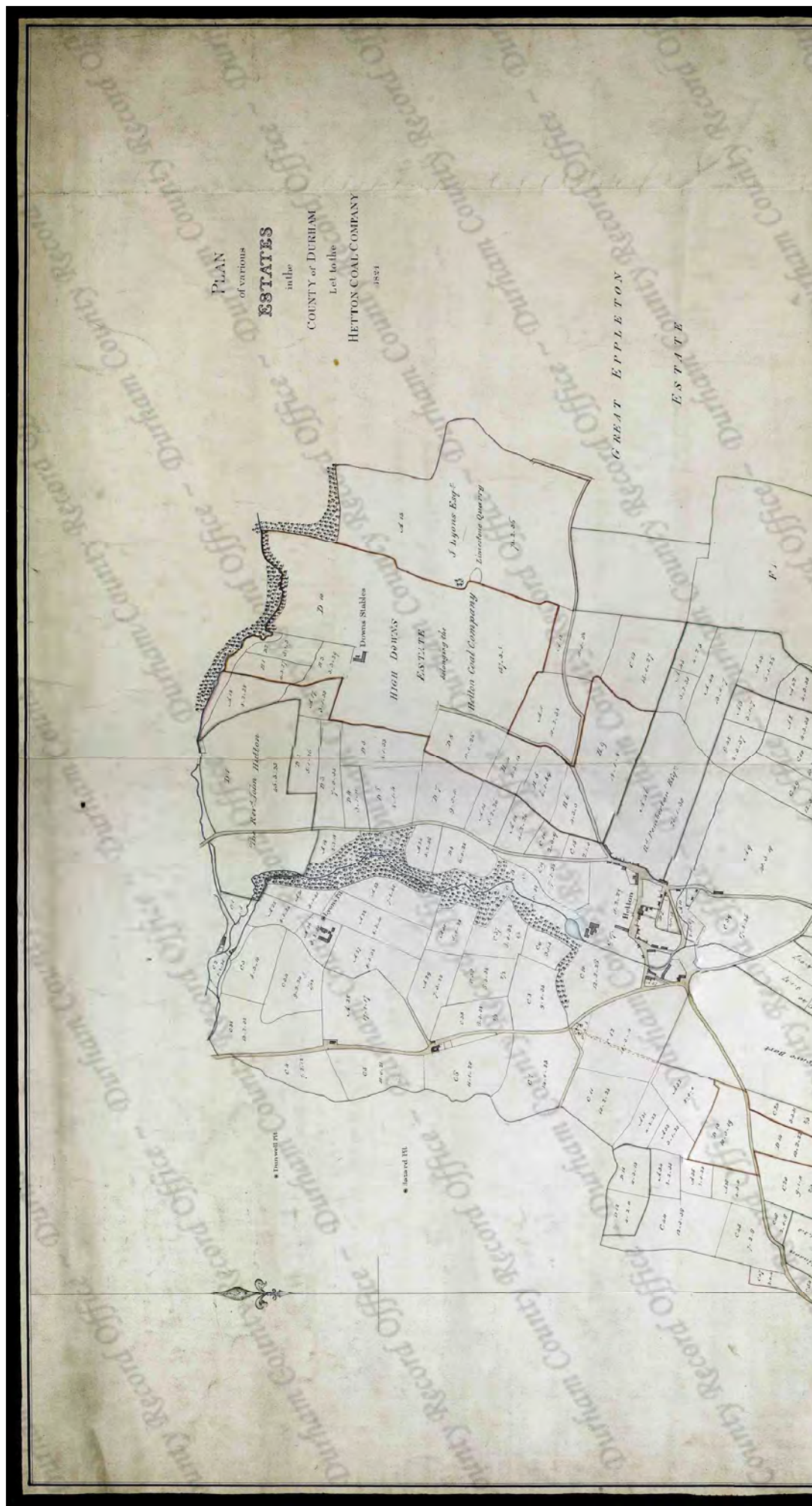
Extract from Smith's Map of 1808 (Durham County Record Office D/CL 23/46).
Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.

