


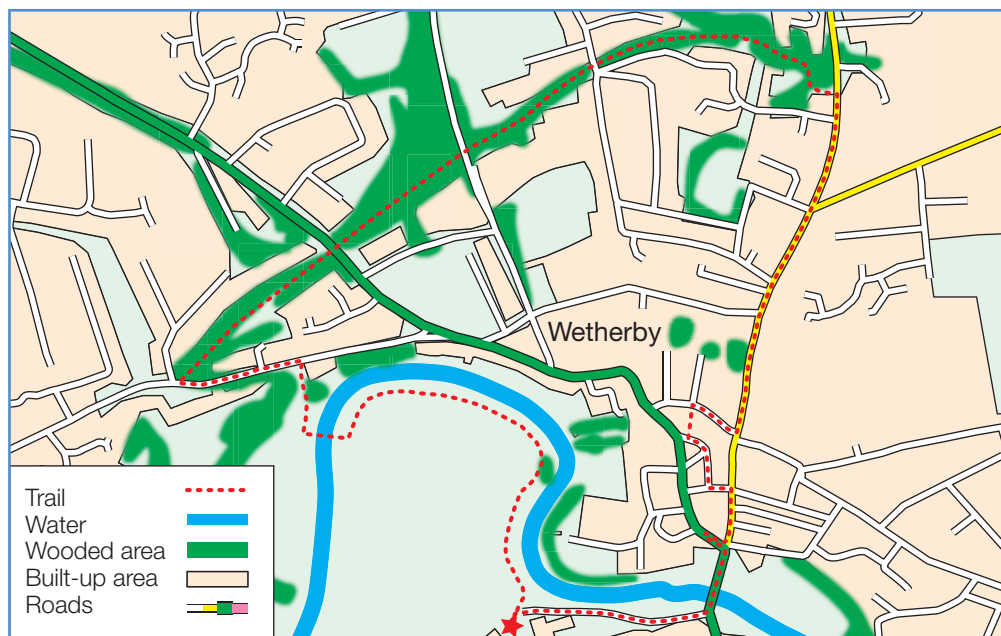
Wetherby/Linton

'Tithe to 2009' Boundary Trail

- Type of Walk: Circular, including river and woodland paths
- Distance: 2 miles
- Starting Point: Wetherby Leisure Centre carpark, Lodge Lane, Wetherby (SE400 478)
- Suitable for: Walking only 

Trail Summary:

This trail begins in the 19th-century township of Linton, in modern Wetherby, at the Wetherby Leisure Centre on Lodge Lane. It then follows the south bank of the river Wharfe, marking the 19th-century Linton/Wetherby tithe boundary, as far as Wetherby Bridge. After crossing the bridge into Wetherby township, the trail snakes through the centre of the settlement via High Street, passing many buildings visible on the 1838 tithe map of the area. Finally, the route cuts into the disused rail-bed, north of the town, and follows its path around Wetherby's western edge, crossing back into Linton and returning along the south bank of the river Wharfe, to the Wetherby Leisure Centre carpark.



Directions

Begin at Wetherby Leisure Centre carpark, situated on land appearing on the 1838 Wetherby tithe map as flood plains yielding no tithe. **Go across Lodge Lane, and walk to your right. Follow the footpath as far as Wetherby Bridge.** 🌿 🔑

In turning left onto Wetherby Bridge, you cross into the first mapped area of the township's 19th-century tithe map. Go halfway across the bridge and pause at its centre, turning to look upstream, to your left. Ahead you will note a modern weir, and to its left, a salmon leap. Above the fish ladder, on the left bank of the river, is a modern housing estate.



View from Wetherby Bridge

This development sprung up in 2003 around a listed 18th-century stable block locally rumoured to have been used by the Yorkshire Hussars as barracks and accommodation for

🌿 As you walk along Lodge Lane, notice the semi-natural woodland to your left, along the steeply sloping bank down to the river Wharfe. Look out for the flowers of 'lords and ladies', sometimes called 'Jack-in-the-pulpit', which have a chocolate spike surrounded by a cream cloak in the spring. By July the flower has gone, to be replaced by a cluster of bright red berries on a green stalk. The bank to your right is covered in harebells in mid-summer and bright yellow common cat's ear which looks a bit like dandelion.

🌿 When crossing the bridge over the river Wharfe, look out for goosanders, a type of saw-bill duck, on the water below. The female has a brown head and grey body, the male has a dark green head and black back with white on the wings and a pale underside. Both have long, thin, red beaks with serrated edges for gripping fish; their favourite food. Notice also the fish pass on your left, which helps fish negotiate the big weir and migrate upstream to their spawning grounds.

🔑 Wetherby Bridge has existed since at least 1233, when Archbishop of York, Walter de Grey, forgave the sins of those who contributed to its construction. The original bridge was 3.5 metres wide and hump-backed, with four arches. It suffered frequent flood damage and was often repaired. The bridge was widened and raised in 1773 following a severe flood, and again in 1826. The present bridge is the result of these modifications. A draft order for a county estreat of £10 to repair 'holes and breaks in the pavement' of Wetherby Bridge (QS1/9/1/7/1), dated 1670, is held by West Yorkshire Archive Service.

their horses. An archaeological assessment carried out at the time of the housing development, however, showed no conclusive evidence that this stable block was ever used as barracks.

