

Park Gate Woodlands

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Celebrating Our Woodland Heritage

Aireborough Neighbourhood Development Forum



Park Gate Woodlands

Map Navigation:

You can use the 'Search bar' at the top of the map to search for addresses, streets, postcodes etc.

You can use the 'Layer List' button to see what layers are in the map and turn them on and off.

You can use the 'Measurement' tool to measure distances.

You can use the 'Basemap Gallery' button to switch to an aerial photo version if desired.

You can use the 'Find me' button to zoom to your current location if you are using a GPS-enabled device.

Map Information:

The locations of TPOs are shown in green. 

Clicking or tapping on a TPO will open a pop-up box that provides some basic information about that TPO, and will also provide a link to the full TPO documentation.

Conservation areas are shown in blue. 

Useful links:

- [General Information](#)
- [Tree works application form](#)
- [Tree works application guidance note](#)
- [Apply online](#)
- [High hedges guidance](#)



The Park Gate landscape is of great interest as it has developed as a managed landscape over time. This is an initial desk research project to look at what is known of the area, to build on the Celebrating Our Woodland Heritage Survey of Lower Esholt in 2018.

Summary of Conclusions

- The attached has been done through a quick 'at home' desk research study with material in my own archives.
- Esholt means an Ash Wood, or settlement near an Ash wood. Ash is a tree which like wet areas. A quick look at a tree inventory of 1750 of Sir Walter Calverley Blackett of Lower Esholt Hall, shows that Ash trees, together with Oak were the main species in the area.
- The area between Esholt and up to Park Gate is likely to have been a planned park landscape since medieval times, in addition to an agricultural landscape.
- Up to the early 18th century a part of Upper Esholt was probably laid out as a deer park. The evidence for this is gleaned from field names and documents to do with the local gentry. This may or may not have evolved from a medieval deer park which covered a larger area of Esholt as a whole. Maybe around 50 acres.
- During the early 18th century the land ownership and agricultural economy of the area changed substantially. Both Lower Esholt, and the Park Gate area of Upper Esholt were gentrified with newly built houses, and parks with gardens and pleasure grounds.
- It is likely that the gardens and grounds were influenced by the landscape garden movements of the time. The diaries of John Wesley record short descriptions of Park Gate when he visited during the 18th century.
- In the middle of the 19th century Park Gate was the seat of the influential industrialist Matthew William Thompson, Lord Mayor of Bradford and Bradford MP. It appears the woodland and pleasure grounds were extended down the Ghyll (Kettlewell?) during his time. Again, it is likely that this was influenced by the types of gardens developed by wealthy industrialists eg Cragside in Northumberland.
- Further useful research would include – finding a field/tithe map of Upper Esholt. Researching the Park Gate Deeds at Wakefield Archives. A detailed field landscape study to find veteran trees, boundaries, tracks, driveways, and other archaeological features.

The Woodland in the 21st Century from Google Satellite. Field names from 1836 Guiseley Tithe Map in white

 Possible deer park boundary. Site survey needed to see if any Park ditches or banks are extant.



View toward Park Gate from Belmont
Wood showing Kettlewell.



Guiseley Tithe Map 1836

(Note – does not include Upper Esholt)

All owned and used by Benjamin Thompson,
except 727.

