

## **Fields and Field names**

*English field names, J. Field. Publ. David and Charles, 1972*

### *Fields with evidence of strips*

Little Pesbers  
Pesbers Great  
Far End Meadow  
Staney Lands  
Astall  
Jackswood  
Snowdale  
Little Honey Mires  
Wheatlands  
Mires  
(Wheat Ridding)

### *No strips*

Mill Brow

### *Meadow*

Open Astall  
Hales Psture  
Plains  
West Plains  
Clap Gill  
Dick Ground

Hawthorn trees  
Haggs Brow  
Haggs

springwood - a coppice wood (Ancestors, Aug. 2006 p74 A walk in the woods, D. Hey)

## **Field names from Sheepscar Deeds**

Note that the spelling variation in these extracts may be due in part to misreadings. Some of the fields may not be in Langcliffe.

1592 DW316

Whete Ryddinge close

1594 DW318

Cow Close  
Thowkirbanke  
Asdell  
Greengate  
Crookland close  
Slaypestaynes  
Mylnegate  
Pesber  
Stayneland

1594 DW319  
Wellhouse  
Cowsyde Close  
Daha  
Banbeck  
Howryddinge

1594 DW320  
Banbeck close

1594 DW321  
New Garth

1594 DW321  
New Garth  
Croft  
Yawe close alias Ewe close  
Pesber  
Howrydding  
Staynforth gate

1594 DW324  
Stubbing close  
Mowtergapp  
Styichaw Ryddinge

1595 DW323  
Kyrkebanck  
Banbecke Crosse  
Howrydding

1597 DW325  
Kyrkebank

1599 DW326  
Howesse close

1600 DW327  
Gate Settles  
Howridding

1601 DW330  
Yawe Close

1606 DW331  
The Ofgang  
The Holes  
Womelstorth  
The Shawe

Pesber  
Cow Close  
Thowkerbancke  
Asdale  
Greengate  
Brooklandes  
Milngate Raine  
Stainelande

1609 DW335  
Barry Hayninges in Town Field

1611 DW336  
The Stubbin  
The Ormes Croft

1613 DW337  
The Ridding Close  
The Milnebrowe Close  
Mealbanke  
The Keyes  
Wheatecloses  
Mowtergapps  
Stylehow Riddiney  
Slaipstones

DW338 Date uncertain  
Kirkebanke in the Town Fields

1620 DW339  
Stilleridding  
Whiteriddinge  
Great Stubbing

1623 DW340  
Oxegang  
Assdale

1623 DW341  
Little Stubbings in Town Fields

1627 DW343  
Oxegange in Town Field

1628 DW347  
Battyehenyng  
Thowcarrbancke  
Holes Close  
Greengatelandes  
Haddockeforde

Half Rood  
Slaypestones  
Milnegateraynes  
Asdale  
Clapdale  
Ouldmilnesteade  
Cow Close  
Dahawe  
water corn mill

1628 DW349  
The Ofgang Close

1629 DW350 and 351  
Banbecke close

1630 DW352  
Thowcarrbancke  
water corn mill

1632 DW353  
Plains close and a house on it

1633 DW354  
Langcliffe Moor now inclosed called Starr Close

1634 DW355  
The Stubbing

1634 DW356  
Fields of Langcliffe  
Woomestarch

1639 DW359  
The Stubbing close

1638 DW360  
Wheat Ridding

1638 DW361  
The Stubbing

1638 DW362  
Blewey

1639 DW363  
Stubbing House in Langcliffe

1640 DW364  
Stubbing Nookes

Stubbing close (part of Manor of Langcliffe)

1647 DW366

Pike close  
Borrowdale close  
Slaipstones  
Woodhouse  
Rough Neth  
The Croft  
New Croft  
Asdall  
Cow Close  
OverClose

1647 DW367

Daha  
closes in Town Field

1648 DW368

Langcliffe Spring close  
Haggwormes Bothome close

1649 DW369

Battiehouse land  
Shortathwaite

1651 DW370

Skarr close on Langcliffe Moor  
Yew Close

1694 DW371

Croft close

1651 DW374

Asdale  
Crooklands

1651/55/86 DW375

Stainasty Closes  
Wormelstroth  
Sellbarnes  
Kirkebanke Croft  
Lynelands  
Howridding  
The Croft  
Cow Close  
Over Close

