

Byland Abbey's Medieval Estate in Asby Parish

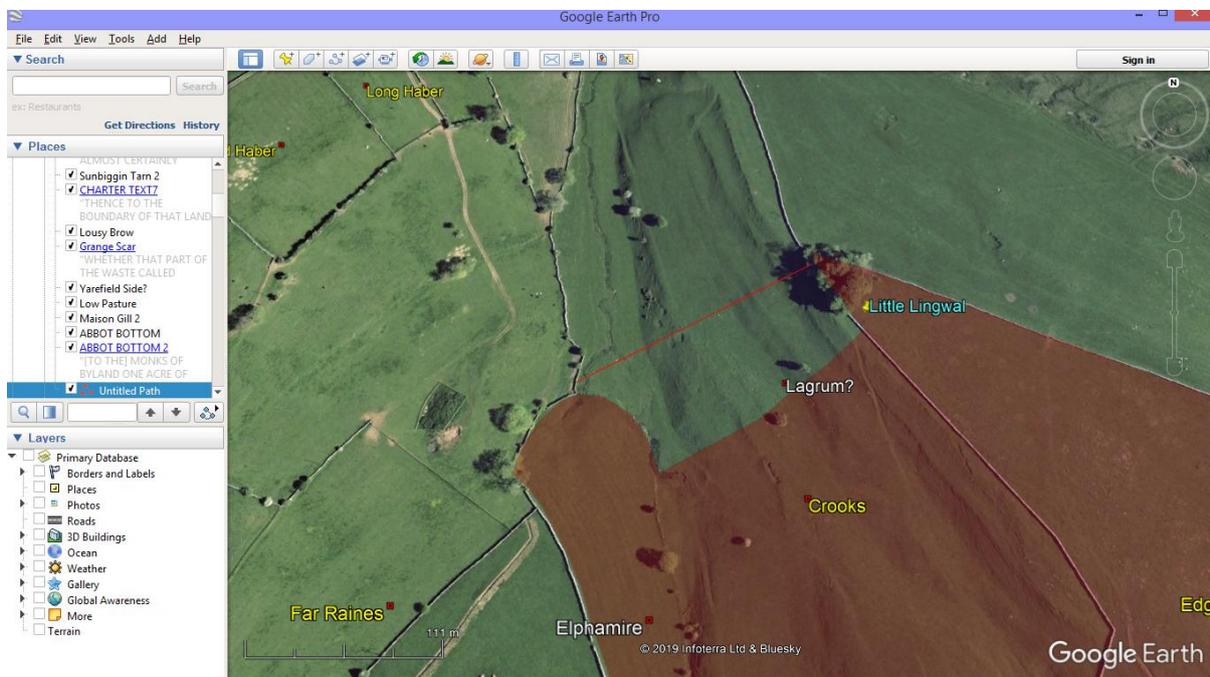
Updates as of 25/01/2019

New elements of the Parish Landscape will continue to be discovered. Further documents about it will be unearthed. Mistakes in the interpretation of landscape features and documents will continue to be identified and corrected. Here are two updates to the content of this video.

Update No. 1 (25/01/2019)

The boundary described in a 12th century document shown in the textbox at 11m 10s in the video as going “then in a straight line across to Little Lingwal”.

Closer inspection of the ground surface in this area has enabled the identification of the remains of what may have been a stone-faced earthen bank following a straight line in precisely the manner described in the document. That bank is a little further north than the assumed line shown in the video. It begins close to the boundary line of the northern end of the field called ‘Elphamire’, as can be seen in this screenshot where the line of the bank – shown in red - has been added.

