

## Cleadon

The earliest recorded evidence of human activity at Cleadon is provided by prehistoric flint artifacts (HER 883). The first documentary reference to Cleadon village (HER 963) is in the Boldon Book of 1183; it is also mentioned in Hatfield's Survey of 1380. However, since Cleadon is listed with Whitburn, it is not possible to give any idea of the number of tenants and holdings particular to either. Cleadon lies at the junction of 4 roads, from South Shields, Whitburn, Sunderland and from the west along the north side of Boldon Flats. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey, which may represent its medieval and later layout, shows the village with a squarish outline and western extension; two rows face a very wide street with a pond, which is still there. A number of stone buildings survive to mark the core, though the outskirts are now much built up. Other medieval features of the village include ridge and furrow cultivation features on Cleadon Common Fields (HER 973 and 4911) and the now demolished Cleadon Tower (HER 964), which is thought to date to the 15th or 16th centuries. Five burials were discovered near to Cleadon Tower, perhaps members of the Chambers family from Cleadon House who were excommunicated from the church (HER 5452). A medieval bronze belt tag has also been found at Cleadon (HER 4614). During the 19th century, Tilesheads Farm brick kilns (HER 1582), a windmill (HER 1587), several limestone quarries (HER 2396 and 2399) and a water pumping station (HER 2480) were in operation. The water station opened in 1860 and is still in use pumping water to South Shields. The windmill was used as an artillery base in World War One after it went out of use. Features from the Second World War period include a pillbox, anti-aircraft battery and a searchlight (HER 4652, 4912 and 5541). Cleadon was not heavily industrialised and has retained its rural character with several farms and residences surviving, including Undercliff, West Hall Farm, Sunnyside Farm, West House and Moor Farm.