

Appendix G – Jesmond Dene Road improvements

July 1866 minutes of Newcastle Council concerning the improvement of Jesmond Dene Road

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROAD AT JESMOND.

Mr. Ald. WILSON said the other portion of the report was one recommending an improvement at Jesmond. It was an improvement which the Town Improvement Committee had tried for many years to effect, but they had failed hitherto because they had no powers to support them. Parties would not allow them to go through their property, but by the present Act of Parliament they had power to make this improvement. They all knew the very awkward turn at Jesmond, and the road was steep and very narrow. It was proposed to obviate these inconveniences by the erection of a bridge over Pigg's Dene, and widening the road leading from Mr.

Above – extract from the minutes of 11 July 1866, p282. Continued on the next page.

Source: City Library, Newcastle

1866.]

Anderson's house towards Sir William Armstrong's residence in Jesmond Dene. He produced a plan of the improvement. The Town Surveyor's estimate of its cost was £698, which they could borrow under the Town Improvement Act, and take thirty years to repay it.

Mr. GREGSON: Am I correct in understanding that the resolution just adopted with regard to Harrison Place gives the committee power to take away those gardens, and make it a public road?

Mr. Ald. WILSON: The parties must comply with the Act of Parliament.

Mr. GREGSON said that in that case it was an act of the grossest barbarism. With regard to the improvement at Jesmond, he begged to observe that the place was a favourite lovers' walk. (Hear.) No doubt it would be a great improvement to the neighbourhood, but the proprietors should pay for it. (Hear, hear.) He could not see that it was a thing that rested with the borough at all. It was a very interesting place for those who loved the moon, *et cetera*. (Laughter.) There was plenty of room for them to make the turn. He never felt any difficulty in making use of that lovers' walk. (Renewed laughter.) It was simply absurd to call on the public to pay for this as an improvement. It was a waste of public money. The proprietors there might have accomplished that work long since. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HAMOND said there was some foundation for the remarks of his worthy friend, the Doctor. This place had remained now for a great many years in the state in which it was at present. He believed the proprietors at one time were prepared to subscribe something towards this work; but the moment the Corporation borrowed, and raised money out of the pockets of the burgesses at large, then came all these sorts of improvements which in reality should come out of the private purses of individuals. Now, what benefit would this be to the borough? It would rather be a disadvantage, because it would cease to be the lovely moonlight walk which Dr. Gregson pictured so vividly. (A laugh.) Before they sought to spend £700 out of borrowed capital, they should call on those gentlemen having property abutting to subscribe something towards it. Do not let the Corporation bear the whole burden. Therefore, he begged of his friend (Mr. Ald. Wilson) to defer this question till they saw really what that prince of gentlemen—Sir William Armstrong—would do in the matter.

The MAYOR: Sir William Armstrong does not want it done. He only wants the road repaired.

Mr. HAMOND was sure that Sir William, if properly applied to, would not be slow in coming forward on such an occasion. At any rate, he did not like this off-hand sort of way, because the proper way to ask Sir William was for the Town Clerk to address a letter to him, asking for an interview with him. Sir William's character was well known, and he was sure he would not allow an improve-

Above – extract from the minutes of 11 July 1866, p283. Continued on the next page.

Source: City Library, Newcastle

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ment in which he participated so largely to be done at the sole expense of Newcastle. It was foreign to his nature. Therefore, he had only to be properly applied to to give handsomely. He might be mistaken in the estimate of his character, but what they knew in the past was almost a guarantee that he would subscribe handsomely towards this object. At all events, he would like Mr. Wilson to defer this matter, and let the Town Improvement Committee have an interview with Sir William, to suit his own convenience. A public man could not come at their bidding and call. He had no doubt if Sir William refused to contribute towards the work, he would be able to give them good and sufficient grounds for such refusal. There was a little property at the foot of Gallowgate which might be removed at an expense of about £700 to bring the street into a line. That would be an improvement a vast deal more important than the one now proposed. Therefore, he hoped Mr. Wilson would postpone this matter till next meeting. Otherwise, he should oppose the report.

Mr. SANDERSON said it was worth while to see whether the road could not be widened the whole way down. He believed that would satisfy Sir William Armstrong, and the object could be obtained at much less cost. He begged to move that the subject be referred back again to the Town Improvement Committee, and that they consult with Mr. Anderson and Sir William Armstrong, and see if that object could not be accomplished.

