

Kibblesworth

The earliest recorded evidence of possible human activity at Kibblesworth is a single-ditched rectilinear enclosure visible on aerial photographs as a cropmark (HER 4843 and 4844). The first documentary reference to the name Kibblesworth (HER 648) is in a charter of Bishop Puiset, dated 1180, in which a Roger de Kibblesworth is named as a witness. In 1368 he died in possession of the 'upper hall' and half the vill, and his four heirs divided the property. The shape of the village, an irregular two-row plan with a green, is still apparent despite many later alterations. Ridge and Furrow cropmark features of medieval or later origin survive in places (HER 4611), although some of these remains have recently been partly built over. Moor Mill and Moor Mill Farm (HER 666 and 3769) are substantially 18th and 19th century in date, although the water mill at least may have its origins in the medieval period. Riding Farm (HER 972) also has medieval origins and a number of other farms in the vicinity, including Cooper House Farm (HER 4691) and Kibblesworth South and East farms may well also have origins earlier than their surviving structures suggest (HER 1928-9) – the latter has a date stone of 1744. Kibblesworth Colliery (HER 3770) opened in 1717 and mining continued in the area until the closure of Bewicke Main colliery in the 20th century. Traces of other industrial activities in the area are relatively slight (e.g. HER 1027) and, despite the development of some housing associated with the mining industry, Kibblesworth retained its rural character in the industrial period rather more than other parts of the county. Amongst later sites of interest, the remains of a rifle range (HER 5295) at Kibblesworth date to the early 20th century, predating the First World War, while the Second World War period is represented by a bombing decoy site.