THE ELWICK VILLAGE ATLAS
SUMMARY REPORT 2014

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FOREWORD

As the Chairman of the Elwick Village Atlas Group I am delighted to commend to you the second booklet on aspects of village life, here in Elwick.

What makes Elwick such a wonderful place to live in? We have a Church, two pubs, a Post Office/shop and a Primary School. Important though they are the things that make Elwick unique are its people and the beautiful countryside around us.

So many villagers have helped to research the history of our community, either as members of our work groups or by providing interesting snippets of information to us, and we are indebted to you all.

However none of this would have been possible without the support of the Parish Council, Durham County Council's Limestone Landscape Project, who provided the matched funding (Big Lottery) and, of course, the team of specialists so ably lead by Robin Daniels of Tees Archaeology, supported by Tony Devos (Limestone Landscapes Project). Matched. Funding for the Wildlife element of the project was kindly provided by Tees Valley Community Foundation, which enabled us to produce two leaflets identifying the wildlife to be seen around the village and along the public footpaths. A big thank you to you all for making our project both interesting and, most of all, fun to research.

This booklet is a taster of the total information collected and, for those interested in delving deeper into our village history, a comprehensive folder of all our findings is held at the Museum of Hartlepool and photographs and reports are also available on the Elwick Village website.

I would like to thank the Elwick WI for making their hall available to us and last, but by no means least, Minna Ireland, who has not only edited the booklet but has acted most efficiently as the EVA secretary and coordinator.

Professor Brian Footitt

The Village Green in 2014

INTRODUCTION

A Village Atlas project provides an opportunity for a community to begin to understand how their place developed and what is important within it. It uses oral history, maps, archaeology, historic buildings and landscapes and links these with the geology, streams and wildlife to provide a fuller understanding of how their settlement came to be like it is.

This report seeks to provide an holistic summary of the findings of all the research undertaken by the Elwick Village Atlas project, and to build on the information about the village and its environs already covered in the previous history of the village, produced for the Millennium (Ireland 1999)[1]. It tells the story of the project, highlighting findings of interest culled from the many activities undertaken and the reports produced, both oral and written.

The editor has borrowed freely from all the individual reports produced for the Elwick Village Atlas Project and interpreted the material; she fully acknowledges the work as that of those who compiled these reports. The full Village Atlas, and all its individual reports are available on-line.[2] Hard copies, which contain a great deal of research material - photographs of people and places in the village, aerial photographs, documents, maps etc. - the sheer volume of which make it impossible to reproduce here, are available at Hartlepool Museum and Hartlepool Central Library.

The village green looking eastwards, 1910

The same view in 1989

1 *Elwick - A Thousand Years in the Life of a Village*

2 *www.elwickvillage.co.uk*

Particular thanks should be given to those individuals and organisations, without whom the Village Atlas would not have been possible; they include The Limestone Landscapes Partnership Project team who provided advice, support and practical research opportunities; the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Tees Valley Community Foundation who provided funding, Robin Daniels and Ian Bond (and their colleagues) who gave endless support and guidance and also undertook hands-on research and, **most important of all** - the Elwick village volunteers, in particular, Professor Brian Footitt, the Chairman of the Steering Group, whose boundless enthusiasm, dedication and downright determination to get things done, (as well as cake and soup-making skills), has resulted in the Elwick Village Atlas 2014.[3]

At the same time as the Village Atlas Project, the Parish Council also agreed to participate in another Limestone Landscapes Partnership project scheme - 'Leg it across the Limestone Landscape' [4] - a project to develop new public footpaths in order to increase public access to the countryside. The Parish Council was keen to see the development of new footpaths around the village, and the Clerk was asked to liaise with the Countryside Access Officer at Hartlepool Borough Council in order to identify appropriate sites. Three possible paths were identified, two to the south of the village making links with existing footpaths and providing a series of circular walks and another to the west, providing a view of the Medieval Fishponds. Strong support for the project was given by village businesses and organisations, the Hartlepool Access Group and the Ramblers Association. Landowners gave permission for the first two paths, to the south, and on this basis the Clerk made a successful bid for match funding, to Natural England. The funding has allowed for a new bridge and kissing gates to be installed, and information signage to be developed, including a leaflet showing the footpaths around Elwick with points of interest highlighted.[5]

The ability to run these two projects in tandem has meant that effective use of resources has been made possible, with each project adding value to the other, for the benefit of Elwick residents and visitors alike. The Village Atlas, leaflets on the Wildlife, the Public Footpaths of Elwick and a new Interpretation Map on the village green will be tangible evidence of all the hard work undertaken.

Thank you all.
Minna Ireland
Editor

3 See Appendix 1
4 www.elwickvillage.co.uk
5 www.limestonelandscapes.info/Pages/LegitAcrosstheLimestoneLandscapes.aspx

ELWICK VILLAGE ATLAS PROJECT

In July 2011, officers of the Limestone Landscapes Partnership Project invited Elwick (via the Parish Council) to take part in their project, which was funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund. To elicit if there was sufficient interest, the Parish Clerk organised a public meeting, held in the Women's Institute hall on the11th September at which Project officers, Tony Devos and Ken Bradshaw, explained the background to the project, what they hoped to achieve and the potential funding available.[6]

After some discussion, the meeting agreed to participate in the project, by developing a Village Atlas, and it was agreed that a Steering Group be formed to discuss possibilities further. The core membership of this group has remained the same throughout, with additional members joining or leaving as the work developed.[7]

The Steering Group, initially chaired by Cyril McChesney and from February 2012 by Brian Footitt, agreed from the outset, that every opportunity should be taken to involve as many villagers as possible, across all ages and, to this end, St. Peter's Primary School was formally invited to participate, which they have done, with considerable enthusiasm. Children discussed the project and then each designed a logo based on their understanding; these were presented at the Open Day event for villagers to select their preference; winners in each age category were presented with books on wildlife and history, with the overall winner having their design used on all our communications. Our subject specialists have worked with the school, enabling the children to study archaeology, history, hydrology and wildlife, with field trips and 'digs' to put their learning into practice.

Steering Group volunteers attended several events around the region, organised by the Limestone Landscapes Partnership Team, and visited another Village Atlas project in Wheatley Hill.

Progress with the project as a whole was slow to begin with and it became clear to the Steering Group that there was a need for help and guidance from someone with a professional background in historical research. As the funding was available, and could be used to pay for this, a tender document was drawn up by the Limestone Landscapes team, to recruit appropriate help. The tender was won by Tees Archaeology, with Robin Daniels appointed to lead on the project in late 2012.

6 See www.limestonelandscapes.info
7 See Appendix 1

At the end of January 2013 a workshop was held in the WI Hall to identify what particular elements were of interest to village volunteers.

The topics agreed included:

- The biodiversity of Elwick (later to become known simply as the 'Wildlife')
- Elwick in World War II
- Medieval Settlements
- Development of the Village since 1850
- Late Prehistoric & Roman Landscapes
- Changing Land Use
- Oral Histories (recording the memories of older residents)

It was agreed that small teams should be formed to work on each area, and volunteers selected their preferences, with each group having an identified leader who would be Robin's contact person for that topic.[8] For various reasons the 'Late Prehistoric & Roman Landscape' and 'Changing land Use' did not progress. Each group undertook its task in a manner that best suited its members; with some groups being much larger than others.

Robin, to help with other aspects of the research, later recruited other specialists, Lesley Dunlop, Geologist and Heather Tait, Hydrologist, as well as archaeological technical support from the University of Durham.

Regular meetings of the Steering Group were held, to provide opportunities for everyone to maintain an oversight of how the work was progressing and to respond to any challenges arising. The Parish Council was kept informed of progress by the Clerk, as was the wider community through articles in Village Life.

Not everything was successful by any means - some of the events were not well attended and the records of the considerable work undertaken by Joan Banks, in revisiting the 1986 BBC Domesday Project, in which Elwick School had participated, was lost.

Other funding opportunities were explored and a successful application to Tees Valley Community Foundation, matched with funds from the Limestone Landscapes Partnership Project, resulted in the Wildlife Group being able to recruit professional advice and support, in the form of Ian Bond and his team of ecologists at Hartlepool Borough Council. Their combined research led to the production of a series of reports on 'Elwick Local Wildlife Sites', 'Elwick's Amphibians, Reptiles, Fish & Invertebrates', 'Elwick Birds', 'Elwick Mammals' and 'Elwick Plants' and the production of a colour leaflet on the wildlife to be found around the village, available at the shop, pubs and local tourism agencies.[9]

A number of events, open to the public, were organised over the period, to help the research and to gain further support from villagers, including Guided Walks with historical, hydrological, geological or wildlife themes, an Open Day, a Bat Hunt, A Wildlife Treasure Hunt, an Archaeological Dig and a Building Recording project.

8 See Appendix 1 for Topic Group membership
9 See Appendix 2 and website: www.elwickvillage.co.uk

Robin Daniels leads an Elwick's History guided walk, June 2012

Several householders volunteered to let their house deeds be perused by researchers of the Village Development Group, and maps, written records, photographs and memories of Elwick in the past, recorded by the Oral Histories Group, were also used to enhance the understanding of how the village used to be and how it has changed and developed over the years. What we don't have a great deal of, is much documentary information pre the 19th century, although it clear from the layout of the core of the village that it was probably designed by the Normans, though possibly based on a pre-existing Anglo-Saxon settlement.

The Village Atlas Group plans to continue the research, as and when volunteers are available and willing, for there is still much information to be uncovered!

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

Ailewic (xii cent) Elwyk (xiii cent) Ellewyk (xiv cent)

The village of Elwick lies just inland from the medieval town of Hartlepool, our first known reference to the settlement occurs in c.1150 AD when a field, 'Seflat' is referred to (VCH Durham III 1928, 254). Robert de Brus granted the manor of Elwick to his daughter, Agatha on her marriage to Ranulf, son of Ribald of Middleham at about the same time. The manor of Elwick comprised the whole of the township of Elwick in Hart parish, and part of Elwick Hall, but nothing is known of its history before the 12th century. Elwick and Elwick Hall lay with the district of Hartness.

The shape of the village has a plan which is typical of the medieval settlements of the north east of England comprising two rows of farmsteads either side of a village green with the fields laid out behind the village. This plan is typical of that used following the Norman Conquest and probably dates to the first half of the 12th century AD. However, the place name, meaning 'Ella's Dairy Farm' suggests that there was an Anglo-Saxon presence prior to the Norman Conquest. There are also Anglo-Scandinavian carvings built into the fabric of the Church of St Peter that date to the 10th or 11th centuries.

The village had a manor house (Elwick Hall) and the earthworks of a medieval fishpond survive to the west, built to ensure the lord of the manor had a constant supply of fresh fish for the dinner table. The manor house and church were both built on the top of the bank to the west side of Char Beck, away from the village.

The separation of the church and hall from the rest of the village is a quite common occurrence and emphasises the fact that the church would have been built as a private chapel of the lord of the manor, whose use by the villagers was incidental.

The physical separation of the church and hall from the village took on a legal character when the parish of Elwick Hall was created some time in the medieval period. This separated these elements from the village, which remained within the parish of Hart. The reason for this separation is unclear but it may have related to a division of the manor of Elwick.

Elwick has been an agricultural settlement for most of its life and there are still working farms within the village. Despite lying close to the A19 trunk road the village still has an agricultural feel and contains many cottages and farm buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries, and possibly earlier. It is only in the last century that buildings not related to

the farming economy have been constructed as people began to live in the village and work elsewhere.

In World War II the village was classed as a coastal defended locality and a pillbox was built on the west side the village. The village expanded shortly after the war with additional housing built on its northern side along North Lane. A new school and several cul-de-sacs were also added in the latter half of the 20th century.

THE MEDIEVAL VILLAGE *(Ireland 2014)*

The Medieval Settlement Group, originally comprising two people, reduced to one when the second member left the village. The first being both disabled and still in employment, meant that much of the work of this group has been desk-top research, as and when time permitted.

Tithe maps of 1839 were used, along with aerial photographs taken in the 1940s, as well as newer ones, to ascertain which fields had been 'Ridge & Furrow' - each ridge was one of the strips in the medieval field and was created by plough teams constantly throwing the ploughed soil towards the centre of the strip. It was usual for families to own strips in several fields then, and the enclosure of strips into the fields we see today did not begin until the 17th century.

Ridge and furrow topography was a result of ploughing with non-reversible ploughs on the same strip of land each year. It is visible on land that was ploughed in the Middle Ages, but which has not been ploughed since then, and is thus a good indicator of medieval settlement. It usually survives best where land has been used for stock pasture rather than arable farming, and does not survive modern ploughing methods. The raised ridges offered better drainage in a wet climate: moisture drained into the furrows, and since the ridges were laid down a slope, in a sloping field water would collect in a ditch at the bottom.

Example of ridge and furrow

The names and shapes of the fields on the Tithe Maps were transferred onto a modern map, with any changes of field shape or name clearly identified. Some local farmers were invited to comment on the land they farmed, (time constraints being the reason for not contacting them all), in order to identify any further changes. Some remembered their fathers ploughing out the ridge and furrow during the war. Other clues of previous ridge and furrow included curving boundaries to fields; whilst the size of the field could also provide evidence, as a Ridge and Furrow field was traditionally organised in blocks of a furrow-long (furlong).

Those fields that could be definitely identified as being ridge and furrow at any time, were marked appropriately, with other 'probables' differently marked. Whilst most field names have shown little change in the last two centuries, some incipient changes were noted, for example, Craddon Bank is sometimes now called Craggen Bank - it is easy to see how such changes might occur over time, as local dialect shifts, and field usage changes.

The completed map clearly demonstrates the nature of the land around the village, with marsh, moorland and geology limiting the land available for arable production. Some of this poor land was used for cattle and sheep grazing, with other areas planted with trees, used for 'industrial' purposes, e.g. gravel pits, or just left to nature.

The work of this group has thrown up several on-going puzzles - where do certain names originate and what is their meaning? For example, Craddon or Thrumbs Law? Why does a North Craddon field exist to the south of a South Craddon field?

In spite of these unresolved questions, the group identified at least two possible, previously unknown medieval settlements in the area, one to the north east and one to the north west of the village; these may have been daughter settlements to Elwick, established as the village expanded. Hard, physical evidence for such settlements is difficult to find as most buildings would have been of wood and thatch and will have rotted away over time; it involves field walking to look for bits of iron or pottery sherds, and other domestic or agricultural detritus. Unfortunately, the inclement weather of 2013 precluded any such activity, but will be undertaken hopefully in the near future, if landowners agree.

Archaeology *(Errickssson 2013)*

In order to find out more about the history of the village, it was agreed that some practical archaeology should take place, under Robin's supervision, and so we planned an archaeological 'dig' of the green, in July 2013.

In true 'Time Team' style, Andy Platell, Nathan Thomas and Duncan Hale of Durham University, undertook geophysical and magnetic surveys a few days before the dig. The surveys[10] were done in order to determine the nature and extent of any subsurface features of potential archaeological or historic significance on The Green, which might then be further investigated. It was considered possible that the remains of both cut and built features, such as ditches and wall foundations might be present on the site.

Given the anticipated depth of targets, the possible presence of building remains and the existing structures in and around the site, an electrical resistance survey was considered appropriate. Earth electrical resistance survey can be particularly useful for mapping stone and brick features, and is not affected by the presence of adjacent buildings or ironwork. Also, given the non-igneous geological environment of the study area a geomagnetic technique, fluxgate gradiometry, was considered appropriate for detecting the types of feature mentioned above.

The results concluded that some high resistance linear and curvilinear anomalies could possibly reflect stone features such as possible wall footings or kerbs. Areas of probable rubble were also detected, particularly in the west of the green. Several ferrous pipes and cables were detected. The presence of modern infrastructure such as buried utility services, inspection covers, telegraph poles, parked cars, bus stops, trees and a telephone box hindered the detection of possible archaeological features, particularly with the geomagnetic technique. Intense magnetic and high resistance anomalies in the west reflect the remains of a Second World War air raid shelter.

