

34. Turpinlands. In the sixteen and seventeen hundreds tax was collected by appointed officials who would ensure that it made its way to government bodies in York. However in out of the way places, as in the American Wild West, this represented a temptation to a particular type of criminal. In Mickleby during this period the local exchequer was robbed by an armed criminal gang who had laid in wait in a field below Low Farm in Mickleby. The gang were chased by a posse all the way to Stamford Bridge. We do not know if that money was recovered but the field where they hid is still known as "Turpinlands" to this day. A number of 17th/18th Century Coins discovered by a farmer in Mickleby could be the remains of coins lost in one of these raids as the outlaws escaped with their loot! The coins date from William III (1689 - 1702) to George II (1727 - 1760).

35. & 36. Pinfolds. Ugthorpe Pinfold (35), recently restored, dates to around 1700 or earlier. In this period people were largely self-sufficient, often growing their own vegetables. Stray animals could therefore be a real hazard. These strays would be captured by an appointed person called a Pinder who was appointed by the Parish or the Manorial Court. He would put the animals in Pinfolds like the one at Ugthorpe and the offending owner would have to pay a small fine known as "Poundage" to be allowed to retrieve them. There is also a "Pinder House" (36) in Mickleby where the Pinder lived for that village and his Pinfold was originally positioned next to the house. Many Pinfolds continued in use into the twentieth century

The Modern Age (1750AD – now)

37. Low Farm. This farm dates to the seventeen seventies and is typical of the style of farms known as the "Planned Farms". Following the enclosure acts taking place at this time, the large estates were able to use the newly enclosed land to modernise farming methods in what is now known as the "Agricultural Revolution". In the planned farms, which replaced the previous family group or "Clan" hamlets in many instances, one couple could now do a variety of tasks more efficiently than the multiple tenants of the Hamlets they replaced. It was a period of great profit for landowners and of terrible hardship for those surplus tenants "cleared" off the land. The enclosure laws denied access to Common land and prevented historic rights like the gathering of fuels such as wood and peat. Unable to survive, the dispossessed peasantry moved to the cities to become fodder for the subsequent "Industrial revolution" which prospered in the nineteenth century. The newly efficient farms created the surplus food required for the now landless city dwellers that populated the mills and factories of the northern Boom towns. This new arrangement would help Britain create an empire. However it would be as late as 1850 before more people actually lived in the towns and cities than "off the land".

38. Old Sandstone Quarry. The new building boom created the need for new carved stones with which to build. Labour was cheap and the stones would be beautifully carved into the delightful herringbone patterns so recognisable in the fabric of many of our traditional farms. As the 1800's progressed labour costs rose and the patterning, or "tooling" as it is known, became more utilitarian in style; herringbone giving way to "punched" stone then ultimately to the less characterful machine cut sandstone of today.

39. Old Sand Pit. As much as stone was required, so was mortar. Mickleby sits on alternating tracts of hard clay and "sharp" builder's sand. One such tract ensured that Low Farm had to be built 100 metres south of the village. In this gap, on the southern side of Low Lane, a huge sandpit was created and sand was extracted to build the new "Planned Farms" and other homes and buildings in the village. Mulgrave estate owned a number of properties in the village but many others were in the hands of freeholders as evidenced in the enclosure award of 1777.

40. & 41. Public Houses. As well as offering accomodation to travellers and food and shelter to tired horses, Coaching Inns and Public Houses were centres of the community long before the modern era. In a world before the domination of recreation time by the TV or computers, at the pub you could play cards or dominoes, pursue sports such as quoits or darts and even enjoy simpler pursuits like making conversation. Both Ugthorpe, in the form of the Black Bull (40) and Mickleby with the White Hart (41), are lucky to still have their own pubs. The Black Bull is noted for its fine food whilst The White Hart Inn is home to a weekly folk club and an annual "onion growing" competition. Both also have darts teams and a quoits pitch.

42. Christ Church (Church of England). For centuries Ugthorpe was in the parish of Lythe which covered vast acres as part of the Diocese of York. A list of rectors dates back to 1233 and it is believed that there was a monastery at Lythe in Anglo Saxon times. A foundation stone was laid for Christ Church, Ugthorpe in 1855 on land donated by James Hindson a year earlier. It was consecrated by the Archbishop of York on August 13th 1857.

