

## Chapter 12 The Langcliffe Fields

*The common fields of England, 1992. E. Kerridge, publ. Manchester University Press. (in YAS)*

Further details in Appendix 11 (Fields and names), Appendix 12 (Tithe apportionment), Appendix 13 (Field blocks), Appendix 14 (Maps), Appendix 15 (Deeds from Wakefield).

Langcliffe Parish covers an area of about 3500 modern acres of which about 300 acres are now lower lying fields. The term acre originally meant a day's work with a plough, connected with tillage and not a unit of area. In 1086 Feg held 3 carucates; one carucate is roughly 60 to 120 acres, equivalent to 8 oxgangs or bovates. About one oxgang was needed to support a family in crops (7 to 15 acres). One customary acre is 1.62 modern or Statute acres in the local area and care is sometimes needed to know on what basis area is being quoted.



*Langcliffe fields from Giggleswick Scar*

### Introduction

A common field contained various parts or parcels belonging to individuals. They exercised sole rights when in crop but the common field was under joint management when the land was not used for crops but for fodder or grazing. In a common meadow hay is the only crop and common pasture has common rights. The common fields are usually known as Townfields in North West England. They were largely unenclosed as open fields. The ploughing of common fields led to the characteristics of division into furlongs with ridge and furrow, or terraced with lynchets on steep or uneven ground. A strip of 22 yards wide (4 poles) and 220 yards long (a furlong or 40 poles) of area 1 acre, was as much as an oxen could plough in a day.

Intermingled parcels in common fields were usually divided by greensward balks - known variously as linches, landsheres, meres, green furrows, acre reins - usually between owners; the balks were 2 to 16 feet wide and mown for hay.

Plains were not ploughed (Plains Close in Langcliffe). Ridges with grass were called 'leys' (various field names in Langcliffe). Whole sets of ridges in large leys were common meadows or cow pastures. They were needed to provide the grass to feed the

common flocks. The three-field system of rotation was 1) fallow, 2) tilth for crops, 3) breach - crops harrowed into rough clods and sown with feed crops such as peas, beans, oats, barley and hemp (c.f. Bandbrech, Banbeck in Langcliffe but brech also means a slope). There is no evidence for any rotational system in Langcliffe.

Animals were kept on the higher grazing pasture in the summer then brought down to the Townfields for manuring. The timing was controlled by common agreement and the number of animals controlled by stinting.

Piecemeal enclosure took place by private exchange and purchase of strips in the common fields and by common consent, early in the 1600s in Langcliffe. Most tenants became freeholders after the sale of the manor in 1591 and were free to do this. Freehold at this time meant freedom to hold rented land without obligations of service to the Lord of the Manor. Parliamentary enclosure typically took place in the 1700s, when common rights were extinguished in return for individual rights to allotments, which were then improved and could be sold. Agricultural efficiency was thereby improved.

Analysis of the field system around Giggleswick and Settle based on the rent survey (an extent) made for Lord Clifford in 1579 (see [www.NorthCravenHeritage.org.uk](http://www.NorthCravenHeritage.org.uk)) coupled with later data from the Tithe Map of 1844 and records of land transactions in Deeds held at the County Record Office at Wakefield has resulted in useful conclusions about the land holdings in late medieval/Tudor times, whether demesne land or freehold Township land. The Deeds (1704 to mid-1800s) showing purchase of closes of several acres of arable land can be associated with previous demesne lands and the sales of closes, parcels or pieces of land of small size (typically less than 1 acre) can be associated with Town fields still being operated on a feudal system with a two or three year cycle, arable, meadow and pasture. The assumption is made that only the single owner of a large block of demesne land could easily enclose the land into larger fields to benefit from a change from arable farming to the more profitable sheep farming. The multiple owners of strips in Townfields were probably less inclined to organize consolidation of strips into larger fields and so land transactions involving small parcels continued during the 18thC.

The further analysis of other parishes on the same basis can be considered. The Clifford survey of 1579 relates to a large area of Craven but excludes Langcliffe since the Manors of Langcliffe and Nappay had been purchased by the Darcy family after the dissolution of Sawley Abbey in 1536. Thus in Langcliffe the evidence for rents and field names in the 16thC is lacking. The Clifford Survey shows that an oxgang in North Craven was typically 8 ancient acres (13 Statute acres). Nevertheless, a survey of the Deeds for land sales in Langcliffe has been made to see what conclusions might be drawn. The documents concerning the sale of the Manor of Langcliffe in 1591 are extant and contain some useful information about the new owners but very little about the field names. Several wills of the parties involved, in the 17thC, yield some useful information also.

The irregular nature of field walls suggests medieval field boundaries.

## Maps

The only early maps are those of 'Land belonging to William Dawson', surveyed 1751 and the 'Estate of Betty Starkie' 1801 (*North Yorkshire County Record Office, ZXC*). The Tithe map is 1841 (*NYCRO ZXC M 1/7/33*) and the Langcliffe Town Map is also 1841. There are Ordnance Survey maps for 1847, 1893/4 (1847 revised), 1898, 1909, 1910.

## Early history of Langcliffe

In 1582 there is a licence for the Darcy family to alienate the Manors of Langcliffe and Nappay to Richard Cuttes and Raphael Pemberton (*Calendar Patent Rolls, no. 1992, Elizabeth 1580/2: TNA C66/1221/MEM15*). This licence gives the information

“...the manors of Langclieff & Nappay with appurtenances and fifty messuages thirty cottages forty tofts one water mill two dovecotes forty gardens two thousand acres of land three hundred acres of meadow two thousand acres of pasture thirty acres of wood two thousand acres of furze and heath three hundred acres of moor and four pounds of rent ....” .

The acreage is in customary acres; data from the Starkie map of 1801 of Langcliffe lands shows that a customary acre is 1.62 times larger than a modern statute acre. Thus the quoted acreage of Langcliffe and Nappay is about 10,000 statute acres of which Langcliffe covers 3,500 acres.

The sale documents of 1591 (*TNA C54/1408, 1419, 1424*) concern the following named lands as well as the Manor and its rights:

### 1. Land at Winskill and Cowside:

- (i) 62 acres, 25 poles, of arable and meadow
- (ii) 206 acres, 2 roods, 4 poles pasture near Hensyde, Calfe Close, Cow Close, Wynskale Ing

### 2. Land in Langcliffe sold to Langcliffe yeomen

- (i) 46 acres, 3 rods (sic), 1 pole of arable and meadows
- (ii) 152 acres, 1 rod (sic), 20 poles of pasture near Cow Close, Skarris, Henside

### 3. Land sold to Somerscales et al.

- (i) Langcliffe water corn mill
- (ii) Langcliffe spring, 5 acres
- (iii) various small parcels unnamed
- (iv) 16.5 acres, 0.5 rood, 7 poles of pasture on Langcliffe moor, ascending from Flatt Heades, to Carlae (?), to Warndales Head, to Stubby wall

### 4. Land sold to Langcliffe men

- (i) Two little closes of pasture called Thowker Heades and Holme Close
- (ii) 67 acres, 34 poles of arable lands and meadows, 0.5 acres called Mealbanke reave (?)

