

## Where were the Farnhill Wood Cafe and Cyclist Rest ? - and were there two buildings ?

### Introduction

As long ago as August 2013 we posted a short piece in our “Mysteries” section asking if anyone knew where the building known as Farnhill Wood Cafe and Cyclist Rest used to be located.



Since then, every now and again, bits and pieces of information have been offered, much of it contradictory, muddying the water, and making a straightforward question about as hard to answer as “Who really shot Kennedy ?” or “What happened to the Marie Celeste ?”.

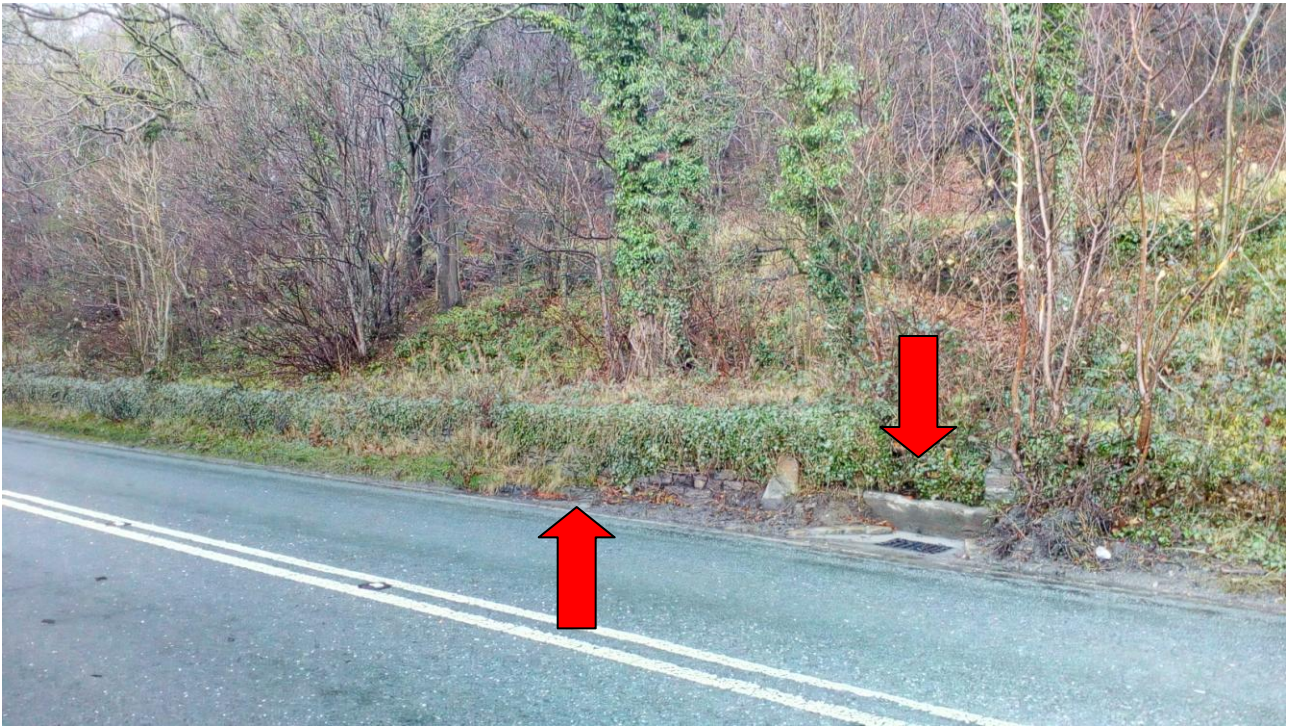
Now members of the History Group, working separately, have come to what seems like a satisfactory conclusion.

So now we think we know the location; but we also think that there may have been two buildings.

