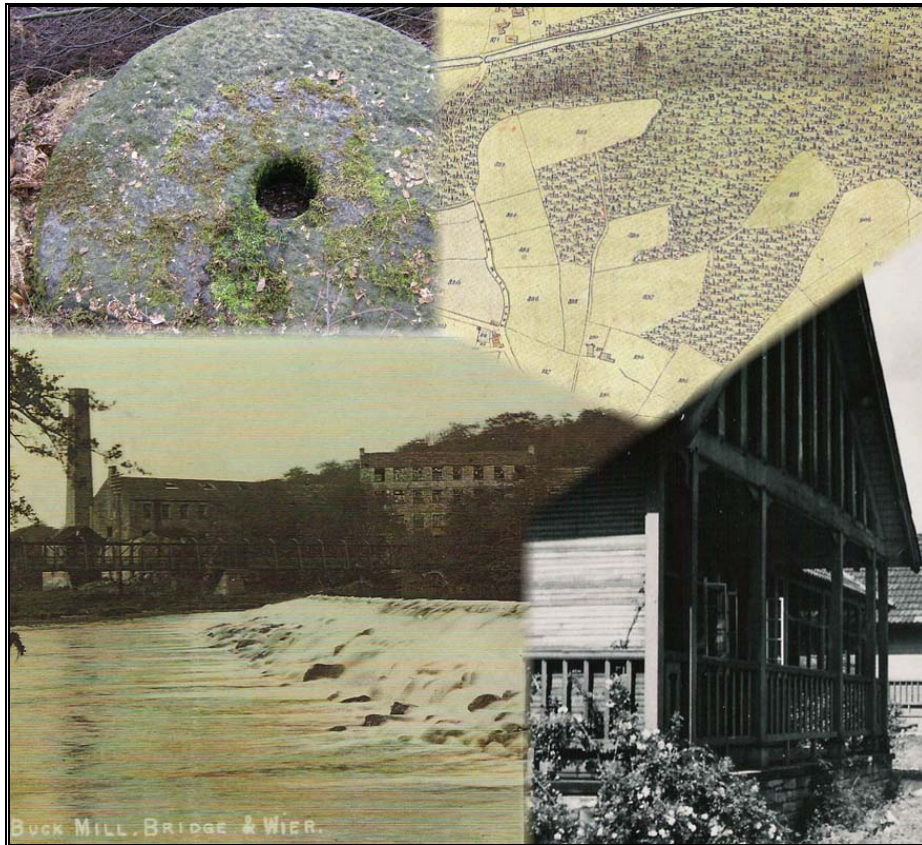


BUCK WOOD, BRADFORD
Archaeological Survey Report



March 2006

BUCK WOOD, THACKLEY, BRADFORD: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Archaeological Survey of Buck Wood near Idle in West Yorkshire, was commissioned by the Friends of Buck Wood and undertaken in February 2006. The project was funded through the Local Heritage Initiative from the Countryside Agency in partnership with the Friends of Buck Wood.

Buck Wood is included in English Nature's *Inventory of Ancient Woodlands in West Yorkshire* (Provisional 1994) and is centred on grid reference SE174394. The wood was retained as the property of the Lord of the Manor of Idle from medieval times until it was sold to the Corporation of Bradford at the beginning of the 20th century, when the Esholt Sewage Works were built (Dr Eileen White, unpublished manuscript).

Location

Today the wood encompasses a broad semi-circular zone overlooking a marked bend of the River Aire just to the north of the village of Thackley in West Yorkshire (Figure 1). Approaching from the west it is evident that it occupies a plateau of high ground overlooking the River Aire as well as taking in the steep north facing slope that runs down to the Leeds Liverpool canal, which forms much of the boundary of the wood for the purposes of this survey. The general altitude ranges between approximately 60m along the canal towpath, to 135m along the adjacent Ainsbury Avenue. The site comprises a mixture of habitats including broad-leaved woodland, mixed deciduous/coniferous plantation, a small marshland area within the woodland, discrete areas of semi-improved neutral horse-grazed pasture and a 'tip' area, which is atypical of the rest of the site (Wilmore 2005).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the archaeological survey are identified as follows:

- To locate, identify and record archaeological field monuments within Buck Wood
- To compile a site report which includes:
 - A site catalogue
 - A site description and location
 - Digital pictures of each site and sample colour slides
 - A site discussion
 - A site location map

3 INFORMATION SOURCES

The following sources were consulted to obtain background and contextual information for the survey:

- West Yorkshire Archaeology Service – Advisory Service
 - Early maps showing the woodland
 - Historic Environment Record sheets
 - Published archaeological survey to 1500 AD
- The Friends of Buck Wood
 - Research on Buck Mill
 - Research on Thackley Open Air school

Early maps

A sequence of maps dating from 1584 to the present day was examined. The earliest known map of the wood and its environs is a 19th century copy of a late 16th century map. The accuracy of the copy is uncertain as the original is missing but there is no reason to believe that

it is anything other than a fair transcription. Other maps date from the early 19th century through to the present time and it is clear from these that the woodland boundary and the clearances within the wood have changed little through the 19th and 20th centuries. From the map regression exercise it is also possible to gain information on specific features within the woodland, most notably the development of Buck Mill, which has been plotted in a series of vignettes on Figure 2 and shown on photographs in Figure 3.

Historic Environment Records

Finds of flint of prehistoric date are recorded on the north bank of the River Aire and a cremation of Roman date is recorded near Idle (WYAU 1981), but only two entries for Buck Wood are included in the Historic Environment Record (HER) of the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service. These are:

- The former site of Buck Mill (HER Primary Record no. 2852)
- Thackley Railway Tunnel (HER Primary Record no. 7010).

Footings of the mill were recorded during a site visit in 1987 and the tunnel, situated beneath the southern tip of the wood, is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1851.

The West Yorkshire Archaeological Survey to AD 1500

The most authoritative source of published archaeological information referring to woodlands in West Yorkshire is the four volume *Archaeological Survey of West Yorkshire to AD 1500* (WYAU 1981). This work examines in some detail the importance of woodland to the medieval economy and provides contextual information for this survey.

Woodlands were one of the most important parts of the landscape during the medieval period and it is not surprising that their use was regulated by laws and licences. The medieval woodland provided fuel, was an important grazing ground for pigs, was a source of building materials and supplied a range of craftsmen with their raw material. Documents refer to particular features within woodlands such as substantial boundaries formed by banks, ditches and a fence, hedge or palisade.

The wood of certain trees served one purpose better than another and the variety of trees within a woodland would have been carefully controlled. Entire woodlands would have perhaps only three or four tree species: Oak was used mainly for building purposes, Willow poles were used for basketry and Ash was used for the handles of tools. Other demands on the resources of the woodland came from Coopers, Carpenters, Charcoal Burners and Bark Strippers for the tanning industry.

Coppicing would have been undertaken to ensure the supply of wood for charcoal burning and for a host of other requirements. In coppice management, the timing and manner of felling were strictly controlled and grazing animals were only allowed in to the wood once the trees were mature enough to resist damage by livestock. The trees in a particular wood would be cut to the ground and from the 'stool' sprang a number of 'poles', the collective name for which is 'underwood'. It is thought that a coppiced stool could supply wood for centuries. Trees which were not coppiced and allowed to grow as a single trunk were called 'standards'. This use of 'coppice and standard' emerged as the norm in certain areas of the country by the later middle ages.

Research on Buck Mill

Extensive research on the Township of Idle and Buck Mill has been undertaken by Dr Eileen White of the Friends of Buck Wood. The research is based on historic documents and, as such,

provides contextual background for the present day remains on the site. Extracts from Dr White's research are presented in Appendix I.

Research on Thackley Open Air School

Dr Christine and Mr Norman Alvin of the Friends of Buck Wood have undertaken a detailed investigation of Thackley Open Air School, the site of which is situated on the southern edge of the wood. A leaflet on the origins and development of the school, compiled by 'The Friends', is presented in Appendix II (See also Figure 4).

4 METHODOLOGY

The survey methodology was designed by Blaise Vyner Consultancy to locate, identify and record field monuments within the boundary of the woodland in accordance with the Level 1 survey conditions outlined in the *Specification for an Archaeological Survey at Buck Wood, Idle*. A monument condition form based on that used by the MoD Defence Estates Environmental Support Team was modified to suit the local woodland conditions and used to describe the condition and vulnerability of each monument. A handheld Garmin Etrex GPS system proved to be a valuable locational tool, particularly as the woodland canopy was sufficiently open to allow readings to be taken at all times within a stated accuracy of 8m -10m. Where this accuracy was checked against features recorded on the Ordnance Survey map it was found to be within the parameters stated by the GPS.

5 RESULTS

The discussion of the sites is primarily organized along functional criteria (eg, quarry, track, structure) within a sub-category of chronology, where this can be established. The location of each site is shown on the site distribution map (Figure 5).

Enclosures

Three embanked enclosures (BW 12, BW 22 and BW 38) were recorded within the wood.

Oval enclosure BW 22 measures c.90m east to west and 60m north to south and is defined by a low bank, 0.5m high and between 3m and 5m wide. The flat ground within the enclosure has noticeably lower density of trees than the surrounding woodland. Although the rectangular earthen bank of site BW 12 is situated within the enclosure any association between the two features must remain speculative at this stage. Enclosure BW 22 is clearly identifiable as such, although the chronological horizon to which it should be assigned cannot be confirmed without excavation. The low spread nature of the bank suggests that it is of considerable antiquity, while its general circularity suggests a date in the Bronze Age or even earlier, rather than any later. Comparison may be made with a circular enclosure at Calverside, in the Yorkshire Dales, for which an early Bronze Age or even Neolithic date has been suggested (White 2005, 21-22).

BW 12 comprises an interrupted bank of earth and stones forming a possible rectangular enclosure measuring 12m east to west and 9m north to south and 1m high. The bank is most pronounced on the south and west sides. There is no evidence for internal features. This enclosure is situated within a much larger, oval, embanked enclosure (BW 22) sited on a markedly flattened area of ground at the south-eastern area of the wood. The nature and date of this enclosure remains unclear.

Enclosure BW 38 forms an L-shaped feature extending from a track at the northern end of the wood. The bank measures 15m north-east to southwest, 40m north-west to south-east, 4m wide and 1m high. The angular form of the enclosure suggests a medieval or later date, and it may belong to the 18th or 19th century.

Structures

In addition to the known sites of Thackley Open Air School and Buck Mill, the stone walls of two previously unrecorded buildings were identified together with several platforms, indicative of possible structures, and a substantial rectilinear embankment which might have formed the outer wall of a large building.

The tumbled stone walls of a small building (BW 9), measuring approximately 8m square, are situated at the northern end of track BW 8 adjacent to a teardrop-shaped field. The building, possibly a former barn or byre, is not marked on any maps – although the adjacent track and field are marked on maps dating from 1838 onwards. A structure of similar dimensions (BW 41) is situated inside a field at the northern end of the wood. The surviving walls of the building vary between one and two courses high with an entrance at the north-western end. The building appears to be shown on a map of 1905.

Close to the north-east boundary of the wood a low rectangular platform (BW 4), measuring 6m east to west, 4m north to south and 0.4m high, with a low stone kerb at the northern end, may at one time have supported a building. A similar rectangular area (BW 11), albeit sunken rather than raised, was recorded close to the south-eastern boundary of the wood.

Thackley Open Air School (BW 21), at the southern edge of the wood, was opened in 1908 for the education of the ‘delicate’ children of Bradford, who were mostly from impoverished circumstances and were vulnerable to a host of diseases and ailments at the turn of the 20th century. The school was founded on progressive principals originating in central and western Europe which were founded on the belief that children could thrive in an outdoor, fresh-air environment. Abandoned at the onset of the Second World War in 1939 and burned down in 1966, the remains of the school were sealed with topsoil and further obscured by decades of woodland scrub and tree cover. Using plans of the school buildings the Friends of the Buck Wood have embarked on a scheme of scrub clearance and have revealed the concrete floor of one of the two rest sheds. This is in good condition and indicates that other remains of the school probably survive below the sealing layer of topsoil and the overburden of vegetation. The school was approached by a path running from Ainsbury Avenue to a flight of steps cut into the upcast created by the construction of Thackley railway tunnel leading to the school entrance.

