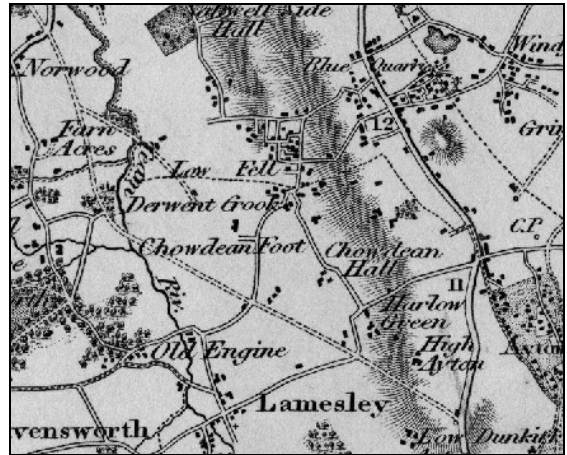


# An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment at Chowdean Lodge, Low Fell, Gateshead



Greenwood's map of 1820, showing Chowdean Foot

Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
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**Archaeological Research Services Ltd Report 2009/21**

February 2009

**Archaeological Research Services Ltd**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*In February 2009 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) were commissioned by Mr & Mrs Wright to undertake an archaeological building recording at Chowdean Lodge, Low Fell, Gateshead. The work was to be carried out prior to any refurbishment that is to be undertaken.*

*Chowdean Lodge is a locally listed building and the building is a good example of middle 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture. Its outward appearance is grand with large ashlar walls and ornate entrance porch, but the interior has seen a lot of degradation caused by a severely damaged roof. Damp has permeated every room of the building having a damaging effect on all plaster work and any wooden features..*

*Although there have been many unsympathetic modern renovations, there are however a number of original features still extant and worth retaining. The skirting boards, dado rails and coving, present in many of the rooms, are original to the property and, although not spectacular in design, do give aesthetic appeal and character to the building. It is recommended that these features be retained in any future work, unless they are in such a poor condition that they cannot be retained.*

*As this building has been derelict for so long, and has seen damage and degradation from vandalism and exposure to the elements, it is proposed that any renovation/refurbishment performed in a sympathetic style would be a benefit to the buildings character and its standing within the surrounding area.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Scope of work

1.1.1. In February 2009 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) were commissioned by Mr & Mrs Wright to undertake an archaeological building recording at Chowdean Lodge, Low Fell, Gateshead (Fig. 1). The work was to be carried out prior to any refurbishment that is to be undertaken.

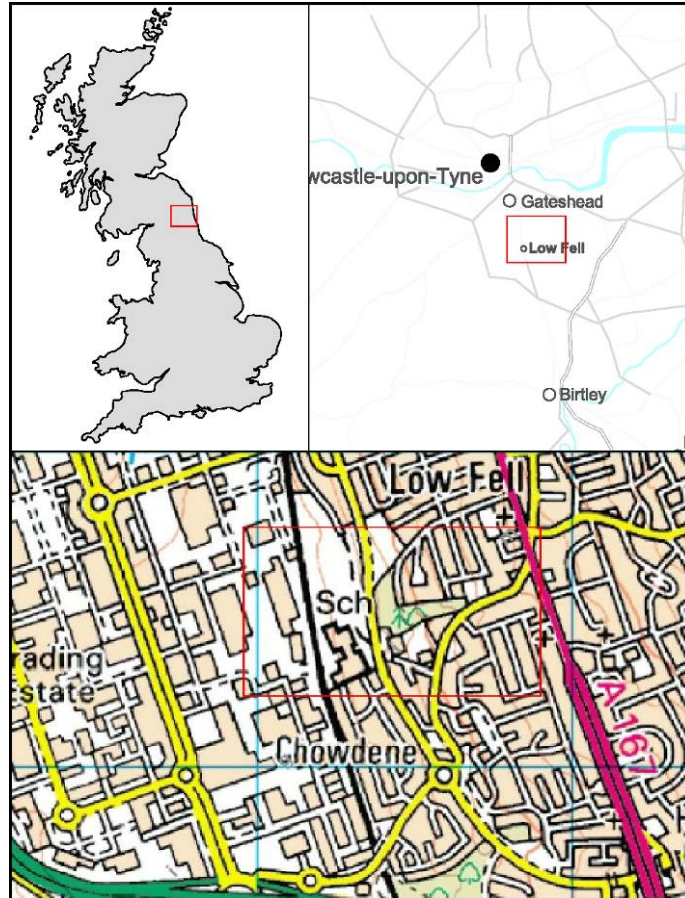


Fig. 1 Site location Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

### 1.2. Location and topography

1.1.2. The site is centred at NZ256593 (Fig. 2) just to the east of the A1. It lies approximately 16 kilometres from the east coast and 5 kilometres south of the River Tyne. The Building is locally listed (Figs. 3 & 4) and therefore an archaeological Building recording has been undertaken in order to assess the archaeological and historical importance of the site.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1. Photographic record**

- 2.1.1. The individual rooms within the building were numbered 1 – 14 (Figs. 3 & 4).
- 2.1.2. A photographic survey was undertaken to create a permanent record of the Lodge. The photographic recording was carried out using Canon EOS 3000v cameras, in black and white and colour print. A number of photographs were taken in low light conditions, in which case a direct flash was used. An appropriate scale (2 metre alternating red and white ranging rod, and a 1 metre alternating black and white ranging rod), and a chalk board showing the location of the shot, were displayed in the photographs where appropriate. Detailed photographs were taken of individual features or areas of interest, which were given individual feature numbers. Photographic registers can be found in Appendix II.

