

LISTING A HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

Wills Gill/Carlton Estate

Through primary research studies for the Aireborough Neighbourhood Plan, the Forum has identified a landscape on the Chevin Slopes that it would like to list as a cultural heritage landscape. The area provides a sense of place and distinctiveness and thus its historical significance needs enhancing through protection, restoration and conservation in line with LCC saved policy N29, and the LCC Landscape Management Strategy as well as under NPPF126 and NPPF81

We are seeking Historic England's advice on the significance of this landscape, and if this is the right action to take. Our view is that the site has potential significance for

- Archaeological interest
- Historical association
- Landmark status
- Social and communal value

The area in question is the dip slope of the Chevin; specifically the area that is bounded by Carlton Lane to the west and north, the Queensway Estate to the south and Cemetery Road/Haw Lane Yeadon on the east (see Fig 1, Photograph 1). In the middle is the landmark ancient woodland of Deipkier (Deep Carr) with Calfhole Beck and an ancient track running north south at either side (E). To the west of the wood is Wills Gill, Guiseley (A) to the east is Carlton and Yeadon Banks the latter recently made a Village Green (C). To the South is the Queensway Estate, an area of mostly mid 20th century housing inspired by the Garden City Movement within its Chevin Slopes setting.



Figure 1- the area of Wills Gill -Carlton Estate – satellite map

The area has two main heritage stories to tell, that are still extant

1. A medieval vaccary.
2. A 19th century Industrialists' Estate

There is also a possible third, which involves a prehistoric and Roman archaeological area on Guiseley and Carlton moor and Yeadon Haw.

Topology

Guiseley and Yeadon lie north of the conurbations of Leeds and Bradford and south of Otley in the Guiseley Gap; part of the Southern Pennines National Character Area 38. The Gap was created when the Wharfedale Glacier sliced through the millstone grit of Rombalds Moor, isolating the Chevin, and creating a hanging valley or plateau between Wharfedale and Airedale. The Gap lies at around 425ft (130m) surrounded by summits such as Yeadon Haw, Hawkstone Ridge, The Odda, and Reva Hill



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which are 925ft (282m) at their highest. The glacier curled into the dip slope of the Chevin creating a 'bowl' now filled with glacial moraine and till. This gives a characteristic hummocky landscape, littered with becks—the becks gather together and eventually flow from the plateau via a Guiseley Beck Ghyll or Clough into the river Aire at Esholt.

Prehistory and Roman

Picture 1- View from Yeadon Banks to Wills Gill

The Chevin Slopes are crossed by Mesolithic tracks. The area of interest in this report is crossed by one going north south across Yeadon Banks. On the Chevin Slopes Neolithic farmers left a scattering of artifacts such as a Langdale Axe (PRN2028), flint point (monument 903919) and funeral urns (monument 50099), whilst stone stoops such as the Bull Stone (picture 2 monument 51652) are still in situ on Guiseley Moor – one is unlisted and built into a wall. An 18th century description of the ritual of 'beating the bounds' on Guiseley Moor¹ earmarks the route via stoops of various kinds and shapes, whilst one of the Mesolithic tracks on the west of the Chevin slope used to be called Stoop Gate. Put together with the landscape setting, this evidence could point at a potential Neolithic 'ritual landscape'. In addition, Yeadon Haw is a potential Iron Age settlement, and prehistoric relics

have been found on Yeadon Banks.



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Roman Road 72b (monument 1369579), crosses Guiseley/Carlton Moor on the edge of the glacial till deposits; its Carlton milestone is reported to be in a nearby garden. A potential Romano-British dwelling has been identified by geophysics in 2012 on the West Chevin Flank at Kelcliffe, Guiseley (see Fig 2), an area which also has traces of fields and track ways of a similar or slightly

earlier period, as well as early medieval lynchets. On Yeadon Moor to the east, there are other stoops, ancient enclosures, and a reported burial pit, many now under the airport runway. This is the archaeological context surrounding the area that we are concerned with in this report. .

¹ WYA 500/921 1700's 'Dispute of the Boundary of Common Between Guiseley and Otley' - West Yorkshire Archives, Morley

1. Medieval Vaccary

Around Guiseley Town Street (picture 3 below) is an area of tofts and crofts indicating a planned



medieval linear village; whether this settlement is pre or post 1066 is not known. Domesday is unhelpful, listing Gisele as a berewick or settlement on the Archbishop of York's² Otley estate, the greater part of the estate being waste³; the record indicates it had lost both value and population since 1066. Yet Gislicleah existed prior to AD975 as one of the 'tunas'⁴ or manors, on Archbishop Oswald of York's estate that was still being held by the Viking Lords of Northumbria.

