

# Pocklington Beck & Area Drainage

*Pocklington Beck near London Bridge*

# Pocklington Beck and area drainage

*Research and report by John Nottingham and Roger A Bellingham*

## Foreword

Pocklington is some thirteen miles east of York at the foot of the Yorkshire Wolds, just to the north of the old turnpike road leading from York to Beverley, now the A1079.

In Domesday it was described as having burgesses; its minster church was the centre of a large parish of 26,360 acres until the division of the parish in 1252; its early charters for fairs and markets and a planned thirteenth century market place reflect its early importance as a marketing centre.

Prior to the Pocklington Enclosure Award of 1759 there were five open fields to the north and west of the town and a substantial area of common to the south.

Most of the common was between 15 and 25 metres [50 to 80 feet] above sea level and, before enclosure, was generally rough grazing which would have been waterlogged for much of the year. The only high ground in the parish is Chapel Hill rising to about 80 metres [260 feet] above sea level.

The drainage of the parish has been steadily improved over the centuries, probably with major improvements when the market place was laid out, most likely in the thirteenth century. The present pattern is basically much as it was after Enclosure in the 1750s and 1760s.

The authors conducted some research in 2010-11 into the Pocklington Beck and general area drainage, on behalf of the Pocklington and District Local History Group, and this is an account of their observations and findings with some tentative deductions.

## Contents

- ❑ **Part 1** – Pocklington general area drainage including the outlying sections of Pocklington Beck and, where relevant, details of drainage sources and destinations lying outside the Pocklington parish area. This is illustrated in Appendix A, p10 and Appendix B, p11.
- ❑ **Part 2** – Pocklington Beck lying within the town and West Green areas. This is illustrated in Appendix C, p22 and Appendix D, p23.

## References

The various documents referred to throughout the report are as follows:

1. Pocklington Enclosure Award 1759.
2. Jefferys map 1775.
3. Leather's map 1815.
4. Ordnance Survey (OS) maps dated 1854 to 1991.
5. Pocklington 2007 Flood Report.
6. Satellite imagery © Google/Microsoft 2011.

Further details about the references and their provenance are given after Part 2 on p22.

## Observations

Wherever possible, details noted in the reference documents including the OS maps have been checked against observations on the ground.

However, access was not always possible and, where old drains and ditches are presently heavily overgrown, sometimes it was also not possible to gauge whether they are presently dry, or contain still or flowing water.

## Naming convention

Some of the water courses to be considered are unnamed and, purely for identification, are given arbitrary titles in the narrative.

## Dimensions

For consistency throughout the document, all spot heights shown in metres on post-1970s OS maps are given in feet and all other dimensions are shown in imperial units.

Compass bearings are abbreviated in the conventional manner, e.g. west-north-west is shown as “WNW”.

Some of the early maps and plans are aligned towards magnetic north so, for avoidance of confusion, all illustrations are aligned to true north.

## Acknowledgements

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*Cover: Pocklington Beck approaching London Bridge from the ENE (2011).*

## Part 1 – Pocklington area drainage

### “Keldspring Beck”

Although not shown on the Jefferys map of 1775 [Appendix A], all OS maps from 1854 depict an unnamed beck flowing from Ousethorpe, crossing the Pocklington parish in the area of Broad Dyke Field and then continuing alongside Keldspring Lane towards Barmby Moor. For identification, it is arbitrarily named “Keldspring Beck”.

The start of the beck is at the S side of Miller Lane near Ousethorpe; caption [1] on Appendix B. [*Where objects in App. B also appear in App. A and some figures, the captions are duplicated as appropriate.*]

Why the start of Keldspring Beck is in this spot is unclear as there does not appear to any water source flowing into it, e.g. from a spring or from a drain coming down from the high ground to the north.

The beck heads initially towards the SSW, is heavily overgrown within a wide strip of uncultivated land and is dry at this point [Fig 1].



Fig 1 “Keldspring Beck” from Miller Lane [1]

There is an unkempt roadside ditch along the S side of Miller Lane at Ousethorpe Farm [2] and running WNW to connect with the beck [1]. Similarly, there is an unmarked, shorter ditch on the E side of The Mile [3].

On the face of it, it might be thought the two ditches either side of The Mile could have connected the adjacent Ridings Beck [4] with Keldspring Beck. However, this is countered by Ridings Beck at this point being well below the ditches.

So on balance, it is tentatively thought that both these ditches may have been dug relatively recently (perhaps in the 20<sup>th</sup> century), primarily to drain floodwater from that area including the metalled road along The Mile (there is a gutter from the road to the second ditch [3]).

The Keldspring Beck continues SSW to meet the Pocklington parish boundary running in from the E [5] and the two then run together SSW to the Meltonby road. Presumably the beck is culverted under the road but no inlet/outlet portals are visible at this location.

The beck and parish boundary continue together, heading SW for some 300 yards, before the beck diverges from the parish boundary to the S [6].

The route of the continuous line of the beck seen today in Broad Dyke Field generally correlates with page 162/1 of the Enclosure Award [Ref. 1] which ordered that:

*“...there shall be a drain or water sewer over the most part of the said Plaxton Dickinson’s allotment there and from thence over the greatest part of the said James Gartham’s allotment and from thence into and through the said James Catton’s triangular allotment of two roods and six perches and from thence into the*

*drain in the said James Catton’s old inclosure called Shoulder of Mutton and from thence into the said James Catton’s allotment of fourteen acres two roods and thirty seven perches as the same is now marked or staked out for carrying off the water from the allotments adjoining on the same drain into the ancient drain or water sewer between the other old inclosures belonging to the said James Catton and so into the Lordship of Yapham.”*

The dimensions of this ‘new’ (1759) drain were defined as 3 ft wide at the top, 1 ft wide at the bottom and 2 ft deep; similar to those seen today at Miller Lane [Fig 1].

The 1854 OS map shows the new drain routing along the N and W sides of the field containing Cook’s Wood [7] but, by 1892, this channel was broken at the NE corner and, thereafter, the continuous drain runs along the E and S sides. The two short breaks along the W leg are culverted [8].

All OS maps from 1854, and the satellite imagery, show a stub of a drain along that section of the parish boundary to the N of the new drain [9]. This might perhaps be the remaining portion of the “ancient drain” referred to in the Award and which may imply that, prior to enclosure, the ancient drain may have run continuously along the Pocklington parish boundary, before it was diverted to the S.

On the 1854/1892 OS maps, the Keldspring Beck passed under Sherbutt Gate (now Yapham Road), along a straight path [10]. Today, the beck has been diverted slightly to the S, passing under the revised road line via a culvert aligned at right-angles, before regaining the original path.

At the NW extremity of the Pocklington parish boundary, the beck meets Keldspring Lane [11], turning SSE to flow along its E side. Although the beck is still dry at this stage, there is evidence of subterranean water, with two hydrants at this point [Fig 2] and two springs marked 100 yards to the NW at what was a gravel pit (1854).



Fig 2 Water hydrants at Keldspring Lane [11]

In some 150 yards, Keldspring Lane turns SW and, at this corner [12], a culvert carries the beck under the road. Immediately before the culvert, there is an ‘active’ pool in the beck, suggesting the possibility of a further spring at this site.

Thereafter, the beck water flows along the NW side of Keldspring Lane [Fig 3], running SW before turning S towards Barmby Moor (near the one-time site of Keld Spring [13], ploughed over in the 20<sup>th</sup> century).

The 1854 OS map shows a currently-active drain on the N side of Barmby Road, originally starting from a point near the Pocklington parish boundary [14], then running W to be culverted under Keldspring Road to join Keldspring Beck [15]. Both then run into a culvert under the road from Pocklington passing through Barmby Moor.



Fig 3 “Keldspring Beck” running alongside Keldspring Lane towards Barmby Moor [12]

### Pocklington Beck (northern section)

The two sources of Pocklington Beck at the NE extremity of the parish boundary appear to have been a continuation of Ridings Beck, flowing down from the Little Givendale area in the N [16], plus Millington Beck flowing from the E [17], with both elements merging some 200 yards downstream, shortly before Woodhouse Lane [18].

Thereafter, the Beck flowed SSW to serve Clock Corn Mill [19] and a Saw Mill before flowing under London Bridge [20] and, subsequently, for the most part being culverted as it passes under the town centre towards White Corn Mill [21].

This central section, from London Bridge as far as the area S of White Mill, is the subject of Part 2 (p12).

### Pocklington Beck (southern section)

Having left the town, Pocklington Beck runs S, once serving Devonshire mill en-route [22], and approaches the main York–Beverley turnpike (A1079) to the SE of Canal Lane [23].

The 1854 map shows that a number of significant changes had occurred in this immediate area since the Jefferys map of 1775. A substantial building had been erected at some stage, immediately N of the main road and across the line of the Beck, and an 1839 conveyance transferred ownership to a Robert William Newbald of the “*watermill previously used as a bone mill*”.

The 1892 map [Fig 4 overleaf] shows this in more detail. On its approach to the Bone Mill [23] (noting that by this date it was captioned as “Disused”), the Beck had been separated into two channels. The westerly channel had first widened into what in effect was a mill dam, before being funnelled and culverted under the Bone Mill (now Red House Farm), towards the SSW. The narrow easterly channel with sluices was also culverted under the Bone Mill then the main road, before continuing towards the S.

Presently, the easterly channel is still culverted under Red House Farm on the NE side of the road [23], passes under the road at right-angles, emerges from a substantial culvert portal [24] and continues S.

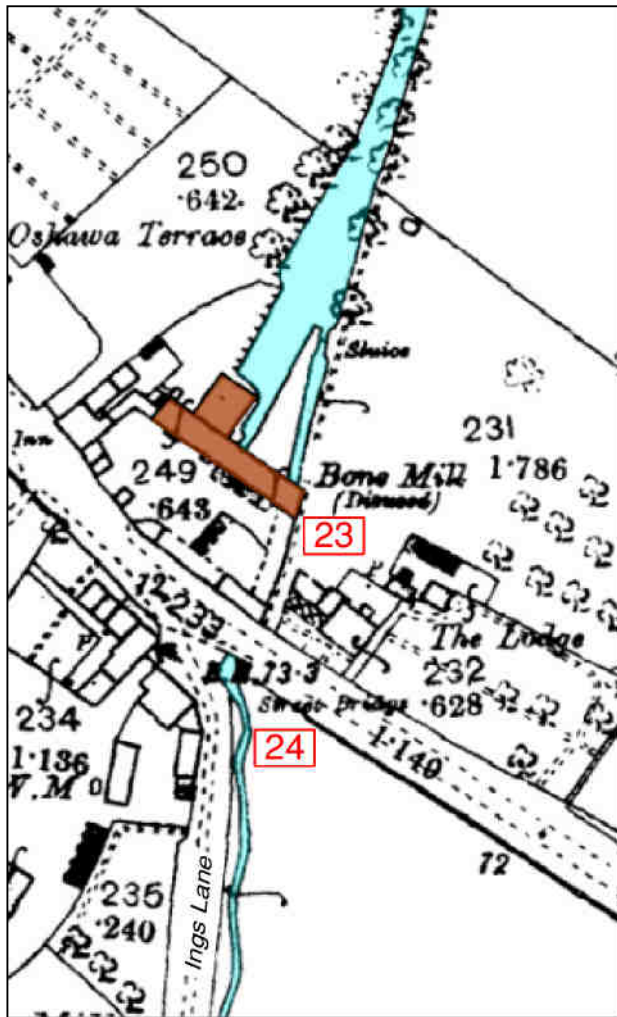


Fig 4 Canal Head area and Bone Mill (1892)

The westerly channel is also still culverted under Red House Farm and, as far as can be deduced, under the main road. However, it is believed the course of the Beck S of the road has been substantially re-routed over the centuries, at least twice:

#### □ Southern section pre-1775

Unfortunately, no supporting documentation has been located to support the following narrative, but it is thought that the Beck originally routed from the main highway, then along the Pocklington/Allerthorpe parish boundary (i.e. generally along what is now the cut of the Pocklington Canal) to a point approaching the present Sandhill Lock [25].

At the same time, it is understood that the Hayton Beck approached the site of Crudhall Bridge [26] from the east and was then routed generally WNW, along the Pocklington/Bielby parish boundary, eventually merging with the Pocklington Beck at point [25].