The remains of Buck Mill occupy a strip of ground between the River Aire and The Leeds and Liverpool Canal in the southwestern corner of the wood. The mill was abandoned by 1905 and a dense cover of shrubs and brambles now grows on piles of tumbled masonry - each stone waiting to trap and twist a carelessly placed ankle. Stone arches, gateposts and stone-lined channels protruding through the vegetation, hint at the possibility that much of the ground plan of the mill complex still survives *in situ*. The project team is indebted to Dr Eileen White who has made her detailed research into the mill available for this report (Appendix I).

Immediately to the south-east of the school is an air raid shelter (BW 2), built into the railway tunnel upcast. The entrance to the shelter has been sealed by earth, although the concrete lintel of the entrance and some brickwork is visible.

Walls and boundaries

Apart from the stone-walled boundary around the wood itself, several walls and banks were recorded within the woodland. The appearance of the walls varies between those which were of orthostatic construction, characterized by a row of large boulders, or orthostats, forming a linear boundary and those constructed using medium-sized coursed stones, similar to surviving field walls in the vicinity. Within the former category is wall BW 27, comprising a row of orthostats running from the bank of the oval enclosure (BW 22) to the wall of a teardrop-shaped field. The relationship between wall, field and enclosure merits further attention.

An interesting group of features is present in the north-west area of the wood where an orthostat wall (BW 33) and a hollow track (BW 34), run up the steep woodland slope, roughly parallel with each other, to a linear orthostatic embankment (BW 36) running along the contours of the slope just north of the waggonway embankment. It is not possible to establish the date of the group or indeed if the features are contemporary, but they are here grouped together on the basis of their proximity to each other and their alignments. A second wall (BW 35), some 100m to the south-west of this group, runs up the woodland slope but is not associated with further features, other than perhaps a large faceted boulder, possibly a rough-out millstone, lying on the canal path close to the wall foundation. Orthostatic wall construction is not closely dateable, it was simply a convenient method of creating an enclosure boundary where large boulders were readily available, and examples can be found for which a Bronze Age date may be suggested (Spratt and Harrison 1989, 129-30), while others appear to belong to the medieval period.

Three linear banks (BW 3, BW 5 and BW 7) were recorded within the wood, differing from the wall lines described above in that, on the surface at least, they are earth-covered rather than obviously constructed of faced stones or orthostats. All three are relatively low in height and appear to be unrelated to any obvious features within the wood such as a clearing or an enclosure. BW 7 was the most pronounced of the embankments and was plotted for a distance of c.60m. Its northern end seems to terminate at the edge of the pronounced slope leading down to the river. Low field boundary earthworks of this kind clearly pre-date the late 18th and early 19th century walled field systems and may be of considerable antiquity, perhaps extending back to the later prehistoric or Romano-British period.

Within the category of drystone walls is BW 16, which forms the boundary between Buck Wood and Field Wood at the northern limit of the survey area. This wall was partially overlain by a large quarry spoil tip, indicating that it predated one of the periods of quarrying within the woodland. Similarly, wall BW 29 runs across a field at the southern end of the wood and, on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1851 continues through the wood and ends at Buck Wood Cottage. Wall BW 42 at one time formed the boundary of a 'tongue' of woodland which extended into a field behind the open air school. This particular area of woodland is shown on the 1838 Idle Township map and survives up to the present day, but the boundary wall is only visible at ground level. Just to the south-west of this wall is the boundary (BW 40) which marked the back of the open air school, characterised by a low terrace or platform bounded by a row of upright metal poles which appear to be sawn up light railway tracks.

Tracks and rights of way

Buck Wood, in common with many of the woodlands in the region, contains a network of tracks, paths and bridleways. These range from the flawlessly laid cobbled setts of Buck Mill Lane, a right of way recorded on early maps, to numerous uncharted paths that owe their existence to the recreational use of the wood by local walkers and their dogs. One of the principal tracks through the wood (BW 15) would appear to be an ancient feature. It might at one time have been cobbled, but if so this surface has all but disappeared as a result of pedestrian and equestrian traffic. The track has become sunken as a result of this long-term use and whilst this is regarded as a positive attribute, the extreme boggiessness of parts of the track should be viewed with concern.

A track (BW 8) running south for c.30m from a teardrop-shaped field on the south-eastern edge of the wood is 3m wide and bordered by two stone walls, the eastern wall being upstanding and the western reduced to ground level. The track is depicted on the 1838 Idle Township map and on a later map of 1905 where its course continues behind Thackley Open Air School. The tumbled stone walls of a small building (BW 9) lie adjacent to the track at its northern end where it joins the field.

Buck Mill Lane (BW 30) on the south-eastern edge of the wood runs from Thackley down to the canal, and appears on the north bank of the canal adjacent to Buck Mill. The setts of this track thought to have been obtained from Buck Mill c. 1923 (Appendix !). The setts are immaculately laid and at present suffer only from being obscured by brambles at the track's southeastern end and intermittently along its length. Vigilance is required to ensure that the boggy ground adjacent to the track does not undermine the cobbles. An offshoot (BW 39) of Buck Mill Lane forks in a south-east direction towards Thackley and here the cobbles are just two setts in width and are slightly sunken to form a drain running down the middle of the track.

Waggonway embankment

A linear embankment (BW 24) running along the length of the woodland on a north-east to south-west axis is thought to be associated with a waggonway, probably used for the transport of quarried stone (see Quarries section below). From close to Buck Wood Cottage the embankment runs in a north-east direction for c.500m to meet with track BW 15. At this point the track is significantly wider than normal, suggesting that a loading bay or platform was at one time present. The embankment appears to continue for some 200m beyond this point, albeit slightly less defined, towards, and possibly across, a clearing at the northern edge of the wood.

Quarries

Eight quarries were identified during the survey (BW 17, BW 18 BW 19, BW 23, BW 25, BW 26, BW 28 and BW 37). These generally consisted of a shallow circular hollow, between 5m-10m diameter and 1m deep found either in isolation or in clusters. On the basis of evidence from nearby Calverley Wood, it would appear that these small quarries were exploiting outcrops of gritstone for the production of millstones. Only at the north-eastern end of the wood (BW 26) was there evidence of larger scale quarrying in the form of large boulders littering the steep north-facing slope. Two partially cut millstones of mid- or later 19th century appearance (BW 17, BW 17.1), were found mid-way up the slope and at its base respectively.

There are several examples of millstone rough-outs situated away from obvious areas of quarrying. Examples of these include the rounded stone protruding from embankment BW 7 and a faceted stone lying on the canal path adjacent to wall BW 35.

Cairns

A group of four stone mounds or cairns (BW 13) was situated c.20m to the north of enclosure BW 22. None of the cairns is chronologically diagnostic, although one has recently either been created or re-used for pet burial. The cairns measured 4m in diameter and 0.8m high and may be associated with ground clearance activity within this part of the wood. The remaining mounds (BW 6, BW 10 and BW 14) were earth covered. BW 10 was noteworthy by its rectangular shape and its position close to a recently erected timber crucifix marking the burial of 'Sammy and Max'. Cairn BW 14 was a small circular mound located at the junction of two paths and BW 6 was a low mound in dense tree cover more-or-less hidden by vegetation and leaf litter.

Toothache Tree

The Toothache Tree represents one of the more unusual sites within the woodland. So-called because of its status in folklore whereby a sufferer of toothache would transfer his or her pain to the tree by driving nails into the trunk. This is a small oak tree growing by the side of a woodland track. Five groups of paired iron nails have been driven into the trunk from near ground level up to c.3m. All but the lowest nails are hand-made, square section with oval heads, with two nails in the bottom group being round headed. The tree is unlikely to much over a century old, while the square-section nails suggest manufacture in the early part of the 20th century or before.

6 DISCUSSION

Prior to the start of the survey, two archaeological sites within Buck Wood were recorded on the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record: the remains of Buck Mill and the 19th century Thackley railway tunnel. The gazetteer appended to this report records 41 sites of historic environment importance within the wood – a twenty fold increase on the original number. The more significant of these sites are discussed below.

Early enclosures

The earliest site recorded by the survey is thought to be the large oval embanked enclosure at the southern end of the wood. Defined by a 4m wide bank, with a maximum surviving height of almost 1m, there is no visible evidence for either an internal or external ditch or for an obvious entrance break in the embankment. Both these facets of the site, however, may be obscured by vegetation. The noticeably flat interior of the enclosure may hint at a prepared surface and suggest that soil and stones were scraped from the internal area to create the bank. A similar method of constructing a large embanked enclosure was thought to have been employed at the Neolithic henge monument at Mayburgh in Cumbria and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, such an early origin for the Buck Wood enclosure cannot be discounted. The small scale of this enclosure, however, suggests settlement or agricultural activity at a somewhat later, Bronze Age, date.

With regards the rectangular embanked feature inside the oval enclosure, it is not possible at this stage to establish whether this was originally a building or an earthen enclosure, or indeed whether it is associated with the larger enclosure in which it lies. The same uncertainty applies to a stretch of orthostat walling which runs from the northeastern perimeter of the enclosure embankment.

A scheme of investigation focusing on the enclosure, the internal ‘structure’ and the peripheral walling is recommended in order to gain a greater understanding on the nature of each feature and to establish any interrelationships there may be.

Quarries, mills and waggonways

The identification of several quarry sites in the wood could be expected; the quarrying of stone from Buck Wood in the last century is well documented and in this respect Buck Wood and nearby Calverley Wood share a common function.

From the 17th century onwards, before the advent of canals, waggonways were used, mainly in the mining and quarrying industries, for transporting coal and stone. The waggonway was an embryonic form of railway using wooden bodied vehicles, hauled by horses. Although the construction details of the very earliest designs are unrecorded the unbroken line of descent to the modern railway from the two earliest, proven, examples, built in the early 1600s at Wollaton and Broseley in Nottingham and Shropshire respectively, indicate they had flanged wheels running on wooden beams, or edge rails.

In Buck Wood a waggonway embankment appears to run from the northern end of the wood to terminate close to Buck Wood Cottage. Whether this points to an association between the waggonway and the nearby Buck Mill is open to debate. The mill was certainly developing during the early and mid-18th century, as White has shown (Appendix I, Section IV, years 1721 and 1744), but the scale of growth is hardly of a magnitude to warrant the construction of a waggonway for the delivery of stone to the mill site.

From 1774, when the Leeds and Liverpool Canal reached Thackley, the canal would surely have been the preferred method of transporting stone over the relatively long journey from its source to its destination in the growing towns and cities of Yorkshire. However, in the 19th

century, when the mill was undergoing substantial redevelopment (White pers. comm.), a waggonway could have been used in preference to the canal to transport the stone the relatively short distance from Buck Wood quarry to Buck Mill. Further research and, possibly, limited excavation might establish the date of the embankment and ascertain the nature of the waggonway it supported.

The extensive remains of Buck Mill are situated between the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the River Aire and the series of vignettes in Figure 2 plot the development of the mill buildings up to its closure in the early 20th century. The photographs taken at about that period perhaps serve to show the true magnitude of the complex at around the time of its abandonment and support the view that much of the surviving stonework on the site of the mill is likely to date to the 19th century. Evidence of earlier phases of construction may be present, although this probably applies more to the associated storerooms and dwellings than to the mill building proper.