To try and understand the evolution of the medieval settlement, its economy and parts, a phase 1 morphological analysis of the landscape has been employed, combined with available documentary evidence and secondary research on the evolution of settlements, particularly in the South Pennines. Roberts and Wrathmell's Atlas of Rural

Settlement in England (2003) puts Guiseley in the sub-province of the Southern Pennine Slopes. The characteristics of this area are dispersed settlements of hamlets and farms in well wooded areas, loosely organized around greens and with farmsteads spread along tracks. In the medieval period the *"general pattern was a hall-church foci and common edge-settlement on the periphery of cultivated or other enclosed land"*.

Settlement Description

Figure 2, shows the Town Street tofts and crofts are directly north of Guiseley Church, dated to the 12th century but believed from fragments of architecture to incorporate an earlier Anglo Saxon structure. It is dedicated to the Anglo Saxon cult saint St Oswald who was in vogue in the late 8th century and again after AD954 to boost the authority of the Earls of Northumbria⁵. Anglo Scandinavian stone cross fragments (monument 50046) were found in the north wall during renovations which date around the early 10th century. Next to the church is the 17th century Manor or Rectory with the remnants of a mote (monument 50090) and extensive manorial grounds including hemp closes, meadows, pasture and ings, both indicating a medieval date. During a survey it was thought some of the Rectory timbers may be from an early medieval Hall. The manor is connected to Upper Yeadon manor via Long Causeway (approximately but not exactly the line of the current Queensway).

To the west is a large green with the town wells; the green is the focus for several ancient long distance tracks as well as the site for communal facilities such as a pinfold and smithy (now gone), and a town cross and stocks. Above Town Street on the more fertile soil between 500-675ft are

² 1066 – Archbishop Ealdred (1061 – 1069); 1086 (Archbishop Thomas 1070 – 1100)

³ For tax purposes

⁴ Robertson AG, 1939, 'Anglo Saxon Charters', Cambridge pp 110 – 13.

⁵ Clare Stancliffe, June 2017, 'St Oswald who was he and why here', Conference on St Oswald's Church Fulford

three common cultivated fields, East, Middle and West with field boundaries and names indicating furlongs or flatts, lands and strips. Above that up Moor Lane is the common waste.

The majority of Town Street crofts slope down to Wills Gill Beck on the east side, which runs in a shallow ghyll gathering water from numerous unnamed and often engineered water courses. Wills Gill Beck feeds the manor moat and hemp grounds. The relationship between the Beck and the croft walls is interesting; mostly it flows at the end of the croft with the wall on the east. But there are several crofts where the wall is on the west of the beck. This alternating pattern of beck and wall is repeated in the open field directly above the crofts. To the south of the manor and Green Bottom (see Fig 3) is a large oval area called Ox Closes, together with the medieval corn mill, which later became a scribbling mill.

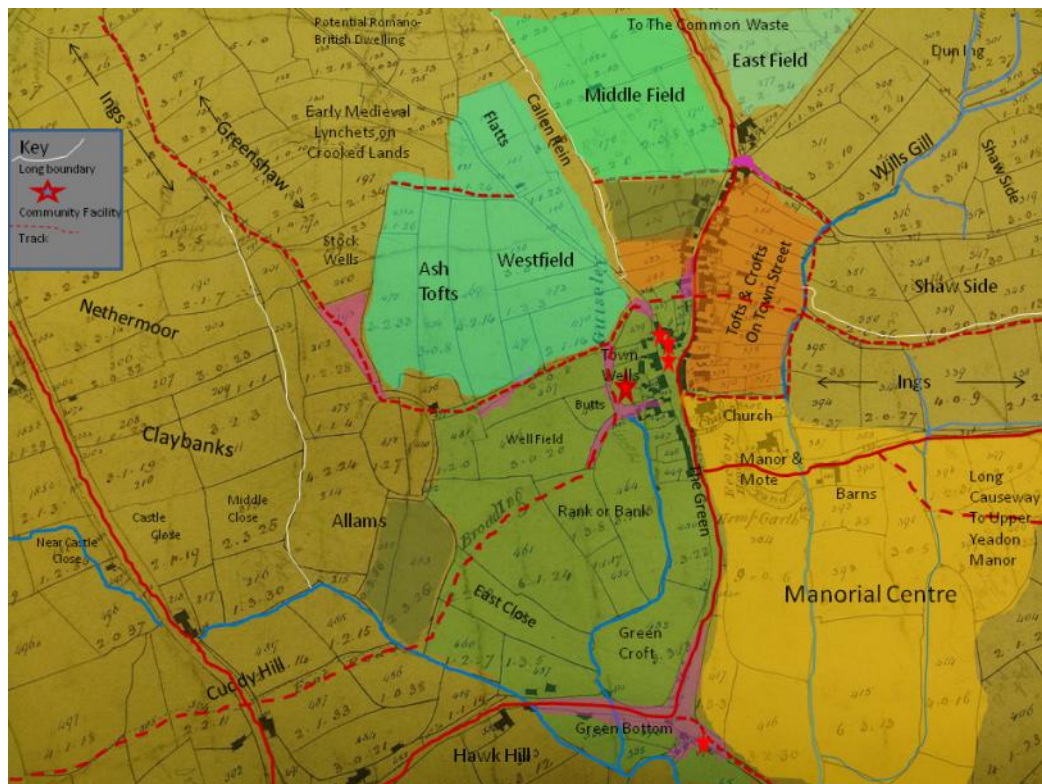


Figure 2 – Main Features of Medieval Guiseley based on a map from 1821 before road and railway sliced through features.