The exact routing of that sub-section is unknown but, today, there still exists a non-continuous series of ditches which, if linked together, run along the parish boundary and may indicate the route of the old watercourse [26-27-28-25].

It is thought that the merged Pocklington and Hayton/Bielby becks [25] then flowed WSW out of the parish.

#### □ Southern section c. 1775

Jefferys map shows that, at some time before 1775, there had been major alterations to the routing of both the Pocklington and Hayton/Bielby becks.

The revised line of Pocklington Beck on Jefferys map suggests that, at that time, it crossed the main highway (turnpiked in 1764/5) and headed SSW for a short distance as far as the present Canal Head basin [29].

It then diverged from the parish boundary, evidently along a new cut curving anticlockwise towards the S, some 600 yards S of Canal Head [30] [Fig 5]. Thereafter it routing directly towards the S tip of the parish at Crudhall Bridge [26].

Meanwhile, the Hayton Beck, having passed under Crudhall bridge, diverged from its previous route towards the WNW and, instead, flowed towards the SSW to become the Bielby Beck. The Pocklington Beck, approaching from the N, soon merged with the re-routed Bielby Beck and the combined watercourse continued towards the SSW along a meandering course (which, therefore, may not have been a new cut) [26].

#### □ Southern section post-1775

Finally, the line of the Pocklington Beck S of the turnpike appears to have been further adjusted by discontinuing the section from [29] to [30] [Fig 5] so that it ran S on the newly-cut direct line from [24] to [30], alongside Ings Lane [Fig 4], then routing directly towards the S tip of the parish at Crudhall Bridge [26].

This was done before 1854, possibly to separate the Beck from the Canal Head basin which was constructed around 1816.

The culvert for the original, westerly channel of the Beck under Red House Farm [23] is now thought to turn ESE immediately after passing under the main road. A drain and portal with a non-return door, hinged at the top, terminates at the new channel [24], allowing water from the now-disused westerly channel to flow into it.

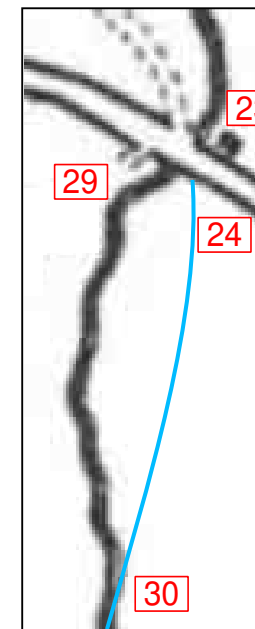


Fig 5 Pocklington Beck S of Canal Head (1775)



Fig 6 Revised route of Pocklington Beck S of Canal Head (by 1854)

The discontinued interim route of the Beck from [29] to [30], as shown on the Jefferys map [Fig 5], is still evident on the satellite imagery [Fig 6].

Also shown is a large, 3-storey warehouse on the E bank of the canal basin, constructed c. 1834, and an adjacent Saw Mill installed after 1854.

It is not known whether this was ever a water mill but it is shown as 'Disused' by 1911 and was later removed. The warehouse had become derelict by 1970 but has been completely renovated as a private dwelling in recent years.

All these observations generally correlate with the content of page 164/2 of the Enclosure Award which ordered that:

*“For better conveying of water to several allotments in common William Peacock shall by a grip made by him in his allotment of 3a 3r 30p in the Sykes [page 96/1] draw water from the Beck running through his allotment into the ditch on the south side of said allotment about four yards from the beck such water to run till it comes opposite to a clove stock or arch across the York to Market Weighton road through*

*which the water shall run to the ditch of Thomas Houlden the Elder on the south side of the road to the north east corner of his allotment in the Carr ...”* [page 94/2] [31].

It is thought that the “arch” referred to in the quotation might be the present crossing point of the Beck [24]. Although the ditch from [24] to [31] is no longer evident (perhaps having been filled when the turnpike was improved, or later), it is easy to see where it might have run.

### “Clarke’s Spring” drain

Although not shown on the Jefferys map (1775), all OS maps from 1854 depict a ditch draining water along a line starting near Canal Lane and routing initially to the SSE [32].

The source of this drain is evidently a spring with sizeable pond [Fig 7] [33], called “Sike’s or Clarke’s Spring” in 1854. Its location was in “The Sikes” and, presumably, it was later called “Clarke’s Spring” as page 106/2 of the Enclosure Award allotted the field containing the spring to Thomas Clarke.

This detail correlates with page 163/2 of the Enclosure Award which ordered that:

*“For better conveying of water to several allotments in common, stream called Foul Syke spring [Clarke’s Spring] shall be carried in a ditch on the south west end of Thomas Clark’s allotment in the Sykes, then through ditch on the south side of Thomas Kettlewell’s allotment in the Sykes [page 109/1] then in ditches on the south ends of the six allotments in the Build Hill [pages 109/2 to 111/2] then in ditch on the west side of road appointed to Hayton [The Balk] and that near the south end of that road a clove stock or arch shall be made for the water to pass into the beck [Cocoa Beck] on the east side of the road.”*



Fig 7 “Clarke’s Spring” and drain near Canal Lane

Presently, the ditch can be traced as far as The Balk [32-34] but there is now no ditch evident alongside the road. However, another water course approaches along the SW side of page 97/1 of the Award [35], and thereafter a ditch does run S, down the W side of The Balk. None of these ditches presently carries water. This last ditch stops before reaching the Pocklington New Inn and no culvert under The Balk to meet Cocoa Beck is evident [36]

The 1892 map suggests that, by that date, a supplementary cut had been made along the NW sides of pages 97/1 and 65/1 of the Award, heading SW to meet the York to Beverley road [37].

Having passed under the road, the drain runs S for a mile, eventually closing with the Pocklington Beck, some 300 yards NNW of Crudhall Bridge [27]. The Pocklington parish boundary also approaches this point, from the WSW. This route [32-37-27] seems eventually to have replaced the original route via The Balk to Cocoa beck [32-34-36].

It is noticeable that the revised route of Clarke's Spring drain carries significant water along its length [e.g. Fig 8], in quantity and flow rate very similar to Pocklington Beck itself.



Fig 8 "Clark's Spring" drain near Toft House Farm

Oddly, the drain does not merge with Pocklington Beck at the first point of approach [27]. Instead, the two run in parallel towards the SSE (along the parish boundary), before merging some 20 yards before Crudhall Bridge [26].

### "Spring Wood" drain

The Jefferys map (1775) depicts a water course starting to the N of the 'Kilwick Percy Gates' road [38], mid-way between Pocklington and Kilwick, crossing the road and heading S across Clay Field close to Clayfield Farm [39], then continuing generally SSW to cross Burnby Lane [40].

The source of this water course would appear to be a spring at the N end of Spring Wood. The 1892 map shows the outflow from the spring heading SSE through the wood [38], but covered, before opening at the S end of the wood, and which seems to coincide with the start of the water course on the Jefferys map [Fig 9].

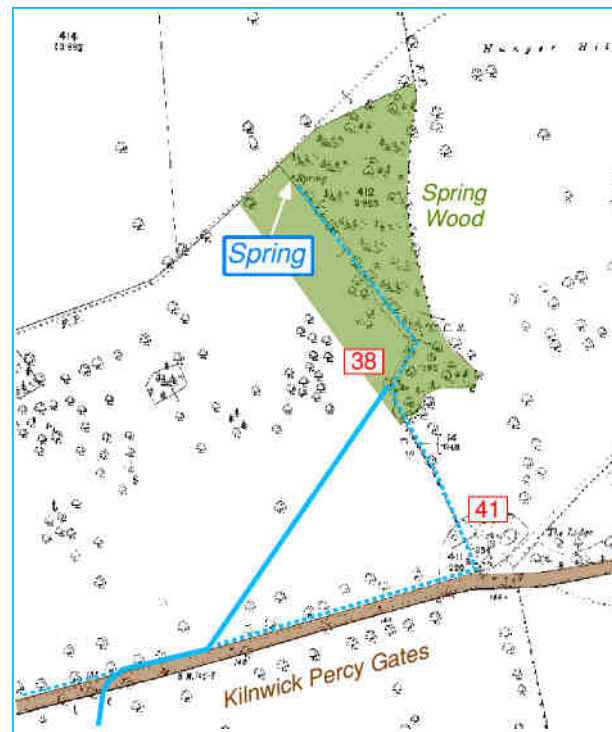


Fig 9 "Spring Wood" drain at Kilwick Road

This also appears to correlate with page 162/2 of the Enclosure Award, which ordered that the:

*"... stream on north side of road to Kilwick and in ditch on south side of Kilwick gate closes shall be continued to run westward on the ditches on north side of road till the south east corner of Robert Doleman's allotment in the Brants & opposite the north west corner of Robert Doleman's allotment in Kilwick gate lands of 3r 24p and that a clove stock or arch be laid across the highway for the better passage of water from the north side of the road into the gutter on the west side of RD's last mentioned allotment."*

The northern section of the drain as quoted above and extending as far as Clayfield Farm on the Jefferys map does not appear on any later maps, or the satellite imagery. Reportedly, the routing had been very substantially modified, probably in the early 1800s, as part of a general re-arrangement of the drainage in this area.

The amended route is either open or part-culverted over various sections. It is believed to head initially SSE from Spring Wood towards the farm near The Lodge [41], then turns W along the N side of the Kilwick Percy Gates Road [as depicted by the thinner dashed line on Fig 9 and Appendix B] and crosses under the road. Thereafter it cuts diagonally SW across a field and progresses alternately SW and SE along a series of post-enclosure field boundaries, eventually meeting the southern section of the original Spring Wood drain just before Burnby Lane [40].

Meanwhile, the original water course to the S of Clayfield Farm as shown on the Jefferys map did continue from the farm [39], initially heading SSW but shortly turning ESE to flow into Cocoa Beck [42] (detailed in the next section).

However, by 1892 it followed an alternative, straight course SSW from Clayfield Farm, merged with the re-routed northern section [40] and was culverted under Burnby Lane. It then headed across South Moor before turning S to merge with Cocoa Beck at the later point [43].

Today the drain carries a significant amount of flowing water, suggesting the source in Spring Wood remains active.

### **Cocoa Beck**

The source of ‘Cocoa’ Beck (a later corruption of its original Viking name Cawkeld) is evidently a complex of two springs and three fishponds to the N of the road at Kilnwick Percy. One spring feeds into the small Jenny Firkin Pond [44]; an outflow heads SSW to feed into the larger Church Pond, which is also fed by the second spring [45]; a further outflow heads WSW to feed into the main, 5.5-acre Fish Pond [46].

No outflow from the main fishpond is evident but, on the S side of the road opposite the SW corner of the pond, there is a c. 4 ft diameter pipe with a modest water outflow [47]. This falls into a relatively wide channel heading SSW which, by reference to the 1892 OS map, would seem to be the initial course of Cocoa Beck.

Thereafter the beck flows SSW, joining with the parish boundary for a short distance [48]. It is then culverted under Burnby Lane, heading SW onto South Moor. As the beck is overgrown in this area, it is not possible to gauge the water level or flow rate.

On South Moor, Cocoa Beck merges with the “Spring Wood” drain [43] and is then culverted for some 200 yards, curving to the S within the culvert. There are a few inches of slowly flowing water at the exit [49].

Having reached the main road near Pocklington New Inn [36], the beck turns SE to parallel the road for some 100 yards before passing under it via a substantial culvert [50]. It has re-joined the parish boundary coming across South Moor at this point and both run some 300 yards S to the point where Cocoa Beck merges with Whiterail Beck [51].

### **Whiterail Beck**

On the Jefferys map (1775), the source of a water course on Hayton Common Ings appears to be close to a spring [52]. It then heads WSW to meet the turnpike [53]. However, by 1854, the drainage channels in this area had been substantially altered. The spring [52] evidently links with a second spring some 700 yards to the NW [54] via what appears to be a naturally-formed ditch running along the tree-line.

The original water course had largely disappeared by 1854, to be replaced by a straight cutting, running SW from the ditch just mentioned [55] (close to Hayton Common Farm – now demolished and moved to nearby Burnby Lane) to meet the turnpike very close to where the original course ran. Other man-made ditches in this area complete the drainage re-arrangement.