White has demonstrated by her research that the mill was a focal point in the development of the township and her continuing research may well produce information to consolidate this assertion. From a management point of view a programme of clearance and interpretation would undoubtedly improve the amenity value of this much neglected site. However, consideration needs to be given to the safety hazard associated with the site: many of the stones over the site are loose, slippery and obscured by vegetation and at least one cellar over 1.5m deep, was observed. Given that access to the site is unrestricted the erection of signage and fencing should be considered a priority over interpretation.

Education 'al fresco'

Besides their both being used for quarrying a second point in common between Buck Wood and nearby Calverley Wood is that they were selected as the site of 'institutions'; the former for an open air school and the latter a prisoner of war camp. Thackley Open Air School was opened in 1908 and, after 30 years educating the 'delicate' children of Bradford, was winding down by 1939. However, recollections of former pupils suggest that it was still in use in September of that year, a fact that would perhaps account for the presence of the air-raid shelter opposite the school frontage. Using blueprints of the plan of the school, the Friends of Buck Wood have been clearing back the vegetation and topsoil to reveal parts of the complex. The concrete floor surface of one of the two resting sheds is in good condition, suggesting that further work may be rewarded with similarly well preserved elements of the school buildings coming to light. It is perhaps worth mentioning however that experience of scrub removal on other sites has shown that a sustained programme of maintenance will be required to prevent regeneration of vegetation on the stripped areas and to protect the exposed surfaces.

Making tracks

The wood is served by an arterial network of paths and tracks, some more established than others. One of the principal hollow way tracks through the wood is also, in parts, the most eroded, making it difficult to walk on due to extreme boggy conditions. Similarly, the immaculately laid cobble setts of Buck Wood Lane are in danger of being dislodged by wetness and erosion. A trackway of some probable antiquity - it is shown on the 1813 Inclosure map - was originally bounded by two stone walls and ran from a teardrop-shaped field towards Thackley. At its northern end the ruins of a small square building are present, but unlike the adjacent track this is not depicted on any maps. Clearance of brambles from the interior and supervised removal of wall tumble stones may help better define the plan and function of this simple structure.

The tracks are an historical resource and present-day asset and their sensitive maintenance should be considered a priority.

7 CONCLUSIONS

From the map evidence it is clear that the shape size and shape of the wood has changed little over almost 200 years, and this outline could be considerably older. Field survey shows that the woods preserve in them earthworks of a number of different dates, many of them more ancient than the woods as they now survive. The Bronze Age, if not a slightly earlier era, is represented by an oval enclosure, while a series of land boundaries may date from the Iron Age or Roman period. Orthostatic walling may also be of this early date but could more probably be post-Roman or medieval in date. The maintenance and exploitation of the wood and the resources it contained is represented by tracks, boundaries and the putative waggonway. Buck Mill, originally established before the end of the 16th century, encouraged the establishment of other paths and routes. The use of the woods as the setting for an open air school in the 20th century adds a further level of interest to the long history of Buck Wood. Today the boundary of the woodland is defined by a drystone wall around much of its perimeter. This continues the medieval practice of constructing a visible barrier, possibly a bank and a ditch, around the wood – a barrier that reinforced the divisions between the world of the forest and the outside world.

Many of the sites and monuments recorded by this survey could easily escape the attention of anyone who enters the wood. Weathering, windblown trees and the action of roots and animals have, over the years, reduced many of these sites to little more than a shallow mound or a ragged line of stones. Add to this centuries of leaves accumulating over the earthworks and it is little wonder that sites become ‘invisible’ to the casual observer.

It may be argued that footpaths, quarries and pit groups are hardly considered to be archaeological sites at all in the sense that, for example, Roman forts or stone circles are thought to be. However, there is a gradual realisation that not only are these sites part and parcel of the archaeological record but that they constitute, in effect, the ‘memory banks’ of the woodland, recording activity from as early as the prehistoric period through to modern times. Their appreciation by future generations is largely dependent on sympathetic and sustainable management actions put in place by members the present-day community.

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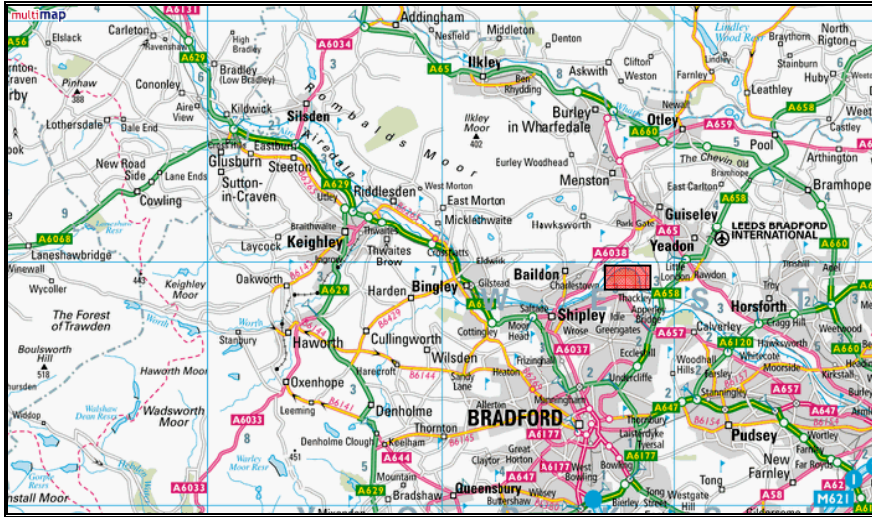
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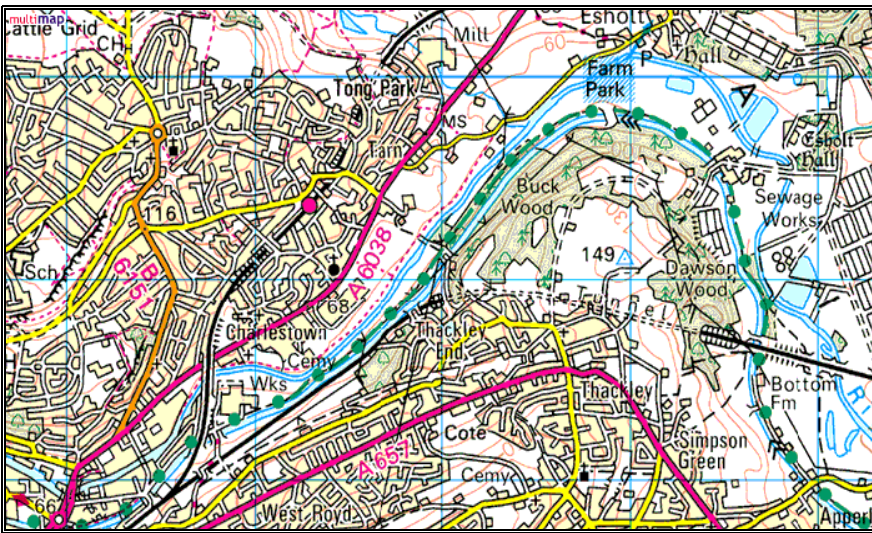
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9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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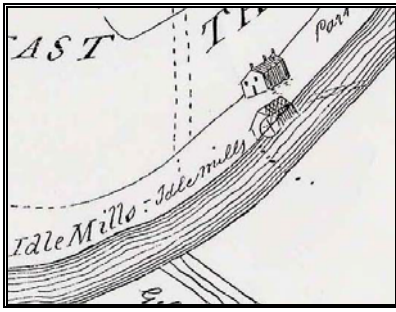


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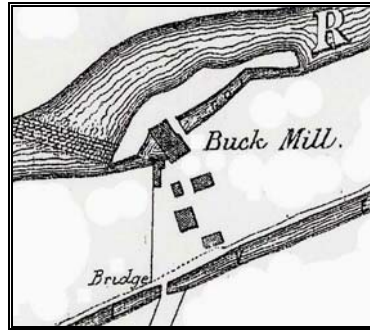


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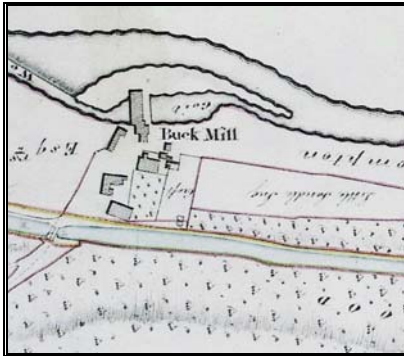
Figure 1: Buck Wood, site location and aerial photograph



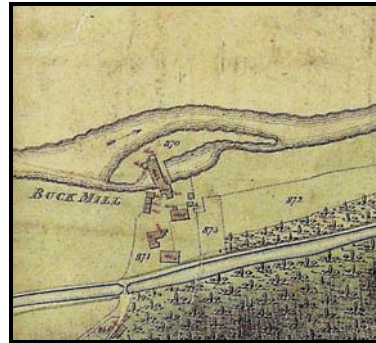
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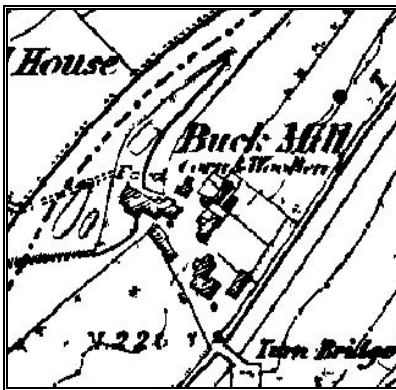
1813



