

## Farnhill tithe commutation

### Part 2 – Relating the tithe map to the modern village

#### Introduction

The 1846 Farnhill tithe commutation document provides the earliest detailed survey of not just who owned what land and property in the village, but also who farmed particular parcels of land and who lived in the various domestic buildings.

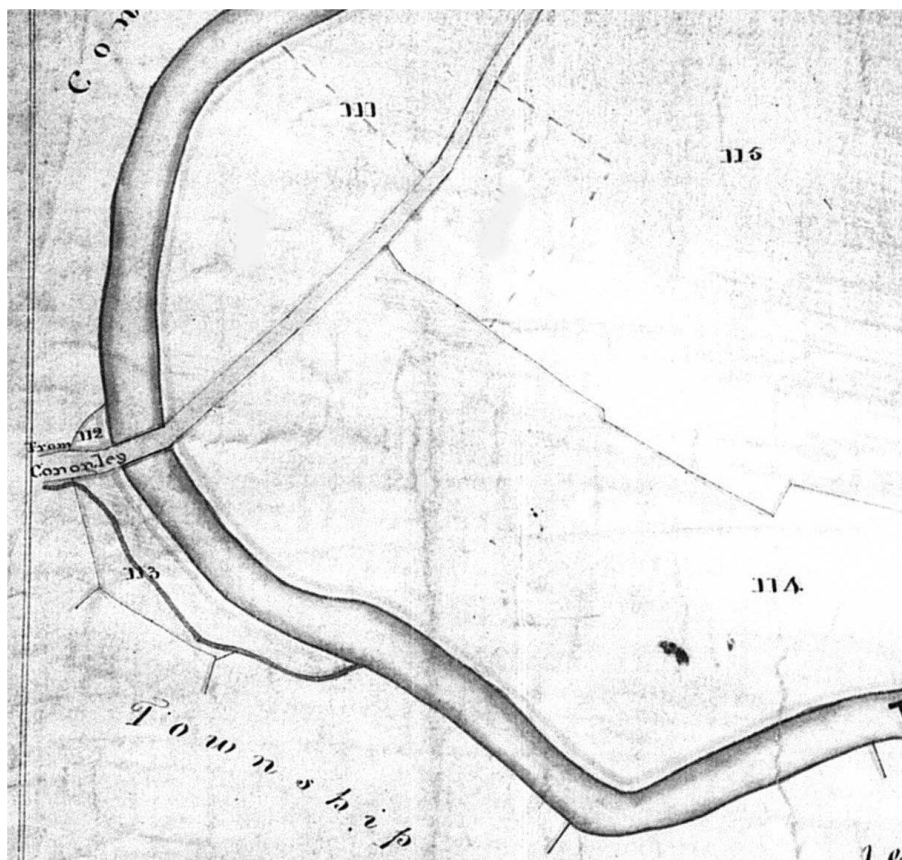
In a similar way, the map created to accompany the document provides the first detailed map of the village and, as with all old maps, shows things that have remained the same as well as things that have changed.

#### How the village has changed, and how it has remained the same

Let's use the tithe map as a guide to the layout of the village in the 1840s.

#### The Aireside bridge, and a former corn mill (?)

The tithe maps shows that Farnhill village extended a little beyond the bridge over the Aire into what today would most definitely be thought of as being Cononley.