The Yorkshire Hussars were formed in 1794 in response to English fears about the spread of the French Revolution, and were a force of Volunteer Yeoman Cavalry, or essentially, gentlemen farmers. Due to their volunteer status, it is unlikely they would have needed designated barracks, but the Wetherby tithe map fails to shed any light on other uses of the remaining stable block in 1838, as the area in which it stands was within the untithable and, unmapped, flood plains of the river Wharfe.

Look to the right of the weir now, to the spot where a modern block of flats stands on the site of an old corn mill. The mill complex here appears on the Wetherby tithe map as plot number 179, a corn mill, buildings and yard belonging to Richard Fountayne Wilson and leased to Thomas Greenwood. The 19th-century predecessor of the current weir is also clearly visible. In 1838, Richard Fountayne Wilson was Lord of the Manors of High Melton, Ingmanthorpe, near Wetherby, and Wighill. He was the son of Richard Wilson and Elizabeth, daughter of John Fountayne, Dean of York. Richard inherited his titles from his maternal grandfather in 1802, and became High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1807. He was later a Tory politician, elected MP for the county in 1826. Richard was however, an absentee Lord of Ingmanthorpe Manor, despite his seat at Swinnow Park, and most often resided at the ancestral seat of the Fountayne family, Melton Hall, near Doncaster.

In 1838, behind the corn mill, on the current site of the bus station and surrounding shops, stood several cottages and a house, also belonging to Richard Fountayne Wilson. These were occupied by families named Lawrence, Beecroft, Kitching, and Robinson, and by the mill tenant, Thomas Greenwood. Some older members of the Wetherby community recall a saw mill and Wharfedale Brewery standing on the site of these dwellings. Wharfedale Brewery began as Wetherby Brewery in the 1840s, and was owned by Quintin Rhodes. Rhodes made his fortune through brewing in Wetherby and appears several times in this trail as a proprietor and small-scale brewer, prior to owning Wetherby Brewery. His portrait also hangs in Wetherby Town Hall. Wetherby Brewery was sold by Rhodes' nephew, Mr Coates, in 1892, first becoming Braime's Brewery, then Wharfedale Brewery, and finally, Oxley's mineral water factory in the inter-war years. The building was eventually demolished in the 1950s to make way for the bus station, the impressive chimney being imploded in 1959.

Go across the bridge and turn to your left, walking straight ahead to the pedestrian crossing. Go over the road using the crossing and walk to your right, passing shops and gardens on your left.

According to the Wetherby tithe map, in 1838, the gardens here were the site of a house and cottages, belonging to George Francis Barlow and Robert Akers respectively. These properties were leased to families named Dixon, Hartley, Levann, Lawrence, Grieves, and Heckles.

At the junction with High Street, turn left into what has long been referred to as the Great North Road (High Street). Directly opposite you, on the other side of the road, is the first of ten inns lining this major route north. The existence of so many pubs so close together illustrates Wetherby's former status as an important staging post on the long journey between London and Edinburgh.

Prior to the implementation of rail travel in Britain, stage coaches were the fastest way to travel the country. A journey from London to Edinburgh took around ten days at an average speed of ten miles per hour, and various stopping points or staging posts were needed to rest horses and travellers along the way. On the London-Edinburgh route, these staging posts were approximately 14 miles apart. Settlements where the stage coach spent the night consequently heaved with inns and hotels of various qualities, often with stabling facilities attached. The first public house in Wetherby's High Street, The George and Dragon, was one such refuge, and is listed in the 1838 tithe apportionment as belonging to Quintin Rhodes. The pub had its own malt kiln at this time for brewing beer, and a female inn keeper, Mary Burley, rented the property.

Proceed ahead now, along High Street, passing the sites of a house and shop belonging to Robert Akers, and cottages belonging to William Green, on your left-hand side. In 1838, Robert Akers resided in the house attached to his shop here, with William Green leasing three of his cottages to families by the names of Crosland, Thackray and Wiggins, and living in the fourth. On the opposite side of the road, to your right, was a house and associated buildings belonging to James Horner, who resided there.

Continue ahead, to the Red Lion on your left-hand side. This inn is listed in the Wetherby tithe apportionment as belonging to Samuel and Thomas Jackson. The tenant publican, who lived in the house attached to the inn, was a Joesph Sayer. The Red Lion stood next door to a further public house, listed in the apportionment as The Crown Inn and belonging to William Atkinson. Atkinson ran the pub himself, and the

same building can be seen standing here today. Directly opposite these two public houses, across the road, is the entrance to Gas House Lane. This lane is so called owing to the Gas Works that opened here in 1845. The works had two gas holders and produced ‘town gas’, a gaseous fuel manufactured from coal as a by-product of the coking process. The gas was piped to its customers for lighting, cooking, and heating. Town gas was superseded by natural gas between 1966 and 1976. A blue plaque in Gas House Lane gives information about its history.