### **2.2. Archive searches**

- 2.2.1. The information within this report has been gathered from a number of sources, both primary and secondary, in accordance with the project specification. The following archives were consulted:

- Tyne and Wear Archives Service (TWAS)
- Durham University, Palace Green Library Archives
- Durham Records Office
- Gateshead Library
- Tyne & Wear HER

### **2.3. Web sources**

- 2.3.1. A number of web sources were consulted in order to assist in the archive searches and to obtain additional information relating to the study area. Those consulted were as follows:

Tyne and Wear HER: <http://www.twsitelines.info>

Structural Images of the North East: <http://sine.ncl.ac.uk/>

English Heritage: <http://www.english-heritage.org/NMR>

Archaeological Data Service: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>

British Geological Survey: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm>

Magic Maps: <http://www.magic.gov.uk/>

### **2.4. Historic mapping**

- 2.4.1. The specification supplied by the County Archaeological Officer stipulated that the final report should include historic map regression to show changes to the site over time. Historic maps were consulted at the archive services listed in section 2.2. Suitable maps were digitally photographed, then scaled and rotated using AutoCAD software. The following maps were included in the regression exercise:

- OS mapping revised 2004
- Ordnance Survey second edition map, 1:2500, 1906
- Ordnance Survey first revision map, 1:2500, 1893
- Ordnance Survey first edition map, 1:2500, 1854
- Hall's map of 1833
- Greenwood's map of 1820

### **3. Historic Background**

3.1. The name Chowdean, originally 'Chowdene' is thought to derive from the old English 'chough' meaning jackdaw, and 'dene' meaning small narrow wooded ravine. 'Chow Dene' and 'Chow Den' have also been used in reference to the area. For continuity in this document, 'Chowdean' will be used.

#### **3.2. Prehistoric Period**

3.2.1. There is no evidence of prehistoric activity within the study area.

#### **3.3. Romano-British Period**

3.3.1. There is no evidence of Roman activity within the study area.

#### **3.4. Medieval Period to Present.**

3.3.1. The first documented evidence of Chowdean was recorded in a ledger of 1671 when 'Sir Thomas Liddell paid £4 per annum for way leave from his pits at Chowdene' (Manders 1973). The reference refers to 'his pits at Chowdene' indicating that mining existed in the area at this time.

3.3.2. An account made by John Wesley in March of 1743 stated while returning to Newcastle from Pelton, 'I observed a little village called Chowden which they told me consisted of collieries only'. These two references to mining in the area suggest that Chowdean began as a colliery village around the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Industry boomed in the area during the 19<sup>th</sup> century up until the present day with a housing increase in Low Fell and the area of Chowdean. Sometime around the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Chowdean Lodge stopped being used as a dwelling and was converted to commercial use, although an exact date cannot be provided for this. From the 1970's the building was used as a hostel for Mencap until they vacated in 2006 leaving the building derelict.

#### **3.5. Locally Listed Buildings**

- HER 7417. Chowdean Bank Boundary Cottages, situated at NZ25855962 in Low Fell, Gateshead.
- HER 7418. Glenbrooke Hall. A 19<sup>th</sup> century house, situated at NZ25765952, Low Fell, Gateshead
- HER 7630. Chowdean Lodge. A 19<sup>th</sup> century house, situated at NZ25435938 in Low Fell, Gateshead.

- HER 7465. Ale Taster. A 19<sup>th</sup> century public house, situated at NZ25875964 in Low Fell, Gateshead.

### **3.6. Building Control Plans**

- 3.6.1. There was no building control plans found for the immediate study area, or within the conservation area.

### **3.7. Trade Directories**

- 3.7.1. There were no Trade directories plans found for the immediate study area, or within the conservation area.

## **4. MAP REGRESSION**

- 4.1. The following section discusses the developments specifically within the study area. The information has been taken from primary sources such as maps, plans and trade directories.

4.2. *Greenwood's map of 1820 (Fig. 5)*

This map shows two references to Chowdean. Chowdean Foot is listed in reference to Chowdean Foot Farm. Chowdean Hall is also listed but due to the scale of the map specific detail cannot be obtained.

4.3. *Hall's map of 1833 (Fig. 6)*

Low fell is shown on this plan, but there is no mention of Chowdean and the scale of the map does not allow for specific detail.

4.4. *1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map of 1854 (Fig. 7)*

This map shows a range of farm buildings occupying the site of Chowdean Lodge prior to its construction. The site is lined with trees, with woodland to the north. North Pit (HER 3777) is situated south east of the study area which would re-enforce the accounts discussed in the archive search above.

4.5. *1<sup>st</sup> Revision OS map of 1893 (Fig. 8)*

This is the first map to show Chowdean Lodge, although it is listed as Chowdene Cottage. To the south of Chowdean Lodge at the entrance to the area, a small building has been constructed (the same building which exists today). Development in Chowdean/ Low Fell had increased by this time, as is evident by the emergence of large dwellings not unlike Chowdean Lodge within the area.

- 4.5.1. To the North east was Earlswood and to the east was Oakfield. Both buildings are comparative in size and of similar layout to the Lodge. Further east, into Low Fell, building numbers have increased with the emergence of terraced housing. The North Pit to the south of the site is now listed as being disused.

4.6. *2<sup>nd</sup> Revision OS map of 1906 (Fig. 9)*

This map shows that the small building to the south of Chowdean Lodge is now labelled as 'The Lodge' while Chowdean Lodge is still referred to as 'Chowdene



Cottage'. The small building is probably named 'The Lodge' at this time as it was the entrance building to the estate, with 'Chowdene Cottage' being the main dwelling although this is conjectural.

4.7. *3<sup>rd</sup> Revision OS map of 1924 (Fig. 10)*

The detail of Chowdean Lodge in this map shows that the stable block is a separate building to the lodge itself. In the present day the two buildings are joined indicating a renovation sometime after 1924. There has also been another increase in housing to the east into the Chowdean area.