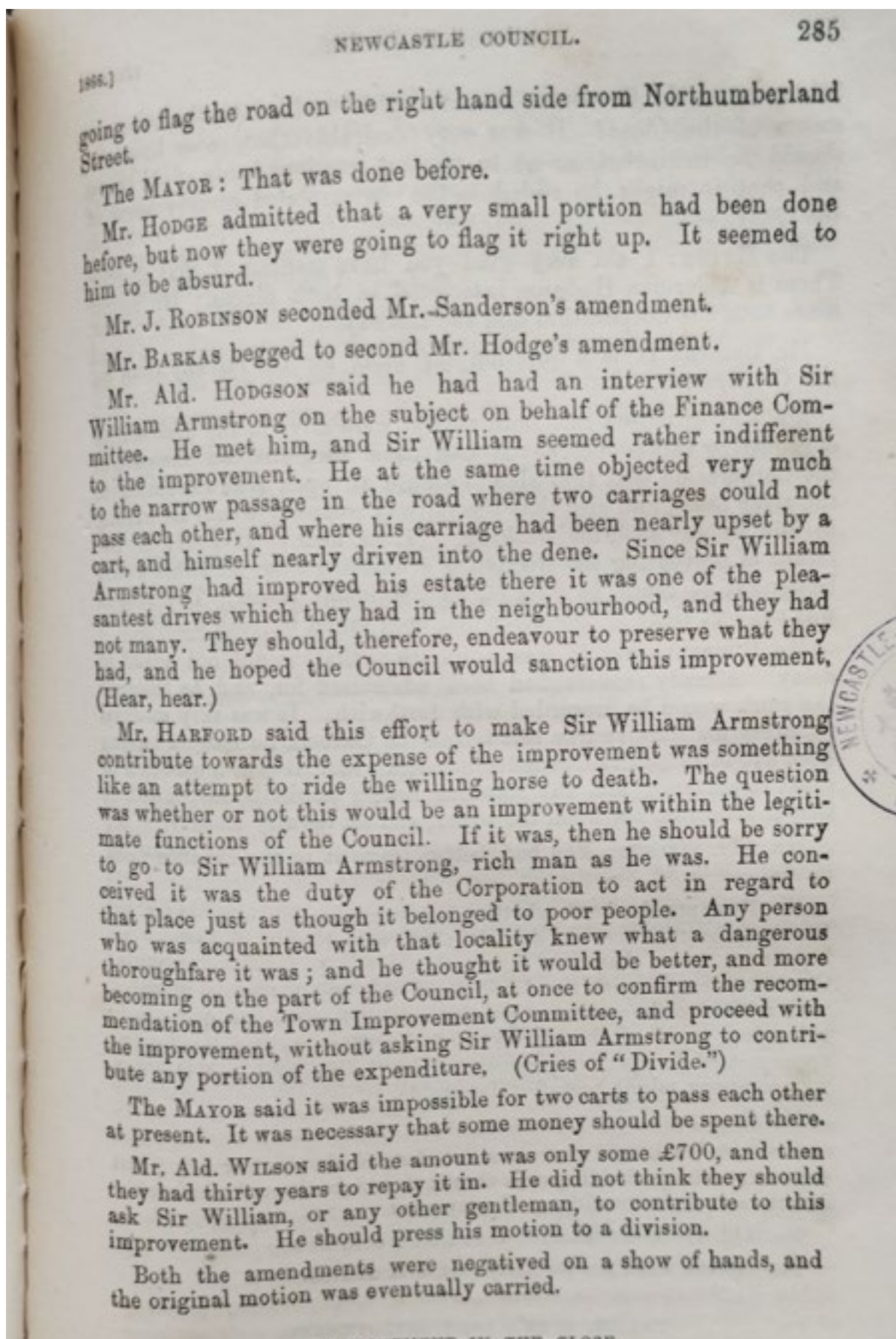
Mr. HODGE said that, seeing that the proprietors who had the largest interest in this matter, did not seem to consider this work of the slightest importance to them, and looking at the enormous amount of work which the Town Improvement Committee could really beneficially transact within the borough, and for the benefit of the whole inhabitants, he moved the adjournment of this subject *sine die*. Let the proprietors come forward and make some reasonable proposal, and then, no doubt, the Council would be prepared to meet them fairly and properly. At present, they did not seem to have the question before them; and it was not a matter of surprise that there were so many complaints in reference to unpaved streets that required immediate attention, and in regard to the sanitary regulation of the town. The case of Jesmond, therefore, he thought might be indefinitely postponed. The Town Improvement Committee had lately undertaken a similar work, which might have been dispensed with. It was perhaps somewhat irregular to mention it, but he saw they had been flagging the road to the Baths, which really nobody called for.

Mr. Ald. RIDLEY: It is a waste of public money.