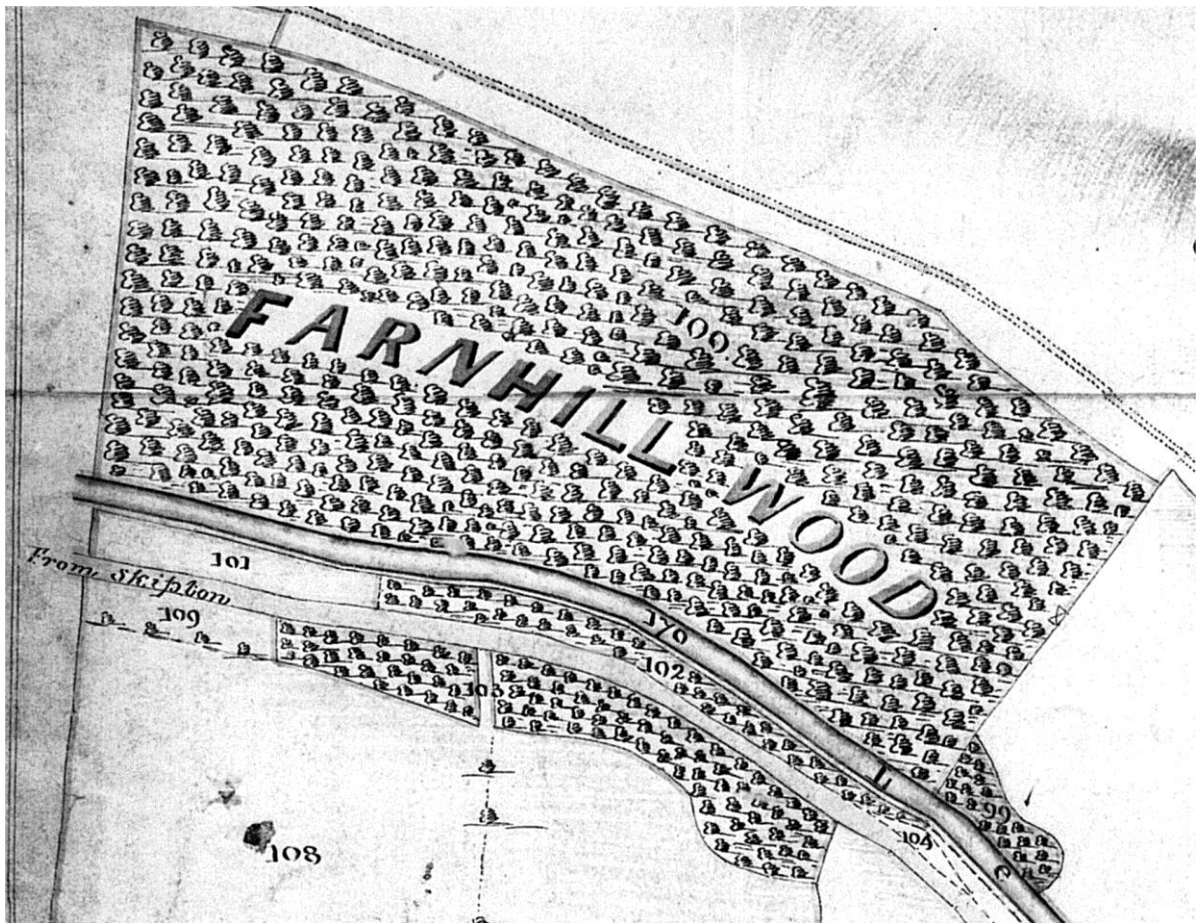
Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing the plots (#111 to #114), with Farnhill land extended over the Cononley “Aireside” bridge

Field names in this area suggest that there might have been a corn mill situated by the river. Four of the fields rented by James Hargreaves from George Lane-Fox (plots #111 to #114) – either side of the Aire bridge were called:

- #111 High Mill Ing
- #112 Mill Lands Island above the Bridge
- #113 Mill Lands Island below the Bridge
- #114 Mill Ing

### Farnhill Wood, extending over the Skipton - Keighley road

Farnhill Wood is very old, possibly ancient. It is therefore perhaps not surprising to find that in the 1840s there were places where it extended over the main Skipton to Keighley road.

