

PREHISTORIC

One of the axioms of local archaeological fieldwork is that sandy, well-drained soils, represent potential areas for prehistoric discoveries.

Well known examples are: Astley Hall, Chorley where a Bronze Age ritual burial site was discovered, and Blackheath, Mawdesley, where the remains of a Mesolithic camp-site was revealed through the presence of flint implements and chippings.

Much of Clayton-le-Woods is situated on sandy, loamy soils and amongst the areas of particular interest are the banks and bluffs along both sides of the River Lostock, and particularly the site of Clayton Hall which has a long recorded history. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that any future excavations on this site, either constructional or archaeological, may reveal prehistoric remains.

Even though the land has been subjected to many human activities over a long period; farming, sand quarrying, and more recently tree planting, constant watch and search should be made by people living and working in the area as well as by those with archaeological interests. The initial discovery of the prehistoric burial urn at Astley Hall was made by the farmer himself when digging out a tree on the edge of the farmyard.

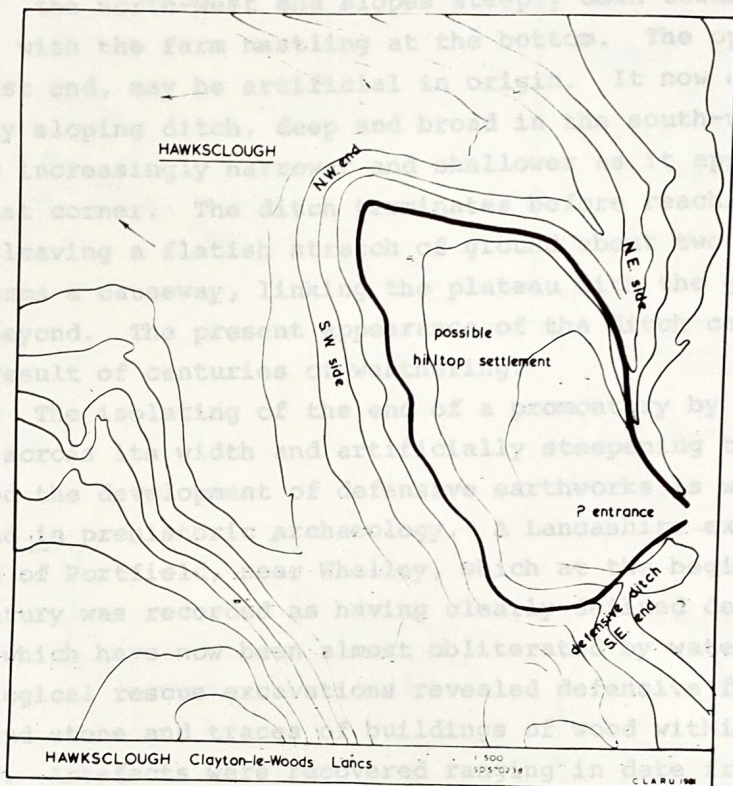
HILLTOP SETTLEMENT SITES

Bearing the above possibilities in mind the survey paid particular attention to map evidence, aerial photographs and field observations within Clayton-le-Woods.

Two possible settlement sites have been located, one at Hawksclough, and the other at Dovecote.

HAWKSLOUGH

Immediately to the south-east of Hawksclough house and farm buildings is a plateau of about 4 acres in extent. The north-east and south-west sides are formed by brooks or cloughs; the north-east and slopes steeply down towards the Leatock, with the farm buildings at the bottom. The south-east end, may be artificial in origin. It now appears as a steeply sloping ditch. Deep and broad in the south-west corner, becoming increasingly shallow as it approaches the north-east corner. The ditch is 100 ft wide at the south-west corner, leaving a flatish area on the plateau. The ditch is apparently rising from the south-west corner of the plateau. The present appearance of the site can be seen as the result of centuries of erosion. The ditch was formed by digging a ditch across the width and at the same time steepening the natural sides and the removal of any earthworks. Evidence in present archaeological Lancashire. An example is the site of Portlough near Whalley which was a defensive ditch which has been almost obliterated by water pipe lines. Archaeological excavations revealed definite features of timber and stone buildings or walls within its interior.



Whilst the area around the junction of the former Kellat Lane and the A5 is outside the geographical limits of this survey, features have been observed on the aerial photograph (see p. 21) which indicate the possibility of an early settlement field or stockyard features.

Although many of the features have been destroyed by later development, some of the land remains un-disturbed and ought to be archaeologically examined. There is the possibility that these features may be relevant to the site at Hawksclough.

HAWKSCLOUGH

Immediately to the south-east of Hawksclough house and farm buildings is a plateau of about 4 acres in extent. The north-east and south-west sides are formed by brooks or cloughs; the north-west end slopes steeply down towards the Lostock, with the farm nestling at the bottom. The opposite, south-east end, may be artificial in origin. It now appears as a steeply sloping ditch, deep and broad in the south-west corner, becoming increasingly narrower and shallower as it approaches the north-east corner. The ditch terminates before reaching the corner, leaving a flatish stretch of ground about two gates width which forms a causeway, linking the plateau with the gently rising ground beyond. The present appearance of the ditch can be seen as the result of centuries of weathering.

