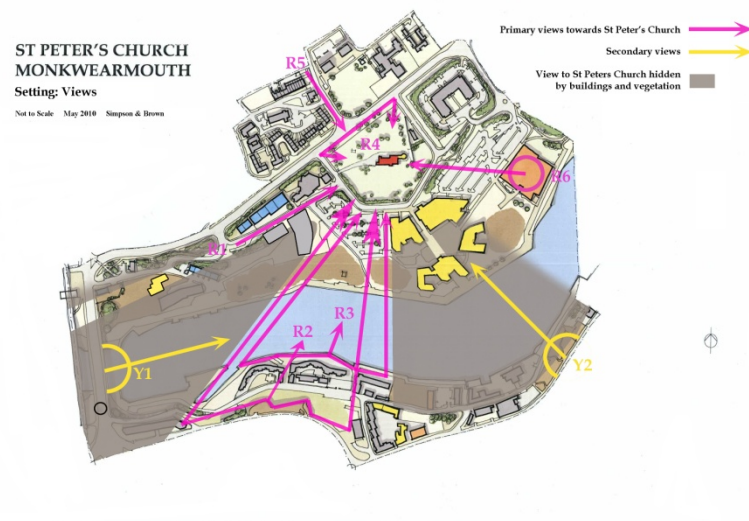


History – The Setting



History – The Setting

In what had been a promontory overlooking the north of the harbour and estuary of the River Wear, 70 hides of land were given by King Egfrith for Benedict Biscop to found the monastery of St. Peter in the name of the Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury in 673 AD. (A hide – or a 'hid' – was an amount of land that would support one family – 'hiwan' – using probably one plough or one yoke of oxen to produce enough in a year to sustain them.) This was the beginning of a new project a movement to bring learning, culture and the Christian religion to the north of Saxon Britain.

This was the monastery on whose lands the Venerable Bede was born and it was here at Wearmouth that at the age of 7 he entered the schooling of the monastery, just as S. Hild another famous Northumbrian saint associated with Monkwearmouth had done, taking her vows as a nun some time after her baptism in 647 AD, before being appointed abbess at Hartlepool and Whitby, where she hosted the Synod of Whitby in 664 AD. "Inspired by her sister's example, Hild continued a whole year in the kingdom of the East Angles with the intention of going abroad; but then Bishop Aidan called her home and she received a hide of land on the north side of the river Wear, where, for another year, she lived the monastic life with a small band of companions." (Bede: EH IV 23)

This was the time in the dark middle ages known as the Golden Age of Northumbria, when monastic communities spread from Ireland to Iona to Lindisfarne and from Rome to Canterbury and to Wearmouth and Jarrow.

Founded in 673 AD shortly followed by St. Paul's Jarrow in 681 AD the two became known as a twin settlement "one monastery in two places" as Bede put it under one order, and often in the early decades sharing an abbot.

The saints associated with St. Peter's are Hild, Bede, the abbots Benedict Biscop, Ceolfrid, Eosterwine, Hwaetbeht and Sigfrid.

St. Peter also shares with Hexham Abbey the foundation date of 673 AD and the association between the travel companions Benedict Biscop and S. Wilfrid.

Most of the monastic settlement lies under the churchyard of St. Peter's having been largely excavated and recorded by Professor Rosemary Cramp of Durham University in the 1960's and covered over again for

protection. Some of the stones and artefacts were unearthed and brought into the church where they can be seen on display today.

The western wall and the porch under the tower date from the foundation and still stand as part of the St.Peter's church where the Christian community gathers for worship as in earliest times. The tower itself also dates from the early decades of the monastery's construction.

Surviving the ravages of the Vikings, the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, the bombardment of the shipyards in the Second World War, and more recently an arson attack in 1984, St.Peter's found itself in the industrial age enclosed in terraced housing, almost touching the church walls, built to accommodate the workers in the shipyards on Europe's most productive shipbuilding port.

The Wear itself meanders, from its origins high in the rugged beauty of the Upper Weardale fells, past the oxbow peninsular on which the massive norman edifice of Durham Cathedral towers to the sandy estuarine setting of Wearmouth. Durham represents the end of the journey where tradition has it the bones of the Venerable Bede lie in the Galilee Chapel, Durham being the Jerusalem to Wearmouth's Bethlehem, the place of Bede's origins until recently found hidden away cheek by jowel amongst the dwellings of the poor.