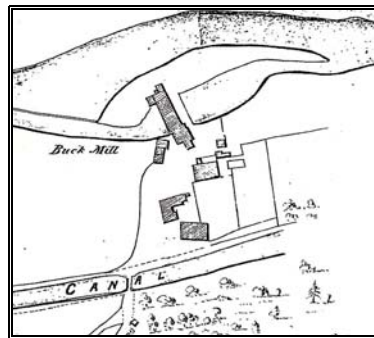
1826



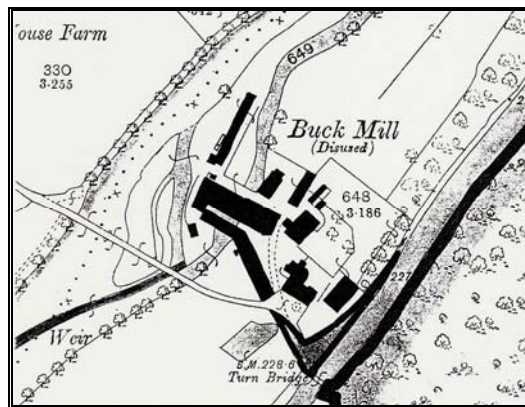
1838



1851



1865



1905

Figure 2: Development of Buck Mill

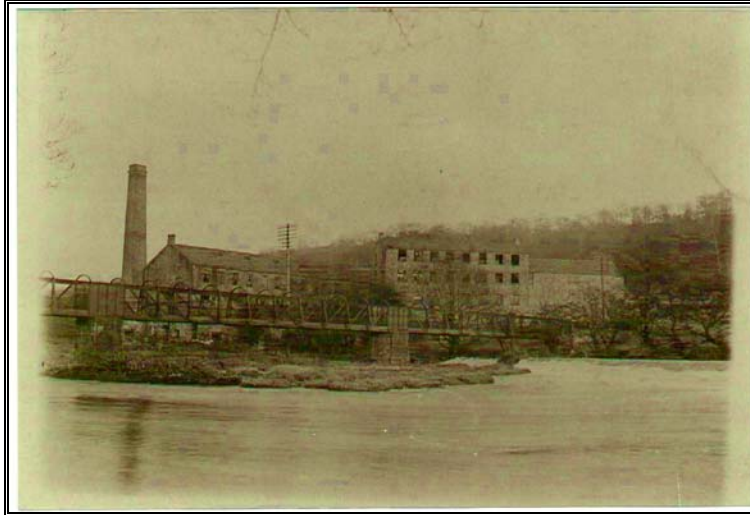


Figure 3a: Buck Mill, probably shortly after 1905

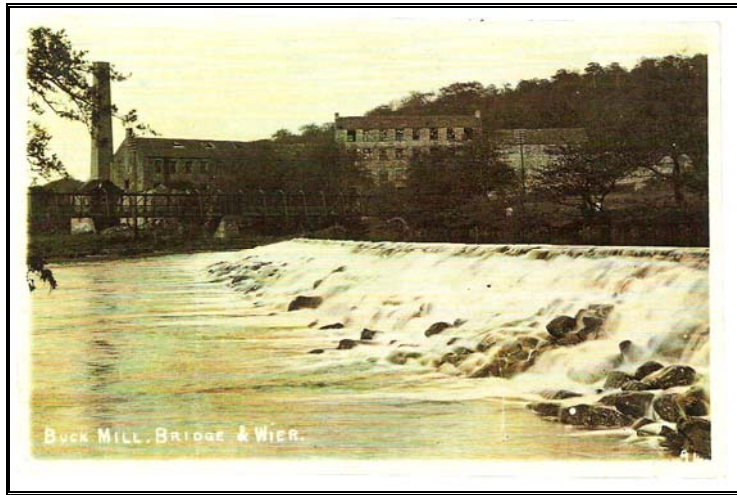


Figure 3b: Buck Mill, weir and footbridge, early 20th century



Figure 3c: Buck Mill and weir site and footbridge, 2006



Figure 4a: Thackley Open Air School in its heyday



Figure 4b: The site of the Open Air School, 2006

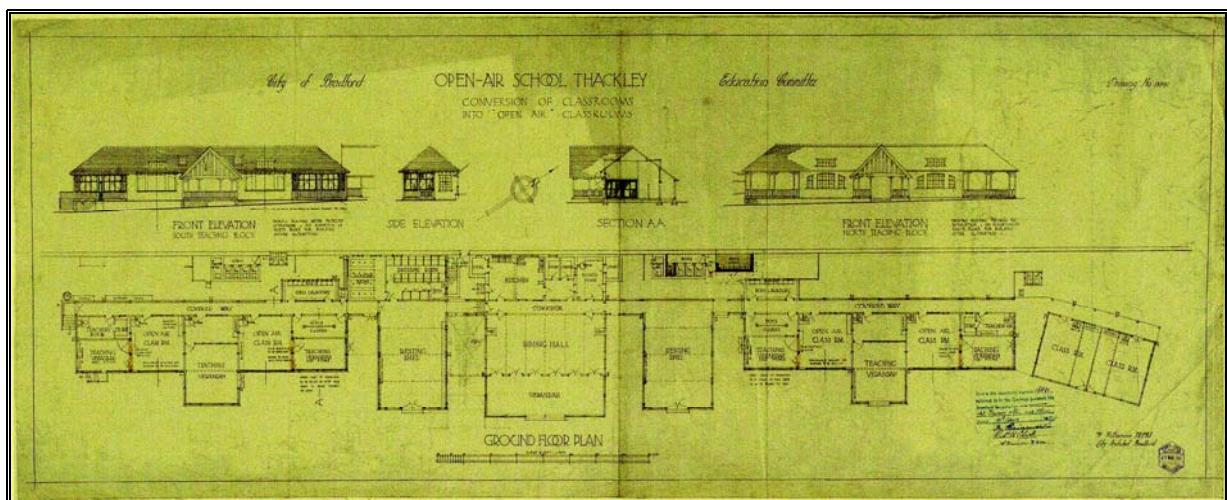


Figure 4c: Plan and elevation of Thackley Open Air School

BUCK WOOD: SURVEY CATALOGUE

The catalogue entries have been extracted from the survey monument condition form used as the primary recording sheet for the survey.

- A photograph of each site accompanies the catalogue entry which is cross-referenced to the main picture files.
- The site code prefix denotes the woodland compartment, i.e. BW = Buck Wood.
- Grid reference: the grid reference was obtained from the handheld GPS used throughout the survey. This was generally accurate to within 5m-8m.
- The description records the principal attributes of the site at the time of the survey, February 2006.
- The surface cover: within Buck Wood this was mainly brambles, leaf litter, trees and scrub.
- Agencies of erosion: within Buck Wood these were mainly root damage, footpath erosion and weathering
- Stability: the four options on the condition form comprised Gradual Decline, Rapid decline, Improving and Stable.
- Survival: The four options on the condition form comprised Exemplary, Good, Moderate and Poor.
- Vulnerability: The four options on the condition form comprised Robust, Low, Medium and High.
- The management recommendation includes the Level of Importance of the site as defined in the Specification, as follows:
 - Level I - Archaeological and historical features of special (ie. National or regional) importance which warrant the greatest possible protection.
 - Level IB - Level I monuments, which appear to have been badly damaged or destroyed.
 - Level II - Archaeological and historical features of lesser (ie. local) importance.
 - Level IIB - Level II monuments, which appear to have been badly damaged or destroyed.
 - Level III - Former archaeological and historical features of special importance for which there is confidence that no coherent archaeological

remains (including buried features) are recoverable.

- Also included is a recommendation for further work, if any. The general conservation objectives of these categories are as follows:

Level I - To prevent the feature being damaged, altered or tipped on; to encourage positive management through active conservation in association with woodland management by the landowner and/or manager.

Level II - To retain features in this category wherever possible; to make provision for consultation if proposals are being considered which might affect or alter a feature; to allow for and/or assist with the recording of features affected by a change in land use or any development.

Level III - All archaeological potential lost. No constraint on forestry or other operations, amend records accordingly.

Site	BW 1
Grid reference	SE 17513 38916
Description	Railway tunnel circular ventilation chimney. Brick built, c.4m high and 5m diameter.
Surface cover	N/A
Agencies of erosion	Weathering of mortar and brickwork
Stability	Stable
Survival	Good
Vulnerability	Low – although prone to vandalism and graffiti
Photograph	BW1
Management recommendation	Level II site- no further action





Site	BW 2
Grid reference	SE 17481 39026
Description	Air raid shelter, immediately south of Thackley Open Air School and constructed within a mound of upcast from the excavation of the 19 th century railway tunnel. The partially blocked entrance to the shelter faces west and, where visible, is brick lined with a concrete lintel. Some of the bricks are impressed with the motif 'Leeds'. Rubble is spread in front of the entrance. Dimensions of the structure are unknown.
Surface cover	Mainly grass, with brick rubble, brambles and low vegetation
Agencies of erosion	Root action, some tipping
Stability	Gradual decline
Survival	Moderate outside – unknown inside
Vulnerability	Low – although prone to vandalism
Photograph	BW2
Management recommendation	Level II site- no further action





Site	BW 3
Grid reference	SE 17733 39434; SE 17718 39442; SE 17706 39451
Description	Linear embankment, c.50m long, 3m wide and 0.50m high, with stone rubble on the surface. Aligned north-west to south-east with a possible ditch on the northern side.
Surface cover	Leaf litter, stone and trees
Agencies of erosion	Weathering
Stability	Gradual decline
Survival	Good
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW3A, BW3B
Management recommendation	Level II site – no further action



Site	BW 4	
Grid reference	SE 17712 39503	
Description	Possible building platform comprising a flat, level area, measuring 6m east to west, 4m north to south and 0.4m high. A kerb at the northern end appears as a single course of stones bonded with earth. Kerb stones measure c. 0.25m by 0.10m.	
Surface cover	Mainly leaf litter with brambles and trees	
Agencies of erosion	Root action	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW4A, BW4B	
Management recommendation	Level II site – no further action	

Site	BW 5	
Grid reference	SE 17581 39379	
Description	A linear feature, 20m long, 3m wide and c. 0.30m high running towards a possible small quarry, 5m in diameter.	
Surface cover	Leaf litter, brambles and trees	
Agency of erosion	None	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW5A, BW5B	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	

Site	BW 6	
Grid reference	SE 17524 39361	
Description	Circular mound or cairn, 4m diameter and 0.5m high.	
Surface cover	Brambles, leaf litter and trees	
Agencies of erosion	None	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW6	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	

Site	BW 7	
Grid reference	SE 17429 39305 (Centre)	
Description	Linear embankment, 60m long, 3m wide and 0.5m high running in a north to south direction on relatively flat ground and terminating at its north-west end close to the edge of the woodland scarp. The embankment appears to be constructed of stone rubble with a possible rough-out millstone towards the southern end (see BW 7.1 below).	
Surface cover	Brambles, low vegetation and trees	
Agencies of erosion	Footpath erosion across a narrow section of the feature	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW7A, BW7B	
Management recommendation	Level II site – no further work	

Site	BW 7.1
Grid reference	SE 17439 39286
Description	Circular, edge-set stone in embankment BW 7 (see above), possibly a rough-out millstone.
Surface cover	Leaf litter, brambles
Agencies of erosion	None
Stability	Stable
Survival	Good
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW7C
Management recommendation	Level II site – no further work





Site	BW 8
Grid reference	SE 17478 39114
Description	Trackway, 3m wide, running southwards from a field edge for c.30m. A stone wall is situated on either side of the track, with the wall on the east surviving to a height of 1.5m. That on the west is at ground level only. The rubble walls of a small building (see BW 9 below), are present at the northern end of the track, adjacent to a field boundary. The track is shown on the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1851. The building is not shown.
Surface cover	Leaf litter, brambles
Agencies of erosion	Weathering, root action
Stability	Gradual decline
Survival	Good
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW8A – BW8D
Management recommendation	Level II site – no further action





Site	BW 9
Grid reference	SE 17481 39134
Description	Rubble wall of a small square stone building adjacent to a field wall and track BW8 (see above). The building measures 8m north to south and 7.50m west to south and the wall survives to a height of 0.5m. No evidence of roof material or an entrance.
Surface cover	Brambles and low vegetation. A mature tree is growing through the rubble in the south-east corner of the wall tumble
Agencies of erosion	Scrub cover, root action
Stability	Stable
Survival	Good
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW9A
Management recommendation	Level II site – define walls more clearly by scrub clearance and supervised removal of tumble. Obtain detailed plan.





Site	BW 10	
Grid reference	SE 17538 39176	
Description	A small, elongated mound of earth, 3m long, 1.60m wide and 0.60m high. Long axis orientated north-west to south-east. The mound is situated adjacent to a footpath.	
Surface cover	Grass and leaf litter	
Agencies of erosion	None	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Not vulnerable	
Photograph	BW10	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	


Site	BW 11	
Grid reference	SE 17541 39014	
Description	A shallow rectangular hollow with a line of stones along the east side and loose blocks on the west side. The feature measures 3.50m north to south, 4.50m east to west and 0.30m deep.	
Surface cover	Leaf litter, brambles	
Agencies of erosion	None	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Moderate	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW11	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	


Site	BW 12	
Grid reference	SE 17442 39103	
Description	A bank of earth and stones forming a possible rectilinear enclosure measuring 12m east to west and 9m north to south and 1m high. The bank is most pronounced on the south and west sides. A mature oak is growing on the bank. No evidence of internal features. The feature is situated within a larger, oval embanked enclosure (see BW 22 below).	
Surface cover	Grass, leaf litter, trees	
Agencies of erosion	Root action	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW12A-BW12C	
Management recommendation	Level I site. Detailed survey of the site and evaluation to determine date and function	


Site	BW 13	
Grid reference	SE 17377 39130	
Description	A group of four clearance cairns situated c.30m to the north of the oval enclosure BW 22. The group is within an area of c.20m square and each cairn measures 4m in diameter with a maximum height of 0.8m.	
Surface cover	Brambles, leaf litter, a mature tree is growing through one of the cairns.	
Agencies of erosion	Root action	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW13	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	


Site	BW 14	
Grid reference	SE 17320 39207	
Description	Circular earthen mound, 2m in diameter and 0.5m high, situated at the junction of two footpaths.	
Surface cover	Leaf litter	
Agencies of erosion	None	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW14	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	


Site	BW 15	
Grid reference	See map	
Description	A track/hollow way running through the wood on a north-east to south-west alignment. Occasional large cobbles are present suggesting that the track had at one time been metalled, but these have largely disappeared and the track is extremely boggy in parts. The track is c.4m wide and 1m deep in the areas of greatest bogginess.	
Surface cover	Partially obscured by scrub cover	
Agencies of erosion	Footpath erosion by humans and horses	
Stability	Moderate	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW15A, BW15B	
Management recommendation	Level II site. Footpath conservation works required in areas of wetness to prevent further footpath damage.	