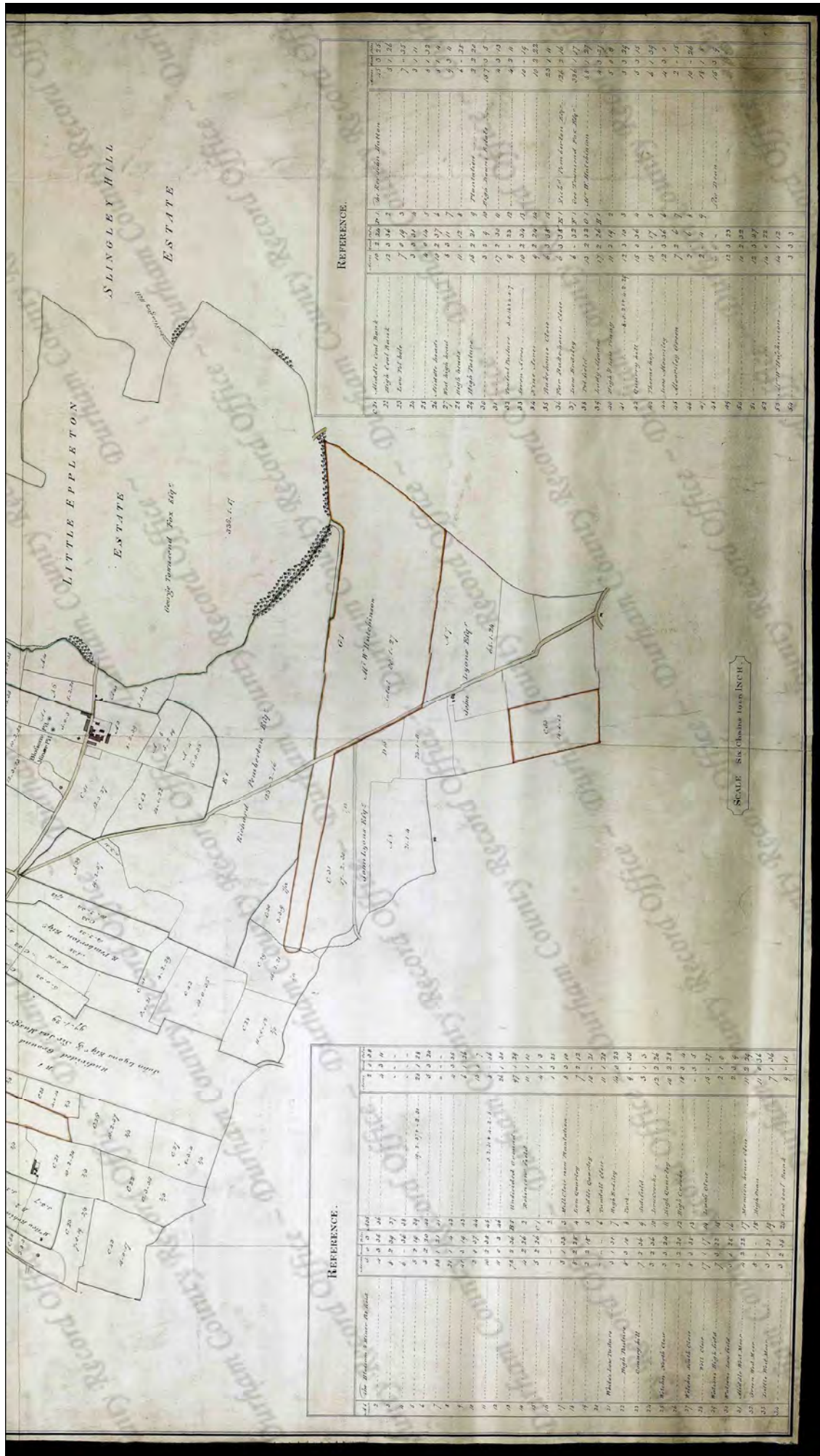


Extract from Greenwood's Map of County Durham, 1820 (Durham County Record Office D/St/P 20/2).
Reproduced by permission of Lord Strathmore and Durham County Record Office.



Extract from Bell's Map of the Great Northern Coalfield, Hartlepool District, 1843 (Durham County Record Office, Londonderry Estate Archives D/Lo 242/1). Reproduced by kind permission of Lord Londonderry and Durham County Record Office.





