

11. Eland Green Farmhouse



Eland Green Farm is a characteristic Northumbrian farmhouse with associated outbuildings and a duck pond. It is of a stone construction with quoins and a slate roof, dated 1889 and replacing an earlier farmhouse. It was built by Messrs. Donkin, who erected an identical farmhouse at Clifton at about the same date. Attached rear extensions are on two storeys with gables at right angles to the main farmhouse; they are not visible in the above photograph.

Although constructed rather late in the 19th Century, Eland Green Farm demonstrates a design and orientation which is quite characteristic of relatively isolated northern farmhouses: the front elevation almost invariably has a southern aspect together with ground floor windows symmetrically placed each side of a central front door which may have a porch. First floor windows are placed above those on the ground floor and the porch. Chimneys are placed at each end of the front elevation, one of which would serve a kitchen range on which all the cooking and bread-making would be done. To the rear, or north-facing side of the farmhouse there would generally be additional buildings – sometimes obtained by means of a rear extension of the roof line down to ground floor level but alternatively with separate gables on one or two floors – as in this case. The rear extensions provide facilities for food preparation and storage and additional accommodation, possibly for domestic or farm workers recruited on annual “hiring days.” In relatively

isolated living it was particularly important that there should be adequate space for food storage and that this should be located on the north side of the dwelling in order to provide cooler conditions. Other farmhouses listed in this document all follow the same general pattern; perhaps the best-known exemplar of this type of dwelling is Pockerley Manor. [1]

The position of Eland Green Farm within the settlement boundary of Ponteland makes it unique in that it never was particularly isolated, but it is so well concealed behind trees and boundary hedges that many people are unaware of its existence. It no longer functions as a farm but provides a number of holiday apartments in a variety of converted outbuildings.

[1] Pockerley Manor, a 1825 farmhouse in its original setting at the Beamish Open Air Museum.