4.8. **DISCUSSION OF MAP REGRESSION**

4.8.1. The map regression helps to depict the development of the study area particularly from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is evident that all traces of the farm which once stood on the site had been removed and replaced by Chowdean Lodge by around 1893. Although there is no evidence to back up the name changes from Cottage to Lodge and *visa versa*, it may have been brought about when Chowdean Lodge ceased being a dwelling, and the term cottage applied to the smaller building within the grounds.

5.0. **RESULTS OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY**

5.0.1. Chowdean Lodge is a two Storey building which is constructed of snecked sandstone. The roof is constructed of a green Westmorland slate in diminishing courses, which has unfortunately had most, if not all of its leading stolen. This has led to a lot of damage to the roof structure and serious damp and rot to the interior. Architecturally the building also has deeply moulded gable finians, elegant hood mouldings, large chimneys and strong water tabling with substantial kneelers.

5.0.3. The surrounding area consists largely of mature trees, with steps leading down to an open lawn area to the west.

5.1. **Exterior elevations**

5.1.1. *Exterior west facing elevations*

The southern section of the western elevation (Fig. 16) consists of two storeys of sandstone walls. The ground floor has three large windows framed by sandstone with an ornate moulded lintel. The first floor consists of two smaller windows again framed in sandstone. The slate roof is visible from this elevation and the damage caused by the removal of the leading is evident.

5.1.3. The central section of the west elevation (Fig. 17) has the same detailing as the southern section. The northern section of the western elevation (Fig. 18) has the same detailing as with the rest of the elevation but only two windows to the ground floor. The western elevation of the stable block is unremarkable and largely hidden by foliage (Fig. 19).

5.1.4. *Exterior south facing elevations*

The central section of the southern elevation (Fig. 20) has two narrow windows framed in sandstone, one to the ground floor and one to the first floor. There are

no remarkable architectural details on this elevation other than the large chimney on its roof. The western section of the southern elevation (Fig. 21) has a singular window on the ground floor.

5.1.5. The southern elevation of the stable block (Fig. 22) is in disrepair. To its west there is a remnant of fire damage to a roof which is no longer extant. There are 3 windows on this elevation, two to the ground floor and one to the first floor, each having large sandstone lintels and cills. There are two large double doorways constructed of wood to the centre and two single doorways to the east and west. The sandstone used in the construction of the stable block was undressed unlike that of the main building. To the west of the elevation there is clear masonry joint which corresponds with the map regression showing them once to have been separate buildings.

5.1.6. *Exterior east facing elevations*

Upon visiting the site, the most notable feature of the building is its prominent ornate ashlar doorway/ entrance porch (Fig. 23) which is to the south of the eastern elevation. Featuring mock battlements and rope mouldings above the windows and doors it also has a large shield inset (which is replicated indoors). The eastern elevation (Fig. 24) has four windows to the ground floor and three to the first floor. The southern most window on the first floor has been converted into an emergency fire escape. All windows are framed by sandstone blocks.

5.1.5. *Exterior north facing elevation*

The north facing elevation is difficult to access due to the high level of tree cover and foliage, as a result only the western most extent of the north elevation was photographed. This elevation (Fig. 25) consisted of two narrow windows, one to the ground floor and one to the first floor. Each window has a sandstone frame with a unique point above which does not appear on other windows on the property.

5.2. **Interior ground floor room descriptions**

Many features within the property are replicated throughout the rooms. Doors, dado rails, skirting, ceiling coving and sash windows are all of the same design unless stated differently.

5.2.1. *Porch*

The porch (Fig. 26) consisted of a large wood panelled door (Fig. 12) which is original to the property. The door has been modified in recent years with the replacement of the door lock section. The porch interior maintains the original wood panelling covering its walls (Figs 13 & 27). The panels are not in prime condition, the majority of them having been damaged (including the wall behind) by damp and rot. The flooring (Fig. 28) consists of a geometric tiled floor which continues throughout the porch, Room1 and Room7.

5.2.2. *Room 1*

The most noticeable feature of this room is the original grand fireplace (Fig. 14) in the centre of its north elevated wall. Made of stone the fireplace has the same inlaid shield symbol as featured on the exterior of the entrance porch. The door to the porch is wood panelled, having six individual panels, in the style consistent with all the doors within the property (Fig. 13). Two original sash windows are

present in this room, the original sash cord still visible in the frame work. The walls contain a moulded dado rail and skirting (Fig. 15) which are in a style which is consistent in every room in the house. The ceiling has a deep moulded design which is also present throughout the house. Heavy damp and rot have damaged the walls in this room including the dado rail, skirting and coving (Fig. 29).

5.2.3. *Room 2*

The walls of this room are also suffering the effects of damp and rot (Fig. 31). The walls consist of the same dado rails, skirting and coving as in Room 1. A modern mural covers the eastern wall and is covered with fungus caused by the damp. There are three large sash windows (Figs. 11 & 30) on the western elevation and a single modern replacement window on the southern elevation. The southern elevation also has a fireplace which has been damaged by vandals. The room has a large wood panelled door.

5.2.4. *Room 3*

This room has the same architectural details as rooms 1 & 2. Three large sash windows are present on the western elevation with a modern replacement window on the southern elevation (Fig. 32). A modern fireplace is present on the northern elevation with damp clearly visible on the wall (Fig. 33). The room has a large wood panelled door.

5.2.5. *Room 4*

This room shows many signs of water damage. All walls have evidence of rot and damp which has affected the architectural details (Fig. 35). This room has two large sash windows (Fig. 11) on the western elevation and one narrow modern replacement window on the northern elevation (Fig. 34). A fireplace has been boxed in on the northern elevation and it is possible that original details may survive behind this boxing. The room has a large wood panelled door.