## Later sales recorded in North Yorkshire County Record Office deeds and wills giving field names

1593 Wm Carr and Christopher Preston (*NYCRO ZXC I 1/21/I*)

Close called Threipe

1611/13 Wm Carr to Thomas Lawson (*Northallerton ZXC 1, Preston Estate, mic 3056*)

3 little closes called Haggwormebbotham, Stubbin Close, Leyes Close, 3 roods of arable and 10 acres of pasture, 1 close called Thowkarrdale (1 rood) lying in one close of ground called Shortwoodeclose.

1622 Thomas Newhouse, Thomas Lawson, Richard Lawson (*ZXC 1 1/21/1*)

Swainsons tenement or farm with 21 acres of arable and meadow, and 71 acres pasture.

One close (parcel) called Thowttherthwaite close within the towns fields of Langcliffe.

One parcel or butte of ground called Barrilsyke (6 polles), one parcel called Hundbutt (?) (5 poles) within townfields of Langcliffe.

### **Deeds at Wakefield Records Office (WYAS)**

The deeds have been listed and there are 126 documents relating to Langcliffe, of which 16 are wills. They cover the period 1704 to 1787. The ones with field names and areas are collected in a further spreadsheet; those recording grazing land only are excluded.

Six main groups (or blocks) of properties can be identified as passing between different owners during this period, as well as various other lands. It might be possible with further research to associate these blocks with lands bought in 1591 and the names of prominent purchasers or feoffees.

#### **1. Armitstead / Preston 1708**

Close garth  
Hunter Garth  
Honney Mire  
Gudgeon Banke  
Leys Close  
Wettlands  
Snowdale  
Astdale  
Millbrowes  
Bowerley

#### **2. Garforth / Wiglesworth 1718 (these family names are not listed in the sale documents and are not local inhabitants)**

Banbecke Close  
Threape Close (see Carr/ Preston deed of 1593)  
How Riddings (in Byerdale)  
Stony Sty Closes with a wood  
Womellstroth Swinlands (adjoining Millbrows)

#### **3. Carr / Lister/ Clapham 1718**

The Croft  
The Bull Croft  
Short Oats  
Brakinholme  
Thowker Head (see Carr/Preston 1611/13)  
Cowperthwaite  
Hales Close  
Gt Astall  
Foster Holes  
Cringley  
Gt Woodbrow  
The Hawfield  
The Hag  
Stony Sty  
Oxgange

4. Carr / Clapham 1722

Gt Thackwood  
Little Thackwood  
Miln Close  
Plains  
Little Woodbrow  
Snowdale

5. Stackhouse / Paley / Lawson 1719

Great Field  
Foster Field  
Farrgarth  
Farrgarth Nook  
Cawker Scarr

6. Swainson / Lister 1723

Croft  
Fleathgarth  
Hairhouse  
Frumperreane  
Armscroft  
Kirkbanks  
Open Threaplands  
Thoukerdale  
Greengate  
Parker Close  
Brakenholme  
Shortatwaits  
Tenterland with a garth  
Briery land  
Thackwaits

Rane  
Hole of the Leys  
Long Leys  
Hurrises

One can follow the name variants over the next 60 years or so. Some names appear in several blocks so might be shared land.

All references to 'arable, meadow or pasture' areas are to closes, parcels or pieces of land and range from about 0.5 rood (0.125 acre) to a few acres but none are more than 5 acres and usually much less. At this time it is presumed that these are customary acres, not statute.

There is no evidence of sales of closes of land which have been enclosed from strips to give large fields of many acres more suitable to animal husbandry than arable use. Some new field names begin to appear at the end of the 18thC which might indicate change. It is perhaps most likely that there was no demesne land reserved by the Lord of the Manor, Nicholas Darcy or his predecessors; the land in Langcliffe was probably simply rented to the tenants (as in Stainforth). Nicholas Darcy was of Yorkshire, being perhaps born in Hornsby Castle, but he lived in London in later life. He made money from leasing his various manors, but was not a true farmer dependent on crops from his land. The tenants purchased the freehold of the manor for 500 years from 1591.

**Langcliffe Stinting Agreement 1710** (In modern English) *NYCRO PC/LAC 7/1*  
*MIC 1594 frames 001277,8,9*

Articles of Agreement and Covenants made consented unto and concluded upon, the twentieth day of November in the ninth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Ann of great Britain etc Queen, Anno Dom 1710; By and amongst the owners and farmers of four closes of pasture ground commonly called and known by the several names of Great Cowclose, Overclose, Scarrclose and Dawhaw all of which are lying and being within the Township of Langcliffe. Are as followeth.

Imprimis It is covenanted concluded and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents; and each person who hath hereunto subscribed or endorsed his or her hand, doth severally and respectively for him or her self, for his or her several and respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns covenant agree and promise to and with all and every of the rest of the said parties their Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns and to and with every of them; That he or she, his or her Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, will not at any time hereafter stint, store or put into the said pasture close called the great Cowclose more than one half of the number of beasts or Cattle, which formerly he or she hath, and lawfully might have stinted; (that is, he or she who heretofore justly had in the said pasture two Cattlegates, hereafter shall only store one, and so for any other number of gates proportionably) Tis likewise covenanted and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents, that no person shall put any broken stint into the said pasture, but that every beast of what age soever shall go upon one whole cattlegate; provided always, yet nevertheless it shall and may be lawful for Richard Armitstead his Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns hereafter to store, stint or put into the said

pasture two made beasts and one stirk (which stirk is accounted half a whole gate and is such a beast as will not be two years old before Martinmass next then following) for or upon five cattlegates he formerly had in the said pasture. And for Hugh Cort his Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns to store stint or put into the said pasture one made beast and one stirk, for, or upon three cattlegates which he formerly had in the said pasture, And for William and Thomas Geldard their Heirs, Executors, Administrators or assigns to stint or put into the said pasture one made beast and one stirk, for or upon three cattlegates which heretofore they have had in the said pasture. And for the owner or owners of the grass belonging Luke Knowles late of Rathmell, his, her or their Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns to store or put into the said pasture one made beast and one stirk for or upon three cattlegates which they formerly likewise had in the said pasture. And for Edmund Garfat his Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns hereafter to store every other year one calf (which calf is esteemed one third part of a whole gate and will not be one year old before Martinmass next then following) for or upon a calf gate he formerly had in the said pasture. And for William Carr the younger his Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns hereafter every fourth year to store or put into the said pasture one calf for or upon one half calf gate he formerly had therein. But if at any time hereafter it shall happen that two of the said stirk gates or half gates shall by purchase, descent, devise, exchange, or other alienation come into the hand of one person, then and from thenceforth they shall be so united as to make one whole gate; And the person to whom they then belong his or her Heirs, Executors, Administrators or assigns, shall for and in respect thereof ever afterwards put into the said pasture one beast and no more, And if any person who already hath one of those stirk gates shall take an other, or if any person shall take two of those stirk gates, in either of the said cases, he or she shall put into the said pasture one beast only and no more. And whereas the grass day or time of putting goods into the said pasture hath formerly been upon the eight day of June, it is hereby covenanted and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents, that the grass day for the said pasture shall ever hereafter be upon the twentieth day of May, unless it fall upon a Sunday, for then it shall be upon the day following. It is, further covenanted and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents, that if any person shall put into the said pasture any overstint, or in any wise trespass or offend against the orders or rules herein laid down and expressed for stinting the said pasture he or she shall forfeit for every beast by which he or she so offends the sum of sixteen shillings to the Byelawmen for the time being.

