



Water Tower on west side of Kitchen Garden

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## Any questions?

Five years ago Alnwick agreed a Neighbourhood Plan that envisaged a more diverse economy. One that offers a range of employment, helps to retain a young and vibrant population, brings investment, creates wealth, and maintains a quality of life that attracts people of all ages to live and work here. The new Local Plan for Northumberland seeks to improve the quality of jobs and skills and attract new business in high value sectors.

- *Alnwick boasts a strong community, an appealing lifestyle, heritage, landscape, coastline and a location between two great cities. Is that enough to convince investors and attract people to live and work here?*
- *Who will benefit if these plans succeed?*
- *Will growth bring the public services, transport and communication infrastructure, choice of housing, and more, that people hope for?*

Join us to discuss these issues, and more, with a panel of experts from Quotient Sciences, Alnwick Medical Group, the Borderlands Place Programme, North of Tyne Combined Authority and Duchess's Community High School.

**November 16<sup>th</sup>**, St James Centre, Pottergate. 7:30 P.M.



# Economy and employment: the Local Plan

*A new Local Plan for Northumberland was adopted in March. This sets the strategic planning policies of the Council, and the scale and distribution of new development to 2036. It shows where new homes, workplaces and facilities will be located and where environment and heritage assets will be protected. It will be the starting point for assessment of all planning applications, and will frame the refresh of our neighbourhood plan. In this extract we look at how the plan describes Northumberland's Economy, Employment, Education and Skills.*

Northumberland makes a major contribution to regional and national prosperity. It is home to major globally competitive and connected companies, niche producers and providers of excellent products and services. Northumberland is at the heart of the northern economy, sitting between the competitive city economies of Newcastle and Edinburgh, with good links to national and international markets via Newcastle Airport, the strategic road and rail network and the Port of Blyth and the region's other sea ports. There is increasingly good digital connectivity, which includes rural parts of the County.

The Northumberland economy has grown steadily in recent years. However, Gross Value Added (GVA), which is an economic measure of the value of goods and services in an area, is lower than both the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) area and national rate of growth. This can be explained by low productivity which points to the need to improve the quality of jobs and skills in Northumberland, and attract new business in higher value sectors.

The structure of the County's economy has undergone substantial change over the past 30 years. There has been a downsizing of the agricultural workforce and the complete departure of deep coal mining. The economy now has a broader base which incorporates manufacturing and certain service sectors. There is particular reliance on the public sector although as elsewhere, this sector has been reducing. Significantly there has been a decline in manufacturing employment, including some of the newer sectors that replaced mining and heavy industry, reflecting national trends. Unlike past periods of change, there has not been a parallel growth in high value service sector employment although there is potential for strong growth.

Northumberland has relatively healthy levels of economic activity and employment with both being greater than the regional rate, (although slightly below the national rate) in 2017. The Northumberland unemployment rate in 2017 was also lower than the regional average, at 5.0% and this has continued to fall.

However, these levels vary significantly across the County. The Plan therefore needs to support a quantitative increase in the number of jobs in the County, in order to provide suitable job opportunities for people to move into employment, alongside support for skills initiatives to enable the County's current labour force to meet the requirements of businesses. The spatial distribution of areas of high unemployment and economic inactivity shows that the issues are most acute in the south-east, pointing to the need to

provide opportunities accessible to this population. However, those living in more peripheral rural parts of the County can struggle to access employment and training opportunities due to the cost and infrequency of public transport.

There are a number of key positive features of the Northumberland economy:

- Small businesses dominate the economy with 89% of enterprises employing fewer than ten people in 2017;
- Many small businesses are leading edge in their sectors and are a vital part of the economy;
- A number of the larger companies are high tech and operate globally;
- New business start-ups are generally resilient, with failure rates below the regional and national average;
- Although the number of new business ventures established is proportionately lower than elsewhere in the UK, in certain settlements, such as Hexham, Morpeth, and Ponteland, it has been relatively healthy.

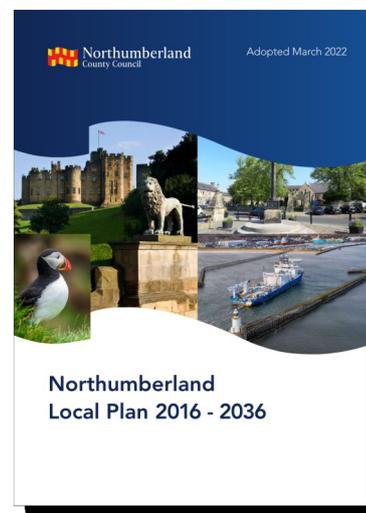
In contrast, the number of large firms is comparatively low, with only 0.2% of the total number of businesses employing over 250 people in 2017, compared to an average of 0.4% across North East England. The wider benefits large firms bring such as supply chain growth and skills development are desirable and it is important therefore that Northumberland is as flexible as possible to accommodate major inward investment and the growth of indigenous businesses.

Northumberland's economy is intrinsically linked to the economies of neighbouring areas, Tyneside in particular. The 2011 Census showed a net outflow of commuters from Northumberland of over 23,000 people – mostly between Northumberland and Tyneside.

Northumberland is operating in a global market and has been successful in focusing on sectors in which it has competitive advantage. The County's economy has core strengths and opportunities in key sectors such as energy, low carbon industries, certain manufacturing and process industries such

as pharmaceuticals and engineering, ports, and tourism. Expansion of production and research and development operations within these sectors has the potential to offer higher value, knowledge based jobs to Northumberland residents, commuters and in-migrants.

The growth of high quality service jobs can be strongly influenced by lifestyle factors, given the ability to attract highly skilled workers. Improving telecommunications will allow for remote operation of such businesses. Northumberland's beautiful and historic market towns and its at-



Is this how we see the future of Alnwick?