## Physical remains

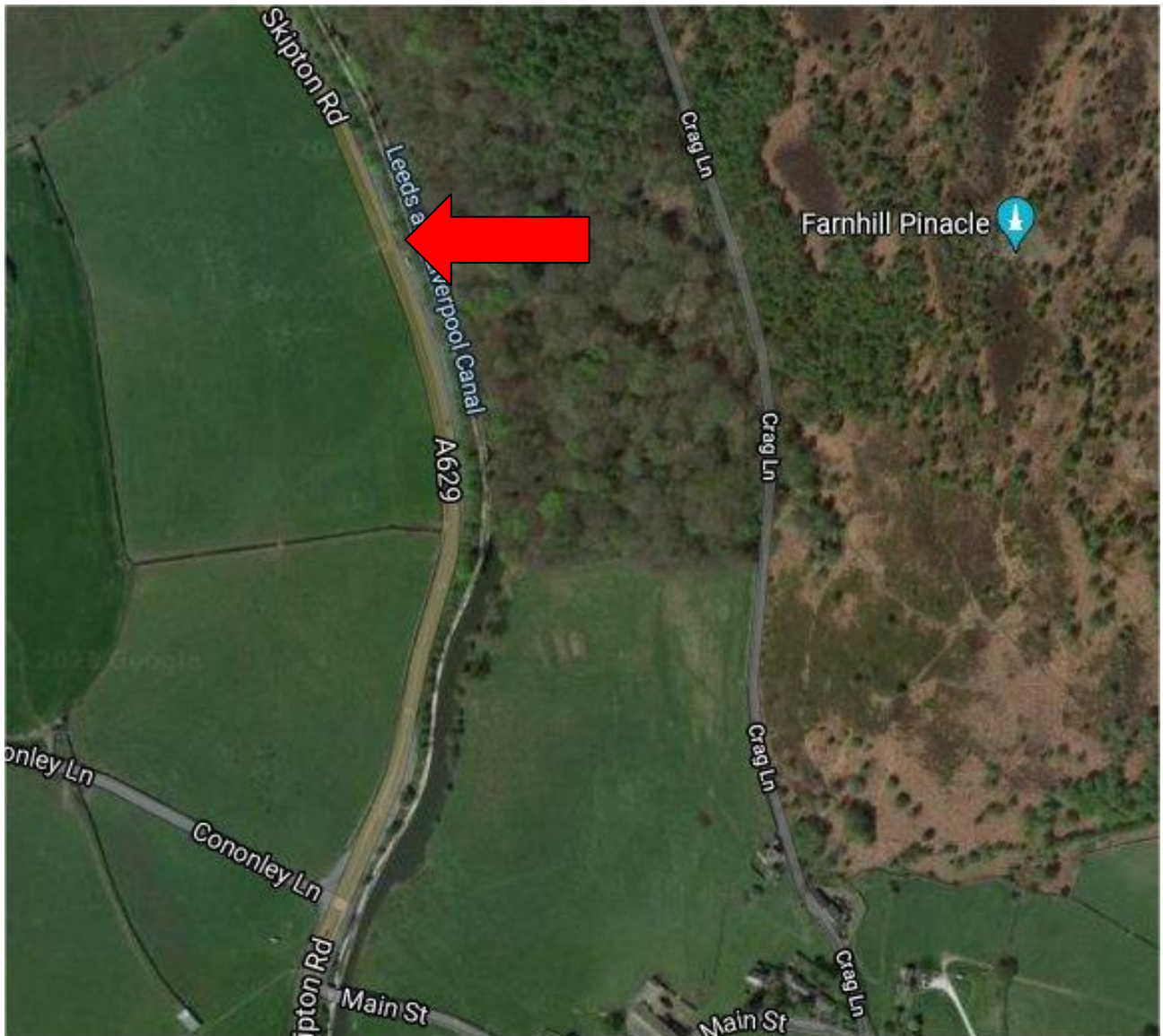
From the angle these photographs were taken, and looking at the way the ground seems to rise up behind the building, we were always confident that the cafe must have been on the main Skipton-Keighley road rather than actually in Farnhill Wood.

A member of the History Group looked at the photograph and walked from Cononley Lane End towards Skipton, comparing it with the bits of stone-work still visible on the side of the road. He identified a drain and a horse-trough grouped very close together.



