



LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL



NORTH *of* ENGLAND CIVIC TRUST

Lancaster Community Heritage Audit

Final Report

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March 2017



NORTH of ENGLAND CIVIC TRUST



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**Lynwood House, Durham Road,
Lanchester, Durham, DH7 0LS**

Tel: 01207 520 146

Email: lanchesterparish@btopenworld.com

Web: www.lanchesterparish.info

Lanchester Community Heritage Audit

Final Report

**Prepared with and for
Lanchester Parish Council**

North of England Civic Trust
The Schoolhouse 12 Trinity Chare
Quayside Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 3DF

Tel: (0191) 232 9279

Fax: (0191) 230 1474

Email: admin@nect.org.uk

www.nect.org.uk

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Appendix – Gazetteer of Heritage Assets

Introduction

Summary of the Heritage Audit

1.1 The Lanchester Heritage Audit was carried out by a working group of volunteers from the local community, with support from North of England Civic Trust (NECT).

1.2 The audit process identified the following as the key themes of the heritage of Lanchester parish.

- Natural Heritage
- Paths, Routes & Landscapes
- Monuments & Religious Places
- Farming and Agriculture
- Housing and Accommodation
- Industry, Engineering, Trade, and Commerce
- Society and Civic Life
- Defence
- Intangible Heritage

1.3 Through a review of Historic Environment Records and a process of community mapping, over 170 tangible community heritage assets were identified across the themes, ranging from buildings to archaeological sites, from views to individual trees, from industrial sites to enclosure roads. The assets have been recorded, photographed, and assessed, and levels of significance have been ascribed to each individual asset. The product of this process is the Gazetteer of Lanchester Heritage, a comprehensive catalogue of the heritage assets in Lanchester parish which are recognised as significant by the local community.

1.4 In addition, both general and specific views across the parish were identified as a highly significant, and much valued aspect of the heritage of the parish.

Background to the project

1.5 The Lanchester Heritage Audit was commissioned by Lanchester Parish Council late in 2015, to complement the emerging Neighbourhood Plan being produced by the Parish Council. NECT provided training and support for a working group of community volunteers from the parish over a nine month period, to audit and evaluate the cultural heritage of the parish from a community perspective.

1.6 The Lanchester Heritage Audit has been produced alongside the emerging Lanchester

Neighbourhood Plan, but not directly as part of the neighbourhood planning process. It will provide evidence and understanding to be used in the Neighbourhood Planning process and to support decision-making by the community in future.

Location and Parish boundaries

1.7 Lanchester Parish is located in County Durham, in the former district of Derwentside. It lies 8 miles to the west of the city of Durham, 5 miles south east of Consett. The parish extends from Burnhopeside Hall in the east to beyond the A68 in the west, from the north of Ornsby Hill in the north almost to Quebec in the south, with the village situated in the eastern end of the parish, surrounded by the small hamlets including Malton, Hurbuck, Hollinside and Ornsby Hill.

1.8 The parish is centred on OS Grid Reference NZ165475. The valley bottom lies at 115m above sea level, with ground rising to 200m towards Burnhope in the east and Hollinside in the south.

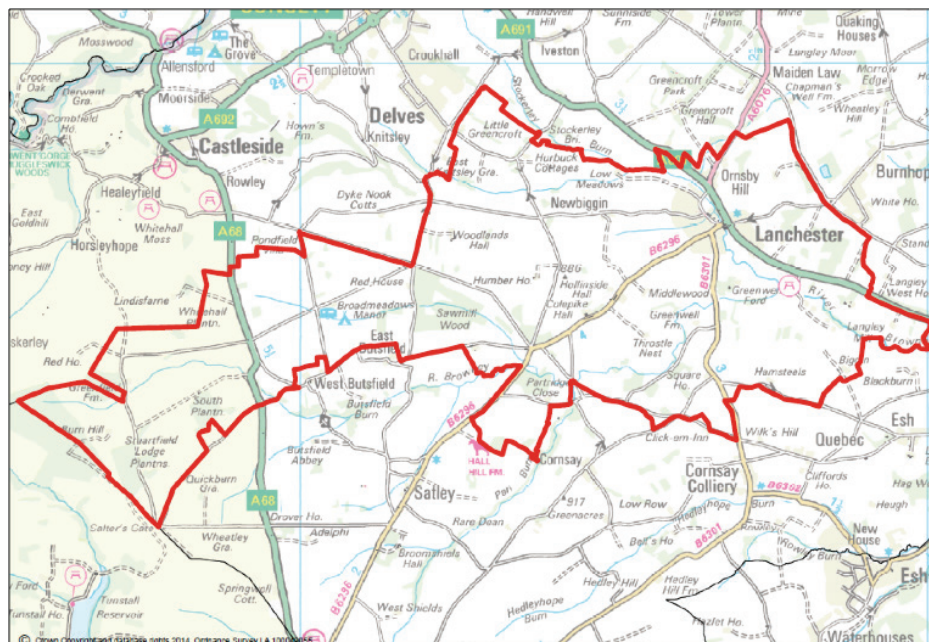


Fig.1 Map of Lanchester Parish

1.9 The parish is situated in a broad valley at the foothills of the north Pennines, in a landscape of mainly pasture and woodland, although the sides of the valley are steep around the village itself. The Smallhope Burn and the Alderdene Burn, tributaries of the River Browney, flow through the parish. Generally, the areas further to the west of the parish are more open with less tree and hedge cover as

the land rises towards the Pennines.

