

Fulford Enclosures

(compiled from: British History on-line)

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1852 OS map showing the northern part of Fulford (it actually extended south to Pool Bridge) and the northern part of Water Fulford. (National Library of Scotland)

MANORS AND OTHER ESTATES.

In 1086 Gate Fulford comprised a single estate of 10 carucates, held by Count Alan of Brittany, which had belonged before the Conquest to Morcar. About 1100 it was given by Count Stephen of Brittany to St. Mary's abbey, York, along with a carucate and 3 bovates in Water Fulford. The abbey retained the manor of GATE FULFORD until the Dissolution, when it was worth about £48. Afterwards numerous Crown leases were made of lands in Fulford, but in 1600 the manor was granted in fee to Richard Burrell and John Ryder. In 1615 the manor was conveyed by Richard and John Burrell to Thomas Marshall and James Godson, and in 1654 Samuel and Arthur Marshall sold it to William Taylor.

Taylor was succeeded by his son John, grandson Thomas, and great-grandson John. In 1745 the manor was conveyed by John Taylor to Robert Oates subject to Taylor's own use for life. At inclosure in 1759 Taylor, described as lord of the manor, was allotted 83 a. as part of his life estate. Oates, who was himself allotted 101 a. in 1759, devised all his property to his cousin John Key by will proved in 1763, and in 1773 Taylor conveyed his life interest in the manor, with 180 a. of old and new inclosures, to Key.

By 1810-11 the Keys had 614 a., roughly equally divided between Gate and Water Fulford. The estate descended in the family until the death of R. E. Key in 1961, and in 1964, when it comprised 647 a., it was sold to Key's nephew Mr. William Wormald.

In 1086 Erneis de Burun held a carucate and 3 bovates in WATER FULFORD. The land subsequently descended, like Burun's estate in West Cottingwith, successively to Geoffrey son of Pain, William Trussebut, Hilary de Builers, and William de Ros. In 1285 Robert de Ros had 8 bovates at Fulford. Under the Ros family the manor of WATER FULFORD was apparently held in 1343 by Walter of Heselton and in 1346 by Osbert of Spaldington. After the attainder of Thomas, Lord Ros, in 1461 the estate in Fulford, including Ros Hall, was the subject of several grants for life by the Crown between 1464 and 1484. On the accession of Henry VII the manor was restored to Edmund de Ros. Edmund's sister Eleanor married Sir Robert Manners and at Edmund's death in 1508 the manor passed to her son Sir George Manners. In 1525 Sir George's son Thomas Manners, Lord Ros, was created earl of Rutland. Water Fulford was sold by Henry, earl of Rutland, to John Redmayne in 1553.

The manor descended in the Redmayne or Redman family to Thomas Redman (d. c. 1695), whose sisters Frances and Susannah married Noel Barton and Robert Clarke. In 1702 the Bartons and the Clarkes sold it to Robert Oates; it then comprised Ros Hall and 11 bovates in Water Fulford. It subsequently descended with Gate Fulford manor.

The medieval manor-house was mentioned in 1343, but the oldest part of the existing building is unlikely to be earlier than the 16th century. It was a timber-framed range of two storeys which is now completely enclosed by later work, and it probably does not represent the whole of the early house. It was extended to the south and east early in the 18th century and to the north in 1764. There were more additions on the north and east in 1851 and at about this time bays were added to the south-west room. The house has recently been reduced by the removal of some of the 19th-century kitchen buildings, and it has been subdivided into two residences, but most of the 18th-century fittings survive together with a quantity of reset 17th-century panelling. In the grounds are a stable range and a large dovecot.



Water Fulford village depicted on Samuel Parsons map of Dringhouses of 1624 (York Explore)
Water Fulford Hall is the large house and the Ouse is shown in green – the map is upside-down

In 1086 an estate at Water Fulford of a carucate and 3 bovates was soke of Clifton (Yorks. N.R.) and belonged to Count Alan of Brittany. About 1100 it was given to St. Mary's abbey and subsequently it descended with Gate Fulford manor.

The archbishop of York held a carucate and 2 bovates at Water Fulford in 1086. The estate was assigned to Ampleforth prebend, presumably at its formation before 1219-34, and c. 1295 the prebend had 12 bovates of land, 6 a. meadow, and a toft there. Unspecified property in Fulford later descended with the prebend's manor of Heslington. Part of the tithes of Water Fulford certainly belonged to the prebend, but the only other reference to land is to 5 a. belonging to the prebend in 1844.

Besides their interest in Gate Fulford manor the Taylor family had a substantial estate in the parish. About 200 a. of it, comprising Tilmire farm, were sold by John Taylor in 1769 to Timothy Mortimer. Charles Mortimer conveyed them to Henry Bland in 1815, and Bland's

trustees to N. E. Yarburgh in 1838. The farm descended with the capital manor of Heslington and was sold with it in 1964.