Site	BW 16	
Grid reference	SE 17893 39630	
Description	Woodland boundary wall between Buck Wood and Field Wood, 120m long by 3m wide and 1.5m high. A low drystone wall which forms the north-east boundary of the wood. The wall is overlain, in part, by a substantial spoil tip, probably from quarrying activity within the nearby woodland.	
Surface cover	Brambles, leaf litter and occasional trees and overlain, in part, by quarry spoil tip.	
Agencies of erosion	Root action	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low – footpath erosion	
Photograph	BW16A, BW16B	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	


Site	BW 17	
Grid reference	SE 17747 39653	
Description	Two rough-out millstones at the northern end of the wood. The photograph shows a large circular millstone 1m diameter with a central perforation. The upper surface seems intact, although there is a large fault on the underlying surface. The stone is situated on a north facing slope. Approximately 50m north of this millstone, lower down the slope, a second millstone was located. This has a central hole and pitted surfaces, but is broken in half.	
Surface cover	Brambles	
Agencies of erosion	None	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW17A, BW17B	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	


Site	BW 18	
Grid reference	SE 17567 39483	
Description	Quarry, measuring 8m east to west, 4m wide and 1m deep. A narrow track, 3m wide and 0.5m deep runs from the quarry edge southwards for 30m towards the canal.	
Surface cover	Bramble, leaf litter and grass	
Agencies of erosion	Root action	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Moderate	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW18	
Management recommendation	Level II site. No further work	


Site	BW 19	
Grid reference	SE 17505 39454	
Description	Small semi-circular quarry, 9m diameter, cut into the woodland scarp and facing north	
Surface cover	Leaf litter, occasional trees	
Agencies of erosion	Weathering	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW19	
Management recommendation	Level II site- no further action	

Site	BW 20	
Grid reference	SE 17432 39133	
Description	Oak tree with five groups of two iron nails driven into the trunk from ground level up to c.3m. All but the lowest nails are oval headed. Two nails in the bottom group are round headed. Folklore describes such trees as a 'Toothache Tree' whereby a sufferer of toothache would transfer pain into the tree by driving nails into the trunk.	
Surface cover	None	
Agencies of erosion	Corrosion of nails	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW20A, BW20B	
Management recommendation	Level II site – no further action	

Site	BW 21	
Grid reference	SE 17452 39031	
Description	Site of Thackley Open Air School situated at the southern end of the wood. Scrub clearing by members of the Friends of Buck Wood has revealed the concrete floor of the northernmost of the two Resting Sheds. This measures 12m by 8m and is in good condition. Elsewhere, the remains of the school, which burned down in 1966, are largely covered with topsoil, brambles, ivy and trees. A terraced boundary at the back of the school (BW 40) is defined by several upright metal posts, probably sawn-off rail or tram lines.	
Surface cover	Scrub, brambles, trees	
Agencies of erosion	Scrub cover	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Moderate	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW21A, BW21B	
Management recommendation	Level II site – Programme of scrub clearance, site interpretation resources and research	

Site	BW 22	
Grid reference	SE 20678 37650	
Description	Oval shaped embanked enclosure, measuring c.90m east to west and 60m north to south, defined by a low bank, 0.5m high and between 3m and 5m wide. The ground within the enclosure is flat with a noticeably lower density of trees than the surrounding woodland. The sub-rectangular earthen bank of site BW 12 is situated within the enclosure – although any relationship between the two features is speculative at this stage.	
Surface cover	Trees, brambles, holly bushes and leaf litter	
Agencies of erosion	Root action, wind blows	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW221A-BW22C	
Management recommendation	Level I site. Scrub clearance to define the entire course of the embankment followed by detailed survey of site. Evaluation to determine date and function.	

Site	BW 23	
Grid reference	SE 17275 39244	
Description	Circular bell pit, 12m diameter and 1m deep with a linear, sunken feature 0.4m wide extending 10m to the north. This may be the remains of a collapsed shaft associated with the bell pit. A mound of upcast is situated around the lip of the pit, thus differentiating it from the small stone quarries in the wood.	
Surface cover	Earth and leaf litter, tree, fallen branch	
Agencies of erosion	Root action	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW23	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	

Site	BW 24	
Grid reference	SE 17350 39434	
Description	A substantial linear embankment running through the wood in a north-east to south-west direction. Starting at Buck Wood Cottage at its south-east end the embankment runs for 500m to meet trackway BW 15s joins the main woodland track BW 15 at a point where the trackway is noticeably wider than normal. The embankment continues in a north-easterly direction towards Field Wood. It is possible that the embankment was built to run a waggonway from the Buck Wood quarries to Buck Mill or to a staithe on the canal bank.	
Surface cover	Scrub, brambles, leaf litter and trees	
Agencies of erosion	Tree blows	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW24A-BW24D	
Management recommendation	Level I site. Further research into the possible function of the embankments as wagon ways supported by evaluation.	

Site	BW 25
Grid reference	SE 17492 39552
Description	A group of quarries situated along the slope to the north of the waggonway embankment described above (BW 24).
Surface cover	Trees and scrub
Agencies of erosion	Tree blow
Stability	Stable
Survival	Moderate
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW25
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action



Site	BW 26
Grid reference	SE 17760 39592
Description	Substantial quarry on north facing scarp at north-eastern end of the woodland compartment.
Surface cover	Bracken, leaf litter and brambles
Agencies of erosion	Root action, tree blows
Stability	Stable
Survival	Good
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW26A, BW26B
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action



Site	BW 27
Grid reference	SE 17452 39161
Description	Stretch of walling c.50m long, 3m wide and surviving to a maximum height of 0.8m, constructed of large stone blocks, or orthostats. At its south-western end the wall runs up to the bank of enclosure BW 22.
Surface cover	Trees, holly bushes and brambles
Agencies of erosion	Root action
Stability	Stable
Survival	Good
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW27A, BW27B
Management recommendation	Level II site. Scrub clearance followed by detailed survey of the wall line to establish, if possible, its relationship to enclosure BW 22.



Site	BW 28
Grid reference	SE 17240 39214
Description	A group of small stone quarries, each one 4m diameter, situated between sunken track BW 15 and the waggonway embankment BW 24
Surface cover	Brambles, leaf litter and trees
Agencies of erosion	Root action, wind blow
Stability	Gradual decline
Survival	Good
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW28A, BW28B
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action

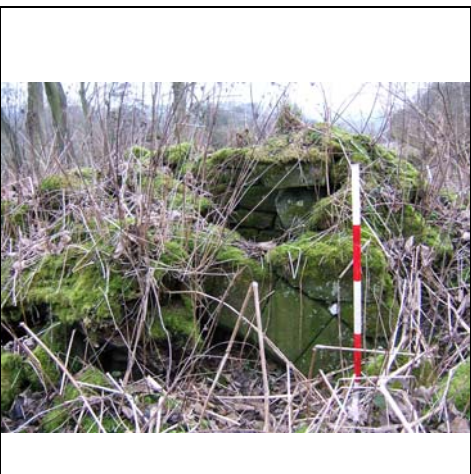


Site	BW 29
Grid reference	SE 17105 39020
Description	Boundary wall running southwards from a field down towards the canal and the edge of the wood. Shown on 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1851.
Surface cover	Brambles, leaf litter and trees
Agencies of erosion	Footpath erosion, wind blow
Stability	Gradual decline
Survival	Moderate
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW29
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action





Site	BW 30
Grid reference	SE SE 17023 39003 (centre)
Description	A cobbled path (Buck Mill Lane) running along the south-western edge of the wood, past Buck Wood Cottage, down to the canal swing bridge. Also present on the north side of the canal to west of the mill site.
Surface cover	The cobbled surface of the path is largely exposed although in some areas it is completely covered in thickets and brambles.
Agencies of erosion	Erosion by horse hooves in boggy patches next to the track may affect the stability of the adjacent cobble setts.
Stability	Generally stable
Survival	Very good
Vulnerability	Low, but vulnerable to erosion in parts
Photograph	BW30A, BW30B
Management recommendation	Level II site. Clearance of brambles and conservation works on wet areas adjacent to footpath





Site	BW 31	
Grid reference	SE 1770 39200(centre)	
Description	Site of Buck Mill. The original mill on the site dates back to the medieval period. The visible remains are those associated with the final phase of the mill and mostly date to the 19 th and early 20 th centuries. The mill is shown as disused on an Ordnance Survey map of 1905.	
Surface cover	Brambles, shrubs, trees and stone rubble	
Agencies of erosion	Tipping, vandalism (potentially)	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW31A – BW31N	
Management recommendation	Level II site. Interpretation resources to be provided. Scrub clearance of selected areas to reveal features of architectural merit. Health and safety issues to be addressed.	


Site	BW 32 - Not Used	
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Site	BW 33	
Grid reference	SE 17482 39630	
Description	Wall running for approximately 60m from the canal-side footpath in a south-east direction up-slope through the wood. The wall is largely constructed of large stones or orthostats and is situated approximately 20m north-east of hollow-way BW34, and runs parallel with this feature.	
Surface cover	Brambles, leaf litter, holly bushes and trees	
Agencies of erosion	Root action	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW33A, BW33B	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	


Site	BW 34	
Grid reference	SE 17479 39626	
Description	Hollow-way, 3m wide, 0.5m deep and c.60m long running from the canal side track in a south-east direction up-slope through the wood. The hollow-way is situated approximately 20m south-west of wall BW 33, and runs parallel with this wall.	
Surface cover	Leaf litter and trees	
Agencies of erosion	Water erosion, root action	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW34	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	


Site	BW 35	
Grid reference	SE 17393 39552	
Description	Drystone wall, 0.60m wide and 0.3m high running for approximately 20m from the canal-side footpath in a south-east direction into the wood. Only the base of the wall is present. A possible rough-out of a millstone, with faceted edges is situated on the track next to the wall.	
Surface cover	Leaf litter and brambles	
Agencies of erosion	Root action and footpath erosion	
Stability	Gradual decline	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW35A, BW35B	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	

Site	BW 36	
Grid reference	SE 17422 39532 to SE 17522 39548	
Description	A row of boulders, running for c.100m in a north-east to south-west direction parallel with waggonway embankment BW 24. Possibly associated with wall BW 33 and track BW 34.	
Surface cover	Nettles and brambles	
Agencies of erosion	Root action, wind blows	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW36A-BW36D	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	

Site	BW 37	
Grid reference	SE 17451 39488	
Description	Small quarry measuring 15m north to south, 10m east to west and 0.8m deep. The quarry is a representative sample of a larger group situated close to the junction of the waggonway embankment BW 15 and the woodland track BW 15.	
Surface cover	Brambles, leaf litter and trees	
Agencies of erosion	Root action	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW37A, BW37B	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	

Site	BW 38	
Grid reference	SE 1755 3963	
Description	Earthen bank forming an L-shaped feature extending from a woodland track. The bank measures 15m north-east to south-west, 40m north-west to south-east, 4m wide and 1m high.	
Surface cover	Brambles, leaf litter and tree roots.	
Agencies of erosion	Root action and footpath erosion	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW38	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	

Site	BW 39	
Grid reference	SE 17087 38946 (centre)	
Description	Track with partially cobbled surface running for c.100m on the south-eastern edge of the woodland to join with Buck Mill Lane.	
Surface cover	Leaf litter	
Agencies of erosion	Footpath erosion and water erosion	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW39A, BW39B	
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action	

