

Rights of Way talk: Tuesday 10th May 6pm-8pm

A leisurely educational and historical walking tour of some public footpaths in Fulford led by FFH member Lauren Grindley. Ideally wear sturdy walking shoes and let's hope the Ings isn't flooded! Parking available at St. Oswald's Church then meet at start of Fenwick's Lane (see map), end further down Main Street opposite the Bay Horse pub. Wet weather option is to have the talk in St Oswald's church.

WALK

Meet at start of Fenwick's Lane

- My name is Lauren Grindley and I joined the FFH society last July after settling down in the Fishergate area after studying Environmental Geography at the university
- I work for CYC as a 'Definitive Map Officer' within the Rights of Way department, a department often forgotten about because no one cares about Rights of Way until it's their right of way!
- Always been interested in maps and walking but got into this job from doing an internship project after second year investigating unrecorded rights of way in the city centre from Mark Jones' Snickleways book!! Loved the history and old maps of the city and learning about this niche part of the city history e.g Lady Peckett's Yard, Penny Lane, Three Cranes Lane, long one called Coffee Yard from Grape Lane to Stonegate.
- In my job I deal specifically with applications to record public rights of way (footpaths/bridleways etc) which means lots of research in old maps, RoW legislation and land registry deeds etc

What is a public right of way?

- A highway that the public has the right to use at all times and can be a footpath, bridleway, restricted byway or BOAT
- York authoritative boundary is about 10 miles each way to the River Derwent/Elvington and Wheldrake to the East and Strensall in the North.
- Any questions about PRow so far??

Walk down fenwicks lane footpath

- As part of my passion for history, specifically local history from the 1800s to now I am very interested in how people lived and their social history so whenever I find little lanes, often medieval common lanes like Popeshead alley and three cranes lane in the city centre, I am always intrigued to find out more. Also an 'urban myth' that has been translated from the 1773 Highways Act into the 1835 Highways Act and even in some modern day DEFRA guidance says that if a road/route is named then it must be a public highway (often called adopted highways) but this is not the case.
- But we would assume that Fenwick's Lane is named after somebody called Fenwick so what do we know about them from history of Fulford?
- *The Village Reading Rooms had been built by Robert Fenwick in 1873 and was open from 8am to 10pm. (where was this?)*

- *Gate Fulford Hall; then known as Fulford Grove, was acquired by Robert Fenwick in 1862 and it was he who called it Gate Fulford Hall and gave his name to the back lane.*

Walk to end of Fenwick's Lane, discuss the below

Tofts and Crofts village design in Fulford:

- Medieval village design of a linear (Main Street) of Tofts containing the dwellings (houses) and Crofts where the elongated agricultural enclosures at the back which are thought to have developed from the 9th to 12th centuries. (Fenwick's lane is a croft/garth!)
- The names Folford, Foleforde and Fuletorp appear in the early records and although Fulford's boundaries changed over time, and at one time even extended as far as the city walls and included what is now known as Walmgate stray, the 11th century village shape remains clearly visible on the 18th century map.
- Therefore the historic rights of way were a way to get to the village centre, usually for market. RoW were important in the social history of an area and were therefore set out in Inclosure awards giving them a legal status
- Currently working on a case in Copmanthorpe where the path is thought to be bridleway (rather than footpath) as it was set out in the 1843 Inclosure award the road/through-route connecting the parishes of Copmanthorpe and Appleton Roebuck. (I read lots of old documents like this and tithe documents to identify historic routes!)

Go up Medd's Lane:

- Who was Medd? What do we know about them? Stop half way to discuss this?
- *Robert Medd on the 1861 Census is shown as a cow keeper and shop keeper in the area close to Medd's Lane supposedly the adjacent houses on Main Street. Family lived at 32 Main Street. Medd Lane was used for boatmen to reach the old pub from the River Ouse, the Wheatsheaf Inn as it was is now called the Dick Turpin Cottage, not sure exactly why this is, ask if anyone knows?*
- *Walk to main street then turn back, give anecdote of our old house where the gardener had the right to walk a path the width of a wheelbarrow, still translated into land registry title deeds in 21st century, definitive map means that width and length are set out and are conclusive evidence of the rights that the public have*

*Walk on a bit, what are the ings? I always thought it was a commonly known word but turns out it's an old word of Norse origin referring to **water meadows and marshes**, including those that were part of the Humber flood plain (hence it usually getting flooded!)*