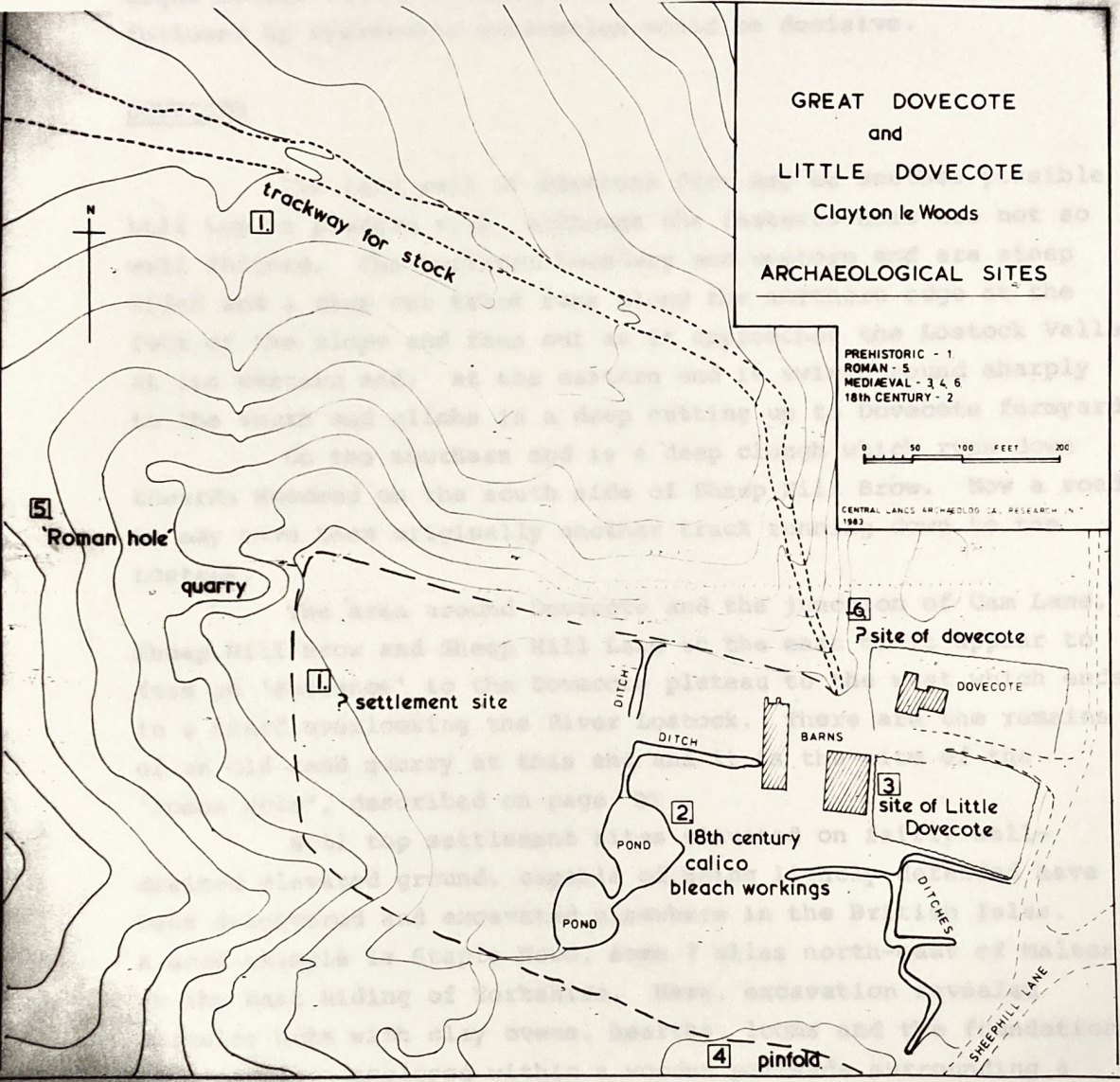
The isolating of the end of a promontory by digging a ditch across its width and artificially steepening the natural sides and the development of defensive earthworks is well evidenced in prehistoric archaeology. A Lancashire example is the site of Portfield, near Whalley, which at the beginning of this century was recorded as having clearly defined defensive ditches which have now been almost obliterated by water pipe lines. Archaeological rescue excavations revealed defensive features of timber and stone and traces of buildings of wood within its interior. Artefacts were recovered ranging in date from Neolithic to modern times. The acreage of the site is about 6 acres and, like Hawksclough, has a farm closely associated with it which was more important in mediaeval times than it is to-day.

Whilst the area around the junction of the former Kellet Lane and the A6 is outside the geographical limites of this survey, features have been observed on the aerial photograph (see p. 21) which indicate the possibility of an early settlement field or stockyard features.

Although many of the features have been destroyed by later development, some of the land remains un-disturbed and ought to be archaeologically examined. There is the possibility that these features may be relevant to the site at Hawksclough.