## Economy and employment (continued)

tractive rural landscapes provide key opportunities to attract mobile, highly skilled migrants likely to bring or establish such businesses, and to be a focus for business start-ups in creative and knowledge based service industries. Continued improvement in the quality of telecommunications is vital to achieving this. The County offers the scope to attract the higher value service jobs, serving wider markets and growth in the service sector is forecast to be strong whilst there are key opportunities for certain creative and tourist related industries.

However, the geography of Northumberland means that the locations where sites and infrastructure are available, are not always where businesses want to locate, and in particular where the site characteristics complement growth sectors; but the County offers significant opportunity to improve on this position.

The Northumberland labour market in terms of educational attainment, skills, earnings, and forms of employment is geographically and socio-economically split. In 2017 the average weekly earnings of Northumberland residents in full time employment was 8.6% higher than the average weekly earnings of people working in full-time Northumberland based jobs. Looking at average hourly earnings (excluding overtime) the differential is nearer 11%. This illustrates the fact that the County's higher earning and more skilled residents commute out of the County for work.

Northumberland's residents achieve higher qualifications than the North East average, but this is still low when compared to the national figure. This, combined with the lack of appropriate training, could limit the County's ability to

grow and diversify in relation to the national economy. However, the proportion of residents with no qualifications is lower than both the regional and national average.

In terms of school level attainment there has been a steady increase in the percentage of young people in Northumberland attaining 5 or more GCSEs (at A\* to C or an equivalent) – reaching 77% of those aged 16 to 64 years old by 2017, compared to 73% in North East England. Attainment of 2 or more A levels (or equivalent) by young people aged 19 in Northumberland has also increased steadily since 2005. By 2017 54% of those aged 16 to 64 years old had this level of qualification, compared to a North East England figure of 52% .

Turning to Higher Education, looking at the adult population as a whole, (aged 16 to 64) 35% have one or more high level qualifications in 2017– higher than the regional average, but lower than the national average. However, there are geographical variations within the County: there is evidence that the proportion of young people in the south-east entering higher education, equates to only half the proportion doing so from the rest of the County. The North East of England's universities were by far the most popular destinations for undergraduate and postgraduate students, aiding the likelihood of retaining local graduates. As Northumberland does not have a university many people in the 15 to 24 age group leave the County, predominantly for further and higher education and do not return at the same rate. However, Northumberland College, which is the largest training provider in the County, has made and continues to make significant investments in upgrading facilities, and has a strong reputation.

What is most important to Alnwick people?

## Daylight Harvesting

*There is growing interest in innovative ways to improve energy efficiency in historic buildings, driven by the need for action on climate change and pressure to achieve savings on fuel bills.*

Historic England has been investigating lighting conditions in their offices to research what energy savings can be achieved in different types of historic buildings.

Daylight harvesting systems use daylight to offset the amount of electric lighting needed to properly light a space, in order to reduce energy consumption. Lighting control systems are able to dim or switch electric lighting in response to changing daylight availability. Daylight harvesting in office buildings can offset the amount of electric lighting needed, thereby reducing the energy consumed.

Two of the rooms chosen by historic England for their study were at Bessie Surtees House and Millbank House on Sandhill in Newcastle.



In Bessie Surtees House the modelling estimated an annual saving of 582kWh, or 136 kg.CO2 . With electricity prices at the time this equated to a saving of £95.00 a year. In Millbank House the modelling estimated an annual saving of 303kWh, reducing carbon emissions by 71kg.CO2, and a potential saving, at the time, of about £50.00.

There's more background, details of how the study was carried out, and results from different buildings on the Historic England Research site:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/research/daylight-harvesting-and-historic-buildings/>

Office	kwh Before	kwh After	kwh Saving	4Q21	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22
Ave price, (pence per kwh) Non-domestic, Very large				0.16	0.17	0.18		
Bessie Surtees House	1184	602	582	£95	£100	£102		
Millbank House	619	316	303	£50	£52	£53		
Cost increase					5%	2%		

# A Glance at Alnwick: Pastimes and festivals

George Lingwood was born in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, around 1822. He moved to Alnwick in 1842. Originally trained as a brazier, George was employed by plumbers Wilkin and Dickman until he was forced to retire by ill-health. He was an advocate of abstinence from alcohol, and a member of the Order of Rechabites; a founding member of the Alnwick Workingmen's Annual Provident Society; and librarian at the Mechanics' Institute for forty-one years. He also contributed articles and poems to the local newspaper under the nom-de-plume of "Aln Brae," and he was the local correspondent for the Northern Daily Express.

George lived in Percy Street, at the Mechanics' Institute, and died in 1903 at the age of 81.

George had a younger sister, Martha, who stayed in Suffolk. In 1848, six years after he moved north he compiled a hand-written book about Alnwick and his life here, and dedicated it to Martha. This is how he described Pastimes and Festivities at the time.