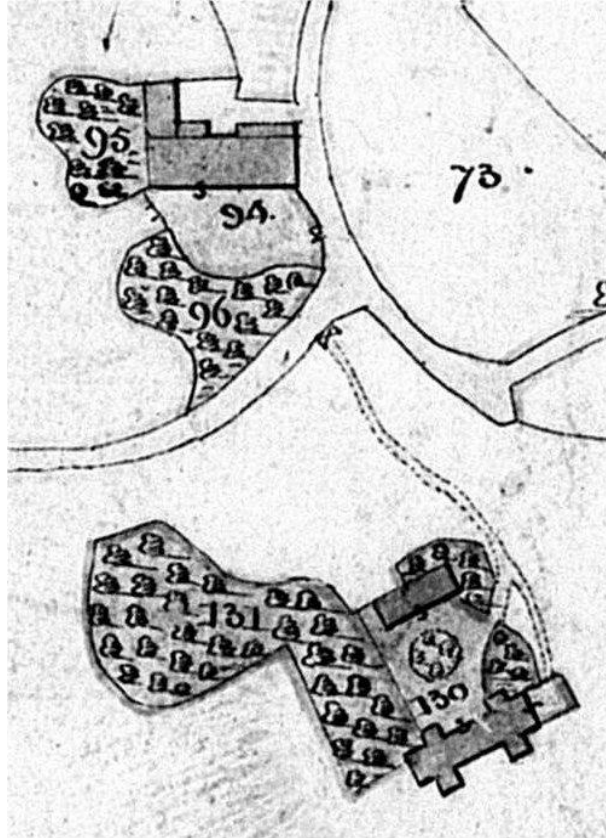


Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing the plots (#102 to #104) where Farnhill Wood extended over the Skipton to Keighley road

The woodland on the Cononley has since disappeared and is now farm land, but as late as 1920 the area was being used as the village “waste tip”.

## Farnhill Hall and barn

Approaching High Farnhill from the canal bridge at Cononley Lane End, the first buildings you would have come to in the 1840s were Farnhill Hall (on your right) and the large barn associated with the Hall on your left).



Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing Farnhill Hall (plot #130) and the Hall barn (plot #94)

The barn was probably used to store corn grain milled at the mill at Aireside. The building shown on the tithe map burned down in 1853 and the building that can be seen today built on the same site.

Farnhill Hall farmhouse is not shown, as it was built later (possibly 1912 ?).

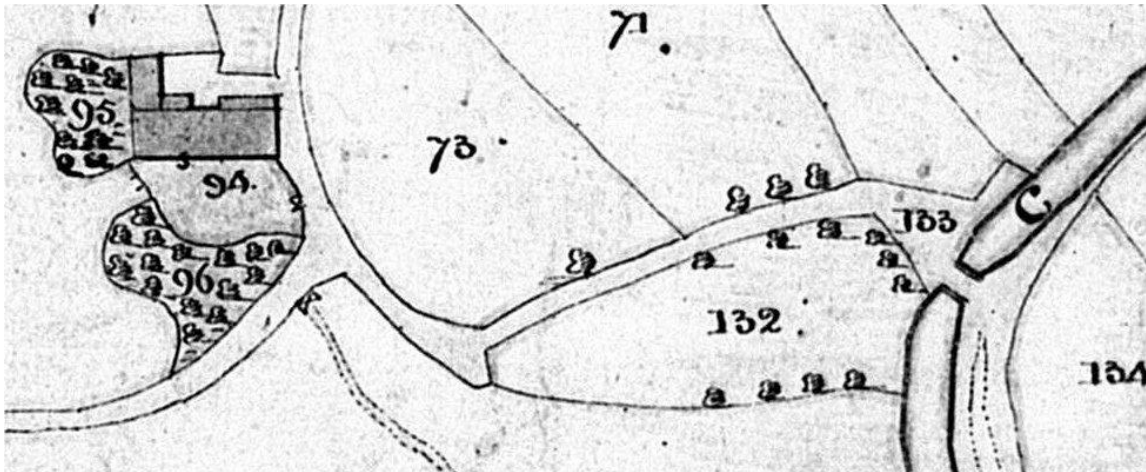
Also of interest is a building situated amongst the trees in front of the Hall, which would have prevented it from being seen from the road. Neither the function of this building nor when it was taken down are known.