Item. It is covenanted concluded and agreed upon, by and amongst the parties to these presents And each person who hath hereunto subscribed or endorsed his or her hand doth severally and respectively for him or her self, for his or her several and respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns covenant agree and promise to and with all and every of the rest of the said parties their Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns and to and with every of them, That he or she his or her Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns will not at any time hereafter store, stint or put into the said pasture close called Overclose any more than two third parts or the number of beasts or Cattle which heretofore he or she rightly hath, or might have stinted (that is he or she who formerly had a just right to three cattlegates, shall and will hereafter store only two and so for any other number of gates proportionably) It is likewise covenanted and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents that the grass day or time of putting goods into the said pasture shall always hereafter be upon the tenth of May yearly, unless it fall upon a Sunday for then it shall be upon

the day following, And also that if any person shall put into the said pasture any overstint or in any wise trespass or offend against the Rules or orders herein laid down and expressed for stinting the said pasture, her or she shall forfeit for every beast offending the sum of fifteen shillings and for every horse thirty shillings to the Byelawmen for the time being.

Item. It is covenanted concluded and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents and each person who hath hereunto subscribed or endorsed his or her hand doth severally and respectively for him or her self, for his or her several and respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns covenant agree and promise to and with all and every of the rest of the parties their Heirs, Executors, Administrators and assigns and to and with every of them, that he or she his or her Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, will not at any time hereafter store, stint, or put into, the said pasture close called Scarr close above one and twenty couples and one made beast or instead of the beast four geld sheep; Or otherwise four and twenty geld sheep and one beast, or instead of the beast four geld sheep; Or otherwise six made beasts; and twelve lambs after Midsummer; for or upon twelve Acres and an half or twenty shillings rent. And so for any other quantity greater or less proportionably. It is also covenanted and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents that if any person shall put into the said pasture any overstint, or is any respect shall act or do any thing against the orders or Rules herein made and expressed for stinting the said pasture he or she shall forfeit for every sheep by which he or she so offends three shillings and six pence, and for every beast fifteen shillings, and for every horse thirty shillings and for every lamb one shilling to the Byelawmen for the time being.

Item. It is covenanted concluded and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents that the ancient stint shall always be observed and kept upon the Dawhaw, that is, it shall and may be lawful (as formerly) to put one beast upon two acres and an half and an horse upon five acres; any person who shall exceed, or stint more shall forfeit four shillings for every beast and eight shillings for every horse by which he or she so offends or overcharges the said pasture; to the Byelawmen for the time being.

Item. It is covenanted and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents that every person or persons who have any share or grass in any of the said four pastures, shall at or before the fourteenth day of April yearly sufficiently repair and make good all the fences belonging thereunto, and also maintain and uphold them in the like case and condition till the twenty ninth of September or after. And also shall and will give an account in writing to the Byelawmen for the time being expressing or containing the number of goods they put into any of the said pastures at the time they put them in, or within six days after. And if any person shall neglect or fail to do the same, of goods he then leaves in any of the said pastures shall be accounted trespassers or overstint and the owner thereof shall be liable to the penalties and forfeitures abovementioned and imposed upon trespassers or goods that are overstint.

Item. It is covenanted and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents, that there shall yearly in the Month of March be appointed or chosen two Byelawmen (by the persons who are interested in the said pastures or the major part of them) whose duty and office it shall be frequently to inspect, inquire into and survey the stint upon the said pastures. And when any abuse is suspected (for full satisfaction) to



drive the same; calling to their assistance such persons as are concerned therein, and if any person concerned (when required by the Byelawmen) shall neither go himself nor send an sufficient person to assist in driving any, or all of the said pastures he or she so refusing shall forfeit to the Byelawmen one shilling and sixpence for every such refusal; and if upon driving or at any other time the said Byelawmen shall fine or take any overstint upon any of the said pastures; they then forthwith shall demand the forfeitures due for the same by virtue of those covenants of the person or persons who owe the same goods who were found to be overstint.

Item. It is covenanted and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents; that if any person (when duly chosen) shall refuse to perform the office of a Byelawman he shall forfeit five shillings to those persons who were Byelawmen the year next before, who upon consideration thereof shall be obliged to continue or stand Byelawmen one year longer. Or if any person after acceptance of the said Office shall be remiss in the execution thereof, either by neglecting to view and look into the stint upon the said pastures; so that the pastures come to be abused or suffer for want of such care and inspection, or when he finds or knows that there are goods overstint upon any of the said pastures shall neglect or forbear to require and exact of the person or persons to whom the said goods belong such penalties and forfeitures as the strength and virtue of those covenants do enable and empower him to do, he shall be liable to pay the same penalties and forfeits to the persons who were Byelawmen the year before, which the offending person or persons whom *heconnjors(?)* of ought by force of these covenants to have paid to him.

Item. It is covenanted and agreed upon by and amongst the parties to these presents, that the Byelawmen shall at least once every year survey all the fences belonging to the said pastures and when and as often as they find any fence insufficient or out of repair; they shall forthwith acquaint the person or persons therewith to whom it belongs requiring him, her or them to amend the same. And if the person or persons to whom the said fence belongs, shall not within six months (after such notice given him, her, or them by the Byelawman) sufficiently repair and make good the said fence, he, she, or they, shall forfeit to the Byelawman for the time being, three shillings a Rood for sheep fence, and one shilling and sixpence a rood for beast fence; and so for any greater or lesser quantity proportionably.

Item. It is covenanted and agreed upon by the parties to these presents; that all and every of the penalties and forfeitures received by the Byelawmen for or upon the account of any overstint, or any other offence or trespass made or done against the tenor of these covenants (except such forfeitures as are made by such persons as refuse the office of a Byelawman) shall be disposed of in manner following. (that is) it shall and may be lawful for the Byelawmen to retain and take to themselves one third part of all and every of the forfeitures they receive; distributing and dividing the other two third parts amongst such persons as had that year grass in the same pasture wherein or against which the trespass or offence was made proportionably to their respective shares therein (that offending person or persons only excepted). In confirmation whereof, the parties concerned, have hereunto put their hands.

Josias Dawson  
Wm Dawson

Anthony Paleye  
Robert Rudd

?Richd Armisted                      ? Swinglhust  
 ?Wilm Geldard  
 Cuthbert Claphamson              ? Paley  
 Hen: Armistead  
 Tho: Swainson  
 Will: Carr  
 Richd. Lawson  
 Tho: Paley  
 ? Carr  
 John Carr

## Enclosure

*Inclosure Acts for Langcliffe 1789 (29 Geo III)*

## Early maps of Langcliffe

*Land belonging to Wm Dawson 1751 NYCRO ZXC mic 2234 frame 189-191*

customary acres-roods-poles (statute acres given on map)	Tithe map name	statute acres
Oxgang 3-1-1	Oxgang 111	5.1
Wenstrothbrow 1-3-32	Mill Field 113	3.0
Close (3-0-25)		
Asteril 2-2-23	Astall 136	3.6
(4-1-5)		
Wheat Riden 2-0-10	Wheat Ridding 119	2.5
(3-1-14)		
Pike 2-1-3	Pike 124	3.9
(3-2-28)		
Slape Stones 3-0-15	Slapestones 91	5.5
(5-0-1)		
Croft 5-0-2	High 55 and	7.8
or Gt Meadow	Low barn field 56	
How riden 1-8-30	Hall Ridding 57	2.2
Batty Henry 2-1-30	Batty Henry 176	7.4
Stubin 9-1-20	Stubbing 175	11.7
Blua	Blua 186	60

From these data the ratio customary/Statute acres = 1.62.

