

Summary Report: Heritage Focus Group

Meeting Details

- **Convenors:** Colin Percy, Norman Stromsoy
- **Report Date:** September 2025
- **Group Members:** Charles Christy, Colin Percy, Marian Stromsoy, Norman Stromsoy, Lynn Johnson, Helena Bates, Claire Stubbs, Angie Eagle, Chris Wilkinson

Key Points Discussed

1. **Meeting Schedule** – Three meetings were planned
2. **Heritage Plan Objectives**
 - The Heritage Focus Group remit was agreed.
 - The Heritage Focus Group considered the heritage data from the Neighbourhood Plan survey results, discuss the broad objectives and structure of a future heritage plan.
3. **Listed and Non-Designated Heritage Assets**
 - We reviewed listed buildings and non-designated heritage assets, with a focus on those without specific protection.
 - We reviewed NCC methodology for identifying non heritage assets and its application to our draft list.
 - Emphasis on the importance of retaining the village's character as supported by the Neighbourhood Plan survey.
4. **Future heritage development proposals could include**
 - An interactive display is suggested to enhance visitor experience at the museum .
 - Discussion on expanding the railway museum to a heritage museum to include more diverse materials.
 - Gather heritage asset materials for conservation and possible display.
5. **Parish Website and Guided Walks**
 - Professional advice may be needed to further develop the heritage aspect of the parish website and improve guided walks information.
6. **Promotion of Wylam's History**
 - Strategies to better promote Wylam's history and heritage were discussed, aligning with the Neighbourhood Plan survey results.
 - Improved interpretive signage
 - Improved recognition of famous Wylam residents identified by the Heritage Focus Group

7. Planning Design Guidance

- Consideration of providing in the future non-statutory planning design guidance to preserve the village's heritage.
- Consideration should be given to the establishment of a local conservation area in collaboration with NCC,

8. Feedback and Reporting

- The group is to provide feedback to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group by 25th September 12.
- Further meetings are planned to meet this deadline .

9. Community Engagement

- The importance of community involvement in preserving Wylam's heritage through various activities and collaborations .

10. Development Considerations

- New developments should consider the impact on archaeological remains and respect Wylam's industrial archaeology.
- Key historic views and landmarks should be retained in all new developments.

11. Heritage Assets and Policies

- Non-designated heritage assets identified by the community have been included in a local heritage list (see attached).
- Development within or affecting the local Wylam Conservation Area or listed buildings must preserve or enhance the historic character.
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12. Draft Neighbourhood Plan Heritage Statement

- We have prepared a draft heritage and historic environment statement for inclusion in the Wylam Neighbourhood Plan. This statement sets out key objectives, heritage assets, policies and community involvement.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Finalise the list of non-designated heritage assets.
 - Continue community engagement and collaboration with heritage organizations.
 - Seek professional advice for website development and guided walks.
 - Promote Wylam's history and heritage through various strategies.
 - Provide non-statutory planning design guidance to preserve the village's heritage.
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Wylam Non Designated Heritage Assets

Algernon Terrace
Bank Building
Bird Inn House
Black Bull
Blackett House
Boathouse Inn
Bridge House (former toll house)
Burgoyne Terrace
Bumbler Box Bridge
Chapel Lane
Cherry Tree Lane
Clinker walls
Railings and gates.
Coffee Tree
The Crescent
Dene Terrace East & West
Elm Bank House
Elm Bank Road – stone-built semis
Elm Bank Road – brick-built semis
Falcon Terrace
Falcon Centre

Listed Buildings (Grade II)

Wylam Hills Farmhouse
Old Vicarage
St Oswin's Church
St Oswin's Lychgate
Wylam Hall
Points Bridge
Brewery House
Old School

Florist Hall Cottages
Fox & Hounds Inn
Ingham Terrace
Wylam Institute
Laburnum House
Laburnum Terrace
Masonic Hall
Methodist Church
Ovingham Road

- Willow House
- Iveagh Cottage
- Stone semis

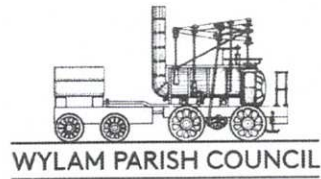
River House
Ship Inn
Station Road villas
Stephenson Terrace
Stobo's
Telephone Exchange
Wormald House
Oakwood House
Hagg Bank railway workers' cottages.
Wylam Wood Road

- Terraces
- Semis

Old School House
Wylam Forge
War Memorial
Wylam Station & House
Wylam Signal Box
Station Footbridge
Stephenson's Cottage
Gateway – Rift Cottage
5x listings @ Holeyn Hall

Famous Residents

George Stephenson, father of the railways
Timothy Hackworth, railway pioneer
William Hedworth, railway pioneer
Charles Parsons, inventor of steam turbine
Katharine Parsons, engineer, co founder women's engineering society
Rachel Parsons, one of the first female engineers
Archibald Mattias Dunn, Victorian architect
Basil Bunting, poet
Margaret Drabble, author.
Antonia Byatt, author
Nancy Ridley, author
Percy Lovell, composer
Inga Tuigamala, international rugby player
Ken Traill, rugby league player and coach
Greg Dyke, broadcaster, Chairman of the BBC and Football Association
Helen (McCallum) McCookerybook, singer / songwriter



Wylam Heritage and Historic Environment.

Wylam is a village of significant historical importance in Northumberland, known for its strong industrial heritage, attractive rural setting, and enduring architectural character. It was the birth and workplace of railway pioneers George Stephenson, William Hedley and Timothy Hackworth. Wylam holds a special place in the region's history, with a legacy that has shaped both the local identity and wider developments in transport and engineering.

Objectives

- To preserve and enhance Wylam's distinctive historic character, including its industrial, railway and rural heritage.
- To ensure that development contributes positively to the village's historic environment.
- To recognise, protect, and celebrate both designated and locally valued heritage assets.

Heritage Assets in Wylam

Wylam contains several designated heritage assets, including:

- Listed buildings, such as Stephenson's Cottage (grade 2), Wylam Railway Bridge (grade 2) and various 18th and 19th century cottages and farm buildings.
- The local Wylam conservation area which aims to preserve much of the historic core of the village including Front Street and its distinctive terraces.

Beyond these, Wylam also includes numerous non-designated heritage assets of local importance, such as:

- Traditional boundary walls, hedgerows and lanes. The route of the Wylam Wagonway, a key early industrial transport route. Remnants of the coal mining and iron works industry, which helps define the villages early growth.

- Important views and landscape features such as those across the Tyne Valley and along the River Tyne.

Policies.

- Development within or affecting the local Wylam Conservation Area or listed buildings must preserve or enhance the historic character and appearance of the area.
- Proposals should demonstrate sensitivity to local vernacular architecture, materials, and layout, particularly within historic parts of the village.
- Non-designated heritage assets identified by the community have been considered and included in a local heritage list and protected accordingly.
- Key historic views and landmarks, including vistas along the River Tyne, across the valley, and towards heritage assets such as Stephenson's Cottage and Wylam bridge, should be retained and respected in all new development.
- New development should consider the impact on archaeological remains and respect Wylam's industrial archaeology.

Community involvement

The people of Wylam take pride in the village's unique heritage. Through local heritage walks, good interpretive signage, leaflets, Heritage Museum and school projects there is a strong tradition of community engagement in preserving Wylam's past. This plan supports continued community involvement in identifying and celebrating heritage assets, including many famous residents and encourages collaboration with Northumberland County Council, the National Trust and other heritage organisations to protect the village's character.