In essence this is a **planned 'landscape'** that enables the efficient use of land and resources. The large manorial centre suggests an organized local economy, not subsistence farming. It is also clear that in line with a dispersed settlement the tofts and crofts on Town Street are only part of the medieval story. There appears to be farms and croft grouped around the large 'green' suggested by Ash Tofts and the relatively drier Cuddy Hill (formerly Brown Hill) and Hawk Hill House; there is also an interesting round enclosure with an almost encircling track to the north west of the 'green' – unfortunately this has now been obliterated by the railway cutting. The green itself runs the length of the manorial centre and the two areas could once have been one, before a portion was allocated as demesne. This large green lies at the bottom of the Guiseley Gap, traversed by water courses and just above Guiseley Beck Ghyll with its corn-mill (see Fig 3); it is ideal rich meadowland. Christopher Taylor recounts a theory by Stuart Wrathmell, following the latter's research of settlement origin in

Yorkshire, that many places started as dispersed settlements around a large oval area of pasture.⁶ In this respect the positioning of Nun Royd House on the south east of the manorial estate is interesting. As is the fact that the nuns of Esholt Priory were allocated land in the same area between the manorial centre and Nun Royd Beck Ghyll.

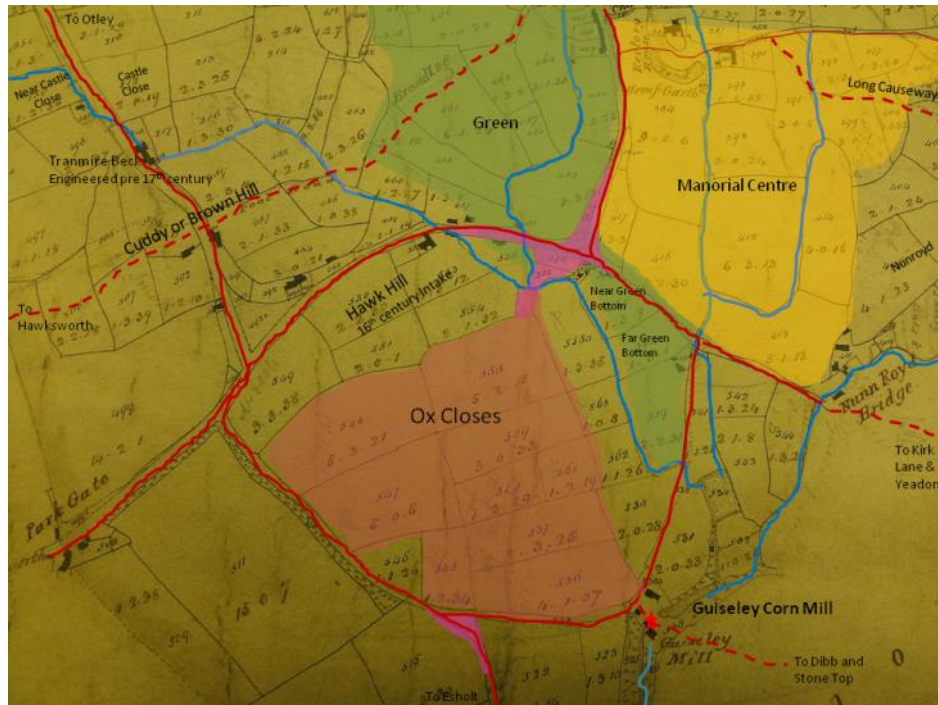


Figure 3 – South of the Manor and Green

The continued dispersed nature of Guiseley is illustrated in 16th/17th century manor records, before enclosure, where people are talked about in terms of 'Ends', for example the inhabitants from Bacon End or Over End (possible Town Street) or West End. The features of the planned landscape also come across in the 1379 poll tax, when surnames were still fluid; a quarter of names from the Parish of Guiseley are associated with where people lived, Beatrix del Hole (a quarry), Henricus del Rodes (wood assart), Ricardus del Grene, Adam del Lee, Adinet del fforest. Old names appearing regularly in early parish records include, Overend, Myers (Mire Beck), Shaw, Gill, Sikes, Oldroyd, Flatherus (lives on a Flatt), Hallam (enclosure near rocks), and Butterfield.