Mr. HODGE said it was, at least, a work which was not pressing at all.

Mr. HAMOND: Who ordered it?

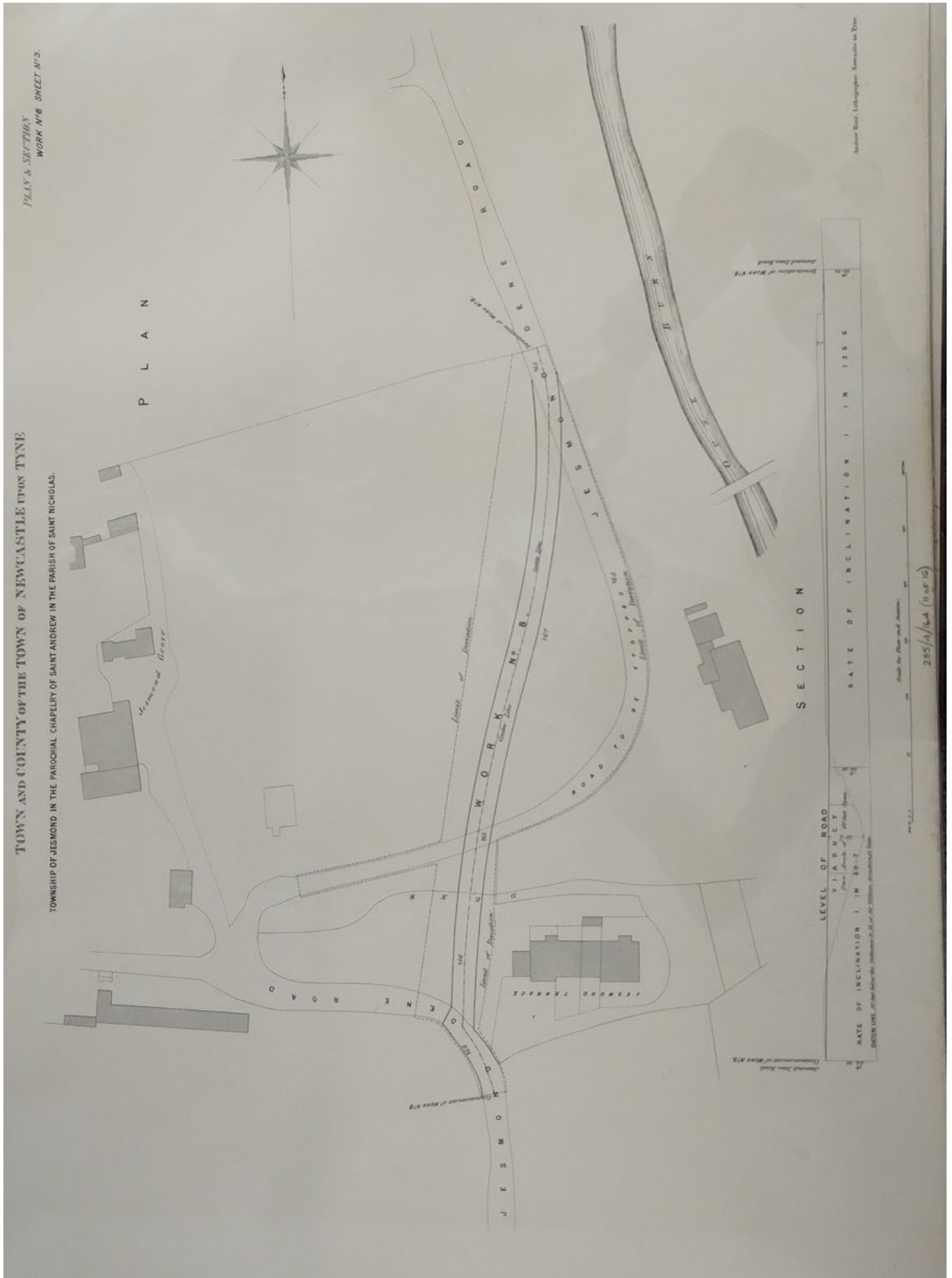
Mr. HODGE said he did not know, and he was very much surprised to see that it was done in a rather expensive manner, for they were



Above – extract from the minutes of 11 July 1866, p285.