## A “lost road” to Milking Hill bridge ?

These days if you walk from the canal bridge at Cononley Lane End towards High Farnhill, the road bends round to the left at Farnhill Hall barn, with only the gateway to the Hall and a public footpath to the right.

In the 1840s, however, the road layout was somewhat different. There was a T-junction at which a right-turn would take you on to what appears to have been a significant road that led down to Milking Hill bridge and over the canal.

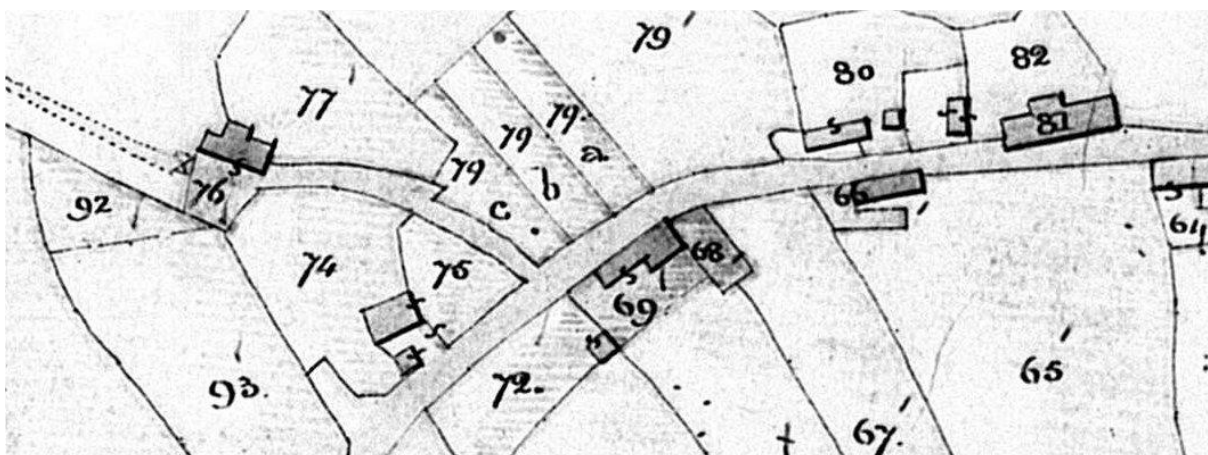


Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing a T-junction and a road leading right to Milking Hill canal bridge

In the tithe document both plots #132 and 133 are described as “Hill with Road”

## Bradley Lane and High Farnhill

This area of the village is very little changed, except that the tithe map shows many fewer houses.