Recent developments in the City of Sunderland and particularly on the north banks of the Wear have transformed the rugged beauty of heavy coal and shipping industry into a riverside walk and art trail, leading east to a new marina and the lighthouse and pier, and today St.Peter's church shares its riverside setting with the St.Peter's Campus of the University of Sunderland and the popular National Glass Centre. The proximity of the

City centre to the beach (only a mile distant) on which St.Peter's marks a halfway point surprises many visitors at the unexpected beauty of the estuarine city setting.

St.Peter's with its younger twin St.Paul's together form part of the UK Government's 2012 nomination as candidate for World Heritage Status, which would include it alongside other World Heritage sites in the immediate vicinity of the North East region, namely the Cathedral and riverbanks at Durham and Hadrian's Wall stretching from North Shields to Carlisle in the west.



Wearmouth-Jarrow candidate World Heritage Site: the case for Inscription

Extracts from the Management Plan and Nomination Document

The Wearmouth-Jarrow Property

The Wearmouth-Jarrow Nominated Property includes all of the known standing and buried remains of two seventh-century monastic complexes centred on Wearmouth and Jarrow, which functioned as a single institution. These are now the earliest surviving and most completely excavated Western European monastic complexes illustrating large regular buildings arranged in formal relationship to each other and designed for communal living, according to a monastic Rule of life. It is outstanding because of the quality and quantity of surviving below- and above-ground seventh-century remains, and their exceptional testimony to the early stages of the development of monastic plans which would become central to European culture through the Middle Ages. Benedict Biscop and Ceolfrith, the founders of the monastery, created an exceptional centre for learning. This produced Bede, one of the greatest scholars of the first millennium AD and the only English person to be designated a Doctor of the Church for his scholarship. The twin monastery provided the physical context and resources, in particular an extensive library and high-quality education books, not commonly available at the time, which equipped him to produce his amazing output. Bede, who lived and worked in the twin monastery from the age of seven, produced wide-ranging works which made the scholarship of classical antiquity relevant to emerging medieval Europe, and which have influenced international scholarship ever since. Wearmouth-Jarrow's associations with Benedict Biscop, Bede and Bede's teacher Ceolfrith, together with its outstanding physical remains, make it one of the most influential monastic sites in Europe.

The Wearmouth-Jarrow Partnership

A partnership of organisations involved with the management of various elements of the Property today have come together to seek Nomination of Wearmouth-Jarrow for World Heritage Status, and have developed this Management Plan to ensure effective, co-ordinated management and protection of the Property for the future.

The purpose of the Management Plan

The Management Plan aims to sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Wearmouth-Jarrow Property for present and future generations.

Vision

The Wearmouth-Jarrow Partnership's vision for the Twin Monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow, which, through Bede, illuminated the world, is to conserve and enhance the Property and the legacy of Bede, to inspire present and future generations through improved understanding of the significance of the twin monastery in the history of the world, and to contribute to the wellbeing of the local community.

This vision will be achieved through five strategic aims:

- Co-ordinated management of the property
- Conserving the property and its significances
- Influencing change in the property's buffer zone and wider setting
- Enhancing understanding of the property
- Increasing use and enjoyment of the property

STRATEGIC AIM 1: CO-ORDINATED MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY

Effective co-ordinated management of Wearmouth-Jarrow is key to ensuring conservation, sustainable use and enhancement of the Property's Outstanding Universal Value and other values, and to unlock the benefits of World Heritage Property inscription.

STRATEGIC AIM 2: CONSERVING THE PROPERTY AND ITS SIGNIFICANCES

Conservation of Wearmouth-Jarrow's Outstanding Universal Value and other values will be in line with international and national policy, guidelines and best practice.

STRATEGIC AIM 3: INFLUENCING CHANGE IN THE PROPERTY'S BUFFER ZONE AND WIDER SETTING

Promotion of an approach to sustainable physical and social regeneration initiatives within the buffer zone and wider setting of the Property that will protect, complement and enhance the Property's Outstanding Universal Value and other values.