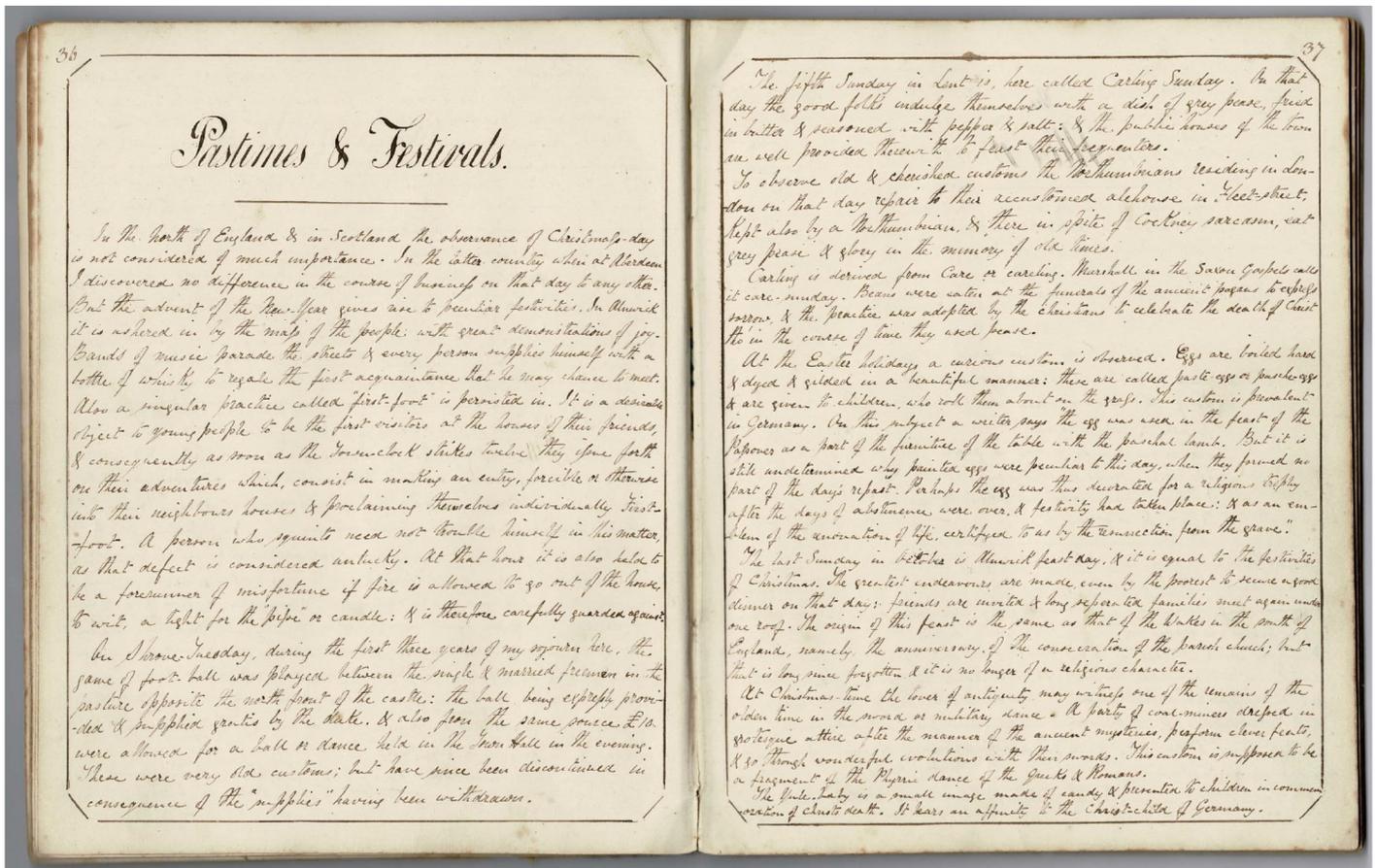
In the north of England and in Scotland the observance of Christmas day is not considered of much importance. In the latter country when at Aberdeen I discovered no difference in the course of business on that day to any other. But the advent of the New Year gives rise to peculiar festivities. In Alnwick it is ushered in by the mass of the people with great demonstrations of joy. Bands of music parade the streets and every person supplies himself with a bottle of whisky to regale the first acquaintance that he may chance to meet. Also a singular practice called "first-foot" is persisted in. It is a desirable object to young people to be the first visitor at the house of their friends and consequently as soon as the Town clock strikes twelve they issue forth on their adventures which consist in making an entry, forcible or otherwise, into the neighbours' houses

and proclaiming themselves individually First-Foot. A person who squints need not trouble himself in this matter, as that defect is considered unlucky. At that hour it is also held to be a forerunner of misfortune if fire is allowed to go out of the house, to wit, a light for the "pipe" or candle. It is therefore carefully guarded against.

On Shrove Tuesday, during the first three years of my sojourn here, the game of football was played between the single and married freemen in the pasture opposite the north front of the castle: the ball being expressly provided and supplied gratis by the duke. And also from the same source £10 were allowed for a ball and a dance held in the Town Hall in the evening. These were very old customs; but have since been discontinued in consequence of the "supplies" having been withdrawn.

The fifth Sunday in Lent is here called Carling Sunday. On that day the good folks indulge themselves with a dish of grey pease, fried in butter and seasoned with pepper and salt and the public houses of the town are well provided therewith to feast their frequenters. To observe old and cherished customs the Northumbrians residing in London on that day repair to their accustomed alehouse in Fleet Street. Kept also by a Northumbrian and there, in spite of Cockney sarcasm, eat grey pease and glory in the memory of old times.

Carling is derived from Care or Careling. Marshall in the Saxon Gospels calls it care-Sunday. Beans were eaten at the funerals of the ancient pagans to express sorrow & the practice was adopted by the Christians to celebrate the death of Christ tho' in the course of time they used pease.