1652 DW376

Langcliffe field

1653 DW377  
Tennfalles  
Broad Half Rood

1656 DW378  
Great Cow Close

1657 DW379  
The Intacke  
Stubbing  
The Pock  
Howridding

1658 DW380  
Stonie Lands  
Little Hurries  
Common Leys

1659 DW381  
Broade Half Roode  
Tenn Falls  
Little Half Roode  
Round Gate Side  
Snawdale  
1659 DW382  
Slaipstones

1659/64 DW383  
Ayneley close  
Benkard Garth  
Pinderinge  
Scarr closes

1661 DW384  
Blewham close

1660 DW385  
Slaipstones in Langcliffe Field

1667 DW387  
Haggwormes Botham  
Langcliffe Spring

1668 DW388  
Stubbin close  
Ormes Croft  
Thomas Paley Croft  
Haddockford  
Pesbar

Brereyland

1669 DW389

Battyhouse

1673 DW391

Langcliff Spring

Hagworme Bottome

Battye House

Intack

Howridding

Stubbing

Parrock

1647 DW392

The Crofts

Nethersgarth

Tennefoth

Broad Halfe roode

Stobbinclose

Ormescroft

Paley Croft

Haddockefore

Peaseber

Brereyland

Shadale (Snadale?)

Asdale

Crooklands

Backerbeike alias Edmond Close

Caplerigg alias Caplerigg Thirckerice

Edmonds alias Girsgill

1673 DW393

Battie heaning

Thankerbank

Holesclose

Greengate land

Hempland called the Habbe Rood

Haddockfore

Slaipestones

Milnegate Rayne

Asdale

Clapgill

Wheat Ridding

Banberke

Snadale

Stubbin

Stubbinook

Oxgange

1674 DW394  
Sleetebray  
Clapgill  
Corn Clapgill  
Pesberland  
Langleyes      all in Town Fields of Langcliffe

1674 DW395  
Wombestroth in Town Fields

1685 DW397  
Grass Croft

1688-1732 DW 398-400  
Banbeck Close  
Threap Close  
Haw Riddings  
Byerdale  
Stony Sty Close  
Womellstroth  
Swinelands  
Milburns  
Great Cow Close  
Little Cow Close  
Starr Close

1694 DW401  
Croft  
Steepfatt Garth  
The Steepfatt - all in the Town Fields

1694 DW402-3  
Steep Vatt garth and Steep vatt belonging

1697 DW404  
Kirkebanks

1700 DW405  
The Croft  
Heaths Garth  
Hairhouse  
Trumprans  
Banbeck  
Armscroft  
Kirkebanks  
Threaps  
Open Threaps Lands  
The Over Close  
Dawhaw



1704/1799 DW406  
The Pyke in the Town Fields

1707 DW407  
The Croft  
Heathgarth  
Haihouse  
Frinnpdeathe (?)  
Banbeck  
Arnscroft  
Kirkbanks  
Threaps Close  
Open Trheaplands  
Howriding  
Thonkerdale  
Greengate  
Parker Close  
Brakenholme in Stackhouseholme  
Sortatwasts  
Briory Lane  
Thackwaits  
Milngate Rand

1709 DW408  
Greengate

1720 DW409  
Sleapstones

1732 DW412  
Byerdale

1733 DW413  
Threaps  
Millbrows  
Womelstroth  
Swinelands  
Cow Close  
Greta Cow Close  
1733 DW413a  
Tenterlands

1737 DW414  
Greengate Crook

1742 DW415  
Breareyland  
Skinhouse Croft  
Lawrence Croft

1754 DW416

Wetlands  
Fidelase

1792/7 DW418

Heath Garth alias Nursery or Rookery

1792 DW419

Higginbotton or Gatesettles  
Springs or Hagginbotton all in Langcliffe

1624 DW421

Springs  
Hawfield  
Roughe Close  
Assdaile Close  
Oxgange in Townfields

1801 DW424

Langcliffe Scar  
Stubbin  
Spring Wood  
Blues  
Banback  
Slape Stones  
Oxgang  
Wentstroth or Holles Close all in Langcliffe

### **Dating of Field Names**

**1592 to 1599** Various original sale documents on sale of the manor

<b>Ancient name</b>	<b>Tithe map name (1841)</b>
Asdell	Astall
Banbeck	Band Brech
Crookland	Crooklands
Daha	Daw Haw
Howesse Close	Hales Meadow and Pasture(?)
Howryddinge	Hall Rydding
Kyrkebanck	Church Bank
Mylnegate	Mill (various)
Pesber	Pesbers Great and Little
Slaypestanes	Slapestones
Stayneland	Staney Land, Stoney Garth
Stubbing Close	Stubbing
Threipe Close	Threaps (Low, Narrow, Higher)
Wheat Ryddinge	Wheat Ridding
Womelstroth	Hales Meadow(?)

