

Hebburn

The earliest recorded evidence of human activity at Hebburn is a Roman coin (HER 970) found in 1926. The first documentary reference to Hebburn (Heabyrn) is a grant to Aldwin of the vill of Jarrow and its appendages in a late 11th century document by Bishop Walcher, showing that the village (HER 978) had been established by this relatively early date in the medieval period. It then became the property of the prior and convent of Durham. In 1430 2 parts of the vill (6 messuages, 260 acres) were held freehold by one set of people, and one third (3 messuages, 96 acres +) by another. In 1504, when the prior and convent exchanged land with the Grays, the "town and fields" of Hebburn were described as lying on the boundary between the two holdings. The village is apparently shown on the south side of this road on Gibson's map of 1788. The road was rerouted north of the hall in the late 18th century and the original village may have disappeared with the extension of the park which seems to have followed. Hebburn Hall (HER 1951), built in the 17th century and subsequently altered, is said to have been built on the site of an old Pele Tower (HER 979), part of which was incorporated in the 17th century house. Hebburn became industrialised in the 18th-20th centuries, largely due to its riverside location and accessibility to sources of coal. Coal mining in Hebburn itself was relatively late to develop due to the problems associated with deep mining, but the many pits of Hebburn Colliery (HER 2228, 2235 and 2241) flourished in the 19th century. Elsewhere in Hebburn, brick works (HER 2223 and 2233), fireblack works (HER 2224), chemical works (HER 2232 and 2503), and a foundry were all important parts of the local industrial economy. Perhaps most important of all, however, was shipbuilding which developed from an early date at yards such as the Hawthorn Leslie Shipyard and the Newcastle Shipbuilding Company Ltd. (HER 2227 and 2504), both of which opened in the mid 19th century. In the 20th century engineering companies such as the Reyrolles Engineering Works (HER 1585) which opened in 1906 and eventually spread over an area of 44 acres, held important positions in the economic and social life of the area. Industrialisation also led to an increasing population and the construction on farm and estate lands of large-scale housing developments with associated public buildings, such as schools and churches, as well as a service infrastructure. For example, Hebburn Cemetery (HER 5234) and the Carr-Ellison Park (HER 5218) were built in the former grounds of Hebburn Hall. The North Eastern Railway, Newcastle and South Shields branch (HER 2509), also a 19th century construction associated with industrial development and urbanisation, was recently converted for use as part of the modern Tyne and Wear Metro system.