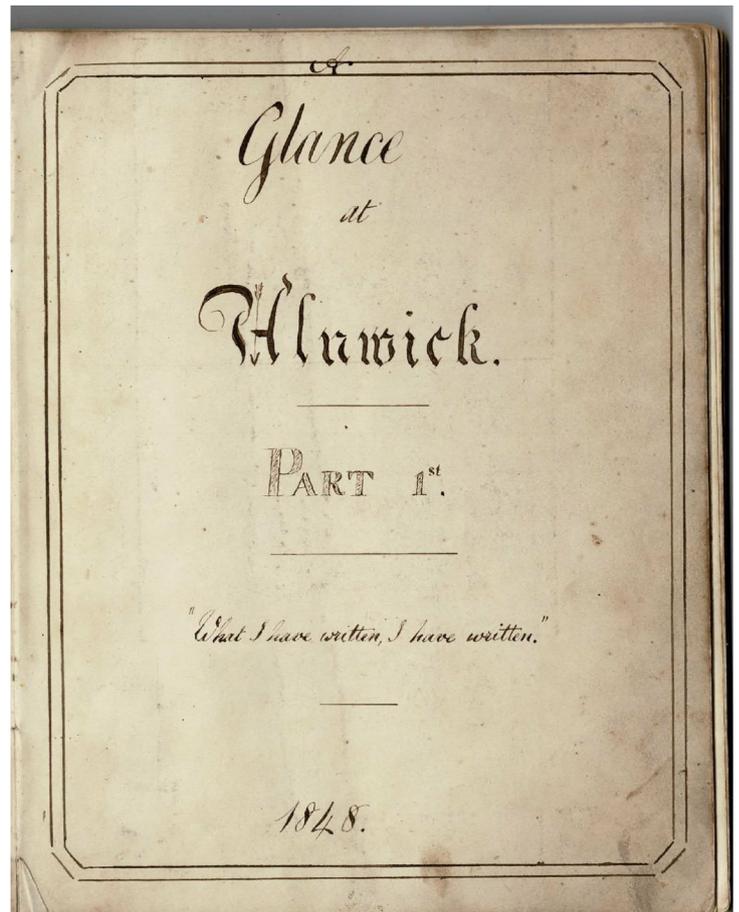
## ...Pastimes and festivals (continued)

At the Easter holidays a curious custom is observed. Eggs are boiled hard and dyed and gilded in a beautiful manner: these are called paste eggs or pasche eggs and are given to children who roll them about the grass. This custom is prevalent in Germany. On this subject a writer says "the egg was used in the feast of the Passover as a part of the furniture of the table with the paschal lamb. But it is still undetermined why painted eggs were peculiar to this day when they formed no part of the day's repast. Perhaps the egg was thus decorated for a religious trophy after the days of abstinence were over and festivity had taken place. And as an emblem of the renovation of life certified to us by the resurrection from the grave".

The last Sunday in October is Alnwick feast day and it is equal to the festivities of Christmas. The greatest endeavours are made even by the poorest to secure a good dinner on that day. Friends are invited and long separated families meet again under one roof. The origin of this feast is the same as that of the Wakes in the south of England. Namely the anniversary of the consecration of the parish church. But that is long since forgotten and it is no longer of a religious character.

At Christmas time the lover of antiquity may witness one of the remains of the olden time in the sword or military dance. A party of coal miners dressed in grotesque attire after the manner of the ancient mysteries perform clever feats and go through wonderful evolutions with their swords. This custom is supposed to be a fragment of the Phyrriic Dance of the Greeks and Romans.

The Yule baby is a small image made of candy and presented to children in commemoration of Christ's death. It bears an affinity to the Christ Child of Germany.



George's book can now be viewed in the Study Centre at Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn. It is catalogue number NRO 12440. Our thanks to Northumberland Archives for their permission to publish this extract, to Peter Fletcher for letting us see George's Book, before he donated it to Northumberland Archives, and to Lorna Gilroy for facilitating the donation, and helping to prepare these notes.

## Building Stone Atlas of Northumberland

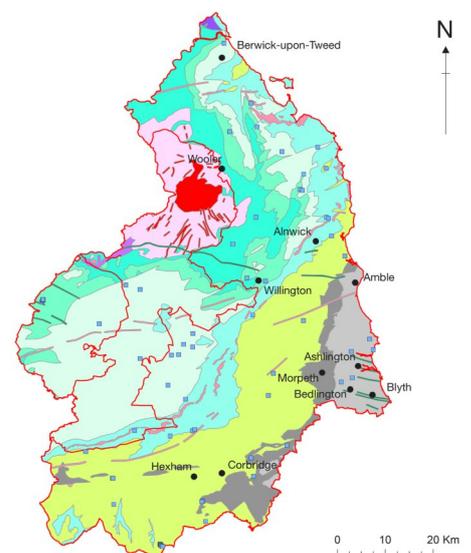
In August members enjoyed our visit to Howick Bay, and learned something of our fascinating local geology.

Stone has been used for centuries as a versatile and durable building material. Buildings in Alnwick, like anywhere else, have made use of a variety of materials, but the main walling material is local sandstone. In different parts of town this has sometimes been laid as ashlar and sometimes as coursed rubble. There is a variety of carved detail, especially in the town centre. Throughout, the texture and warm buff colour contributes to the special character of our town.

Similarly, stone plays an important role in defining the character and 'sense of place' that distinguishes different parts of the UK. So ten years ago Historic England commissioned a set of atlases that describe the building stones of each English county. The Northumberland atlas describes how different sediments stretch across the county, generally becoming younger from the Scottish Border to the Coal Measures in the south-east. Each group is described, with illustrations of how it has been used as a building material. There is also a guide to further reading.

The atlas can be found here:

[https://www2.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/buildingStones/StrategicStoneStudy/EH\\_atlases.html](https://www2.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/buildingStones/StrategicStoneStudy/EH_atlases.html)



## Iron Bridge

The world's first large iron bridge was erected across the River Severn in 1779. The second, across the River Wear at Sunderland was opened in 1796. By 1812, when this cast-iron bridge in Hulne Park was constructed, cast iron was generally considered a suitable material for bridges. Thomas Telford had built four bridges in cast iron. But in the North-East, long experience with stone, and the collapse of a cast-iron bridge at Yarm in 1806 had an influence on the choice of materials. Across Northumberland and Durham twenty bridges had to be substantially rebuilt after serious floods between 1771 and 1815. All but one were rebuilt in stone. So the choice of cast iron here is both early and rare. The next iron bridge in the North-East would be across the River Gaunless: built by George Stephenson in 1823 for the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

The Hulne Park Iron Bridge was designed by David Stephenson (1757–1819). No relation to George or Robert, David's father was John Stephenson, a carpenter who came to prominence after taking just four months to construct a temporary wooden bridge that replaced the medieval Tyne Bridge after it collapsed in the flood of 1771.