The plan of the site should be left for further archaeological investigation and so further tree planting should take place in the area.

As an aerial photograph and geo-physical surveys have been made of the site, the trial trenching



will have a wide range of artefacts was discovered and the site was dated by OSL to between 700 and 500 BC. The sites at Great Dovecote and Little Dovecote could be local examples.

The plateau at Hawksclough should be left for further archaeological investigation and no further tree planting should take place in that area.

Whilst aerial photographs and geo-physical surveys might reveal sub-site features on the hill top, trial trenching followed by systematic excavation would be decisive.

DOVECOTE

The land west of Dovecote Farm may be another possible hill top or plateau site, although the features here are not so well defined. The northern boundary and western end are steep sided and a deep cut track runs along the northern edge at the foot of the slope and fans out as it approaches the Lostock Valley at its western end; at the eastern end it swings round sharply to the south and climbs in a deep cutting up to Dovecote farmyard.

On the southern end is a deep clough which runs down towards Woodend on the south side of Sheep Hill Brow. Now a road, it may have been originally another track running down to the Lostock.

The area around Dovecote and the junction of Cam Lane, Sheep Hill Brow and Sheep Hill Lane to the east of it appear to form an 'entrance' to the Dovecote plateau to the west which ends in a bluff overlooking the River Lostock. There are the remains of an old sand quarry at this end and it is the site of the 'Roman Hole', described on page 20 .

Hill top settlement sites situated on fairly well-drained elevated ground, capable of being lightly defended have been discovered and excavated elsewhere in the British Isles. A good example is Staple Howe, some 7 miles north-east of Malton in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Here, excavation revealed circular huts with clay ovens, hearths, looms and the foundations of a granary, enclosed within a wooden palisade surrounding a hill top; a wide range of artefacts was discovered and the site was dated by C14 to between 700 and 500 BC. The sites at Hawksclough and Dovecote could be local examples.

CLAYTON-LE-WOODS.

Rangletts

Trackway for stock

'Roman Hole'

Pond

See Plan 2.

PLATE 1. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF DOVECOTE
AND THE RANGETTS.



CLAYTON-LE-WOODS.

PLATE 2. Dovecote Farm.

Note: trackway descending from farm and swinging westwards by the bush. The flat hill-top west of the barn is the area of the possible settlement site.

VIEW S.E.

PLATE 3. View of the trackway from the farm.
The trackway was in use in 1838 when it was described as 'lane' in the Tithe Award Schedule. It would be the Common Lane to the water meadows.



CLAYTON-LE-WOODS.

PLATE 4. The trackway funnelling out and disappearing into the wood running down to the River Lostock.

ADRAH

CLAYTON-LE-WOODS and CURROEN



conjectured line of the Roman road. Unfortunately, it was not possible to investigate the area archaeologically at that time.

Sandstone slabs had been observed by Chorley Archaeological Society when they sectioned the line of the road along Hic Bibi Lane in Coppull.

They recorded a structure 16 feet wide (5 feet less than the width of the road recorded at Redscar, Preston) which was made up as follows:-

- | | | |
|---|-------|--|
| 1 | _____ | gravel layer |
| 2 | _____ | thin layer of gravel and sand
stone slabs |
| 3 | _____ | red grit and sand layer |
| 4 | _____ | gravel base |
| 5 | _____ | clay subsoil |

R O M A NCLAYTON-LE-WOODS and CUERDEN

Apart from the conjectured line of the Roman road from Wigan to Preston, there is no established archaeological evidence for the Roman period within the two townships.

THE ROMAN ROAD

The conjectured line of the Roman road from Wigan to Preston runs through the western parts of both Clayton-le-Woods and Cuerden.

Whilst no incontrovertible evidence has yet come to light, reports of observations in the 19th century, and others more recently, strongly suggest the presence of a Roman road. (see CLDC Archaeological Survey Report No. 4 - Roman).

In 1977, when the Lancaster Lane Housing Estate was being built in Clayton-le-Woods, a slight trace of sandstone slabs was seen in the spoil from a drainage trench. The trench ran east to west and the sandstone blocks were seen in only one place along it; a place which coincided approximately with the conjectured line of the Roman road. Unfortunately, it was not possible to investigate the area archaeologically at that time.

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In Cuerden there is a path on the line of the Roman road known locally as 'Cinder Path' which gave it's name to the wood 'Cinder Path Wood' (OS. 6 in. 1967).

This path runs through the grounds of Cuerden Hall where it is shown both as a track and field boundary on the Tithe Award Plan (1838).

I.D. Margary in his 'Roman Roads in Britain', (1967) (Vol II p 100-1) discusses the possibility that the A49 road from Wigan to Preston, as it runs through Coppull, Euxton, Clayton-le-Woods and Cuerden, may be on the line of the Roman road. If so, this would put the Roman road about half a mile to the west of the line discussed above.