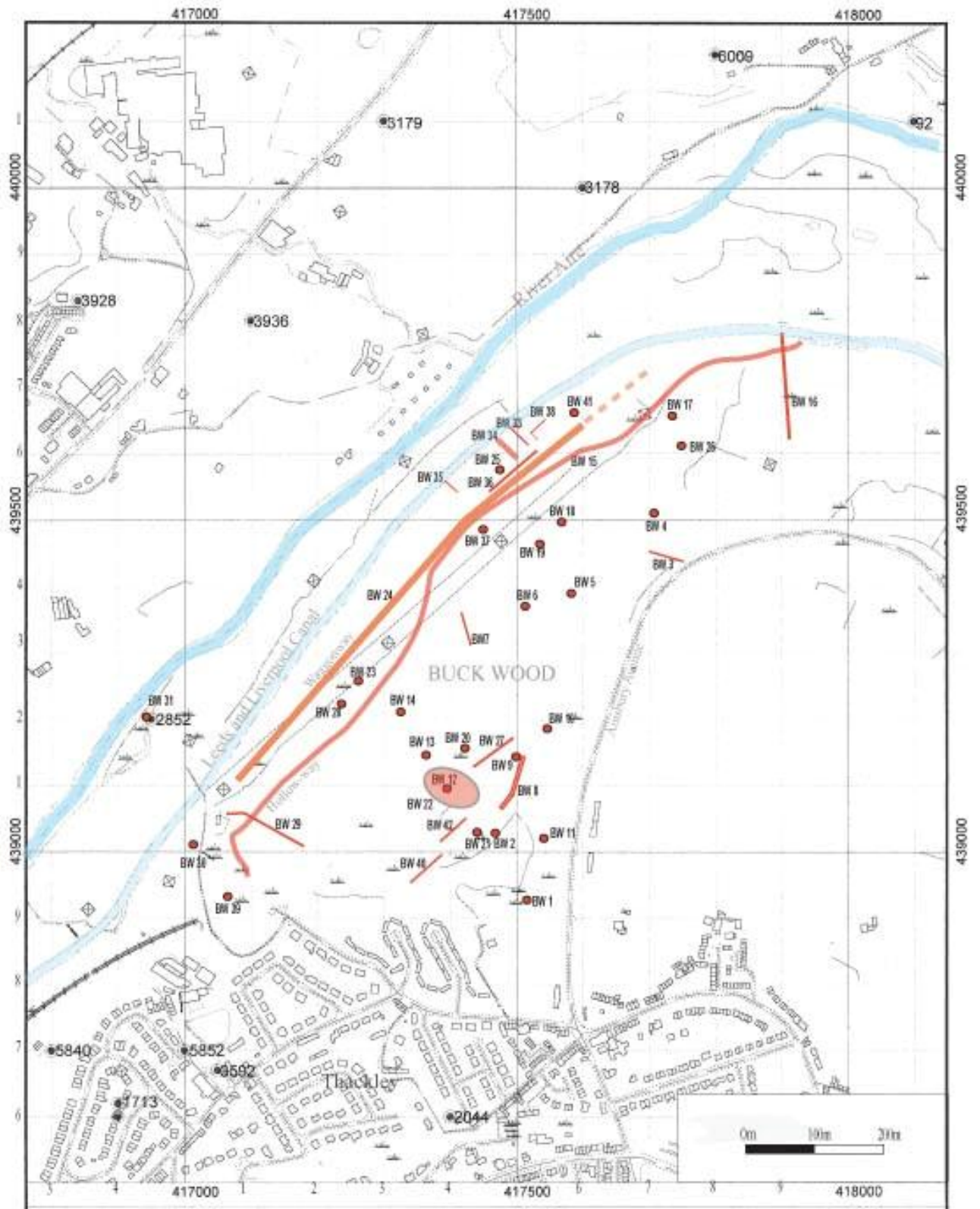
Site	BW 40	
Grid reference	SE 17397 39019 to SE 17388 38972	
Description	A low bank or terrace with a level surface whose edge is bounded by a line of upright metal posts, probably sawn-off rail lines. Forms the rear boundary of the Open Air School.	
Surface cover	Grass with occasional brambles and scrub	
Agencies of erosion	None	
Stability	Stable	
Survival	Good	
Vulnerability	Low	
Photograph	BW40	
Management recommendation	Level II site – incorporate into programme of scrub clearance associated with the Open Air School	

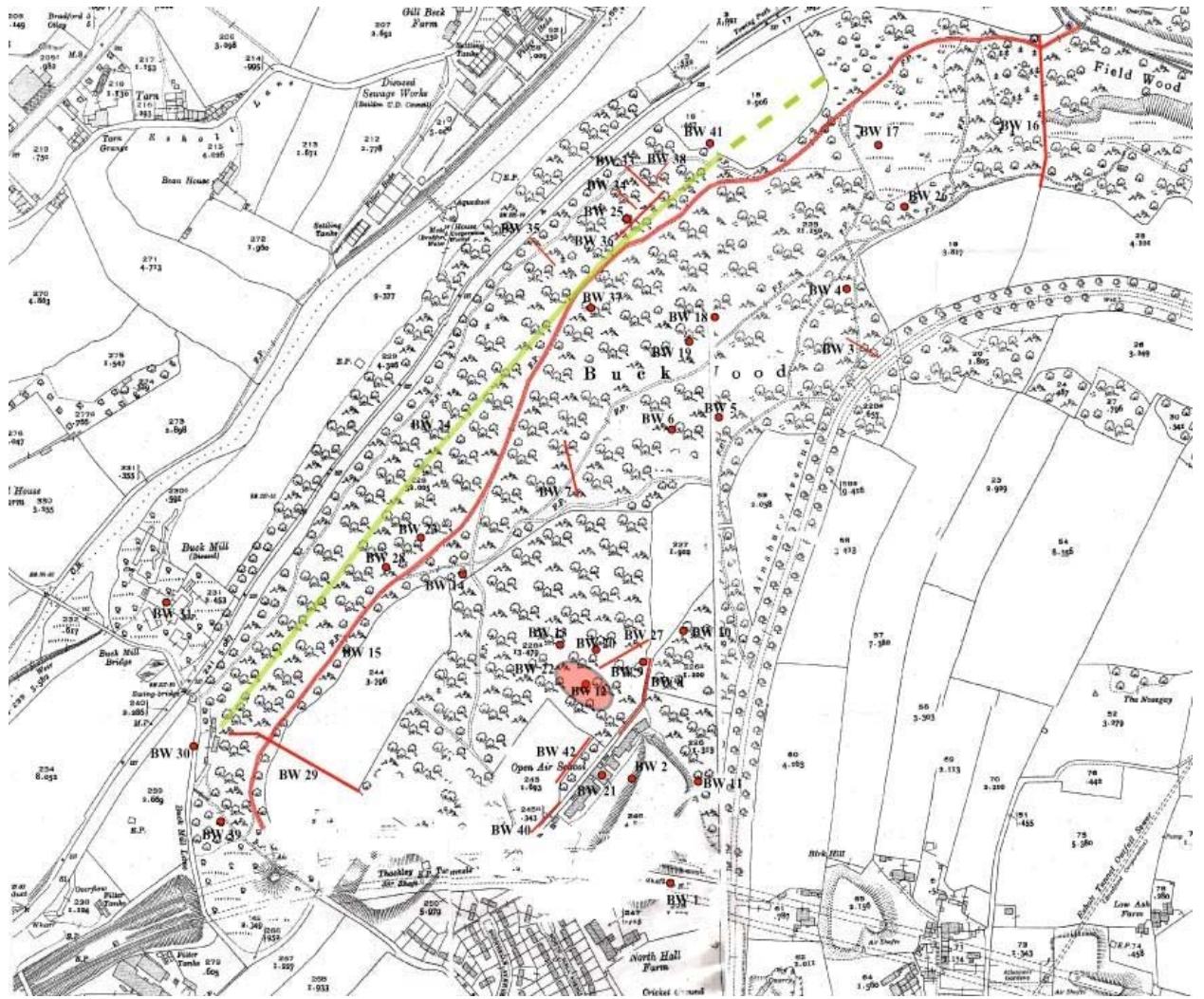
Site	BW 41
Grid reference	SE 17525 39607
Description	The lower wall courses of a stone building, measuring 4m by 6m and abutting a field wall at the northern end of the wood. An entrance is present on the north-west side of the wall line.
Surface cover	Grass
Agencies of erosion	None
Stability	Stable
Survival	Good
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW41
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action



Site	BW 42
Grid reference	SE 17430 39040
Description	The foundation or lower courses of a stone wall which formerly served as a woodland boundary to the rear of the Open Air School
Surface cover	Grass and leaf litter
Agencies of erosion	Footpath erosion, wind blows, root action
Stability	Moderate
Survival	Moderate
Vulnerability	Low
Photograph	BW42
Management recommendation	Level II site - no further action







APPENDIX I

NOTES FOR A HISTORY OF BUCK WOOD AND BUCK MILL [EXTRACTS FROM]

Compiled from work in progress by Dr Eileen White January 2006 and made available to Blaise Vyner Consultancy for the purpose of the walk-over survey © Eileen White

- I. THE MANOR OR TOWNSHIP OF IDLE
- II. WOODS IN IDLE
- III. BUCK WOOD AND BUCK MILL: GENERAL BACKGROUND
- IV. BUCK MILL: DESCRIPTIONS
- V. BUCK WOOD COTTAGE
- VI. CLOSES ASSOCIATED WITH BUCK MILL
- VII. BUCK WOOD and its management
- VIII. CANAL and RAILWAY
- IX. BUCK MILL FOOTBRIDGE
- X. MAPS AND PLANS SHOWING BUCK WOOD AND BUCK MILL

I. THE MANOR OR TOWNSHIP OF IDLE

The boundaries of Idle are clearly defined, and depicted on the first formal map made by Jonathan Taylor of Leeds in 1813 for the Inclosure Award. See also the coloured Idle Township Map of 1838.

Presumably these boundaries were established from the end of the 12th century when Nigel de Plumpton held the manor, and were stated in a Survey of 1584 [below]. They were defined mostly by water: on the west by Strop Sike which fed into Bradford Beck; this fed into the River Aire on the north and east sides; Pighill Beck ran into the Aire, and formed the south side. Only a short distance was made up of field boundaries between the sources of Pighill Beck and Strop Sike, dividing Idle from Eccleshill and Bolton townships.

Summary of the Lords of the Manor

The successive Lords of the Manor did not live in Idle, but held it as part of their estates. They received income from manorial rents, but from the end of the 16th century any property they actually owned had been purchased by them at different times.

The Plumpton family lived at Plumpton near Spofforth. Following an inheritance dispute, and through marriages, in 1584 half of the manor was held by George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, and a quarter each by Sir Anthony Thorold and his wife, and William Reyner and his wife. From this time, the various moieties passed through different hands until the whole manor was purchased by Robert Clarkson in 1629. The Clarksons sold it to Sir Walter Calverley of Esholt Hall in 1714. His son Walter Blackett (the name was changed to the female inheritance) sold it to Robert Stanfield in 1755. Descent through female inheritance introduced the names Rookes and Crompton, but they adopted the name Stansfield. Three daughters, the Misses Crompton Stansfield, lived at Esholt Hall until Bradford Corporation bought the whole of the Esholt estate, including lands in Idle, in 1906 [See Section III]. They did, however, retain the title of Lord of the Manor of Idle when they moved out.