Beginning his career as an apprentice carpenter, like his father, David Stephenson studied mathematics, geometry and drawing. He then turned to architecture, and studied

at the Royal Academy in London from 1782. He married after returning to Newcastle, became architect to the Corporation and laid out Mosley Street and Dean Street, where some of his work survives. He also worked on internal restoration of St Nicholas Cathedral, and widened the Georgian Tyne Bridge.

He had wider influence: John Dobson served his architectural apprenticeship with Stephenson from 1804 to 1809. Supposedly it was Stephenson who encouraged Dobson to resist the temptations of London and establish his career in Newcastle. Stephenson became a founding member of the Literary and Philosophical Society and an early member of The Society of Antiquaries. In 1803, when there were fears of invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte, he organised and commanded a defensive company of volunteers.

For the Duke of Northumberland Stephenson superintended construction of numerous farm buildings and designed a new quay at North Shields which was never completed. In Alnwick his best-known work is the Percy Tenantry Column.

David Stephenson died here, in Alnwick on 29th August 1819. He is buried at one of his most important works: All Saints Church, in Newcastle, which he adapted from a scheme for Saint Martin-in-the-Fields, London.



"An extremely attractive bridge it is arguably the best of the Hulne Park bridges."

# News in Brief

Alnwick's Heritage Open Days in 2022 recorded 40% more visitors than last year, involved a wider range of organisations and more than 50 volunteers, earned positive feedback from both visitors and participating organisations and was delivered within budget. We estimate that the number of visitors exceeded 400 and the economic benefit was in the region of £12,500. Having met the objectives for a second year, now is the time to consider how best to take this forward. We are considering whether to update the objectives, and some possible changes in format.



- Gold awards for Swansfield Park School, and St. Paul's Court. Silver Gilt for Alnwick Cemetery, Bullfield Community Orchard, St. James's Allotment



- In "It's Your Neighbourhood": Hope House Lane and Meadow Riggs Jubilee Orchard, and the Pottergate Centre rated 'Outstanding'; St Georges Community Allotment, and Alnwick Infirmary Sensory Garden rated 'Thriving' and Graham's Yard was 'Advancing'.

The National Library of Scotland has added more 19th century plans of Alnwick. These include:

- Alnwick (environs) 1851
- Alnwick mainly 1864.

In effect, the 1851 set covers a wider area at a smaller scale, and there is information on both sets which does not appear on the other. This extract shows the area around Column Field in 1851.

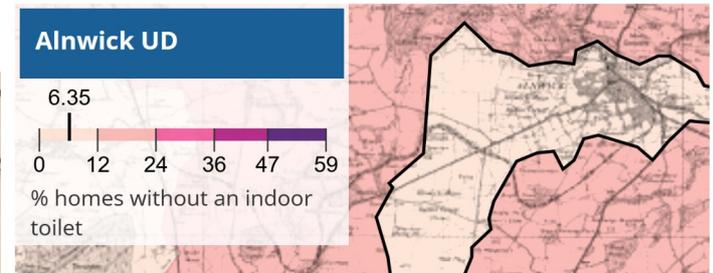


<https://maps.nls.uk/os/townplans-england/towns.html>

Alnwick Forum is a partnership between Northumberland County Council and Alnwick Town Council. They will hold a community "Update and drop-in" event in Northumberland Hall on November 19th to discuss forthcoming developments in the town and collect feedback. The Civic Society plan to have a stand. Please come and say hello.

Congratulations to all involved with Alnwick in Bloom, and especially outgoing chair, Elizabeth Jones for another outstanding year, their 11th Gold and notable achievements across the board:

- Best entry in spring: "A visit to Alnwick in springtime gives a floral festival of flowering cherry trees, daffodils, many other lovely bulbs and colourful attractive bedding in many locations".
- Town Gold award: "Alnwick town is welcoming with beautiful spring and summer bedding schemes and there are many areas with attractive pollinator friendly permanent planting. The huge commitment of many volunteers and businesses plus the community spirit to make Alnwick town even more beautiful are much to be commended".
- Best Pub (John Bull), Hotel / Guest House: (Cookie Jar), Private Garden (Swansfield Park Road), and Visitor Attraction (Alnwick Garden).



Recently digitised data from the 1961 Census shows a variety of detail at a local level that can be used to measure changes over the last sixty years. There's more, but here's one example. What percentage of households in Alnwick had no inside toilet in 1961?

<https://tinyurl.com/5hdz779y>

We are fond of Alnwick Playhouse (1925, by Joseph Oswald). It's a landmark building and an important asset to the town. It has local significance, but for those interested in the national context, and other examples from the same period, Historic England and the Theatres Trust have recently published an introduction to interwar theatres from 1915 to 1945.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/iha-interwar-theatres/>



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PRE-CHRISTMAS HERITAGE OPEN HOUSE AT 1 BAILIFFGATE.

Owners Carl & Michelle Watson will share some of the history of this Grade 2\* listed Georgian townhouse, the renovations undertaken following years of disrepair and plans to further protect and preserve the building for the future.

Mulled wine and festive nibbles will be provided!