The areas of the Dawson fields and the Tithe map fields of the same name are not always the same.

*Land belonging to Betty Starkie 1801 (related to Lawsons and Prestons)*  
*NYCRO ZXC mic 2234/frame 180 - 184*

		Tithe map name
A	Lodge	
B	Nursery	
C	Banbeck	Band Brech 60
D		Threaps 72, 75, 77
E	Short Oats	Short Oats 78
F	Croft	
G	Orchard and houses	Mt Pleasant
H	Croft and Nursery	Mt Pleasant
I	Garden	Mt Pleasant
K	Broad Rood (?)	Slapestones 91, Croft 94, Plantation 94
L	Field House	Field House 99
M	Little Farends	Far End Meadow 132
N	Mill Brows	Mill Brow 115
O	Great Farends	Astall 135
P	Wet Lands	Mill Close 110?
Q	Little Cow Close	Little Cow Close 165
R	Great Cow Close	Cow Close 197
S	Clay Pits	Clay Pitts 189, 190, 191
T	Scar	Settle Scar ?

Using data on the map the area ratio customary/Statute = 1.62

*Tithe map 1841 NYCRO ZXF M 1/7/33*

The fields are numbered and named with owners on the tithe list. Only a few of the names can be related to the earlier field names.

The areas of fields are given, as well as dues to the vicar, allowing values of pence per acre to be obtained. By comparing the area of Oxgang with the Dawson map it appears that statute acres are used on the tithe map. £71 was payable to the Vicar of Giggleswick as tithes from Langcliffe (Rev. Rowland Ingram younger). The Commutation of Easter offerings, mortuaries, oblations and obventions now cease, to be replaced by a payment of £5 a year.

The total area of pasturage excluding Winskill and Henside is 1040 acres, 30% of the whole area listed. There are 1298 acres of meadow (37% of the whole). Winskill has 568 acres of pasture (16%) and 54 acres of meadow (1.5%). Henside accounts for 487 acres pasture (14%). Plantations cover 46 acres (1.3%). Other small properties cover 17 acres. The parish total is 3529 statute acres (2178 customary acres). The dues to the vicar range from about 1 to 40 pence per statute acre.

The fields in the lower part of Langcliffe contain about 350 statute acres. Harking back to Domesday, Feigr had 3 carucates of taxable land. Assuming rather poor land compared to southern England, so 120 rather than 60 statute acres per carucate, this

gives 360 statute acres. This is about 20 oxgangs suggesting about 20 farmers at subsistence level.

### Field names

Virtually all the names on the 1841 map have Old English, Old Norse or Old Danish roots. One field name refers to wheat, one to oats and perhaps one to barley.

### Lynchets and ridge-and-furrow traces

Several of the current fields show clear remains of lynchets denoting previous arable use. Traces of ridge-and-furrow seem absent. Although many of the fields with lynchets adjoin each other there is no clear arrangement of two or three large blocks which might once have been unenclosed open fields.

### Conclusions

It seems unlikely that in Langcliffe there was a system of demesne land worked by unfree tenants of the Lord of the Manor, being the Abbot of Sawley or the Darcy family as absentee landlords, as well as townfields rented by tenants and worked in strips. The land was probably all worked by tenants paying rent. This may have been the situation since Domesday times.

The deeds showing land purchases in the 18thC show that almost entirely small parcels of arable, meadow and pasture land were involved, not closes of more than say 5 or 10 statute acres, which might have indicated ownership, early enclosure and working by the Lord of the Manor who could have forced change in farming practice.

The field name information available is not particularly helpful but the names have roots in Old English and Old Norse. The amount of land devoted to arable farming was probably a small fraction of the lower ground in Langcliffe, due in part to the local geography and climate.

### LANGCLIFFE FIELD NAME ORIGINS

OE - Old English	ON - Old Norse	ME - Middle English	OFr - Old French
Name	Variants	Type	Suggested origins
Astall			east OE Ast..., as (ash) halh- OE nook, corner of land, Alles, Hales
Awefield Plantation	Hawfield	plantation	haugr, hlaw ON (hill), har OE (boundary)
Band Brech		meadow	banke ODan (bank); brech (slope) ON; recently broken up under temporary cultivation (Spufford)
Batty Henry Meadow		meadow	braec OE (uncultivated or new arable land)
Blua		past	hegn ON (enclosure), betweenan OE (land between) bartholomew=batty bla ON (dark)

Bracken Holme		braecen OE (bracken, <i>bedding for cattle</i> )
Briery		prickly or thorny
Brow	past	bru OE (brow)
Brown Bank	past	brun OE (brown); banke ODan (bank)
Carts Coppy	past	carr OE (rock); copp OE (hill top)
Chamberlains Over Close	past	champayne ME (open land) or personal name
Church Bank	past	cirice OE (church); kirkja ON (church); banke ODan (river bank, slope)
Clap Gill	meadow	claepe OE (sound); gil OScan (ravine)
Clay Pitts	past	claeg OE (clay); pytt OE (pit)
Cow Close Foot	past	cu OE (cow); clos OFr (close); fot OE (foot, lower end)
Cow Scar	past	cu OE (cow) ; sker ON (scar, rocky edge)
Cringley and Oxgang	past	kringla ON (circle, bend); oxgang OE
Croft	past	croft OE (small enclosure)
Crooklands	meadow	croked ME (crooked)
Crutching Close	past	cruc OE (hill)
Daw Haw	past	daw ME (jackdaw); haugr ON (hill)
Dick Ground Pasture	past	dic OE, dik ON (ditch); grund OE ON (outlying fields)
Frumper		frump AngSax (first); Dan (wrinkled, crease); dial Lancs. (complain without cause)
Goose Scar	past	gors OE (gorse) gos OE (goose); sker ON (scar, rocky edge) [corruption of goosker]
Gorbeck	past	gor OE, ON (dirt, dung); bekk ON (stream)
Great Barrel Sykes M'dow	meadow	baer ON (bare), baerlic, bere OE (barley), barre OFr (bar, barrier)
Haddockfore		hade (ridge of land), fore (furrow); haddock or hattock (shock or sheaves)
Haggs	past	hogg ON (felling of trees)
Hagwormebottom		adder or viper Yorks. snakes
Hales Pasture	Hails	past hahl OE (nook, corner of land), Alles, Hales
Hay Close	past	heg OE (clay)
Hensit	past	hegn ON (enclosure), hean ON (high); saetr ON (mountain pasture, shieling)
High Cow Cross	past	cu OE (cow); kros ON (lying athwart)
Holly Acre	meadow	holegn OE (holly); aecer OE, akr ON (acre)
Holme	past	holmr ON (water meadow)