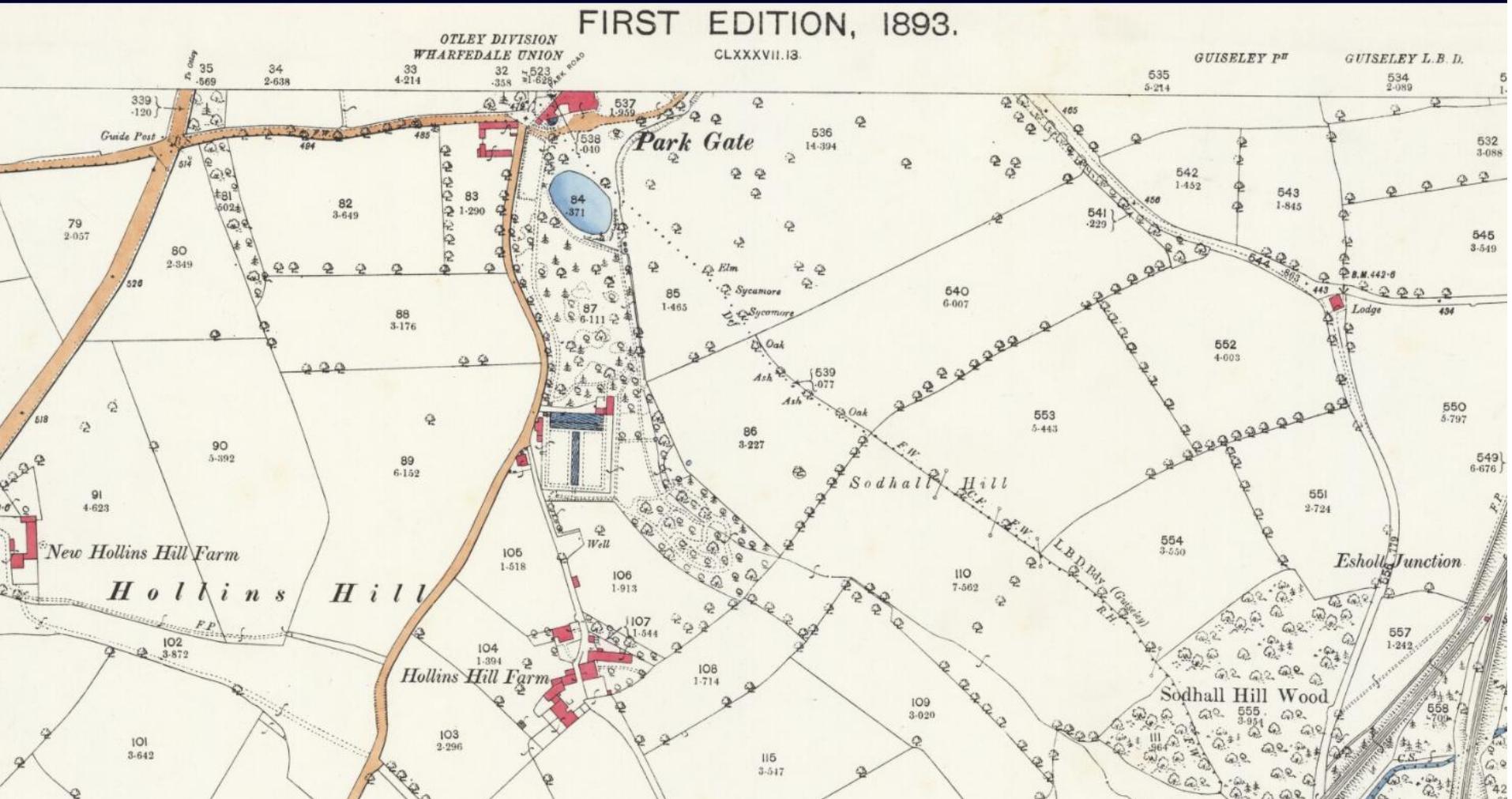
- 727 – House and Gardens
- 728 – Great Tranmire (Pasture)
- 729 – Plantation
- 730 - Stackyard
- 731 - House, Pleasure Gardens, Outbuildings
- 732 - The Park



In the first OS Map of 1847 the woodland is confined to the west of the beck on the Park Gate estate. There are a few trees along the beck to the south. The contours clearly show the Ghyll the beck runs through.



By 1893, it looks as if the woodlands are managed as a pleasure park with the addition of conifers and drives. This would perhaps be along the lines of that done at Lower Esholt Hall. There may be other pleasure park features.



Park Gate Landscape Setting

(Taken from the Aireborough Landscape Character Report)

- Stands on the south west side of the Guiseley Gap between Hollins Hill and Sodhall Hill. The Guiseley Gap is an unusual hanging valley/plateau in a millstone grit landscape, with drainage dikes and ghylls that links Airedale with Wharfedale.
- The millstone grit landscape has many layers laid down in a ancient warm tropical sea. Park Gate estate sits mainly on a layer of mudstone; the house itself is on a band of Guiseley grit, with the south west tip sitting on an outcrop of rough rock which forms Hollins Hill and lies under Jerrison and Springs Wood.
- Most of the Guiseley Gap has a layer of 'muddy' glacial till. Areas of the Park Gate site do not, especially the site of the woodland on the 1847 map. As well as Esholt Spring and Dibb Bank Wood.
- The site is 450 -475 ft above the Aire valley on geology
- On the west is a deep ghyll with a beck running into Guiseley beck ghyll. Ghylls would traditionally have had ancient woodlands on the steep slopes. (See Gill Beck from Hawksworth.)
- Aireborough has a timeline of woodland types as identified in the West Yorkshire Heritage Landscape Characterisation Report (HLC). Woodland first started to appear post glacial retreat as the climate warmed – alder in the wetter areas, oak, elm and lime on the slopes, and copse of oak, hazel and birch on the hill tops. (See table next slide.)
- The site is positioned on an old track from Otley to Bradford, where it divides to go to Hawksworth.
- The current estate lies between Guiseley and Upper or West Esholt. The land in discussion is part of Upper Esholt.