Whiterail Beck passes under the main road via a substantial culvert [53] and, at this point, contains a few inches of slowly flowing water (similar to that seen in nearby Cocoa Beck). It then flows SW for some 250 yards to merge with Cocoa Beck [51] and, along with the parish boundary, finally heads SSW to merge with the Hayton Beck at the S boundary of the Pocklington parish [56]. The 1854 map shows the Hayton Beck took a meandering course as far as Crudhall Bridge some 150 yards to the W but, by 1892, a straight cut had been made direct to the bridge. Beyond the bridge, the water course becomes the Bielby Beck, initially heading SSW.

### **“Carr Lane” drain**

Page 165/1 of the Enclosure Award ordered that:

*“For the conveying of water to the several allotments on the east side of the new road leading to Everingham [Carr Lane], any of the owners of such allotments may force the water from the ditch on the north side of Thomas Houlden’s allotment [page 94/2] into the ditch on the west side of Timothy Overend’s allotment of 4a 3r 2p [page 66/2] and then into the ditch on the north side of Timothy Overend’s allotment of 6a 3r 15p [page 66/1], then across the new road to Everingham through a clove stock or arch into ditch on the west side of Timothy Overend’s allotment of 4a 3r 2p.”* [page 66/2].

This appears to be a continuation of the order at page 164/2 of the Award [p5] in respect of the drain running along the SW side of the turnpike, from the present route of Pocklington Beck [24] to the allotment at the NE corner of page 94/2 [31].

Page 165/1 evidently orders that the ditch be extended along the same line on the SW side of the turnpike, then under Carr Lane to a ditch running SSW on its E side [60].

### **Carr Lane (1)**

Page 165/2 of the Enclosure Award ordered that:

*“A Clove stock or arch shall be made across the same road at the north end for water to pass from TO’s ditch on the west side of the road to his ditch on the east side.”*

This order refers to a connection between the ditch on the W side of Carr Lane to the ditch on the E side through Timothy Overend’s allotments; pages 66/1 to 66/2 respectively [60].



## Carr Lane (2)

Pages 165/3 and 166/1 of the Enclosure Award ordered that:

*“Another clove stock or arch shall be made across the same road for water to pass from ditch in Robert Doleman’s allotment on the east side of the same road into the ditch in Robert Doleman’s allotment on the west side of the same road and that at the entrance into every allotment on the east side of the same road the owner shall make and maintain a bridge or arch so that the water running in the ditches on the east side of the same road shall have free passage.”*

This order refers to a connection between the ditch on the W side of Carr Lane to the ditch on the E side, then through Robert Doleman’s allotments [pages 32/2 to 32/1 respectively] [61]; furthermore that arches were to be maintained over the ditch on the E side of Carr Lane by the allotment owners on the E side, i.e. from [60] in the N to Crudhall Bridge in the S [26].

## “The Balk” drain

Page 163/1 of the Enclosure Award ordered that:

*“For better conveying of water to several allotments in common, a clove stock or arch shall be made over High Road in the South Moor leading to Beverley [The Balk] opposite to ditch on the west side of Thomas Clark’s allotment in South Moor [page 106/2], and water from Chappel [Clarke’s?] Spring shall be carried through arch into Thomas Tanfield’s ditch [page 100/2] and run in ditches on the east side of the several allotments lying south of the said allotment and so into Beck or Stream in Robert Jackson’s allotment in Holme Leys” [page 98/1].*

This order appears to refer to a water course passing from the W side of allotment 106/2 towards its SE corner on The Balk [Fig 10] [57] (where there was a nearby well), to the E side of The Balk [58] (where there was another well nearby), perhaps then heading SE between allotments 102/1 and 102/2 to flow into the “Spring Wood” drain [59], before the latter merges with Cocoa Beck [43].

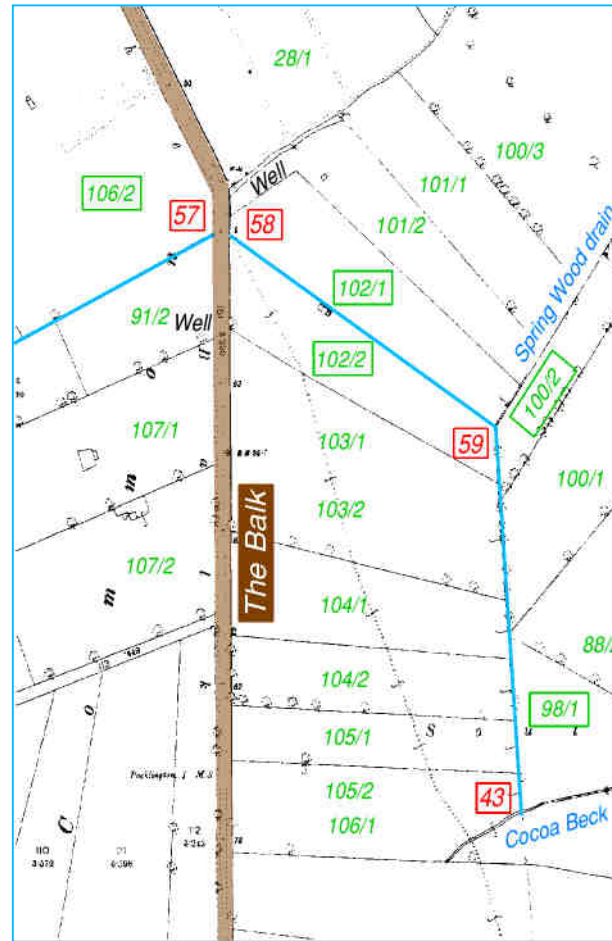


Fig 10 “The Balk” drain

## “Wandills”

Page 166/2 of the Enclosure Award ordered that:

*“The owners of allotments in that part of the common called the Wandills [Wandales] may convey water out of the Beck over the private road leading to the Ings [Ings Lane] into the ponds made or to be made in any of the allotments and from thence shall have free passage in the ditches on the east side of the said new road [Carr Lane] as far as Robert Doleman’s allotment of 9a 3r 4p [page 32/2] on the east side of the said road and then such water to be carried over the same road through a clove stock or arch into the ditch on the north side of Robert Doleman’s allotment on the west side of the same road” [page 32/1].*

Deciphering this order is problematical and depends upon the acceptance of two tentative deductions:

- ❑ That “the Beck” refers to its *original* routing, i.e. along the line of the present Canal [29-25]. This implies that the Beck was re-routed towards the E (in two stages) after the order was made in 1759.
- ❑ That the “private road” [Ings Lane] already existed at the time of the Enclosure Award. This implies that the Beck was subsequently re-routed firstly from the area of the now Canal Head basin to cross to the E side of Ings Lane and then run southwards, parallel to the lane along a new cut [29-30-27]; and later that the new cut on the E side of Ings Lane was extended N as far as the turnpike, resulting in the present, direct line to the S [24-30-27].

If these two deductions are accepted, the order appears to refer to the conveyance of water anywhere from the *original* line of the Beck [29-25], E to cross the line of the existing Ings Lane [24-30-27], to cross to the E side of Carr Lane [60-26] and finally to cross to the W side of Carr Lane to Doleman’s allotment [page 32/1].

## “Sherbutt Gate”

Page 166/3 of the Enclosure Award ordered that:

*“An arched bridge or clove stock 15 inches wide and 24 feet long be before 24th June next be built over the highway awarded between Pocklington and Bolton eastwards of the gate leading out of the same highway into Robert Doleman’s allotment in water flashes [page18/1] for carrying water out of ditch on the north east side of the same highway into ditch on the south west side thereof” [page 19/1].*

This bridge on Sherbutt Gate heading NNW from Pocklington appears to be in the vicinity of the NW corner of Robert Dolman’s allotment on the NE side, opposite his allotment on the SW side [pages 18/1 and 19/1] [62].

## The Crudhall Bridge area

Fig 11 summarises the quite complex arrangements within the vicinity of Crudhall Bridge, showing the line of the Pocklington parish boundary along with the various becks and drains as they existed c. 1775, i.e. after the major changes discussed on p4.

Whiterail Beck approaches from the NNE, merging with Hayton Beck [56] which then flows WSW towards Crudhall Bridge [26]. The meandering ‘S-bend’ to the W had been cut through by 1892.

Beyond the bridge, Hayton Beck becomes Bielby Beck.

It is thought that, prior to the first re-routing of Pocklington Beck S of the turnpike (now deduced to be after enclosure in 1759 but before Jefferys map of 1775), Bielby Beck then flowed initially along the line of the Pocklington/Bielby parish boundary, i.e. initially WNW [63], then NNW towards [27].

After 1775, Pocklington Beck and “Clarke’s Spring” drain then approach from the NNW [27], running in parallel before merging some 20 yards WNW of the bridge [63], then flowing SSE to merge with the revised route of Bielby Beck [64].

The line of the Pocklington/Bielby parish boundary from the NNW to Crudhall Bridge, before following the line of Hayton Beck and then Whiterail Beck to the NNE, remains unchanged.