Source: City Library, Newcastle

Appendix G – Jesmond Dene Road improvements



Ref: D.NCP/4/164. Town Improvement: New streets, including Jesmond Dene Road, 1870 (sheet 11 of 16)

Source: Tyne and Wear Archives

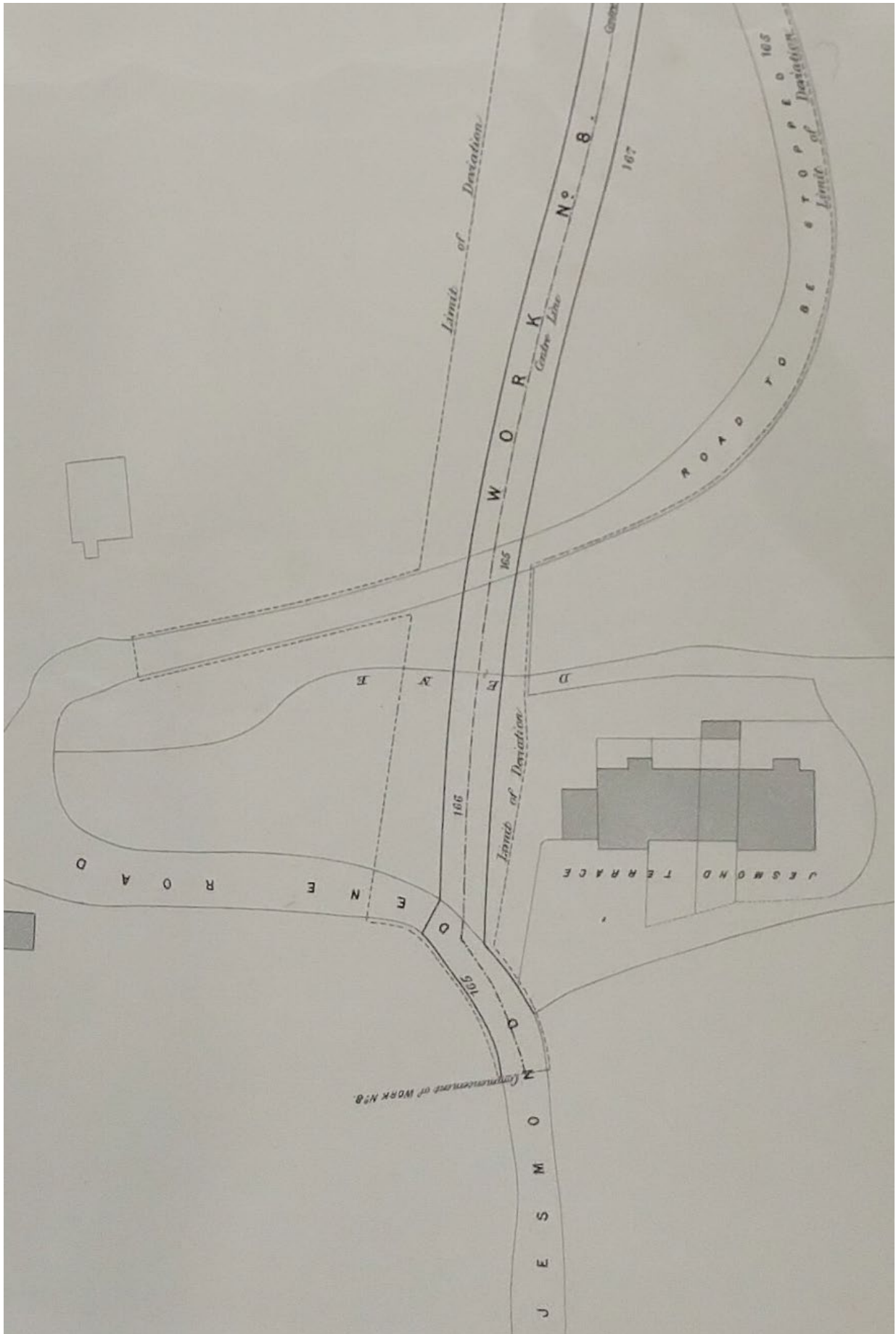
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Ref: D.NCP/4/164. Enlarged extract from Town Improvement: New streets, including Jesmond Dene Road, 1870 (sheet 11 of 16)