Date: 10 December 2022

Time: 2pm to 4pm



# Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment

*It is five years since the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan was agreed, and around ten years since work on it began. Much has been learned since. While the town council considers a refresh, Historic England has been updating their advice. We hope members with an interest in this part of our work will explore their thinking and we look forward to hearing your views.*

Historic England describe themselves as the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's historic environment. The regulations on Neighbourhood Planning mean that they have to be consulted on most plans, and they have developed material on Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment that is aimed at all involved in the process. That includes:

- Neighbourhood forums, parish councils and community groups (such as Alnwick Civic Society)
- Consultants who have been commissioned to help prepare neighbourhood plans
- Local authorities who are working with communities on neighbourhood plans

The Historic England material addresses the importance and role of the historic environment in the neighbourhood planning process.

- As a first step community groups are encouraged to consider local heritage and its role. A neighbourhood plan can help to guide how heritage will be conserved, while it is adapted to modern needs
- What evidence is needed will depend on what the plan sets out to do. To start, it is necessary to find out what people in the local community value about the area and make a list of the heritage assets. Other guidance helps with gathering further evidence such as making character and archaeological assessments of the area or conducting a survey of buildings at risk
- The material on policy writing also poses other questions that need to be considered. For example: opportunities for heritage-led regeneration, economic, social and environmental dimensions, encouraging tourism, attracting inward investment



## Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment

Historic England Advice Note 11 (Second Edition)



- Case studies give a glimpse into the range of approaches taken across the country
- Sources of further information include other guidance on neighbourhood planning, advice from statutory consultees, information on the historic environment and assessment tools
- Communities preparing a Parish Plan or Village Design Statement will consider their past in the same way as those preparing a neighbourhood plan

### ADNP: List of Heritage Assets

Evidence collected during the original Neighbourhood Planning process included the following existing designated and undesignated heritage assets in Alnwick and Denwick:

- Conservation Areas - Alnwick Conservation Area
- Protected Historic Buildings and Sites – 340 Listed Building entries, 14 Scheduled Monuments and a number of unlisted but Significant Buildings, some of which are in the conservation area and others which

could be included in a Local List for Alnwick and Denwick

- Historic Spaces – Market Place and other historic townscape spaces
- Outstanding Historic urban approach – entrance into Alnwick town from the north via B6341, across the Lion Bridge and up The Peth into the town centre
- Significant Historic urban views – including historic townscape views in Canongate, Bailiffgate, Pottergate, Bondgate Within and Bondgate Without

- Landscape Heritage – Historic Park and Garden (Grade I and very large), several characterful landscapes, historic field boundaries and protected trees
- Industrial Archaeology – combines grand listed buildings like Alnwick Railway Station (former), the upstanding remains of previous railway buildings and the developing Aln Valley Railway with historic industrial landscape features including track beds, bridges and embankments that remain from previous rail routes.

# Neighbourhood Planning (continued)

In April Historic England updated their advice note on Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment (left). This second edition is more readable, and takes account of recent policy changes. There is more about non-designated heritage, increased emphasis on design, and there are new supporting resources.

The main guidance begins with the foundations of why teams should consider the historic environment when preparing a plan. This culminates in a checklist of relevant issues to consider, followed by an overview of what this means in terms of evidence gathering.

The historic environment is only one of the issues to consider during plan preparation, alongside economic and social considerations. The third section of the advice note focuses on translating evidence into policy, mindful of this bigger picture and including links between the different elements of sustainable development. It is complemented by case studies.

The fourth section outlines the role and process of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and the fifth section describes the role of Historic England in neighbourhood planning.

Supplementary material includes:

- An Information Sheet on Identifying and promoting local character. Character policies help to provide clarity for decision-making and certainty for both the community and developers about what new development in their area should be like. Providing appropriate parameters, such as a limit to or mix of scales, or the most appropriate mix of materials, allows applicants to think innovatively whilst being able to respond to local distinctiveness
- An Information Sheet on Promoting the conservation of heritage assets, such as identifying heritage interest as part of evidence-gathering, and, potentially, by developing a list of heritage assets that are locally valued
- An Information Sheet on Integrating heritage into wider agendas, such as Identifying preferred economic and/or social outcomes, Heritage at Risk,