Several York religious houses, in addition to St. Mary's abbey, had estates in the parish. Two houses and 12½ a. in Fulford were granted to St. Andrew's priory by Thomas Thurkill in 1395. They were let to Ralph Prince in 1593. St. Leonard's hospital had property in Fulford at the Dissolution, some of which descended with land in Naburn. In the 12th century common rights in Fulford were granted to St. Nicholas's hospital by St. Mary's abbey. The hospital's former property there and in York was granted by the Crown to John Somer and Thomas Kerry in 1564. Between 1203 and 1241 Hilary de Builers gave a bovate, a toft and croft, and certain meadow in Fulford to Warter priory. After the Dissolution the land in Fulford descended with Warter's property in Naburn.

The tithes belonged to St. Mary's abbey until the Dissolution. In 1613-14 those of Gate Fulford township were granted by the Crown to Francis Morrice and Francis Philips, having been in the tenure of John Redman. There were disputes about their payment in 1598 and 1613. Morrice and Philips apparently conveyed the tithes to Sir Thomas and Humphrey Smith, who sold them in 1615 to John Goodman the elder and younger. In 1650, when they were worth £80, they were said to belong to Henry Belton. In 1668 another John Goodman suffered a recovery of them, and he or a namesake still had them in 1689 and 1708. They passed to Francis Taylor in 1713 and to George Meeke in 1723. At the inclosure of Gate Fulford in 1759 Francis Meeke was awarded £3,909, to be paid by the various proprietors for exemption from the tithes of both old and new inclosures in the township. The payment of the curate's stipend devolved upon John Taylor and succeeding lords of the manor.

The tithes of part of Water Fulford township, amounting to 167a., apparently descended with those of Gate Fulford, and in 1759 Francis Meeke was awarded £210 for them. The tithes of the rest of the township were divided into three equal parts. One, worth £33 in 1810-11, belonged to the lords of the manor, the second, worth £5 in 1649, belonged to the prebend of Ampleforth, and the third belonged to the rector of St. Martin's, Micklegate. Each was commuted for £28 a year in 1844.

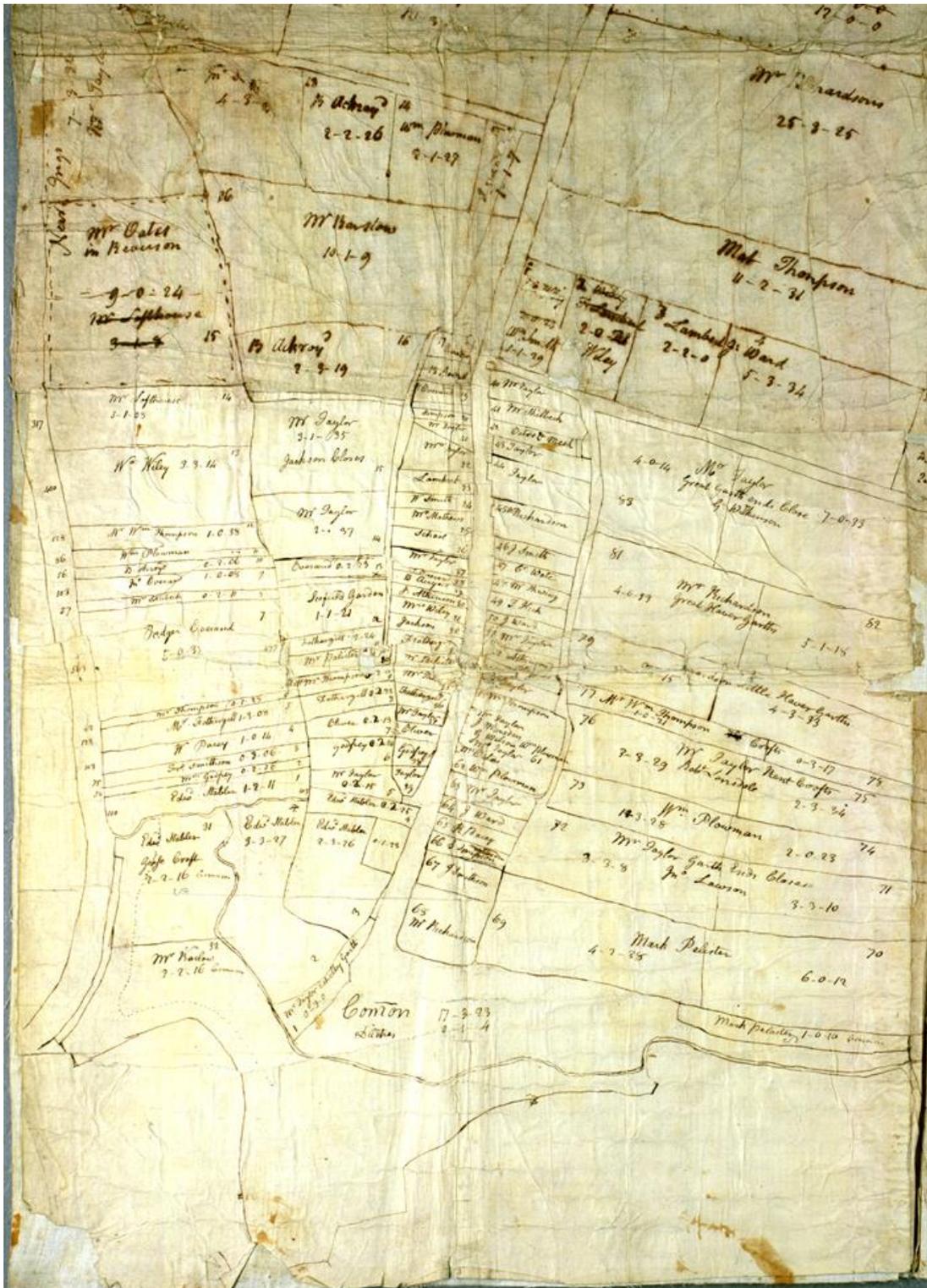
which was described as the abbey's demesne fishery. The agreement made between York and St. Mary's in 1484 also confirmed the citizens' rights of pasturage in part of the open fields and meadows of Gate Fulford. The arable land included, in the extreme north-east, Seward How field. Some land in the fields already belonged to York men, and that continued to be the case in later centuries.