STRATEGIC AIM 4: ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROPERTY

Encouragement and further development of awareness and appreciation of Wearmouth-Jarrow's Outstanding Universal Value and other values, including its role as a world-class centre of learning, creativity, spirituality and cultural exchange through ongoing research, education, cultural programmes, community engagement and volunteering.

STRATEGIC AIM 5: INCREASING USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THE PROPERTY

Attract, engage and inspire audiences on and off site, by celebrating Wearmouth-Jarrow's Outstanding Universal Value and other values in an accessible way, creating a high quality 'must visit, must return' visitor destination, and ensuring that the impact of visitor access remains positive.

Outstanding Universal Value

The Twin Monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow, founded in the late-seventh century AD on estuarine sites in the north-east of England looking out to the North Sea coast and the wider world, is a milestone in the development of Christian Europe. Its architectural remains in the original monastic churches and below-ground remains of the associated monastic complexes, exceptional both in quality and quantity, provide a visible link between the past world of late Roman antiquity and the coming world of the European Middle Ages. Its innovative architecture, some of which survives in situ, epitomises the introduction of building in stone with Roman-style sculpture and coloured glass windows into the British Isles. In its design, it was a key stepping stone on the way to the greater formalisation of monastic claustral layouts, and communal as opposed to eremitic life, which accompanied the development of written monastic rules across Europe during the course of the next century, leading to the standard claustral layout which would come to dominate medieval European society and then be transferred to other parts of the world.

The outstanding library and teaching assembled at Wearmouth-Jarrow by Benedict Biscop and his colleague and successor Ceolfrith, and its scholarly ethos, were unlike anything else available in its day. Particularly through the prolific and wide-ranging works of its most renowned thinker, Bede, Wearmouth-Jarrow at its apex became the primary intellectual centre of Western Europe, the scriptorium developing a faster script in order to keep up with demand from across Europe for copies of its scholarly output.

The founders of Wearmouth-Jarrow and the scholarly ideas of Bede created a gateway for the ideas of late-Roman antiquity to enter the emerging early medieval world: through Wearmouth-Jarrow the skills and learning of late antiquity centred on the Mediterranean Sea, and the ideas of the early Christian world were not only transferred to the northern limits of the emerging literate world, but combined, developed, remodelled and expanded, then exported back to Europe and beyond.

Attributes

Five attributes have been developed which express the Outstanding Universal Value of Wearmouth-Jarrow:

- The relationship between the twin monasteries and their estuarine sites
- The standing (above-ground) remains of the Anglo-Saxon monastic building complexes
- The in-situ excavated remains of the Anglo-Saxon monastic building complexes
- The monastic plan
- Further archaeological remains

This Property is also particularly rich in associative attributes, which substantially augment understanding of its Outstanding Universal Value:

- The legacy of knowledge and understanding derived from the work of the monastery
- The rich combination of the *in-situ* remains, archaeological collections and documentary evidence from the twin monastery

UNESCO criteria under which the property is nominated for inscription

Criterion (ii) requires that the Nominated Property should exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design.

The considerable surviving monastic complex at Wearmouth-Jarrow was founded in a transitional period during which Christianity was gaining wider acceptance and developing new forms across Europe. It provides evidence of the arrival in Britain and development in Europe in the seventh century of ordered, communal monasticism, and the revival of the Roman style of architecture and is an early and formative example of the cloister layout which became standard in Europe north of the Alps during the next millennium and was later transferred to other parts of the world.

Criterion (iii) requires that a Property should bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or civilisation which is living or which has disappeared.

The surviving monastic complex at Wearmouth-Jarrow provides an exceptional testimony to the cultural tradition of Western European Christian monasticism at an early, formative stage.

Criterion (iv) requires that a Property should be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history.

The complex at Wearmouth-Jarrow is the earliest surviving and most completely excavated Western European example of a monastic foundation, purpose-built for communal living and scholarship at a formative period for Europe north of the Alps during its transition from late-Roman antiquity, dominated by the culture and learning of Greece and Rome, to the emerging Christian European Middle Ages. This style of monastic plan is the forerunner of the claustral layout for communal living which came to be the dominant form, which is evident elsewhere at the later sites of the Carolingian Renaissance, such as ninth-century Lorsch in Germany and St Gall in Switzerland, and later medieval monasteries such as Fountains Abbey in England.