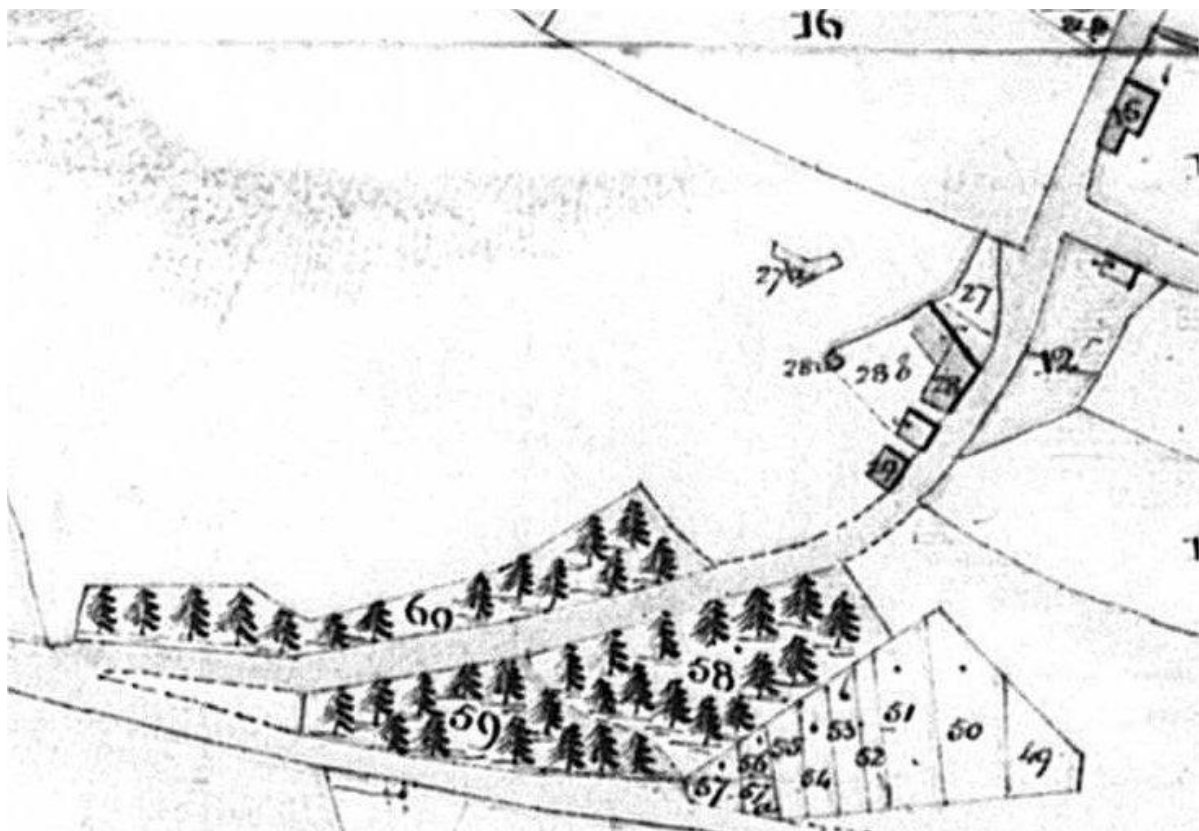


Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing the bottom of Bradley Lane and High Farnhill

Let's take a look at the buildings that do appear.

- Plot #76 – This is Moor End farmhouse. It's likely that the X shown on Bradley Lane indicates the position of a gate across the road. One of the gateposts, including a latch is still visible.
- Plot #75 – Described as a "House and Garden", this is most likely Spout House.
- An unnumbered piece of land between plot # 74 and plot #93 – The pinfold, where lost animals were corralled until they were claimed by their owners. Pinfold House would be built close by, on plot #93, in 1912.
- Plots #68 and #69 – Described as "Cottages".
- Plot #66 – Described as a "Homestead", this is most likely Hellifield farmhouse (Plot #67 is called "Hellifield Croft").
- Plot #80 – Probably number 42 Main Street.
- Plot #81 – Boxtree Farm.
- Plot #64 – Rose Cottage.