The other point of note about the planned area of Town Street is that it doesn't fit neatly with the church and manor, leading to a conclusion it was built after they were established. That would potentially date it to the 12th century. Christopher Taylor notes that after the 'Harrowing of the North' many villages in the North of England have similar planned areas which came into existence soon after 1070. His analysis concludes they were established for purely economic reasons "*most of these regular villages lie on estates held by major landlords. They seem to have been established, sometimes on new and sometimes on previously inhabited sites, by these lords who attracted to them free tenants from other areas.*"⁷ This would fit with the large wasted estate inherited by Archbishop Thomas of York, Royal Chaplain to William the Conquer, in 1070.

⁶ CC Taylor, 2002, 'Nucleated Settlement: a view from the frontier', Landscape History 24:1, p57

⁷ Christopher Taylor, 1983, 'Village and Farmstead; A history of Rural settlement in England', ch 8, p134

Specific areas of 'tension' are

- Church Street itself does not exist until the 19th century, the track to the manor to the south.
- A planned settlement of tofts and crofts usually has a back lane, but the Guiseley ones only have a back footpath, with the wall that curiously crosses the beck at several points.
- There is a long wall and track that come in from the east along the bottom of Shaw Side. On examination the wall seems continuous with the wall of one of the crofts, and the track cuts up one of the crofts. An entry in a 1691 manor court roll states that this inconvenient route to Shaw Side closes through the crofts will be closed, and Wills Gill Lane to the north made up as an occupation lane.

It would therefore seem that access to the land to the east of the manor is controlled. This also fits with the fact that the only track from Yeadon to Guiseley Church is Long Causeway, which goes from Yeadon Manor to Guiseley Manor

The area to the east is the subject of this report. Beyond the crofts and manor is Wills Gill, beyond that is a large area of woodland, wood pasture and meadow called Leys. Through the middle runs Calfhole Beck, which joins Shaw Beck running from the Haw. Calfhole Beck was the Boundary of the Archbishop's Liberty – a territory under his direct legal jurisdiction until the 19th century.

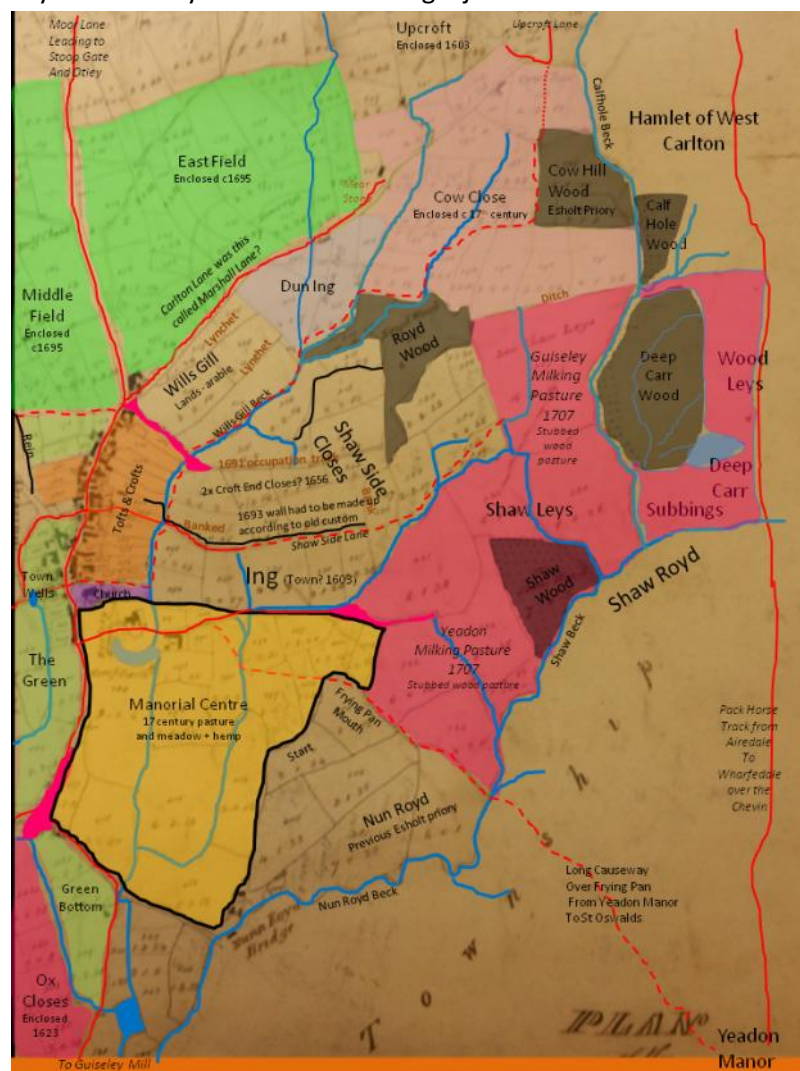


Figure 4 – Shaw Leys



Picture 4 - Shaw Beck

Although Domesday is not helpful with regards Guiseley, it does indicate that the Otley estate had taxable wood pasture and underwood (young trees). It also records that Carlton had a large coppice wood. It would be feasible to speculate that this includes the land around Deipkier or Deep Carr Wood and Calfhole Wood as both are ancient wet woodland. Around this wood is the area called Ley, mostly lying between becks with a