Thus it was that, over three glorious summer days, four trenches were dug on the village green and a further trench dug with the school, on their playing field.

13 Geophysical Surveys Report: 3216, 'The Green, Elwick, Hartlepool, Teesside', October 2013, Archaeological Services, Durham University

The results were not particularly dramatic, with no 'pot of gold' uncovered, but the foundations of a World War ll village air-raid shelter were partially uncovered on the green outside Village Farm, as were the remains of a possible hollow way - a routeway of at least 18th century date, if not earlier, running the length of the green, from east to west, on the north side of the green. The footings of another building, possibly an open-fronted forge, on the corner of the green diagonally opposite The Forge, are evidence perhaps, of a high demand for agricultural metalwork and horseshoes in previous centuries, but anyway, clear proof that buildings could be and were built on the green as an extension of the activities carried out in a nearby plot.

Other finds, such as broken clay pipes and domestic rubbish - broken pottery and glass, butchered bones of cow, sheep and pig and a few coins only relate to the late 18th century onwards with sadly, nothing of medieval date, however they do suggest that the green was seen as somewhere it was permissible to throw rubbish. The concentration of some finds of early to mid 20th century coins in the middle of the green seem to confirm the idea of a village fair being held here.

The limited time available meant that there is still much to be uncovered, however the evidence of the digs suggests that the green was viewed as part of the working space of an agricultural village rather than as a picturesque element of the village as it is today.[11] It is believed, though no evidence of this is available, that the village was once gated, and that livestock such as geese would have been free to graze on the green.

14 'Elwick Village Green Excavations', D, Errickson, TA 08/13 OASIS ID: 168743, Tees Archaeology

THE BUILDINGS OF ELWICK *(Daniels & Jones 2013)*

Another key activity was a 'Building Recording' project in November 2013. Our hope was to record every building in the village, not just houses, but barns, garages etc., to identify the building and roofing materials, the style and probable age of each building and the original use of each. In the event we were constrained by the time available - only 3 days, with limited daylight and very cold weather, so we concentrated on recording the buildings around the green and into the south end of North Lane, which meant that the church and Hall were not included. However, every building within the historic core was recorded whatever their date or historical importance, the intention being that the full character of the village would be captured.[12]

This building recording work has been linked to the projects, led by Victoria Harrison and Sandra Leonard, to examine the cartographic and other evidence for the development of the village. The building plots documented for that project have been cross-referenced to the buildings survey, providing a time depth to the records.

The project created a 'snapshot in time' record of the historic core of Elwick, recording the great variety of buildings in the village ranging from 17th century farmhouses to 19th century terraces and buildings of the mid 1960's. While some buildings are of more historic value than others and some are valued more by locals, it is only by viewing them as a whole that we can appreciate the overall character of a settlement.

Farmhouses

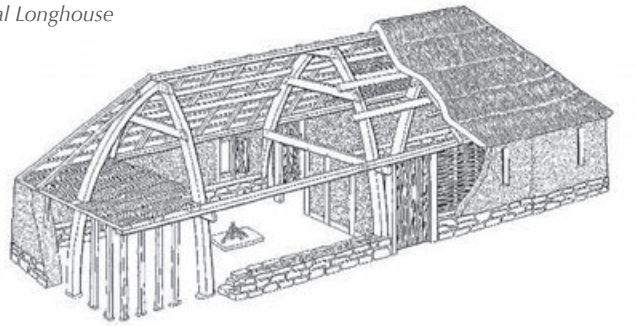
The pre - dominant type of medieval farmhouse in northern England was the long-house. This was derived from Scandinavian practice and comprised a single long building split in two by a cross passage with people living to one side of the cross passage and livestock to the other. The great advantage of this system was that it provided additional heating for the house. Not all the animals would be in the longhouse and there would be other buildings acting as barns and byres.

In the medieval period most of the houses in Elwick would have been of this type. Such buildings began to be replaced from the 16th century onwards as stone was increasingly used for buildings and coal and purpose built fireplaces provided more heat. The successors to the longhouse derived their plan directly from it, even though animals were now removed from such direct contact with people.

The new type of farmhouse is known as a 'hearth-passage' house. In these buildings the cross passage is kept, but on one side it has a solid wall with a fireplace which heated the main living room and entry into this living room was from a door off the cross passage.

15 Report on the Elwick Village Building Recording, by Robin Daniels and David Jones, TS/01, OASIS ID: 168754 2013, includes a full Gazetteer of the buildings recorded.

Fig 1: A Medieval Longhouse



As time passed another room was added beyond the living room, 'the parlour' and this might be used as a bedroom or private room. Eventually a fireplace was built against the end wall of the parlour, which was usually the end wall of the house. This was known as the 'High' end of the house

To the other side of the cross passage and entered from it was the 'Low' house which would contain a kitchen, servants accommodation and other service rooms. Beyond this, in a linear arrangement along the frontage, were byres, barns and all the other ancillary buildings that accompanied a farm.

Village Farm (No 2 the Green), with its associate range of buildings (now No 3 the Green and White Barns) is typical of this plan type. The dominance of the main farm building (No 2), the 'High' part of the complex is clear. While the original entry to the complex was via the very nicely decorated 17th century doorway, that is now the entry to No 3. From here one would have turned left into the main living room, which has a heated parlour beyond. To the right of the cross passage is the service area (now No 3) and beyond that the much changed range of barns and byres (now White Barns). The relative height of the roofs is one of the give-aways as far as the relative importance of the buildings is concerned.

The hearth passage plan and linear farm range was the dominant form in the area until the 19th century, when the main farmhouse was frequently altered to provide sole access rather than shared access with the service quarters. The central doorway inserted into Village Farm is a classic example of this.

In some cases the main building was completely replaced with a state of the art 19th century building which looks slightly incongruous beside its more mundane and early component parts. This is the case at North Farm (18 The Green) where the complex would originally have comprised 17 The Green on one side and the range of farm buildings to the other. The main building would always have been No 18, but the original late 17th or early 18th century building has been taken down and re-built or re-fronted with 19th century brick building inserted into the centre of the complex. The original cross passage door is marked by the small white doorway at the top of the flight of steps.

Farm Cottages

While the farmhouses mark the wealthier occupants of the village, those who provided labour had much smaller accommodation, either living within the main farm complex or in small cottages. Relatively few of these small cottages survive and none are untouched by extensive modernisation, however their basic character can still be seen in Chantry Cottage, 11 The Green and at Churchside Cottage.

1. Village Farm & White Barns. 2. North Farm. 3. Churchside Cottage. 4. Nos 38 and 39 The Green. 5. Nos 24 and 25 the Green.

19th Century Changes

In the 19th century brick was used as a major building material for the first time, replacing local limestone and fieldstone. This also ushered in new types of buildings with the Wesleyan Chapel, the school and the short terrace on the south side of the Green.

The Terrace is interesting in that it brings an urban building form into the village, but it has been done with a degree of care and expense considering the amount of detailing with white brick that has been put into the buildings.

The Impact of the 20th century

Elwick has an interesting variety of the architectural styles of the 20th Century. One of the major innovations of the 1920s and 30s was the semi-detached house, a development of the 19th century terrace providing more privacy. The buildings were often slightly smaller than their 19th century predecessors and often included aspects of either Art Deco or

Art Nouveau design. Nos 37 - 39 The Green fall into this category with Nos 37 and 38 comprising a semi-detached pair and No 39 a larger and more elaborate building that echoes the style of the smaller buildings next door.

A second innovation was the widespread adoption of the bungalow as opposed to the much lowlier single storey cottage. Bungalows were built from the 1920s onwards and seem to have appeared in Elwick from the 1920s. Both bungalows and semi-detached houses are more typical of suburban settings than rural villages.

1. 2-8 North Lane (E Block). 2. Building Recording at Elwick. 3. Council built houses, 9-19 North Lane.

Post Second World War

Local Authorities began to build housing from the 1890s onwards and whilst this increased after the First World War, the major increase occurred after the Second World War, in a bid to replace bombed stock and to continue the programme of slum clearance started before the war. The houses at Elwick were built in 1947 as part of this post war boom and are a relatively discrete component of the village; at the time these were mainly tenanted by farmers' sons, farm workers and two ICI workers. Their style is straightforward, copying layouts from the 1930s and with little decoration.

The group of houses built in 1965 on the east side of North Lane, and known locally as E-wing, are stylistically quite distinct, demonstrating aspects of modernist design with large windows and asymmetrical designs , partially as a result of the local topography. They have a clear character which adds to the variety of the housing stock of the village, although being more suburban than rural in nature.

ELWICK IN WORLD WAR II *(Self 2014)*

The Threat of Invasion

Because of the success of the German forces in Europe (which allowed them to mass on the coast) there was a serious threat to the east coast of England, which would be in the forefront of any invasion by Hitler. As a result, plans were drawn up to create two lines of coastal defences. The first was on the actual coastline, landing beaches, etc.., and the second was a few miles inland to act as a buffer zone should the coastal area be overrun, also it would protect defences against paratroopers landing inland and attacking from the rear. Elwick came into the second support zone.

In 1940 the threat was so great that action was taken to resist and delay and as a result roadblocks and pillboxes were set up. These were followed by the formation of The Home Guard, younger readers who have watched the TV programme "Dads Army" and thought it was just a comic spoof should now look at their grandfathers in a new light!

The defences in Elwick comprised two pillboxes, one at Sturrock's farm (Home Farm) and the other between the Elwick Hall and the A19. These brick buildings were used by local soldiers armed with rifles and machine guns, which could fire through the small slits at enemy soldiers and vehicles.

Roadblocks protected the roads into and out of the village, in order to slow down or stop vehicles. They comprised a large concrete block, approximately one metre high and one metre wide, on either side of the road. Large oil drums, filled with concrete, were kept nearby and these could be rolled into position across the road. Being a rural area, farm implements such as hay rakes were also used, much to the delight of school children who would roll them into the road, much to the annoyance of the schoolteachers.

The roadblocks were situated near the stream on Craddon Bank and in the west, at the bottom of Church Bank. In addition trenches were dug alongside so that tanks etc.. would be funnelled into a narrow gap, where they were easier to attack. 13 Royal Engineers dug the ditches, using a dragline excavator. The men were billeted at Rudby House, whilst the Sergeant was lodged with Mrs. Witty (the postmistress).

1. Sturrock's Farm Pillbox (D. Self), 2. Internal Blast wall, Sturrock's Farm Pillbox (D. Self) 3: Interior Sturrock's Farm Pillbox, showing concrete slab roof and concrete firing shelves for resting rifles, 4: Fishponds Pillbox

Two gun pits were dug at Grieves' Farm (Dovecote Farm). These defences remained until the end of the war, although the threat of invasion faded in 1941. The usefulness of our tactics was a bone of contention in later years and probably would not have provided more than an irritation to an advancing army, it did however have the effect of being a psychological boost to the population who would feel they were doing their bit to keep the home fires burning.

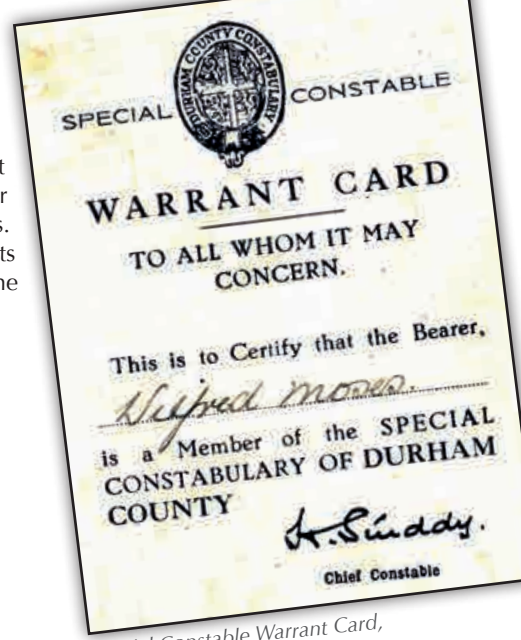
1. Ruston Bucyrus Excavator of the type used in World War II. 2. The Old Mill, Benknowle Lane, used as lookout post.

Local Forces

The Home Guard was made up of local men. At the beginning they were armed with whatever they had from shotguns, clubs and broom sticks. Later, arms were provided together with helmets and uniforms. The Old Mill on Benknowle Lane was used as a lookout point.

The Home Guard Unit comprised:

- Tommy Alton, Sgt. Major
- Jack Hodgson
- Matt Hutchinson
- Percy Hutchinson
- Arnold Musgrave
- John Proud, Captain
- Bill Raw
- Tommy Warrand, Sergeant



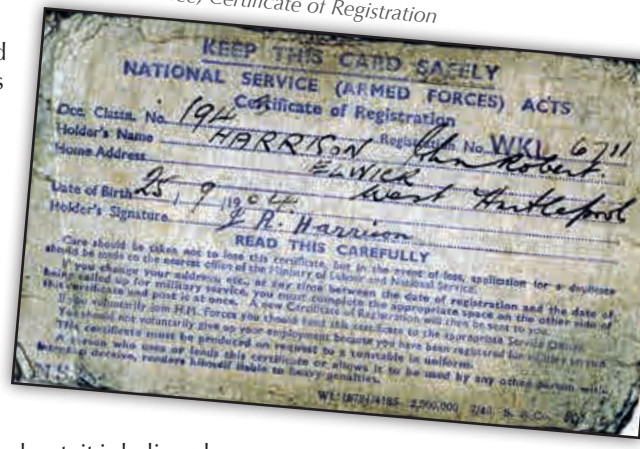
Special Constable Warrant Card, Wilfred Moses

The following were also 'volunteered'

- Fred Grieves, Fire Watch (walk round three times a week looking for fires but the job never really materialised)
- Alf Moses, Air Raid Warden
- Wilfred Moses, Special Constable

People who were on reserved occupations were given Identity Cards to show exemption from the forces

National Service, Certificate of Registration



Casualty Hospital

It was expected in 1940 that there would be a large number of casualties resulting from the invasion, so the army requisitioned Naisberry Farm which, together with a tented complex, formed a casualty clearing station manned by the RAMC, 115 Field Ambulance Unit, under Captain David Miller. This left in late 1940 when the threat didn't come about: it is believed the Unit went to North Africa, which would be considerably warmer than Hartlepool even in the summer.

Bombing

The threat of bombing was an ever-present one, due to the proximity of ICI Billingham, the shipbuilding at Haverton Hill and the docks at Hartlepool.

The bombs themselves were mainly of the incendiary type, intended to set fire to buildings rather than blowing them up. It was usual for bombers returning from a sortie, to get rid of unused bombs anywhere on the way home, which would probably account for some being dropped in rural areas as against military targets.

Records show that a number of bombs fell locally e.g.

- **4.08.1941** 5 High Explosive bombs dropped in a field at High Stotfold Farm - no damage.
- **17/18.12.1941** A farmhouse and two cottages were badly damaged and four people slightly injured.
- **6/7.07.1942** Slight damage to Dovecote Farm caused by the tube of a rocket shell
- **11/12.12.1942** A single High Explosive bomb fell in a stubble field at Elwick and failed to explode.
- **22/23.01.1943** Two High Explosive bombs exploded in a field on Low Stotfield Farm, Elwick causing neither casualties nor damage.
- **3/4.02.1943** Two large explosive bombs fell on Crookfoot Reservoir causing damage to the stone embankment; six smaller bombs fell nearby causing slight damage to the meter house.


ARMY SQUAD TACKLES GERMAN BOMB FOUND IN ELWICK GARDEN

Newspaper cutting about bomb find in Elwick

One of the first bombs dropped, demolished Darling's Farm at Gunners Vale. Hearing the sirens the family went to the air raid shelter, fortunately they remembered the baby they had left sleeping in the bedroom, and took her into the shelter just before the house collapsed!