Walk past the Crown Inn now and turn left into Cross Street. Stop here for a moment and look diagonally across the junction to your right. On this spot, in 1838, stood the Golden Lion Inn and associated buildings, owned by Dorothy Lawson. The inn was leased to another female publican, Hannah Hall. All the buildings associated with the Golden Lion still stand, including Wetherby’s only remaining stable yard, and the buildings comprise the town’s oldest surviving pub complex.

The Golden Lion, however, was not always known as such. It seems the inn was plagued by frequent name changes. In the 1838 tithe apportionment the inn is distinctly listed as ‘The Golden Lion’, but only fourteen years earlier, in the 1824 Wetherby sale catalogue, the same pub is referred to as ‘The Devonshire Arms’. William Spencer Cavendish, the 6th Duke of Devonshire owned nine-tenths of the manor and township of Wetherby in 1824, owing to his family’s gradual increase in land holdings there since the 17th century. There were consequently two pubs in the town named ‘The Devonshire Arms’. One of these became The Golden Lion, the other, now demolished, stood on the site of the Conservative club building (Halifax Estate Agency) in Westgate.

The 6th Duke of Devonshire remained a bachelor all his life and spent a good deal of his time improving his vast estates and gardens, sometimes to the point of rebuilding villages in order to improve his view! In 1824, the Duke sold the manor of Wetherby to pay for such improvements to Chatsworth House. This sale may have sparked the name change at the Golden Lion, which later became known as The Brunswick Hotel, and is currently, Harris’s Bar. The surviving stable block has been converted into offices known as Brunswick Court. Two blue plaques attached to these buildings explain their history for passers-by.👁️



The sale particulars of 1824 are held by West Yorkshire Archive Service as part of the Wetherby Manorial Records 1608-1846 (WYL160/98)



A poster advertising the sale of ‘The Devonshire Arms’ in 1873 is held by West Yorkshire Archive Service (WYL1487/224) and presumably references the public house in Westgate, which retained the title after the Duke’s 1824 sale.

Walk to your left along Cross Street, passing several properties appearing on the 1838 Wetherby tithe map. In 1838, the properties here were, from left to right, The Old Star Inn and stables, belonging to Elizabeth Whitaker, and houses and shops owned by Thomas Whitehouse, Walter Wiggins, and Thomas Robinson. Elizabeth Whitaker ran The Old Star Inn herself, whereas Whitehouse, Wiggins, and Robinson leased their properties to men by the names of Barstow and Granger, Barnabas Dalby, and Nathan Leak, respectively. Most of the buildings mentioned here by the tithe apportionment, still stand. The Old Star is no longer an inn, but the other buildings retain their use as dwellings and shops.

Halfway down Cross Street, make a right turn, going across the road and into The Shambles.

Built in 1811 by the Duke of Devonshire, with the aid of the Atkinsons, architects of York, these permanent, covered stalls were erected to accommodate the towns many butcher's trade stands.

In 1888, The Shambles was converted into an open market selling poultry and dairy produce, but the

buildings on your left have remained largely unchanged since the Wetherby tithe map, suggesting they were not altered by the transition.

In 1838, the shops on your left here were leased to Samuel Varley by their owner, Richard Fountayne Wilson. On your right-hand side if you had walked through The Shambles that year, you would have passed a house leased to William Sinclair by James Barstow, followed by several cottages and shops belonging to Quintin Rhodes, and leased to families also named Barstow, Grieves and Dawson. Finally, The Crown Inn and buildings, owned and presided over by its publican, William Atkinson, stood at the end of the street. This must have been a very busy thoroughfare in 1838, with the town's inhabitants needing to buy fresh meat on a daily basis. No doubt there was also a distinct, unpleasant smell here resulting from waste products expelled from the butchers' shops. At the far end of The Shambles, on your left-hand side, is a blue plaque, summarising the narrow street's history.



The Shambles

Walk on ahead now, emerging from The Shambles into another area of Wetherby that has changed very little in size and shape, since its depiction on the 19th-century tithe map. The Market Place appears on the map much the same as it does today, and is listed in the tithe apportionment as belonging to the Yorkshire West Riding Magistrates, along with the Town Hall, which occupied a site in the modern parking area, slightly to the left of, and further back, than the current building.



Market Place and the Town Hall

The Town Hall was a much smaller structure in 1838, being approximately a quarter the size of its later replacement and may have had a gaol in the basement. The current building was established in 1845 to serve Wetherby's growing population, and accommodated a church school on the ground floor until 1895. Upstairs, were the Magistrates' Courts, which remained in the Town Hall until the 1960s, when they moved into larger accommodation on Boston Road, attached to the police station. The small arch between the main chimneys on the front of the Town Hall building originally carried bells that were used to summon the local fire brigade. 🔑

On the site of the Town Hall, in 1838, there stood a chapel-of-ease, belonging, according to the tithe apportionment, to the inhabitants of Wetherby. At this point, until the building of St James' church in 1842, Wetherby was in the Parish of Spofforth and as such, had no church of its own. Chapels-of-ease were provided to areas of parishes with significant populations that lay some distance from the mother church. The chapel building at Wetherby was slightly bigger than the current Town Hall, making



Wetherby Rural District Council yearbooks, Fireman's record book and papers of schools, medical officers, midwives etc., are held by West Yorkshire Archive Service as part of the Wetherby Historical Society Collections (WYL1487).