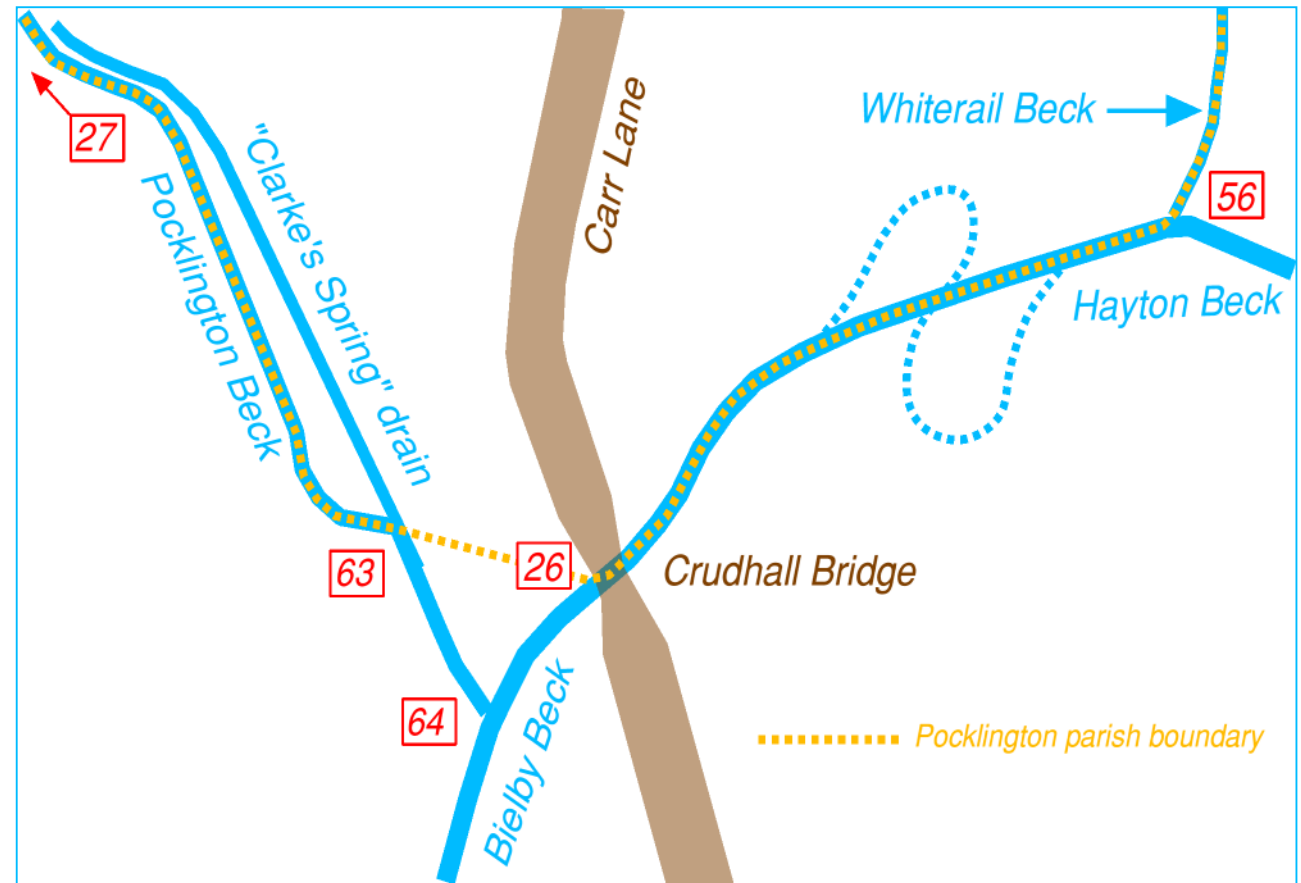


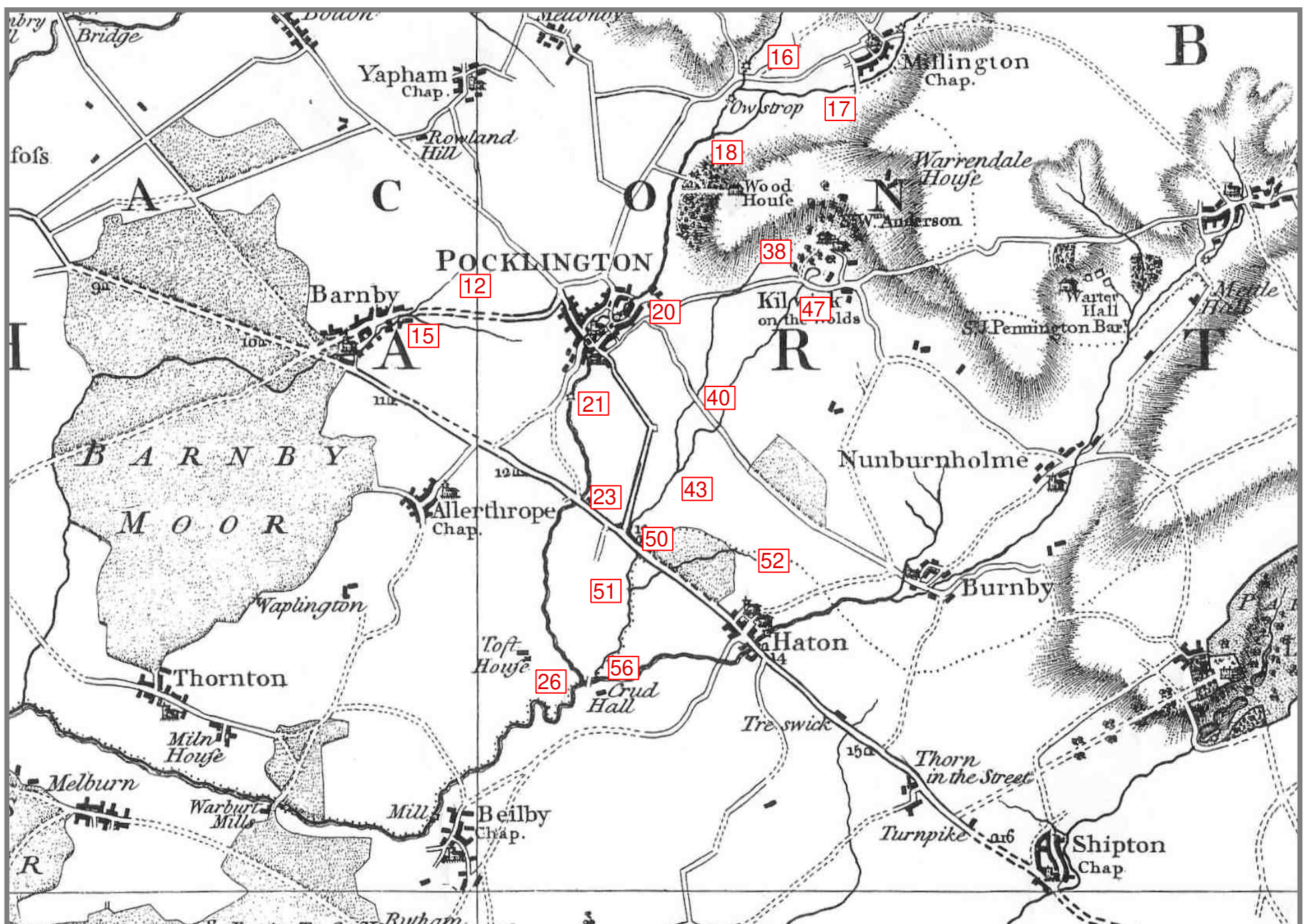
Fig 11 Crudhall Bridge and vicinity



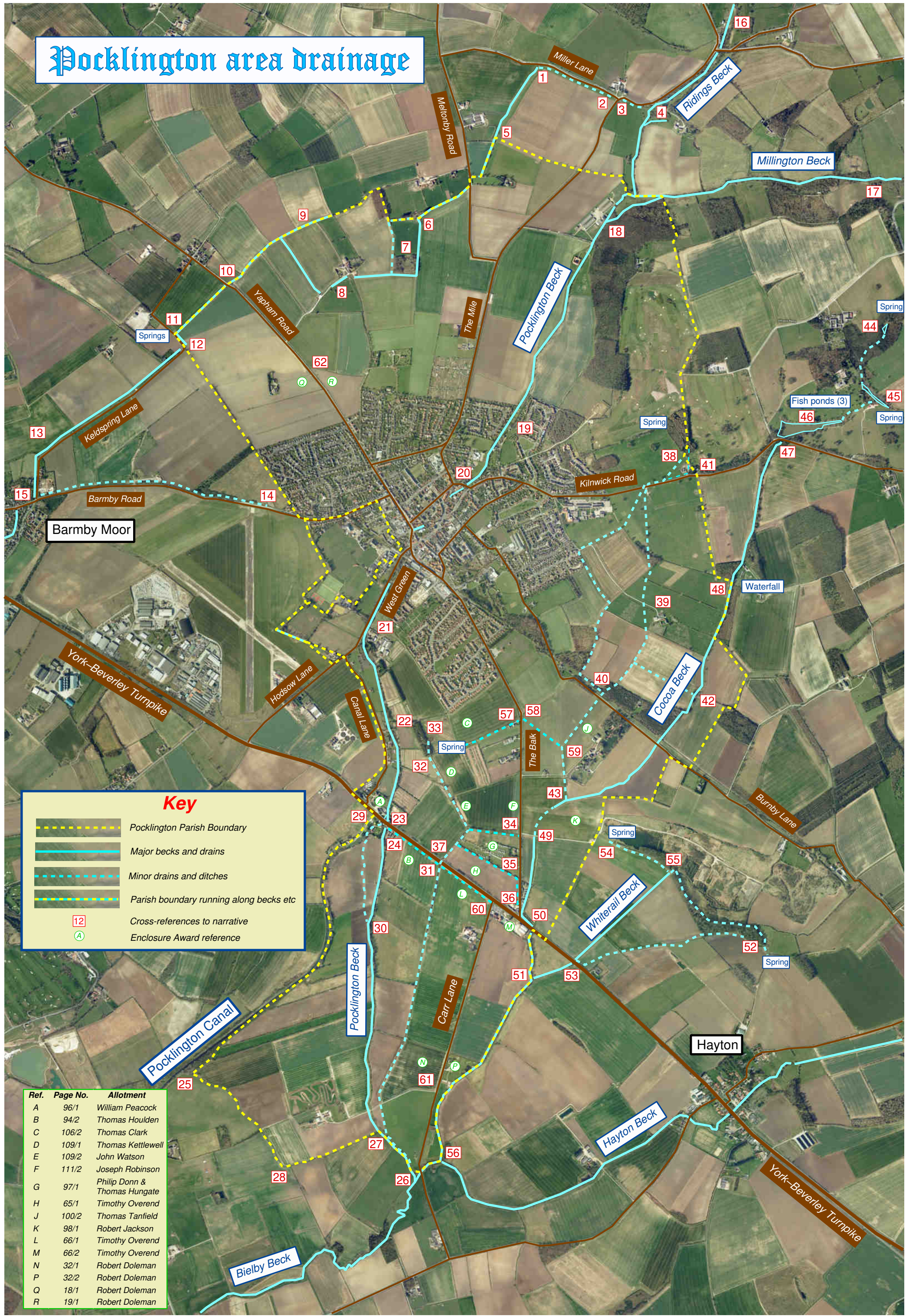
Fig 12 Bielby Beck and the Pocklington/Bielby parish boundary from Crudhall Bridge [26]

Fig 12 taken from Crudhall Bridge [26], to the WSW, shows the Bielby beck flowing SW (left-centre), before bearing left towards the SSW at the point where the merged Pocklington Beck and Clarke's Spring drain join it [64].

The gap between the trees (right-centre) is the line of the Pocklington/Bielby parish boundary approaching the bridge from the WNW [63].



# Pocklington area drainage

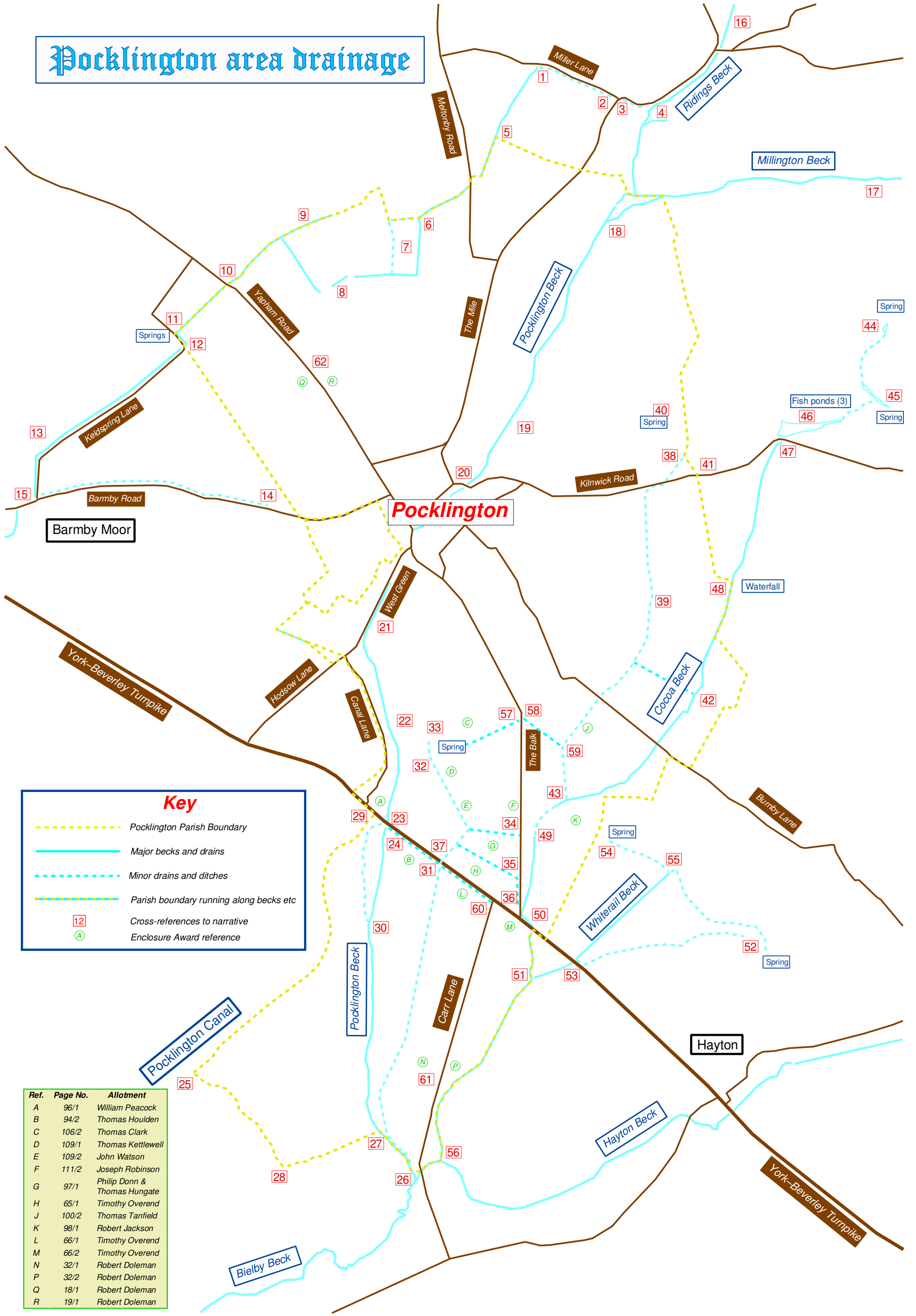


**Key**

- Pocklington Parish Boundary
- Major becks and drains
- Minor drains and ditches
- Parish boundary running along becks etc
- 12 Cross-references to narrative
- A Enclosure Award reference

Ref.	Page No.	Allotment
A	96/1	William Peacock
B	94/2	Thomas Houlden
C	106/2	Thomas Clark
D	109/1	Thomas Kettlewell
E	109/2	John Watson
F	111/2	Joseph Robinson
G	97/1	Philip Donn & Thomas Hungate
H	65/1	Timothy Overend
J	100/2	Thomas Tanfield
K	98/1	Robert Jackson
L	66/1	Timothy Overend
M	66/2	Timothy Overend
N	32/1	Robert Doleman
P	32/2	Robert Doleman
Q	18/1	Robert Doleman
R	19/1	Robert Doleman

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## Part 2 – Pocklington Beck

This account of the Pocklington Beck within the area of the town and West Green is far less precise than the detail on the local area water courses contained in Part 1. There are several reasons for this:

- ❑ The Pocklington Enclosure Award of 1759 [Ref. 1] contains minimal detail within these particular areas.
- ❑ It is evident that the local course of the Beck has been re-routed, perhaps on a number of occasions over the centuries.
- ❑ Significant stretches of both the present and the previous courses of the Beck are now culverted.