Estates let to Hetton Coal Company 1824 (DRO D/Br/P 165) (lower half). Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



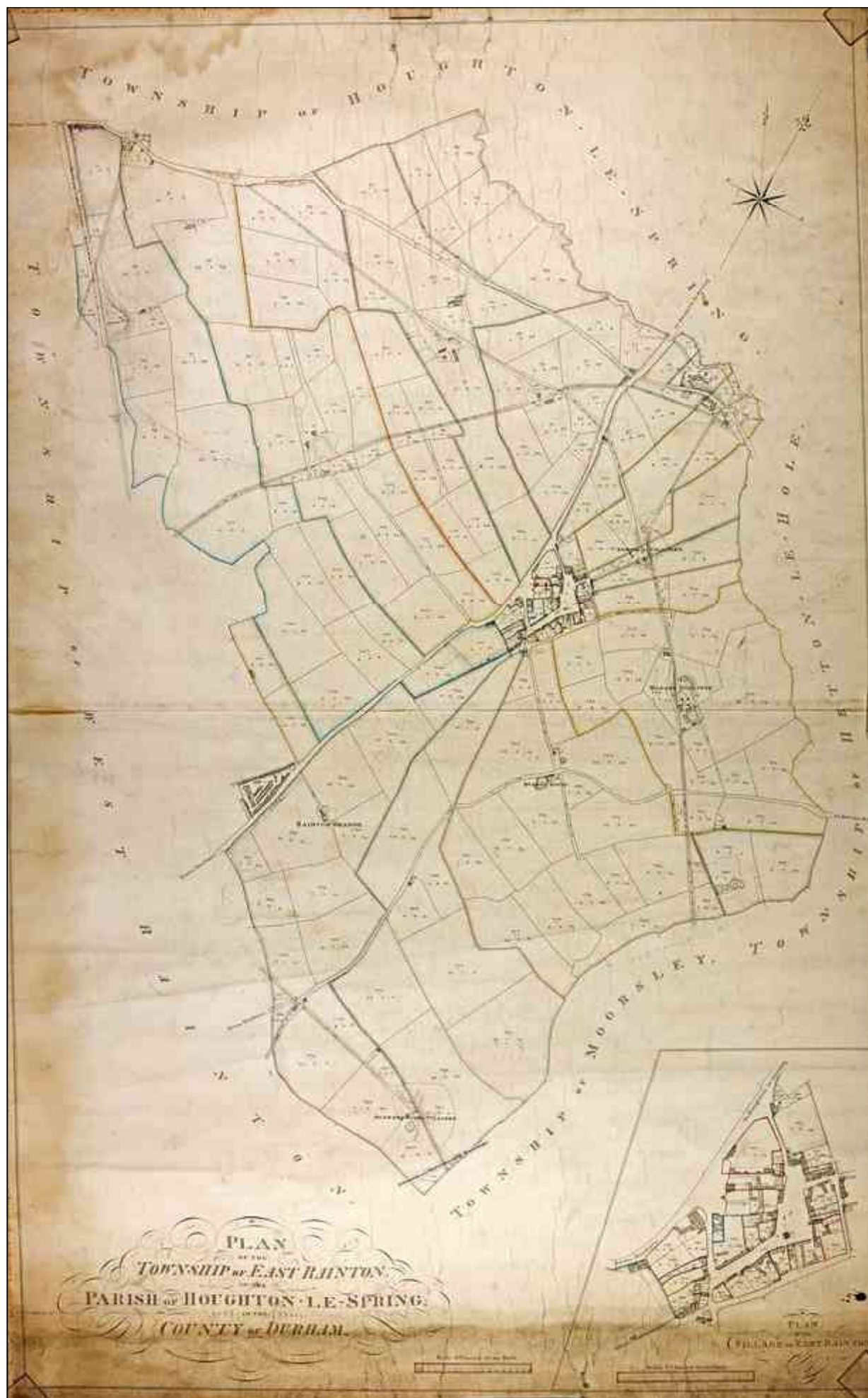
A late 18th-century estate plan of East and West Rainton - upper half (DRO NCB 1/X 228). Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