Survey of the Manor of Idle, 1584

The earliest detailed description of Idle is in the Survey made in 1584. It seems clear that this preceded a sale of the manor, for deeds from this period show the several moieties passing through various hands to create a unified result, both in the Lordship and the freehold ownership of the actual properties and closes that comprised the township. The Survey shows that one householder held lands scattered around the township: this may relate to enclosures of former strip fields, when good and bad land was divided fairly between the eligible inhabitants (Wrose was considered behind as it had not made similar enclosures). Although some individual houses kept their scattered properties into the 19th century, some owners began almost immediately to sell or buy closes to create individual 'farms' as we would recognise them. The Buck family, for example, gradually acquired closes lying along the line of the River Aire near the Mill. All these lands continued to pay a manorial rent to the Lord, finally united in one man, Robert Clarkson, in 1629. Although he owned some land in Idle, land ownership did not go with the Lordship.

Cudworth in *Round About Bradford* (1876, p.367) said that the then Vicar of Idle, the Rev. Henry Harrison, 'had in his possession some years ago the original survey'. This

copy was transcribed and published in Volume 1 of *The Bradford Antiquary* (1888, pp. 192-200 and 267-273), together with a reproduced copy of an accompanying map. The transcript had added notes taken from a 'somewhat later' copy. What happened to the Rev. Harrison's copy is not known, and the original map has disappeared (see Section X below). However, in 1997 the 'somewhat later' copy, containing the added notes, came to light, having been rescued from the Stansfield estate office material. The whole collection, including a complete set of Clarkson manorial Rentals for Idle, and other material relating to the Calverley and Stansfield properties, has been deposited in the Bradford Archives: 23D98 – Idle material is under /8. References to the Survey following are taken from my transcript.

The Survey [see Appendix 2] gives the boundaries of Idle, unchanged until 1855 when the Township was divided into Windhill-Wrose and Idle-Thackley-Thorp for administrative purposes. Windhill was eventually taken into Shipley, and Idle was incorporated into Bradford in November 1899; Shipley succumbed to Bradford in c.1970.

By 1899, Bradford had been grappling with its sewage problem for many years, and the answer was to establish a large sewage works at Esholt, and on the Idle side of the Aire opposite. Ironically, the Stansfields had helped to initiate the scheme by complaining about the pollution of the river that flowed past Esholt Hall: it resulted in the compulsory purchase of their estate, which included land in Thackley with Buck Wood and Buck Mill, in 1906. The Mill and adjoining woods are still the property of Bradford MDC, and the Council encouraged the formation of the Friends of Buck Wood to help promote and preserve the Wood for the enjoyment of local people.

The name of Buck Wood and Buck Mill comes from the Buck family, who held the manorial Water Corn and Fulling Mill from the middle of the 16th century until 1744. Originally claiming it from a Copyhold lease, they bought the several moieties to own both mill and wood outright. It was sold to the Calverley/Blackett family, who then held the Lordship, and remained with the Lord of the Manor until 1906.

II. WOODS IN IDLE

The 1584 Survey described first the Park, enclosed by a stone wall. This was important enough to be marked and named on John Speed's 1610 Map of the West Riding of Yorkshire, but the only remains today are the semi-circular line of Park Road, Thackley, and the name of Park House and Park Lodge. The other woods, marked on the 1584 Survey map (as published in *The Bradford Antiquarian*) are still discernible. The two largest are the East Wood, following the line of the River Aire upstream from Strangford Farm (now site of part of the Esholt Sewage Works) to Buck Mill; and the West Wood, from Buck Mill to Wood End near Windhill. The West Wood, later known as Thackley West Wood, is now diminished from its size on the 1838 Township map, but the East Wood is more or less intact, incorporating Buck Wood, Field Wood, Hollins Wood, and the slightly detached Poggy Wood and Dawson Wood.

Woods were an economic property, and even in the 19th century owners of woods and plantations in the district kept them in their own occupation even when the farms

were let out to tenants. If lands that included trees were let, the owner usually retained the right to the timber and underwood, with access to cut down and remove them. The Survey describes the woods in terms of the number of trees and their value as timber [see Appendix 2]. The East Wood had mainly oaks in varying stages of growth, together with underwood (the regularly coppiced trees). In 1584, some timber trees were ready for felling, and others were replacement saplings. Part of the underwood had 18 years growth and would be ready for use at 20 years; some of this had already been sold. [Oliver Rackham said medieval felling rotations went from 4 to 8 years; an example of a 20 year cycle at Beaulieu ‘would then have been unusually long’ – the Idle cycle may have been unusual, but not unique. Oliver Rackham, *Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape*: revised edition, Phoenix Press paperback, 2001; pp. 63-64. Note below in Section VII the 1724 sale of trees in Buck Wood that gave an 8 year felling franchise.]

Buck Wood in its working life would not have had its present appearance, as there was a continuing cycle of large standard, wavers or timber trees of greater age, surrounded by coppiced or spring wood in its own cycle of up to 20 years.

III. BUCK WOOD AND BUCK MILL GENERAL BACKGROUND

Deeds in the years following the 1584 Survey show individual properties in Idle being acquired as freehold from the half-quarter-quarter shares of the Earl of Cumberland, Anthony Thoralde and his wife, and William Reyner and his wife through various intermediaries to individuals in Idle. In this way, the Buck family obtained full ownership of Idle Mills, the adjacent house and closes. Intermediaries included Sir John Savile of Howley, William and Michael Oglethorpe of Roundhay (linked by marriage to Savile), Andrew Nedeham of Nottinghamshire and the Cage family of Gloucestershire.

References to Buck Mill and/or Buck Wood are shown in emboldened text.

[See Section IV for detailed descriptions of the property over the years]

1594 28 June Andrew Nedeham to William Bucke: quarter share of **house, mill, grounds and closes**, together with the soke and suit from the tenants and freeholders of Idle

[Leeds Archives: WYL 500/268 and 269]

1614/5 20 March Sir John Savile to William Bucke: quarter share of **house, mill, grounds and closes**, with soke and service due (Sir John covenanted that he had not revoked the suit and service due to the Mill from several properties he had sold on in Idle)

[WYL 500/275]

1616 24 March Sir John Savile to Michael Field and William Field: quarter share of the **Lordship of the Manor of Idle and the East Wood and West Wood except the house and mill in the tenure of William Buck**

[Bradford Archives: PP/Box 5/5, p.1 (this is from a transcript by W.B. Preston, so it is not clear whether the year is 1615 or 1616)]

- 1620** 28 March Judith Cage, widow, and her sons John and Anthony to William Bucke the elder and his younger son Lawrence: **the East Wood (6 score acres)**, occupied by William Bucke and George Craven; and **a cottage** occupied by George Hearon
 - same date Cage to William Bucke the younger: half share of the **house, mill, grounds and closes**
 [WYL 500/277 and 278]

In other deeds relating to the property, William Buck the younger created an annuity of £30 on the house and mill property when his daughter Mary married Peter Sunderland. After Mary's death, Lawrence Buck (William's brother) inherited the mill and house, but the annuity continued when Lawrence's daughter in turn married Peter Sunderland. When her husband died, she married secondly Richard Shuttleworth; they sold the annuity to the Slater family, who in turn sold it to William Rookes of Esholt Hall. This did not affect the ownership, but the deeds add to descriptions of the property. [See Section IV]

- 1721** 28 November John Buck of Idle Mills, gentleman: mortgage owed to Thomas Dobson transferred to Robert Stansfield, secured on **the Great Wood and New Close Spring**
 [WYL 500/291]
 [this mortgage was paid off in 1725, but a new one was taken out in 1729; it was transferred to various people until 1744 – see WYL 500/297-305]

- 1744** 29/30 October Lease and Release: sale by John Buck of Gargrave and his son John Buck of Bolton (near Bradford) to Sir Walter Blackett of Wallington with his father Sir Walter Calverley, Baronet, of Esholt Hall (Lord of the Manor of Idle): **house, mill and closes** [and wood]
 [WYL 500/306]
 Sir Walter Calverley recorded the purchase in his Memorandum Book [Bradford Archives: 23D98/2/1, pp. (126-128)]

The tenant at this time was Edward Ackroyd. The Buck family – John who had moved to Gargrave, and his son John in Bolton, between Idle and Bradford – no longer worked the Mill. They were described as attorneys. They had obviously moved up the social scale, but perhaps they had also recognised the end of the manorial corn mill system. [For examples of the covenant to observe suit and service at the mill, see Appendix 4]. It is after their departure that evidence for the name 'Buck Mill' as opposed to 'Idle Mills' begins.

- 1751** 3 and 31 July Court Baron at Idle: nine inhabitants of Idle were fined 6s 8d for grinding their corn at other mills and not the Lord's mill: they were to take their corn to the Lord's mill in future
 [Bradford Archives: DB5/24/28]

- 1755** Act for the sale of Robert Stansfield's estates, to purchase other estates to make a coherent whole. [Robert Stansfield has already acquired property in Idle, including some from John Buck of Gargrave. He had left property in several places in trust for his son Robert Stansfield, and the intention of the

Act was to allow the trust to sell this and purchase the Esholt Hall estate which included the manors of Idle and Yeadon, and lower Esholt]

[*Bradford Archives: 23D98/3/6; and Bradford Central Library, Local History section, B246 GRE*]

1755 part of a draft Agreement amongst the inhabitants of Idle about the Soke Mill: 'Whereas divers freeholders inhabitants within the Township of Idle have frequently carryed their Corn to be ground at a **Water Corn Mill in Idle afores^d called Buck Mill** Induced thereto by the nearness of the said Mill, and plenty of Water the same being situate on the river Aire and continue to do ...', they claim the liberty to carry their corn to be ground where they please, and are not bound to have it ground at the mill.

[*Bradford Archives: 15D74/5/8/49*]

1755 engrossed document, not dated and with no names filled in: a representative inhabitant of Idle (name to be inserted), with the support of other inhabitants who were to have signed beneath, will contest the right of Robert Stansfield of Esholt, owner of **the water Corn Mill commonly called or known by the name of Buck Mill** to the soke of the mill. The tenant, Thomas Smith, has issued a suit against the chosen representative for withdrawing his soke; the Inhabitants apprehend that they are not 'in anywise bound to Grind their Corn nor to suit at the said Mill'.

[*Bradford Archives: Stott Stanhope/2/311*]

1773 1 August Agreement by the Stansfield estate with Christopher Dibb and William Smith to buy a piece of Woody Ground and a field near Buck Mill, lately belonging to John Denbigh

[*Bradford Archives: 23D96/3/7, p. 157*]

c. 1774 Period of planning and construction of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in this area [see Section VIII]

1794 1 May Lease by Ann Rookes, widow, of Esholt Hall to her daughter Anna Maria and husband Joshua Crompton: she was owner of the mill, house and farm called **Buck Mill or Buck Mill Farm**, occupied by Frances Walshaw, widow. Because '**the said mill is very much out of repair** and capable of very great improvement but at a very considerable expense', Ann Rookes granted them the right to take and sell timber from Tasker Wood [part of the original West Wood] and to use the money to repair the Buck Mill buildings. She granted them a 99 year lease of **Buck Mill and the house** at a peppercorn rent

[*Bradford Archives: PP/Box 5/5,(p. 49): transcript by W.E. Preston*]

1794 30 September Joshua Crompton to William Greenwood of Calverley, miller, and Frances Walshaw of Buck Mill: Agreement for a 15 year lease of **the house and mill**: with allowance for the tenants to add new fulling stocks, and to add a new chamber over the fulling mill to be a scribbling mill with its own water wheel [see Section IV]

[*Leeds Archives: WYL 500/310*]