1.10 The population of the parish at the time of the 2011 census was 4055 people, the majority of whom live in the village itself. The parish has good links to the surrounding area, with connectivity to Durham, Consett, the Pennines and Newcastle upon Tyne. A large proportion of those who live in the village now commute elsewhere to work.

Methodology

Aims of the audit

2.1 The Lanchester Heritage Audit aims to:

- Identify the key themes of Lanchester's cultural heritage, as understood by the local community.
- Produce an initial dataset of information relating to the historic environment of Lanchester parish by drawing information from the County Durham Historic Environment Record, other relevant archives and databases, and local sources of information, both published and unpublished.
- Expand this dataset by consultation with the local community, in order to identify additional heritage assets.
- Complete a broad brush field survey of the heritage assets identified, both designated and undesignated, including field recording, photography, limited additional research, and identification of risks, threats and issues relating to individual heritage assets.
- Ascribe levels of significance to all identified heritage assets, based on a community perspective informed by sound conservation principles.
- Produce a final report giving an overview of the heritage of Lanchester parish, with an associated Gazetteer of Heritage Assets, to form a sound evidence base to support Neighbourhood Planning and other future activities and decision-making.

Methodology

2.2 The Lanchester Heritage Audit was a community-based audit of the heritage themes and assets within Lanchester parish, carried out by local people with support from heritage professionals. Following initial open consultation, the bulk of audit was carried out by a small working group of volunteers from the local community, recruited mainly but not exclusively from the working group for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, and supported by Elanor Johnson and Jules Brown from North of England Civic Trust. A list of these volunteers can be found in Section 4.

Themes

2.3 The first stage of the process was a facilitated discussion about the heritage of Lanchester parish with a working group of volunteers at a Neighbourhood Planning meeting in January 2016. This discussion established key heritage themes for the parish:

- Natural Heritage
- Paths, Routes & Landscapes
- Monuments & Religious Places
- Farming and Agriculture
- Housing and Accommodation
- Industry, Engineering, Trade, and Commerce
- Society and Civic Life
- Defence
- Intangible Heritage

2.4 In addition, discussions focused on views as a highly significant aspect of the heritage of the parish, many of which were felt to be specifically threatened at present by development pressures. It was decided to include views as an additional aspect of the audit, and to record specific views as identifiable heritage assets.

Community mapping

2.5 The second stage of the process was to create a Heritage Asset Audit database, identifying individual heritage assets, at known locations within the parish. Information for this dataset was collected at a Community Mapping and In-Gathering session, held during January 2016 at Lanchester Community centre in the heart of the village. The event was advertised locally, and open to all during the afternoon and evening, and was attended by around 60 local residents. Those attending were asked to pinpoint any 'heritage assets' that they knew of on a large map of the parish, and to record as much information as they knew about these assets. The data from the Community Mapping and In-Gathering session was then combined with data from the County Durham Historic Environment Record to create one database detailing known heritage assets with a national grid reference location, information on official designations, and limited background information.

2.6 224 assets were listed initially, but following review by NECT a number of assets were removed from the dataset. This was in part due to duplication issues. Additionally, a number of assets had been listed which were important to the parish in terms of community value, rather than heritage significance. Information on these 'community assets', which may warrant a separate audit to ensure their sustainability over time, was passed to the Parish Council.

2.7 The final number of heritage assets is 170.

Describing and recording assets, and assessing condition

2.8 A group of 20 volunteers formed to create a Heritage Working Group and took part in a half day training session led by Elanor Johnson and Jules Brown of NECT during February 2016. The group were trained in field recording, basic assessment of condition, and the principles of heritage conservation, with a focus on understanding the concept of significance.

2.9 The training session drew on similar training carried out by NECT with local volunteer groups undertaking surveys of Grade II listed buildings. It was based on sound and current professional conservation standards as developed by Historic England, and included a practical field survey element.

2.10 Volunteers then worked individually and in pairs to describe and record all assets listed in the dataset. Data was collected during February-April 2016, through desk-based research and field surveys and site visits. The scope of the project did not allow for a comprehensive literature review, but volunteers consulted a variety of published material, archival sources (including photographs), and unpublished records in the course of their research, in addition to exploiting local community knowledge and memories. A number of sources and publications by Lanchester Parish Council have also been consulted in order to provide background information. Assets were photographed where possible, and in some instances historical photographs were also collected.

2.11 Through the field survey process, volunteers evaluated the current condition of each asset as outlined below, and recorded any risks or issues.

Good	Structurally sound; weather-tight; no significant repairs needed.
Fair	Structurally sound; in need of minor repair; showing signs of a lack of general maintenance.
Poor	Deteriorating masonry; leaking roof; defective rainwater goods, usually accompanied by rot outbreaks; general deterioration of most elements of the building fabric, including external joinery; or where there has been a fire or other disaster which has affected part of the building.
Very bad	Structural failure or clear signs of structural instability; loss of significant areas of the roof covering, leading to major deterioration of the interior; or where there has been a major fire or other disaster affecting most of the building.
Not visible	Building element not visible.