During the 17th century there may have been attempts to grow new crops and improve upon old rotations in the open fields, reflected in a pain laid in 1695 forbidding the sowing of open-field land 'out of course of husbandry'. More of the waste land was also being reclaimed. Closes called New fields were mentioned in 1642 and reference to open-field land called Breck butts in 1684 indicates that the near-by brecks already existed. In the mid-18th century the old inclosures of Gate Fulford included a large block of land in the south of the township, surrounded by the moors, comprising nearly 30 closes called New fields and about 20 called Intacks. More old inclosures, including the brecks, lay between the village and the moor, and other closes lay between the open fields and the moor.

The remaining open fields and commons were inclosed in 1759 under an Act of 1756. Allotments made totalled 907 acres., comprising about 307a. in Fulford field, lying between the village and York, 38a. in Dam Lands field, south of the village, 54a. in the riverside ings, and 508a. in the commons. The commons included approximately 50a. in Low moor, 125a. in East moor, 200a. in West moor, and 125a. in Tilmire. John Taylor was allotted 345a. for manorial and other lands, Robert Oates received 101a., and the citizens of York got 52a. for their common rights. There were also 2 allotments of 30-50a., 13 of 10-29a., and 21 of under 10a. Ten and a half cottages had common rights attached to them and these were replaced by £15 for each cottage, to be paid by those who were allotted land. The tithes of the township were commuted by the award for money payments.

For Water Fulford no economic information was given in 1086. The Ros manor included 60a. of arable and 14a. of meadow in demesne in 1343, and much the same in the early 16th century. The prebendary of Ampleforth's estate c.1295 contained 6a. of meadow in demesne and 12 bovates held by 5 bondmen and one other tenant. The prebendary's tenants rendered money rent, hens, and eggs, mowed the lord's hay, and for each bovat provided five men to reap his corn. There was also one toft held by a cottar.

The town fields of Water Fulford were mentioned in the early 18th century, together with parcels of meadow in the ings, but inclosure took place about that time. About 1716 four closes were described as former open-field land, and inclosure by Robert Oates was mentioned.



Fulford Enclosure map of 1759, showing the village and surrounding fields with the names of who each plot has been allocated to, the reference number and acreage (York Explore)

There were usually about ten farmers and market gardeners in the whole parish in the 19th century, but the number later fell and there were four in the 1930s, only one of them having 150a. or more. Of the four farms on the Fulford Hall estate in 1964, one was of 209a. and the others each about 130a. There were 468a. under crops in 1801, and in Water Fulford alone the tithable land in 1844 comprised 66a. of arable and 192a. of grassland.

In 1905 the parish included 721 a. of arable, 793a. of permanent grass, and 48a. of woods. There has continued to be a substantial area under grass, especially near the Ouse and around Water Fulford. The ings at Water Fulford were still in divided ownership in 1972 and more than a dozen boundary stones remained marking off the parcels.

¶The river Ouse has naturally always provided a means of transport for the parish, and a few Fulford men may have made a living by fishing. In 1744 Robert Oates and York corporation agreed to exercise concurrently the fishing rights that they both claimed. At inclosure in 1759 all those who received allotments were said to enjoy the right to land goods from the river. The chief wharf may have been that shown c. 1850 at the end of Landing Lane, between Gate and Water Fulford. There was also some brick-making in the parish: a brickmaker was recorded in 1692, for example. On a larger scale was the quarrying of gravel in the area north of Church Lane, and c.1850 there were several pits from which rail tracks led down to riverside staithes.

Siward mill hill, the site of a windmill, was mentioned in 1546, and Siward How mill in 1587. It stood on the moraine in the north-east of Gate Fulford and was several times mentioned in the 18th century. It was then known as Lamel, Laming, or Lammon hill mill, and a new mill was apparently erected on the site between 1733 and 1758. It was described as decayed in 1836. A second windmill, called Fishergate mill in 1600, is perhaps to be identified with White mill, recorded in 1767, and with a mill shown next to the York road near Fishergate on maps of 1772. A miller was last recorded in Fulford in 1823.



Lund's map of 1772, showing windmills at Heslington Hill and the junction of Cemetery Road and Fulford Road in Fishergate (York Archaeological Society)