Air-Raid Shelters

The Air Raid Precaution Act of 1937 gave a statutory duty to local authorities to provide shelter, and anti-gas precautions, for their community. The law allowed for protection by personal gas masks and domestic air raid shelters, most commonly Anderson shelters. Large bombproof underground air raid shelters of the trench variety, or single-storey surface shelters, were constructed to provide refuge for school children, those living in terrace housing, workers, or those caught away from home. In addition to shelters, local government was also responsible for siren warnings, first aid and rescue services, firefighting, gas decontamination, and enforcement of blackout regulations by ARP wardens and civil police. These provisions were served either by adapted or purpose-built structures. Fire, first aid, ambulance and rescue services used a variety of council and requisitioned civilian buildings.

Anderson shelters comprised corrugated iron sheeting curved to form a roof when bolted together with a door at one end and about four feet underground. They were large enough to hold a family and were generally to be found in back gardens. A more deluxe model was concrete built, underground with an earth mound on top.

1. Interior of Anderson Shelter, Hart Station. 2. Site of Air Raid Shelter at the west end of Elwick Green on the north side. A water tank to put out fires was sited just behind the bus shelter. 3. Concrete walls of the Air Raid Shelter, partially excavated in Summer 2013. 4. Concrete walls of the Air Raid Shelter, partially excavated in Summer 2013.

The Old School on Church Bank had a large shelter for the children while a public shelter was situated on the north of the Green, outside Jack Harrison's cottage (No. 3 The Green). This communal shelter was largely underground, and for some reason it contained a collection box, whether this was voluntary for its upkeep isn't known, but it is known that two youths from Hartlepool stole the money it contained 9d (four pence in new money!). They were caught and the money returned. The shelter was demolished and grassed over in 1946.

It was not unknown for people to hide under the stairs, or even under the kitchen table, when the air-raid siren sounded in Billingham. The village Church Bells were reserved for warning of an invasion only. Also on the Green, approximately behind the present bus shelter, was a Static Water Tank, measuring about 30' x 30' x 5', which was used to store water in case of fires. Local children found it highly amusing to fling their caps on to the top, climb up to retrieve them and be told off by Mrs. Witty.

Anti-Aircraft Defences

Enemy bombers were engaged by fighter aircraft based at Catterick, which also had an outstation at Greatham. The ground defence consisted of Ack Ack guns and searchlights - Billingham being a more important target because of the chemical works had guns and barrage balloons; while there were smoke pots in most streets that would be lit to cause smoke over the area.

In Elwick there was an Ack Ack emplacement near High Barns Farm, Coal Lane on the Trimdon:A19 crossroads. Search lights would try and pick up the planes in a cross and the guns, usually Bofors, would fire at it. It wasn't always realized that the shells were made to explode at a pre-set height and it was the shrapnel that caused the damage. Small boys, taken outside to watch the action, soon learnt that what went up came back down and hurriedly ran back indoors when the shrapnel pattered around them. One Ack Ack gun was kept in the old gravel pit east of the village, and pulled out when required. Its usual position was on the green, on the north side, opposite the W.I. Hall. When it was firing, the noise and vibration was such that it caused the ornaments and crockery on the shelves to shake and threaten to fall off - a worry for mothers, but exciting for the children.

One story is that a flashing light on wheels was moved around the High Barnes Farm area to attract enemy bombers; I don't think local farmers appreciated the idea, if the story is true.

Auxiliary Force

In the event of German occupation a resistance network was set up to harass the enemy and support the regular forces.

Left: Elwick Auxiliary Base, looking in to area of the main chamber. Right: Elwick Auxiliary Base, looking from main chamber towards the exit.

The units were six man strong, made up of locals generally well-versed in country life i.e. farmers, gamekeepers etc.. The groups were given priority as regards weapons, sub machine guns, explosives and hand-to-hand fighting equipment such as knives. Instruction was given in hand-to-hand fighting and also radio transmitting. All members were sworn to secrecy and information about them only became available in 1990. They operated from carefully hidden underground bunkers, usually in small copses. They would have one hidden entrance and one escape exit, usually where the copse met the field. The base contained weapons, explosives, food, radio etc..

The Elwick Unit comprised the following:

- Corporal A. Bird
- Private T.H. Platts
- Private W. Smith
- Sergeant W. Rowe
- Private R. Lewis
- Private N. Proud
- Private W. Stonehouse

The Patrol was part of No 2 Area, with Captain T H Robson as Area Commander. The Elwick base was in a copse west of Benknowle Farm, adjoining Penk's Moor.

Land Army Girls

With many farm hands being called up into the army extra help was needed on the land and the Land Army was formed to enrol girls from the towns to help out by living either in a hostel or on the farm itself. Their duties were the same as for any man and involved milking, harvesting, hedge cutting, tractor work and livestock; it was hard manual labour.

The Elwick Land Army girls lived in a hostel at Eldon Grove, Hartlepool and were able to go to Miss Tucker's dancing class, usually with the farmers' sons, complete with boots. Matron kept an eye on them!

It is not surprising then that about 15 married into farming families in the Elwick area.

- Sally Bird
- Hilda Grieves
- Janet Irvine
- Blanche Hutchinson
- Evelyn Hutchinson
- Jessie Musgrave
- Aileen Pounder
- Ada Proctor
- Nellie Grieves
- Mary Grieves
- Ada Hutchinson
- Gwen Hutchinson
- Mary Hutchinson
- Peggy Pounder
- Sylvia Pounder

There was also a hostel at Wolviston, with a Matron; this was purpose built and some of the girls from Eldon Grove were transferred. Some reports say that they travelled to the farms by bus, others were driven in. After the war, and until 1999, there was an annual re-union in Wolviston where they relived their wartime memories.

Prisoners of War

The fighting in Africa, Tripoli, etc.. resulted in a large number of Italian prisoners being brought to England as POW's, while the invasion of Europe resulted in great numbers of German POW's. The Channel Isles also had numbers of POW's, but usually older men.

It was a voluntary decision by the POW's to work on the farms and they received the going rate of pay. On the whole they worked well and became integrated into the farmer's family, which resulted in them eating with the family, resulting in them not having to eat the two-inch thick cheese sandwich they were normally given at the camp to eat at lunch time.

One POW camp was at Rift House in Hartlepool, and they would cycle up to Elwick daily; another camp was at Wolviston. It was not unknown for them to send a wedding

card, to any Land Army girl getting married, or to carry messages between the girls and their farming boyfriends.

The POW's would make wooden toys and photo frames to sell, to make some extra money. Gordon Swain from Hart has a painted chalet photo frame and, strangely, Eddie Moses of Elwick has the exact same object. I think that, like Napoleonic prisoners who made bone models, there must have been one man at the camp talented enough to turn them out in bulk for other POW's to sell. Joe Jobson can remember having a wooden duck "made" by their POW but it was left in the loft when the farm was sold.

Wooden Photo frame made by a Prisoner of War

Gordon Swain also has a letter, in German, from their POW when he left them to go to the POW camp in Thirsk, in 1947. He describes the terrible conditions his wife and children were undergoing in Germany, no money or food and asks if Mr. Hutchinson, Gordon Swain's father-in-law, could send him some money.

One POW married a local girl and stayed on in Elwick; he is buried in the new cemetery and left a wife and son, who still live in Hartlepool.

Elwick School

A number of evacuees attended the School, which was next to the Church, and were housed in the village.

When the air-raid siren sounded, the children were taken into the air-raid shelter in the school garden, if they were down for more than an hour they were given a barley sugar sweet - nobody heard the all clear siren till at least an hour had passed! Sweets, of course, were rationed, so a barley sugar was well worth suffering for, plus you missed arithmetic lessons.

In 1945, the village opened a Welcome Home Fund and money was raised, by running concerts and other events in the Old School Hall.


WAR CHARITIES ACT, 1940

It is hereby Certified

that the Charity called

was on the day of 19

exempted by the Council

from registration under the above-mentioned Act.

Signed.

Certificate of Exemption for 'Elwick Welcome Hone Fund'

Service in the Armed Forces

The following inhabitants of Elwick served in the armed forces.

- Fred Claughan - RAF
- John Warrand - RAF
- Ronnie Witty - Tank Corps
- John Athol Burnett - RN
- Mary Hall - RAF
- Ted Hall - Marines

John (Jack) Athol Burnett was the son of John Burnett, who took over as headmaster from Mr. Sample and lived at The Hawthorns on the A19. John was the first Senior Meteorological Officer at RNAS Hatston, in the Orkney Isles, with a rank of Instructor

Fairey Swordfish of the meteorological flight based at Hatston in Orkney.

Lieutenant Commander RN. In those days the navy only had three weather stations, and it was their task to take daily readings of temperature and humidity for upper air data.

Gathering this information involved flying up to 14,000 ft in old Fairey Swordfish planes; these did not have an enclosed cockpit so the conditions were horrendous. John later became Director of the Naval Weather Service; by all reports he was a very strong character and did not hesitate to make his views known to higher ups in the navy when the need arrived. He was given the CBE by the Queen in 1963. In 1974 he returned from London, to live in Lanchester, and died in 1993 aged 85 years.

All who served returned safely.

Victory

A VE (Victory in Europe) celebration party was held on the 8th June 1945 with a bonfire the green, a dance in the W.I. Hall followed next day by a children's tea party and sports.

THE CHANGING VILLAGE *(Harrison 2014)*

The Village Development Group was by far the largest research group and, with Robin's support, agreed their methodology quickly, first identifying all the 6 Ordnance Survey maps that were to be used:

- 1st Edition: 1850
- 2nd Edition: 1890 - 1900
- 3rd Edition: 1916 - 1922
- 4th Edition: 1930 - 1950
- 5th Edition: 1965
- 6th Edition: 2005.

They then took the first OS map and identified 42 plots around the village green, dividing the plots into five groups. Members of the group worked in pairs in their own time to identify what each plot comprised, and then transferred the information onto the Tees Archaeology Site Record. The same format was followed for each of the other editions and any changes noted on the record.

Monthly meetings were held to report on the progress of the site records. The aim being to have these completed by the end of September 2013, which aim was achieved.

To help with the report they identified various aspects of the development of the village, viz:

- Transport
- Education
- Lifestyles & Communities
- Housing development and amenities.

The completed site records for each of the 42 plots became case studies for the Village Atlas, complemented by the work of Sandra Leonard, who led the Oral History group. This group interviewed a number of residents from the village and surrounding area. Each was selected because they had lived in the village for a long time and most had many stories to tell about the village in the mid-20th century.

Eleven interviews were completed and then transcribed by Diane Marlborough, Hartlepool Central Library. The information from the interviews has been used in the report to add interest and character to it.

Development of the village since 1850

The village of Elwick is situated approximately 200 metres east of the A19 trunk road from which there are two entrances/exits. Church Bank (at the southwest end of the village) is the original, older entrance with very steep banks, leading down to a bridge over Char Beck, and with sharp bends at each end. The other, newer entrance at the northwest end of the village becomes North Lane and is level in comparison.

J Jobson having a horse shod at the Forge.

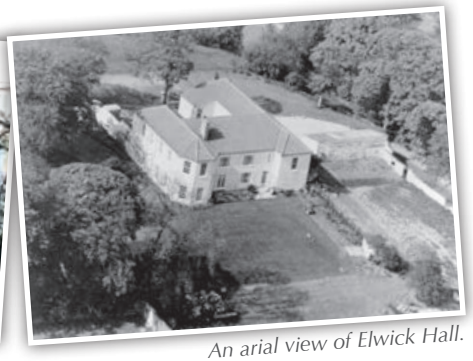
Both roads converge at the west of the village green and continue through the village climbing easterly to the outskirts of Hartlepool (formerly West Hartlepool) approximately 3 kilometres away.

Young 'Jack' Harrison at the junction of North Lane and Church Bank.

The same view in 2014.

In 1890 the village was located mainly around the village green, with a few cottages on Church Bank; it consisted of approximately 66 properties, which ranged from tiny single storey cottages to farmhouses with outbuildings and larger dwellings. Parts of the south west end of the Green have been variously known through the years as Front Street, Main Street, The Terrace and St. Hilda's Terrace, before being finally absorbed into The Green. Many properties had shared yards and gardens and many of the properties were terraced. Mount Pleasant was at the furthest end of the building to the south of the green, and is shown on the 1890 map as two cottages split by an alleyway providing access to their own private garden.

Mount Pleasant.



An arial view of Elwick Hall.

The most substantial property in the village was Elwick Hall, which stands to the west of the village, and was once probably the site of a manor house. It has its current entrance at the bottom of Church Bank, however in the past it was always accessed via the Stockton-Sunderland road, now the A19.

Between the two entrance roads to the village, and to the west of the Hall are the medieval fishponds, which are a scheduled ancient monument. On the 1850 map, the hall was recorded as the Parish Rectory; but the Rectory was relocated to Hart in 1916 and the Elwick Rectory was sold.

Serving the village at this time were two public houses called "the Fox & Hounds" now known as "The McOrville" and "The Dun Cow" which is now known as "The Spotted Cow"; the Spotted Cow car park was once part of the blacksmith's yard.

MacOrville pub with railings.

MacOrville public house.

There were also two public water pumps (the main one located on the middle of the village green and the other at the bottom end of the village on Church Bank) as well as several private pumps, including a trough for horses and cattle in front of Martindale Farm. Sanitation consisted of 'earth/ash closets' - "the dustman used to come round the village one day a week, not to collect the bins, but to shovel out the earth closets; they took it in carts to the farmers' fields and they spread it."

Doris Drydon, Olive Claughan and their friend at the Village Pump.

The Spotted Cow public house

The village also had a butcher's shop and a joiner. The Forge was the blacksmith's house, with the actual forge round the side of it in the Ghyll. The seven working farms in the village were: Village Farm, Martindale Farm, Manor Farm, Potters Farm, North Farm, Home Farm and Dovecote Farm (whose entrance was opposite the Church). The Glebe consisted of two farms linked with Elwick Hall - probably relating to the ecclesiastical role of the Hall.

The 1890 map showed few changes, except that the two public houses had been given the names they are known by today and, to the very east of the village, The Villa had appeared, a house now known colloquially as the "The Homes" or properly, "Elwick House". The village had also gained a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, built in 1868, the present Elwick Women's Institute.

Left: The former Wesleyan Chapel, now the Women's Institute Hall.
Above: The Villa/Children's Holiday Home

In 1897 Parish Council minutes state that trees were planted on the village green to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria; some of these survive today.

During the First World War, the Village seems to have been static and no major changes took place, although The Villa is now recorded as a Children's Holiday Home. It is known that this was used for children with physical and learning disabilities, providing holiday and respite care for children. This is shown on the map as the last large building to the east which by the turn of the century had become a family home known simply as Elwick House.

In 1914 the telegraph office became the telephone office, offering the very first telephone service to the village. In 1919 the Peace Committee planted 5 trees on the village green to mark the end of The Great War.

By 1950 many of the cottages, particularly on the High Street (which we now know as the Terrace), had been reconfigured (either split into two or made into one) with most of them now having their own gardens.

The property known now known as Westhall, (No 37 The Green), was once named Galilees, and which together with its land, was known as Whollow Moor (a site of 1½ acres). Evidence taken from the deeds of the original house state that, in 1764, the land consisted of a Mofsuage (possibly a corruption of Messuage - a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use). In 1843 it changed hands for a sum of £200. By 1880 the property had changed to consist of Whalley Moor House with a yard and stable, and two dwelling houses that were tenanted. In the 1930's Mr Harry Fenner (who lived in Hartlepool) owned the site and used it as a holiday home until there was a fire and the house had to be demolished and replaced with what we see on the terrace today, which may be when its name was changed yet again.