Lonsdale T (2017) *Aireborough Landscape Character & Value Report* : Aireborough Neighbourhood Development Forum : page 21

<https://aireboroughnf.files.wordpress.com/2017/09/landscape-report-consultation-draft-aug-17.pdf>

Aireborough Landscape Character Woodland Heritage

Woodland Heritage Timeline

Aireborough has a timeline of woodland types as identified in the West Yorkshire Heritage Landscape Characterisation Report (HLC). Woodland first started to appear post glacial retreat as the climate warmed – alder in the wetter areas, oak, elm and lime on the slopes, and copses of oak, hazel and birch on the hill tops. The trees on the hill tops later turned to peat²⁷, giving a valuable resource for fuel and building²⁸. Woodland clearance began from the Mesolithic period and has occurred for different purposes down the centuries leaving a valuable heritage.

Ancient Woodland	Mesolithic clearances were for hunting; Neolithic, for farming; woodland not cleared remains in areas with poorest soils, mostly ghylls eg Hawksworth Woods.
Wet Woodland	Some of the poor soil conditions are due to flooding or very wet conditions, so ancient woods remain with relevant woodland indicators, and signs of woodland management in places such as eg Diepkier
Semi-Natural Woodland	Naturally regenerated woodland that was subsequently managed. Such woods have distinctive boundaries of blackthorn, hazel and hawthorn, woodland indicators, banks and ditches eg the remains of Royd Wood on the Chevin Slopes.
Woodland Management	In the Medieval period trees were used for enclosure in pastoral areas, and as a building resource; these were managed via techniques such as coppicing and stubbing. Holly was used as a cattle feed in winter. There are many remains of managed hedges and trees, including veteran trees all around Aireborough eg High Royds, Chevin Slopes.
Designed Landscape	In the 18 th century landscapes were increasingly designed by the wealthy estate owners using woodland planting. Examples are at Parkgate, Guiseley, Spring Wood, and on the Chevin Slopes.
Enclosure and Estate Plantations	Following parliamentary enclosure plantations and stands of trees were newly planted for timber supplies, for use as a windbreak or as a fox or pheasant covert. Examples -The Elephant Trees, or Yorkgate Plantation.
Commemorative Woodland	From the 19 th century it became a cultural 'habit' to plant trees to commemorate important national events; Aireborough has many examples eg Victoria Avenue, Parkinson's Park Guiseley, Freya's Spinney at Upcroft..

²⁷ About 7,000 years ago, as the climate cooled.

²⁸ The name Sodhall in the south of Guiseley likely refers to building(s) made of turves instead of timber; one of which is identified on a late 18th century map.

Park Gate Early History

(Taken from various West Yorkshire Archive deposits)

- Originally part of the Manor of West Esholt, with indications that part **of it was likely to have been a medieval or early modern deer park**. In 1605 there was an award between Sir Walter Hawksworth of Hawksworth and Hugh Shireburne of the Manor of Guiseley and Esholt for work to the Park Wall for a highway between Esholt and Hawksworth – presumably Old Hollins Hill. (Bradford Archives)
- In diaries** of the second Sir Walter Calverley (16?? - 1749) he talks of Sir Walter Hawksworth ‘hunting at Esholt’.
- Around 1706 Sir Walter Calverley rebuilt Lower Esholt Hall on the site of Esholt Nunnery, and greatly improved the grounds in a Queen Anne style. This gentrification of Lower Esholt was likely to have had an influence on the Marshalls of Upper Esholt (see below).
- In 1719 the Manor of Guiseley and Esholt was sold by the Sherburne family to the Freeholders of Guiseley.
- Joseph Marshall, (Clothier of Esholt) and Hugh Marshall, (Yeoman or Rawdon) purchased a large amount of land between Esholt and Guiseley. Previous to this, various members of the Marshall family had held the land via the manor copyhold system. John Marshall rented the fulling mills and mill dam, Great Fleet Ing and Islands from 1713.
- Some of the field names listed under Hugh Marshall’s Farm at Park Gate in 1722 indicate that the area had been a deer park eg Nearer and Farther Lawnds, Farther and Nearer Hart Groves. In 1810 the Park Gate Estate had fields called Little Lawnds, Far Lawnds, The Lawnds and Lawnds House. **A lawnd is a grassy plain or pasture surrounded by trees in a deer park.** In 1717 when Joseph Marshall rented The Lawnds (50acres and 1 rood) they were classed as demesne lands ie they were for the use of the Lord of the Manor.
- In 1724 it was agreed that Hugh Marshall would maintain the track from Upper Esholt to Park Gate – presume that was Old Hollins Hill, but could be the one that goes through Manor Farm. The townsfolk of Esholt paid for the initial repair of the road with had become impassable for carts, carriages, etc.
- Presuming Park Gate house was built sometime between 1722 and 1752, it is therefore **early Georgian. The pleasure gardens are likely to have been laid out at a similar time.** Grassland, woodland, water, canals and walks were the fashion of the day.

