

Heaton

The earliest recorded evidence of pre-medieval activity in Heaton is the recorded find of pieces of Roman building stone (HER 1415) at Heaton flint mill in the early 20th century. The first documentary references to Heaton or Heaton manor (HER 1420) date from 1157, showing that Heaton village (HER 1406) had been established by the medieval period. Heaton is first referred to in 1157 as Hactona, a member of the barony of Ellingham; and in 1279 as Hoton. Its name has been interpreted as 'haugh-ton', the village on the haugh of the Ouse Burn. There were five taxpayers in 1296, and eight in 1312. Throughout the later there seem to have been about eight farms at Heaton. By the 18th century, the three farms in the Ridley West Heaton section were isolated, and of the five in the White East Heaton estate most were irregularly clustered on the east side of a north-south road (the modern Heaton Road) at its junction with one road to the east (perhaps Rothbury Terrace) and another to the west (Jesmond Vale Lane). The west side of the north-south road is today Heaton Park, the east side completely covered by housing. Sites and features dating from around this time include King Johns Palace (HER 116), also known as the Camera of Adam of Jesmond, built in the 13th century and probably in use until the early 17th century. A chapel (HER 1398) also belongs to this period and it was long thought that King John's Well (HER 1394) was also of medieval origin, although recent work has suggested much more recent origins. The remains of an early 18th century windmill (HER 4140), used to grind corn and flour can be seen in Heaton Park close to King John's Palace. During the 18th and 19th centuries, Heaton was heavily involved in coal mining. Heaton Colliery (HER 4152) along with associated pits including Heaton High Pit (HER 4031) and Middle Pit were in use until the end of the 19th century. Accidents at the pits were common: Seventy five miners starved to death when they were trapped at Heaton Colliery after it flooded in 1815, and at the High Pit an accident occurred in 1850 which resulted in many miners being trapped underground. The mound known as The Spinney in Heaton Park supposedly marks where the bodies lie. During the 19th century Heaton Station (HER 4159) opened as part of the North Eastern Railway, but was later replaced by West Heaton Station. Until the end of the 19th century settlement at Heaton remained highly dispersed, centred on the presumed medieval core (see above) with small outlying settlements at farms such as Low and High Heaton and the pit sites. Corn Mills such as Heaton Mill and Busy Cottage Mill continued to operate until the later 19th century on the Heaton side of the Ouseburn, along with other small-scale industries such as lime-burning and quarrying. The present housing estates, their associated public buildings and infrastructure of roads and services were built in response to the demand for improved housing from an increasingly mobile population, mainly in the first half of the 20th century following the closure of the mines and other smaller scale industrial concerns in the area. The late 19th century and early 20th century also saw the creation of pleasure grounds such as Heaton Park (HER 5005) which was based upon the gardens of Heaton Hall (HER 1401), a grand residence built c.1713 and demolished in the mid 20th century, and extended from a little south of the Hall to King John's Palace in the north.