boundary ditch across its straight northern side. A ley or leah was an extensive area of well watered, wood pasture used to graze animals and considered 'ancient' by the Angles. In West Yorkshire the oldest leahs generally sit on good soils below 650ft (200m)⁸ - around Carlton Lane. Hooke, suggests that in pre-conquest England leah's were linked to flourishing manors⁹. So is this Gislic's Leah? Gelling¹⁰ suggested that place names ending in Ley date primarily from the period AD 750 -950. This accords with documented information that Guiseley existed before AD 975, and was possibly part of a grant of land given to Bishop Wilfrid of Ripon and York in the Forest of Elmet in AD 678 in the region of Ingaedyne (Yeadon). This land grant contained 'consecrated places' in which the British clergy of Elmet, had deserted when fleeing from the 'hostile sword' of the Angles.¹¹



It is a possibility that after the 1069 Harrowing of the North, the new Archbishop of York planned a settlement area in Guiseley to re-establish the manor as an economic unit. The leah was core to this and become a vaccary or cattle ranch. In the 12th century the manor was granted to one of his wards. Evidence supporting this includes surrounding names which include cow or calf, the controlled access to

the vaccary via the track to the manor, the large Ox Close to the south, the holding of the Ley as glebe into the late 19th century, and a map from 1724 (above), which shows the Ley boundary exactly as it is today; the northern part marked as the milking pasture for Guiseley, and the southern part the milking pasture for Yeadon. The fact that it is wood pasture is evidenced by the number of stubbed tree areas marked, and the remains of woodland bank and ditch boundaries.

⁸ Nigel JB Smith, 2013, 'Settlement and Field Patterns in the South Pennines', University of Lancaster, p209

⁹ Hooke, 1989, 'Pre Conquest Woodland: its distribution and usage', the Agricultural History Review, v37 no2 p121

¹⁰ Gelling and Cole, 2003, 'The Landscape of Placenames', p237

¹¹ Eddius Stephanus, cAD 720 'The Life of Saint Wilfred',

In April 2017 Deipkier Wood was one of the ancient woodlands included for a community archaeological investigation as part of the South Pennines', Our Woodland Heritage Project. The community archaeologist confirmed the likelihood of the area being a vaccary – the report has not yet been produced.

A further area of interest in today's Wills Gill landscape is the pattern of 17th century enclosure by agreement between manor court tenants – which is still strongly evidenced in the current landscape. In the medieval period the area marked Shaw Sides and Ing on Figure 4 may have been common meadow and pasture for use of the township's tenants. The arable common fields (Middle and East) sit above on higher, more fertile ground. Records show that after the Reformation, improvements to agricultural productivity in Guiseley began firstly with 16th century intakes of land,¹² many of these around the West Field. Then, in the late 16th and early 17th century tenants started swapping strips and doles to create a portfolio of holdings more suited to their economic aims. At the same time agreements were made to enclose common land, for example the Town Ing and Upcroft in 1603, Cow Close may have been the enclosure agreed in 1639, Shaw Side was enclosed before 1691 when an occupation lane was constructed; which is now Wills Gill Lane. Finally, the common fields were enclosed in 1695. Only the common waste was left; this was enclosed in 1796 via parliamentary act.



Picture 5 and 6 – Remains of Royd Wood Boundary

Many of the new 17th century enclosures were bounded by dry stone walls, and this could be when the quarries were established along the edge of Carlton Lane. Becks were often put underground through drainage channels. **Essentially it is this 17th century field pattern, over lying the medieval field system that we still see today and why the area is of archaeological interest.** Some of the woodland boundaries around what used to be Royd, Shaw and Cowhill Woods are also still in evidence both in terms of ditches and the type of tree and undergrowth eg hazel, elder and ash, together with opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage and Dogs Mercury (see picture 5 and 6). The Neighbourhood Plan is making moves to establish some of these as nature corridors.

¹² BDP29, 'Guiseley Church Tithe and Easter Due Records', West Yorkshire Archives Morley

2. Carlton Estate

To the east of Calfhole Beck the land is split between Carlton and Yeadon by Shaw Beck. However the areas directly around Deep Car Wood have a degree of alignment and both have the ley name.