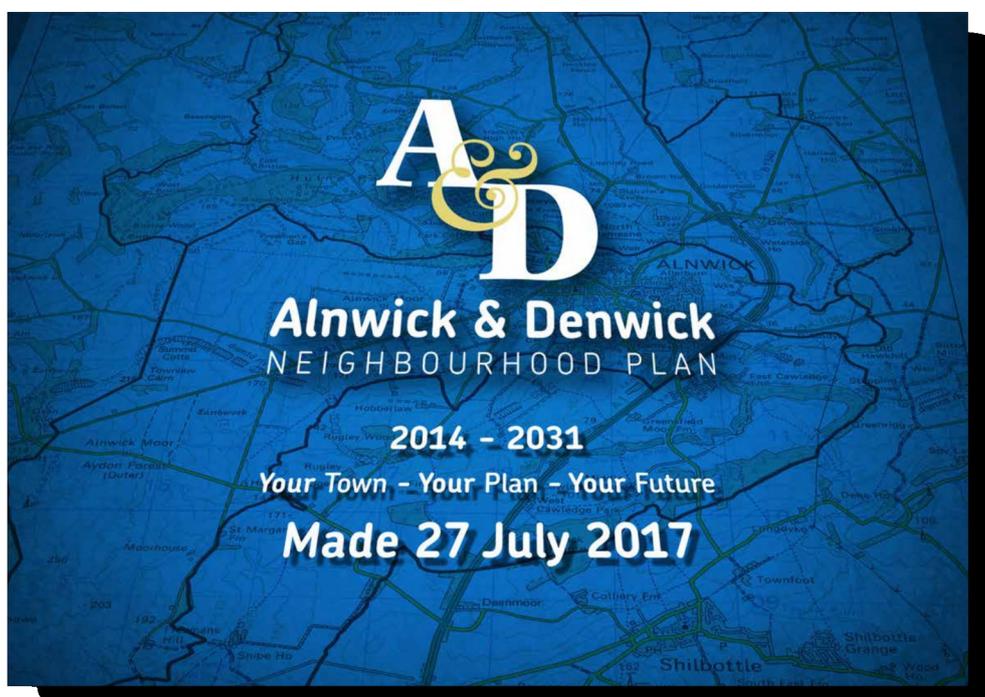
## ADNP: Overall approach

Because the considerable heritage and design quality of Alnwick and Denwick adds much to the quality of life and economic well-being of residents as well as greatly to the enjoyment of the many visitors, the approach was to cherish and add value to the historic environment of both town and village. So policies and proposals for this historic environment were formulated to:

- protect and sustain the use and fabric of the built heritage
- enhance and regenerate the settings of this built heritage
- inform the design of new development so that it is appropriate and adds value to its townscape and landscape context
- monitor the condition of historic fabric for timely action
- promote the attraction of the historic environment of Alnwick and Denwick.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation, Funding Streams. Historic England believe that people can be encouraged to be innovative, investment, entrepreneurship, tourism and employment can be stimulated through careful consideration of the opportunities that heritage can provide, including how best to integrate new development into an existing place

- An Information Sheet on Site Allocations - the Historic environment considerations that need to be taken into account when seeking to develop specific sites in a neighbourhood plan.



## Web sites:

Historic England: Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/improve-your-neighbourhood/>

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan:

<http://www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk/>

## Planning Matters

At 8, Percy Street there is an application for a number of changes, including new roof, windows and doors. We objected on the basis that the choice of some materials is inappropriate for a listed building in the conservation area. For consistency with other recent applications, any new window frames, sashes and doors should be in timber. The Town Council raised no objection.

The Archaeology Data Service has published a collection of more than 150 images from Historic Building Recording of the former Duchess School in Bailiffgate. The recording was undertaken by Archaeological Services, Durham University between January and February 2019. Here for example, is No. 4 Bailiffgate, home at different times to the Castle librarian and the headmistress of the Duchess's School. The collection is at

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/1004699/>

A previous application for treatment of windows on the former Duchess High School at 2 Bailiffgate was rejected on the basis that it led to 'less than substantial harm' to a Grade II\* listed heritage asset that had not been demonstrated as necessary or justified. A new application updates the case for window repair & replacement, and fewer windows are now to be replaced, but the Conservation officer still recommends refusal, and Alnwick Town Council object, on the basis that the proposed changes do not address their concerns. This is a challenging application, which we hoped could provide a benchmark for future window replacement applications. However, the Conservation Officer correctly identified that it fails to address the issues that led to the previous rejection, and fails to satisfy the test applied nationally by Historic England. Owners of Alnwick's built heritage have a keen interest in what can be done to improve the energy efficiency of their traditional buildings. We felt we had to object. A high profile project by a prominent developer on an important building should set an example of good practice. It would be disappointing if that is not the outcome here, and if the authorities are unwilling to apply national policy in this case then they will have to clarify what local policy they intend to follow for other cases.



We have objected to the proposed signage for Story Homes on Denwick Lane, particularly the 5.5m flag and 4m illuminated monolith. These are out of keeping with policy in the Neighbourhood Plan which seeks to reinforce attractive entrances and routes into the town.



While it is gratifying that a sustainable use has been found for the former RAFA club that does not require the insertion of a second door into the frontage. An earlier alteration resulted in the loss of original fenestration at the rear of this unique building. Rather than taking advantage of this opportunity to reinstate the original design, these proposals reinforce the loss.

A Discharge of Conditions from the Alnwick Garden provides more detail on the design and implementation plan for Lilidorei play village. We felt we had nothing of value to contribute, so we did not comment.



When we saw the application for replacement stonework at 6, Lisburn St. we decided not to comment, but we did notice the attention to detail. So we were pleased to see the application approved and work under way.

Maintenance of the Tenantry Column is welcome, but we anticipate that reinstating the lighting will augment appreciation of this important landmark and hence draw attention to the poor condition of the Coade Stone Lions. We hope the opportunity will be taken to assess whether the lighting redesign complies with current standards on light pollution, energy efficiency, environmental and wildlife impacts, and appropriate control systems as well as ensuring that luminaires do not mar the daytime view of the monument, and that there is adequate protection against potential vandalism.

### Situation Vacant

A vacancy has arisen in our elite Tree Team

Trees are a widespread and characteristic feature of Alnwick, and they make an important contribution to the character and appearance of our town.

Protection of existing trees is essential if we are to maintain our distinctive townscape and its setting. Development that damages or results in the loss of an important tree is not acceptable, and where a valuable tree must be lost then it ought to be replaced.

Our Tree Team plays a vital role: working with like-minded groups to raise awareness of the value of Alnwick's Trees, maintaining a watch over their condition, and scrutinising developments that could result in damage or loss.

No special expertise is required, but a keen interest is. If you can help please email [treeteam@alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:treeteam@alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk)

NCC has formally adopted the Alnwick Shopfront Design Guide that we helped develop a couple of years ago. Adoption does not change the guidance, but the document now has the status of a "material consideration" in determining planning applications.

Interested in the history of a building? Some information on planning applications and decisions dating back to 1974 is already available online, and more is being added for the period 1974-2008. <https://public-access.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do>

# Quiz: I-Spy Curiosities

Our county is famed for historical sites. There are 5,609 structures in Northumberland that are considered important enough to be protected by national listing. We are surrounded by Roman, Iron Age and earlier remains, Christian heritage, Medieval defences, Stately homes, and Industrial legacy.