Roman roads are expected to be straight and the kink in the alignment of the A49 at Shaw Brook Bridge where the road crosses the confluence of the Buckshaw and Worden brooks, about a mile south of the present Clayton-le-Woods boundary, poses a problem. The north to south main railway line crosses the A49 at this point and Margary conveniently sees the kink as a result of the construction of the railway line. However, the kink in the road pre-dates the railway, being quite clearly indicated on both Keurden's road map of 1688 and Yates' map of the 18th century. How far a kink in an alignment weakens the claim for it being that of a Roman road depends upon the view taken of the absolute straightness of Roman roads.

Seven grants of land in Clayton-le-Woods and Cuerden, made by the respective lords of the manor to Cockersand Abbey may throw some light onto this Wigan to Preston road.

In these grants a description of land boundaries is given and the terms "waingate" (Clayton-le-Woods) and "meangate" (Cuerden) occur. In their context there is a case for arguing that these terms refer to parts of the Roman road. The location of waingate appears to be east of the regiae stratae - the King's Highway; in all probability the A49 or thereabouts.

No doubt Roman roads, or their routes, were used by kings and their servants until lack of maintenance made some of them unusable, when bad parts would be circumvented and parallel alternative ways established. The 14th century Gough Map which has survived in the Bodelian Library, shows a general

road system based on London which in many instances approximates to the Roman system. The roads on the Gough Map are presumably the regiae stratae, representing rights of way rather than actual physical roads.

The A49 and the probable line of the Roman road running parallel to the east may be a local example of the development of the regiae stratae.

RECOMMENDATIONS

These 13th century documents from the Cockersand Chartulary throw sufficient new light on this Roman road problem to warrant further investigation. Whilst further documentary evidence might exist, archaeological excavations of sections along the conjectured line of the road need to be carried out. Although trees present something of a problem along the remaining stretch of Cinder Path in Cuerden Park, this area is an obvious starting place for sectioning. Failing this, more intensive fieldwork to the south of Cinder Path with a view to locating a suitable site for sectioning would be advisable.

ROMAN HOLE

There is a local tradition amongst the inhabitants of Clayton-le-Woods that a tree-lined hollow by the sand quarry at the end of the escarpment, west of Great Dovecote, overlooking the Lostock is a Roman site, and it is referred to as the "Roman Hole".

Mr William Happlethwaite, a local farmer, remembers being told by teachers in the village school some 30 or 40 years ago and Mrs Deakin of Carver's Farm, remembers her Grandfather showing her the "Roman Hole" some 70 years ago.

The present appearance of the feature suggests an old sandpit. It is possible that finds were made when the sandpit was being worked and that they were recognised as being Roman. If this was the case it is also likely that the finds would be taken to Cuerden Hall with the site being on the estate. It is known from other sources that there was a prehistoric collared

WALTON-LE-DALE.

PLATE 5. Aerial photograph of the junction of Keilet Lane with the A6 before development.
Note the irregular ditch features in the field on the south corner of the junction. Possible early settlement features.

urn in the Hall found on Townley Parker's land near Burnley
 If this was the case, with the site being on the estate it is
 likely that the finds would be taken to the Hall.

Is it more than coincidence that this local tradition
 draws attention to an area which has already been shown by
 independent archaeological evidence (see page 10) to be a
 potential site of early settlement?



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 of Hawkslough and Dovecote
 as well as the fields at
 Carr Street and
 Brindley
 embracing flat ground, steep valley slopes and the valley
 bottoms, suggests that they may be of Roman origin. They could
 possibly represent re-organised land-holdings of native or
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Is it more than coincidence that this local tradition draws attention to an area which had already been chosen by independent archaeological evidence (see page 11) as a potential site of early settlement?

ROMAN OR ROMANO-BRITISH FIELDS

Certain fields in Clayton-le-Woods in the vicinity of Hawksclough and Dovecote () appear to be associated with possible land boundaries which have no relevance to the existing township boundaries.

At Hawksclough, the east to west boundaries run from Carr Brook, in the east, which is now the Clayton-le-Woods/Brindle boundary, then, as shown on the 1838 Tithe Award Plan, they are bisected by the A6 road and finally terminate at Cam Lane. The most northerly pair continue past Cam Lane down to the River Lostock and form the fields known as the "Rangletts". The northern boundary of the pair is seen to continue beyond the Lostock and eventually becomes Nell Lane, terminating at the A49 road. Here, west of the Lostock, it forms the Clayton-le-Woods/Cuerden boundary.

At Dovecote there is an east to west boundary which seems to be a continuation of Sheep Hill Lane in the east and terminates at the River Lostock in the west. Again, a few rectangular fields are associated.

The straightness of the boundaries of these blocks of fields and the manner in which they run across the landscape, embracing flat ground, steep valley slopes and the valley bottoms, suggests that they may be of Roman origin. They could possibly represent re-organised land-holdings of native or Romano-British farms (see map p. 6) or even Roman villa farms with the buildings somewhere near, or perhaps beneath, the sites of the present farms of Hawksclough and Dovecote.

CLAYTON-LE-WOODS.

PLATE 6. Aerial photograph, Cam Lane.