5.2.6. *Room 5*

Room 5 is particularly dark due to the positioning of its two sash windows (Fig. 36) to the eastern elevation. Modern cupboards have been constructed unsympathetically to the northern elevation removing the coving, dado rail and skirting. This room is also stricken with damp which has damaged the walls and ceiling. The room has a large wood panelled door.

5.2.7. *Room 6*

There are two large sash windows on the northern elevation of this room, although the glass has been replaced by a modern re-enforced glass. There are three doorways in this room, one leading to Room 5, one to a small cupboard/larder and a third leading to a flight of stairs into the stable block. The stable block could not be accessed internally due to health and safety. From the stair case it is evident that the stable block and rooms associated with it are in a very poor state of repair and have been fire damaged at some point (Figs. 37 & 38).

5.2.8. *Room 7*

A large wood panelled staircase dominates this room (Figs. 13 & 39), being panelled in the same style as the doors throughout the building. At the bottom of the staircase there is a large acorn shaped newel cap sitting atop a wood panelled newel post. The same geometric tiling was present on the flooring as in Room 1

and the porch. Beneath the staircase there is storage space, including a small door cut out of a wood panel.

5.2.9. *Room 8*

This room has the same skirting as the other rooms but no coving or dado rail. A fire place and surround are present with a tiled hearth. There are two sash windows (Fig. 41) on the western elevation and a single sash window to the north (Fig. 40). The walls in this room were badly damaged through the leaking roof. Damp and rot are evident and have made the plaster come away from the walls. The flooring has also suffered through the damp damaging the skirting and floor boards. The room has a large wood panelled door

5.2.10. *Room 9*

This room has also been damaged through damp. The ceiling and walls all show signs of rot and mould. Two sash windows are present on the eastern elevation and a damaged ceiling light is present on the roof of the northern elevation (Fig. 42). This window has allowed a lot of water to get in and damage the surround walls and flooring. There are modern cupboards to the northern elevation and a modern fireplace to the south (Fig. 43). The room has a large wood panelled door

5.2.11. *Room 10*

Room 10 has also been damaged through damp. The wall plaster has been damaged as well as the ceiling and flooring. Vandals have removed the fireplace, destroying the chimney breast in the process (Fig. 44). Sections of the skirting have been cut away and/ or damaged. There are two sash windows to the western elevation and a serving hatch (leading to Room 11) on the southern elevation. This room has a simple roof moulding instead of the ornately moulded coving found on the ground floor. The room has a large wood panelled door.

5.2.12. *Room 11*

Like the other rooms Room 11 has heavy damp and rot. Two sash windows are present on the western elevation and one narrow sash window to the south (mirroring Room 8). The fireplace in this room has been plastered over and a replacement skirting board placed along it (Fig. 45). It is possible that some remnants of the original fireplace may exist behind the plaster. The serving hatch from Room 10 is evident of the northern elevation but boarded shut. The room has a large wood panelled door.

5.2.13. *Room 12*

Room 12 is a small toilet room, with a sloped ceiling and tiled walls (Fig. 46) there is a small sash window on the eastern elevation.

5.2.14. *Room 13*

Room 13 has a large porcelain bath on the northern elevation and a square window on the eastern elevation. This is a modern window converted into a fire escape. The walls are tiled 2/3 of the way up with visible damp and rot above, covering the ceiling.

5.2.15. *Room 14*

Room 14 is the central first floor landing. A particularly ill placed partition wall has been placed around the landing balustrades. A ceiling light is inlaid into an alcove (with access to loft space) on the ceiling but is crudely cut in half by the modern partition (Figs. 48 & 49). There is an arched opening leading to a small passage way, which connects Rooms 12 & 13.

### 5.3. Discussion of photographic survey

- 5.3.1. The external elevations show a building of character. There have been only slight modifications to its historic fabric (i.e. fire escape) so that its aesthetic appeal remains. The damage to the roof is severe and evident from every elevation. The damage to the roof has allowed water ingress which has had an adverse effect to the interior of the building causing damp and rot to penetrate every room. Each room to the ground floor has the same architectural styling, but there have been many unsympathetic modifications in recent years, including the insertion of modern cupboards and the removal of sections of skirting (probably for the placement of furniture against the walls).
- 5.3.2. The first floor has seen similar modifications including the partition wall of Room 14. The damage caused by damp to all of the rooms is apparent on both floors. The plaster on the walls, particularly in Rooms 8 & 10 likely harbour a large amount of damp behind them, causing large pieces to crumble and damaging the attached woodwork (skirts, rails *etc.*).

## 6. OVERVIEW AND RECOMENDATIONS

- 6.1. Chowdean Lodge is a locally listed building, and a good example of middle 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture. Its outward appearance is grand with its large ashlar walls and ornate entrance porch, but the interior has seen a lot of degradation caused by a severely damaged roof. Damp has permeated every room of the building having a damaging effect on all plaster work and any wooden features attached.
- 6.2. As mentioned above, the interior has suffered some unsympathetic modern renovations. However, there are however a number of original features still extant and worth retaining. The skirting, dado rails and coving, present in many of the rooms, are original to the property and, although not spectacular in design, do give aesthetic appeal and character to the building. It is recommended that these features be retained in any future work unless poor condition through rot prevents this, in which case they should be replaced in a sympathetic style.
- 6.3. The doors of the property are all of the same six panelled style and original to the property. It is recommended that they be retained. The majority of the windows of the property (apart from the small replacement windows on the ground floor (as mentioned above) are the original sash windows. It is recommended that these windows should be retained, and if they are not structurally sound, should be replaced in a sympathetic style.
- 6.4. The original fireplace of Room 1 should be retained as it carries the same styling as the porch exterior and lends character to the property. The wood panelling in the porch is a good example of the building original detailing. Unfortunately it

has succumbed to water damage, with a lot of its panels warping and splitting with the damp. These panels should be repaired if possible or replaced with identical wooden panels.