43. St Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Ugthorpe (and former site of Victorian Boarding School). A Roman Catholic Chapel was opened in Ugthorpe in 1769. This served until 1810 when a new chapel was built. A substantial boarding school was also built but failed, due to its inaccessibility in harsh winters and the lack of accessibility to the village by rail. It later was dismantled. The present church, dedicated to St. Anne, was built in 1855. At the same time and the old chapel became a school which eventually closed in the 1970's. In the 1940's the congregation of this church were alarmed by the rattling of machine guns overhead as British fighters planes downed a German bomber which went on to crash several miles away at Newton Mulgrave.

44. Former Congregational Chapel. The Congregational Chapel in Mickleby was built in 1811 at a cost of £285. Prior to that services had been held in a private house. It opened for worship in May 1812. It was reported by Ord in 1846 that it had 30 scholars in Sunday school. It was to remain an independent Congregational Church having decided not to join the United Reform Church. It closed and was converted to private dwellings in 2010.

45. Former Wesleyan Chapel. This handsome chapel was built in 1851 for followers of the Wesleyan tradition (though there is no record that John Wesley ever preached here). It was closed and sold in 1920 and is now a private house.

46. Jack Robinson Beck. Jack Robinson lived at Longstone Farm, to the west of Mickleby, in the first decade of the nineteenth century. He murdered a servant girl who he had got pregnant and buried her body in this lonely underpass. He was hung for his crimes in August 1807. This otherwise scenic underpass can take on an eerie quality in the dark.

47. 48. & 49. Local Small industry. (47) Site of Village Cobblers, Mickleby. A small garage on Low Lane in front of Flatts House was once the shop of the village cobbler. In living memory this building contained all the tools and instruments required to carry on this traditional trade. It would have been typical of the small skilled enterprises that once serviced village communities until the 20th century. A Brick and Tile Works (48) existed until recently in the village of Ugthorpe. A Village Abattoir (49) also existed at Ugthorpe. Until a couple of decades ago each village or collection of villages would have had its own abattoir. The one at Ugthorpe butchered pigs. Most closed due to increased EU legislation, which rendered them unprofitable, combined with the rise of the industrial scale abattoir favoured by the emergent supermarkets.

50. Rose Hill Farm. In the second decade of the twenty first century Rose Hill Farm is one of only three dairy farms now operating in Mickleby. At one time there would have been a dozen or more dairy farms in Mickleby alone. This is because the nature of the land and the quality of the local soil lent itself to dairy farming. However in the mid 1990's the British government removed the protection of the Milk Marketing Board and small milking enterprises were often no longer viable as the milk price tumbled. The loss of the dairy herds led to some farms being converted to homes for commuters, a significant social trend in recent times.

Mickleby & Ugthorpe Heritage Trail



Viking Period (866AD – 1066AD)

14. & 15. Viking Place names. (14). Ugthorpe. The name Ugthorpe is believed to derive from the Viking personal name "Uggi" and Thorpe translates as "settlement". (15). Mickleby. "Bi" or "By" is the Viking word for Village and "Mickle" means "Great" or "Large" in Old Norse. In the late eighth century and through into the ninth the Pagan Vikings were the scourge of the Anglo Saxons. At first they came to plunder. They were slave traders who arrived mob handed (sometimes in as many as 200 ships) to seek booty and captives and must have struck fear into the hearts of the Anglo Saxon farmers of these villages. In 866 the Viking leader Halfdene captured nearby York and ultimately made it his capital in England. From then on Vikings became increasingly settled in the area.

16. Kelding Well. The Vikings may have chosen Mickleby for the ready supply of clean drinking water that rises from the ground at the Kelding Well. Now a series of troughs, this was one of the principal water supplies for the village until 1913. It was a place where the residents would come to collect water with their buckets. Keld is an Old Norse (Anglo Saxon) word meaning spring and "Ing" could either mean "People" i.e. the people's spring, or "Fields" i.e. the fields with the spring. Either way we know from its name that this clean drinking water supply was being drawn upon since Viking times and very likely for several millennia before that.

17. & 18. "Howes" (17). Stump Howe and (18) Loose Howe. Both these Howes are prehistoric burial mound like the smaller Tumuli in the area. However, once again, it is the Vikings who named these features. The Vikings also bequeathed local dialect words such as dollop, gawp, bairn and seaves (rushes). They also gave us their word for an area divided into thirds: "Riding" as in "North Riding". It is a name that persisted in use in this part of North Yorkshire until the 1970's when the "Ridings" were dispensed with in a government reorganisation.