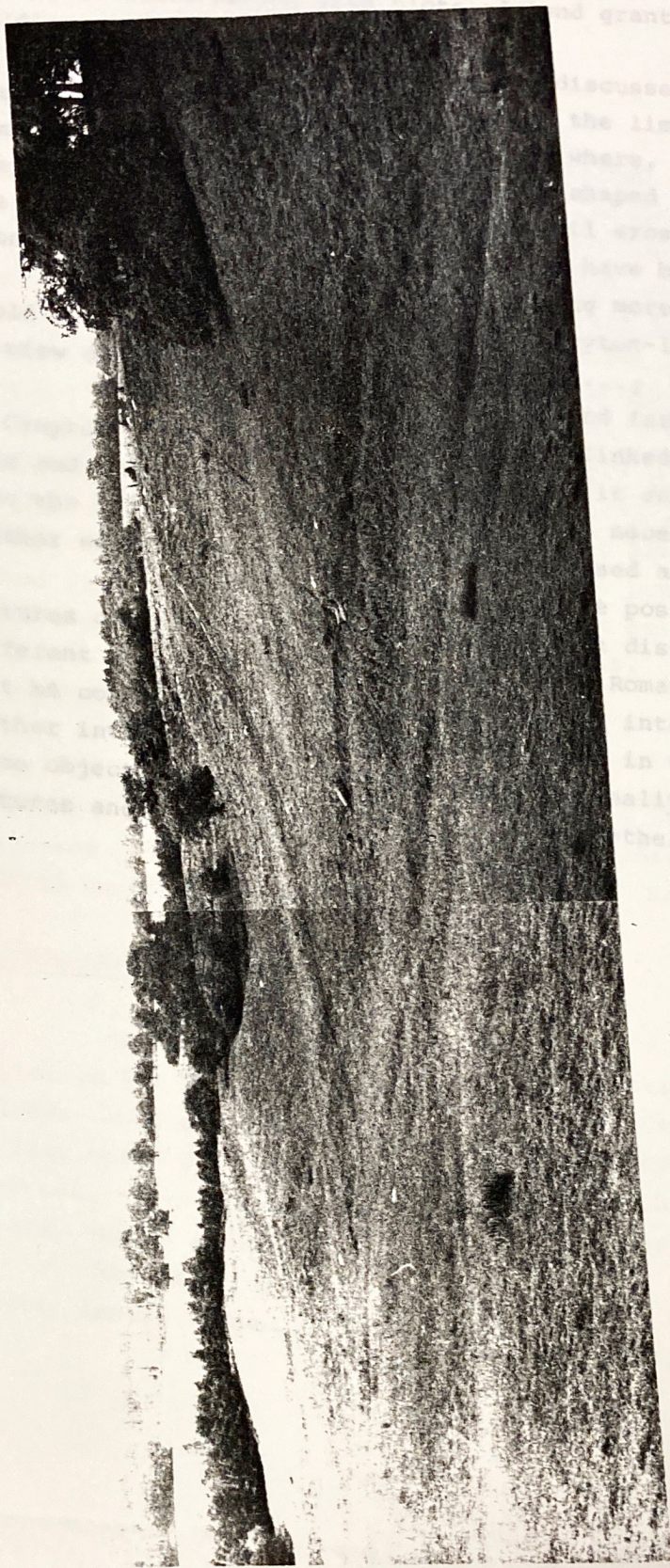
'Rangletts' below house, running westwards.

Rectangular fields of possible Romano-British origin.



CLAYTON-LE-WOODS.

PLATE 7. The 'Rangletts' and associated field boundaries.



Another possibility is that they may represent vest
 traces of ... and granted to veteran
 discussed above, but
 the limestone areas
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 shaped fields of li
 erosion on the li
 have become fossils
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 in-woods, espec
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 discussed under
 Romano-British - t
 inter-related.
 in this area the
 quality of these
 cher.

Another possibility is that they may represent vestigial traces of centuriation with plots of land granted to veteran soldiers.

Blocks of fields of the type discussed above, but better preserved, have been observed in the limestone areas of Craven in the West Riding of Yorkshire, where, in some cases, they are seen to overly small irregular shaped fields of Iron Age origin. As a result of extensive soil erosion on the limestone plateaux these early field systems have become fossilized.

It would be worthwhile comparing more closely these field systems of Craven with those of Clayton-le-Woods, especially in view of the discussion in section p. 9 on Hawksclough.

If there was Roman settlement and farming in this part of Clayton-le-Woods it would no doubt be linked with the Roman site and occupation in Walton-le-Dale and it could be that research into the history of that township would be necessary for the further elucidation of the features discussed above.

Whilst in the foregoing pages the possible archaeological features discovered by the survey have been discussed under different periods - Prehistoric, Roman and Romano-British - they must be considered together and in some way inter-related. If further investigations are ever carried out in this area their prime objectives will be to establish the reality of these features and their relationship one with another.

CLAYTON-LE-WOODS

There are four Claytons in the Palatine of Lancashire: Clayton on the Medlock, east of Manchester; Clayton, near Leyland; and two Claytons in the Ribble Valley near Whalley. The last three Claytons are distinguished by the endings -le-Woods, -le-Moors and -le-Dale; definitions probably imposed by early Norman administrators.