Thowkerbanke

Greengate  
Mowtergapp  
Styichaw Ryddinge

**1600-1649 NYCRO Dawson papers (DW)**

Batty Hayninges	Batty Henry Meadow
Clapdale	Clap Gill
Croft	Croft, North Croft
Haggwormebotham	Springs Meadow, Near Springs, East Springs Meadow
Langcliffe Spring	" " "
Leyes Close	Leys (Long, Third, Little)
Oxgang	Oxgang
Pike	Pike
Plains Close	Plains , West Plains
Shortathwaite	Short Oates
Thackwith	Thackwood, Little Thackwood
Watelands	Wheatlands

Ormes Croft  
Half Rood  
Tennfalles  
Borrowdale  
Haddockforde  
Huntergarth

**1650-1699 NYCRO Dawson papers (DW)**

Langcliffe Field	Langcliffe Field
Snowdale	Snowdale
Swinelands	one of the Astalls
The Intacke	Intack

Heaths Garth  
Little Hurries  
Sleetebray

**post 1700 Wakefield Deeds Registry and NYCRO Dawson papers (DW)**

Brakinholme	Holme
Cowperthwaite	Cow Peter
Great and Little Woodbrow	Woodbrow
Holin	Holly Close
Holmedale	Holme
Honey Mire	Honey Mires
Kiln Croft or James Croft	Plains?
Overlands	Over Close
Sheep Close	Sheep House Meadow
The Hawfield	Awefield Plantation

Skinnhouse Croft  
Fidelse, Fiddle Case  
Close garth  
Guodgron (Gudgeon) Banke  
Bowerley  
Scarsgill Close  
Byerdale  
Bull Croft  
Foster Holes  
Cringley  
Little Ridding  
Hairhouse (Hurrises?)  
Frumperreane  
Parker Close  
Tenterland  
Kingland  
Well Close  
Rock Nest  
Brayshaw Garth  
Lewpye (Lowpye, Henpye)  
Cookson Close  
Chapman Close  
Parks Close  
Skinskill  
Iveson's Nursery Garth  
Turfgates  
Roughnests

## **The standardization of area and length measurements in England and Ireland**

### **Standardization**

The Romans had a well-developed system of length and area units for trade, military and agricultural applications. In later feudal times the need for good quality measurement of lengths and areas (of fields) was not so apparent, giving rise to a wide variety of mensuration systems. Some standardization was introduced after the Norman Conquest but not generally adopted until near contemporary times.

Typical early systems were probably based on human body proportions, e.g.,

Roman digit (finger width) c.18 to 19mm  
Roman *inch* (*uncia*) *thumb width at nail* c. 25mm  
Palm width c. 75mm  
Hand width c. 100mm  
Roman *pes naturalis* c. 250mm  
Roman *foot* 296mm  
*Pes manualis* c. 333mm  
Cubit (forearm) c. 444mm  
Roman step = 2.5 Roman feet = 740mm  
Roman pace 1.48m

Roman perch = 10 Roman feet = 2.96m  
Fathom (*outstretched arms*) c. 6 English feet

In agriculture ploughlands were thought of in terms of the length an ox could pull a plough without a rest, called a furlong. A strip of this length and one tenth as wide constituted an acre. Of course the furlong length depended on many factors and was not an agreed definite length in pre-Conquest times.

Roman length units used in agriculture increased in regular proportion by a factor of  $\sqrt{2}$  (1.414), i.e.,

actus 120 Roman feet  
iugerum 170 Roman feet  
heredium 240 Roman feet etc  
to 680 Roman feet

and the area of a square of 680 Roman feet each side had an area of the order of 10 English acres (of variable size). By the *Statutum de Admensuratione Terre* of 1305 (Edward I) it was decreed that 160 square perches made one standard English acre and that one perch was 5.5 yards in length. The acre therefore was an area equivalent to 40 perches long (one furlong) by 4 perches wide. The English perch was therefore 16.5 English feet long since an earlier statute for measuring land (pre-1284) declared that three barley grains made an inch, 12 inches made a foot and 3 feet made a yard. The use of barley grains as a standard is not ideal. The perch (Latin *pertica* - a rod) became known also as the rod or pole suggesting that a solid piece of wood was used to measure out land in very early times.

So how long exactly was the English foot? A standard yard was kept at Winchester and London in Anglo-Saxon times and in the 1300s a standard foot was set up in St Paul's Church in London. How were these standards decided? The King's standard yard could have been decided by using 108 barley grains, or arbitrarily using the length of the King's foot. However, the standard yard might be expected to be influenced by Roman standards still in existence after the Romans left Britain.