1. Midbec house. 2. Ashgill House. 3. Swinburn House.

The cottages on the site to the west of the Chapel had been demolished by 1916 and the land was recorded thereafter as an orchard, until the two bungalows, The Croft and Hill Croft were built.

One major change was the development to both sides of North Lane. To the west side, two detached bungalows were built (Midbec & Swinburn House) followed in 1947, by the building of 12 semi-detached council houses, (pictured in the section on the Buildings of Elwick) to provide homes for local workers.

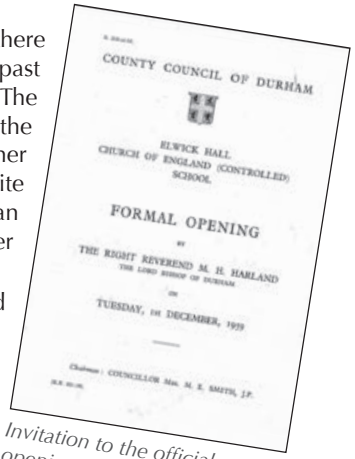

Electricity Substation


North Lane Development

Information taken from the deeds of Village Farm reveal that on New Year's Eve 1947, James Octavius Brewis, (the then owner of the farm) finally agreed that the North East Electric Board could build a substation on his land for an annual rent of £2 for 21 years; the substation can still be seen on the left as one enters The Walk/ Greenlea. It was built and completed in 1948 to provide electricity to the village. On 28th February 1955 Robert Walker, (the next owner of the property), agreed that two pylons could be erected on his land for an annual rent of £1 16 shillings. Further research revealed that the electricity from the substation was sporadic and unreliable, causing many blackouts to householders until the mid-1980s, when a permanent line was installed. Street lighting was finally brought into the village in February 1986.

Joan Etherington (nee Raine) recalls that in the early 1950s, there were two wooden cottages towards the top of North Lane, past the council houses. One of the wooden cottages was in 'The Parks' on the left near the old junction and was owned by the McKinnon family who had a little boy called Simon. The other cottage was nearer the village (opposite the present white bridge); it was tucked away in the hedge almost unseen and an old lady lived there. The village lads would call on her after school, and collect water from the village pump for her.

By 1965 there were numerous alterations to properties and considerable new development in the village. The Terrace, as a name, had replaced both the High Street and much of St Hilda's Terrace, and many more paths and roads are located across the village green. The first bus shelter had also appeared.


COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM

ELWICK HALL
CHURCH OF ENGLAND (CONTROLLED)
SCHOOL

FORMAL OPENING

THE RIGHT REVEREND M. H. HARLAND
THE LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM

TUESDAY, 1st DECEMBER, 1959

Invitation to the official opening of the school 1959

A new school, now known as Elwick Hall C of E (controlled) Primary School, had been built and opened in 1959 on the east side of the North Lane, to replace the Old School, which was situated next to St Peter's Church.

In the same year, to the south of the school, the large police house was built. Then in 1960/61, six semi-detached houses were built (Barrens, Gerrans, Green Ingle, Samarkand, Lamorna and The Cedars) as well as a bungalow and 2 semi-detached houses (Devondell & 10 North Lane), which are situated next to entrance of The Walk/Greenlea.

In 1960, the orchard of Martindale Farm, (behind the bus shelter), was sold privately and a detached house was built on the site, (Longdale). Also in the 60's, Martindale Farmhouse was sold and divided into 2 dwellings, (Martindale House and Holly House). Holly House had one room converted to a general dealer's shop. This continued as a shop until 1978 when it reverted to a private house.

North Close was built in 1963, a 6.5 acre site to the west of North Lane and comprising some14 dwellings.


1

2

3

4

5

1. Aerial view of centre of village,1964. 2. Martindale House 1962. 3. Nos 6,7 & 8 The Green. 4. Views of North Close. 5. Views of North Close.

On the other side of North Lane, on a slightly larger site, slightly further out towards the A19, Hillcrest Avenue was developed, with 16 dormer bungalows, now known as Hillcrest Grove. The sale of this land further reduced the size of Village Farm, which was no longer a working farm.

Other developments included a prefab built in the paddock, for the tenants of Martindale Farm and a wooden hut, known as Greencroft , built on Holmlea land towards the east of the village. There were numerous alterations to properties and new buildings were constructed along the road to Hartlepool at the east end of the village. These were High Garth, Shindells, Windy Lea, All Winds and Windy Ridge on the right, south side with Carlton Bungalow on the left, north side.

For the first time, the sewerage works appeared on the OS map, situated close to Char Beck - on Home Farm land south of the village.

1. Hillcrest Grove. 2. Aerial view of village 1977 showing development to the east of the Village Green. 3. Manor Close. 5. North Lane's 'E-Wing' houses.

By 2005, further developments throughout the village were noted: four, very modern, split-level, linked houses, completed in 1965, known to villagers as 'E-wing' had been built in North Lane, just to the north of Village Farm.

In the late 1960's Manor Close had been developed on the land of Manor Farm, which by this time, was no longer a working farm. This comprised eight semi-detached council houses and fifteen old people's bungalows. These bungalows were warden controlled, the first warden being Mrs Jenny Lewis. As a condition of her job, she was required to live in one of the council houses. In the early 1980's another nine bungalows for the elderly (Martindale Close) were built, situated behind and to the north of Manor Close. These bungalows won an award for their design.

North Close was increased by a further eight houses, bringing the total to twenty-two, Hillcrest increased by two houses, bringing the total to eighteen, and Village Farm bungalow was sited where North Lane meets Hillcrest.

A further two bungalows had been built opposite 'E-wing' on North Lane, 1A North Lane and Ashgill, (3 North Lane). At the end of The Terrace, towards the cinder path that leads down Church Bank, a large bungalow had been built, this was later developed into a house, Deerness Heights.

In 1972 plans were passed for property developers, Leech Homes, to build fourteen houses, now known as 'The Walk'. Yuills took over the site, and added ' Greenlea', which consisted of seven detached and four semi-detached houses

The Walk *Greenlea*

In 1973 the building of 'The Paddock' estate provided a further seven linked houses, six detached houses and two semi-detached. Further north a detached bungalow had been built for Martindale Farm. In the late 1980's the prefab in the Paddock was demolished and replaced with a large detached house, known as Martindale Lodge.

Behind the Forge, leading towards the Ghyll, the 2005 map showed that three properties had been erected on the left since 1965, (The Ghyll, Ghyll View and Fairways) and to the right another bungalow had been added (Levenvale). Four properties had been built within the stack yard of Home Farm, (the new Home Farm house and Garden Cottage, Hanover House and Home Garth) and between High Garth and Shindells, a large detached bungalow (Hill Lodge) had been constructed.

The Paddock *Lane to Ghyll*

In 1976, behind Holmlea, the wooden hut had been replaced by a large brick built house, Greencroft; whilst in 1982, the old cow byre and barns of Village Farm had been sold and demolished, and a dormer bungalow 'White Barns', built in their place.

In 2002, on the opposite side of the road to Hartlepool, a bungalow and two houses were built on North Farm land (Jersey Cottage, Canterbury House and Millstone House).

White Barns *The village grows eastwards*

Education

The history of the school(s) in Elwick between 1850 and 1950 was well documented in the previous history book. Much of the following information came from residents of Elwick who went to school in the village from 1930 onwards and were interviewed for the Oral History project. The school was then beside the church and was known as 'Elwick Church of England (voluntary controlled) School.

The school had only 3 teachers, including the Headmaster. The latter was greatly feared by the children for being very strict and using the cane to correct bad behaviour. Children normally started school at 5 years of age and stayed in education until aged 14, moving to secondary school at the age of 11. They wrote on slates with a slate pencil when they first started school. Both during, and in the years following the war, all the children, boys and girls, were taught to knit; they made things for the troops - squares for blankets, tea cosies, scarves and socks.

The building itself had no sanitation or lighting and was heated by a single stove, cast iron and pot-bellied, in the front class room, but the back classroom, where the little ones went, had no stove; it just had old pipes. Billy Raw remembers that the stove used to be put on in the morning, just before the children arrived and the pipes never used to get hot until after dinnertime; on a frosty morning "you were that cold you couldn't work." The male interviewees recall that they didn't learn much but spent most of their time on gardening, animal husbandry and bee keeping, one of the schoolmaster's pet hobbies. "The school had its own garden then - and two or three of you shared a plot," remembers Matt Hutchinson, "the stuff that grew was available for people to buy; we kept about a dozen hens and it was the finest excuse in the world, to hear a hen cackling out in the hen run, because we used to have to tell the schoolmaster and he'd tell us to go out and have a look…..and it took a long time to find an egg!" The boys would be sent down the Ghyll to find hazel twigs to be used as canes by the Head - these were really whippy! 'Reading, Writing and Arithmetic' must also have figured in the curriculum, as the 11 plus exam selected children for the grammar school.

Anne Raw remembers her aunt, who had previously attended Elwick school, telling her that the teacher would take the girls to her house at Dalton Piercy, to teach them how to do housework i.e. they went over there and cleaned her house! The old school closed, and the present school opened in September 1959. Following its closure in 1959, the old school was used as a community centre, until the turn of the century, when it was converted and became a private house. The new school had only two classrooms, two teachers and twenty-three children. The number of children increased in the early 60's when the new houses in Hillcrest and North Close were built, followed by 'E wing'. During the 60's and 70's school numbers fluctuated, dropping towards the end of the 60's, then rising again when the new houses in The Paddock, The Walk and Greenlea were built in 1972-74. This increase led to a temporary classroom being installed in the playground. The children (and teachers) had to cross the yard to use the toilets and to take part in lessons. Only when the number of pupils reached 100 was an additional teacher recruited.

There were several extensions to the building, the first being the addition of a hall and an extension to the kitchen. The meals were cooked on site; children ate in two sittings and two "nannies" were employed to supervise them, both in the dining room and playground during lunchtime. In 1987 corporal punishment was abolished in state schools. A retired member of staff (1970-1990) recalls that while she was at school, a cane was always kept above the blackboard in the top classroom. All the children knew it was there but, to her recollection, it was rarely used while she was at the school. In May 1996 a brand new, purpose built nursery opened and in 1999, a fully equipped computer suite was provided, partly funded by parental contributions. Since the Millennium there have been several Head teachers and other changes of staff, as well as the introduction of Teaching Assistants. Currently the number of staff and support staff has risen to a total of 15. Further major extensions to the school were completed in 2011/2012 and, in 2013 the school was renamed 'St. Peter's Elwick, Primary School'.

Transport

Until the close of the first quarter of the 20th century, the road to West Hartlepool did not exist, there was only a gated farm track; it was not until 1925 that the road was 'made up' between Elwick and Hartlepool. Three years later, in 1928, the first bus service was introduced.

The first bus service Jack Smurthwaite remembers, was run by Blumers Buses, and ran once an hour. Alton's Bus Service took over from Bloomers and then Trimdon Motor Service (TMS), which ran the bus from the Sedgefield area, through Elwick, on its way to Hartlepool. This was a fantastic service - you could set your clock by it, as it ran regularly every hour. If you were going down to town, the bus left the village at ten minutes past the hour and would leave Hartlepool at twenty-five to the hour to return via the village. Sonia Dobbie, who used the bus every morning before catching the train to the Cerebos works at Greatham, where she was employed, remembers an excellent service which was only disrupted a couple of times, due to snow, in all the years she used it. Various companies followed the TMS but, due to the bus having to cross the A19 dual carriageway, when the Borough Council stopped subsidising all bus services in the town, the service eventually ceased. These days the village has only a 16-seater mini-bus service, three days per week, Monday, Thursday and Friday, with a much-reduced service, run by Paul's Travel and heavily subsidised by the Parish Council. There was another bus service, which ran along the A19 from Sunderland to Stockton-Tees and back, via Billingham, that was used by village residents who worked at ICI Billingham and by older village children who attended school in that town. Ingram Hutchinson (Ingy), aged 89, remembers his first year at Elwick School, walking up the A19 from their farm at Low Stotfold, as there was no bus service. Then the Triumph Company started a service, which took him to Elwick crossroads, charging tuppence for a ticket. Eddie Moses remembers using the Triumph Buses to get to school in Billingham and having to walk home on a Wednesday because it was the day Stockton-on-Tees held its market and the bus was full of colliery folk from the Durham mining villages. Bill Raw remembers having a special bus and passes provided to take him and other children to Billingham South Modern. The United Bus Company took over from Triumph and ran a regular service until it was deemed too dangerous to stop on the extremely busy A19, which by now had become a dual carriageway.

Lifestyles & Communities

The lifestyle of a housewife in the early/middle of the 20th century was very different to that we know today. Work started at dawn with the lighting of the brick boiler, which heated the water for washing day, which tended to be on a Monday. Once the water was heated to the correct temperature, it was transferred into the 'poss tub'. The clothes were put into the tub and, often before school, the children would be given the job of "possing the clothes" - using a wooden 3-legged 'posser' or 'dolly' to twist the clothes around in the hot, soapy water. This was very hard work for anybody involved never mind a child. Using tongs to push the hot washing through a mangle was also very hard work and, sometimes, a housewife had to multi task, turning the handle of the mangle at the same time as lifting the hot clothes. Many accidents happened on a wash day - with scalds and fingers being caught in the rollers. The introduction of electricity in 1948 revolutionised the village in many ways, especially for the housewives. Washday hours were shortened when water was heated by electricity and the introduction of the electric washing machine - a top loader with a 'scully' handle attached to the lid, which took over the role of the poss tub. This was much safer for anyone to use; some of these washers even had electric rollers though many still had manual ones.

Mary Grieves remembers that her number one priority for making life easier, was to own an electric cooker. This meant that the working day became more of a pleasure both in the kitchen and out. The old radios allowed the menfolk to keep in touch with weather forecasts and news bulletins. Bill Raw remembers that "our radios had accumulators which had to be charged up to run our radio. Once a week I was sent off with the accumulator in a bag, to take it to the A19 garage at Sheraton crossroads, for Mr Howe to put on charge. I had to go back the next week to collect it - we had two so one overlapped the other. And it cost four pence to get your accumulator charged up." This was a regular occurrence in every household. If you didn't have a second accumulator you were without news bulletins, so neighbours kept you in touch with what was going on at the time. A new era began with the introduction of the electric radio. Gone were the days of crackling voices, and much clearer sound was achieved. Music also became easier to listen to as people moved from using a wind-up gramophone to an electric "radiogram". The Queen's Coronation in 1953 prompted the introduction of 'Television', for those that could afford it - people were amazed that living pictures could be brought into your own living room! On the farm electricity made life easier for milking the cows. Milking machines were installed; gone were the days of the hurricane lamp, using generators and milking by hand.

The social and leisure activities of the village

From the earliest times village people had to make their own entertainment. As David Lewis remembers, the children of the village all played together on the village green and amused themselves, often playing games such as 'Jack Shine the Maggy'. The 'Maggy' was a torch and the others had to find the person with the torch. Other games included playing 'bows and arrows' and making kids camps on the building sites. Bill Raw remembers having great adventures with his friend David Linton, who lived in the old Mill; bird nesting up at the reservoir (Crookfoot), or over to Wynyard Woods or down the Ghyll. "We had six or eight weeks school holiday in the summer. Then we more or less lived outside. The countryside was free - you could go where you liked; your parents didn't worry about you." His sister remembers that there was very little to do in the village - "no Scouts, no Guides and very little in the way of activities; the odd dress making class and the Young Farmers, of course". The October half-term was known as 'Tattie Picking Week' and Ed Moses remembers "we used to get time off school for potato picking week. I think we got six shillings for a day." Mary Grieves remembers attending the weekly village dances in the WI Hall and Bill Raw remembers how there were dances in the granary at Martindale Farm and that was how his mum and dad met.