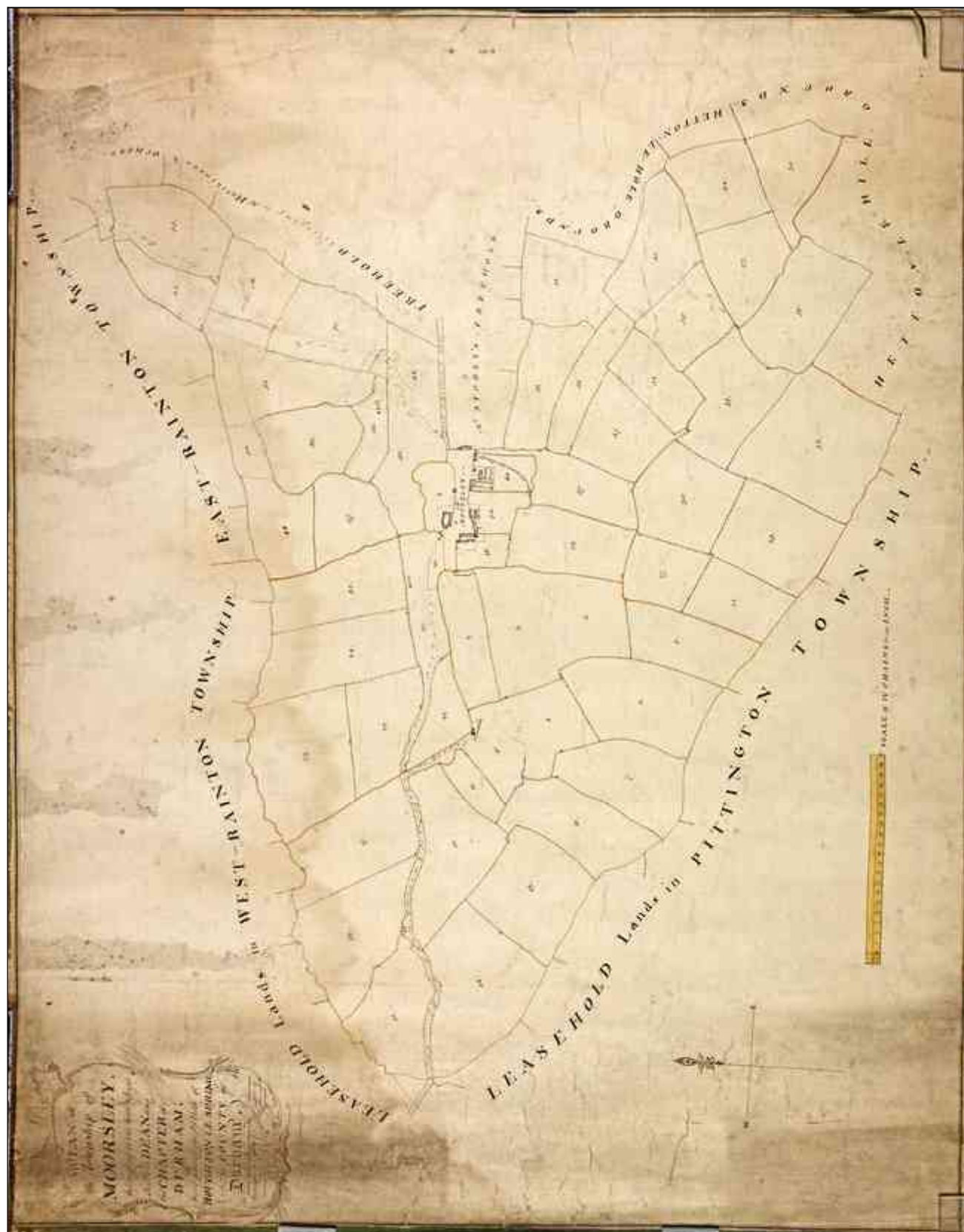
A late 18th-century estate plan of East and West Rainton - lower half (DRO NCB 1/X 228). Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