Norman and Late Medieval Period (1066AD – 1537AD)

19. Domesday Book. Though not a feature of our heritage trail it is worth noting that it is possible to locate both Mickleby (then Michelbi) and Ugthorpe (Ugetorp) in the "Doomsday book", a tax assessment commissioned by the French Norman ruler of Normandy, William the Conqueror. He began his reign in England in 1066 following victory at the battle of Hastings. After rebellion against his rule William enacted a brutal revenge in the dark winter of 1069/70 known as the "Harrying of the North". It was a systematic programme of genocide and destruction in which people were killed along with their cattle; their crops were burned and their wells poisoned. It must have been a pitiful scene as the church bells rang out in the Vale of York to warn of the impending danger as Williams's battle hardened professional soldiers moved from village to village on their blood thirsty mission. In the Domesday book compiled some years later the opening word for Mickleby is chilling "Vasta" (Waste).

20. Ridge and Furrow. The medieval peasants of Mickleby and Ugthorpe did not use heavy horses to pull their ploughs or even their carts; they used a team of two oxen and a single bladed plough. These peasants would farm the large fields around the villages that were divided into strips we call "Ridge and Furrow". We have the names of two of the fields around Mickleby: "North Field" which gives its name to the farm on Coverdale lane, and the South fields below the village which are named as such on old maps. Much of the Ridge and Furrow around both villages was ploughed flat by modern machinery in recent years. However it can still be seen on West Lane (formerly known as "Flatts Lane") in Mickleby and at various points around the two villages.

21. Medieval Metal Arrowhead. Beyond the Village fields lay the Common Land and Moor. Here the local aristocracy could hunt deer and wild boar. This isolated arrowhead discovered on Ellerby Moor could have fired at a proud stag that managed to evade capture. Deer still live in the woods adjacent to Ellerby Moor and their numbers have increased in recent years.

22. Ugthorpe Mill. A beam in this old mill records the date of 1796, however a mill is recorded in Ugthorpe in 1776 and it is possible that there has been a mill on the site from a much earlier date. Indeed a miller of Ugthorpe is mentioned in the thirteenth century in a Charter of Guisbrough Priory. It would be the Lord of the Manor who would operate the Mill (possibly, in this case, Ugthorpe Manor). In medieval times peasants were not allowed to mill their own bread. There were a number of reasons for this; one was that it was a useful monopoly which helped enrich the local Lord; another was that it also prevented people from not declaring their full harvest which would have been subject to Tithes; a tax that meant those working the land gave a percentage of their produce to the church.

23. Fish Ponds. There were two fish ponds in the field on the western side of the Mill that were back filled in the 1970's. Although having been used for some time as informal rubbish tips, there is at least one nineteenth century painting in existence that illustrates them being fished. It is interesting to speculate if they were operated by the church as fish ponds can be found in association with ecclesiastical holdings. Monasteries were major landowner in pre-reformation times. It is known that the Augustinian Monks of Guisbrough Priory held land in the area and that the Prior was the sole Lord of Ugthorpe in 1316. He would, perhaps, represent the most likely candidate for ownership of the Mill.

24. & 25. Church "Grange" Land. (24). Mickleby Low Grange. To the bottom of Low Lane (formerly known as "Keld Lane") is a farm known as Mickleby Low Grange. Grange Land was owned by the Church. In the late medieval period the church, funded in part by the Tithes, served not just as spiritual guardians but to some extent the role of social security; operating hospitals, feeding the poor and even educating people. Church land was sometimes called "grange" and the name "Mickleby Low Grange" indicates land that they may have owned, as indeed does (25) Mickleby High Grange, the former name of the Land of Nod farm, once owned by the Archbishopric of York.

26. Spindle Whorls. In the medieval period sheep farming for wool was a major activity in what is now the National Park. Evidence of this activity has been found in two locations in the village of Mickleby. On both the Pennock field at Low Farm and in a field above Bog House lead spindle whorls have been found that date to the 13th or 14th century. They were used to spin wool and are both in excellent condition. The one discovered at Bog House Farm was in the vicinity of a paved floor which may represent a contemporary dwelling such as a long house or a shieling. It would be sitting up against the Roman Road which would still at that time be the major route for wheeled traffic and a possible source of revenue from passing travellers. 13th and 14th century pottery shards have also been discovered in the village of Mickleby.