The usual meaning of Clayton is "the settlement on the clay lands". When so much of the land in Lancashire is

DARK AGES & MEDIAEVAL

INTRODUCTION

Whilst there are no archaeological finds or specific sites which can be attributed to these periods within the two townships it is generally understood that the boundaries and designations of the hundreds and townships represent land organisation and administration of the Dark Ages period. Therefore, the boundaries and the basic settlement pattern of both Clayton and Cuerden were established during Anglian and Norse times. It is possible that more advanced documentary research assisted by detailed fieldwork would succeed in defining the local land boundaries and early settlement areas. The retrogressive method of research adopted in the present survey has shown from the details revealed that clues exist which could form the basis for future research projects.

PLACE NAME EVIDENCE

Place names and field names can be traced to the 13th century where they occur in legal and administrative documents. The names 'Clayton' and 'Cuerden' have the 'ton' endings denoting Anglo-Saxon settlements.

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Havedings of the short bottom
Longbottom
Balgreen
Kilgreen

composed of boulder clay it is difficult to understand why the places mentioned above should be singled out as settlements on clay land. It is more of a puzzle when it is realised that much of Clayton-le-Woods is on sand, especially the desmene lands around Clayton Hall. It is possible that the word "clay" had other meanings for the Anglo-Saxons than the one we have given it.

CUERDEN

'Cuerden' or 'Kerden' appears to be Celtic in origin, being similar to the Welsh 'cerddin' meaning 'ash tree'.

Other place names and field names of the townships include elements such as :-

- 'scales' - skali, hut, shed, temporary building
- 'kill' - narrow bay or valley
- 10. 'sour, souer' - saurr, mud, dirt
- 11. 'rangletts' - wrang, rang, vrangr - crooked, twisted name may apply to a certain type of field

with probably personal names :-

'Bryning' - Bryni's people's farm

13. Land names mentioned in the 14th century document referring to Cuerden include 'Balgreen' and 'Kilgreen'. 'Bal' could be an old Danish personal name, and 'Kil' as above.

Field and place names within the township of Cuerden have been transcribed from 13th to 15th century documents and are mentioned in the Victoria County History. A selection are listed below:-

1. an undated document, probably 13th century -
 ".... land of the east side of Ferncroft ...land on Huntersty...."
 a charter - John de Foldringis (Faldworthingis)"half of Vendkarhey...."; boundary being defined in one part as the Lostock.
2. 1318 - Wallshawsykes (O E wall, copse, stream)
3. 1325 - a grant : Long castlegate
 Short Castlegate
 Towncrofts
 Havedings of the short bottom
 Longbottom
 Balgreen
 Kilgreen

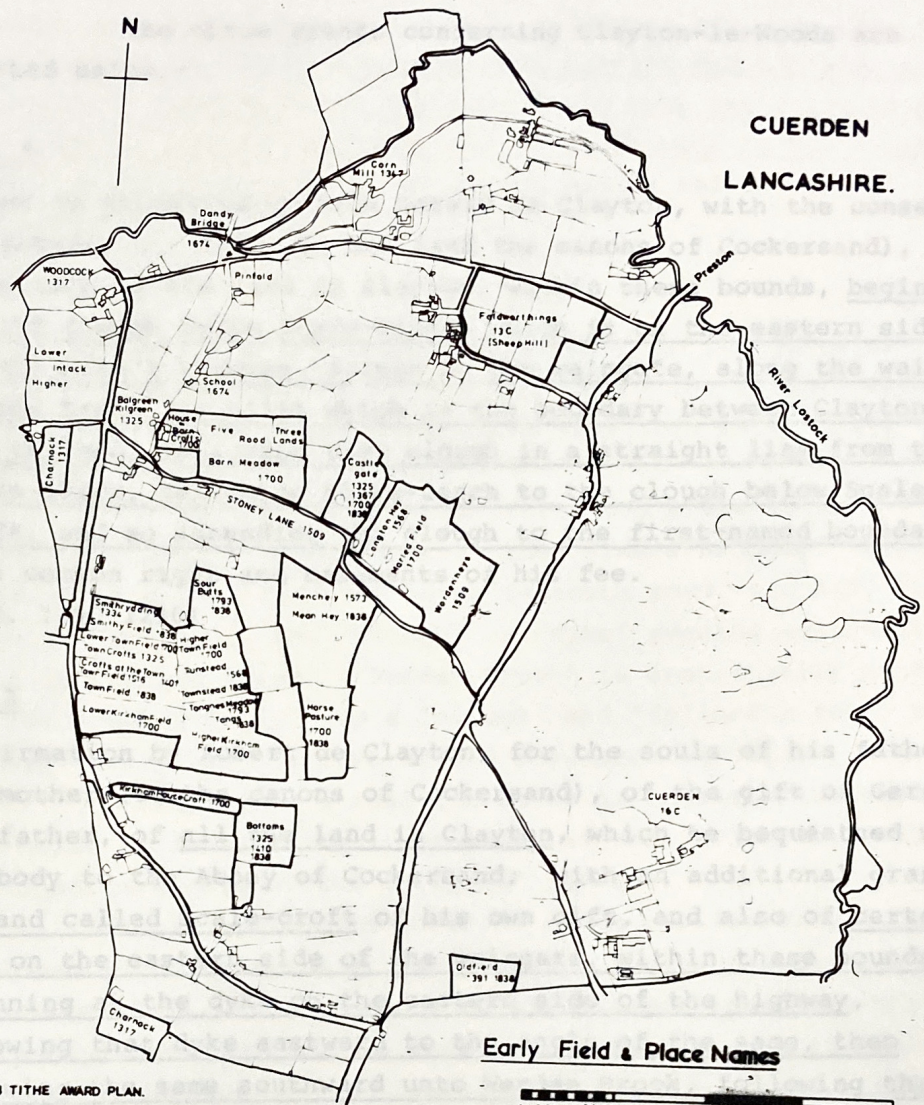
4. 1334 - a licence for a new hearth upon Smithrydding.
5. 1338 - Whitfield and Walgate
6. 1348 - John de Charnock allowed Roger Faldworthings to remove a hearth (astrum) formerly built on the north side of Faldworthings to a new site on the south side of Faldworthings. The name appears to be of Old English origin and might have meant "sheepfolds of Worth's people".
7. 1367 - a field called : Huntersty
Castlegate
Cilnegrene (Kilgreen)
Sourseld
Pighle
Blackhorde
8. 1391 - ".... Sheetacre on the Oldfield in Cuerden..."
9. 1401 - Wellbutts; Croft at that Town; Ferncroft
10. 1410 - Bottoms; Longfield; (Longacre)
11. 1451 - a close called Hanacres.
12. 1509 - Werdenheys, abutting onto Richard Charnock's land, Huntersty and on the Stony Lane.
13. 1516 - Townfield
14. 1528 - Little Werdenhey
15. 1540 - Two ryddings (O E 'clearings') on each side of the smithy forge.
16. 1568 - Broomfield; Tunstead (Townstead); Farthingbutt; Longtonhey.
17. 1573 - Bentbutts; Menchey.