2.12 Data gathered by volunteers was collated by NECT. This process was on-going and continued May-September, with NECT identifying gaps in the dataset and volunteers carrying out additional survey and research work to fill the gaps.

Evaluation of significance

2.13 Following the initial field survey process, the full working group came together to evaluate the significance of the heritage assets. The four criteria used were as follows:

Survival	What does the asset provide in terms of evidence of activity in the past, how much survives, and is it a rare surviving example locally, nationally, or internationally?
Story	What stories are attached to this asset? Who lived here, what did they do? Did any events or activities happen here?
Stimulation	Is this asset striking, attractive, or inspiring? Does it create a strong sense of place?
Social	Does the asset mean something to the local identity of Lanchester, does it demonstrate local practices, or links to local traditions? Is it a strong part of local memory?

2.14 A rating was given against each of the four criteria, at one of the following levels:

Exceptional	Aspects which are seminal to understanding the place and which, if lost or substantially harmed, would destroy or greatly compromise its significance.
Considerable	Aspects which go a long way to help understand the place, and which, if lost or substantially harmed, would notably diminish significance but not destroy it.
Some	Aspects which contribute to or complement understanding of the place but are not intrinsic to it, and which, if lost or substantially harmed, would not unacceptably harm its significance.
Marginal	Aspects which have only minor links with the place or which could be considered intrusive, and which, if lost or substantially harmed, would cause little if any harm or could bring about positive enhancement.

2.15 Views identified during the asset audit process were assigned one significance rating overall, rather than using the four criteria above.

2.16 Evaluation was carried out via a discursive process including the whole working group, facilitated by NECT.

Final report

2.17 At the end of the auditing process, data collected was used to create a final illustrated report, a Gazetteer of Heritage Assets, and a digital photographic record of the heritage of Lanchester Parish. The structure of the report was created by NECT, with text drafted by volunteers from the working group and by NECT, in a collaborative editing process.

The heritage of Lanchester Parish

Landscape character

3.1 Lanchester parish is located in the heart of the West Durham Coalfield, and can be defined as a coalfield valley on the upland fringe. Well defined ridges and valleys run across the parish from the North Pennines in the west towards the lowland valleys of Tyne and Wear in the east, giving the parish a transitional character of upland fringe becoming less marked as it merges with lowland in the east.

3.2 The landscape is characterised by pasture and arable farmland with fields bounded by hedges and dry stone walls, by heathland and semi-natural birch and oak woodlands, and by a network of enclosure roads and lanes. It is a predominantly rural landscape with Lanchester lying in the east of the parish in a more pastoral setting, and a spread of scattered hamlets and farms to the west of the village as the landscape moves towards a moorland, upland landscape.

3.3 Traces of past industrial activity remain in the landscape, as does some historic parkland. There are areas of replacement woodland following the end of opencast mining, including conifer plantations acting as shelterbelts on the upper slopes of the Parish. The landscape continues to change however, potential threats to character and habitat being shifts in agricultural practices leading to loss of heathland and development of land for housing around the village fringes.

3.4 The westernmost part of the Parish lies within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the eastern part of the Parish is designated an area of high landscape value. The centre of Lanchester village is a Conservation Area. Six local wildlife sites and a number of designated ancient woodlands are scattered across the valley. To the north east, the parish boundary is adjacent to the Great North Forest.



Fig 2. Lanchester village, sitting in a coalfield valley on the upland fringe

Geology and resources

3.5 Lanchester Parish is situated in the West Durham Coalfield. Coal has been exploited, via drift mining, at various points in the history of the parish, and has also been used to create coke and support other industries. Other natural resources in the parish which have been exploited in the past include iron, clay, building stone, wood, and good quality agricultural land.

Chronological development

3.6 There is limited evidence of prehistoric activity in Lanchester Parish, although scattered, isolated finds of stone tools, worked flint and cup and ring marked stones, both within the Parish and in the immediate surrounding area, indicate that the landscape was utilised prior to the arrival of Roman rule. These people left little mark on the landscape, living a predominantly nomadic lifestyle reliant on hunting, fishing, and gathering. The most notable finds from the prehistoric period are scatters of undated flint tools, a flint leaf-shaped arrowhead dating to the Neolithic, and cup and ring marked stones, found at Little Greencroft and Hollinside.

3.7 With the arrival of Roman rule in Britain, Lanchester became a hive of activity, with the establishment of a fort known as Longovicium, and a substantial associated civil settlement and cemetery. Initially constructed during the mid-2nd century AD, the fort was typical of a Roman

auxiliary fort, rectangular in shape with four gates, surrounded by at least one defensive ditch. The fort was occupied through the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. None of the Roman remains at Lanchester have ever been fully excavated, but since 1990, geophysical surveys have revealed the structure of the fort interior and the extent of the civilian settlement. In addition to the fort and civil settlement, Dere Street, the main Roman road linking York and Hadrian's Wall, ran through the landscape, and infrastructure relating to the water supply for the fort and town still survives in places. There is thought to be a Roman quarry at Peth Bank, but it has not yet been located. The impact of the arrival of the Roman army in the area should not be underestimated, as quarrying, woodland clearance, and cultivation on a large scale would have been necessary to support the soldiers and civilians.