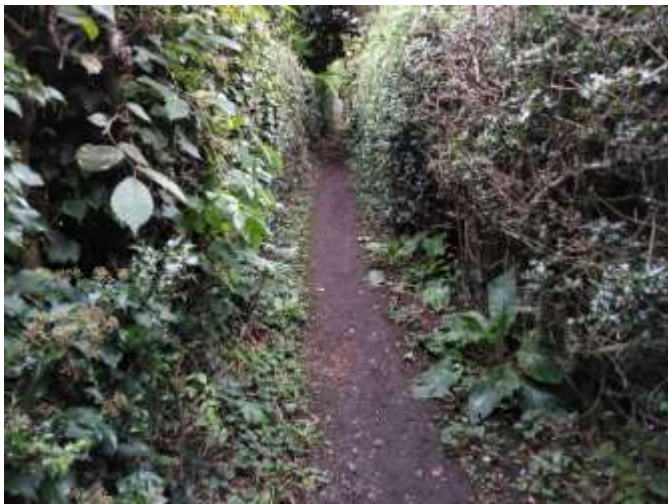
Carry on along the Ings to Halfpenny row

- Walk up to carpark area to gather, what history do we know about Halfpenny Row?
 - A few theories:
 - *If the Ings were **formally cattle meadows** then it could be that there was a common charge for overnight grazing by cattle (in particular) and there are many halfpenny lanes, fields,*
 - *Could it also be that it was near the **Pinfold** where farmers had to pay (a halfpenny?) to release the stray animals maybe?*
 - **Joseph Halfpenny (1748-1811)** was born the son of one of the archbishop's gardeners at Bishopthorpe and was at first apprenticed as a house painter in York. A collection of topographical drawings of the city was published in 1807. Halfpenny lived in Gillygate and was buried in St. Olave's (not likely then because this is further away?)
 - **The name Halfpenny** comes from the ancient Anglo-Saxon culture of Britain. It was a name for a person who because of his physical characteristics was referred to as Halfpenn. This person had a slim or slight build and was given this surname as a means of identity (could it be this related to a Halfpenny family in the area?)
 - Halfpenny Field (in Elm near Peterborough) is so called from the contribution **levied for the repair of a neighbouring dyke**. This halfpenny row is next to a drain/dyke so this could theoretically be the case?
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- Sometimes history leaves you with more questions than it answers!
 - Any questions about my job or the history explained to finish??



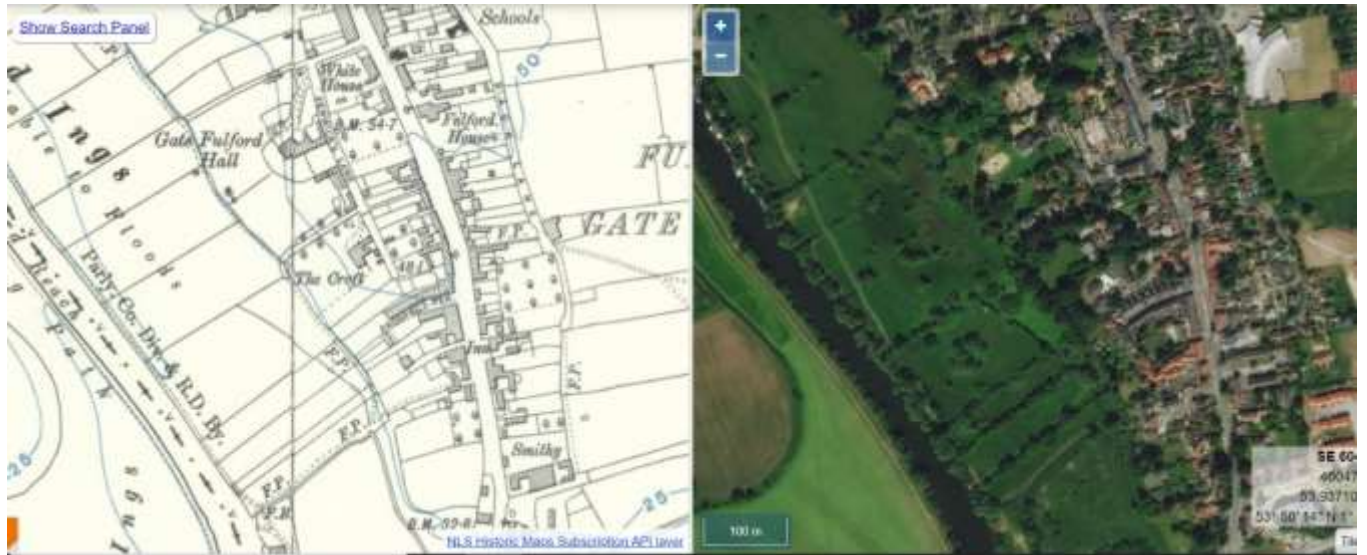


Medd's Lane:

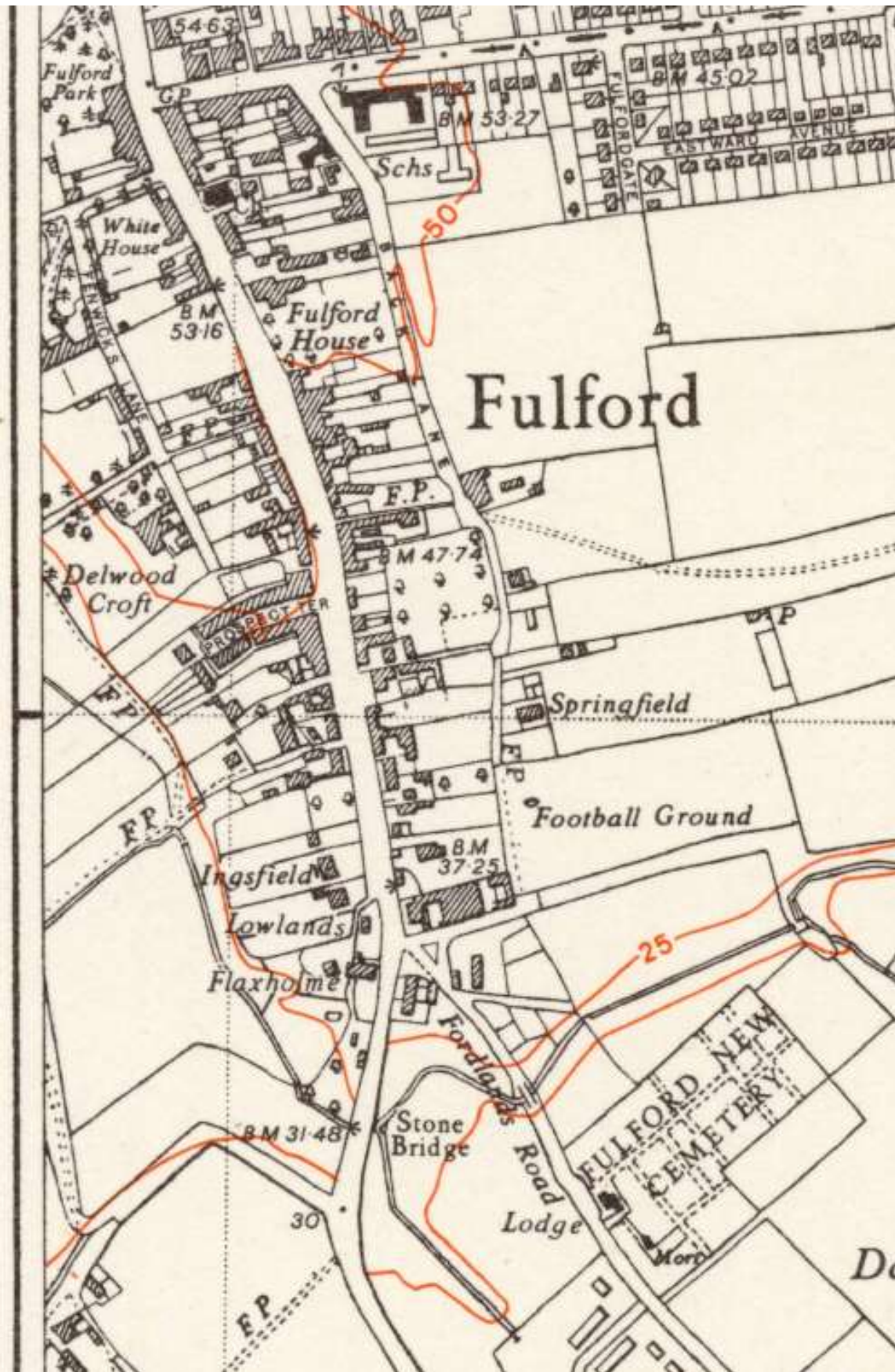


Halfpenny row:

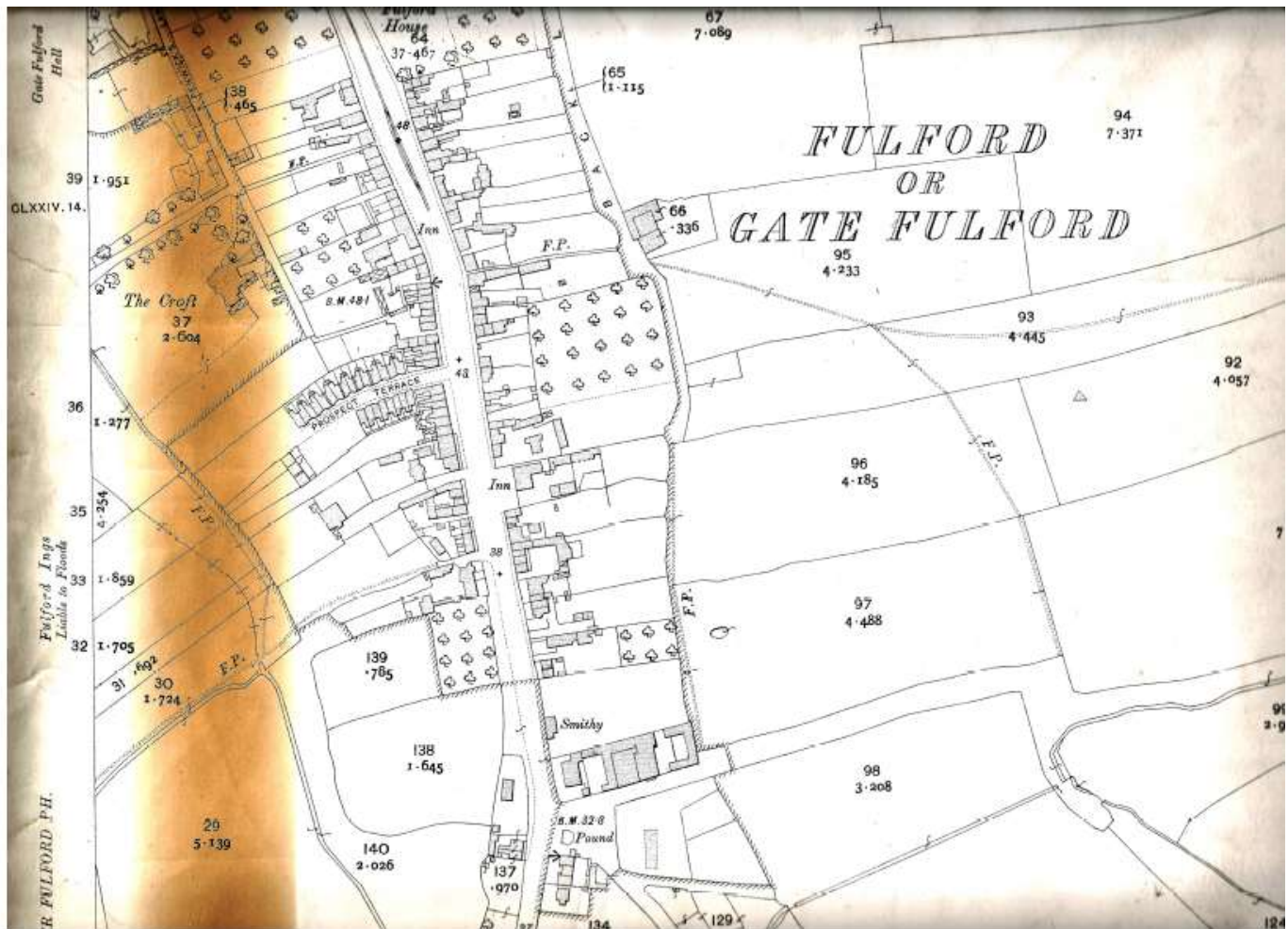




National Library of Scotland, amazing resource for comparing old maps to current satellite Images, I use a this a lot, this is an OS map from the period 1888-1913



Another OS map from 1950 (quite recent!) how many footpaths can you spot and do they have the same alignment today?



1909 OS map how much has changed in just over 100 years!! Have any of these footpaths been lost??



1852 Town plan, our footpaths and lanes are even shown on this map so we know they are historical rights of way dating back from at least the mid 1800s!