Eddie Moses can also remember dances being held in the upstairs room of the McOrville at the time when his maternal grandfather (Harry Horsley) was landlord. Ingram and Evelyn Hutchinson recall how they went to dances in the Carlton Rooms in Hartlepool where Miss Tucker used to hold the dances. "The boys used to have their hobnailed boots on - the poor lasses if they got stood on!" Often they used to go to the Empire in Hartlepool on a Saturday night. 'The pubs were mainly frequented by the locals, however with better transport, people come from far and wide to eat and drink at the pubs. The McOrville in the 1960s was run by the Warrand Family and consisted of two rooms, a small room with

a bar for workmen to come in and have a drink in their work gear and a bigger lounge for people to sit back and enjoy a night out with friends. In recent years the McOrville has been turned into one big lounge with a bar and it serves food and real ales. The Spotted Cow was extended over the years and took in one of the village shops. At the Post Office end of the pub, the roofline is different - it was formerly a cottage and was the village shop, run by Mrs. Ings. Sonia Dobbie remembers a singing room with a piano on the right hand side. The pub still has a small bar to the left of the front door and the main lounge, now mostly used for dining, is to the right. The far end of this lounge, formerly the dining room, is where the old village shop once stood.

The Holiday Huts

Many people remember the holiday huts based at up North Lane and also down the Ghyll. Sonia Dobbie recalls that before moving to the village, she and her parents used to come up on holiday to the holiday hut they owned, one part of which was an old railway carriage. The Late Fred Claughan used to go to the holiday huts to visit his friend Johnny Proud.

Ivydene Café

Mary Grieves remembers there being a café in North Lane known as Ivydene. It was run by Mrs Smith, and her husband Alf. "The garage was done out as a café - you went in through the garage, you never got into the house, and she used to carry everything round. You could buy homemade cakes and tea. Customers were people visiting Elwick from the town and day-trippers out for a run. I think she did quite a fair trade."

Elwick Young Farmers Club

This club was formerly known as West Hartlepool Young Farmers and was formed in 1933. They met on a weekly basis in Birks Café in West Hartlepool at the entrance to the railway station. The club's name was changed to Elwick Young Farmers in 1967 when it started meeting weekly at the WI Hall, on a Tuesday evening. In the 1970's membership was at an all-time high, with over 45 members ranging from 10 to 26 years old; currently it has 20 members, many of them away at university. Activities included inter-club competitions with members of the Durham Federation, at the annual Rally held in May at Houghall, Durham. There were all kind of competitions such as cookery, brick laying, boys icing a gateau, beef, sheep and pig judging as well as public speaking, quizzes, drama, tug of war and many more.

Elwick Show

Elwick Show was a popular agricultural event in the village, and a fantastic opportunity for farmers and villagers to get together, with hundreds of people visiting from miles around. The show was held annually on August Bank Holiday Monday. Initially it was held in North Lane and then moved to a field at the top of Craddon Bank on Younger's Farm, owned by Victor Younger.

Fred Grieves, born in 1926, can remember going to the show when it was held in North Lane. Fred used to show calves at the show and recalls winning a prize of a chiming clock

for his efforts. "When Elwick Show used to be in North Lane, it used to be a lovely country show, but once it moved to Craddon Bank it wasn't the same, though you still had the pit ponies - Oh! Elwick Show was chock-a-block with pit ponies, fifty of them, lovely things. The pride of the pitmen; they brought them and showed them; they were proud of them…. and all the fatted bulls… and they used to have a tent with the pigeons in; but it was the horses that interested me - strong Clydesdales, six, eight, ten in a class. It was hard to win Elwick Show in those days. You'd have to go to Scotland now to get the same standard." Sonia Dobbie, who was born in 1932 and moved to Elwick with her parents in 1953, can remember coming to Elwick show as a child. "There were vegetables, flowers and cake stalls held in large marquees which took over quite a large area. We had country dancing going on in the corner - I can see them now, Circassian circle dancing round." Sonia also recalls having her photograph taken at the show, sitting on a car bonnet with Ada Bailes, when she was 14.

Sandra Leonard recalls that 'there were a lot of children's events and competitions which were well supported and included collections of wild flowers, fruit and birds' eggs. "For quite a number of years we were lucky and the weather was really good, but for a couple of years we had a lot of rain on show day." Jack Smurthwaite remembers the fairground on the village green on show day, saying of the fairground, "When that went, we used to be scratting on the grass for pennies that had been dropped through the boards of the roundabout." Elwick Show ran well until about 1955 (even during World War 2). Unfortunately, after that it ran at a loss and, with poor weather reducing the number of visitors and despite many fundraising efforts, had to stop in 1965 due to lack of funds.

Motorbike trials

Hartlepool & District Motor Club was formed before the Second World War, organising sprints, grass tracks and scrambles. One particular event on Monday 22 April 1946 was a grass track event, followed by a motorbike scramble on Monday 24 June 1946 at Elwick. In 1963 Hartlepool & District Motorcycle Club was formed, organising trials at Home Farm, Elwick in the years 1966, 1967 & 1968. Peter Wolfe recalls these coinciding with the Elwick Show.

Elwick & District Ploughing Association

In the 1970's a group of local farmers, led by Mr Jack Harrison, decided to bring back to life the local annual ploughing match. A committee of six members was formed and a president appointed, Mr Leslie Dixon, from Billingham, who was a British Ploughing Champion. The ploughing match was held on the first Sunday in November, with competitors coming from as far afield as Scotland, Doncaster and West Yorkshire. Local firms sponsored the event and prizes included a bottle of whisky for the oldest competitor, always won by Mr Bainbridge who was in his eighties.

Judges too came from far and wide to judge the four classes of Two and Three Furrow ploughing, Reversible ploughing and Vintage ploughing; one of the 'benefits' of being a judge was being provided with a full Sunday dinner. The last ploughing match held by the society was in 1996.

South Durham Hunt

Historically the hunt would meet either at Elwick Hall, by invitation of the owner, or on the village green, with the landlord of one of the public houses providing the stirrup cup to the Master of the Hunt and followers. The school children were escorted to the green to enjoy the sights and sounds of the horses and hounds and many residents turned out for this village event.

Elwick Playing Field

In the late 1970's the Parish Council initiated the idea of a playing field for the village. In 1997 Mr & Mrs F. Grieves leased Church Bridge Field, at the bottom of Church Bank, to be used as a playing field, in memory of their son James. Parish Councillors Jack Harrison and Fred Claughan led the site development, and children organised fund raising events; donations were received from many local people and the Parish Council. A great deal of voluntary work was required to make the field ready; the stream running across the field had to be piped underground and the field was then levelled, rotovated, fenced and seeded.

Unfortunately the playing field had no play equipment since the Parish Council had insufficient funds and could not access charitable grants because it was a statutory body. Consequently, in 1996, the Elwick Villagers Association was formed, chaired by Councillor Joan Banks with Isobel Rawlings as Treasurer, to raise funds. Many thousands of pounds were raised from a variety of sources and the following year the first set of play equipment was installed. Subsequently the football pitch was developed and later, replacement equipment designed by schoolchildren was introduced.

The Women's Institute

The Elwick Women's Institute (WI) meets on the first Monday evening of every month, with speakers, quiz evenings and occasional crafts making the core of the annual programme. Regular trips to the theatre, to towns and historic venues across the region, as well as an annual Christmas meal have kept the membership at a healthy level. Grants have been successfully sought and used to extend the original building in 1978, and later to install disabled toilets, refurbish the kitchen, install new heating and have windows, tables and chairs replaced, and the whole hall given a new décor. Funds from the sale of the first Elwick history book enabled the WI logo to be placed in glass above the main door, and a new flagpole and flag were also purchased. The WI Hall is now a warm and welcoming venue, used for many village events and private functions and it serves as a vital focal point for the community. Regular activities take place within its walls, including a weekly Tuesday morning Art Club (term time only), Wednesday morning Craft Group and Wednesday evening Whist Drive. The vicar holds a monthly service for those who can no longer make the steep climb to the church and the Young Farmers continue to meet fortnightly on Tuesday evenings.

A miscellany of other facts

In 1973 the houses around the Green were renumbered by the Post Office and the front of the bus shelter was removed. The shelter was refurbished in 2001 reverting to the original design. The fountain, once the village pump, was turned off permanently in 1973. In 1975 Elwick Village Green and the properties around the green were designated a Conservation Area. In 1978 the singing of carols around a Christmas tree on Christmas Eve was introduced and has since become a popular village tradition. In 1990 a real Christmas tree was planted on the green to eliminate the need for an annual purchase.

Elwick Millennium Association

In 1998, a group of village residents, led by Hilary Thompson, formed the Elwick Millennium Association to celebrate the new millennium. The pupils of Elwick School were invited to design a logo for the EMA, and the whole village was consulted on how it wished to commemorate this once-in-a-lifetime event, which was to take place over a four-day New Year's holiday. The consensus was to have a memorable New Year party, place a commemorative item in the Village, produce a history of Elwick and to reinstate the Village Fete. The EMA applied for and was successful in obtaining a Lottery Grant to reinstate the traditional Village Fete with a hog roast, whilst funding was also obtained to support the development and printing of a local history. In the event, and for the holiday itself, the EMA organised a marquee, a party with live music on New Year's Eve, lunch in the Spotted Cow for the elderly, an ecumenical service in the Marquee on the Sunday and a craft fair on the Monday. The Millennium stone with a commemorative plaque was placed on the Green behind the bus shelter and the clock placed above the Village Shop a little later in the year 2000. The Village Fete has become an annual event albeit in a different form from the early days.

From the past to the future

In 1850 there were some 66 properties in the village, St. Peter's Church, seven working farms, two Public Houses and one school, which catered for pupils up to the age of 14.

By 2005 there were 217 houses, St. Peter's Church, five working farms, two Public Houses, one Women's Institute Hall and one primary school, catering for children from 4 - 11 years of age.

The village will not stop developing - a further 40 houses are planned for the North Farm site. Whilst the Parish Council will endeavour to ensure that any such developments are in sympathy with the rural ambience of the village, the need for more housing is incontrovertible, especially for young people wishing to stay in the village yet be independent of their parents, and for older residents wishing to downsize to more manageable property.

The Wildlife of Elwick (Bond 2014)

Several events were organised by the Wildlife Group, including guided walks to look for birds, butterflies and wildflowers, as well as a highly popular Bat Hunt. Some of these were more successful than others, as the atrocious weather of 2012 and 2013 caused havoc with planned walks, with mud seeming to be everywhere, footpaths overgrown with rampant growth, the flowering times of shrubs and flowers affected, and thus the insect populations, and almost every wild creature seemed to be keeping a very low profile (at least when group members were looking for them!). Even the bats chose to stay at home on the surprisingly warm and dry evening of the Bat Hunt, though the children (and some adults) still enjoyed testing out the Bat Monitors.

In 2013, a successful Wildlife Treasure Hunt was undertaken over the summer school break, with children and their families engaged in identifying some of the great diversity of wildlife to be found in the parish.

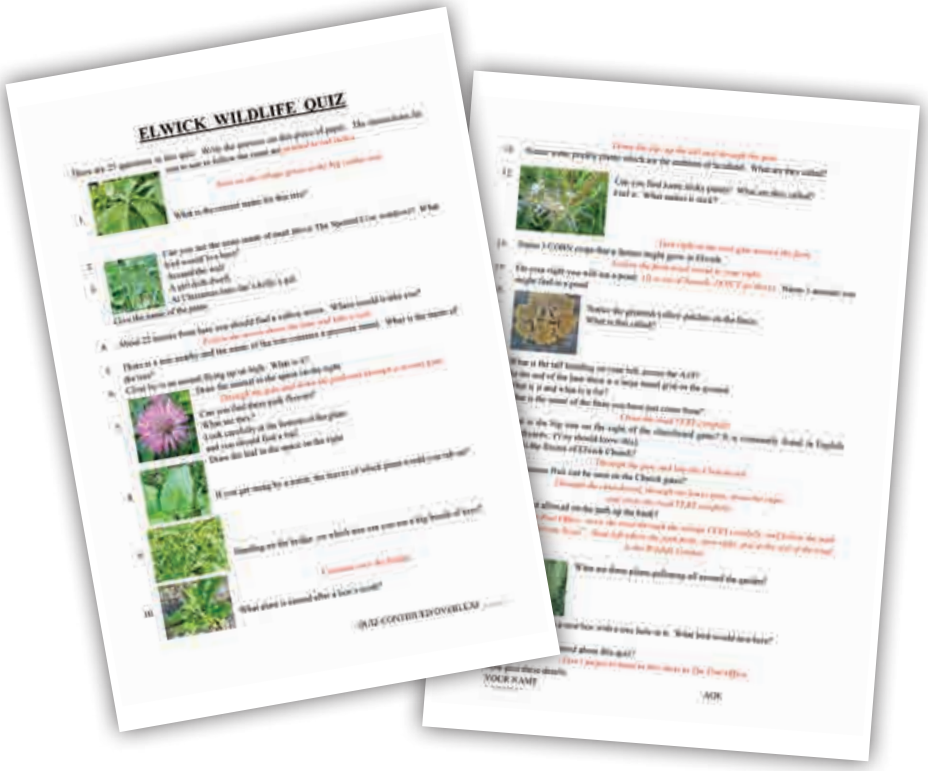
Despite the weather, the research was undertaken, photographs were 'snapped', flora and fauna were identified and reports were written.[1] A colourful leaflet was produced, showing where some of the wildlife might be found, with the school children again involved, contributing poetry and artwork. It should be noted that not all the findings will be made available to the general public, as some of the species identified are rare and protected.

Water Vole Holes, Char Beck 2014

Water Vole tracks beside a 20p piece, Char Beck 2014

1 See Appendix 2 for all Wildlife Reports by Ian Bond 2014 and website for photographs, maps and Wildlife leaflet link to Wildlife reports by Ian Bond, 2014 , photographs, maps and Wildlife leaflet.

The most recent activity undertaken by the Wildlife Group was a Water Vole Survey, in April 2014. Once common in the UK, Water Voles are known to have disappeared from 90% of sites in England. This decline in population has occurred mainly over the last twenty years and represents one of the fastest and most severe declines of a mammal species in the UK. At one time Water Voles were prevalent on the Craddon Beck and on the Char Beck from the Howls into Elwick Gill. Ian Bond believed that Water Voles were no longer present on the becks, but that a programme of reintroduction might be possible. It was therefore with no great hopes that the group set off to seek their tracks, but to the joy and amazement of all, fresh Water Vole tracks were found along the Char Beck and photographed.


ELWICK WILDLIFE QUIZ

The Geology of Elwick (Dunlop 2014)

Lesley Dunlop, geologist, led a guided walk around the village, and opened the eyes of participants to the diversity of building and roofing materials used. She identified key types of stone utilised as well as some rare finds and explained where and when these had been formed in the earth's crust. Her full report makes fascinating reading.[2]

Geological evolution of the area


Lesley explaining the different geological sources of stones

Deserts and tropical seas

280 million years ago, at the beginning of the Permian Period, Britain did not exist but was part of a large continent known as Pangea, situated in tropical latitudes very close to the equator (about 30˚ N). At this time most of northern Europe was a desert and the mountains caused by major earth movements at the end of the Carboniferous time were being gradually eroded. It is thought that about 500m of Carboniferous rocks were removed.

This erosion left behind a gently dipping plain onto which the Permian beds were deposited. The Yellow Sands Formation, which can be seen further north, are the lowest of these beds and these were deposited as desert, dune sands. After this the area was flooded by seawater and became part of the Zechstein Sea This sea was similar to large enclosed seas of today, such as the Mediterranean, with a tidal range of 1m or less probable and the area was sensitive to evaporation and changing sea levels. It was at this time that the Magnesian Limestone was deposited and also the evaporite sequences such as gypsum and anhydrite which have been important economically on Teesside.

