

Fawdon

There is no recorded evidence for early human activity at, or in the immediate vicinity of Fawdon, although this is likely to be the result of lack of fieldwork in the area, rather than the absence of potential. The first reference to Fawdon by name is from 1242, showing that Fawdon village (HER 1352) was well-established in the medieval period as a member of the barony of Whalton. There were four taxpayers there in 1312. Sometime before 1346, Fawdon was acquired by William of Heselrig, and remained in that family until 1763, following which it was bought by Matthew Bell of Woolsington. Some impression of the original form of the medieval and post-medieval settlement can be gained by examining historic maps, including one of 1730 show an irregular cluster of buildings around the bend in Fawdon lane, the road from Newcastle towards Brunton Lane. The settlement cluster probably formed just two farms, or steadings, one on each side of the road, one of which, Red House Farm, is an 18th century building perhaps with earlier sections. The farms, plus Fawdon House, made up the village in the mid 19th century. From the beginning of the 19th century, Fawdon became associated with coal mining. Fawdon Colliery opened in 1810 along with Fawdon Old Pit (HER4011). Wagonways served for the transportation of coal, including Fawdon Wagonway (HER 1078) which connected with the Seaton Burn Wagonway at Wideopen. Fawdon Colliery ceased production in the late 19th century.