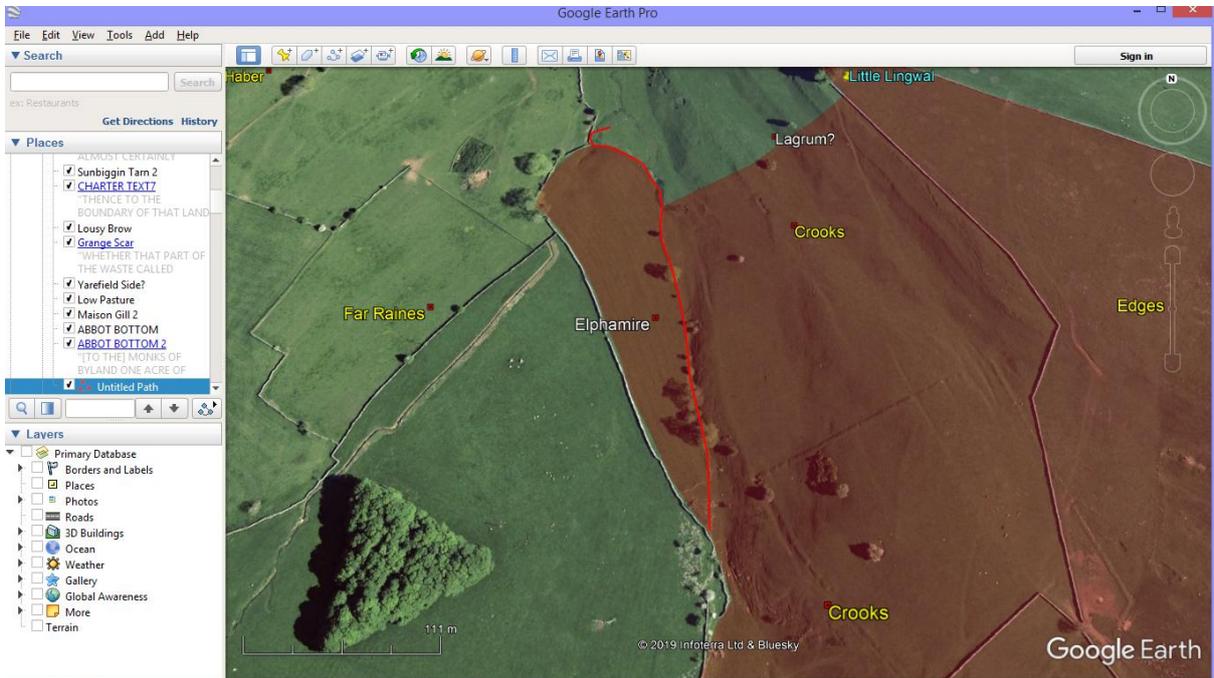


This second illustration shows the line of the bank looking from the north of ‘Elphamire’ towards ‘Little Lingwal’.



This boundary line was identified when a search was made for landmarks described in a document about the enclosure of a parcel of ground in 1590. Following these landmarks in the landscape produces the conclusion that the parcel of land being enclosed was the area which became known in the late 18th century as 'Elphamire'. This conclusion creates some questions about why the land known as 'Elphamire' at this date (but included as part of the field called 'Crooks' by the time of the creation of the Tithe Map in the 1840s) was shown in those tithe documents – along with adjacent, former Byland lands – as being free of tithes. Because it does seem that in 1590, 'Elphamire' was (in the words of the enclosure document) “moor, common and waste ground commonly called and known by the name of 'Buttergill Crooks” and, by implication, had *not* been enclosed as part of the Byland Estate some four centuries earlier.

It is also seems probable that a 'castern dike', which is one of the landmarks described in the 1590 enclosure document, was a boundary of the earlier Byland Abbey holding. Therefore, in this area, the boundary of the Byland land probably ran down the western boundary of 'Maison Gill', then went along the 'castern dike' on the eastern side of 'Elphamire' before meeting the bank we've just looked at, which carried the boundary in “a straight line across to Little Lingwal”. Here is a photograph of that 'castern dike' on the eastern side of 'Elphamire' and a screen shot of the modified line of the Byland Estate boundary – shown in red - in the landscape.



Update No. 2 (25/01/2019)

The lands of the hospital at York, known first as the Hospital of St Peter and , from the 13th century, as the Hospital of St Leonard.

Additional medieval charters which refer to lands granted to this hospital in Asby which were published by the Royal Commission on Historical Documents in 1885 and 1906 have been examined. Descriptions of land in these charters show that an oxgang of land here consisted of 10 customary acres. A customary acre in Westmorland was around 1.4 statute acres, so an oxgang would be about 14 statute acres (5.7ha). Therefore the area of the Hospital's holding – 16 oxgangs - which is described at 49m 35s in the video would have been around 224 statute acres, or a little over 90ha.