Cold and Ice

Between the Permian and the last 2 million years there is no record of the geology of the area. About 250 million years of Earth history is missing here.

Quaternary deposits are sediments that were deposited during the Quaternary episode of earth history, between 2.6 million years ago and the present day. The Quaternary is divided into two periods: the Pleistocene Period dates from 2.6 million years ago until 10 000 years ago and the Holocene continues to the present day. For a long time these deposits were collectively referred to as 'drift', but are now more commonly referred to as 'superficial deposits' to separate them from the 'bedrock' which used to be termed 'solid'.

Global cooling caused the Quaternary Period to be a time dominated by a series of 'ice ages' when the climate oscillated between colder (glacial) and warmer (interglacial)

2 *A Report on the Geology and Building Stones of Elwick, County Durham, Lesley Dunlop BSc, BA, MSc, FGS. 2014*

stages. Successive glaciations advanced across the landscape, sourced from the upland areas of Scotland, Wales, northern England and Scandinavia and formed extensive ice sheets that were over 1 km thick in places. Unfortunately, each glaciation tends to destroy the evidence of the previous one, so most evidence for glacial advance in northern Britain dates from the most recent cold period, the Late Devensian, from about 25,000 to 10,000 years ago. The effects of persistent freeze-thaw action in ground which was often very deeply frozen, and the deposition of a variety of glacial sediments further modified any pre-existing landscape. The deposits of the Holocene Period reflect erosion and deposition in a varied succession of environments during much milder climatic conditions. Quaternary deposits and their interpretation provide much information on the environments of the recent geological past. Information from glacial landforms and the nature and morphology of glacial deposits is essential to understanding these climatic conditions and may provide valuable insights into likely future environmental changes related to global warming.

Bedrock Geology

The village is situated on strata of Permian age mainly the Ford Formation, a unit of what is known as the Magnesian Limestone. This bed was laid down in warm, shallow, tropical lagoon about 250 million years ago as a limestone. During the early burial process the limestone was dolomitised by changing the calcium carbonate to contain magnesium. This process causes a slight reduction of volume within the rock and occasionally mineralised cavities can be found or shapes, such as the cannonball limestone that is found close to Sunderland, formed. To the north of Elwick the Ford Formation changes from being a bedded limestone to a type more associated with a reef deposit. It tends to be resistant to erosion and so forms topographically high areas such as those along the A19.

There is little record of the early Quaternary in the area as most of the material was removed and reworked by later glaciations. Around Elwick there is a Till (formerly known as Boulder Clay) which dates from the Devensian about 25,000 to 10,000 years ago. This till contains rocks from the northern part of Britain including the Lake District and Scotland. It is a tough, grey or brown, sandy boulder clay, or 'till', which contains scattered pebbles, cobbles and boulders of a variety of rock types that originated outside the district. These exotic rock types are known as 'glacial erratics' and mainly comprise fragments of grey limestone and dolerite ('whinstone') derived from the Pennines or south Northumberland, along with rarer and smaller fragments of a variety of rock types originating from south-west Scotland, the Cheviots and the Lake District. It may be possible to find lines or scratches on these boulders, which are a result of the boulders scratching against each other when they moved by ice.

On a geological guided walk

Structural Geology


Searching for geological clues in the farmstead wall

There are faults to the north and south of the village. Although none are visible at the surface the most obvious feature is the drop towards Teesside to the south. This is caused by an extension of the Butterknowle fault which downthrows to the south. The fault shown to the north of the village is the main Butterknowle Fault which has been active since the late Carboniferous times and is a major line of weakness in the area across to the Pennines. The faults were probably reactivated in the Tertiary causing the tilting we see today of the Permian beds. Younger rocks are found on the downthrow side and these have eroded more.

Soils

The soils in the area are derived from the Till and are mainly loams. These are good for general pasture and woodland although some are seasonally wet and waterlogged.

Building Stones

Within the village many of the houses are built from bricks that would have been made in the area. Natural stone is more rare but displays an interesting variety of types. Perhaps the most interesting aspects are the older house, barn and boundary walls, which are made from boulders collected from the Quaternary till deposits.

The Waters of Elwick *(Tait 2014)*

An issue of interest to many villagers, especially those living to the south of the green, is the source of the water that flows through the village, especially in winter, though a heavy summer downpour can also cause water to flow down the roads and across the green. It is known that many of the properties to the south of the green once had their own well, though since the introduction of piped water to the village, most of these have now been filled in or closed off. The heavy rainfalls of the last two or three years have had a considerable negative impact on some houses in the village, particularly in North Close, and have raised concerns about possible damage to foundations in the future.

Heather Tait undertook an Hydrological survey of the village and its environs[311], and provided a fascinating workshop on her findings which, together with guided walks along two of the village streams - the Char Beck and Craddon Beck, provided a clearer understanding of how geology, global warming and agricultural methods all combine to affect precipitation (rainfall) and ground water flow.

The subject of hydrology is extensive - it is the study of the circulation, distribution and chemistry of water within the Earth and is a complex subject, therefore this editor has endeavored to precis the findings of the report, without losing key information.

311 Hydrogeology and Surface Hydrology Report, Heather C. Tait, 2013

Bedrock

Elwick is located at the south eastern corner of the Durham Province of the Magnesium Limestone Escarpment. Land rises from the south of the village towards the north and west, some 120 metres above sea level to the north at Whelly Hill Farm and 134 metres to the west at Beacon Hill. The topography of Elwick and the surrounding area has been greatly influenced by glacial and inter-glacial periods, and has resulted in an open, undulating landscape cut through by deep, steep sided narrow valleys known locally as Denes. The Denes lie to the south of Elwick and convey the waters of the Craddon Beck, the Char Beck and the Bogle Beck via the Dalton Beck to the River Greatham, a tributary of the River Tees. The lowest ground in the locality, at 55 metres above sea level, is to be found at the confluence of the Denes in the area known as the Howls.

Groundwater

An aquifer is a layer of material that has the capacity to store and transmit significant quantities of water. In Durham, the Magnesian Limestone Aquifer is important for public, domestic, agricultural and industrial water supply.

During the active mining of the Coal Measures in the 20th century, constant dewatering meant that the water table lay far below the Permian strata, deep within the Carboniferous strata. The closure of the coal mines, and subsequent cessation of dewatering in the 1970's, has resulted in regional water level rebound. To date, according to Hartlepool Water (2013) there has been 180m recovery within the Coal Measures and a recovery of 10 -15m within the Magnesian Limestone.

Groundwater quality

The chemistry of groundwater varies due to complex factors; pollution of groundwater may be natural for example the leaching of chemicals from the bedrock, or caused by human activity such as agriculture or mining. Elevated salinity may occur through saline intrusion in coastal areas. Historically the quality of groundwater in the region of Hartlepool was known to be affected by saline intrusion. However, since the 1970s, management of abstraction has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the concentration of chloride ions and therefore a dramatic improvement in groundwater quality.

The Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) requires that groundwater achieves 'Good' status with respect to quality and quantity to provide a range of benefits essential to healthy living. In the UK, the Environment Agency is charged with the task of implementing the legislation to 'prevent or limit' deterioration of groundwater through mitigation and remediation. Significant increase in the concentration of pollutants and indicators of pollution must be identified and a starting point for reversal of the trend defined. The Environment Agency is responsible for establishing a 'Programme of Measures' to monitor and progressively reduce pollution to prevent or limit deterioration of groundwater. If any quantitative or qualitative test for a particular aquifer indicates a poor status then the overall classification of that aquifer will be 'Poor'.

Aquifer designation reflects the importance of the groundwater as a resource for drinking water supply and the role it plays in supporting wetland ecosystems and surface water flow. There two different types of aquifer designation:

1. Superficial (Drift) - permeable unconsolidated (loose) deposits such as sands & gravels.
2. Bedrock - solid permeable formations such as sandstone, chalk and limestone.

The Magnesian Limestone Aquifer is defined as a Principle Bedrock Aquifer. Under the Groundwater Directive chemical quality is considered to be 'Poor' and deteriorating and this is due to the historic problem of saline intrusion. Currently, some abstractions near the coast at Hartlepool still demonstrate concentrations of chloride that are greater than the Drinking Water Standard of 250 mg/l. Unfortunately this salinity also means a classification of 'Poor' for quantitative quality. The classifications of 'Poor' are considered to be due to direct and indirect abstraction of groundwater; fortunately nitrate pollution has not been identified in this area of the aquifer.

To protect drinking water supplies, the importance of an aquifer and the potential risk from pollution are considered. Just to the east of Elwick the Magnesian Limestone is considered to have an intermediate level of risk while further east around Hartlepool the aquifer is considered to be at high risk.

The Elwick Water Supply

Drinking water for Elwick is abstracted from six boreholes sunk deep into the Magnesian Limestone south of the West Hartlepool Fault. Water is piped from the wells to the treatment plant at Throston, where it is disinfected and sampled before distribution.

In the Denes of the Char Beck, the Craddon Beck and the Bogle Beck, due to the geology, the Becks are wholly reliant on local rainfall, so the more heavily and frequently it rains, the fuller and faster the Becks become and, in periods of drought, the lower the water levels fall.

Surface Hydrology

The most significant parameters that determine flow pattern within a catchment are topography, the physical properties and depth of superficial deposits, the hydrological properties of bedrock, precipitation and land use. At Elwick surface flow is derived from drainage of minor sand and gravel aquifers within the drift, overland flow and subsurface interflow.

Water flows overland when the ground can no longer absorb any more, and it tends to flow towards the stream channels as runoff via rills and gullies.

Most material that is transported along a watercourse originates from the sides and bed of the stream and from overland flow. During high flow large amounts of clay, silt and fine sand may travel in suspension whilst heavier grains of coarse sand, gravels, cobbles and boulders are transported as bed load moving by saltation - rolling and sliding. During high flow, as fine particles are transported downstream, larger particles of gravel, cobbles and boulders are left behind.The geometry of a stream channel is shaped by the highest flows whereas the character of the stream and aquatic habitat is mostly dependant on lower levels of flow.

Although at certain times of the year high energy stream flow is a feature of the Char Beck and the Bogle Beck in particular, the streams of Elwick display features of a lower stream gradient than is to be found in the hills to the west. Floodplains are typically narrow and are frequently re-worked by high magnitude floods. The Char Beck, for example,

meanders across a floodplain. When compared with steeper upland streams, down cutting is reduced and the degree of lateral cutting is increased. At points of impact the channel is frequently connected to the valley sides, and during high flow conditions this leads to high rates of bank erosion and widening of the Dene.

Some features more typical of upland streams may be found, such as, re-working of the flood plain through a process known as avulsion. This occurs during meander evolution or when a channel becomes choked with sediment or woody debris, the channel is diverted and a new channel is cut into the floodplain. In the Char Beck valley these channels lie above the elevation of the current river bed and are clear evidence of vertical instability. These phases of instability may result in deposition of finer sediment in the abandoned meander loops. During periods of high flow smaller particles of clay and silt are kept in suspension more easily than sand. When such fine particles are available a large amount may be transported and it is possible for clay and silt particles to be carried along the whole length of a watercourse from point of origin to the sea without temporary deposition, whilst sand and

Gravel, originating from the same location, may experience many cycles of deposition, reworking and transportation before reaching the sea. During periods of flood in high-energy systems, where clay, sand, gravel and boulders are common the proportion of bed load to suspended load may be 50:50.

Where there is a mixture of sediment size the channel bed may become armoured with larger grains lying above and protecting finer grains below. During floods this armouring may be removed and the finer grains below mobilised. The water courses in the Denes at Elwick are highly dynamic with diverse channel geomorphology. Sediment movement is often unpredictable and much of the channel sediment is coarse. Gravel banks are common and pools, riffles, rapids and glides produce a range of flow conditions from calm laminar (parallel layers) flow to turbulent flow. This provides a diverse range of aquatic habitat for biota. As water velocity increases and sediment moves during extreme flood events, communities are destabilized. Blanketing of habitat may occur and stream beds and bank sides may be scoured. This scouring regulates plant growth, decreasing shading, organic matter and refuges and increasing water temperature. There are both positive and negative effects of flooding for aquatic life, spawning grounds may be cleansed and populations dispersed, where habitat is damaged and communities are washed out it may take some time for a site to recover.

Flooding

In recent years there have been several occasions when exceptionally high flow in the Char Beck has resulted in flooding of the road south of the village and there has been growing speculation as to the cause of these flood events. Evidence suggests that patterns of precipitation in the UK are changing. According to Natural England (2013), by 2080 climate change on the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau is predicted to result in warmer drier summers with an increase in temperature of 1.5–4.5°C and decrease in precipitation of 18–45%. Winters will be warmer and wetter, temperature will increase by 1–3°C and precipitation will increase by 10–28%. It is also thought that extreme weather events will increase in frequency and heavy rainfall and storms may result in damage and loss of some habitats and species. There is also evidence to suggest that there are changes to the intensity and duration of rainfall events that may increase the potential of flooding.

Studies of flood events that occurred on the 23rd September and 24th November 2012 at nearby Tunstall have shown that although these storms did not produce particularly intense rainfall the total volumes that fell were considerable. During the September event approximately one month's rainfall fell over a two-day period. It is reasonable to consider that changing patterns of precipitation may be at the root of exceptional high flow events seen on the Char Beck and it is likely that increasing rainfall will increase the degree of response in the minor aquifers located in drift deposits.

There should also be consideration of soil type. In a soil matrix water is held under tension in a capillary fringe above the water table. In a heavy clay soil such as occurs at Elwick this capillary fringe may extend to 30 - 40cm above the water table. During a storm event it may only take a few millimetres of vertical recharge to bring this capillary fringe to saturation. The result is a very rapid response to rainfall and an increase in surface flow.

On the Char Beck the effects of the flooding in September 2013 are evident. The capacity of a new culvert was exceeded, a river crossing was severely damaged and undermined and the river banks alongside underwent a considerable degree of erosion. Dolomite used in construction of the crossing was transported a considerable distance, demonstrating the enormous power of the flood. Fine and medium sized dolomite gravel was found as far down steam as the Howls. In theory during high flow conditions, if the velocity of flow doubles then the current will be strong enough to move particles 64 times larger than could be moved during normal flow conditions and if the velocity increase to three times original flow then theoretically a grain 729 times original grain size could be transported. In reality in-stream attenuation substantially reduces these theoretical statistics. However, they demonstrate the dramatic capacity for extensive erosion and transportation during flood conditions.

Land use and water quality

In areas of a river catchment where there are pressures of population, agricultural and industrial activity the potential for water pollution is increased.

Study of macro invertebrate populations (including insects in their larval or nymph form, crayfish, clams, snails, and worms), are one of the many ways in which the quality of a watercourse is assessed. These populations are used to assess ecological quality. To date, such surveys are not undertaken for the becks at Elwick and surveys further downstream are used to indicate the status of the catchment. Due to low seasonal flow and the lack of 'Good' status of aquatic habitat for macro invertebrates, the ecological quality of the Dalton Beck has been identified as 'Bad'. As the main tributary to the Dalton Beck, the Char Beck has been also identified as having 'Bad' status. This status is predicted to remain 'Bad' in 2015. Currently, individual assessment of chemical quality of the Dalton Beck, the Char Beck, the Craddon Beck and the Bogle is not required during assessment of the Greatham Tees Tributary.

The surface waters of Elwick are classed as 'At Risk' from pollution by sedimentation associated with agricultural land use. It is also considered that there is probably a risk from diffuse agricultural pollution and in terms of agricultural land use the streams at Elwick are classed as 'Priority Waters'. This classification places a responsibility upon those concerned with agricultural land management to abide by good management practices for watercourse protection.