Criterion (vi) requires that a Property should be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, or with artistic and literary works of outstanding significance.

Wearmouth-Jarrow is directly associated with the ideas and scholarship of the Venerable Bede, who spent his whole life from the age of seven in the twin monastery. Bede was a polymath. Wearmouth-Jarrow's exceptional library, teaching, and innovative environment equipped him to become the intellectual giant of his age, and one of the most influential European thinkers of the first millennium AD.

Integrity

Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the Nominated Property and the attributes which assess its Outstanding Universal Value. This serial Property has two components.

The Nominated Property is complete, in that all of the physical attributes necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value are entirely contained within the Boundaries of its two parts, including the known physical remains above and below ground and the extant monastic plan. These formed the liturgical heart of the monastery and contain the area from which evidence for technological innovation was recovered, all dating to Bede's lifetime. Its estuarine setting can be readily appreciated and is protected by the buffer zone.

The Property is of adequate size, as there are no known physical remains of the monastic complex which fall outside the designated Boundary. Although both sites are situated within urban areas where there is inevitably some development pressure, local planning frameworks contain policies to ensure the protection of the Property's Outstanding Universal Value. The twin monastery sat originally within a built environment, including buildings for liturgy, learning, cultural development and domestic needs, and that context remains today.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the Nominated Property, being the extent to which information sources about its values are credible and true, has been assessed against the attributes which express its Outstanding Universal Value.

The estuarine locations and settings of the two parts of the monastery has not changed, although through time the surrounding areas have inevitably changed and developed. The surviving above ground structures remain remarkably intact for their period, and preserve a significant amount of original fabric. The substantial below-ground remains have a very high degree of authenticity, and show that the basic plan of both monasteries is clear and survives well. Both above- and below-ground survivals demonstrate that the monastery was built in a Roman style, with stonemasonry, Roman-style coloured-glass windows, painted plaster walls and *opus signinum* floors decorating the monastery, and incorporating an innovative communal pre-claustral layout; this is the best survival of its date from Western Europe. The vast quantity of surviving copies of Bede's works distributed across the world are highly persuasive evidence of legacy of knowledge and understanding of the Nominated Property, and the rich combination of surviving physical and documentary evidence vividly illustrates the context in which this astonishing contribution to knowledge occurred.

Management and protection

The Property is managed by the Wearmouth-Jarrow Partnership, which brings together all partner organisations with responsibility for managing the various elements of the Property, under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Jarrow. The Management Group is the overall steering group responsible for the management of the Property, and has representation from all partners. There are also a number of Working Groups who inform the management group of specialist issues related to the Property. Established in 2002, the Partnership can demonstrate a considerable track record of holistically managing the Property, and working together to develop a number of initiatives. Dedicated co-ordination staffing for the Property has been in place since 2003; the current co-ordination unit consists of a Co-ordinator and Assistant. The Management Group and co-ordination unit are responsible for the implementation of the Management Plan (2010-16), which has been developed through extensive consultation with the partner organisations, management and working groups, wider stakeholders and the public.

The majority of the Property is safeguarded through a range of protective designations, and it is also protected through the UK development control system together with the ecclesiastical faculty system. Protective designations and measures are found in Ecclesiastical Law supported by church guidance, primary legislation (Acts of Parliament), and other conservation legislation. It is supplemented by national and local government policy.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments are given the highest level of protection from the Scheduled Ancient Monuments of National Importance - Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended). There are three Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the Property: Monkwearmouth Anglo-Saxon Monastery and Medieval Priory, St Paul's Monastery, Jarrow and The Village of Jarrow. There are four listed structures or buildings in the Property and seven in its buffer zones which are protected by the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas: Planning Act 1990. The attributes of the Property's Outstanding Universal Value in its buffer zone and wider setting, including key views and archaeological potential, are protected through Local Development Frameworks.

In addition to this, the property has two sites which are Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. Jarrow Slake Mudflats and River Don Salt Marsh in Jarrow are both candidate Local Wildlife Sites and, when formally approved, will be protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).