For these reasons, this part of the report is limited primarily to a trawl of the maps and satellite imagery, supported – as far as is presently possible – by observations on the ground. But it should be appreciated that many points cannot be double-checked and, therefore, that any conclusions should necessarily be treated as being tentative to varying degrees.

A further difficulty is that, although it is possible to postulate what has happened over the centuries, any attempt to put dates to some earlier developments is impossible without documentary evidence.

Cross-references to objects described in the narrative are shown on Appendix C (p22) and Appendix D (p23).

For convenience of reporting, this part is sub-sectioned into successive lengths of the Beck, starting at London Bridge in the town [20] and ending S of White Corn Mill on West Green [21].

### ❑ *London Bridge to Barmby Moor parish (early routing)*

*Fig. 13* (2007) shows the Beck as it approaches London Bridge from the ENE [20] (App. C).



*Fig 13 Pocklington Beck and London Bridge (2007)*

Although no supporting documentation has been located, it is believed that once having passed under London Bridge, the Beck may originally have flowed W along Bridge Street, before turning SW along Chapmangate to Smithy Hill [62] and then S down Market Street (Swine Market) as far as St Peter's Square [63].

It then flowed W along Market Street (Waterloo Lane) [64] and, from there, generally WNW to where Chapmangate meets Great George Street at the N end of Tute Hill [65], although the routing along this last segment is unknown. The Beck is then thought to have continued across Great George Street from Chapmangate and progressed generally to the WSW.

The course beyond Great George Street is again unknown but it is conjectured that it might have been alongside the wall on that segment of the Pocklington /Barmby Moor parish boundary (through the present supermarket car park) [66] and then along the rear boundary of a one-time farm [67] (thought to be depicted on the Barmby Moor enclosure map of 1783). The farm was replaced by Wilberforce House in the 1860s.

This very tentative course of the Beck is discussed in more detail on p15. Thereafter it is presumed to have continued SW into the Barmby Moor parish area, although its subsequent routing is unknown.

### ❑ *London Bridge to St. Peter's Square*

At some later date, it would seem the Beck took two separate courses from London Bridge.

The original channel to the N described in the previous sub-section is believed to have been re-routed from London Bridge [20] (as seen in the right-hand channel on *Fig 13*), flowing WSW on a more direct course along the rear boundaries of properties between Bridge Street and Union Street, servicing a Flax Factory [68] and English's Mill [69].

The southerly course flowed from London Bridge (as seen in the left-hand channel passing through a 'trash screen' on *Fig 13*), SW along Union Street and as far as St. Peter's Square [63]. In a letter dated 1887, Archbishop William Ullathorne [1810-1889] recalled from his Pocklington boyhood that "*Union Street had a beck running down the middle of it, some five feet below the pathways...*"

Ullathorne also related that the Beck along Union Street “... regulated the water of [English’s] mill”. This ‘regulator’ was probably replaced by the Mill Dam located between the Flax Factory [68] and English’s Mill [69] introduced at some time between 1855 and 1891. English’s Mill closed soon after 1921 and, by that time, the mill dam was no longer filled.

Thereafter the revised, northerly course of the Beck flowed from English’s Mill [69], S along Market Street to meet the southerly watercourse along Union Street at St. Peter’s Square [63].

Both channels of the beck were open as at 1815 but Ullathorne related that the open section along Union Street “...was subsequently covered” (culverted).

Today, the course of the Beck remains as shown in App. C: running open from London Bridge [20], culverted under the site of the old Flax Factory [68] and then culverted again under the previous site of English’s Mill (alongside the present Post Office) [69] as far as St. Peter’s Square [63]; similarly, the culvert still exists under Union Street [Ref. 5].

#### □ **St. Peter’s Square**

The situation in the immediate area of St. Peter’s Square is rather confused. Leather’s 1815 map [Ref 3; Fig 14] shows the two separate courses of the Beck – one emanating from English’s Mill [69]; the other flowing along Union Street – merging in St. Peter’s Square [63] before continuing along Market Street.

However, David Neave records in his booklet *Pocklington 1660-1914: A Small East Riding Town* that the Beck was covered over in 1826 “... where it ran through the Market Place”. Whether a watercourse already existed along Market Place which Leather’s map omits, or whether a new channel was cut after 1815 and then covered over in 1826, is unclear.

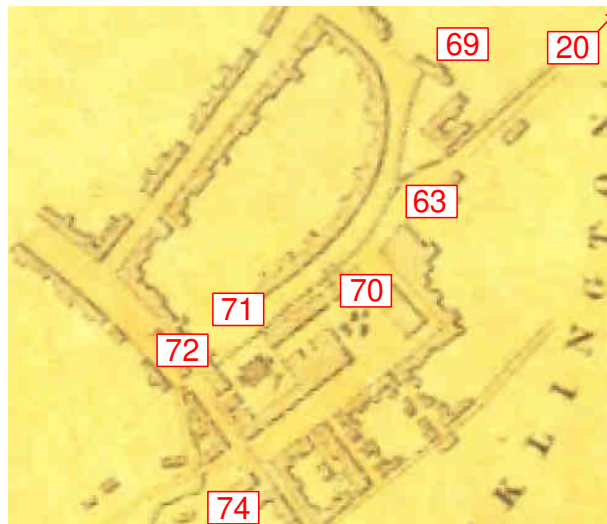


Fig 14 Leather’s map of 1815 [Ref. 3]

The 2007 Flood Report [Ref 5] does not resolve this conundrum; it merely states “... from the CCTV survey a 600mm [2’] diameter culvert connection was observed off the modern concrete culvert in Market Place apparently leading towards St Peter’s Square”.

From this, we may infer that a culvert was constructed relatively recently under Market Place (leading towards Railway Street; to be discussed), and that it appears to be connected perhaps to an earlier culvert further ‘upstream’, but the nature and precise location of any connection with the watercourses in the area of St. Peter’s Square shown on Fig 14 cannot be deduced.

#### □ **St. Peter’s Square to Pavement**

Having left St. Peter’s Square, initially the original, single course of the Beck then flowed along Market Street on its earlier routing. A two-storey building extension exists over the Beck at the rear of premises in Market Street [70] (now Simply Books).

Today, the top course of a brick arch is visible at ground level on the W side; this appears to be the visible vestige of a culvert under the extension, pre-dating the general culverting in 1826, but the former purpose of this extension is unknown.

From 1844, all maps show this section of the Beck had been culverted from St. Peter’s Square as far as Pem Lane [71]. However, at some stage it had been diverted to flow along the NNW side of the church as far as Pavement, immediately S of Tute Hill [72].

This section of the Beck from Pem Lane to Pavement [71-72] remains open but it was then culverted again at a point between two properties on Pavement.

#### □ **Pavement to Beast Fair Bridge**

Fig 15 overleaf is an undated view from the S end of George Street (now at the SE corner of Sissons butchers), looking E across Pavement towards the church. For comparison, the inset at top-right of Fig 15 is the related section of Watson’s 1855 map.

The gap between the two properties on the E side of Pavement where the Beck is culverted under the road is evident in both the photograph and the inset [72], as are the then diagonal retaining wall and the exit portal on the W side of Pavement.

The Beck flowed for a short distance alongside the now-demolished property seen on the photograph at the N end of Grape Lane [73]. All available maps from 1815 show the Beck then turning sharply to the S and flowing along the E side of Grape Lane.

However, this is felt to be a completely unnatural course and, arguably more likely, the Beck may previously have continued in the same general direction, towards the WSW, prior to being re-routed down Grape Lane at a later date (to be discussed later).

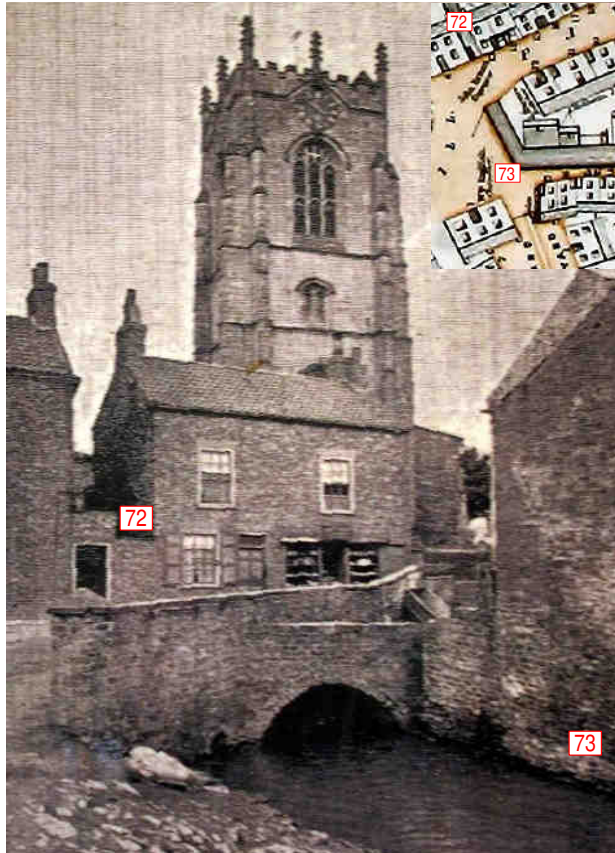


Fig 15 View across Pavement, looking east

Fig 14 and later maps up to 1854 show the Beck routing S to the end of Grape Lane and flowing under Beast Fair Bridge [74] [Fig 16]. The bridge was located at the present site of the mini-roundabout.

Fig 17 shows a single, brick-lined culvert approaching the present mini-roundabout. The culvert is presumed to be the one routing S from George Street [73] and under Grape Lane to the roundabout.

Fig 18 shows a modern, reinforced concrete culvert approaching the mini-roundabout. This is presumed to



Fig 16 Pocklington Beck flowing along Grape Lane and under Beast Fair Bridge (1897)



Fig 17 Brick-lined culvert under the mini-roundabout, thought to be looking N along Grape Lane

be the one described in the 2007 Flood Report [Ref. 5], routing SW under Market Place via Railway Street to the roundabout. Whether this culvert is inter-linked with the Beck near St. Peter's Square is unknown.



Fig 18 Concrete culvert under the mini-roundabout, thought to be looking NE along Railway St.

#### □ **Beast Fair Bridge to White Corn Mill**

Immediately S of Beast Fair Bridge [74], the Beck turned sharply to the WSW then shortly SW to flow generally along the SE side of the West Green road.

Watson's map of 1855 shows the section SW of Beast Fair Bridge [74] to have been partly covered but, after 1897, the whole section of this revised course of the Beck was culverted from Pavement [72] to the bridge, then double-culverted to a point opposite Pocklington School main buildings [75] [Fig 19].



Fig 19 Double exit culverts along West Green Road



Leather's map of 1815 suggests that, beyond this point, the open section of the Beck then took a slightly meandering route to the SW, as far as White Corn Mill [21].

But by 1854, a substantial Mill Dam had been cut and developed along the length of the open section from [75] to [21], with sluices to control an overflow between the mill dam and the West Green road. This is depicted in detail at Appendix D.

These arrangements existed unchanged up to at least 1910 but, thereafter, the 1927-1950s maps show the mill dam becoming increasingly overgrown and, by 1971, the dam appears to have been drained, leaving just the Pocklington Beck picking up its own course along the base of the cut.

