

## **15. Arts & Crafts Cottage, Darras Road**



This property was built for Miss Wakinshaw's gardener at the same time as the adjacent No. 10. The period of building lies between the purchase by Miss J. Wakinshaw of Plot No. 1 in January 1911 and the revision of the 6 inch OS Map of the area in 1913 which, however, was not published until 1921. This clearly indicates that the pair of dwellings can lay claim to being the first to be built on the Estate, and therefore carry a particular historical significance.

The Gardener's Cottage is similar to No.10 in being of the Arts and Crafts style and is also of brick and tile construction with cavity walls. It has a quite distinctive form and appearance, being of a single storey and square in plan, with a high pyramidal roof surmounted at the apex by a single chimney stack incorporating four separate flues. It is rather inconsistent that it should have been included in the Ponteland Conservation Area but that the adjacent dwelling, No. 10, has not been so included. *In terms of both historical and architectural significance, the two dwellings should properly be considered together.*

It may be observed that the Gardener's Cottage probably does not comprise a total living area of at least 1,500 sqft. as required by the Darras Hall Trust Deed. It is possible that an exception was made in view of the fact that it was intended only for an employee of an Owner.

As with No.10, a detached garage has been added to the property later in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.