Honey Mires		past	hunig OE (honey, sweet); myrr ON (mire)
Howridding			hollow, clearing or hill
Hurries	Hurrises		
Huntergarth			A good mousing cat
Intack		past	intak ON (land from waste)
Lambert Croft		meadow	lamb(e) OE (lamb) or personal name
Little Carrs Scar		meadow	kjarr ON (marsh, brushwood)
Long Leys		meadow	laes OE (pasture, meadow)
Low Threaps		meadow	threap OE (disputed land)
Mawdergapps	Mowtergapp		mow ME , stack of hay, corn etc., a mound or hillock; moulter (friable soil)
Meal Bank			mea dialect (pasture), melr ON sand-bank [Rathmel]
Mill Field		past	myln OE (mill)
Mill Brow		past	myln OE (mill); bru OE (brow)
Mires			myrr ON (mire)
Near Garth Nook			gardthr ON (enclosure); nok ME (nook)
Nether Ing		past	nethri ON (lower); eng ON (meadow)
Parrock Stones		past	pearroc OE (enclosure)
Pike		meadow	pic OE (point, peak), pyker ME (thief)
Plains		meadow	plains OFr (flat meadow land)
Pye		meadow	
Rains		past	rein ON (boundary strip)
Rakes Pasture		past	hraca OE (rough path, sheep or cattle walk)
Ridding		past	clearing
Sheep House Meadow		meadow	sceap OE (sheep)
Short Oats		meadow	shot, shut dialect (share of common land)
Skirskill	Skinskill?		
Slapestones		past	slaepe OE (slippery, muddy); stan OE (stone)
Snowdale		meadow	snaer ON, snaw OE (snow)
		meadow	snaep OE (boggy)
			snar OE (brushwood)
			dael OE (valley), dael OE (share)
Springs Meadow		past	spring OE (plantation); OE (well spring)
Stoney Garth		meadow	stan OE (stone); garthr ON (enclosure)
Sty			styde OE (place), stign OE (sty)
Stubbing		past	stubbing OE (clearing of trees)
Thackwood		meadow	thoka ON (mist), [by the river],
		past	thack ON, thaecc OE (thatch)
Throstle Nest		past	throstle OE (thrush)
Watelands	Whitelands	meadow	wate (mill race, drain, ditch)
			Norse vatn
Wheat Ridding		meadow	hwaete OE, hveiti ON (wheat); rydding OE (clearing)
Whinskill Stones		past	wind OE (windswept), vindr ON wind; skali ON (shieling), scela OE

Wood Brow	(hut)
	meadow bru OE (brow); wudu OE (wood)
Womelstroth	wommal (lump from larva of gadfly in cattle skin, maggots) Old Scots.
	strath (valley with stream or river), stroth (bog/scrub)

### Sources

*A dictionary of archaic and provincial words, J.O.Halliwell, 6th edit., London 1868 (copy at the Borthwick Institute, York).*

*Oxford English Dictionary*

*Various Dialect dictionaries (e.g. W. Carr)*

### Place name words

atter at the

aet þære ea at the stream OE → atter ee ME → atte ree

bla(r)) dark, blue ON

berg hill ON

cruc hill British

dael dale OE

dalr dale ON

gaersing grazing OE

hagga fruit of hawthorn OE

hagg wood

haga hedge or enclosure OE

hall slope OE

hogg hew ON

hagi grazing enclosure ON

hamstra corn weevil OE

kirkja church ON

laes meadow

myln mill OE

myrr mire ON

maere boundary

mel stream by a bare hill

potte deep hole in river bed MEng

pearr(e) enclosure OE

pearroc paddock

ryd clearing OE

ryge rye

rygen growing with rye (adjectival)

snar snow OE

sik ditch ON

sic bordering a stream OE

spring young plantation or copse OE

stoc place  
stocc clearing of forest, belonging to a stoc (a religious foundation) OE  
snap poor pasture Icelandic  
stubb tree stump  
stubbing stump clearing OE  
þveit clearing that became meadow land, paddock ON

### **Other words**

au - hill  
barn – Anglo-Saxon – store of barley  
feild – felling of trees  
gor - goat  
lathe – Scandinavian fodder barn  
liffe – hill slope  
willy – corner, bend

## **The manorial pastures of Langcliffe**

### **Tom Lord and Michael Slater**

The manorial sale documents for Langcliffe, November 1591, concern the sale of messuages, arable and meadow land, and pasture land to existing tenants and a group of trustees (feoffees) by Nicholas Darcy and Henry Billingsley. They contain some information on the areas of these purchased lands, some description of where the pasture is sited, and the total area of pasture land which was sold separately from the manorial rights with the arable and meadow land in the Townfields.

The arable lands are not named and cannot be identified but the pasture land can be identified with the help of the quoted areas and the details given in the Tithe map and assessment made in 1841-4. The enclosure awards 1710-1793 include the 1710 agreement for stinting and the 1789 enclosure award with a map (*NYCRO MIC 601 and 604, 1874 and PC/LAC/7/2*) giving Cow Close, Over Close, Langcliffe Scar, Dawhaw, Winskill Stones and Gorbeck, 1400 statute acres. The areas in early documents are in customary acres, roods, and poles, whereas the Tithe areas are in statute acres, roods, and poles. The manorial sale documents all quote a basis of 5.5 ells per rod. Customary linear and superficial area measurements differed between regions of the country so it is necessary to establish the ratio between customary and statute acres.

### **Spans, Yards, Ells, and Rods**

The distance between the thumb and little finger of an outstretched hand was used as a measure of about 9 inches and multiples of 3,4,5 or 6 spans were called ells. Four spans made an English yard or Scots ell. Five spans made a yard and a quarter, 45 inches, the English ell. Six spans made a Long English ell.



Arnold's 'Customs of London' published in about 1500 (see Wilson, 1912 and British Library reprint) has

The lengith of a barly corne iij tymes make an ynche  
and xij ynches make a fote  
and iij fote make a yarde  
and v quatirs of the yarde make an elle  
v fote make a pace  
cxxv pace make a furlong  
and viij furlong make an English myle (5000 feet)

and xvi furlong make a Frensh lenge, v yardies d[em]i. (*half*) make a perche in London to mete lande by, and that perch is xvi fote d[em]i. (*half*) longe. In dyvers odor placis in this lande they mete grounde by pollis gaddis and roddis som be of xvij fote som of xx fote and som xxi fote in length ....

By Elizabethan statute

16.5 feet make a rod  
40 rods make a furlong  
8 furlongs make a mile (5280 feet)

but it appears that this was not adopted everywhere in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Wightman's Arithmetical Tables (pre-World War II, price 3d) gives one pole equals 9ft in Cheshire and Staffordshire, 21 ft in Lancashire, and elsewhere 15 or 18 ft. The Weights and Measures Act of 1878 gives 16.5 ft and any dealing otherwise is void.

### **Surveyors and surveying**

John Fitzherbert's '*Boke of Surveying and Improvments*' published in London in 1523 (*Facsimile ed. W.J. Johnson Inc., Theatrum Orbis Terrarum Ltd., Amsterdam, 1974*) is an *Extenta manerii* following an old statute and shows how to survey a manor, inquiring for example 'how many fields in the demesne and how many acres in every field and what is the yearly worth of an acre'. The book does not tell how measurements are made but defines a perch as 16.5 ft in length. The name surveyor is said to be French which in English means an overseer.

Triangulation was described by Gemma Frisius (*Libellus de locurum*) in 1533 and the theodolite in more or less modern form was perhaps invented by Leonard Digges, as reported in 1571. The first recorded use of a chain is in 1579.