Little has changed in the intervening years and, today, the Beck runs close to, but some 15 feet below the West Green road [76], before flowing under White Mill [21].

#### □ **White Corn Mill to the south**

Having left the White Corn Mill [21], the Beck turned SSE and headed towards the Canal Head area, some 600 yards to the S [Fig 20].

All the 1854-1970s maps show a 200 yard long drain running parallel with the Beck, on its ENE side [77] and merging with it at its S end. Today, this general area to the S of the Mill, incorporating the Beck and the parallel drain, is permanently flooded and provides a pleasant haven for wildlife and for picnickers, being easily accessible by public footpath from West Green and Canal Lane [Fig 20; also Fig 31 on p22].

The remaining, southerly section of the Pocklington Beck as far as Canal Head and beyond was discussed in Part 1, pp3-5.

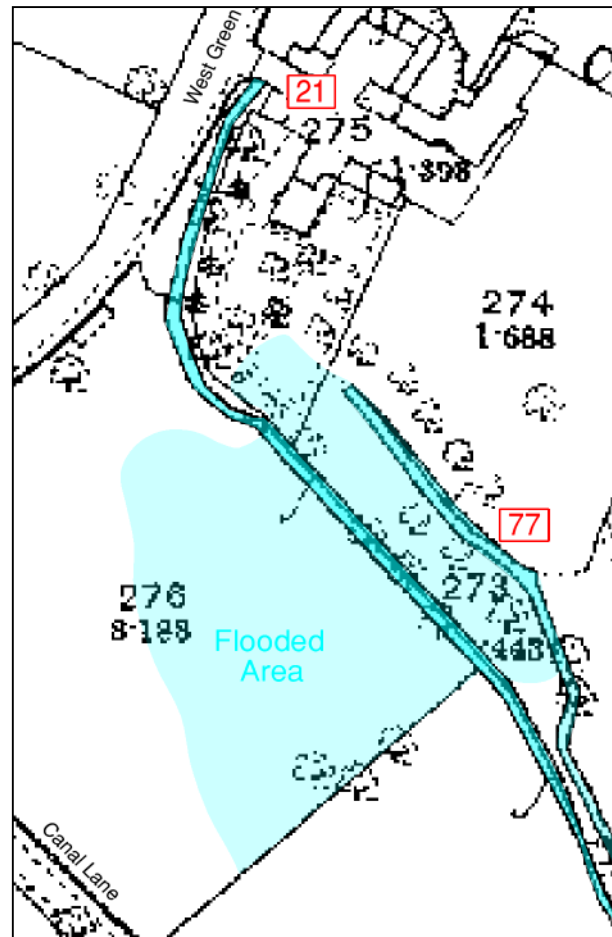


Fig 20 Pocklington Beck south of White Corn Mill

#### **Earlier Courses of Pocklington Beck**

The previous sub-sections consider the various courses of the Pocklington Beck to the White Corn Mill alongside the West Green road, from c. 1775 to the present day.

However, the White Mill is known to have existed as a water mill in 1626 and conventional wisdom has it that

the present routing via Pavement, Grape Lane and the SE side of West Green including the mill dam, represents a considerable re-arrangement of the Beck's course(s) in earlier centuries.

This sub-section attempts to identify and plot the reputed, earlier routings of the Beck which is thought to have flowed along parts of the previous (pre-1901) Pocklington/Barmby Moor parish boundary and passed to the rear of the original Pocklington School buildings dating from 1514.

In the event, a number of observations on the ground tie in well with clues on the early maps, whilst others are contradictory. And perhaps inevitably, in places there are significant gaps where it is possible only to 'join the dots'. So credence does vary markedly along the route and an indication will be given of the confidence level at each point.

This will be followed by discussion on the implications of other observations. The routing is again segmented into successive lengths, working from Pavement to the White Corn Mill, and cross-reference points in the narrative are shown on App. D (p23).

#### □ **Pavement to Pocklington School (NE)**

As recounted on p12, the Beck is tentatively thought to have flowed originally SW across George Street from Champangate at the N end of Tute Hill [65].

Reference to App. C suggests that, unless there was anything to impede its continued progress, the Beck might then have continued SW along a gently curving path, initially along the walled parish boundary [66], then what in the mid-1850s became the rear boundary of Wilberforce House (previously thought to have been a farm) [67] and onto an open area of old enclosure within the Barmby Moor parish.

The terrain in the Mount Pleasant area [78] is significantly higher and, today, there is a tongue of ground 2-3 feet high leading from it towards the NW. But that gradually slopes away by point [66] so there was perhaps nothing to impede this very tentative, ancient course of the Beck from the Tute Hill end of Champangate [65] SW to the Barmby Moor parish.

How or even whether the Beck then followed a course towards the White Corn Mill is unknown and, in all probability at this stage, no physical evidence is likely to emerge.

However, at some later date the original route of the Beck was realigned from Pem Lane to Pavement [71-72], as recounted on p13, and most probably beyond on a WSW course, i.e. parallel to the original routing but 50 yards or so the SSE. Fig 15 shows it at the N end of Grape Lane [73], immediately prior to where it was again diverted to the S.

On the face of it, this interim route towards the WSW seems to be supported by Watson's map of 1855 which, although post-dating the final diversion, may perhaps indicate the Beck's previous course, initially along a narrow channel between English Yard and Manners Yard, which then opened out and turned SW [79] [Fig 21].

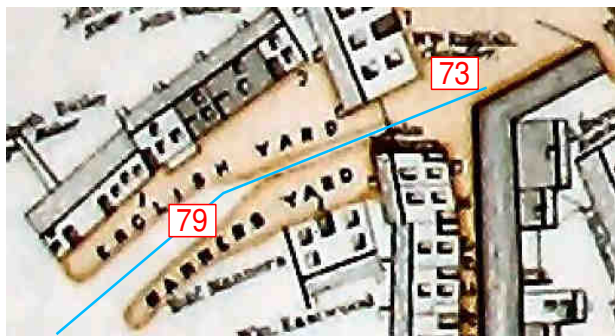


Fig 21 Projected interim route of Beck from Pavement

Today, such a course would run along the first section of Scaife Garth as far as a point immediately beyond the dairy [79] before turning SW.

The subsequent routing from this point is problematical. Firstly, the flow of water along the interim cut would shortly be impeded by the tongue of ground running NW from Mount Pleasant [78], at this stage some 2-3 feet higher than the surrounding land. However, it is thought that simply increasing the depth of the man-made cut to compensate, over a distance of some 10-15 yards, would not be a significant obstacle.

Secondly, there is believed to have been a fishpond somewhere to the NE of Pocklington School and this is shown on a survey map prepared during the planning stages for the laying of the York–Market Weighton railway line, i.e. before 1847 [Fig 22]. This shows the fishpond lying partly underneath the proposed route of the railway line [80].

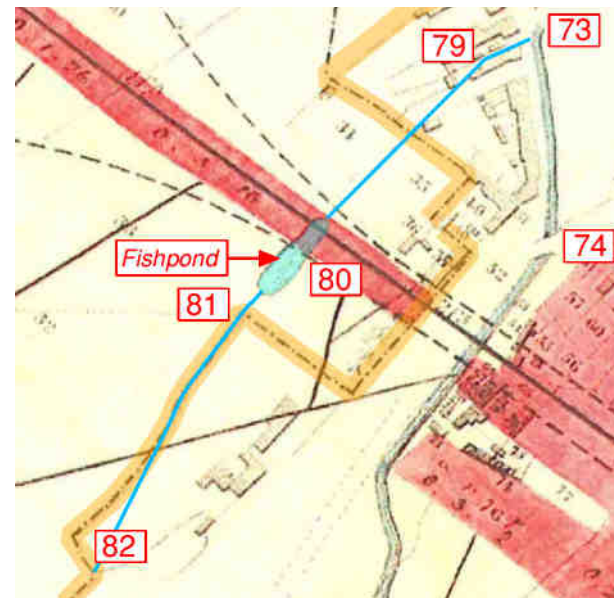


Fig 22 Fishpond near Pocklington School

It would be logical and very convenient to suppose that the interim route of the Beck simply continued to the SW, the Beck fed into the fishpond at its NE end, became an outflow at the SW end and soon joined with the then (pre-1901) Pocklington/Barmby Moor parish boundary [81] (Fig 22).

Unfortunately, the survey map may not be very accurate at this point. Comparison with App. D and later maps shows that the 'indent' of the boundary line before routing along the rear of the original school buildings on Fig 22 may be too deep. If that corner of the boundary [81] were moved SE to match App. D, then perhaps the fishpond [80] was also located further to the SE by a similar amount.

But this does not necessarily adversely affect the conjectured routing of the one-time Beck along this general line; it merely needs to be adjusted slightly as depicted on App. D.

Working on that premise, the interim course of the Beck seemingly routed behind the area of the present Wilberforce House [Fig 23 overleaf]. Much of the original rear garden of the property is believed to have been cut back in the 1960s and the projected course of the Beck appears to run along the revised rear boundary of the property. The tentative route of the Beck then runs across the old railway track bed (immediately NW of the end of the present car park) and thence to the presumed location of the fishpond [80].

The pond is believed to have been filled when the track bed of the railway line was laid in the 1840s. But reportedly, when the buildings at the NE end of Pocklington School were erected in the 1900s, a spring was discovered and had to be tanked. This may have been the source of the earlier fishpond [80], supplementing the flow of the Beck, but this is unconfirmed.



Fig 23 Pavement to Pocklington School

It is reiterated that nothing has been identified on the ground to support any of this projected, interim route of the old Beck, from the N end of Grape Lane [73] as far as Pocklington School [81], so confidence in it must remain low.

□ **Pocklington School (NE to SW)**

The interim route of the Beck and the pre-1901 Pocklington/Barmby Moor parish boundary are then thought to have continued together [81] towards the SW, initially under the post-1900 school buildings, the slight curvature evident on App. D perhaps being a natural feature of the Beck.

Indeed, it may then have continued to flow directly to the SW end of the site [82], along the line shown on Fig 24. However, at the SW end of the original

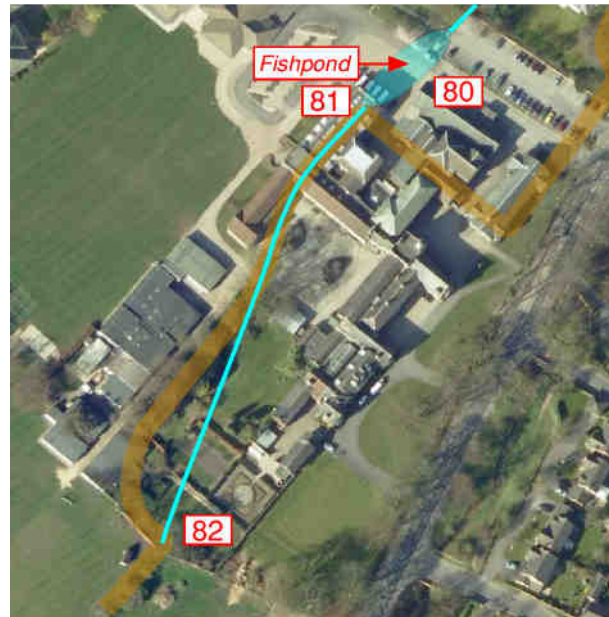


Fig 24 Pocklington School

school buildings, the pre-1901 parish boundary continued along the rear of the garden behind the headmaster's house before curving sharply to the SE and, alongside a post-1853, high brick boundary wall, turning very sharply back towards the SW [82].

Clearly this is not a natural feature of the Beck but it is speculated that the line of the water course may have been realigned, some time after the original school buildings were established c. 1514, for example to provide space for buildings erected at some later date behind the original school premises [Fig 25].

Perhaps more likely, if the Beck had already been diverted down Grape Lane by that date, the short length of the now redundant ditchwork would simply need to be filled. The parish boundary might also have been revised, either at the time, or perhaps later.



Fig 25 Pocklington School built c. 1514 and backed by later buildings (Photo: 1853)

□ **Pocklington School (SW) to White Mill**

On the SW side of the brick boundary wall [82], a car park leading WNW from West Green road has recently been extended. However, the c. 2009 satellite imagery suggests the start of a ditch at this point, immediately adjacent to where the Beck is presumed to have reached on the NE side of the wall. The ditch then runs SW along the line of the pre-1901 Pocklington/Barmby Moor parish boundary.