it quite large for a chapel-of-ease. Records of baptisms being performed at the chapel rather than the parish church, exist from 1783, however this is not a reliable indicator of when the chapel was built. Usually, chapels-of-ease provided local access to regular religious services, but marriages, baptisms and funerals were performed at the mother church. Consequently, Wetherby's chapel may already have existed before the first baptisms were held there in 1783. Indeed, 'A Topographical Dictionary of England' (1848), edited by Samuel Lewis, refers to St James' church at Wetherby as having replaced a 'former small ancient edifice'. 🗝️



Minutes, faculties and specifications of works amongst St James' parish records. (RDP105)

Keeping the Town Hall on your left, walk around the edge of the Market Place and pass in front of the bank and the Black Bull public house on your right. If you had passed this way in 1838, on the site of the current bank you would have found a house, shop and buildings belonging to William Hill, and leased, possibly to a relative, John Hill. The Black Bull however, has changed little since the tithe map was drawn. According to the tithe apportionment, this building was an inn of the same name in 1838. The Black Bull belonged to Quintin Rhodes, and was let to a female publican, Ann Brown. 🗝️

As illustrated by the Wetherby tithe map, after the Black Bull, you would have passed a further two properties on your right-hand side before reaching the modern junction of the Market Place with Church Street. These properties were a house, out-buildings and garden, and the Wheat Sheaf Public House, belonging to George Francis Barlow and Barnabas Brown respectively.


Just before the junction with the main road, Westgate, turn right into Church Street, and notice the blue plaque charting its history. As you



Records of the church school in Wetherby Town Hall from 1675, and baptism registers for the chapel-of-ease from 1783 are held by WYAS as part of the parish records of Wetherby, St James (RDP105).



A note signed 'Wm Hill, butcher of Wetherby' (C176/25) concerning the sale of goods is held by West Yorkshire Archive Service as part of the Hill family papers (C176).

will see, this street leads to Wetherby's Victorian church of St James, built to replace the town's chapel-of-ease in 1842. As such, on the 1838 tithe map, the first section of Church Street is somewhat undeveloped and appears only as a passageway between buildings. On your left-hand side here, according to the tithe apportionment, there stood a house and shop owned by William Willey. Further along Church Street, still on your left, were two more houses with shops, both belonging to George Francis Barlow and being let to William Brotherton and Thomas Precious. It is likely that this street was further developed when it became necessary to use it as the main route to the new church and school for the poor that was erected beside the place of worship. Church Street, nonetheless, has never been widened sufficiently for vehicular access and remains a pedestrian route to this day. 

On reaching the junction, pause and look to your left across Bank Street, labelled on the Wetherby tithe map as 'Back Lane'. Here you will note the current Methodist Church, originally built as a Wesleyan Chapel in 1829. This building was erected to replace a previous meeting house in Fox Yard, adjacent to the chapel, on land purchased from Mr James Wiggins for the sum of £760. This chapel building is entirely unchanged from its appearance on the 1838 Wetherby tithe map, when it is listed as belonging to the Trustees of the Methodist Chapel.

The term 'Back Lane', by which Bank Street was known in 1838, is a very common road name, and usually recalls an ancient access track running across the back of a series of small dwellings with long, narrow gardens. These dwellings were known as tofts and were often established in the medieval period to house rural peasant families who toiled in the open fields belonging to the local manor. These original dwellings had been demolished or replaced by the time the Wetherby tithe map was drawn, but surviving narrow land plots in 1838 are strong evidence for their prior existence. 'Back Lane', now Bank Street, may consequently mark one of the earliest parts of Wetherby.



Despite his brewery being absent from the tithe map of 1838, in 1839, Quintin Rhodes, later the owner of Wetherby Brewery, was able to offer a major contribution to the construction of St James' church. Both Rhodes and Richard Fountayne Wilson, Lord of the Manor of Ingmanthorpe, donated equal sums of £300 to the building project. Rhodes also provided the newly built church with a peel of six bells and an organ in 1845. The woodwork in St James' church is by Robert Thompson of Kilburn, who marks his work with a carved mouse. If you have time, it is worth a visit to seek out these church mice!



The parish records of St James' church 1675-2006 (RDP105) are held by West Yorkshire Archive Service.

Cross Bank Street now, turning right to pass in front of what is now a carpark and beer garden. Moving towards the junction with North Street, if you had walked this way in 1838, you would have passed in front of several houses, cottages and shops. The first of these houses, on the site of the current carpark and beer garden, was owned by George Francis Barlow and let to John Heckles. Next was a series of five cottages belonging to Thomas Wiggins. These were rented by families with the names Whitfield, Dickens, Braithwaite and Shaw, and by a lone female, Jane Whincup. Finally, at the end of this row, stood the dwelling and business of Thomas Wiggins himself, on a plot consisting of a house, shop and outbuildings.