Fig 3. The defensive banks of Longovicium, Lanchester's Roman Fort

3.8 Following the collapse of Roman rule, there is little surviving evidence of life in Lanchester during the Anglo-Saxon period, in common with much of the region. It is possible that the fort was re-used, and the name of the village, with its root in the word *ceastre*, suggests links to Old English. The population was likely to be much smaller however, and native woodland is likely to have re-established over Roman agricultural land. The only firm evidence for activity at Lanchester during this period is a hoard of eighteen iron objects found during the 1860s, dated to the 9th-11th centuries, and now held by the British Museum.

3.9 Life in the later medieval period, from the 11th to the 15th centuries, left more traces in archival material, on the landscape and in a small number of surviving buildings. Woodland was cleared for agriculture, All Saints Parish Church was constructed in stone, and the present village was established around the church. Stone from the Roman fort was used in the church, and the first rector is recorded in 1143. By 1183 Lanchester is described as one of the great manors of the See of Durham, surrounded by forests and moors. In 1284, a deanery and college of canons was created, reflecting the important

role of Lanchester as an ecclesiastical centre, with a much larger parish than today. Although the church itself was a ruin by the early 15th century, and the college survives only as buried archaeological remains, some medieval houses survive in the village, notably Peth Cottage and Deanery Cottage. Other medieval villages in the parish include Tanfield, Newbiggin and Colepike Hall.

3.10 In the 16th century, Lanchester was a somewhat forgotten area, with a small population farming the land, grazing stock on the hilltops and fells to the west of the parish, and coppicing hazel for the coal industry. Little survives in the village or landscape today to shed light on this period.

3.11 By the mid-18th century, new houses were being built in Lanchester itself, around the village green and on Front Street, with surrounding hamlets, farms and steadings scattered across the parish. The Enclosure of the Parish in 1773 led to the creation of the landscape seen today, with rough fell land brought in to new agricultural field systems, miles of stone walls and fences constructed, and new roads and lanes criss-crossing what was once common land. Large houses, such as Greencroft Hall (demolished) and Woodlands Hall, were built in the village and further afield, some with associated parkland and landscaping, as the Parish moved in to the 19th century.



Fig 4. Woodlands Hall, built by landscape designer Thomas White

3.12 Major changes in industry from the 18th century through to the early 20th century impacted on the landscape and the communities living there, with the exploitation of coal in the east of the Parish, the construction of railways, quarrying, and brick, iron and coke works. Evidence of this industry survives in places, most notably in the reused lines of waggonways and railways that are now enjoyed for recreation. Malton, Hurbuck and Hollinside were home to mining communities.

3.13 Within the village itself, the 19th century brought a wealth of new building, both to provide accommodation and to house trade, but also in the civic sphere. The large Lanchester workhouse boasted several buildings in the heart of the village, including the Board meeting rooms which now house the library. Lanchester was a judicial centre for West Durham and held petty sessions. Chapels and a parochial school were built. The population was growing, as was prosperity, aided in part by the new transport networks such as the Witton Gilbert to Shotley Bridge road, and the Durham to Consett railway, both of which crossed the village, the latter bringing slate for roofing, replacing earlier pantile roofs.



Fig 5. The Workhouse Boardroom, now a library

3.14 During this flourishing period, several significant men and women lived in Lanchester; William Hedley, one of the founding fathers of the railways, inventor of the 'Puffing Billy' and 'Wylam Dilly' resided at Burnhopeside Hall, Doctor William Greenwell, historian, archaeologist, and author, and later Canon of Durham Cathedral was from Greenwell Ford and is buried in Lanchester, and his sister, poet and advocate for women's voting and education, Dora Greenwell was born at Greenwell Ford.

3.15 The twentieth century left its mark on Lanchester, with a decline of industrial activities in the Parish followed by a flurry of opencast and strip mining in the middle of the century. Coal was extracted and land reinstatement followed, causing a loss of historic landscape. Other reminders of the last century can be seen on a number of memorials to those who served in the two world wars and other conflicts, and in abandoned military structures and prisoner of war camps. Within the village itself, the Smallhope and Alderdene Burns were culverted, new housing constructed, and the population grew significantly before dipping again. New industries flourished and then declined, some leaving little trace. The railway closed, and the bypass was constructed in 1970. As Lanchester Parish moves through

the 21st century, the challenge will be to conserve the story and character of the landscape, and those who lived, farmed, and worked there for future generations, whilst maintaining a thriving community and a living landscape for today's residents.

Heritage themes

Natural heritage

3.16 Lanchester parish is comprised of a number of diverse habitats including farmland, heathland, grassland, woodland and brownfield land. A wide variety of species of plants, birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates populate the area. Many of these thrive at sites conserved by Durham Wildlife Trust at Malton and Longburn Ford, and Woodland Trust sites at Black Plantation and Dora's Wood. However, habitat continues to be reduced through agricultural modification of areas such as heathland in the upper Browney Valley.