This significant course is readily located on the ground and, with the parish boundary, runs near-straight from the SW side of the wall [82] to a point at the W corner of the old Pinfold [83]. The ditch is approximately 3 feet wide at the top, U-shaped, heavily overgrown and evidently ancient.

Presently its depth varies considerably, from 4-5 feet to as little as 1 foot [e.g. Fig 26 overleaf]. However, this is thought most likely to be due to varying depths of natural detritus filling up the ditch, perhaps over a period of centuries.



Fig 26 Remains of ditch SW of Pocklington School

Having reached the W corner of the Pinfold [83], today the ditch ends abruptly. But it is relatively clear of debris for the final 6 feet or so and, at the SW end, there are two culverts, one facing NW, the other SE. Both portals are made up of concrete blocks and mortar, so are presumed to post-date the 1830s or thereabouts.

However, the 1854 map [Fig. 27] shows that, at that time, the ditch seemingly split into two parts: one possibly routing towards the W along the line of the pre-1901 Pocklington/Barmby Moor parish boundary (App. D); the other routing SE towards the White Corn Mill [21].

So on the face of it, the culvert facing NW [83] might be a post-1854 replacement for a westerly ditch, today first routing under the corner of a playing field before soon picking up the line of the pre-1901 parish boundary which seems to have been revised slightly by 1892 [84]. This is discussed in more detail later.

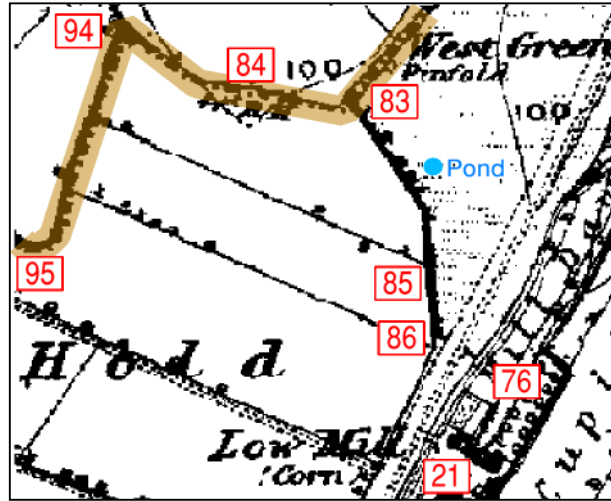


Fig 27 Possible multiple drains near the Pinfold (1854)

By the same token, the culvert facing SE is very likely a post-1854 replacement for the ditch originally heading SE from the Pinfold [Fig 27]. Today, the remains of an adjacent pond (presumably for watering cattle in the Pinfold) is evident on the satellite imagery.

Also today, immediately to the S of the new lane leading to the Tennis Club [85], there is another culvert portal, again formed by concrete blocks and mortar, and S of that, a rather more evident, open drain, running S. This ditch appears to be the one shown on the 1854 map [Fig 27], running S of point [85], but its general condition suggests it may have been cleared relatively recently, perhaps at the same time as the culverts were constructed, i.e. between 1854 and 1892.

As the ditch nears the West Green road [86], it turns sharply left towards the ESE. At the corner, there is a relatively modern, double-culvert portal, made up with concrete blocks and mortar and topped by a wall of engineers brick [Fig 28, looking NW]. There is also a water hydrant sited between the portal and the road.



Fig 28 Hydrant at the ditch near White Mill [86]

The double portal [86] faces WNW and is discussed in more detail later. The condition of the various portals [83, 85 and 86] suggests the culverts may have been installed at the same time, c. 1854-1892.

Having turned to the ESE, the ditch is shortly culverted under West Green road [86] and, unlike the other portals, the one at this point is made up of what appear to be much older bricks, with poor-quality mortar, implying it pre-dates the others perhaps by a considerable margin.

The culvert itself takes a descending path and, on the SE side of the West Green road, emerges some 8 feet lower and only about 2 feet above the present Beck, into which water from the culvert would discharge [76].

The Beck itself is some 15 feet below the level of the road at this point and shortly thereafter flows under the White Corn Mill [21].

### ❑ **Pavement to White Mill (summary)**

To summarise the previous three sub-sections, it now appears that prior to the final re-routing of the Pocklington Beck along Grape Lane, an interim, continuous course of the Beck may have existed from Pavement [72] through to White Mill [21], and which can now be traced albeit in part very tentatively:

- ❑ From Pavement and the N end of Grape Lane [73], continuing WSW between English Yard and Manners yard along the present route of Scaife Garth [Fig 22];
- ❑ Turning SW [79] and shortly cutting through the 2-3 feet high tongue of land to the NW of Mount Pleasant [78] [Fig 23];
- ❑ Continuing alongside the present rear boundary of Wilberforce House, across the line of the railway track bed and flowing into the NE end of the presumed location of the fishpond [80];
- ❑ From the SW end of the fishpond, running initially along the parish boundary [81] but, thereafter, perhaps routing directly to the SW end of the original Pocklington School buildings [82] [Fig 24];
- ❑ Continuing SW from the end of the school buildings for some 200 yards to the W corner of the Pinfold [83] [Fig 27];
- ❑ Turning SE and continuing alongside the Pinfold and past the pond as far as the new lane leading to Pocklington Tennis Club [85] (this segment was culverted c. 1854-1892);
- ❑ Turning S for some 75 yards and, immediately before the West Green road [86], turning ESE and being culverted under the road, the flow from the exit portal feeding into the present route of the Pocklington Beck [76] to supply the White Mill [21].

### **Further ditches and drainage**

Although an interim course of the Pocklington Beck has now been projected, from Pavement to White Mill, it is admittedly very speculative and subject to possible revision.

The tentative deductions may be incorrect; there may be one or more alternative routes; other known ditches, the culverts and a sizeable pond still need to be considered; as does a contemporary report that the Pocklington School playing fields tend to become waterlogged.

So this final section addresses the possibility of there being other relevant water courses and, to do that, it is necessary to expand the overall area under review to cover that between Barmby Road and the West Green road, previously part of the Barmby Moor parish (App. D).

Unfortunately, much of this area has been altered significantly in the last century or so, primarily by expansions to Pocklington School, both by that covered by buildings (roughly four times their original extent), plus the considerable expanse of school playing fields covering much of the old enclosure.

Nevertheless, the whole area was inspected as far as is possible for any evidence of earlier water courses, especially along the old field boundaries, many of which were marked on the old maps as 4 feet wide hedgerows and which still exist in good condition today.

Particular emphasis was placed on examining the pre- and post-1901 Pocklington/Barmby Moor parish boundary lines (accepting that no evidence is likely to be found in the playing fields on the one side of the boundary lines, and the ground completely cleared for the 1940s airfield on the other).

### ❑ **Exceptions**

In the event, with the exception of the pond and ditchworks discussed later, no other evidence of ancient or relatively recent water courses was discovered and it is considered that the following elements may now reasonably be discounted from further consideration:

- ❑ The post-1901 parish boundary extending from Barmby Road to where it meets the pre-1901 boundary [87-88-89-90]. Initially, the boundary line from Barmby Road [87] is some 2-3 feet above the ground either side, gradually sloping down to a few inches above the same level [88].
- ❑ The pre-1901 parish boundary extending from 150 yards WNW of Wilberforce Lodge [91], (a.k.a. 'The Hostel' on App D) and along the line N of the Lodge as far as Hodsow Lane [92].
- ❑ The post-1901 parish boundary from the same point 150 yards WNW of the Lodge [91], extending along the line S of the Lodge to Hodsow Lane [92], then along Canal Lane [93]. The hedgerow along the SW side of Canal Lane (i.e. the line of the parish boundary) is very sparse and non-existent in places, but the gap between the road and the cultivated fields is considered to be too narrow to have supported any ditchwork.
- ❑ The bulk of the pre-1901 parish boundary extending from the point W of the Pinfold [83], via the two acute corners [94-95], then NW to where it meets the post-1901 boundary [90] and, finally, SW to a point near the pond marked on App D [96].
- ❑ The field boundary running SSW, linking the two points on the pre-1901 parish boundary [95-91].

### ❑ *The pond and nearby ditchworks*

Some of the remaining elements on the ground still to be considered are the pond at the W end of the area under review [96] and various associated ditchworks.

The pond (marked as a ‘Swimming Bath’ on App. D) is believed to have been used by Pocklington School from the 1800s and was replaced before WWII [Fig 29]. Its condition today is much deteriorated but the water level seems to be the same, suggesting it is either an isolated feature or there is a water source with related outlet.



Fig 29 Pocklington School old Swimming Bath [96]

The ditch connected to it and which then runs ESE for some 150 yards comes to an abrupt end [91] and does not, for example, continue along either the pre- or post-1901 parish boundary lines leading to the Canal Lane area, routing either side of Wilberforce Lodge to Hodsow Lane [92]. In any event, such a course would be slightly uphill.

Similarly, there appears to have been no ditch routing towards the Swimming Bath along the parish boundary from the NE [90-96], nor into the other end of the

ditch along the field boundary, again from the NE [95-91]. So this short ditch [96-91] appears to be neither a water source for the Swimming Bath, nor an outlet.

This leaves the possibility of a water source somewhere along what is thought might be man-made ditchworks generally to the N of the pond [96-97] (noting the existence of a ‘Footbridge’ on the 1854 map where a footpath crossed the area [98]).

This sector was completely cleared and levelled during construction of the WWII airfield and, in part, was covered by the perimeter track.

However, the c. 2010 satellite imagery [Fig 30] reveals a faint outline of what could be the three, ‘threepenny bit’ cuts of much earlier ditchwork marked on App. D [96-97], plus a hint of one-time strip cultivation to the E side of the ditches, being at the SW corner of the 50-acre area of old enclosure (pre-1783).

So unless there is an unknown spring in the area, it would seem the Swimming Bath was and is not fed by any known water source. By the same token, there does not appear to be any outflow (for example to the Canal Lane area).

But if these features taken together do not appear to be linked to any known, ancient water course, their purpose must be questioned.

Bearing in mind the report of the nearby school playing fields tending to become waterlogged – and noting that the pond and ditches are on the 90 foot contour line, at the lowest point of the area – it can only be conjectured that they were an early attempt to improve localised drainage, perhaps with the pond acting as a natural, central sump.

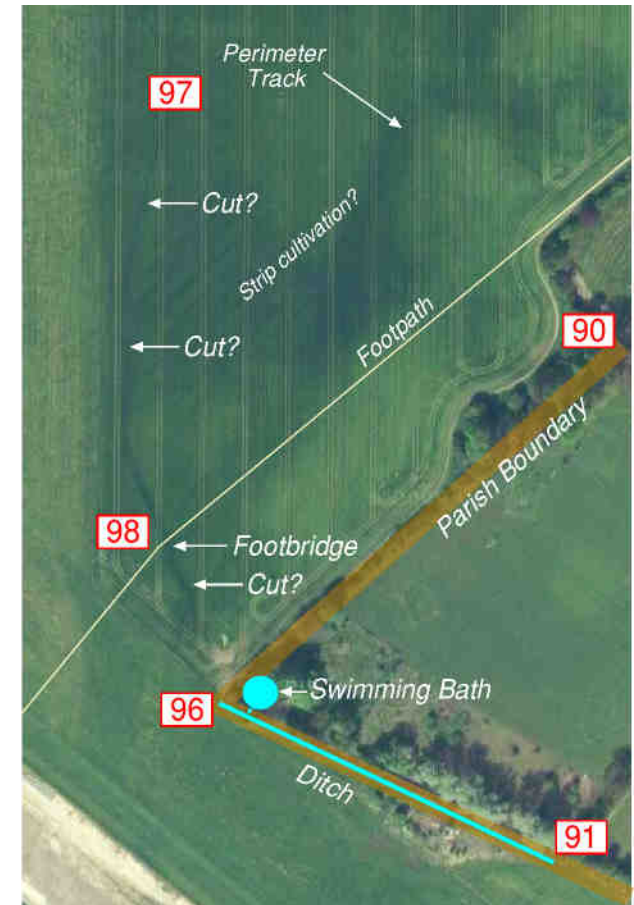


Fig 30 WWII airfield N of the Swimming Bath

### ❑ *Drainage SW of the Pinfold*

This leaves only the area generally lying on the 100 foot contour line to the SW of the Pinfold [83] still to be considered to determine whether any water course flowed along the Pocklington/Barmby Moor parish boundary as far as the pond [96] and perhaps then returning to the Hodsow Lane and Canal Lane area [92-93].

