

Monkseaton

The earliest recorded evidence of human activity at West Monkseaton is a rectilinear enclosure (HER 5102) probably dating from the late Iron Age. Aerial photographs of the site show internal features including partitions and a roundhouse, with an entrance on the north-east side and an old field boundary in the same area. A Roman terracotta lamp has also been reported from Monkseaton (HER 743). The first documentary references to Monkseaton medieval village (HER 741) date from the early 12th century (c.1106-16) when Henry I granted Seton, later to be renamed Monkseaton, to Tynemouth Priory. It was a substantial village in the late 13th century, when Monkseaton Manor (HER 742) was one of 10 manors of Tynemouth Priory, with 15 bondsmen, 10 cotmen and 3 freeholds listed in 1292. Although it suffered severely at the time of the Black Death it recovered, and there were 10 tenants farming there in 1539. It retained its medieval shape and rural character until modern times, appearing on 19th century maps as a very compact settlement with at least five farms in the village together with other substantial 17th and 18th century houses (HER 5858, 5861-2 and 5872-5). Even today, the original street plan largely survives – represented by Front Street, Back Lane, Relton Terrace, Coronation Crescent, Bygate Road, Chapel Lane, Pykerley Road and Percy Terrace - but most buildings were replaced in the 20th century. Remnants of stone walls, however, a cottage of possible medieval origins (HER 587) and a farm in the centre of the south side of the village (HER 5873) survive. Although a largely rural village, coal-mining was practiced on a relatively small-scale for several centuries since at least the Middle Ages when the priors of Tynemouth owned coal pits in the area. A late 16th century mine was drowned out in 1584 (HER 761), but other workings are recorded in the 17th century and continued through into the 19th century (HER 5863-8). Monkseaton Brewery (HER 1151) was in operation between 1803-1930s - in 1938 this was destroyed by fire, but the Monkseaton Arms was rebuilt on the same site.

Monkseaton developed as a residential centre from the late 19th century and from that period boasts two railway stations (HER 1942 and 2156), a Methodist chapel (HER 5870) and several early 20th century Webb gas street lamps (HER 1603, 1605, 1607 and 1610).