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Appendix 1: The Village Atlas Steering Group

Core group members are identified in bold

Chris Banks
Joan Banks
Ian Bond, Ecologist
Joan Bradbury
Ken Bradshaw, Limestone Landscapes Partnership
Robin Daniels, Archaeologist, Tees Archaeology
Tony Devos, Limestone Landscapes Partnership
Sonia Dobbie
Brian Footitt
Peter Graves, Hartlepool Conservation Officer
Jo Heaton (Headteacher, St. Peter's Elwick Primary)
Penny Heslop
Victoria Harrison
George Howe
Minna Ireland
Barbara Irving
Sandra Leonard
Steve Mailen
Anne McChesney
Cyril McChesney
Steve McDonnell (Headteacher, St. Peter's Elwick Primary)
Norma Pagdin
Beverley Stoker, Limestone Landscapes Partnership
Hilary Thompson
Roderick Thompson

Medieval Settlements Group
Minna Ireland (Leader)
Sandra Leonard (Leader)
Celia Olley
(Margaret Self)
(Peter & Jean Taylor)

Oral Histories Group
Sandra Leonard (Leader)
Brian Footitt
Victoria Harrison
Minna Ireland

Village Development Group

Victoria Harrison (Leader)
Margaret Ashton
Joan Banks
Judy Higgs
Minna Ireland
Sylvia Jobson
Sandra Leonard
Louise Parks
Keith Shaw
Hilary Thompson

World War ll Group

Brian Footitt
Joe Jobson
David Self (Leader)
Gordon Swain
Joe Woods

Wildlife Group

Barbara Irving (Leader)
Joan Bradbury
Brian Footitt
George Howe
Norma Pagdin
Sylvia Sadler
Ian Bond & Hannah Woodhouse, ecologists

Appendix 2: Wildlife Reports

Elwick Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are areas that have been designated for their nature conservation interest because they meet particular criteria that have been decided locally by the Tees Valley Local Nature Partnership. They do not have the protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and, unlike Local Nature Reserves, they don't have any public access unless otherwise agreed. Instead their aim is to highlight all of the most significant areas for wildlife in the borough. One of the roles of the Local Authority is to work with landowners to get as many of these sites into good condition as possible.

There are a total of 44 Local Wildlife Sites in the borough of Hartlepool and 16, over a third, of these are in the Parish of Elwick. All of the Elwick LWS are shown on Figure 1 and are listed in Table 1 below with a brief description of why they were designated.

Some other sites were formerly designated for their local nature conservation interest but do not meet the current criteria for Local Wildlife Site designation. Of these, Crookfoot Wood and Cow Pasture Wood are still of considerable interest both for their history and their wildlife. In addition a disused plot in Greenlea has been managed for nature for over a decade by George Howe and is known as the Elwick Wildlife Garden. A brief description of each of these three sites is given in Table 2.

Table 1: Elwick Local Wildlife Sites

Tilery Gill	A mixture of habitats in two arms of Craddon Beck. Much of it has now become rank and lost the interest features for which it was originally designated. The only part that currently qualifies as a LWS is the north- west arm which has still has some species-rich grassland and marsh
Craddon Bank	This LWS was originally a species-rich neutral grassland on the west facing slope with a diverse wetland flora in the low lying area beside Craddon Beck. However the grassland will now have largely been lost due to encroachment by Gorse. Although the Craddon Beck at this point isn't ideal habitat for them, Water Voles were recorded consistently here in low numbers up to 2009, the last time the beck was surveyed.
Elwick Hall Grassland	Most of the field surrounding Elwick Fish Ponds is semi-improved grassland on ridge and furrow. A small area of species-rich grassland is present on two islands within the old fishponds (Scheduled Ancient Monument) and on one of the steep sides of the pond. A larger unimproved grassland area is on the steep slope next to beck to the east.

Char Beck Grassland	A small section of species-rich grassland on an embankment overlooking the Char Beck. Water Vole have been recorded in the Char Beck over a period of years up to 2009 but the population is very small as there is very little suitable habitat.
The Howls	This is an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland in a steep valley where three becks converge. The north-west arm of the woodland is in Elwick Parish.
Beacon Hill Marsh	This a damp base-rich flush on the lower slopes of the north face of Beacon Hill. The water appears to stem from a spring about two-thirds up the hill as above that the habitat is acid-grassland. Described in Ian Lawrence's "A Guide to the Wild Flowers of Cleveland" as "the most interesting conglomeration of plants in the County" on account of the variety of locally rare plants found there. Unfortunately two of the most distinctive of these, Butterwort and Bird's-eye Primrose have not been found in the past decade and are presumed extinct. Beacon Hill itself is the highest point in the parish at 134m above sea level.
Pawton Hill Gill	This is a small gill with sloping herb-rich sides, wet flushes and some scrub. It has been traditionally managed with light grazing and no artificial fertilisers for generations. It is a very important and species-rich site that would have been designated as a SSSI had it been larger. It is notable in Hartlepool for Creeping Willow, Spring sedge, Separate–headed Sedge, Heath Grass, Purple Moor-grass, Lady's-mantles, Burnet-saxifrage, Pepper-saxifrage, Common Butterwort.
Crookfoot Reservoir	The reservoir is the largest water body in the north of Cleveland (even allowing that half of it is in County Durham). It is a former supply reservoir whose water levels hardly vary therefore it doesn't have the shallow muddy margins and emergent vegetation of more natural water bodies. The water line is marked by a narrow strip of Shore-weed (Littorella uniflora). There are usually good numbers of waterbirds though perhaps not as many as might be expected from a water body of this size. On occasions an Osprey has stopped off here for a few days on its migration. The reason for the designation of the reservoir as an LWS is actually its bats. At least four species of bat including Nathusius' Pipistrelle and Noctule have been recorded here.
Amerston Gill	This is a mixed woodland in the deep valley of Amerston Beck. Although not ancient woodland (it wasn't recorded as woodland on the 1860 O/S map) it has a good variety of woodland plants and bryophytes.
High Stotfold Gill	This is a small area of species-rich grassland on steep slopes either side of a tributary of Claxton Beck.

Black Wood Marsh	This is a small (0.5ha) marsh dominated by Meadowsweet and rushes with small populations of Yellow Loosetrife, Marsh Cinquefoil and Tufted Sedge. It is one of only three sites in Cleveland with naturally occurring Purple Loosetrife (Lythrum salicaria). The marsh was gradually drying out and in danger of reverting to grass and scrub but the heavy rains of 2012 re-flooded it.
Gunnersvale Marsh	This is a fairly large marsh in a hollow, surrounded by arable land. The vegetation is dominated by Sharp-flowered Rush though there is a reasonable diversity of other wetland plants.
North Burn Marsh	A large marshy area in the valley bottom at base of scrub covered slope. Flag Iris and Hard Rush are the dominant species but it also contains Bog Bean which is rare in Cleveland. The marshy area is said to have expanded in recent years and the site boundary is drawn to encompass other wet flushes and adjacent grassland to incorporate the possible water catchment area.
Close Wood complex	This LWS encompasses almost all of the woodland in the borough of Hartlepool that is south of Embleton and north of the A689. It is mainly plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS) but some of it is still classed as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland with a few peripheral sections apparently of more recent origin. Owing to the dense plantation that is currently present, the typical ground flora of ancient woodlands is restricted to certain areas of these woods. This was at one time the only site in Cleveland for breeding Common Buzzard and both Goshawk and Honey Buzzard are suspected to have bred here in recent years. Another interest feature for which these woods are designated as an LWS is the White Letter Hairstreak butterfly, which has become rare following the decline of Elm, its food plant.
High Newton Hanzard Meadow	An area of unimproved grassland on ridge and furrow including the verges of the track up to High Newton Hanzard. The grassland includes a few species of waxcap fungi.
West Carr Plantation	Approx 6ha of wet woodland on both sides of the Brierley Beck though with conifer plantation around its margins. The canopy includes a high proportion of Grey Alder rather than Common Alder but otherwise the flora is typical of wet woodland plant communities. This is one of the sites where Globeflower has been introduced.

Abbreviations

SSSI *Site of Special Scientific Interest*

LWS *Local Wildlife Site*

PWS *Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites*

Table 2: Other Sites of Nature Conservation Interest in Elwick

Crookfoot Wood	This small wood started life as a garden into which a wide variety of plants were introduced. Some of these were unusual native species and of these Globeflower still exists but the rarest plant by far in this wood disappeared a few years ago. The many exotic trees that were planted in the wood have now matured and grown to the extent that they have shaded out many of the interesting low-growing plants. Among the tree species is the only mature Sequioa in Hartlepool and the only examples of Monterey Pine.
Cow Pasture Wood	This wood is predominantly composed of Birch trees with an open understorey on fairly damp ridge and furrow. It doesn't have the ancient trees of traditional wood pasture, nevertheless it is managed by low intensity grazing as is the case with traditional wood pasture. Given its long history as a grazed wood, the extent of the damper areas and the presence of reasonable quantities of dead wood it is likely to be quite important for invertebrates.
Elwick Wildlife Garden	This disused building plot has been managed to display a variety of habitats including two raised beds that have been covered with a dressing of dolomite to create suitable conditions for a wildflower meadow. Several areas of the garden have become too rank over the years due to too much topsoil and parts of the garden are now due for a make-over.

Fig 1. Elwick Local Wildlife Garden

Elwick's Amphibians, Reptiles, Fish and Invertebrates

Amphibians

Five species of native amphibian are found in the North East, three newts, the frog and the toad and all five have at least a webbed toe-hold in Elwick.

The most common is the Frog which will probably be present throughout the Parish. Frogs don't breed in running water but can breed quite happily in small, shallow pools. As there aren't many ponds in the Parish other than in people's gardens, it is likely that the village is quite a stronghold for them locally.

Toads tend to be found in large water bodies. Unlike frogs, their tadpoles are poisonous so they can share the water with fish that would eat frog tadpoles. A few years ago, George Howe witnessed a mass migration of thousands of tiny toadlets that had recently emerged from the water, crossing an arable field near Scotland Wood. These will almost certainly have come from Crookfoot Reservoir. At present there aren't any formal records of toads from anywhere else in the Parish; this may be because there aren't any largish water bodies for them other than Crookfoot or it may just be that they are there but no-one has reported them yet.

Smooth Newt

The Smooth Newt is very much the common or garden newt. Like the frog it will live happily in garden ponds but if anything its young are even more vulnerable to being eaten by fish. It is usually a pale brown colour but some individual newts in Barbara Irving's garden on the village green were very dark brown. In the breeding season, male smooth newts have a great crest, which sometimes leads to them being misidentified as Great Crested Newts but they are very different in size.

Great Crested Newts are by far our largest newts, up to 17cm long. They have a warty skin with contrasts markedly with the other two species of newt. There is a record from 2005 of a Great Crested Newt in a small pond, just west of the A19 and there are a couple of records of it from garden ponds in the village.

Great Crested Newt

The Palmate Newt is our smallest newt, though only just smaller than the Smooth Newt. It can be hard to tell apart from a Smooth Newt except in the breeding season when the male Palmate Newt grows a filament on the end of its tail instead of a crest like a male Smooth Newt. It is likely that its natural territory is the more upland areas like the North York Moors and that where it occurs in the lowlands in the Tees Valley that it is as a result of an introduction. Palmates have been found both in a garden in the village, where they were definitely introduced a few years ago and in a pond west of Elwick windmill.

Reptiles

In the North East, reptiles appear to be largely confined to the coast and the uplands; there are not thought to be any reptiles in the lowland areas of Durham and Cleveland except for a handful of Common Lizards near quarries and railway sidings close to the A1M. However someone who used to live at High Stotfold remembers lizards on the walls around there and there are stories of snakes near Middle Stotfold; so who knows there may be some scaly mysteries still to solve in Elwick.

Common Lizard

Fish

There are very few records of fish in Elwick Parish. Other than Crookfoot Reservoir the only sizeable water bodies are the long, ornamental lake next to the obelisk at Wynyard and the pond in the country park on Wynyard estate. Otherwise the ponds are small and shallow and probably dry out occasionally thus preventing fish from surviving in them. Several becks flow through the Parish but again most of them have very little water flow for much of the year. The largest of the becks is Close Beck which is a continuation of the Amerston Beck and Newton Hanzard Beck. The Environment Agency has records from 2004 of Bullhead and Brown Trout from Close Beck downstream from Newton Hanzard Beck and Bullhead has been seen in Amerston Beck, just downstream from Crookfoot Reservoir. In 2013, Elwick Primary School recorded 3-Spined Sticklebacks in Char Beck where it flows through the Gill and it is likely that Sticklebacks are present in the other becks as well.

Invertebrates

Invertebrates are generally difficult to identify to species level and there doesn't seem to have been any systematic surveys of them in Elwick. A few species are mentioned here as they are either rare or unusual.

Perhaps the most significant invertebrate so far discovered is the White Letter Hairstreak butterfly. This species feeds on Elm as has been found in the past in the woods north of the A689. As Elm has largely died off then White Letter Hairstreak has become quite a rare butterfly.

The Spindle Ermine moth feeds on Spindle trees and has been found on the as the Spindle trees on the Elwick to Dalton footpath. As these are the only naturally occurring Spindle trees in Cleveland, it is likely that this is the only place in Cleveland where the Spindle Ermine moth can be found.

So-called because its black and yellow stripes resemble a wasp, the Wasp Beetle is a type of longhorn beetle whose larvae live in dead wood. It has been found on the northern perimeter of Scotland Wood. Scotland Wood itself is in Durham but that particular Wasp Beetle was on the Elwick side of the fence post so just scrapes in as a resident of Elwick.

The extraordinarily striking caterpillar of the Alder Moth, with its bright yellow and black stripes and club-like hairs, was found on the Willow in Elwick Wildlife Garden. This species is rarely recorded north of the Tees.

Elwick's Birds

For the most part, the birds in Elwick are quite typical of most rural parishes with a range of garden and farmland birds. However there are some features that are unique in a Hartlepool context that make the Parish of notable ornithological interest.

One of these is Crookfoot Reservoir, easily the largest water body in the north of Cleveland, although technically half of it is in County Durham, with the county boundary running up the middle of the reservoir. The water level in the reservoir is fairly constant so there are no muddy margins and hence it is of little use for wading birds but it does support a variety of water birds. Notable among these are the Great Crested Grebes which nest in the shallows, particularly at the northern end where they can be observed undertaking their complex mating dance. Mute Swans are also regulars on the reservoir and in recent times there was also a pair of Black Swans in residence although as far as is known they didn't breed there. The northern end of the reservoir is surrounded by tall trees and the combination of these with the large area of open water has attracted passing Ospreys to stay for a day or two on occasion.

Mute Swan

The woods around Wynyard are some of the most extensive between the Tees and the Tyne. It was here that the first Cleveland breeding record of Buzzard in modern times occurred. The species is now regularly seen over these woods with as many as 13 being seen at one time. The size of the woods and their relative lack of disturbance have encouraged Goshawks to colonise. This species hasn't been proved to breed there yet but individual birds are seen in most years. Most of the trees at Wynyard are conifers and as these have become mature and started to produce cones they regularly attract Crossbills. These stocky finches are specialist feeders on cones and, as their name suggests, their bill is crossed at the end which allows them to prise the cones open to extract the seeds.

Farmland birds have been in decline across the UK for several decades and there are now only half as many as there were in 1970. This decline is continuing with Skylarks down by a fifth and Grey Partridge numbers down by two-thirds in the past 15 years. In an attempt to reverse this decline, several farm holdings in Elwick are currently in Higher Level Stewardship, which includes measures such as leaving wide margins of vegetation around arable fields for birds to feed and breed in.

One farmland bird that has declined particularly dramatically is the Corn Bunting. The Teesmouth Bird Club's "Breeding Bird Atlas of Cleveland 1999-2006" recorded a total of 23 breeding pairs for the County, almost all in the land on the western fringe of Hartlepool. This was down from 50-100 pairs in the late 1970s. However by 2006 only three pairs remained, two of them around Elwick. In subsequent years the only place with a reasonable chance of seeing Corn Bunting was around Craddon Bank to the east of the village but even those have disappeared now and the only remaining Corn Buntings in Cleveland appear to be a pair around Amerston.