- 6.5. The staircase inside the building (Rooms 7 & 14) looks to be structurally sound and carries the same panelling effect as the other wooden features of the property. The staircase should be retained as an original feature as it lends aesthetic appeal and is fundamental to the character of the building.
- 6.6. As this building has been derelict for so long, and has seen damage and degradation from vandalism and exposure to the elements, it is proposed that any renovation/ refurbishment performed in a sympathetic style would be a benefit to the buildings character and its standing within the surrounding area.

## **7 PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT**

- 7.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 7.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

## **8 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY**

- 8.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

## **9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank our client, Mr & Mrs Wright for facilitating our work and also Hermina Ely of Ely Architects. Thanks are also expressed to Jennifer Morrison at Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team, and all those at the consulted archives.

## **10. REFERENCES**

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Appendix I: Map Regression and figures



































Fig. 16 Exterior west elevation, south section.



Fig. 17 Exterior west elevation central.



Fig. 18 Exterior west elevation, north section.



Fig. 19 Exterior west elevation of stable block.



Fig. 20 Exterior south elevation, central section



Fig. 21 External south elevation, west section.



Fig. 22 External south elevation of stable block.



Fig. 23 External east elevation, porch.



Fig. 24 External east elevation



Fig. 25 External north elevation.



Fig. 26 Internal porch doorway.



Fig. 27 Wood panelling in porch.



Fig. 28 Geometric tiled floor.





Fig. 29 Room 1, damage to ceiling.



Fig. 30 Room 2, windows.



Fig. 31 Damp in Room 2.



Fig. 32 Small window in Room 3.



Fig. 33 Fireplace and mural in Room 3



Fig. 34 Sash window and wall rot in Room 4.



Fig. 35 Ceiling coving and rot in Room 4



Fig. 36 Sash windows of Room 5



Fig. 37 Poor condition of Stable Block



Fig. 38 Fire damage to roof of Stable Block



Fig. 39 Acorn newel cap on staircase.



Fig. 40 Small sash window in Room 8.



Fig. 41 Sash windows and water damage to Room 8.



Fig. 42 Modern cupboards in Room 9.



Fig. 43 Fireplace in Room 9.



Fig. 44 Damaged chimney breast in Room 10



Fig. 45 Covered fireplace in Room 11



Fig. 46 Toilet Room 12



Fig. 47 Water damage to Room 13.



Fig. 48 Partition wall blocking Light in Room 14.



Fig. 49 Partition wall behind balustrade in Room 14.

## APPENDIX II: PHOTOGRAPH REGISTERS

### Film 1: Colour Print

Shot No.	Direction	Scale	Description	Photo By	Date
1	W	2 x 2m	NE facing Elevation and Entrance	DA	09.03.09
2	W	2m	Entrance	DA	09.03.09
3	W	2 x 2m	NE facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
4	-	-	Exterior light fitting	DA	09.03.09
5	W	2 x 2m	NE facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
6	N	2 x 2m	Stable block S facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
7	N	2 x 2m	Stable block S facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
8	E	-	Stable block W facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
9	S	2m	W facing elevation	DA	09.03.09

### Film 2: Black and White Print

Shot No.	Direction	Scale	Description	Photo By	Date
1	W	2 x 2m	NE facing Elevation and Entrance	DA	09.03.09
2	W	2m	Entrance	DA	09.03.09
3	W	2 x 2m	NE facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
4	-	-	Exterior light fitting	DA	09.03.09
5	W	2 x 2m	NE facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
6	N	2 x 2m	Stable block S facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
7	N	2 x 2m	Stable block S facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
8	E	-	Stable block W facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
9	S	2m	W facing elevation	DA	09.03.09

### Film 3: Colour Print

Shot No.	Direction	Scale	Description	Photo By	Date
1	S	2m	N facing elevation window	DA	09.03.09
2	E	2m	W facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
3	E	2m	W facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
4	E	2m	W facing elevation window	DA	09.03.09
5	E	2m	W facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
6	N	2m	S facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
7	N	2m	S facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
8	-	2m	Porch interior	DA	09.03.09
9	-	2m	Porch door	DA	09.03.09
10	-	2m	Room 1 fireplace	DA	09.03.09
11	-	2m	Room 1 flooring	DA	09.03.09
12	E	2m	Room 1 window	DA	09.03.09
13	NW	-	Room 1 alcove	DA	09.03.09
14	-	2m	Room 1 panelling and skirting board	DA	09.03.09
15	N	2m	Room 3	DA	09.03.09
16	S	2m	Room 3	DA	09.03.09
17	S	2m	Room 4	DA	09.03.09
18	N	2m	Room 4	DA	09.03.09
19	E	2m	Room 5	DA	09.03.09
20	N	2m	Room 6	DA	09.03.09
21	S	2m	Room 2	DA	09.03.09
22	W	2m	Room 7 (Hallway)	DA	09.03.09
23	N	2m	Room 8	DA	09.03.09
24	N	2m	Room 8 window	DA	09.03.09
25	W	2m	Room 8	DA	09.03.09
26	N	2m	Room 9	DA	09.03.09
27	-	-	Room 14 (Landing)	DA	09.03.09