Fig 6. Dora's Wood, and example of new natural heritage created by the local community, planted in 2001



3.17 There is little remaining ancient woodland apart from Deanery Wood, Loves Wood and tracts at Malton. Smaller pockets can be found but these are not recorded. A significant contribution to habitat is provided along the wide verges of roads in the west of the parish which were created during the enclosure acts. Brownfield sites also present good habitat opportunities and the vacant land at Malton Colliery is particularly attractive to many species. Natural heritage is constantly evolving and requires adequate consideration and resources if this asset is to withstand further erosion.

Fig. 7 Deanery Wood, one of the last areas of ancient wood in the parish; Deanery View estate nestles on its edge.



Paths, routes and landscapes

3.18 The parish is traversed by innumerable footpaths which cover a wide-ranging landscape . It is possible to follow a number of circular routes which encompass significant historic attributes of the parish. To the northwest of Lanchester, Greencroft estate includes a network of footpaths through the remnant designed landscape which formed the setting to Greencroft Hall, built in the 17th century for the Clavering family, but later demolished. North east from the village a series of footpaths give access to Black Wood with views out to rolling pastoral land.



Fig 8. The old railway line, now a much used and well-loved footpath

3.19 East of the village the footpath negotiates a railway walk, with views across the historic designed landscape of Burnhopeside Hall before branching south through the site of Malton Colliery. The path leads uphill and descends with spectacular views towards Lanchester Roman fort, Longovicium (Scheduled Ancient Monument) and the Greenwell Ford (Grade II), an estate owned by Canon William Greenwell. A footpath at Hollinside leads north to Humber Hill, one of the best panoramic viewpoints to the ridges and valleys around Lanchester despite some areas in the vicinity having been subject to opencast mining and subsequent reinstatement leaving the landscape somewhat bland.

3.20 Dere Street is the most significant roman route which passes through Lanchester although it is no longer a public route, passing almost undetected through farmland. A drove road between Scotland and England runs through Saltersgate plantation at the extreme western edge of the parish.



Fig 9. Newbiggin Lane, one of the many drove roads crossing the parish

3.21 The enclosure acts have also influenced the landscape through regularising the shapes of fields which often have stone wall boundaries or hedges. In some areas the hedges continue to be laid traditionally. The parish includes coniferous plantations but these are increasingly being felled and often replanted with deciduous trees. Wind turbines are a prominent feature in views of the landscape

to the north and on the south west approach to Lanchester.

Monuments and religious places

3.22 There are a number of memorials in Lanchester ranging from the listed monuments associated with the Grade 1 listed All Saints Parish Church to the memorials to the fallen of the two world wars. Within the church a memorial also exists to William Hedley of locomotive fame who lived in Burnhopeside Hall a few miles south of the church. The world wars had a significant impact on Lanchester and there are two very visible memorials. Above the steps leading up to All Saints Parish Church on Durham Road is the Memorial Gate unveiled in 1922. Adjacent to Brook Villa on the north west side of the village green is the Lanchester and District War Memorial, unveiled in 1951 and moved to its present location in 1972. In addition there are a number of plaques in the Roman Catholic All Saints Church, the Community Centre and All Saints Parish Church.



Fig 10 War Memorial on the Village Green

3.23 There are still three very active churches within Lanchester; the Parish Church established around the 12th Century, the Methodist Church built in 1868 and the Catholic Church built in 1926. In addition, Croft View Hall began life as a Primitive Methodist chapel in 1884 and the original Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1819. Croft View is still associated with the Methodist Chapel, but the Wesleyan Chapel is now a private house on the western side of the Village Green.

3.24 The exact date of the building of the Parish Church is not known and some of the surviving architectural features suggest that the present building had been in existence for a century and a half before Bishop Anthony Bek elevated it to collegiate status in 1284. At one stage, the Deanery of Lanchester was the second biggest in the whole of the Durham Diocese and a number of alterations have been made to the building over the centuries. Some of the columns in the north aisle were recycled from the Roman fort and on the south side of the chancel are three panels of 13th century stained glass.

3.25 The Parish Church is prominently situated on the Village Green and with its chiming clock provides a visual and audible reminder of the presence of this historic building.

Fig 11. The Parish Church of All Saints

Farming and agriculture

3.26 The land in the parish ranges from 300ft to 1150ft above sea level, and varies from good arable to rough fell land of poor quality. Some areas are very steep sided and have been used for woodland. This has generally decayed in quality, as the larger estates have been broken up, since the 1914/18 War. The Roman Fort housed cavalry, and it is likely that they would have farmed in the valley to support the 500 horses and ponies housed in the fort. Boldon Book (1183) mentions a number of holdings with the various rents and duties owed to the Bishop.



3.27 By late Medieval times, the better land was extensively farmed, with many of the existing 21st century holdings being mentioned in the Parish Registers, and in the Halmote Court Records.

3.28 Much of the higher land was fell and in common occupation until the two main Enclosure Acts, of the late 1700s, created the distinctive enclosure landscape of straight roads, regular fields and numerous quarries. New farms were also created on these lands, the most notable being Woodlands, owned by Thomas White, who received many awards from the Society of Arts, for his planting, drainage and farm works.