Post Medieval (1537 – 1750)

27. Ugthorpe Hall Farm. Now a working farm, this building was once a moated medieval Hall. It was built or, more probably, rebuilt in 1586 by Roger Radcliffe who was a member of the wealthy Radcliffe family who owned Mulgrave Castle. Following the reformation of Henry VIII which began in 1537 the protestant/catholic pendulum swung backwards and forwards until England eventually settled on being Protestant State. During these turbulent times a bloody incident involving local Catholics and soldiers from York took place and a wounded soldier was brought to Ugthorpe Hall and was attended to by Katherine Radcliffe, Roger's daughter. It was one factor in the undoing of the Catholic Radcliffe's extended family who were dispossessed of the Mulgrave estate in the early seventeenth century. The Hall still has an intact priest hole. It would have hidden renegade priests, who were illegally engaged in continuing the outlawed Catholic faith, from government forces.

28. Sheffield Moor. Mulgrave Estate became a possession of Edmund Sheffield who was created Earl Mulgrave in 1625. This fine shooting estate has descended by marriage and still comprises numerous farms in the district. Edmund's family name that can still be seen in Sheffield Moor to the west of Ugthorpe. Our illustration shows a victorian gamekeeper from 1870 guarding the moor from poachers on behalf of the land owner.

29. Bog House Farm, along with Ugthorpe Hall, is one of the oldest farms in either of the two villages boasting fifteenth century origins. It was outside of the village of Mickleby and did not form part of the "Common land"; the name given to the large unfenced areas between the medieval "strip" fields of the different villages. Evidently it was a standalone holding, though it could also have originated as a small hamlet as many of the modern outlying farmsteads were in the period before much of the Common Land was enclosed by Acts of Parliament in the seventeenth century to nineteenth centuries. The Mulgrave area, including Mickleby and parts of Ugthorpe, was enclosed in 1777.

30. Mickleby Watermill. Following a reference to a Mill in an eighteenth century deed a Watermill was discovered by the Mulgrave Community Research Project on land to the east of Mickleby village in 2012. It is believed that the watermill was of the type powered by water that flowed beneath the wheel but did not rise with it. Some stonework is still visible at the site.

31. Cumberland Corner. Bequeathed to us by word of mouth is the fact that an area to the immediate West of Mickleby village, near to the turn off for Mickleby Lodge, is a piece of land known as Cumberland Corner. At first glance this name may appear to refer to "Butcher" Cumberland who commanded the troops against the Jacobite uprisings of the eighteenth century. However it seems equally or perhaps more likely that the Cumberland in question was a seventeenth century Sheriff of Yorkshire who commanded forces that fought across this area during the civil war of the mid 1640's. Perhaps there were troops who were billeted at Mickleby during the siege of the Norman Mulgrave Castle a few miles away, or alternatively were engaged in the fighting at nearby Borrowby; an event attested to by cannon balls found there. Two civil war period cannon balls have also been found at Tranmire suggesting a skirmish took place there too. As Mickleby and Ugthorpe lie between Tranmire, Borrowby and Mulgrave it seems unlikely that they would have escaped the fighting of this turbulent period.

32. Unknown Feature. A Banjo shaped feature, surveyed in 2012 by the Mulgrave Community Research Project, can be seen on Victorian maps sitting above the village with panoramic views of the Vale of Mulgrave and the important highway of High Street. Could this perhaps be a civil war entrenchment, a kind of "pillbox" of its day that perhaps gave its name to Cumberland Corner? Less romantically it could simply be an old quarry. Evidence to date is inconclusive.

33. Postgate Way. In the last quarter of the seventeenth century a fabricated plot gave rise to a renewed period of difficulty for the area's substantial Catholic population. Motivated by these rumours, a London based excise man called John Reeves, came to the Whitby area and arrested Father Nicholas Postgate (born locally in 1596 or 1597), a priest in his eighties who lived just outside of Ugthorpe. Father Postgate, who had served the local community for decades, was arrested and taken to York and hung, drawn and quartered on August 7th 1679. Recognised for his piety and service to the people of the area, Postgate Way is named after the old priest and in spring is resplendent with daffodils, a flower whose petals were once held to be symbolic of the five wounds of Christ. The Ugthorpe daffodils have been considerably enhanced in recent years by the local W.I.