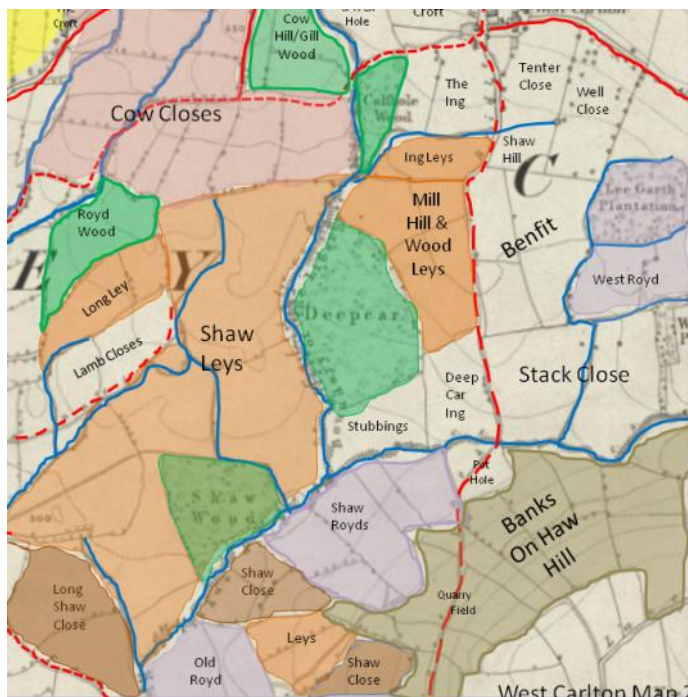


Figure 6 – Assarts or Royds around Yeadon Haw and Carlton

The difference in usage comes with the fields beyond that— on the Guiseley side, as we have seen, are 17th century and medieval enclosures. On the Carlton/Yeadon side there are many oval assarts or ‘royds’, see figure 6, which would have been made before the end of 14th century.¹³ As well as strip fields on the higher ground of Yeadon Banks and Carlton Townfields.

Place name evidence in districts settled by the Vikings suggests that the Old English ceorl, meaning ‘churl or free peasant ie a tenant’, was replaced by the Old Norse karl, and that many places names ‘Charlton or Carlton’ were settled in the Anglo-Scandinavian period

between AD 876 - 954.¹⁴ In addition, it was a habit of the Vikings to create assarts out of woodland on the edge of settlements, and names such as Thorp and Birks, both used in Carlton, indicates such a history. So was West Carlton Manor carved out of the ley around Deep Car Wood at the time the Archbishop of York’s lands were held by Vikings, and was this lucrative economy one of the reasons why the Archbishop did not recover his lands until the period between 1020 and 1066? Was it at this point the Calfhole Beck boundary was agreed? Looking at landscape patterns it is possible that Upcroft was linked to West Carlton before such a split?

In 1066 Carlton manor belonged to **Arnketil**, a Scandanavian name. Robert Malet had it in 1086 and although it was worth 20s with its woods, it was mostly waste. It is of note to our analysis that after 1066 East and West Carlton develop differently. Both were held from Harewood Castle directly, both were in the parish of Guiseley, but

- West Carlton with 2 carcuates (about 240 acres) was subinfeudated with a tenant.
- East Carlton was demesne¹⁵.

In 1290 Kirkby’s Inquest Carlton has two entries; one shows 2 carcuates in the hands of **John of Yeadon**, the other entry comes directly under Harwood. The 1379 poll tax records¹⁶. show the most money being paid by **John of Carleton** ffranklan, (it is possible of Yeadon and of Carlton are the same family) Laurence¹⁷ says “ *West Carlton had the wood and a house, and well-to-do tenants whose activities were centred on the clearance and exploitation of the hundred-acre woodland which once*

¹³ Nigel JB Smith, 2013, ‘Settlement and Field Patterns in the South Pennines’, University of Lancaster, p209

¹⁴ Jennifer Kirkby, 2015, Research Notes, source not recorded

¹⁵ Faull and Moorhouse (eds), 1981, ‘West Yorkshire: an archaeological survey to 1500’ WYMCC,

¹⁶ <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/Misc/SubsidyRolls/WRY/Guiseley.html>

¹⁷ Alastair Laurence, 2016, ‘Otley Chevin A landscape History’, p4. Source Carlton Papers – West Yorkshire Archives Morley

lay southwards towards the Yeadon boundary". This would mean the free tenants of West Carlton had an 'economy' connected more with the Guiseley vaccary than the demesne lands of East Carlton. An idea supported by landscape analysis which shows that today's connecting Carlton Lane transects East Carlton's Town Fields. West Carlton's main transport links is the track over Yeadon Banks from Esholt and the Aire, to Otley and the Wharfe via Yeadon; there are also lesser tracks to Upcroft and Guiseley. West Carlton may also have had its own open field, High Field perhaps shared with Upcroft (see Figure 7).



