

Denton

Evidence of human activity found at Denton for the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods include a perforated stone axe hammer found c.1822 near East Denton Hall and an arrowhead from a garden in West Denton (HER 1249 and 1250). Finds and structures from later periods include a number of bronze age cists containing inhumation and cremation burials, along with food vessels (HER 1243-8). There are abundant archaeological finds and remains associated with the Roman Wall (HER 209-212), including a turret discovered in 1928 at Denton Hall and a milecastle in West Denton. A large number of Roman building stones have also been found there (HER 1256-67), as well as an altar discovered near Denton Hall and a Romano-Celtic stone heads discovered in 1969 in a garden at West Denton, 100 metres from Hadrian's Wall (HER 1268 and 1292). The first documentary reference to the village of Denton is its listing as a member of the barony of Whalton in 1166, when it consisted of 9 bondage holdings, 2 freeholdings and 3 cottages. Subsequently, there were three taxpayers in 1296, and six in 1312. The manors of Denton and Redewood (which may have been the early name for East Denton) were granted to Tynemouth Priory in 1381 and remained in priory ownership until the Dissolution. At some point in the medieval period, Denton was split into East and West Denton (HER 1303 and 1305), each with its own main residence, or hall (HER 1304 and 5761) - the 17th century Denton Hall (HER 1304) is all that remains of the original manor or village of East Denton. A chapel (HER 1299) was operational in East Denton at least as early as 1194 until around 1548. It is thought to have been located south-west of Denton Hall where discoveries were made in the 19th century of a font, building stones and coffins. During the 19th century Denton became important for coal mining and quarrying, along with its related transport infrastructure which included the Newcastle to Carlisle toll road (HER 3945) next to the line of Hadrian's Wall. East Denton was home to the Montague Colliery, Caroline pit (HER 4289). During the industrial period in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Denton grew as a residential area serving the coal-mines and heavy industries close to the River Tyne.