## Grange Road



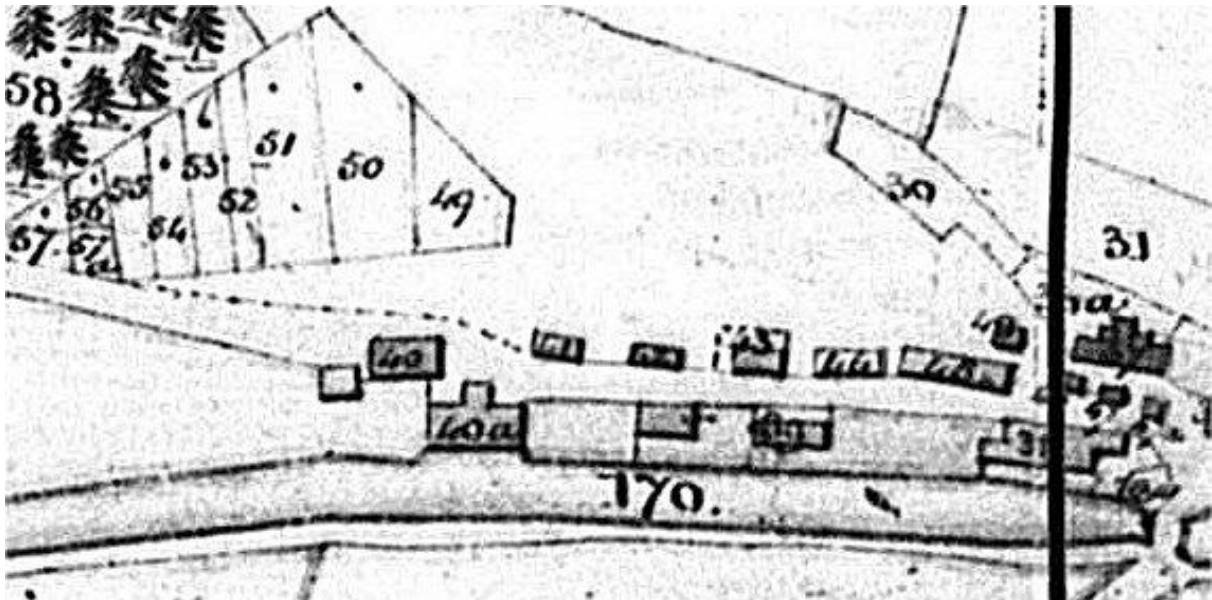
Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing Grange Road,  
with the top of Starkey Lane (far right)

As is currently the case, the lower part of Grange Road is wooded on both sides. At the top of the bank there are several buildings on the left-hand side of the road before you get to the top of Starkey Lane. A number of these still exist, including:

- Plot #29 – Now a garage; referred to in 1846 as a “Cart House”
- Plot #28 – Built side on to the road, this house would later become a “dame school” run by Miss Pearce. In 1846 it was owned and occupied by Richard Pearce.
- Plot 28a – Possibly the most intriguing building on the entire map. It is referred to as a “Necessary”; but that surely begs the question why, if it was so necessary, was it the only one in the entire village ?

Beyond Starkey Lane there is only one building before Farnhill becomes Kildwick. Plot #15, referred to as a “Homestead and Cottages” on the tithe document, it is currently known as “Stonegate Cottage”.

### The Arbour and Main Street to the Canal bridge



Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing Main Street,  
from just below the junction with Grange Road to the Canal bridge

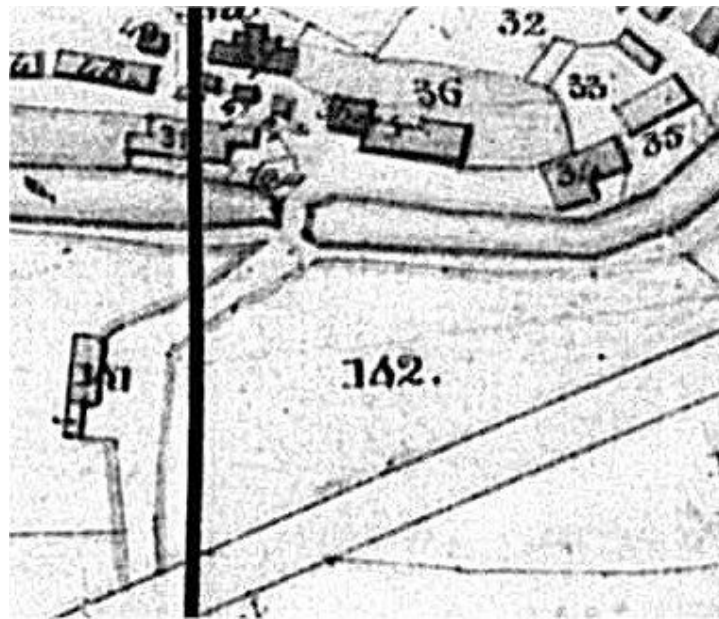
There are no buildings shown in Middleton or in the Arbour – although the plots of land #49 to #57a are each recorded as being a “Garden called Harbour”. (Why “Harbour”? Has this got anything to do with the building of the canal ?)