Elwick's Mammals

Mammals are much more cryptic than birds and often go unseen and unrecorded. The small mammals in particular are hard to see and harder still to identify. For example it is almost certain that all three British species of shrew live in the Parish but only the rarest of the three, the Water Shrew has so far been recorded. As its name suggests, the Water Shrew is normally associated with streams and ponds where it lives in burrows on the bankside but its presence in Elwick was discovered when a dead specimen was found beside the footpath from High Stotfold to Amerston. Oddly this Water Shrew was in a pasture field, at least 200m from the nearest water.

Hedgehogs and Moles are classed with the shrews in the Order of Insectivores. Both of these species are very widespread in the Parish.

Of the rodents, Field Voles, Wood Mice and Brown Rats have all been recorded and will be very widespread. Bank Vole and House Mouse haven't been formally recorded in the Parish to date but they will undoubtedly be present and the Bank Vole, at least, found in most of the hedges and woods. The Harvest Mouse is a very rare species in the North East and another one for which there are no current or historical records for the Parish. However it was known from nearby areas at Grindon and Mordon, which are not that far to the south and west so it may well be present or, if no longer present, may be remembered by older farmers.

The largest of the voles, the Water Vole, was once found in most rivers and streams but it has disappeared from almost everywhere in the North East in the last 20 years. Its decline has been particularly dramatic in Hartlepool over the past decade and it was thought that it was now extinct in the borough. However, in April 2014 it was found on the Craddon

Water Vole

Field Vole

Beck near the Devil's Elbow; it was also seen on the Char Beck in the Ghyll as recently as 2009 but it is not known whether it is still present there. Jack Smurthwaite remembers Water Voles living on a pond between North Farm and Whelly Hill but these disappeared many years ago.

A rodent that has definitely disappeared from the Parish and, indeed, has now died out in the whole of Cleveland and most of County Durham, is the Red Squirrel. Frank Mitchinson, a former gamekeeper at Wynyard, remembers it being common and unremarkable there in the 1960s. John Pickard remembered it as present in Tilery Wood in the early 1980s but that seems to be the last time it was seen in the Parish. Its decline has been largely attributed to the spread of the Grey Squirrel, which carries a disease, squirrel parapox, which is almost always lethal to Red Squirrels. Grey Squirrels are now found almost everywhere though they don't seem to be common in the village of Elwick at present.

Rabbits and hares are often thought of as rodents though technically they belong to a different group of mammals. Both Rabbits and Brown Hares are found all around Elwick with the fields west of the A19 a particularly good place to see the hares.

Larger animals are more obvious and the largest of all in Elwick are the deer. Roe Deer can be seen almost anywhere though usually it is only their tracks (known as slots) that are seen. Roe deer are ubiquitous in the North East but our other species of deer, the Muntjac is still only found in a few places in the region. If the number of reports of this deer are a true reflection of its relative abundance, then the woods around Wynyard, are one of the main centres for this species in the region. Deer numbers have been increasing nationally for some years though locally they don't seem to have reached the point where they are damaging woodlands as is the case in other parts of the country.

Roe Deer

With mammals, it is often the carnivores that grab the most attention, partly because as predators they can cause damage to livestock and pets but also as predators they are exciting to watch. Among the weasel family, both Weasels and Stoats have been recorded in the Parish and there was a Ferret loose in a garden in the village recently. Weasels also come in to the village itself and one was seen attacking a large frog in Elwick Wildlife Garden a few years back. Its presence was discovered due to the loud screams coming from the frog.

Weasel

Mink are thought to be the main cause for the decline of the Water Vole. This is because the Mink are semi-aquatic and can follow the Water Voles underwater and into their burrows, so the Water Voles have nowhere to escape from these predators. Fortunately Mink have not yet been recorded in the Parish but they are likely to have passed through on occasions as one has been seen on the North Burn. Another semi-aquatic member of the weasel family is the Otter. Signs of otters have been found on the Close Beck, where it runs through Close Wood but it is likely that they are just passing through as this watercourse will be too small to support them permanently. They may be heading up to Crookfoot Reservoir but so far there is no evidence that they are doing so.

Otter

The largest member of the weasel family in this country is the badger. Badgers are very rare east of the A19 but the woods of the former Wynyard estate probably hold the highest concentration of badgers in the whole of the Tees Valley. Signs of badgers, such as their latrines and footprints can be found along many of the tracks and paths in that area.

Badger

Foxes will often use abandoned badger setts though this is a very adaptable species which is just as much at home living under sheds in urban areas. Its adaptability means that it can be encountered virtually anywhere in the Parish.

Fox

A carnivore that is perhaps as much myth as mammal is the Elwick Panther. There have been over 200 sightings of a big cat in the North East since 2000 and probably more of these have occurred in Elwick than in any other Parish in the North East (Its only close competitor for this title being Stocksfield in Northumberland). Usually the sighting is of a big, black cat, as big, or bigger, than a Labrador, which would fit the description of a Panther but there were two sightings in 2011 of a large sandy-brown cat resembling a Puma. The best known of these sightings was by Jack Smurthwaite and a couple of children from the village back in 2005. The sighting was near to the Gill that forms an arm of the Howls. They were sneaking up to a ridge next to the wood to try and see rabbits but instead a large, black, Labrador-sized cat, got up about 30m in front of them and slinked off in to the wood. What was even more remarkable was that a small black cat, roughly the size of a house cat, got up and followed it. This was the first and still only one of two, reports of a big cat and cubs in the North East. Unfortunately, or is that fortunately, there have been no reports of big cats in the Parish or anywhere near Hartlepool for around two years now so perhaps its used all its lives up.

The final group of mammals is probably the most cryptic of all, the bats. Being nocturnal and highly mobile they are hard to identify in any case but with many of the species looking very similar as well it can be very difficult to determine which species of bat you are looking at. The Common Pipistrelle is by far the commonest bat species and one that often lives in modern houses. It is known to live in at least three of the more modern houses in the village. Other bat species are more usually associated with rural areas and older buildings. In the far west of the Parish, Crookfoot Reservoir has been designated as

a Local Wildlife Site on account of its bat population as at least four species of bat feed over or around the reservoir. Those that have been recorded there so far are Common Pipistrelle, Nathusius' Pipistrelle, Noctule and Daubenton's Bat. The latter is also known as the "water bat" as it feeds by skimming very low over the water, sometimes gaffing insects off the surface with its large feet. Other species of bat are also likely to feed there as Brown Long-eared bats have been found roosting around Embleton and Amerston and Natterer's bats in abandoned farm houses at Newton Hanzard.

Brown Long-eared Bat

Elwick's Plants

In common with many parts of the Tees Valley and Britain as a whole, the parish of Elwick has lost most of its more specialised flora to the intensification of human activity. However Elwick would appear to have fared better than most and today it is possibly the most botanically interesting parish in the Tees Valley. The reasons for this are varied but must owe something to the topography of the parish with its hills, gills and hollows that provide a range of microhabitats and which also make intensive farming a little more difficult in those spots. Allied to that latter point and equally important in the story of Elwick's flora, has been the history of agriculture in Elwick and the attitudes of farmers both past and present. For example some farmers, recognising the importance of areas of their land for nature, have foregone an element of profit from agricultural improvement and maintained the traditional forms of agriculture on these areas.

Whatever the reasons, the result has been that there are a number of species of plants that have so far been found nowhere else in the Tees Valley and others for which Elwick is one of a handful of places where they can be found in the sub-region. Curiously a number of these are species that are otherwise found in Upper Teesdale and in the case of Melancholy Thistle, Bird's Eye Primrose and Globeflower, are characteristic plants of that area

Melancholy Thistle *(Cirsium heterophyllum)* is so-called because its heads hang downward initially, this thornless thistle with silvery undersides to its leaves was once used to treat depression (*Melancholia*). It is a characteristic plant of Upper Teesdale but the lower Tees Valley there is just the one plant by the roadside at Crookfoot.

Bird's Eye Primrose *(Primula farinosa)* - A purplish Primula with its flowers on long stalks it is characteristic of damp, open grassland. It has only ever been found at one place in Cleveland, Beacon Hill Marsh. Unfortunately it appears that it is now extinct there as it hasn't been seen in the past decade.

Globeflower *(Trollius europeaus)* - This plant was presumed extinct in the Tees Valley until a small colony was discovered in Brierley Wood in Stockton about 10 years ago. Seed from these plants was used to grow young plants that were introduced into West Carr Plantation along the Brierley Beck. It was later found to be present at Crookfoot Wood, where it is likely that it had been introduced some years ago, though it is also present just over the border in Embleton.

Toothwort *(Lathraea squamaria)* - This is an unusual plant in that it is parasitic on the roots of trees. Because it relies on other plants for its nutrition it doesn't photosynthesise and its leaves are small, colourless and grow underground with the only parts of the plant to show above ground being the flower stems. In Hartlepool this plant has only been found to occur in Crookfoot Wood where it was flowering around the damp roots of a willow.

Green Hellebore *(Helleborus viridis)* - A single plant was found at the edge of Close Wood as part of surveys for the review of Hartlepool's Local Wildlife Sites in 2009. This seems to be a first record in the Lower Tees Valley although it is also known higher up the River Tees.

Spindle Tree

Spindle Tree *(Euonymous europeaus)* - A few specimens of this colourful tree grow in bush form as part of the hedgerow along the Elwick to Dalton footpath. The bright pink fruits split open to reveal orange seed capsules and, as might be guessed from their gaudy colour, they are poisonous.

Creeping Willow *(Salix repens)* - This plant is typically a characteristic species of fixed sand dunes in certain parts of the country but in the Tees Valley there are just a few plants and it is known from just four places; South Gare; Eston Moor; Birk Brow on the North York Moors, and Pawton Gill.

Adder's Tongue Fern *(Ophioglossum vulgatum)*. This inconspicuous plant is usually an indicator of old meadows. It has previously only been found locally at Scaling Dam;Seaton Common and a few plants on Darlington Back Lane at Stockton. A large, new colony was growing in a level damp area of sheep-grazed pasture, at High Stotfold in 2009 with a smaller colony in the old drover's road that leads north from there.

Bog Bean *(Menyanthes trifoliata)* As its name suggests this water plant has three leaves. It has been found at North Burn Marsh and Craddon Bank but is otherwise absent in the Tees Valley, north of the Tees.

Butterwort *(Pinguicula vulgaris)* - Sometimes known as bog violet because of its small, purple flowers, this is no relation to the true violets. Instead it is a carnivorous plant whose yellowish leaves have a sticky covering that traps insects. Like Bird's Eye Primrose it was found at Beacon Hill but hasn't been seen there for over a decade and also appears to have gone from its other Elwick site, Pawton Hill Gill.

Purple Loosetrife (Lythrum salicaria) - A tall, attractive plant which is commonly grown in garden ponds but it only occurs naturally in three places in Cleveland, one of which is Black Wood Marsh.

Marsh Valerian (Valeriana dioica) - This plant was once known from just four localities in the Tees Valley but it is now known that the marshes around Elwick are well stocked with it.

Brookweed *(Samolus valerandi)* - In 1774 this was described as plentiful in marshy places between Hartlepool and Eden Dene. In this century is was known from only one place between the Tees and the Tyne, Blackhall Rocks, until it turned up in a small wet flush within a sheep and cow grazed pasture near Close Beck in 2009.

Blunt-flowered Rush *(Juncus subnodulosus)* - This is a rare plant in the North East and was not even mentioned in the list of Cleveland plants in the 1994 publication "A Guide to the Wild Flowers of Cleveland". It has since been found at both Gunnersvale Marsh and North Burn Marsh as part of a fen survey led by the Wildflower Ark.

Tufted Sedge *(Carex elata)* - This sedge, which has been classified on the Durham Rare Plant Register as being of County importance, has been recorded at Black Wood Marsh, High Stotfold and Elwick Hall.

Heath Dog Violet *(Viola canina)* - No sites were known for this species in the historical county of Durham at the time of the publication of "The Flora and Vegetation of County Durham" in the 1980s. It has now been found at a small number of sites including Sunderland Lodge Wood.

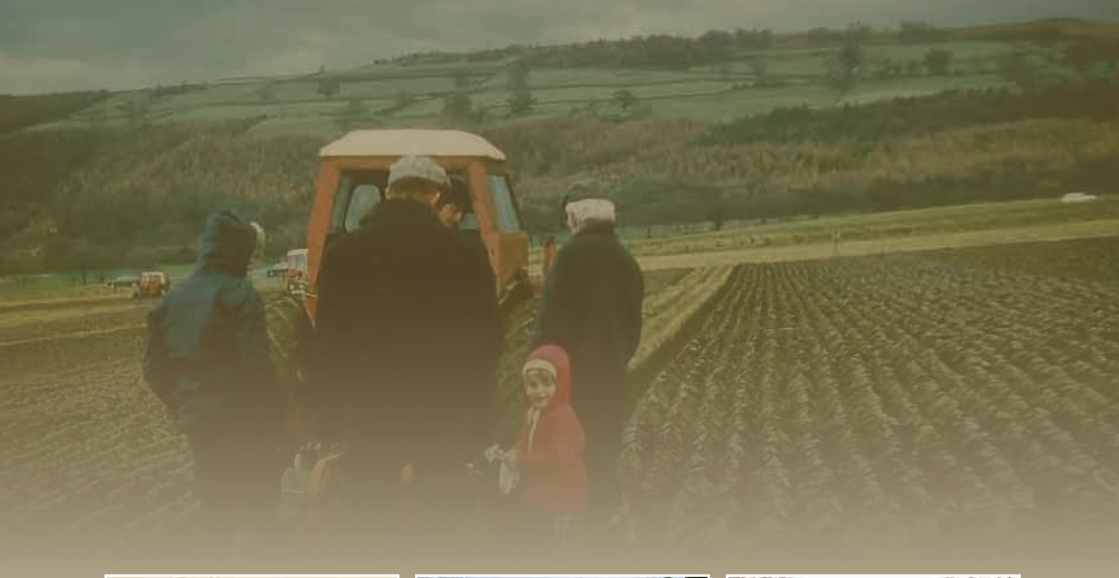
Marsh Cinquefoil *(Potentilla palustris)* - This relative of the strawberry is unusual in having magenta-coloured flowers rather than the yellow or white flowers of its relatives. Until recently it was only known locally from Hart Bog SSSI but it has now also been found in Black Wood Marsh.

Shoreweed *(Litorella uniflora)* - A rare plant, but only because its habitat, shallow margins of large water bodies is rare. This relative of the plantains can be found around the margins of Crookfoot Reservoir

Marsh Woundwort *(Stachys palustris)* - Despite its name this plant will grow happily in grassland. Although common elsewhere in the UK, it is very rare on Teesside. Its only Hartlepool colony is in the road verge just to the east of the village.

Heather *(Calluna vulgaris)* - Although by no means a rare plant its presence outside of moorland is very unusual as the nearest lowland heath is at Waldridge Fell near Chester le Street. The odd plant of Heather is found at Pawton Hill Gill. There is also the odd plant at the northern end of Wynyard Woodland Park although there aren't any details to say whether or not they are in the Hartlepool section of those woods or just outside. At one time, Red Gap Moor was heathland and presumably Heather was known.

Heather



THE ELWICK VILLAGE ATLAS
SUMMARY REPORT 2014

This report seeks to provide an holistic summary of the findings of all the research undertaken by the Elwick Village Atlas project, and to build on, the information about the village and its environs already covered in the previous history of the village, produced for the Millennium (Ireland 1999). It tells the story of the project, highlighting findings of interest culled from the many activities undertaken and the reports produced, both oral and written.

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