Wiggins' plot was rather large, and the buildings at the end of Bank Street stretched much further into North Street than the current properties and footpath do. This resulted in them blocking almost half the width of the Great North Road (North Street) at this point, creating a famous bottle-neck. The narrowing of the Great North Road at Wetherby was 198 miles equidistant from London and Edinburgh and created a gap only 4 metres wide at its finest point. The gap was notoriously difficult to negotiate, and it was not uncommon for the wheels of carriages travelling in opposite directions through the town, to become locked together as they passed. The road was finally widened in 1929 by demolishing several properties that were causing the problem, including the Bowling Green Hotel that was later built on Thomas Wiggins' plot. Since the demolition, the plot at the end of Bank Street has been planted as gardens. A current Wetherby resident, aged 61, remembers his father's tales of the bottle-neck in North Street. His father was in the South Nottinghamshire Hussars, a territorial artillery regiment, and often recounted the challenge of negotiating a field gun and limber through the narrow gap!

At the junction of Bank Street with North Street, look diagonally across North Street to your right. Here, at the corner of Horse Fair, which suggests the street's former use as a place for the buying and selling of horses, The Angel Inn still stands, unchanged since its depiction on the Wetherby tithe map. In the 1838 tithe apportionment, The Angel is listed as an inn of the same name, belonging to Edwin Greenwood, and leased to John Clemishaw. Further down Horse Fair, behind this public house, there also stood a cattle market and several houses and shops, on the current site of Marks and Spencer. These dwellings and businesses belonged to William Hill and William Willey, who resided there, and to George Francis Barlow, who leased a house and buildings in Horsefair to William Naylor.

Turn left into North Street, and walk past the garden of rest, laid over the site of the buildings demolished to widen the Great North Road bottle-neck. Note the trophies displayed here, celebrating the success of the people of Wetherby in National Floral Competitions. According to the 1838 tithe map, part of this garden also occupies plot numbers 281 and 283, listed as a row of four cottages belonging to John Clemishaw and The Blacksmiths Arms public house, belonging to Quintin Rhodes. The cottages here were leased to families by the names of Harrison, Lawrence, Granger and Fawcett. The Blacksmiths Arms was run by publican, James Mason. The atmosphere of this now peaceful area has changed a great deal since 1838, when it was surely a bustling point of domestic and social life. Today the space is used in a rather more tranquil social capacity than might have been found in the Blacksmiths Arms, providing seating for residents and visitors of Wetherby alike to stop, chat and enjoy the floral displays.

At the far end of the garden of rest, among the flower beds, is a structure known as the Huguenot Arch. It bears a blue plaque describing its original site over a passageway between two houses at West End (or what is now known as Westgate, near the library). Local legend has it that these houses were built by the descendants of Huguenot refugees from France. French Huguenots or Calvinists were members of the Protestant Reformed Church of France, which grew rapidly after the Reformation reached the country in the early 16th century. The ensuing French Wars of Religion and Protestant massacres that took place later that century, drove many Huguenots from predominantly Catholic France, to more tolerant, Protestant countries, like England. A Huguenot or Calvinist chapel has existed in Wetherby, at the end of Victoria Street, since 1815, and suggests there must have been a significant French Protestant community to warrant it. The stone set in the Huguenot arch has a French inscription and was laid on 19th January 1827. The inscription reads: ‘ “Love your neighbour as yourself,” said the Evangelist’, but the significance of the date is unknown. It has been surmised it may have links to the Calvinist chapel, or mark the date of construction of the houses at West End.

Continue north past the bank on your left, occupying the former site of cottages and a house owned by George Francis Barlow and let to John P. Hesselton and George Turner respectively. **Pass the Swan and Talbot on your right-hand side**, displaying a further blue plaque. The Swan and Talbot was first licensed in 1627, and was listed in the 1824 sale catalogue for the town as having ample stabling, a soldiers’ room (or dormitory for sleeping a battalion) and a malt kiln with which to brew independently. The carriers of post (Royal Mail) departed from the now demolished stables here, to Leeds.

In 1838 however, the Swan and Talbot was listed in the Wetherby tithe apportionment as simply, The Swan Inn. It had buildings and a garden, belonged to Quintin Rhodes, and was let to William Treffit. It seems the 'Talbot' part of the inn's name must long have existed, but may have been dropped for a short while, perhaps in petulance due to its association with the Cavendish family, after the town's sale by the 6th Duke of Devonshire. 'Talbot' refers to Elizabeth Talbot, or Bess of Hardwick, the Countess of Shrewsbury from 1527 to 1608. The children of Elizabeth's second marriage to Sir William Cavendish in 1547, are the ancestors of the Dukes of Devonshire whose family name remains 'Cavendish' to this day. The form and shapes of the buildings at the Swan and Talbot have changed somewhat since their depiction on the Wetherby tithe map of 1838. However, the pub's current frontage appears 19th-century, suggesting some of its Victorian fabric remains.



The Swan and Talbot

A few yards further along North Street on your left, is the Manor House.

This building complex also appears on the Wetherby tithe map, having changed very little in structural form since 1838. According to the tithe apportionment, the manor house at this time was owned by George Francis Barlow, and leased to John Johnson. Until the township of Wetherby was sold, in 1824, by the 6th Duke of Devonshire, the gardens of Wetherby Manor were also the site of the court leet. Court leets, or manorial courts, were established in the medieval period and had responsibility for settling criminal and moral justice matters within the bounds of the manor.👁️

The Cavendish family were Lords of the Manor of Wetherby, and as such presided over trials by jury and the issue of punishment in the manor from 1602 to 1824. As well as settling local affairs, the manor court at Wetherby also had responsibility for appointing constables to keep social order, market inspectors to regulate trade, 'bellmen' or town criers to disseminate news, and pinders, to impound stray animals.