There are a few buildings on the canal side of the road: but only two, plot #40a (Mill and Cottages) and the smaller plot #38a (hard by the canal bridge and referred to as “Cottage and Staithe”) appear to have direct access to the canal. Interestingly plot #38a was owned by John Redman, who gave his name to the canal bridge.

On the other side of the road are a number of small cottages and (plots #45, #46 and #47) “Manure steads”.



## Main Street below the canal bridge and another “lost” road

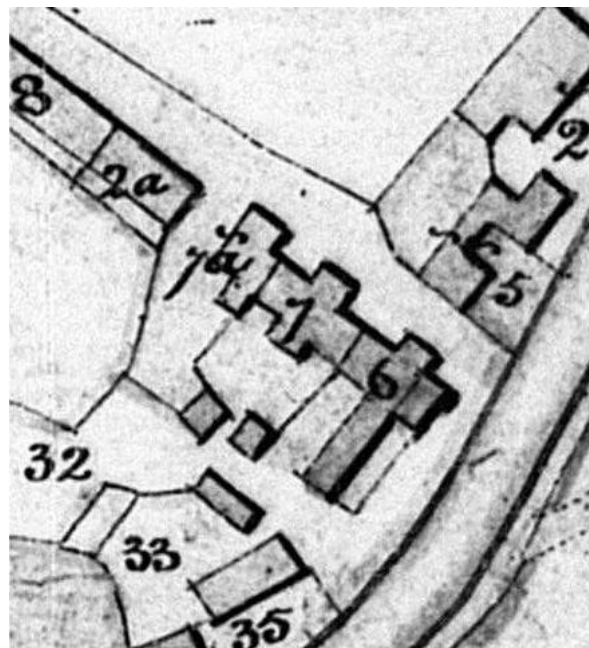


Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing the lower part of Main Street, and a road leading over the canal bridge to the main Skipton-Keighley road

Although the stretch of road did not yet bear her name, the tithe commutation document records that plots #32 to #36, were owned by Mrs. Newby.

In addition this part of the map shows a very clear route from the canal bridge down to the main Skipton-Keighley road. This is now just a narrow path.

## Mary Street, Starkey Lane and Bucklar Hill



Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing the lower part of Starkey Lane

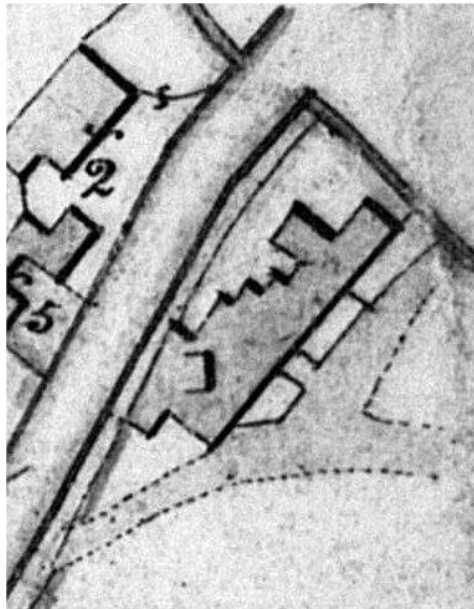
The bottom of what would become Mary Street is visible on the map between plot #35 and the end of plot #6, with the building forming part of plot #33 pointing up the hill.

Plot #6 (a House, Barn and Yard, owned by Mrs. Newby – and now known as “The Mullions”) runs along what is now Newby Road and, with plot #5 (two cottages owned by Marshall Green) form the bottom of Starkey Lane – with other cottages on the left hand side of the road. Further up the hill (not included on the map extract shown above) are some further cottages on the right.

Bucklar Hill appears as a single plot (#2, a cottage). This is owned by Peter Barritt and occupied by William Palfreyman.

## Kirkgate

These days Kirkgate is part of Kildwick, but in the 1840s it was definitely a part of Farnhill.



**Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing the road emerging from the culvert and Kirkgate**

The tithe map shows Main Street going under the canal and emerging from the culvert, with a single plot (#1), backing on the canal. This plot is described as “a House”, but the map suggests that it must have been more than just one building.

In 1841, four years before the map was drawn, James Hargeaves was declared bankrupt and his property sold at auction.



Lot 5 of this sale, which was bought by Peter Barritt, consisted of properties in Kirkgate.

IN FARNHILL.

Lot 5. In the Occupation of Wm. Palfreeman, the HOUSE, (known by the Name of the Ship Inn,) Barn, Stable, Garden, and Yard, Warehouse, and several CLOSES of very excellent LAND, containing altogether 8a. 3n. 38r. Statute Measure. Also, TWO COTTAGES, adjoining the Ship Inn, in the Occupation of John Mosley, and Thomas Whitecock; also, the Barn behind the Canal, in the Occupation of the said William Palfreeman.

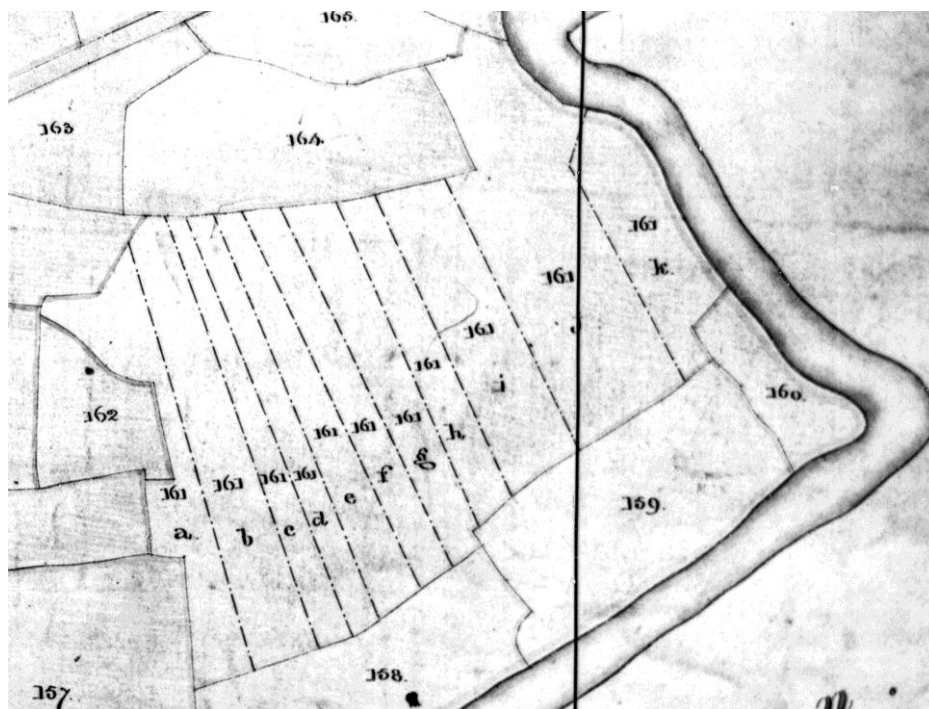
It seems that plot #1 on the tithe map included the Ship Inn and two adjoining cottages – presumably now #3 and #5 Kirkgate.

### Evidence for earlier “strip farming” ?

It is reasonable to assume that strip farming would have been carried out in Farnhill in medieval times. Although there is no direct evidence for this, there are a couple of areas where the fields appear to form a strip pattern even in the 1840s.

The most obvious of these is plot #161, called “Farnhill Ings”: the word Ings coming from the Old Norse and meaning water meadow. This field, located between the main Skipton to Keighley road, and a bend in the river, was owned by George Lane-Fox but sub-divided into 11 small plots (#161a to k) which were rented out to six different tenants.

The fact that the sub-plots are shown separated by a dashed line, rather than a solid one, might suggest that the boundaries between the plots were not physically delineated.



Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing the “strip field”, plot #161