It is proposed that it was decided to compare areas of land, these being of more economic and social significance than length measurement. The Roman square of 680 Roman foot length of a side was probably realized to be very similar to 10 English strips of 40 by 4 perches (about 220 by 22 yards). If it were decreed that

680 Roman feet = 68 Roman perches = 220 English yards = 660 English feet = 110 fathoms

then 1 English foot = 1.0303 Roman feet = 0.30497m if the Roman foot is taken to be 0.296m. The modern value is 0.3048.

If the more easily physically handled lengths of perches and fathoms were compared

1 Roman perch = 2.96m = 1.61765 fathoms

It has been suggested that the ratio 1.61765 is the Golden Section known to the early Greeks and probably others. Was this deliberate or accidental? The Golden Section is the ratio of two consecutive large numbers in the Fibonacci series, 1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55 etc. which converges to the value 1.618034. The ratio of Fibonacci numbers  $55/34 = 1.6176$ . A geometrical construction using a regular pentagon inscribed in a circle has the ratio of diagonal to side being the Golden Section.

The result of 1.61765 for the apparent Golden Section ratio is a value obtained by equating named Roman and English units which by chance gives a numerical dimensionless constant of proportionality similar to the Golden Section. No other choice of known units approaches the required proper ratio.

Alternatively one might consider that the comparison of 680 Roman feet with the furlong as made above was not the starting point and that use of the Golden Section was required. The metric system was only invented in the late 1700s so in reality real wooden rods could be compared and a suitable ratio of these lengths decided upon. A trial and error method could have been used to make the fathom rod of acceptable length to give the Golden Section since the ratio of the fathom to the Roman perch length must equal the ratio of the sum of the two lengths to the fathom. Once the fathom was standardized, the yard, foot and inch were also standardized. This seems rather unlikely and if the proper Golden Section ratio of 1.61803 was used rather than 1.61765 then 680 Roman feet would not exactly equal 220 yards. Such accuracy was probably unachievable by medieval people.

### **The Irish system**

The rod or perch length in Ireland and North-West England is 21 English feet and one has to question how this came about. A possible explanation is as follows.

English inch 25.41 mm

Irish inch 25.41mm

Irish foot (troighid)  $10 \times 25.41\text{mm} = 254.1\text{mm}$  (*Pes naturalis* is 250mm)

Irish step (céim)  $2.5 \times 254.1\text{mm} = 635.25\text{mm}$

Irish rod (fertalh) = 12 Irish feet = 3.05m

10 Irish steps = 6.3525m

= 20.84 English feet

= 6.95 English yards

= 5.56 ells of 45 English inches

Multipliers of 2.5 and 10 were used in the Roman system. There is no evidence that the *pes naturalis* was used in Scandinavian countries or in Iceland. The Normans are thought to have introduced the Roman foot to England and Ireland may have remained uninfluenced.

The English perch is 5.5 yards and the Irish perch is about the same in ells. It is presumed that values were rounded to give 21 feet (7 yards) in more recent times. It seems unlikely that a free choice was made to define the Irish perch as 7 yards rather than the English 5.5 yards since the multiple of 7 does not fit sensibly into any other known system of linear measurement. Alternatively a choice was made to use the ell of 45 inches as a basis for definition of the perch rather than the yard, so that 5.5 ells

made a perch of 20.625 feet, rounded to 21 feet.

The sale of the manor of Langcliffe in 1591 is documented and land is described in terms of customary acres measured on a basis of 5.5 ells per pole. Comparison of areas of specified Langcliffe pastures shows that the pole was 21 feet long.

Saxton's map of Ingleborough of 1603 shows a scale giving about 21 feet per pole.

An acre is defined as 160 square perches. The ratio of Irish and English acres is then  $(7.0 / 5.5)^2 = 1.6198$  which is very well supported by data on customary compared to statute acres obtained from early deeds and maps and Tithe assessment data. Again the similarity to the Golden Section constant of 1.618034 is notable but is entirely fortuitous.

### **Conclusion**

Standardization of the English yard in late medieval times appears to be based on a mathematical comparison of a standard Roman field length of 680 Roman feet square with the English furlong. This means that the English foot was standardized as 0.304m long.

The suggestion that the Golden Section played a part in the comparison of Roman and English length units is not sustainable.

The Irish standard perch length of 21 feet might have come about by using the ell rather than the yard but might also have come from the *pes naturalis* of about 1250mm as base unit with multipliers of 2.5 and 10.

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