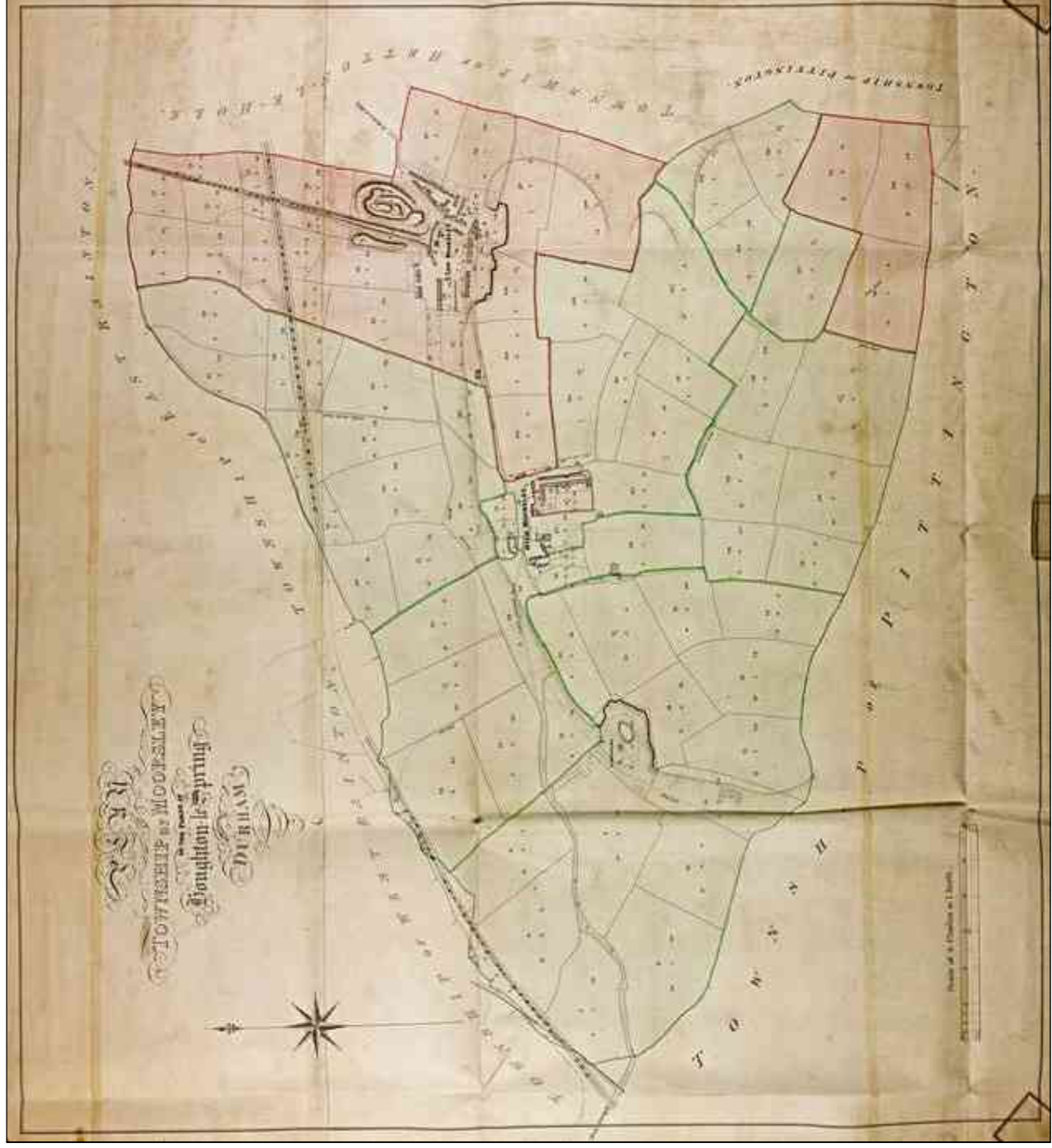
A late 18th-century estate plan of East and West Rainton (Durham County Record Office NCB 1/X 228).
Reproduced by permission of Durham County Record Office.



Plan of the Dean and Chapter estate at East Rainton, 1840 (DCD/E/AF/2/1). Reproduced by permission of the Church Commissioners for England.



Plan of the Dean and Chapter estate at Moorsley, 1805 (DCD/E/AA/7/1). Reproduced by permission of the Church Commissioners for England.



The Dean & Chapter Moorsley estate, 1843 (DCD/E/AF/4/1/2). Reproduced by permission of the Church Commissioners for England.