Aaron Rathborne published '*The surveyor in foure bookes*' in 1616, in London. Rathborne was aged 44 at this time so was an experienced surveyor. Geometry, Theorems, and The exact operation of instrumentall dimensions by divers meanes are the first three books. He describes the theodolite, the plain table, the circumferentor and his own device the peractor together with the decimal chain. He appreciates the problems posed on measuring uneven ground and irregular plots. The Statute of 33 Edward I defines one acre as 160 square perches with poles of 16.5 feet (Statute measure). However he also mentions the 18ft pole for woodland measure. Sines are used to calculate lengths where required from angles.

John Norden published his book in 1618, the '*Surveyors dialogue*', which describes in detail how to make area measurements; this is discussed below.

*'The Compleat Surveyor'* by William Leybourn published in London in 1653 discusses in detail the use of the plain table, theodolite, circumferentor and peractor. The use of chains of 33 ft (recommended by Rathborne) and 66 feet (Gunter's chain with 100 links of about 8 inches) is described. Tables of sines and logarithms are included as well as the trigonometry required for calculation of areas. The notes on the flyleaf by the Rt. Hon. Thomas Lord Trevor show that 21 feet to the pole is used in Ireland rather than the 16.5 feet used in England.

In 1688 John Love published '*Geodesia; or the art of surveying and measuring of land made easie*'. He defines 5.5 yards for the pole or perch and considers fractions of a link of 7.92 inches in making measurements. He says to 'take care than they which carry the chain, deviate not from a straight line'. He recommends using ten small sticks sharp at one end, to stick into the ground (to count chains correctly). He admits that the use of instruments with a magnetic needle can prove erroneous if iron is nearby. He gives tables of trigonometric functions and defines  $\pi$  as  $22/7$ .

It is clear that from the late 1500s measurement of land areas was being scientifically practiced with good equipment and understanding and by the late 1600s a high degree of accuracy was attainable.

### **Surveying practice**

The '*Surveyors dialogue*' written by John Norden in 1618 describes in detail how a surveyor measured the area of fields. It takes the form of question and answer between a bailiff and a surveyor. A precis follows.

'Will you doe it by instrument?

'Yea'

'Then you neede the lesse helpe, for you will use no chaine, nor staffe, cord or pole, as many doe?'

'I will, and it behooveth to use the chaine, notwithstanding the instrument, or some other like measure'.

'.... he must measure betweene his first two stations at the least, and toyle himselfe and his companions...'

'What you call this instrument?'

'Some call it the Plaine Table'

'... there are but two principall instruments, fit indeede for the plotting of grounds, and that is this that hath the name of a plaine table, and the Theodolite, which somtimes I use also.'

'But I have heard of an instrument called a Circumferentor, which some doe use about this business with high commendation.'

'... it is a new name given to the very theodolite, used in a sort otherwise than the theodolite, but not contrary. For as the working upon the theodolite, is performed by reducing the needle alwaies upon the point north, as it is marked in the boxe, the

Index turning to the degree, and pointing out the line of oppositions: So the Circumferentor having his Index fixed, pointeth to the opposite, and the needle falleth at adventure upon some degree marked in the boxe...'

'... I hold it most fit to begin about the middle of the manor, and then to take a course, as the convenient lying of the land will moove us, or at one end or side, all is one.'

'What will you do with that paper, Sir?'

I must fasten it upon the table, that as I goe, I may draw out the forme of ever particular'.

'But what is that brasse ruler, that you have taken out of the case?'

'It is the index of the plaine table'

'Wherefore strike you that line upon the paper, throughout the table, at adventure?'

'It is a meridian line, upon which at every station, I lay the index, observing to lay it alwaies alike, least I mistake the North point for the South.'

'Wherefore serveth this great box, and needle upon the middle of the index?'

'It directeth to set the table alwaies precisely upon one point'.

'When the needle of the index standeth true, as I take it now it doth: look upon it'.

'Indeede it is right over the line.'

'... let me have one to goe before me, alwaies to stand with a marke at every angle.'

'I see him: Loe I stirre not the table, now it is truely rectified, and upon this line I make a prick, which is the very station where the instrument is supposed to stand: and now for this prick, laying the index hard unto it, I, by the sight of the index, lay it unto the mark, which is set up in yonder angle, let him not remoove it till I come to it: and then as you see, I draw a line from the pricke by the index, as it lyeth truely and firmly to the marke. Come on with the line. How many stickes is it?'

'Sir, it is 25 stickes.'

That is 75 pole'.

'Is your chaine three pole?'

'Yea.'

'Oh Sir, what doe you now with your compasses, that you first laide to your index, and after to the paper?'

'I lay out the true distance, which is from the place where we begun, to the place where the marke standeth.'

'... this.. is called the use of the scale.'

'You see in this index divers inches, diversly devided: one you see, is devided into 20 equall parts... these are called scales ... acording to the number of perches found between station and station. This is 75 pole, and the scale which I have chosen is 20, as you see the inch so devided.'

'...And as you see the compasse thus spread, I apply it without altering, to the line which I drew from the firts pricke, and where the other foot of the compasse falleth, there is the second station: namely, the place where this marke standethe.'

'So, you that carry the marke, goe to the next angle, and set up your marke, and stirre it not till I come.'

'Set downe the instrument againe, here where the marke stood.'

'I perceive you lay the index upon the line againe: and then you turne the table, till it be by direction of the needle, North and South, as before.'

'But why doe you now lay the index, and by it looke backe againe?'

'Onely to try whether the needle be right: for if the index from this last pricke, doe fall truely upon the first station, then may I be bold that I shall make the next angle true.'

'... now come on with the chaine. How many poles is it in the whole?'

'... here is a great pond, through which you cannot measure, how can you finde the bredth of it....'

'... you see a little mole-hill upon the further banke of the pond: I lay the index upon it, and take it for my marke .... then without mooving the instrument, I turne the idex from this station, where the instrument stands, unto the staffe which the marke-bearer hath set up yonder, and strike likewise a line to it ... now I measure from this station to the staffe. .... Now, I erect mine instrument againe, and turne the index unto the mole-hill ...'

'... a man may take the distance of a place farre off, and never measure to it'.

A demonstration is given of measuring an irregular piece of land by dividng it into many triangles, the area of each of which is half the base length times the vertical height of the triangle. The multiplication of two numbers of perches to obtain area is made using rectangular tables rather like modern distance charts between two places, the result being shown as acres, roods, dayworks and perches. (160 perches to one acre, 40 perches to one rood, ten dayworks to one rood, 16 and one half foot to the perch). Areas of circles are calculated by measuring the diameter (D) and circumference ( $\pi D$ ) and calculating area ( $\pi D^2/4$ ) as diameter times circumference divided by 4 so that the value of  $\pi$  is not required in calculations. The problem of accounting for uneven ground was recognized as introducing error.

The use of rods is not mentioned and the difficulty of using very long stiff rods of 16 to 21 feet is avoided by using a chain or cord. However, Norden refers to the chain as a 'sticke'. In 1620 Gunter reported an improved design of chain with 100 straight sections between links, total 66 feet long.

It is therefore clear that surveyors of the late 16th century were capable of measuring areas of irregular ground with very good accuracy.

Several books published much later indicate the state of mathematical understanding.