A particular question also to be addressed is the reason for the present culvert near the Pinfold [83], evidently leading towards the W from the projected, interim course of the Pocklington Beck.

This is again problematical as the area SW of the Pinfold is now inaccessible and covered by 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings, a parking area and further playing fields. So no visible evidence is likely to emerge and the satellite imagery cannot assist. However, it may be possible to resolve the question by a further process of elimination and observation.

- ❑ Firstly, it was determined in the previous sub-section that no evident link exists between this localised area under review and either the pond [96], the associated ditchworks [97-96-91], nor a further link to Hodson Lane [92].
- ❑ Secondly, the two acute corners on the pre-1901 parish boundary [94-95] are considered highly unlikely to have been natural features of any watercourse.
- ❑ Thirdly, it is not at all clear whether the parish boundary line depicted on the early maps (e.g. [83-94-95] on the 1854 map in *Fig 27* on p18) actually represents a water course, or just the parish boundary.

These points taken together must throw some doubt on whether any water course ever did flow along that section of the parish boundary; the corollary to that being, therefore, what is the purpose of the present culvert to the W of the Pinfold?

A very tentative hypothesis was that water may not have drained *into* any ditchwork in the area from the projected, interim course of Pocklington Beck after all but, instead, might have flowed *out* of any drainage ditch running along the parish boundary and into the Beck near the Pinfold [83].

This conundrum was largely resolved in February 2011, following heavy rains, when a significant flow of water was observed to be flowing *out* of the culvert portal and an adjacent pipe to the W of the Pinfold and pooling in the ancient ditchwork [83].

The overflow from this pooling then passed through the culvert alongside the Pinfold [83-85], then along the open ditch [85-86] to pool again at the corner near the West Green road [86].

The culvert portal under the road was partially blocked by a build-up of leaves and the double culvert portal at this point [*Fig 28*] was under water, but the head of water was overflowing through the culvert under West Green road and into the present Pocklington Beck on the SE side [76].

These observations tend to support the hypothesis that water may not have flowed from the ditch near the Pinfold towards the west [83-84] but, instead, that this area formed part of a relatively modern (19<sup>th</sup> century) drainage scheme, conveniently tapping into ancient ditchworks which had been otherwise inactive, perhaps for some centuries.

This in turn might serve to explain the following observations detailed earlier:

- ❑ That the ancient ditch leading from Pocklington School [82] appears to have been cleared only at the point near the Pinfold [83], perhaps so as not to impede the inflow of water from the W culvert.
- ❑ That at the same time, the abutting culvert running alongside the Pinfold [83-85] was conveniently laid along an existing but inactive watercourse.
- ❑ That the succeeding section of open ditch [85-86] was seemingly cleared in relatively recent times.

By the same token, although not observable, it is presumed that the double culvert leading from the W to the ditch near the West Green Road [86] forms part of the same general drainage scheme.

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**References**

1. Pocklington Enclosure Award 1759 (Note 1).
2. Jefferys map 1775 (Note 2).
3. Leather's map 1815 (Note 3).
4. Various Ordnance Survey (OS) maps dated 1854 to 1991.
5. Pocklington 2007 Flood Report (Note 4).
6. Satellite imagery © Google/Microsoft 2011.

Note 1: Specific allotments referred to by page number in Part 1 are taken from an undated copy of the Award made for James Powell (died 1848) and now in the possession of Powell & Young, Solicitors, Pocklington.

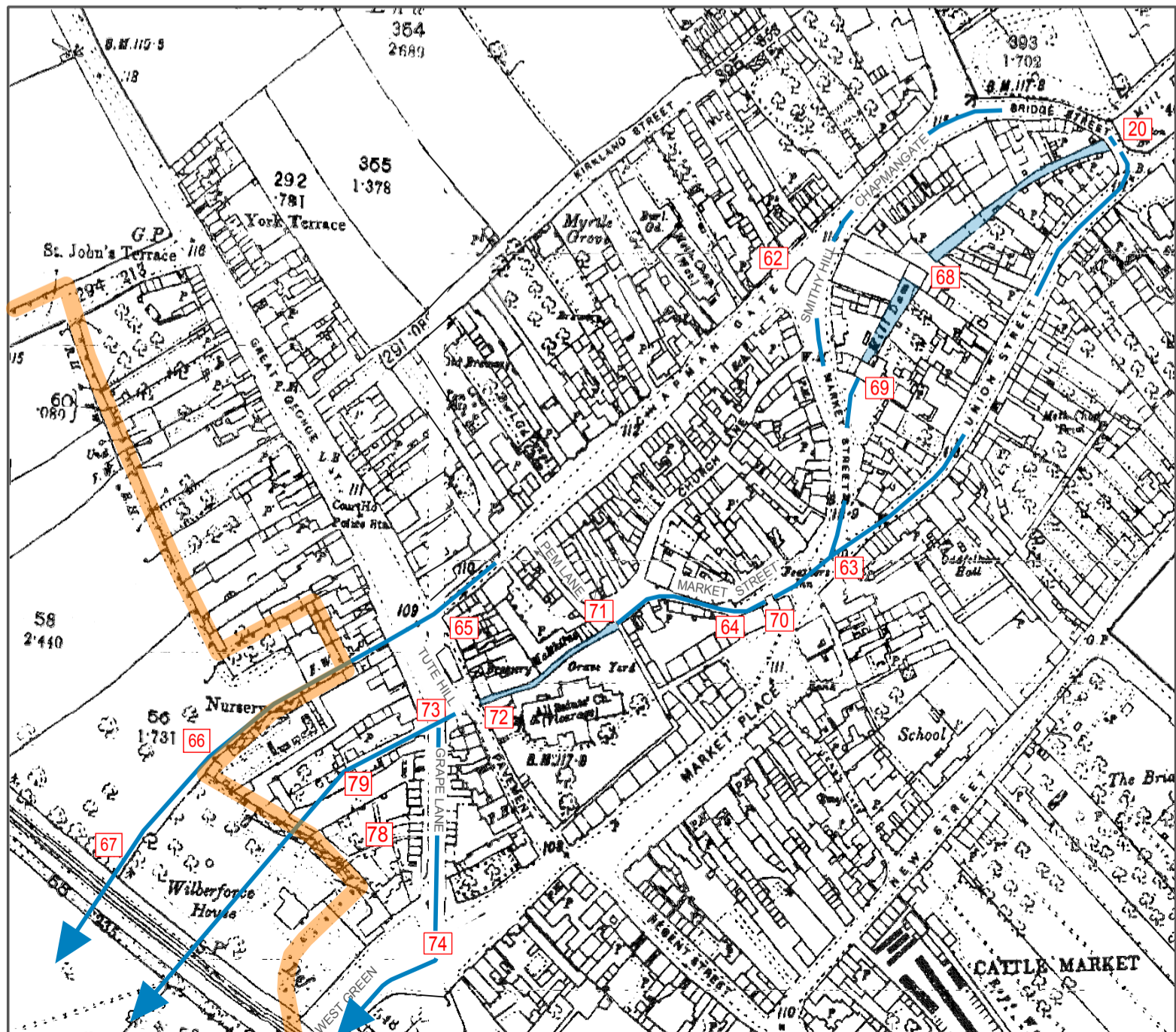
Note 2: Thomas Jefferys (1719-1770) of London was cartographer to King George III and commissioned various maps including Ref. 2, Yorkshire, which was surveyed 1767-70 and published 1771-72.

Note 3: George Leather was the 1814 surveyor and later builder of the Pocklington Canal as far as Canal Head. This 1815 map covers his survey of the proposed extension of the Canal to the town which was not adopted.

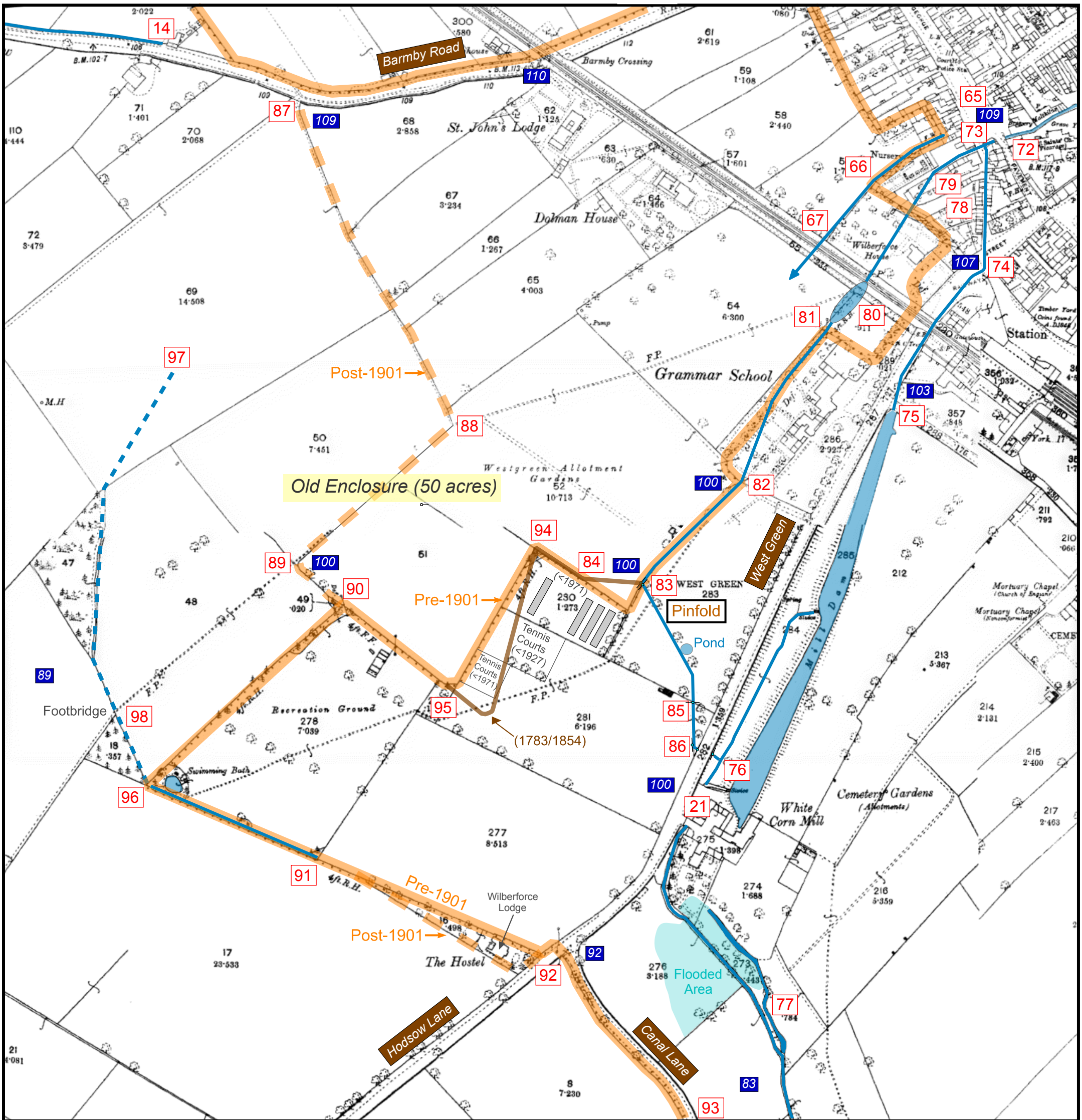
Note 4: Following the flooding in Pocklington in 2007, the Pocklington Town Council appointed Peter Kite Associates to produce a report on the cause of the flooding and to make recommendations for alleviation actions.



Fig 31 Permanently flooded area south of White Corn Mill (c.f. Fig 20 on p15)







**Key**

- Water course, e.g. Pocklington Beck or ditch
- Possible man-made ditchwork (see text)
- Pocklington/Barmby Moor parish boundary c. 1854
- Pocklington/Barmby Moor parish boundary pre-1901
- Pocklington/Barmby Moor parish boundary post-1901
- Ground height above mean sea level (feet)
- Reference point (see text)