There are tenuous links between the names mentioned in earlier documents and some field names occurring in the Tithe Award Schedule and on later maps.

Whilst the correlation of individual names is problematical groupings and re-currencies give sufficient certainty to attempt a possible reconstruction of parts of medieval Cuerden.

...in the ... Chertbury there are seven grants
in ... referring to the townships of Clayton-le-Woods
and ... between 1190 and 1210.

CLAYTON LE WOODS

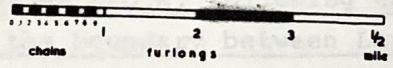


CUERDEN
LANCASHIRE.

Based on the 1836 TITHE AWARD PLAN.

Central Lancashire Archaeological Research Unit.

Early Field & Place Names



...and Clayton, ... following that clough ... highway, and so
following the highway back to the first named syke, saving the
said highway; with common of pasture, and all common easements

COCKERSAND CHARTULARY

In the Cockersand Chartulary there are seven grants in frankalmoign referring to the townships of Clayton-le-Woods and Cuerden, dated between 1190 and 1210.

CLAYTON-LE-WOODS

The three grants concerning Clayton-le-Woods are quoted below:-

No. 1

Grant in frankalmoign from Gerald de Clayton, with the consent of Robert, his heir, to God (and the canons of Cockersand), of a portion of his land in Clayton, within these bounds, beginning at the clough below Scale-croft, which is on the eastern side of the King's highway, across to the waingate, along the waingate to the brook (or rill) which is the boundary between Clayton and Leyland, following that clough in a straight line from the Blake-lēach, following Blake-leach to the clough below Scale-croft, and so ascending the clough to the first-named boundary; with common right and easements of his fee.

(S.D. 1190-1210)

No. 2

Confirmation by Robert de Clayton, for the souls of his father and mother (to the canons of Cockersand), of the gift of Gerald, his father, of all the land in Clayton, which he bequeathed with his body to the Abbey of Cockersand; with an additional grant of land called Scale-croft of his own gift, and also of certain land on the eastern side of the waingate, within these bounds, beginning at the dyke on the eastern side of the highway, following that dyke eastward to the angle of the same, then following the same southward unto Werden Brook, following that brook to a certain clough, which is the boundary between Leyland and Clayton, following that clough unto the highway, and so following the highway back to the first-named dyke, saving the said highway; with common of pasture, and all common easements

belonging to such a tenement in Clayton, and with acquittance of pannage in Clayton woods for the pigs of the men dwelling upon that land.

(S.D. 1210-1250)

No. 3

Grant in frankalmoign from Robert de Clayton (to the canons of Cockersand), of a portion of his land in Clayton, within these bounds, beginning at Werden brook, following the same unto the clough which is the boundary between Clayton and Leyland, so between the underwood and the town-field unto the waingate above the highway, and so following the waingate back to the aforesaid brook; with common right and all easements and liberties belonging to that town.