Source: Tyne and Wear Archives

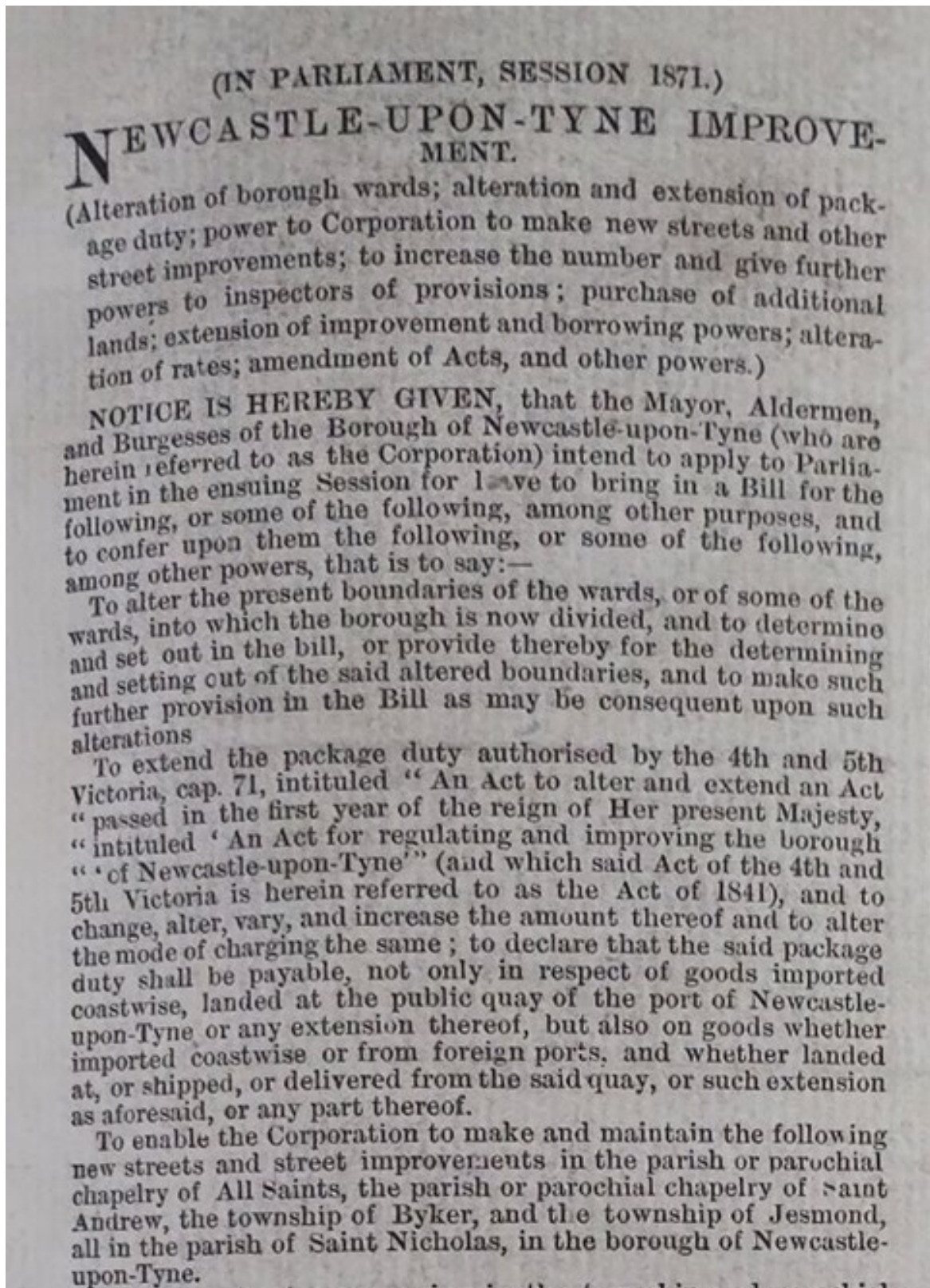
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Ref: D.NCP/4/164. Enlarged extract from Town Improvement: New streets, including Jesmond Dene Road, 1870 (sheet 11 of 16)

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Ref: D.NCP/4/165. Enlarged extracts from Book of Reference to D.NCP/4/164, 1870. Continued on the next page.

Source: Tyne and Wear Archives

lies between the Cut Bank and the head of Elwick's Lane.

8. A new street or road commencing in the township of Jesmond, in the parochial chapelry of Saint Andrew, in the parish of Saint Nicholas, in or near the Jesmond Dean Road, at a point about thirty-five yards south of Jesmond Terrace, crossing the Dean by means of a bridge or viaduct, and terminating in the same township and parochial chapelry, in or near the same road, at a point about one hundred and seventy yards north of Jesmond Terrace aforesaid.

To purchase by compulsion the following properties, namely:—

In the parish or parochial chapelry of All Saints, in the parish of Saint Nicholas—

Buildings, erections, and land situate on the eastern side of the Sandhill, and on the south or south-west side of Queen Street, in the occupation of Matthew Proctor and others.

Ref: D.NCP/4/165. Enlarged extracts from Book of Reference to D.NCP/4/164, 1870.

Source: Tyne and Wear Archives