Fig 12. The Deanery Farmhouse

3.29 The 19th century brought extensive coal extraction, with many farms being bought by the coal companies, as part of the need to feed horses, ponies and their many work folk. Ownership also reduced the expenses of coal subsidence claims, when the shallow workings gave rise to many 'pitfalls' – subsidence below buildings. Following the 1947 Nationalisation of the Coal Industry, up to 50% of the land, in the areas of outcrop coal, was open-casted, and consequently many remains of early

landscape, settlements and industry, have been lost, though some land is certainly better to farm.

3.30 As in many areas of County Durham, the farm steadings were largely rebuilt, in the period between 1780 and 1860, though there is some evidence of pre 1800 vernacular features, indicating black thatch and stone roofs with wrestler ridges. The older steadings, often complete until the 1960s, are rapidly being lost, due to conversion to houses and the need to build modern farm buildings which can accommodate larger machinery. Many farms have been amalgamated, and the small mixed farm, with milking cows is now a thing of the past.

3.31 The village lost its Agricultural Mart in the 1970s, but has retained a Veterinary Practice. The Modern Dairy at Upper Houses Farm now employs more than 100 people and is the parish's main employer. Horses and ponies, kept for pleasure, have become a major feature in the parish since the 1970s, and represent a primary use of what was farming land.

Housing and accommodation

3.32 Lanchester Parish has been called home to people since at least Roman times, with accommodation for the military in the Roman fort, and for civilians in the associated settlement, but little can be seen today of these houses and accommodation blocks. One of the earliest surviving houses in the parish is Manor House Farm, which was once in the ownership of the Prior of Hexham and described in Hadfield's Survey.

3.33 Over the centuries, housing has been closely linked with employment and as Lanchester Parish had many large farms and manor houses the workers would be provided with places to sleep. By the 12th Century the Manor of Lanchester and its population had grown, along with the number of small villages, and it is at this time that the land becomes the property of the Dean and Prebendaries of Lanchester. However at the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1593 the land is sold off to a greater number of owners. Several significant properties from this period survive, namely Hollinside Hall and Greenwell Ford.

Fig 13. Hollinside Hall, built for John Urwin, Coal Owner



3.34 In early 1600s there is evidence of mine workings, and on a map of colliery workings for Durham circa 1650 Lanchester is described as a mining village. At this time, miners usually lived in poor accommodation close to the mine face. The evidence of a mill and quarrying indicates more

employment opportunities than farming.

3.35 Population expansion and rise of entrepreneurs in Lanchester in the late 1800s is reflected in the building of new private homes and farmhouses. An example of workers housing is the very attractive and distinctive Hollinside Terrace built in 1892, however it is exceptional accommodation with an interesting story.



Fig 14. Brookvilla, in a prominent position on the Village Green

3.36 This building boom seemed to stabilise till another style of housing emerged after the Second World War. The Sirius Factory was opened and a new estate of houses was built by the Council to offer homes to rent for the workers and other families in need. This saw the start of several large scale building projects and many small individual builds along the valley and through the parish.

Industry, engineering, trade, and commerce

3.37 The early history of industry in the parish begins with extractive mining and quarrying activities. There was a major iron working site at Sheepwalks Farm at Longedge, and it is recorded that Roger of Colepike supplied iron to the Bishop in the 15th century. Coal is reported to have been found in the Roman Fort, and was certainly being worked in the parish, during late Medieval times. The great period of coal working was in the 19th century, when the railway infrastructure allowed for the cheap transport of fine quality coking, household and steam coals from this area. Considerable numbers of miners lived in the parish, and by the 1930s, 40% of the working folk, registered with the Labour Exchange at Lanchester, were employed by collieries in the area.



Fig 15. The site of Fenhall Drift Mine, now landscaped and wooded

3.38 Coal was not the only mineral extracted; segger clay, witherite (Barium Carbonate), ganister,

post stone and building stone were also extracted, mined or quarried. The collieries used the unwanted small coal to fire kilns for fireclay bricks and salt glazed products.

3.39 There were watermills from the 12th century; the fast flowing water of the river Browney had five and the Bishop of Durham had a mill at Lanchester. The essentially rural nature of the parish has been re-established, with the contraction of the coalfield from the 1940s, due to the exhaustion of reserves and the high cost of working small areas of outcrop coal.

3.40 This loss of the parish's major industry has led to the re-training of the pit community, to other industrial occupations, including light engineering, service industry, Local Government and Education. Health provision within the parish gave rise to the Work House (or Poor Law Union), which was a major employer in the village, until its closure in the late 20th century. The railway, which had enabled the coal industry to expand, also closed with the loss of secure and well-paid jobs. By 2016, the parish had returned to its rural landscape, though the Upper Houses Industrial Dairy is the parish's major employer with over 100 staff.

3.41 The long established parish centre of Lanchester had a full complement of trades and shops until the 1950s, with a livestock mart, agricultural merchant, chemist, hardware, several food shops, blacksmiths, undertakers, cobbler, doctor, post office & telephone exchange, dress makers, police station, lock-up and court house, four places of worship, Co-operative store, two butchers, four pubs, several transport firms, three garages, three schools, a vet's surgery, two banks, two solicitors, a land agent, two cemeteries and a bus company – in effect a town in miniature!