'*A treatise of algebra*' Thomas Simpson, 1767

'*A treatise of algebra, in three parts*' Colin MacLaurin 1756

'*Cocker's arithmetic*' Edward Cocker 1736

(see [books.google.co.uk](http://books.google.co.uk) and 'mathematics' 1750-1800 Google books)

### **Accuracy**

It is guessed that length measurements with a chain could be measured by the surveyor with a random error no worse than say 1% (to within 2 inches of the exact value of 16.5 feet) leading to area measurement accuracy (closeness to the true value) better than about 2%. Similarly an angle measurement random error of say no more than  $1^\circ$  in  $45^\circ$  leads to an area of a triangle accuracy of about 2%. Under good conditions with flat ground and regular shape plots area measurement accuracy of better than 2% might be expected since these operator errors tend to compensate each other. Systematic instrument error might be a feature of the manufacture or setting up of any instrument with a measurement bias always one way; theodolite and chain manufacture would be subject to this factor. Irregularities in field shape might be the source of the greatest error.

### **Customary acres**

On local Langcliffe estate maps of 1751 and 1801 made for William Dawson and Betty Starkie (NYCRO ZXC MIC 2234/180,184, 189, 191) the customary and equivalent statute measurements are listed and the area ratio is

Customary acres = 1.62 Statute acres

This is confirmed by calculation of field areas at Winskill and Cowside using the LORD series of deeds and 1591 Sale document No. 1 (Giles Foster et al.). The measurement of area is based on a linear unit, probably the rod (pole or perch or fall), but the length of a standard rod differs from region to region. Confusingly the linear unit pole is also used to refer to areas. The statute mile is divided into 8 furlongs (furrowlong) of 220 yards, hence 40 rods of 5.5 yards each. Dilley (1975) gives 7 yards per rod and 1.62 ratio used in various places. The statute acre is equivalent to 4 roods, and one rood is 40 (square) poles. This was almost certainly a 'royal' acre (Jones, 1979). A standard acre is one measured on a 4 x 40 basis, whatever the perch length. The standard statute pole is 5.5 statute yards or 16.5 statute feet thus the customary rod length for Langcliffe is

Customary rod = Statute rod x  $\sqrt{1.62} = 16.5 \times 1.272792 = 21.00$  statute feet

The statute acre is based on a yard of 3 statute feet. Since the sale documents quote 5.5 ells per rod, the customary rod gives the ell length as  $21.0/5.5 = 3.818$  feet = 45.8 inches which is near but not exactly the common 'ell' of 45 inches. Since the inch was not well-defined this inaccuracy was perhaps inevitable and acceptable.

However, if the customary acre is defined by the rod length of 21 feet, either one accepts a further condition of 5.5 ells/rod leading to the ell of 45.8 inches in conflict with the common definition of the ell, or one defines the ell as 45 inches leading to 5.6 ells/rod instead of 5.5. It is perhaps best to assume that assuming 5.5 ells/rod is a mistake in the sale documents written in London and it was the rod length which was locally fixed and known as 21 feet. The definition of the statute acre overcomes this inconsistency by using the rod length of 16.5 feet (5.5 yards/rod) consistent with a yard length of 36 inches (or 4.4 ells/rod with a 45 inch ell). In medieval times there existed a 'king's' perch of both 21 and 20 feet.

The Cistercian abbey of Coggeshall in Suffolk has a tithe barn dating back to 1200 and the main supporting timbers are 21 feet apart, centre to centre. It is more likely that this length was in local agricultural use rather than brought from France by a builder. Whether the length was also used at Sawley Abbey remains to be seen. Various early books indicate that 21 feet was in use in several parts of the country.

Thus there is a logic to the size relationship of the customary and statute measurements. Edward Wilson says that the rod of 21 feet was customarily used in Ireland and Lancashire together with the area ratio 1.62. It is therefore with confidence that one can apply this area ratio to other data in the sale documents. (It is useful to make calculations in the decimal system to make comparisons).

In practice a solid rigid rod 21 feet long must have been difficult to make and to transport yet this question is not raised anywhere. The simple chain surely was used instead in the late 1500s.

### **The total area of pasture in Langcliffe**

Sale document No. 5 of 1591 refers to the sale of the manorial rights and apparently the Townfields and excepts the seven messuages and land at Winskill and Cowside. It also excepts 1001 acres 30 poles of land, meadow and pasture in the tenure of Nicholas Darcy and seven local people. Using the Tithe map field numbers and areas quoted in statute measures adjusted with the ratio of 1.62 to get customary areas the following is suggested.

	customary acres
Hensyde	219.9
Daw Haw	108.3
'Over Close'	122.8
'Langcliffe Scar'	325.3
'Cow Close'	94.9
'Ewe Close'	51.2
Clay Pitts (194)	6.2
High Carts	18.2
Blua	37.0
Cow Close (170)	12.7
New Close (168)	5.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> 1001.9 = 1001 acres 3r 24 p customary

the total to be compared with 1000.2 customary acres in the sale document (0.17% difference). Over Close, Langcliffe Scar, Cow Close and Ewe Close are the proposed pre-enclosure areas as shown on the map. These pastures are contiguous and all lie to the east of the lower Townfields. The composition of these pre-enclosure areas can now be considered in more detail, together with their purchasers in 1591.

### **The Ewe Close**

Details of what is considered to be the Ewe Close (variously Ya, Yawe or Yaw Close) are given in two sale documents (nos. 6, 7) and DW 321 notes Yawe Close alias Ewe Close. The area is quoted as 50 acres in three parts to be divided, originally sold to Richard Somerscales, Bryan Cookeson and Thomas Newhouse. One third part is of 16.5 acres 0.5 rood 7 pole (sic) (Henry Somerscales of Stockdale in the parrish of Gigleswicke in the countie of yorke gentleman Richarde Somerscales of Settell in the same parrishe yoman Willm Armysteade and Christopher Armysteade of Stayneforth in the saide countie of yorke husbandmen).

The other two thirds comprise 33 a 1r 14p, total 50.008 customary acres. (William Carre John Brayshawe George Lawson Lawrence Iveson Thomas Preston Thomas Newhouse John Lupton and Bryan Cookeson of the parrishe of Giglesweke in the countie of yorke yomen). The suggested make-up is

	customary acres	
Clay Pitts (189)	15.88	total 17.70 (34.6% of total)
Clay Pitts Meadow (190)	0.98	
Clay Pitts (191)	0.84	
Clay Pitts (192)	30.63	total 33.52 (65.4% of total)
Clay Pitts (193)	2.89	
Total		51.22 (2.4 % difference)

The 50 acres may be notional since the quoted areas for one third and two thirds are suspiciously precise. The straight dividing wall was perhaps made at this time. Using 51.22 acres gives good agreement in the total area calculation of 1001 acres noted above. However, the western edge of this area abutting Clay Pits Plantation is probably not the 1591 boundary since there is an old wall within the plantation and a small enclosure as part of it, and remnants of a straight wall in Clay Pitts (192) roughly parallel with the irregular plantation wall. The overall area might then be slightly less than 51.22 acres.

Unfortunately the description of this area is rather vague.

" the same fiftie acres are lyinge and beinge in the southmoste partes of Langcliffe more ascendinge from Langcliffe feilde walle called the Flatt heades wall towards a place there called Carlae and from Carlae on the north side of the walle there to Warnedale heade and soe discendinge downewarde westwardes to a greate stone above the lambe fouldes and from thence to a wall called Stubbyn wall. "

Flatt heades might suggest a medieval wall construction, vertically sided with horizontal flat stones on top. The word Carlae (later Carlill) might refer to hemp grown for its fibre (carl hemp is a robust form of the hemp plant) or alternatively to wet ground. The great stone has not been located in the region overlooking the sheltered valleys which could be the lamb folds. The Stubbyn wall is in sight from this point, referring to the old wall that leads from the western corner down the hillside to Stubbing (175).