**Yorkshire Diaries and Autobiographies in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, Volume 2, 1886, Surtees Society, page 78

Park Gate Later History

(Prime Source: N Winfield, Historical Notes on Park Gate)

- By 1752 Park Gate was held by Jeremiah Marshall (1702 – 1752 son of Hugh) and is mentioned in his will. The estate was inherited by his son, another Jeremiah Marshall (1730 -1787), whilst farms and lands in Esholt were inherited by younger son William Marshall (1738 – 1796 a woolstapler). Jeremiah junior **frequently had John Wesley visiting the house** (records from 1750's to 1780's). In 1766 the Wesleyan Chapel in Yeadon was built by Jeremiah Marshall of Park Gate. The Marshalls are described in John Wesley's diaries as being 'prominent in early Yorkshire Methodism'. (*Ibid* vol 5, page 474).
- In 1759 John Wesley describes riding to the house of Jeremiah Marshall where there are '**shady wood, cool fountains and pleasant meadows**'. (*Journal of John Wesley, Bradford Archives, vol 4, page 332, 18 July 1759*).
- In 1774 a visitor to Park Gate describes how he was taken to see the '**canals and shrubberies, which were beautiful to behold**'. (*John Wesley Diaries*)
- 1796, Francis Riddsdale is owner of Park Gate which he purchased from William Marshall who had gone bankrupt, but still lived there.
- 1813 Park Gate is sold to Benjamin Thompson a Bradford Brewer.
- 1836 tithe map shows land with pleasure grounds around the house
- 1847 OS map **shows woods just around the lake (or tarn)**
- 1857 Matthew William Thompson inherits Park Gate from his uncle. He was a lawyer, who then took up business in the Bradford Brewery and became MP for Little Horton in Bradford. In 1862 he first became mayor of Bradford, and in 1867 an MP for Bradford. During the 1860's and 70's he carried out a lot of improvement work around Guiseley eg the Town Hall and held many Chairmanships of Railway Companies and infrastructure projects. In 1890, he was created a Baronet for his work on the Forth Bridge. He died in 1891.
- The 1893 map shows the west of the **Park Gate Estate has been much extended into a pleasure ground with drives and planting**. This was something a number of industrialists did eg Cragside in Northumberland developed by the industrialist Lord Armstrong. And the same had been done at Esholt Hall in Springs Wood.

HUGH MARSHALL'S FARM 1722

(Stansfield Records, Bradford Archives)

Without a map of field names is not certain which Farm this was, but it was probably the one on Park Gate corner, rather than Manor Farm which might have been held/lived in by the Maud family. Field names associated with Hugh Marshall's Farm in 1722 give an indication of the type of land the farm consisted of.

- Names to do with a deer park
 - Further and Nearer Lawns
 - Further and Nearer Hart Groves
 - Park Lane
- Names to do with water
 - Tarn Close
 - Very stoney place for water
 - Well Close
 - Shregs (a wet reedy place, reeds were used for many household items)
 - Watering Place
- Names to do with the landscape
 - Kettlewell (this is an Anglo Saxon word meaning a spring or stream in a deep valley)
 - Kettlewell Park Gate Closes
 - Hollins
 - Round Hill
 - Wood Lane from Holling Gate
- Names to do with type of farming
 - Coney Clappers (rabbit warren)
 - Lamb Springs
 - Foxholes
 - Calf Close

Trees in Hollins Hill Area* – 1750

Taken from a Sir Walter Calverley Blackett's Wood Valuation Book (Bradford Archives)

Some were field/boundary trees, some copses, some in a woodland

- Ash (33% mostly field trees , but not surprising seeing Esholt means Ash Wood.)
- Oak (31%)
- Elm (13%)
- Sycamore (12%)
- Alder (6%)
- Firs (5% - seem to be mostly in the woods)
- Poplar 1 tree

*Note – this is not woodland on the Park Gate estate, but what was around the same area that had been part of the Manor of Guiseley and Esholt up to 1719.

Woodland Survey of Yorkshire Water Property – 2018

- This was part of a South Pennine Woodland Heritage Archaeological project.
- It concluded that *“Features relating directly to the planned landscape of Esholt have been determined as of regional significance as they may represent the remains of an arranged medieval park”*.
- The survey found a number of mature/veteran trees within the surveyed area as well as some ancient semi-natural woodland which could be of late medieval origins when the parkland began to be developed as an arranged landscape. This means that that a similar survey should be done for the Park Gate woodland
- Chapter 8 gives some useful management recommendations for the restoration work of heritage landscapes.

Bibliography

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Maps

Ordnance Survey Historic Maps

1836 Guiseley Tithe Map.

Google Maps