A Court Leet Presentment for Wetherby Court Leet, dated 1826, (WYL1283) is held by West Yorkshire Archive Service.

Continue along North Street now, passing modern housing and light industrial buildings on both sides of the road. Cross St James' Street.

According to the Wetherby tithe map, in 1838 there were no buildings at this point on either side of North Street. To the left were gardens belonging to Edwin Greenwood and the same George Francis Barlow who owned Wetherby Manor House. These were leased by Barlow and Greenwood to James Coates and John Clemishaw respectively.

To the right was a large piece of land associated with a row of cottages, owned by George Francis Barlow, which stood a short distance away on the footprint of modern houses (Farrier's Court) opposite the entrance to Barleyfields Lane and the Total filling station. These dwellings were leased to Mary Fletcher, Bryan Wood, William Leake, John March, George Allen and Ann Thackray. To the left, flanking the junction with Barleyfields Lane, stood a further house and garden, let by Edwin Greenwood to George Turner and several properties belonging to Quintin Rhodes, all of which are now demolished. These were houses with gardens, leased to Hannah Breasley and James Hall, along with a malt kiln used by Quintin Rhodes himself. Opposite the house rented by James Hall, the Royal Oak Inn still stands on the right-hand side of North Street. The Royal Oak is listed in the 19th-century tithe apportionment as a public house of the same name belonging to John Green and rented by a publican, John Craven.



North Street



The Royal Oak

Walk further along North Street now, to the entrance to York Place.

York Place is built on the site of a 19th-century open field belonging to Quintin Rhodes and being used as pasture. On the right-hand side of the road, opposite this junction, there were several cottages in 1838, numbered plots 2 to 6 on the tithe map. These have all now been replaced by modern buildings but were, at the time, owned by Edwin Greenwood and John Green, who let them to William Green, Charles Newsome, Thomas Garnett and John Esselton. John Green himself lived in the house at the end of the row.


Continuing up North Street, with York Road and an Esso filling station on your right-hand side, you will come to the Masonic Hall on your left.


The gates of the hall have the words *Lascelles Calcaria* and an inscription describing the laying of a foundation stone by Viscount Lascelles in 1927.

Stop here for a moment and look back towards the filling station.

According to the 1838 tithe apportionment, this Esso garage is built on the site of a plot of land known as The Croft. This belonged to Edwin Greenwood and was rented to William Powell for grass, but its name suggests there may once have been a dwelling there, as the term ‘croft’ traditionally refers to a small farm or holding.

Turning back to the Masonic Hall, go past the building, turn left, and climb up to the level of the disused railway, part of the Church Fenton-Harrogate line, which opened in 1847/8. Plans for this railway at Wetherby were at some stage in history, drawn onto the township’s tithe map in pencil. In 1838, a tithe plot here, known as Quarry Close, was used for grass and let to Hannah Hall by Richard Fountayne Wilson. This plot was later dissected by the Leeds-Wetherby railway line in 1876. The Leeds-Wetherby railway took some time to plan. It was originally proposed by the Leeds-York Railway Company in 1846, but a bill allowing its construction was not passed by the Select Committee of the House of Commons until 1866. The line finally began to be built by North Eastern Railways in 1871, and ran from Cross Gates (Leeds) to the existing Harrogate-Church Fenton line at this point. The 1847 station for the Harrogate-Church Fenton line was in York Road. The pencil lines drawn onto the Wetherby tithe map are labelled periodically with the letters ‘N.E.R’, but these may have been added during the 19th century, or in 1902, when the N.E.R added a further branch line, allowing trains to run from Harrogate to the west, via Leeds. A new station about a mile from where you are standing, serving passengers to Harrogate, Leeds and Wetherby, opened in 1902 when York Road Station closed to passengers. The Leeds-Wetherby railway line closed under the 1964 Re-Shaping of British Railways, better known as the ‘Beeching Axe’. The disused track bed is now known locally as the Harland Way and is part

of the Sustrans National Cycle Network, Route 66. 

Walk straight ahead following the disused track over land declared by the 1832 Wetherby tithe map to be a 'Limestone Quarry'. **At a junction of the tracks, take the left fork** and cut across land recorded in the tithe apportionment as Barley Field belonging to Quintin Rhodes and used for arable and grass. 



Disused railway

Following the track ahead, pass over Barleyfields Road. This road appears on the Wetherby tithe map as a wide access track to one of the four, originally open fields, that fed the residents of Wetherby in medieval times, prior to land enclosure. These fields were known to local people as Barley Field, Hall Field, West Field and Heuthwaite. Medieval peasants, perhaps living in the tofts on Bank Street or 'Back Lane', would have farmed designated strips of these fields on behalf of the manorial lord. In payment, the peasant families would have taken a portion of the produce they helped to cultivate. Barleyfields Road retains the name of the open field to which it led.