Figure 7 – the majority of the Estate of West Carlton

Benjamin Wade of Headingley

The Yeadon family seem to retain West Carlton in the 15th and 16th centuries - Richard Yeadon 1484, George Yeadon 1545¹⁸. However, there is a 1540 mention of Calfe Halle Woode in the Ministers Accounts (land that had come into the Kings hands at the Reformation). Following the Reformation, there appears to have been arguments over the Manor of Carlton with Robert Hitch Rector of Guiseley¹⁹. In 1630 West Carlton is owned by Benjamin Wade of New Grange Headingley who may have purchased it from the Yeadon's.²⁰ The Wades did not live in Carlton; the 1672 Hearth Tax shows the occupier of West Carlton as Thomas Lambert. The Lambert family had strong connections to the Manor of Guiseley. Laurence says the Lamberts were tenants for 3 generations from circa 1630 to circa 1704, in which case they may have included Thomas Lambert, Bailiff to Sir Nicholas Shireburn of Guiseley Manor around 1700.²¹

On a 1771 map of Leeds showing principal estates both a Carlton and Carlton Ash are named – Carlton Ash may be the name of West Carlton estate of the Wade family who now had links to the

¹⁸ Roy Price, 1980, 'A History of Yeadon'

¹⁹ Legal Papers in Bradford Archives dated 1595-1626 re the Manor of Carlton. Benjamin Wade and Robert Hitch Rector of Guiseley SpSt/8/31

²⁰ Rental of Yeadon prepared for Mr Francis Layton dated around 1630

²¹ WYA 500/921 1700's 'Dispute of the Boundary of Common Between Guiseley and Otley' West Yorkshire Archives, Morley

Mayorship of Leeds. A key economic resource of this estate would have been its woods. A 1750 survey of woods on the Esholt/Yeadon estates of the Stansfields²² has an inventory of all commercial ash and alder alongside oak, sycamore and elm. It shows how many trees, where, and of what value. Also, which were ready for felling, and to what use some were put. This inventory tells us that a 5acre wood was a '*middling large wood*', so the 15 acres of Calfhole and Deep Carr woods combined were likely a profitable size.

John Hustler of Undercliffe

Following a later Benjamin Wade's death in 1801 his daughters became co-heiresses; in 1820/23 the Wade's (John Bastard, Thomas Lloyd, Henry Martin and William Wade) sold their holdings in Carlton, including West Carlton to John Hustler of Undercliffe, Bradford (**1769-1842**) for £14,000. He was from a Bradford Quaker philanthropist family, who as wool merchants played a large part in developing Bradford from a village to a City. His mother Christiana Hird was a Quaker from Rawdon.



Picture 7 – The remains of John Hustler's landscape with tree plantations (and the end of the airport runway)

John Hustler set about creating and improving his Carlton estate, purchasing land throughout the surrounding area, including Yeadon Haw and Carlton Cottage Farm situated on the old Town Fields, in the corner of our area of interest in this report. This is where he sometime lived when staying in the area and pursuing his interest in botany (Laurence p13). He also started a programme of planting woodland around the area, including Yorkgate Plantation, Novia Plantation, Field Head, Way Royd, Lea Garth, and Mount Pisgah – in total 172acres. Some of these plantations are already shown on a Teal map of 1830. All are still there in some shape or form today (see picture 7).

Nathaniel Eckersley of Standish Hall, Wigan

John Hustler died in 1846, and the estate was sold to Nathaniel Eckersley of Standish Hall, Wigan (1816- 1892) for £40,000. He was a Cotton Spinner, who became the MP for Wigan twice, was several times mayor, a JP, and High Sherriff of Lancashire – he had a public spirit and was philanthropic. As mayor he was responsible for establishing Mesnes Park in Wigan (Historic England 1001335). There seems to be no obvious reason why the Eckersley's would purchase an estate in Carlton!! At the sale, the woods are listed at just over 15 acres - Calfhole Wood – 2a 3r 32p Deep

²² Stansfield Papers, Bradford Archives

Carr 12a 2r 15p²³, It appears from early census records that the Eckersley's also managed the woodland separately to renting out the West Carlton farms.

Nathaniel Eckersley also lived at Carlton Cottage for a while, and he too expanded the Carlton estate. He improved buildings, especially Carlton Cottage, and John Hustler's school in East Carlton became St Bartholomew's Church. He also brought more land right across to Carlton Lane in Guiseley. By 1883 he owned the 'Leys' and Shaw Side Closes on the Guiseley side of Calfhole Beck which he possibly purchased around 1872 from the Church. It is likely that this is when the Shaw Lane farm track was extended to reach Deep Carr Wood. The track is not shown on the 1847 OS maps, but is on the 1889 map. By the late 19th century the Carlton Estate ranged across our area of interest from the Chevin Ridge, out to the Bramhope Tunnel, across to Yeadon Haw and the Banks, and down to the top of Nunroyd.



