West Backworth: systematic survey of a deserted medieval village

Where is West Backworth, and why study it?

An irregular shaped field of humps and bumps marks the site of West Backworth, Tyne & Wear. Although a scheduled monument, West Backworth has never been studied in any detail, and is an exceptional example of a deserted medieval village in the North Tyneside region.

Aims and objectives

- To build a comprehensive documentary record of the village and the surrounding area by utilising all known resources such as maps, written documents and aerial photographs.
- To survey and interpret the physical remains of the village through topographic survey.

Documentary Evidence

- Maps
- Aerial photographs
- Written sources
- Online repositories

When used together, these sources illuminate the history of West Backworth.

Topographic Survey

- Total Station survey
- GPS survey

Interpretation

Preliminary results incorporated into GIS

Using Geographic Information Software (GIS) to integrate aerial photographs and maps.

Key
- Enclosure
- Line of Hollow-way
- Possible Building

Documentary Evidence Research Scholarship 2012