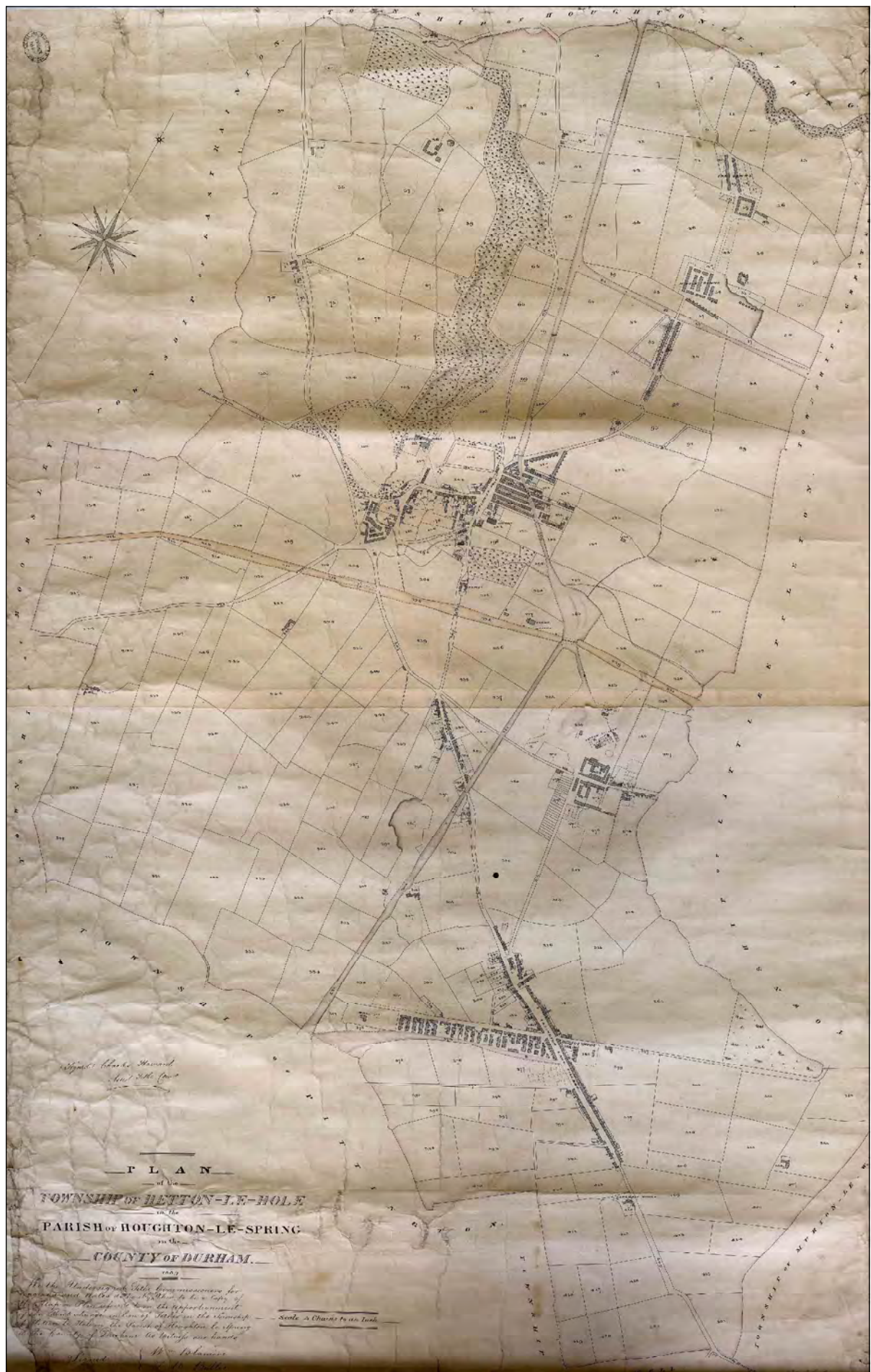
Map of Hetton-le-Hill and Low Haswell Farms, in the Estate of G. Baker Esq., 1833 (Baker Baker 119/14a). Reproduced by permission of Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections.



Plan of H I B Baker's Elemore Hall Estate, 1853 (Baker Baker 119/16) - western half. Reproduced by permission of Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections.



Plan of H I B Baker's Elemore Hall Estate, 1853 (Baker Baker 119/16) - eastern half. Reproduced by permission of Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections.



Tithe Plan of Hetton-le-Hole township (DDR/EA/TTH/1/127), 1839. Reproduced by permission of the Durham Diocesan Registrar.



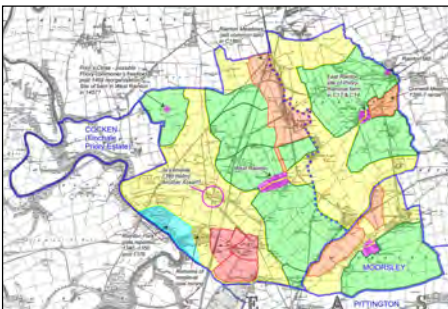
Tithe Plan of Little Eppleton township (DDR/EA/TTH/1/90), 1839. Reproduced by permission of the Durham Diocesan Registrar.



This book explores the landscape and history of Hetton from its geological origins to the present day. Whether it is Hetton's dramatic setting on the edge of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau and the rich ecology which it supports or the lives of medieval farming communities, the pioneering collieries and steam railways or the sporting life of the Victorian and Edwardian town, the Hetton Village Atlas will guide you through the area's rich heritage.



School and chapel, cottage and mansion, workhouse and factory, lord and labourer, tranquil pond and rugged quarry, all can be found within.



Hetton Local & Natural History Society