**A drain and a horse-trough located close together on Skipton Road**

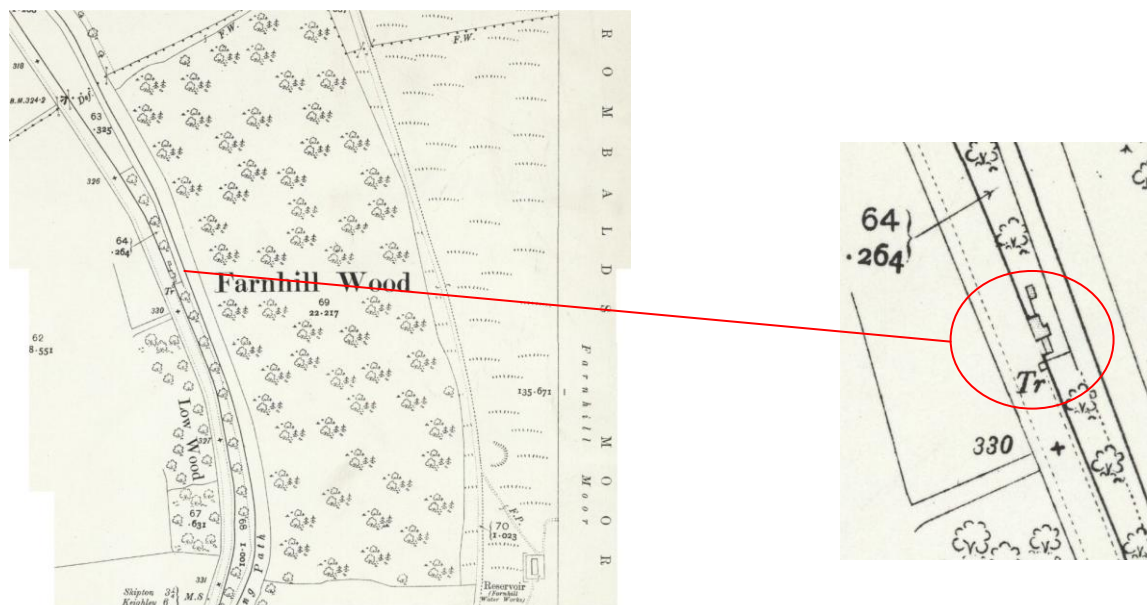
Here's the location shown on a Google Map. It's almost directly opposite the point where the grass verge runs out on the left hand side of the road when heading towards Skipton.



Google maps location of the horse-trough and drain.

## Evidence from old maps – for two separate buildings ?

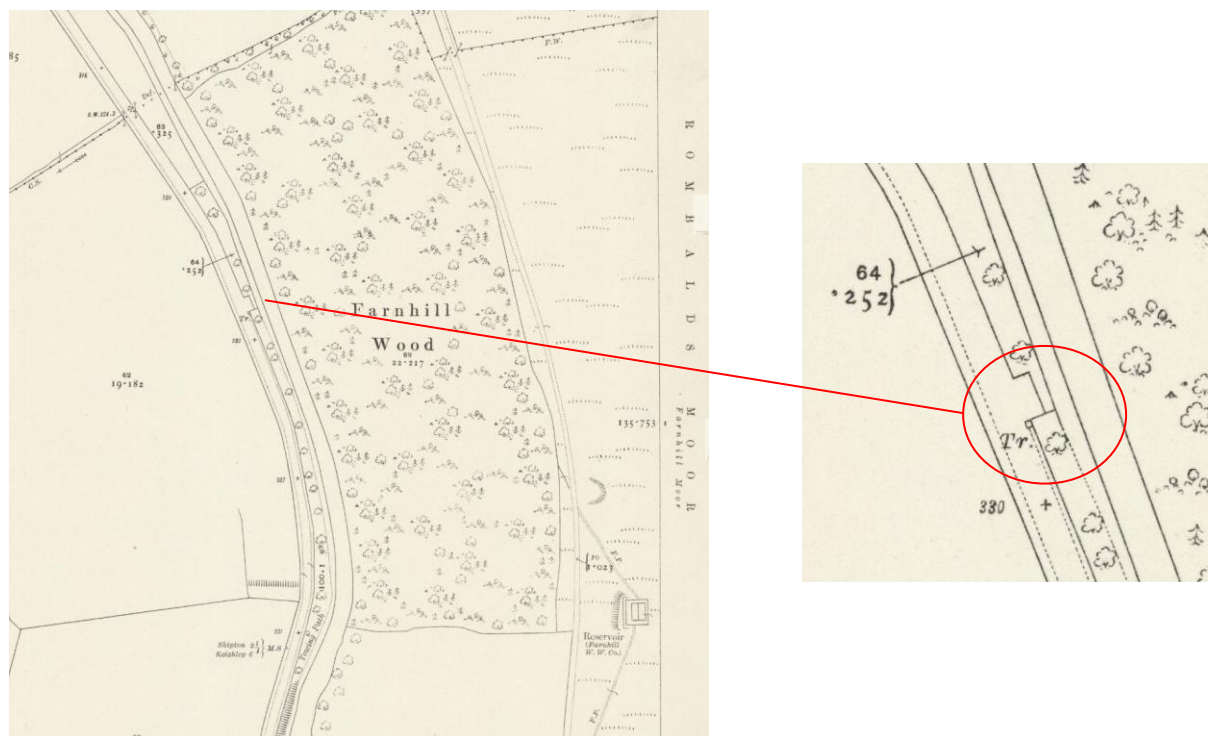
Other members of the History Group looked at Farnhill Wood on old OS 25-inch-to-1-mile maps and identified two buildings and a horse trough very close together on maps from 1909, 1919 and 1936.