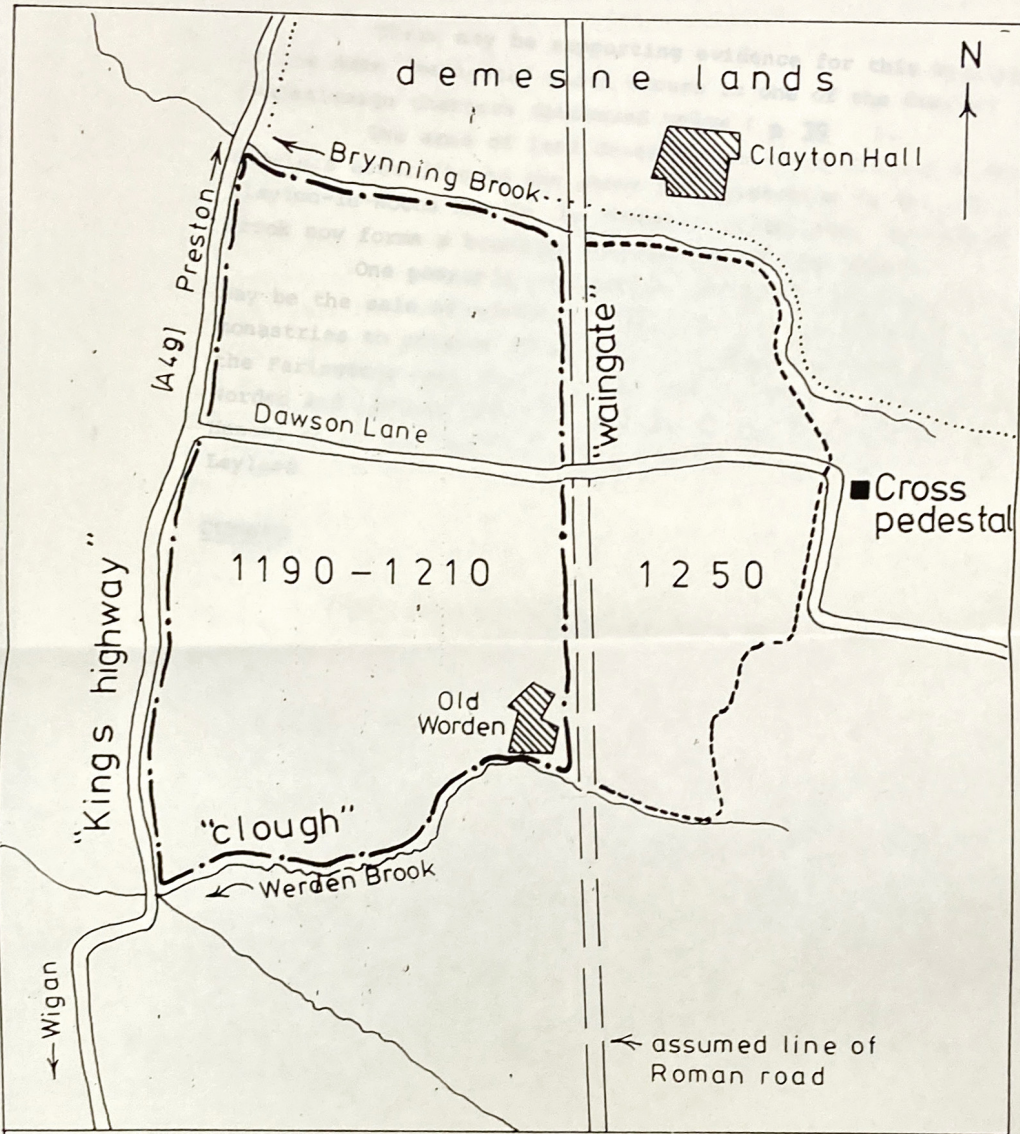
(S.D. 1210-1250)

These three grants seem to refer to two gifts of land; the second one being an extension of the first. Although there are obscurities an attempt has been made to identify the land described.

The locations of 'Scalecroft' and 'Blake-leche' cannot be traced with certainty; the 'King's highway' (regiae stratae) is most likely the north to south road, the A49, linking Wigan and Preston. The 'clough' or 'dyke' running eastwards could be Bryning Brook; 'Werden Brook' is specifically mentioned; and the brook running into a 'clough' and "following it to the highway" describes the area around Shaw Brook Bridge.

'Waingate' - a road for carts or wagons - obviously runs north to south across this land, as the phrase "....and on the eastern side of the waingate" implies.

Whilst there is no road or track running across this area from north to south at the present time there is the conjectured line of the Roman road which seems to be the most likely condidate for the 'waingate'. If this is so, it must mean that in the early 13th century the Roman road was either acutally in use, or there was local memory of it, as a cart track or a wagon way.



Probable location of boundaries of LAND granted
to COCKERSAND ABBEY

- · — · — · first grant 1190-1210
- - - - - second grant 1250
- demesne lands

based on 1894 O.S. 6 inch map

C. L. A. R. U. 1982