Picture 8 – Looking from West Carlton to Yeadon Banks

Nathaniel Eckersley died in 1892 and **James Carlton Eckersley (1855 – 1926)** inherited the Carlton Estate from his Father; his brother inherited the Lancashire Estate. James Eckersley does not seem to have had the interest in Carlton his father had but spent his time on his varying business interests many of them in Lancashire; however he did live in Carlton Cottage. After he died the church in Carlton was given to the Rector of Guiseley.

During the Eckersley's tenure, a variety of farms and houses were built on the estate including Norland Farm on Carlton Lane, Guiseley, Wills Gill House and Shaw Side House, both on the Wills Gill occupation lane of 1691. To get water to these houses it came from a spring behind the Lee Garth Plantation on Grange Farm, West Carlton and was piped via what was possibly a gravity fed system to all these new properties. A pipe found in Calfhole Beck may be one of these water pipes. James' brother Nathaniel inherited Carlton and sold it in 1927/28 in parcels – he particularly wanted the tenant farmers to buy the different farms.²⁴

Frank and Albert Parkinson of Crompton Parkinson

However, Hopewell Farm at West Carlton ended up with Albert Parkinson, of Crompton Parkinson; whilst his brother Frank Parkinson, bought the neighbouring fields in Guiseley from Calf Hole Wood to the Grange on Carlton Lane. This is interesting, because Frank and Albert were very keen on promoting good farming practices (one of Frank's charities is still in farming) and they also had a philosophy of looking after all the assets for the public good (hence Guiseley has Parkinson's Homes and Parkinson's Park) – so they are likely to have had something in mind for their joint purchases.

²³ Deeds 1846/PG/625/655 West Yorkshire Deed Archives, Wakefield

²⁴ Sale Details for some of the land in 1927

Hence we have an area of land that has been looked after and developed by a number of ‘famous’ Northern Industrialist families and therefore has some relevance as assets of historical association, as well as in estate development. Some of the landscape features, such as Deipkier Wood, Mount Pishgah, Yorksgate Plantation and Yeadon Banks are landmarks.

Codicil – Dunn Ing



There is a codicil to these two stories, which fits the listing for social and communal value. In 1919 many glebe lands were sold, and local industrialist and philanthropist Jonathan Peate purchased the land along the west of Wills Gill Beck called Dunn Ing. This land became known for a place of picnics and recreation in the first part of the 20th century – here is a memory from resident Brian Triffitt

Picture 9 – Squeeze stile stands forlorn on Dunn Ing, Wills Gill, but for how much longer?

“In the 1940’s Wills Gill was a wonderful place, it was like a large picnic area, people would gather down there at weekends with their families for picnics and games, and of course with the beck that ran down from Carlton Lane that was a real draw for children; we used to dam it up in certain places to form large paddling pools in which we had loads of fun; unlike today, the beck in those days had a good flow of clean water. We often took our boats right up to the far end of the field and sail them all the way back down to where the beck disappeared under Wills Gill lane and down to Guiseley rectory and beyond.

The far end of the field is where we had our cricket pitch, many a ball was lost as it sailed over the beck and into the hay field that stood next door (lots of happy hours spent playing here). Our football pitch was still in the same field but in an area at the very top that ran parallel to Carlton Lane and onto the back of a cottage that stood there. A lady had a small holding with a few small animals and some poultry but we never saw much of her, at some point in her life she had had a kid born with a goats head, but they say it didn’t grow to be very old.

Another game or activity we used to play was throwing arrows, these were lengths of stick or canes with a cross cut into one end and then a cardboard flight inserted, a groove was then cut around the stick just below the flight, you then had a piece of string and made a knot at one end, wrapped the string round the groove and over the knot and the other end around your hand, then holding the pointed end of the stick with the same hand you would throw it as hard as you could using the string to propel it. Long sticks would go the furthest but a short one would be the ones to go up high. Pete Baker never gave us any problems with playing on his land, just as long as we didn’t cause any damage. They were good days way back then. “

In Summary

We believe the above site may have significance for the following reasons

- **Archaeological interest** - the medieval field system and vaccary, with 17th century enclosure fields. The ancient woodland boundaries.
- **Historical association** – The Carlton Estate developed by the Wade family – linked to the development of Leeds. The Quaker Hustler family linked to the development of Bradford. The Eckersley family linked to the development of Wigan. The Parkinsons of Crompton Parkinson known for being local philanthropists. Frank Parkinson donated the Parkinson Building at Leeds University.
- **Landmark status** – Primarily the woodlands both ancient and those planted by John Hustler. But also Yeadon Banks.
- **Social and communal value** – Dunn Ing, to the west of Wills Gill Beck, known as a place of natural recreation in the mid 20th century.

Pictured – Wall at Upcroft; Old tree line at Cow Close; Deep Carr woodland management; stoop near Bull Stone