1909 OS map showing a building and adjoining horse trough on Skipton Road

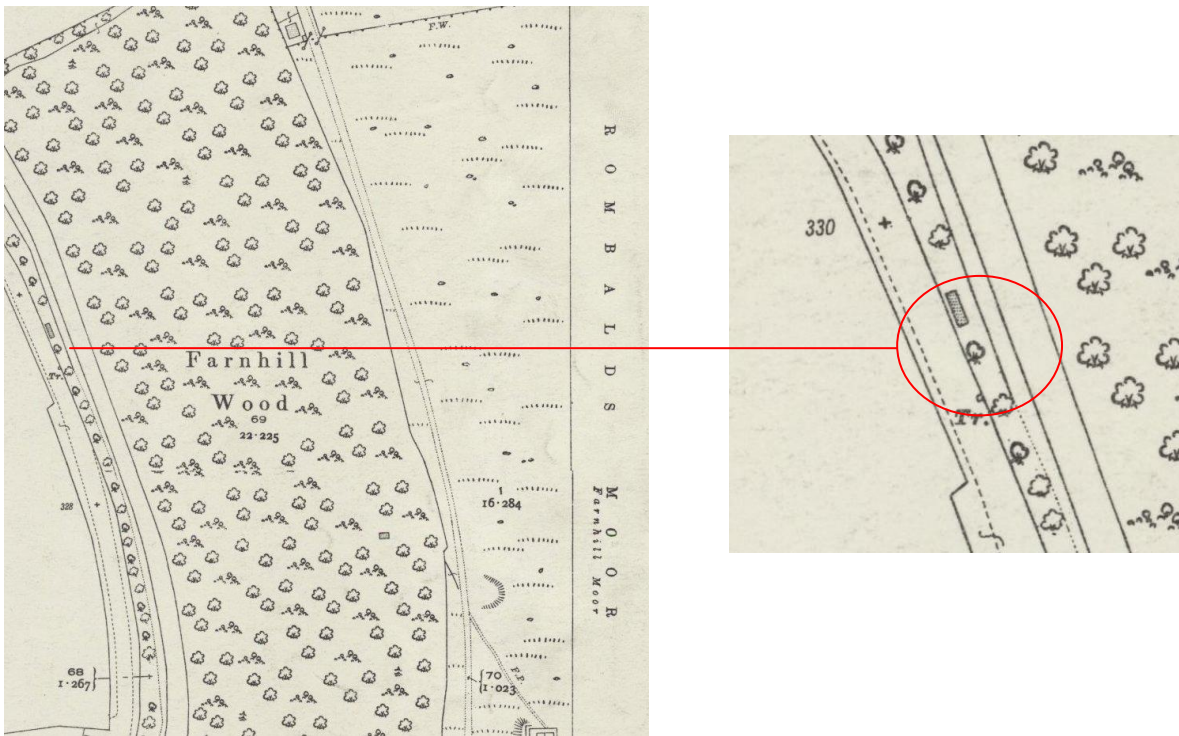
The 1909 map, shown above, indicates a well-developed structure immediately adjoining the horse trough.

By 1919 however, the structure was much simpler; with an open front. Perhaps just a bicycle-rack ?



1919 OS map showing an open structure and adjoining horse trough on Skipton Road

The 1936 map has nothing of the 1909 and 1919 structures, but shows a very substantial building on the edge of the road, slightly further along the road in the direction of Skipton. (The scale of the map would translate to this building being a maximum of 30 metres away from the horse trough.)



1936 OS map showing the horse trough and a separate building on Skipton Road

The horse trough remains a constant on all three maps (and on an earlier OS map, dated 1889).

## Who ran the cafe ?

Between 1935 and 1937, there are entries in the Farnhill electoral roll for “Wood Cafe” on Keighley Road.

POLLING DISTRICT AG.				TOWNSHIP OF FARNHILL.	
114	R	O	Davis, Samuel Charles	Hollywood	
115	—	O	†Davy, Louisa	Wood Café, Keighley Road	
			(Abode—North View, Cononley)		
116	Rw	Dw	Dawson, Annie	73 Main Street	
117	R	O	Dawson, John William	73 Main Street	
118	Rw	Dw	Day, Helena	29 Main Street	
119	Rw	—	Day, Winifred Mary	29 Main Street	
120	R	O	Day, James Ernest	29 Main Street	
121	Rw	—	Dean, Mary	13-15 Main Street	
122	Rw	Dw	Dearden, Maggie Lilian	53, Airedale	
123	R	O	Dearden, William Henry	53, Airedale	
124	Rw	Dw	Denton, Mary Elizabeth	Middleton House	

Throughout the 1930s, Louisa Davy lived at 2 North View, Cononley, with her two sisters Ada and Edith.

Perhaps two of them appear in our photographs of the cafe ?