So for a change we are sidelining the obvious, and dedicating this quiz to some of our more quirky heritage. All of these examples are considered to be of national importance, and all lie within 25 miles of Alnwick.

How many can you identify? Answers on the back page.



## Diary dates

**Nov 16<sup>th</sup>:** Any Questions, St. James, Pottergate at 7:30 p.m. Our annual debate of topical local issues. All are welcome. (See front page)

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup>:** Alnwick Forum, community "Update and drop-in" at Northumberland Hall

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup>:** 1, Bailiffgate Open House (See page 7)

Lindisfarne Gospels are on display at the Laing Art Gallery until 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

## Some notable anniversaries

2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1984: masked robbers burst into Trustee Savings Bank and escape with money and postal orders worth £15,637

13<sup>th</sup> Nov 1093: Malcolm III of Scotland killed at Battle of Alnwick

19<sup>th</sup> Nov 1309: Bishop Anthony Bek sells Alnwick Castle to Henry Percy

26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021: Wind speeds of 98mph at Brizlee Wood during Storm Arwen

9<sup>th</sup> Dec 1929: Alnwick Playhouse is wired to show talking pictures

20<sup>th</sup> Dec 1993: Council grant permission for retail development at Willowburn. Decision later overturned by inquiry

15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1959: Burnhope Transmitter enters service for launch of Tyne Tees TV. Alnwick lies in a fringe area where an *"acceptable service may be subject to some interference from time to time"*

21<sup>st</sup> Jan 1907: birth of Michael Robert Günter Conzen. His most influential work was a detailed study of Alnwick

29<sup>th</sup> Jan 1968: last passenger train to Alnwick

## About Alnwick Civic Society

Alnwick Civic Society was formed in 1974, following the defeat of proposals to re-develop the town centre with a modern shopping area, and amid growing concerns about the future of our town. Since then, we have sought to influence developments, especially in the town centre and conservation area, to ensure that proposals protect and enhance our heritage.

The Society pursues its objectives through a variety of activities. We provide a voice for members through dialogue with planning and conservation professionals and like-minded organisations. We offer advice, scrutinise and comment on development proposals; recognise excellence; and organise public meetings. Members were heavily involved in development of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, and we work with local partners to influence policy at a county level. We seek to influence national policy by co-operating with other bodies in the civic movement, and the Society was a founding member of Civic Voice.

All who share our aims can support the work of the society: by joining as an individual, family, student, or business member; by participating in activities, sharing ideas, raising areas of concern and pointing out examples of good practice. Or simply by demonstrating pride in our town, and spreading the word about the value of our work.



## Who's Who?

**President:** Peter Ennor

**Trustees:** **Chair:** Peter Reed; **Treasurer and Membership:** Gill Parker; **Honorary Secretary:** Sue Smith; Mary Carter

**Other Executive Committee members:** Elizabeth Jones; Colin Watson; Lorna Gilroy, Allan Mann

**Web:** [www.alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk)

**Email:** [contact@alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:contact@alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk)

**Twitter:** [@AlnwickCivicSoc](https://twitter.com/AlnwickCivicSoc)

**Facebook:** [AlnwickCivicSociety](https://www.facebook.com/AlnwickCivicSociety)

**Instagram:** [alnwickcivicsociety](https://www.instagram.com/alnwickcivicsociety)

**Charity registration number:** 1197235

## Quiz Answers

**A. AA Telephone Box, Beadnell.** A rare survival from around 1,000 such boxes constructed between 1912 and the mid-1960s. Originally these provided shelter for AA patrolmen. Members were later given keys so they could use the phone inside. All were decommissioned between 1968 and 2002. Now just 19 remain, of which 8 are listed.

**B. Gunpowder Store, Seahouses.** Built in 1886 and used when blasting for construction of the new harbour.

**C. Pill Box, Druridge.** Druridge was seen as a potential landing place for a German invasion, so in 1940/41 this pillbox was constructed and disguised as a cottage as part of the Druridge Bay Defence Area.

**D. Guano Shed, Buston Links.** In the 18th century guano was imported from Peru as a fertilizer. Historic England say this was where the guano was stored, a kilometre from Alnmouth, because of the smell. Some question whether they are right, but true or not, we feel for the sailors who brought guano half way round the world.

**E. Signpost, Longhoughton.** Dated by Historic England as late C19th / early C20th this has survived revised guidance of 1921, mandatory standards of 1933, removal of signposts during World War II (so they would not assist an invading army), and 1964 regulations that encouraged local authorities to remove traditional fin-gerposts. In 2005, concerned over loss of heritage, the Department for Transport and English Heritage advised that surviving traditional fingerposts should be retained and maintained.

**F. Mortsafe, St Mary's Church, Holystone.** A metal cage installed in 1815 to thwart grave robbers ("Resurrection Men"), who sold corpses for dissection in medical schools. There's another at Alham and, for the same reason, Watch Houses at St. Mary & St. Michael, Dodington; St. Mary, Belford and St. Mary, Morpeth.

**G. Spindlestone Ducket.** Currently listed by Historic England as a 19th century dovecote but often described as a windmill, which is how it was first listed in 1969. Uncertainty continued until 2017 when a search of the Greenwith Hospital, Spindlestone and Outchester Estates archives revealed that it was built in 1807 as a windmill, but proved unsuccessful.

**H. Nelson Monument, Swarland.** Obelisk erected in 1807 by Alexander Davison as a memorial to his friend Horatio Nelson, who had been killed at the Battle of Trafalgar two years earlier. It is one of several memorials to Nelson that Davison installed on his estate at Swarland, shortly before he was imprisoned for fraud in 1808.