28	N	2m	Room 10	DA	09.03.09
29	S	2m	Room 10	DA	09.03.09
30	N	2m	Room 11	DA	09.03.09
31	S	2m	Room 11	DA	09.03.09
32	E	2m	Room 14 (Landing) Archway	DA	09.03.09
33	E	2m	Room 12 (Toilet)	DA	09.03.09
34	E	2m	Room 13	DA	09.03.09
35	N	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09

Film 4: Black and White Print

Shot No.	Direction	Scale	Description	Photo By	Date
1	S	2m	N facing elevation window	DA	09.03.09
2	E	2m	W facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
3	E	2m	W facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
4	E	2m	W facing elevation window	DA	09.03.09
5	E	2m	W facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
6	N	2m	S facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
7	N	2m	S facing elevation	DA	09.03.09
8	-	2m	Porch interior	DA	09.03.09
9	-	2m	Porch door	DA	09.03.09
10	-	2m	Room 1 fireplace	DA	09.03.09
11	-	2m	Room 1 flooring	DA	09.03.09
12	E	2m	Room 1 window	DA	09.03.09
13	NW	-	Room 1 alcove	DA	09.03.09
14	-	2m	Room 1 panelling and skirting board	DA	09.03.09
15	N	2m	Room 3	DA	09.03.09
16	S	2m	Room 3	DA	09.03.09
17	S	2m	Room 4	DA	09.03.09
18	N	2m	Room 4	DA	09.03.09
19	E	2m	Room 5	DA	09.03.09
20	N	2m	Room 6	DA	09.03.09
21	S	2m	Room 2	DA	09.03.09
22	W	2m	Room 7	DA	09.03.09
23	N	2m	Room 8	DA	09.03.09
24	N	2m	Room 8 window	DA	09.03.09
25	W	2m	Room 8	DA	09.03.09
26	N	2m	Room 9	DA	09.03.09
27	-	-	Room 14 (Landing)	DA	09.03.09
28	N	2m	Room 10	DA	09.03.09
29	S	2m	Room 10	DA	09.03.09
30	N	2m	Room 11	DA	09.03.09
31	S	2m	Room 11	DA	09.03.09
32	E	2m	Room 14 (Landing) Archway	DA	09.03.09
33	E	2m	Room 12 (Toilet)	DA	09.03.09
34	E	2m	Room 13	DA	09.03.09
35	N	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09

Film 5: Colour Print

Shot No.	Direction	Scale	Description	Photo By	Date
1	N	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
2	N	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
3	N	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
4	N	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
5	E	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
6	E	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
7	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09

8	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09
9	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09
10	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09
11	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09
12	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09

Film 6: Black and White Print

Shot No.	Direction	Scale	Description	Photo By	Date
1	N	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
2	N	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
3	N	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
4	N	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
5	E	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
6	E	-	Roof	DA	09.03.09
7	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09
8	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09
9	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09
10	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09
11	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09
12	-	-	General	DA	09.03.09

**TYNE AND WEAR SPECIALIST CONSERVATION TEAM**

**SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING OF  
CHOWDENE LODGE, THE LODGES ROAD, GATESHEAD NE9 6JF**

**Introduction**

Chowdene Lodge is a late nineteenth century stone villa. The house, latterly used as a day centre by Mencap, lies within the Chowdene Conservation Area and is on Gateshead Council's Local List. The property is now vacant and is being put up for sale along with its derelict entrance lodge (The Cottage).

The site was formerly occupied by Chowdean Foot Farm (OS first edition of 1858). Messrs Blenkinsop leased the farm from Ravensworth Estate for £92 for six months. The house (then called Chowdene Cottage) is shown as having replaced the farm by the second edition of 1890.

Chowdene Lodge      HER 7630 and Local List Ref. X20/LL/266

The house displays fine architectural detailing such as snecked stonework and gabling, large deeply moulded gable finials, elegant hood mouldings, substantial kneelers and bold square chimneys reminiscent of battlemented turrets. Inspiration may have been taken from Ravensworth – the house has a grand ashlar doorway with mock battlements and an inset shield and rope mouldings above the windows and doors. The windows are sashes. There is a 9-panel timber door. There is an exuberant ornamental lamp bracket attached to the house and plates which are likely to be part of an original doorbell system.

Inside, original features such as fireplaces have been removed, but the oak-panelled entrance lobby and hall with geometric tiled floor, and the staircase, are impressive survivals.

The site is enclosed by sandstone walls. The gates date to 1953. The house has pleasant landscaped grounds, with broad steps leading to a lawn surrounded by mature trees. Outbuildings include single-storey stables and an entrance lodge, both in poor repair.

(Ref: TWAS DF.HUG/136/1).

In accordance with standard practice, and in accordance with the requirements of the planning brief for the site, it is necessary that a programme of recording is undertaken prior to development to identify important architectural and historical features which need to be retained in the conversion/restoration process and to provide a permanent archive record of the structure. Background research will be required, which will involve visiting the Tyne and Wear Archives, Record Office and local libraries. The finished report will include recommendations for any further recording required.

Prospective archaeological surveyors must be able to recognise architecturally important features and place these within the chronological sequence of the development of the building. Experience of recording buildings is essential, and a proven track-record in this field must be demonstrated in the tendering process.

The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (2006) notes the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past allowing commercial contractors to demonstrate how their fieldwork relates to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic



environment. The aim of NERRF is to ensure that all fieldwork is carried out in a secure research context and that commercial contractors ensure that their investigations ask the right questions.