Fig 16. 39 Front Street, formerly the Post Office

3.42 Changing trades and shopping habits, with increased access to personal transport, have obviously changed all of this, however the Parish remains a vibrant community with many shops, (especially food takeaways) and a growing population. With the exception of service trades and the new genetic firm in Park House, there is little real industry in the village, with most people commuting out of the valley to work.

Society and civic life

3.43 Lanchester is an old settlement as evidence of our Roman history shows. The Parish Church dates from the 12th Century and the village centre shows clear signs of being a country market village,

with an agricultural community living in the village and scattered through the landscape. In the 19th century, arrival of the railway saw a shift in the Parish. Mining communities emerging at the hamlets of Malton, Hollinside and Hurbuck.

3.44 1839 also saw the first building of the Lanchester Workhouse. The Lanchester Union became responsible for an area of 67194 acres of Parishes or Townships bordered by Gateshead, Chester le Street and Weardale Unions. The workhouse in Lanchester over time occupied a significant part of the village, it grew with a hospital, Board room and offices, further accommodation and cottages for children. The Union was renamed in the 1930s but continued to offer assistance until 1980, when it closed; many of the buildings were later demolished.

3.45 Lanchester Rural District Council operated from 1894-1974, it was a successor to the Rural Sanitary Authority which appears to have been formed in 1872. The Rural District Council met originally in the Court Room (now the Library) located in the Board of Guardians administrative building of the workhouse. It relocated to Park House taking with it the fine Oak Panelled fittings and furniture from the court room. It was responsible for a large area extending to the East to Langley Park, to the South to the edge of Tow Law, to the North to Annfield Plain and Consett and to the West to Edmundbyers Common. It had considerable responsibilities including: housing (from 1919 – the first Council Houses were approved in 1920 for Durham Road), approvals of new building, highways, public health (with it's own Medical officer of Health), street lighting, refuse collection and disposal and sanitation.

3.46 Lanchester Rural District Council along with Consett Urban District Council and Stanley Urban District Council became Derwentside District Council following local government re-organisation in 1974. Lanchester Parish Council operated alongside the Rural District Council as did many other Parish Councils in this large area.

3.47 Notable Lanchester residents include Canon William Greenwell (1820-1918), inventor of the Greenwell's Glory fly-fishing fly and Dorothy (Dora) Greenwell (1821-1882), poet, born at Greenwell Ford.

3.48 Lanchester has a considerably high level of community activity with a large number of community groups still using heritage assets for current activities, such as the tennis club and bowling club. The Village Green lies at the heart of Lanchester Parish, both geographically and socially, with events such as communal carol singing around the Christmas tree and Remembrance Services.

Fig 17. Lanchester Tennis Club in 1931

Defence

3.49 The story of defence in Lanchester Parish can be seen as two distinct elements; the role of Longovicium, the Roman Fort, in the defence and control of the Roman Empire, and the use of the landscape for training, storage, and containment of prisoners during World War Two.



3.50 The Roman fort of Longovicium (Scheduled Ancient Monument SM DU22) was built by soldiers of the Twentieth Legion (Legio XX Valeria Victrix) in the 2nd century AD, in the Hadrianic or Antonine periods. The fort was built as part of a chain of auxiliary forts guarding Dere Street, the key supply line from York to Corbridge, a route which was extended through Hadrian's Wall up to the Antonine Wall in modern-day Scotland. Longovicium fort was strategically placed, like many auxiliary forts, on a high spur of land which gives it commanding views of the Brownie valley. Covering an area of 2.5 hectares (6.17 acres), the fort would have housed up to 1,000 auxiliary troops, many of whom would have been cavalry. These troops came from many different parts of the Roman Empire: we have evidence of units originating in Spain, France, and Germany, making Lanchester a multi-cultural hub and ethnic melting-pot during the four centuries of Roman occupation. Longovicium has local, regional, national and international significance, as it forms a key link in the defence of the Roman Empire's northernmost frontier.

3.51 Following centuries of peace in Lanchester, the area has a final chapter of military heritage during the second world war. Much of this heritage is hard to access and research, in part due to secrecy at the time. At Burnhill, in the west of the parish, there was an important secret World War 2 Ammunition Storage Depot. The 500 acre site had its own narrow gauge railway system connecting eight magazines, which were about a quarter of a mile apart, to Burnhill Junction Main Line. TNT and Cordite were stored and transhipped from the USA to the Aycliffe Royal Ordnance Factory. Armed soldiers with dogs protected the site.

3.52 Other twentieth century defence heritage includes a number of pillboxes across the parish, which were mainly manned by men from the 3rd Battalion of Durham Light Infantry Home Guard, and a small Prison of War Camp on Kitswell Road, holding low risk prisoners.

Fig 18. Pillbox at Burnhill Ammunition Storage Depot, hidden in the west of the parish



Intangible Heritage

3.53 Lanchester Parish is predominately rural with a large diverse range of wildlife habitats. Sounds and smells contribute to the pleasure of the locality, with many places across the parish offering peace and tranquillity, with birdsong, magnificent wildflowers and open skies. Many of these intangible heritage assets, which cannot be mapped and recorded easily, are associated with more tangible heritage, such as the railway line walk in the north west of the parish, which boasts many intangible qualities and is recognised as a significant asset by many in the community.