West Yorkshire Archive Service holds a letter by Edwin Greenwood concerning the disputed valuation of land to be sold for the 1846 proposal for the Leeds-Wetherby line (11D74/3/73/182).



The woodland along the track that you are walking on has largely developed since the railway closed. It is young woodland, but it already provides a rich habitat for small song birds like the long-tailed tit, blackbird and chaffinch. Some woodland plants like dog's mercury and enchanter's nightshade are already getting established. As you walk, the railway track enters a series of steep-sided cuttings where layer after layer of Magnesian Limestone has been exposed for the first time in 260 million years. The surface is now covered in a lattice of tree roots, climbers and Hart's tongue fern.

Walk straight ahead now a little further along the disused rail track, crossing a further tithe plot, belonging to Randall Gossip, which was part of Barley Field in 1838. **Pause after a stone bridge carries Quarry Hill Lane over the track above you.** A little way ahead the rail bed of the Harrogate-Church Fenton line can be seen, coming in from your right. This railway



The stone railway bridge

line already existed in 1876 when the Leeds-Wetherby line, along which you are walking, was opened. The Harrogate-Church Fenton line was built in 1848 by George Hudson, and the York and North Midland railway company. Pencil lines depicting this track have also been drawn onto the Wetherby tithe map. The Harrogate-Church Fenton line operated for 116 years, and it has the dubious honour of being the very first branch railway to close under the 1964 Beeching Axe. The spot where the Harrogate-Church Fenton and Leeds-Wetherby lines met is labelled on the Wetherby tithe map as being, in 1838, a large Limestone Quarry. The scar left by 19th-century methods of mining limestone by blasting with dynamite can still be seen straddling the 'V' marked by the railway cuttings. To your right, beside the quarry, was Rock Cottage, a house and garden owned by Richard Richardson and leased to David Pick. It is likely that Pick was the foreman or manager of the quarry, which warranted his living so close.

Walk ahead now, crossing a tithe plot labelled Quarry Hill on the 1838 map, and also belonging to Richard Richardson. **Pass under a steel bridge carrying the road to Spofforth and Harrogate.** This road appears on the Wetherby tithe map and is labelled 'the Knarborough and Wetherby Road'. The area just beyond the road bridge here is the site of Wetherby's second railway station, built in 1902. The



The steel road bridge

station consisted of stone buildings concentrated on one platform and an iron footbridge overhead. The front of the building was sheltered to allow passengers to board stage coaches without exposure to the elements. The station was closed in 1964. A third station at Wetherby Race Course, to which 'Race Specials' were run on race days, had already closed in 1959. The buildings here were finally demolished in the early 1970s and the station's footprint is now a carpark used by walkers, cyclists and users of the sports fields west of the river Wharfe.

In 1838 however, there were no buildings on the plot later occupied by Wetherby Station. This spot simply marked the Wetherby tithe boundary with Linton Liberty. A liberty was one or a group of manors, in which the rule of the manorial lord(s) was considered historically dominant over the power of the church. This meant, since their medieval origins, 'liberties' had never paid tithes to the church. Consequently, they were excused mapping under the 1836 Tithe Commutation Act that resulted in the creation of 19th-century tithe maps. As such, the area of Linton that borders Wetherby township appears as a blank space on the Linton tithe map.



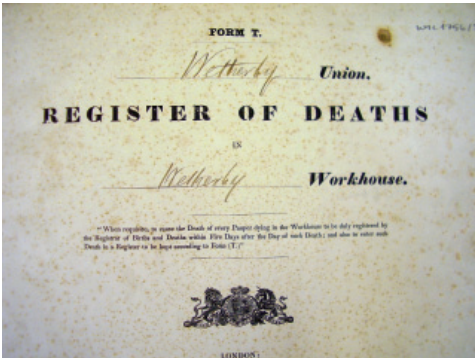
Site of Wetherby Railway Station

Walk straight ahead, through 19th-century Linton Liberty, and exit the carpark on the station footprint via an opening to your left. Emerging into Linton Road, cross over and turn left along it, until you reach a set of steps on your right. Pause here for a moment. According to the Wetherby tithe map, at the top of these steps, on their far side,

stood a small garden and a tiny building, belonging to Richard Fountayne Wilson, who leased the plot to William Webster. In 1838, Linton Road was known as Sicklinghall Road, being the main route out of Wetherby towards Sicklinghall. The road was owned and maintained by the Yorkshire West Riding magistrates. A branch of Linton Road is shown on the Wetherby tithe map, turning down the slope to your right, along the same line as the modern steps.



Wetherby Union Workhouse



Register of Deaths at Wetherby Union Workhouse, from 1864. (WYL1756/1)



Extract from Register of Births, Wetherby Union Workhouse (WYL1756/2)

Before leaving Linton Road, turn and look towards Wetherby town centre. On your left, a little way down Linton Road, is the site of Wetherby Union Workhouse. This workhouse was built in 1863 to replace a previous one in North Street, and consequently does not appear on the 1838 Wetherby tithe map. The building here was in operation as a workhouse until 1948, when, with the establishment of the NHS, it became Wharfe Grange Hospital, specialising in mental health. The hospital closed in 1993, and was converted into flats with modern houses being built in the grounds. In the 1838 apportionment however, Wetherby's previous workhouse is not listed as being in North Street. Rather, it is placed at the river end of Caxton Street (then Quarry Hill), and was then run by Thomas Clark, who leased the facility from Richard Richardson. 🔑

DETOUR ➔

To your right-hand side, opposite where the 1863 workhouse stood, is a wooded area, known locally as Crossley Park Wood. In 1838, this area was an orchard leased to William Webster by Richard Fountayne Wilson. It is now maintained by the Woodland Trust.