It is clear from later deeds that Ewe Close became known as Carlill Close. Deed 1197 (Baynes/Cookson/Straubenzee NYCRO) of 1649 notes one third of close of pasture called Carlill Close (50 acres formerly called Yeweclose). Deed 1208 of 1658 notes Carlill Close and Deed 1211 of 1659 notes one third of Carlill Close, all sold between members of the Foster family.

The will of John Carr of Settle in 1666 (Borthwick vol. 48 fol. 740) mentions 'the third part of Carlill close otherwise Ewes close in the Lordship of Langcliffe bought of Rosamund Somerscales'.

Deed 1220 of 1675/6 mentions 16.5 acres 7 poles of pasture in a close called Carlow, (originally Somerscales and Armysteads). Further deeds 1222 (1677/8) and 1228 (1698/9) concern Carlill Close alias Ewe Close.

A map of Settle Bankes in Giggleswick parish (NYCRO ZXF 1/7/1 mf 2165/118) of 1756 shows Carley Close (High Carts and Blua on the Tithe map) and Carley (Blua on the Tithe map) located at the Giggleswick / Langcliffe boundary north-west of Warrendale.

### **Daw Haw and Over Close**

Sale document no. 2 of 1591 concerns Thomas Kydde of Langcliffe in the parish of Giggleswick in Craven in the county of York yeoman William Browne of Langcliffe aforesaid yeoman Thomas Sowden of Langcliffe aforesaid yeoman Richard Kidson of Langcliffe aforesaid yeoman Anthony Armystead of Langcliffe aforesaid yeoman Mathewe Siggesweke of Langcliffe aforesaid glover and Thomas Siggesweke son of the same Mathewe.

The description is

‘one hundred fifty and two acres and one rod and twenty poles of pasture lying and being within the said Lordship of Langcliffe that is to wit on the north side of one close of pasture upon Langcliffe moor called the Cow Close beginning at the east end of the town of Langcliffe and descending directly to a place called the old turf moor yeat and so from there following the wall there to a place there called Skarris and so following the same wall on the east side of the great close called Cowside Close to the side of one great close of pasture called Henside and so [to] the place assigned and measured out for the tenants of Wynskall towards the west ‘

In sale documents no.7, Raistrick 736 and ZIF 1191 the word ascending not descending is used. No. 7 gives buying "thirtie and nyne acres one roode and twentie and one polles of pasture ..... in langcliffe ... ascending directly to Turffmore yeate And from thence following the wall there to the Skarries". The purchasers were William Carre John Brayshawe George Lawson Lawrence Iveson Thomas Preston Thomas Newhouse John Lupton and Bryan Cookeson.

The suggested make-up is

	customary acres	
Daw Haw	108.28	total 152.34 (c.f. 152.38, 0.03% difference)
Cow Pasture (277)	17.70	
Over Close (256)	14.47	
Over Close (255)	11.89	
Over Close (269)	1.13	total 39.45 (c.f. 39.38, 0.2% difference)
Over Close (270)	38.32	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>191.79</b>	(c.f. 191.76, 0.02% difference)

The description is therefore of Daw Haw and Over Close together, known as Langcliffe Moor in 1591. Cow Pasture (277) is named Brown Bank Myers on the map of Christopher Brown's estate at Cowside in 1797.

In 1593 and 1597 (Raistrick 736, DW 318) Swaynson's farm is concerned, including 71a pasture lying amongst about 200a described as above and "now used and occupied with the tenement or farm called Swaynson's tenement or farm.."



Overclose (270)	38.32
Overclose (269)	1.13
Overclose (256)	14.47
Cow Pasture (277)	17.70

Total    71.62 customary acres

Lawrence Swainson passes his property to son Thomas in 1699/70 (DW 405) and notes that Dawhaw is stinted pasture.

The remaining part of Over Close is of unknown ownership

	customary acres
Over Close Meadow (257)	2.98
Far Over Close (258)	11.70
Chamberlains Over Close (259)	42.28
total	56.96

In Raistrick 735 dated 1593/4 land is sold to Richard Armitstead and includes 4.5a pasture lying in common pasture called Dahae between Slupton Gill and Henside and 10.5a lying in out common.

Document DW319 in which Thomas Newhouse sells parcels of land to Thomas Geldarde, thatcher of Langcliffe, mentions 1a of pasture and turbary in Cowside Close in a place called Daha. The Turfmore gate is therefore presumed to be situated in this direction from the village. Common of pasture and turbary on Daha and the wastes of Langcliffe are noted in 1647 (DW 367).

### **Carts Cappy and Cow Close**

Sale no. 7 refers to pasture bought by William Carre John Brayshawe George Lawson Lawrence Iveson Thomas Preston Thomas Newhouse John Lupton and Bryan Cookeson. There are 6 acres of pasture on the backside of Warrendale Knotts which correspond to Carts Cappy (188) of 6a 30p.

The document also refers to 60a 1r 30p pasture next adjoining and lying on the north side of the 50 acres (which were to be divided into three parts, being the Ewe Close). This area can be identified with several of the Cow Closes.

	customary acres
Cow Close (197)	24.48
(198)	31.35
(199)	2.40
(200)	3.36

Total    61.59 (c.f. 60.44, 2% difference)

Carts Coppy may have been associated with Barrel Sykes and Bryan Cookeson who lived there since there is a gated opening into it from an area of pasture 'Cow Closes' on the map comprising

High Carts (187)	18.2 cust. acres
Blua (186)	37.0
Cow Close (170)	12.7
New Close Pasture (168)	5.4

which is not otherwise accounted for in sale documents and lies adjacent to Barrel Sykes.

### **Langcliffe Scar**

An area yet unaccounted for was purchased by Henry Sommerscales of Stockdale in 1600 (DW 329, DW 330, quoted in Raistrick 743 in 1632). This pasture perhaps became an extension of the Stockdale property beyond a headwall on the current parish boundary.

" the common pasture ground or moor called Langcliffe moor then lying abroad and not enclosed ..."

The east part abutted Malham Moor, the west adjoined the Yaw Close and the north part adjoined the Cowside Close. The total area was about 300 acres and excepted 50 acres adjoining the Yaw Close. These can be identified with all Langcliffe Scar (Skarries, Scarres, Scarrese; Skarr Close - now enclosed in 1651, see DW 370) of 325.3 customary acres, and the excepted portion is Langcliffe Scar (261) of 52.1 customary acres. It is therefore clear that Over Close on the Tithe map is called Cowside Close in 1600. The name Overclose appears in 1647 (DW366). An indenture of 1669 (Cowside papers no. 11) notes Overclose alias Cowside Close. In 1718 William Carr notes that Overclose is also known as Upper Cow Close.

### **Henside**

Henside is excluded from the Langcliffe manor lands; in The Fountains Abbey Lease Book (YASRS vol. CXL, 1979/80) we have records from the Malham Court of 1534,

*'The lord's land: item: they say that the abbot of Salley enclosed eighty acres of the lord's land at Hensett, where the lord's tenants ouht to have intercommoning, therefore they require remedy'*

### **Sources**

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