The finished report must comply with English Heritage, 2006, "Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice" (revised and expanded version of Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England's 1996 document "Recording Historic Buildings – A Descriptive Specification (Third Edition)"), and must:

- Chart the historical development of the building or site and adequately explain and illustrate what is significant. Where possible significant parts and phases of development should be dated
- Aim at accuracy. The level of record and its limitations should be stated
- A record should make a clear distinction between observation and interpretation, thereby allowing data to be reinterpreted at a later date
- Be produced on a medium which can be copied easily and which ensures archival stability

The appointed archaeological contractor must be mindful at all times of the health-and-safety implications of working in historic buildings. The stables are in a poor state of repair and only the front and side walls and part of the roof of the vandalised entrance lodge survives – it is therefore advised that the appointed archaeologist keeps a safe distance away from this structure. **The appointed archaeologist must not enter any parts of the buildings that are unsafe and must wear a hard hat and safety boots at all times.**

The survey is to be broadly in accordance with an English Heritage Level 3/4 recording.

### **Notification**

**The County Archaeologist needs to know when archaeological fieldwork is taking place in Tyne and Wear so that he can inform the local planning authority and can visit the site to monitor the work in progress. The Archaeological Contractor must therefore inform the County Archaeologist of the start and end dates of the Building Recording exercise. He must also keep the County Archaeologist informed as to progress on the site. The Client will give the County Archaeologist reasonable access to the development to undertake monitoring.**

### **Fieldwork - General Conditions**

The Archaeological Contractor must detail measures taken to ensure the safe conduct of the work. The Client may wish to see copies of the Archaeological Contractor's Health and Safety Policies.

The Archaeological Contractor must be able to provide written proof that the necessary levels of Insurance Cover are in place.

All staff employed by the Archaeological Contractor shall be professional field archaeologists with appropriate skills and experience to undertake work to the highest professional standards.

### **The Survey**

Surveys are made by direct measurement using tapes and rods and can be supported by Electronic Distance Measuring equipment (EDM or REDM theodolites) on larger and more complex sites.

Detailed measured survey may be augmented by other techniques designed to record detail such as photogrammetry and rectified photography.

The scale of the drawings derived from a survey must be appropriate to the building, typically 1:100 or 1:50 for plans, 1:50 or 1:20 for sections.

The finished drawing should be legible when reduced for publication, the degree of reduction being dependent on the level of detail required.

It is recommended that drawings aiming to convey historical understanding or to support historical interpretation adopt the drawing conventions set up in section 8 of English Heritage's 2006 guidance document.

All drawings must include metric drawn scales, with a north point on all plans.

Use polyester based film for drawings (lasts longer than plastic).

Use low-acid paper.

Original drawings on film must be made with a hard pencil, at least 4H.

Do not ink over original pencil drawings.

The following tasks comprise the building survey.

1 *Site location plan*

2 *Produce accurate elevations and plans of each floor of Chowdene Lodge with any phasing depicted in differential shading*

Gateshead Council has no plans of the building.

Outline elevations (not detailed measured survey) should be produced, based on a combination of sketching and some measured survey, sufficient to demonstrate phasing, proportion and location of historic features, such as existing windows and doors and blocked openings.

Structural phasing, changes in building material, evidence of any fixtures and fittings, features of historic significance (eg. Former fireplace openings, changes in internal levels) must be noted on elevations and plans. Historic fabric and features should be identified and numbered and presented in a table within the finished report (see para 7 below). The feature numbers should then be added to the plans.

Two possible formats are acceptable: CAD files from a package supporting AUTOCAD DWG files or exporting as DXF files; Drawing film, inked-in to publication standard and labelled with transfer lettering for reproduction on A4 size.

3 *Draw a cross-section through Chowdene Lodge*

At least one cross-section at 1:50, to illustrate the vertical relationships within a building (e.g. ceiling heights, differing floor heights, roof trusses). Drawings to the same specification, and in the same style, as the floor plan (Para 2 above).

3 *Drawings to show the form/profile of any architectural decoration*

e.g. moulded doorcases, mullions, cornices, architraves with scale

4 *Produce a photographic record of Chowdene Lodge, the stables and entrance lodge (the latter to be taken from a distance due to poor state of structure), and boundary walls*

Photographs should be used not only to show a building's appearance, but also to record the evidence on which the analysis of its historic development is based.

All photographs forming part of a record should be in sharp focus, with an appropriate depth of field. They should be adequately exposed in good natural light or, where necessary, sufficiently well-lit by artificial means. The security metal sheeting will need to be temporarily removed from doors and windows to allow the recording to take place.

An experienced archaeological photographer should produce a record of the structures as is in b/w (which is preferable for permanent archival purposes) **and** colour print, (digital images are **not** acceptable in view of the currently unproven archival performance of digital data).

Each copy of the photographic record will include two duplicate sets of images – one in colour, one in black and white.

Black and white film processed to British Standard 5699 is the archival ideal, as it is recognised as suitable for long-term storage.

Use processing companies that develop film to high specifications. Commercial, automatic processing techniques do not meet archival standards and must not be used.

Used films should be processed as soon as possible to counter the effects of film deterioration.

All photographs must be marked with the project identifier (e.g. site code), film number and frame number.

Mark negative holders, not negatives

Mark prints on the back using a soft pencil, not ink

Include an index of all photographs, in the form of running lists of frame numbers

The index should record the category of film, film number, frame number, title and subject, date the picture was taken and who took it

Silversafe-type paper envelopes are ideal storage media for negatives (or polyester packets)

Store prints in acid-free paper enclosures or polyester sleeves

All photographs must include a scale and where appropriate a north sign or other means of location/orientation

All photographs must have the record number of the structural component clearly visible.