The records of Wetherby Union Workhouse Infirmary and later, Wharfe Grange Hospital, from c.1864 (WYL1756), are held by West Yorkshire Archive Service.



DETOUR ➔ You may wish to walk along Linton Road to look at the workhouse building. It is well worth the small detour, but be sure to return to the top of the steps before continuing the trail.

Descend the steps now, following the same route as Wetherby's 19th-century residents, down the steep slope of Scaur Bank. At the bottom of the hill, walk straight ahead, ignoring a turn-off to the right, and then turn sharply left across a modern footbridge over the river Wharfe. In crossing the river, you pass back from Linton Liberty, into the 19th-century township of Wetherby and onto the unmapped and untithable flood plains of Wetherby Ings. 🌿



Scaur Bank

After crossing the footbridge, turn left and follow the path along the river bank. Wetherby Ings remains a flood plain and is currently laid out as sports fields. **As you walk, look across the river to the opposite bank.** There are good views to the rear of the properties facing onto Westgate and Scott Lane. If you had passed this way in 1838, you would first have noted buildings after the modern block of flats recently built on the site of the old boating station. The first of these properties were three cottages and gardens, let to James Dawson, James Kirk and Thomas Uttley, by the Rev. James Geldart. Following these were several further cottages, grouped together, and a row of small gardens. Behind them stood the workhouse mentioned at the end of Caxton Street in the Wetherby tithe apportionment. These cottages and gardens were owned by George Francis Barlow and Thomas Wheelhouse, who let them to tenants named Hesselton, Simpson, Brogden, Wharton, Dalby and Lister. A school house, and Georgian Bath House that still stands today, completed the strip of properties on the river bank. These were owned by John Clayton and leased to John Hesslop and John Thompson respectively.



As you cross the bridge, take a close look at the tree tops. The common alder loves to grow next to water and has little cone-like fruit and chocolate-brown catkins. As you look up and down the river, you might be lucky enough to catch sight of an otter, but most will have to be content with noting the aerobatics of the house martins and swallows that skim the water.

From the 17th century, bath houses in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Durham were relatively common. The Wetherby bath house was used for cold water therapy, which involved several dips in the freezing 2.4m x 3.7m pool, followed by a period in the warming room above, playing cards and taking food and wine before a raging fire. The bath house can still be accessed through Jubilee Gardens, the entrance to which is adjacent to the mouth of Wharfedale Lawns off Westgate.



The 17th-century Bath House

A 19th-century walker would not have noted any further properties on the bank opposite until the river Wharfe begins to sweep left. There, high up, stood buildings and a garth, belonging to Ann Pullien, who let them to William Webster. Parts of some of these buildings still survive in the current structures. Adjacent to them was a house, with associated buildings and gardens owned by Thomas Robinson, followed by the site of Wetherby Castle.

Wetherby Castle is said to have been built in 1140 by the Percy family, Earls of Northumberland and the most powerful noble peers in northern England for much of the medieval period. The castle was erected during civil wars that resulted from the death of King Henry I, to defend the river crossing at Wetherby from Scottish armies who frequently raided North Yorkshire and surrounding areas. Built without royal permission, however, the building was taken down in 1155 on the orders of Henry II, to the point where only the foundations of the keep remain visible today. Around 1238, following its demolition, the remains of the castle passed to the Knights Templar, a Christian military order famous for their part in The Crusades. They were replaced by the Knights Hospitaller of St John, a further military Christian order, until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539. During the 17th-century English Civil War, what remained of the castle was held by Parliamentary troops under the command of Thomas Fairfax, who repelled a Royalist attack from York. By 1838, however, the Wetherby tithe map carries no evidence of any buildings or ruins belonging to this long-flattened, medieval castle, naming the spot where it once stood as simply the house, buildings, yard and gardens of Quintin Rhodes.

Finally, at the bulge of the bend in the river, notice River Cottage, much closer to the water than the castle site. This cottage appears on the Wetherby tithe map, its footprint almost unchanged to the present day, and was a house, buildings and hillside close owned by Richard Fountayne Wilson, and let to William Darce. This house was the last building on the river bank in 1838, before one rounded the corner to return to the site of the old mill and Wetherby Bridge. **Follow the path ahead of you around the water's edge to return to Wetherby Leisure Centre carpark and complete the walk.** 🌿



Plan of Wetherby, 1838 (Leeds, WYL333/68)



The river Wharfe is designated as a Local Wildlife site (SEGI) and is one of the most natural rivers in West Yorkshire, rich in fish, birds and insects. The bank you are walking along is a mass of purple meadow crane's bill flowers in mid to late summer.

Written by Amy Taylor - Tracks in Time Outreach Officer, Nov. 2009. All details correct at time of going to press.