3.54 Along with the visible remains of several centuries of history within Lanchester Parish residents can also remember and pass on stories connected to life within the Parish. Some are recorded, some are now just distant memories but hark back to days and ways of life we can only wonder at. Perhaps one of the more enthralling is the tale of the last local "Sale of a Wife" held in a field in the Parish in the late 1800's. Another infamous tale is that of 'Stoney Broke', an Irish Lieutenant named Andrew Robinson Stoney, who lived with his first wife Hannah Newton at Colepike Hall in the Parish in the mid-1700s. After Hannah died, due to ill treatment by Stoney, he went on the marry Countess Mary Eleanor of Gibside, taking on her name and becoming Stoney Bowes. He continued to behave in a scandalous fashion and was eventually divorced by Mary Eleanor and spent the rest of his life in a debtor's prison; locally the phrase 'Stoney Broke' is said to have emerged from this sorry tale.

Views

3.55 The views in, across and around Lanchester are a vital part of the heritage of the Parish, valued and enjoyed by residents for the positive impact they have on day to day life, and appreciated on a daily basis by those living, working, walking, and driving in the vicinity. These stunning and spectacular panoramas and vistas collectively create, demonstrate and tell the story of Lanchester's development through the centuries, forming a key element of the 'sense of place' within the community.

3.56 Nestling in the valley floor of the River Browney, Lanchester village affords many spectacular views stretching up, down and along the valley from a variety of view points, as well as glorious panoramas sweeping across the landscape from higher vantage points around the parish. There are many secret views that wait to be discovered and revealed, from the very heart of the village, as one

looks upwards and outwards towards the rising valley sides and horizon beyond. The views have characteristics that contribute to Lanchester's attractive village atmosphere, including historical route-ways and tracks still visible and usable today; mature tree lined access routes and canopied approaches to the village with associated hedgerows and stonewalling; established woodland and enclosed open fields within the countryside beyond demonstrating that farming and agriculture is still important to us and our community. Over the centuries, the built environment has been incorporated into the setting of the natural environment in a sympathetic way, creating a visual impression of a distinct village in a rural landscape.

3.57 These views are particularly impressive, inspiring and important because they show the characterful setting and rural nature of Lanchester and the clear linkages and connectivity the village has developed over the centuries with its rural landscape, agriculture, and the surrounding countryside rising up from the River Browney valley and beyond. Explicit landmarks and references still exist today within these views that reinforce this relationship established over many centuries and forged since Roman times, through the Industrial Revolution on into the present day. They offer rich enjoyment for many within the community in a diverse number of ways, enabling residents to fully appreciate and marvel at the natural environment in which Lanchester is situated; providing opportunities to observe and connect with the past, reflect on its significance and importance within busy lifestyles and to take time out to think about the present and what the future holds. In addition to being significant as an element of Lanchester's heritage, the views of the Parish also form a vital component in community life today, feeding in to recreation, leisure, and social activities.



Fig. 19 LHA 42 View east and west along old railway line



Fig. 20 LHA 75 View east and west at Knitsley Viaduct



Fig. 21 LHA 122 Views from Margery Flatts in all directions



Fig. 22 LHA 71 View south and west from NZ17058 48049, over village and fields



Fig. 23 LHA 197 View from the Ridgeway to the west, over countryside and the valley



Fig. 24 LHA 198 View and open space from Briardene cul-de-sac looking north west



Fig. 25 LHA 68 View from Front Street looking north-east towards Black Woods.



Fig. 26 LHA 49 View from Paste Egg Bank over village



Fig. 27 LHA 115 View north east from Lanchester Bypass (A691), over the landscape to the east of the village



Fig. 28 LHA 86 View of Front Street



Fig. 29 LHA 46 View south east from Lanchester House, through mature trees to the village centre



Fig. 30 LHA 52 View west across village from Peth Bank



Fig. 31 LHA 127 View south west looking from the direction of Colepike Road, away from the village and towards Cadger Bank and the Roman Fort.



Fig. 32 LHA 126 View west from Deneside across the village



Fig. 33 LHA 128 Views either side of Newbiggen Lane, midway between Margery Flatts and the Ridgeway



Fig. 34 LHA 130 Views either side of Newbiggen Lane up to Humberhill Lane showing several plantation tree strips between fields



Fig. 35 LHA 100 View over open land including Alderdene Burn off Broadoak Drive



Fig. 36 LHA 103 Views from country road looking south east over farmland, woods, trees and stone walls

Gazetteer of heritage assets

4.1 A full gazetteer of the Heritage Assets of Lanchester can be viewed at the Parish Council office at Lynwood House.

References

4.2 References consulted in relation to individual heritage assets are listed in the Gazetteer of Heritage Assets.

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Contributors

4.3 The following local people contributed to the project.

Cath Bailey	Jill Gladstone	Brian Naylor
Steve Bailey	Fiona Green	Tina Patterson
Michael Carr	Michael Horsley	Chris Phillips
Terri Edwards	Paul Jackson	Wendy Phillips
David Friesner	Sally Laverick	Mike Wardle
John Gall	Jane Laycock	Madelaine Williams
Rosy Gall	Marian Morrison	



NORTH *of* ENGLAND CIVIC TRUST