{reference: Duncan H. Brown, 2007, "Archaeological Archives – A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation"

The photographic record will include:

- General views of the house, stables and entrance lodge in their wider setting or landscape
- The buildings' external appearance – typically a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building to give an overall impression of its size and shape. Where an individual elevation embodies complex historical information, views at right angles to the plane of the elevation may also be appropriate
- Detailed coverage of the buildings' external appearance – windows, doors, decorative detail, blocked openings, chimneys, lamp, remains of doorbell etc etc
- Overall appearance of each room and circulation areas of Chowdene Lodge
- Internal close up detail, structural and decorative – windows, doors, fireplaces, staircases, cornices, architraves, skirting boards, doorcases, oak panelling, tiled floors etc etc
- Interior of stables if it is safe to enter
- Any dates or other inscriptions, any signage, maker's plates or graffiti, which contribute to an understanding of the building or its fixtures or machinery. A contemporaneous transcription should be made wherever characters are difficult to interpret
- Any building contents which a significant bearing on the building's history

5 *Context list phasing tables, cross-referenced to the plans and photographs.*

A minimal recording methodology should number each feature on the photographic record, group the features by phase, and locate their position on the floor plans and elevation drawings.

6 *Survey report*

A report will be produced, describing the buildings, detailing the recording methodology and outlining the structural sequence, as observed from the survey.

- Precise location of the building, by name, street, town and grid reference
- National grid reference
- Details of local listing and Conservation Area
- Date the record was made and name of the recorder
- Summary statement describing the building's type or purpose, materials and possible date(s) so far as is apparent
- An account of the building's plan, form, function, age and development sequence
- Room by room description and description of exterior
- Names of architects, builders, patrons and owners should be given if known
- An account of the building's overall form and of its successive phases of development, and of the evidence supporting this analysis
- An account of the building's past and present use, and of the uses of its parts, with the evidence for these interpretations
- An account of any fixtures, fittings, plant or machinery associated with the building and its purpose

- Any evidence for the former evidence of demolished structures or plant associated with the building
- Copies of other records of the building, or a note of their existence and location
- Relevant information from other readily available sources – from books, documents, plans, from other people who may be familiar with the building
- A note of the building's past and present relationship to its setting – e.g. its relationship to local settlement patterns, to a field system, man-made landscape, its part in a larger architectural or functional group of buildings, its visual importance as a landmark etc.
- A note of the significance of the building locally, regionally or nationally, in terms of its origin, purpose, form, construction, design, materials or status
- An assessment of the potential for further investigative or documentary work, and of the potential survival of below-ground evidence for the history of the building and its site
- Historic map regression
- Copies of any archive plans of building
- Copies of any historic photographs of the building
- Full bibliographic references and list of sources consulted
- Glossary of architectural terms likely to be unfamiliar to readers.

Documentary and cartographic records, plans and photographs relating to the building will be consulted at:

**Tyne and Wear Archives at Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JA (tel. 0191 2326789 ext 407)**

**Durham Record Office, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL (tel. 0191 3833253)**

**Gateshead Library, Prince Consort Road, Gateshead NE8 4LN (tel. 0191 4773478)**

**National Monuments Record, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ (tel. 01793 414600)**

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/NMR](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/NMR)

Useful websites:

[www.twsitelines.info](http://www.twsitelines.info) - **not** to be used instead of visiting the HER in person because it is only updated every six months and does not include event data

[www.sine.ncl.ac.uk](http://www.sine.ncl.ac.uk)

The report must have the following features:-

1. List of drawings, cross-referenced to a location plan or plans
2. Details of visits to the building undertaken by the contractor
3. Photographic prints and negatives in conservation grade transparent plastic wallets suitable for storing in A4 ringbinders (all five copies require a full set of prints, but only one set of negatives is required and these should be included in the copy for the Archives)
4. A card cover with title, date, author, contractor organisation and commissioning client
5. Some form of secure binding, preferably of the spiral or ring type.

6. Recommendations for any further archaeological work required.
7. Copy of this specification

Five copies of the report need to be submitted:

- one for the commissioning client
- one for the planning authority (Gateshead Council)
- one for Stuart Norman (Conservation Section, Gateshead Council)
- one for deposition in the Tyne and Wear County HER. A digital copy of the report is also required on CD by the HER (in a plastic case and not attached to the report)
- one for Tyne and Wear Archives – this is the copy with the negatives in it. Please send this to the HER as TWAS will collect reports from the HER on an annual basis

***The report and CD for the HER and TWAS must be sent by the archaeological consultant or their client directly to the address below. If the report is sent via the planning department, every page of the report and all the photographs will be stamped with the planning application number which ruins the illustrations and photos. The HER is also often sent a photocopy instead of a bound colour original which is unacceptable.***

### OASIS

The Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index/access to the large and growing body of archaeological grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded fieldwork.

The archaeological contractor is therefore required to register with OASIS and to complete the online OASIS form for their building recording at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Please ensure that tenders for this work takes into account the time needed to complete the form.

Once the OASIS record has been completed and signed off by the HER and NMR the information will be incorporated into the English Heritage Excavation Index, hosted online by the Archaeology Data Service.

The ultimate aim of OASIS is for an online virtual library of grey literature to be built up, linked to the index. The unit therefore has the option of uploading their grey literature report as part of their OASIS record, as a Microsoft Word document, rich text format, pdf or html format. The grey literature report will only be mounted by the ADS if both the unit and the HER give their agreement. The grey literature report will be made available through a library catalogue facility.

Please ensure that you and your client understand this procedure. If you choose to upload your grey literature report please ensure that your client agrees to this in writing to the HER at the address below.

For general enquiries about the OASIS project aims and the use of the form please contact: Mark Barratt at the National Monuments Record (tel. 01793 414600 or

[oasis@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:oasis@english-heritage.org.uk)). For enquiries of a technical nature please contact: Catherine Hardman at the Archaeology Data Service (tel. 01904 433954 or [oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk)). Or contact the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer at the address below.

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Ref: Chowdene Lodge  
May 2008  
Planning Application: pre-application