- 1813** 1 March Joshua Crompton and wife Anna Maria to David Meller of Idle, Corn Miller: 10 year Lease of the **house, Corn Mill and closes**; reserving the right of Joshua Crompton to the woods and underwoods; formerly occupied by Thomas Walshaw, now by David Meller
[WYL 500/310d]
- 1824** 1 May Joshua Crompton to Isaac Rowntree and William Rowntree: Agreement for 4 year lease of the **Fulling Mill** (reference to the late David Meller as tenant of the Corn Mill)
[WYL 500/310e]
- 1825** 5 March Joshua Crompton to William Craven and William Brear, and also Thomas Craven: Agreement for 11 year lease of all the parts of **the mill** not subject to the above leases; and to have the whole of the mill premises when these earlier leases expire
[WYL 500/310g]
- 1842** List of people entitled to vote in the Township of Idle: William Craven the occupier of **Buck Mill**
[Bradford Archives: DB/3/40/4]
- 1853** White's *Directory*, p. 380: Wm Craven, Corn Miller at Buck Mill; p. 381: Wm Craven, Farmer at Buck Mill; also Wm Craven & Co., Scribbling and Fulling Millers

Idle Local Board minutes:

- 1867** 7 August plans of Mr Benjamin Thornton for a **Warehouse at Buck Mill** approved
[Bradford Archives: BBT8/1/1, p. 254]
- 1869** 18 October plans of Benjamin Thornton for a **Willey Room at Buck Mill** approved [for wool-combing machinery]
[- BBT/1/1, p. 394]

[Benjamin Thornton was the tenant of Buck Mill, but owned Bowling Green Mill in Thackley and Albion Mill in Idle; he had died by 1890]

- 1873** 15 September Plans of Colonel Stansfield for nine houses at Buck Wood approved
[These may be the row of cottages at Hill Top, north of Park Road, east of Birk Hill farm: see the 1905 map marked up for tenant farms in Appendix 5]
[- BBT 8/1/2, p. 133]

1868-1875 Bill of Complaint taken out by William Rookes Crompton Stansfield against Bradford Corporation about the **pollution** of Bradford Beck and consequently of the River Aire, which flowed past Esholt Hall; the action was continued by his successor William Henry Crompton Stansfield. In their Answer of 1875, the Corporation included the allegation that W.R.C. Stansfield and his tenants contributed to the pollution of the river from his mills at Esholt and Guiseley, and from Buck Mill: 'The Plaintiff's mill at

Esholt, known as the **Buck Mill**, is used for scribbling and wool-washing. The refuse from this mill is discharged into the river Aire and no attempt is made to purify such refuse. This mill is reputed to have been built about 50 years.'

[*Bradford Archives: BBD 1/1/72, Box 308; Answers of the Defendants, pp. 28 and 29*]

1883 *PostOffice: Bradford Directory, p. 60*: 'As early as 1567 the woollen trade was established at Buck mill in Idle, and the woollen manufacture is still carried on to a large extent, combined with the worsted trade. The principal woollen manufacturers are Messrs. John Raistrick & Sons, of Brackendale mills, and Mr B. Thornton of Buck Mill and Thackley ...'

[the **1895** *Post Office Directory, p. 505*, repeats the 1567 reference, but the next reference is only to Brackendale, and Mr B. Thornton's executors at Albion mill and Bowling Green mill.]

Idle Local Board/Urban District Council minutes:

1889 16 December discussion about taking land at Buck Mill for the proposed Thackley sewage works

[*Bradford Archives: BBT 8/1/7, p. 74*]

[see the 1894 Idle Urban District map: site to west of Buck Mill indicated]

1899 20 March Conveyance of the site from the Stansfields to Idle signed
[- *BBT 8/1/11, p. 352*]

[Idle was taken into Bradford in November 1899; the land to the west of Buck Mill became Bradford Council property, but was never developed as a sewage works due to the development of Esholt]

1899 24 July meeting of the General Purpose Committee, Idle: various public seats had been fixed around the District, including one on Buck Lane

[- *BBT 8/2/2*]

Purchase of the Esholt Hall estate by Bradford Corporation: information following taken from *Bradford Archives: BBD 1/1/122, Box 140*; maps from this source noted in Section X

1904 13 October Misses Crompton Stansfield to Bradford Corporation: Agreement for sale of the Esholt Hall estate; the Schedule refers to the numbers on various plans, which are included in Box 140.

1905 List of tenants of the Esholt Hall estate [related to the map – see Section X]

1906 2 February Conveyance of Esholt Hall estate to Bradford Corporation

1907 Sewage Scheme approved

1909 work commenced [some delay because of the First World War]

1914 20 March Report from the Sewage Works Engineer's office to the Sewage Committee [*carbon copy in Box 140*] concerning the construction of Ainsbury Avenue from Park Road/Thackley Road to the Canal Bridge

1921 15 November *Bradford Daily Telegraph*, p. 7: article: Buck Wood Chimney felled*

[*N.B. this source has not yet been verified. An article on **Buck Mill** in the *Bradford Telegraph and Argus* in 1971, 6 October, said:

In its early days Buck Mill was used for grinding corn and fulling cloth. When its textile department was extended two four-storey blocks were built, along with a boilerhouse, engine and chimney. To conserve water for the boiler a dam was made in a field to the south, but this is now merely a marsh, inhabited by common newts and great pond snails. Corn to be ground was stored in a large barn with double threshing doors. For some years before the 1914-18 War the mill was empty and derelict. Finally, in 1923 the buildings were blown up and a quantity of the stone was used to pave the path which climbs the hill to Thackley. A stone door with an 18th century date was taken and built into an open fireplace of a house in Gill Lane, Yeadon, the home of the late Mr. C. Wontner Smith, then in charge of Esholt Sewage Works.

[Presumably the two four storey blocks are those built by Benjamin Thornton in 1867/1869, which suggests a date for the dam in the adjoining field, now indicated by an outline mound.]

IV. BUCK MILL DESCRIPTIONS

1584 Survey of Idle: Idle Mills held by John Bucke and his son William as successors to Richard Rookes:

House [messuage or tenement] near the River Aire
one Water Corn Mill and **one Fulling Mill with 2 stocks** standing on the water (with mulcture and profits and service to the mill)
two gardens and a croft adjoining
Milne close (2 acres)
Rocliffe Inge (a meadow) and **the Wood Closes** (2 acres 16 perches)
Thackley Inge (1 acre 1 rood 5 perches)
Long Lands (½ acre)

[*Bradford Archives: 23D98/8/1, pp. 37 and 38; see Appendix 2*]

1589/90 16 March Bargain and Sale: William and Michael Ogleshorpe to Andrew Nedeham: quarter share of:

House
Water Corn Mill and **Fulling Mill with 2 stocks** called Idle milnes
With buildings, barns, stables
Dams, streams, goits, waters and watercourses
Soke and service of the freeholders of Idle; mulcture, profits, etc.
Croft and 2 gardens adjoining
Milne close, Thackley Ing
Woods, underwoods
Occupied by John Bucke and his son William

[*Leeds Archives: WYL 500/266*]

- 1594** 28 June Bargain and Sale: Andrew Nedeham to William Bucke: quarter share of property, as above; lately occupied by John Bucke, father of William, and William; now by William Bucke alone
 - [same date] Andrew Nedeham also assigned to William Bucke the remainder of a Lease of the other quarter of the property that he had from Anthony Thorold and his wife, dated 1593; it included the description '**one Corne Milne and one walke Mylne**'
 [WYL 500/268 and 269]
- 1620** 28 March Bargain and Sale: Judith Cage and sons John and Anthony to William Bucke the younger; half share of the above property; occupied by William Bucke the elder and his son William Bucke the younger
 [WYL 500/278]
- 1637** 6 September Marriage Settlement: William Bucke to Peter Sunderland: security for an annuity on the marriage of William's daughter Mary to Peter Sunderland:
House
Water Corn Mill and Fulling Mill called Idle Mills
 [with appurtenances]
 Closes:
Milneroyds, Four Smithie Closes
Two Wood Closes
Two Rocliffe yngs
Stubb ynge
 [Bradford Archives: PP/Box 5/5 (p. 39)]
- 1658/9** 25 February Covenant concerning annuity: Lawrence Bucke to Peter Sunderland; security of:
House with barns, buildings, folds, gardens, closes, woods, underwoods etc.
 '**Two ffullinge Milnes with ffoure Stockes**' called Idle Milns standing on the river of Aire. With buildings, dams, goits, floods, streams, millraces, water, watercourses; privileges; etc
 - both occupied by Lawrence Bucke
 [Leeds Archives: WYL 500/285]
- 1671** 24 December Will of Peter Sunderland: he devised the annuity from the '**water Corn mill and two fulling mills called Buck Mills**' occupied by John Buck, to his wife Grace
 [Bradford Archives: PP/Box 5/5 (p. 47)]
 [this at present has only been noted from the transcript of W.E. Preston; if correctly recorded, it shows that the mill was known as Buck Mill at this time, even if legal documents continued to refer to Idle Mills]
- 1672** Hearth Tax for the West Riding: one person in Idle had 6 hearths (Jeremy Welfitt); four people had 5 hearths – Lawrence Buck; William Buck; Robert Carrock and Thomas Ledgard. This suggests that the mill House was one of

the larger houses in Idle, but it is not clear whether the hearths might also have included those in the mill building or outbuildings as well.

[transcript document in *Bradford Archives: MMC/29, pp. 105 and 106*]

- 1682** 5 October Letter from Richard Shuttleworth and his wife Grace [former wife of Peter Sunderland, daughter of Lawrence Buck] to John Stanhope of Horsforth, offering to sell him the annuity coming out of **Idle millnes**

[*Bradford Archives: SpSt/5/2/13*]

The annuity was eventually sold to Thomas Slater, with the reference to **Buck Mills**, but at present these references are only known from Preston's transcriptions:

[*PP/Box 5/5 (p. 47)*]

- 1710** 7/8 April Lease and Release: Marriage Settlement: John Buck of Idle Mills, and his son John Buck who is to marry Martha, daughter of Jeremy Garth; property is to be held in trust for John Buck the son and Martha, including:

House where John Buck the father now lives
with the **Upper Barn** and **Lower Barn**

Water Corn Mill and 2 Fulling Mills with 4 stocks under one roof,
called Idle Mills, standing near the house

1 drying Kiln to the Corn Mill

Closes belonging:

Kiln Close

Wails [Wales] Close

New Close

Two Days Work or Mill Close

Brow Close

Sandall Ing

Ramsden Ing

Wade Close

Great Ing (formerly in three closes called High Holme Ing, Hobson ing
and Three days ploughing)

Coate Close with a little laith or barn

Little Stubbings

Great Stubbings

3 pieces of Woody ground near the House:

The Great Wood=End lately purchased by John Buck the father from
his brother David, adjoining Sandall ing on the north west

Mill Wood

Mill Wood Brow

Reserving to John Buck the father for the use of himself and his wife Mary
for life:

the right to timber trees, wood, underwood and brushwood over the next
6 years

1 ground room in the house called **the Great Parlour** and a chamber
called **the Men's Chamber** south east end of **the Lower Barn** with use
of the threshing floor **an eeling or Mystal** adjoining the north east side
of the south east end of the barn liberty to brew and wash in a room

called **the Outkitchen**, standing near the house with access to all the above

[Leeds Archives: WYL 500/288]

- 1721** Answer of John Buck the elder and John Buck the younger to a Suit in Chancery by Sir Walter Calverley. Sir Walter, as Lord of the Manor of Idle, was claiming manorial rents due from certain closes in Idle. The Bucks claimed these were due from property they had sold on. John Buck the elder admitted he owned the Water Corn Mill and a Fulling Mill, a messuage and other buildings, lands and tenements; but **Thackley Ing** and **Half-hall Ing** had been given by Lawrence Buck, grandfather of John Buck the elder, to his younger son William, who conveyed them to John Swain and Henry Slater.

About 7 years ago, the yearly value of the house, mill and lands was about £60; but since by '**rebuilding & making an addition thereto of a new Corn Mill & otherwise**' the value was about £80.

'ye old Mills did consist formerly of one pair of Millstones in y^e Corn Mill only but one pair of stones then added to y^e Corn Mill & two other stones were formerly added to y^e said fulling Mill'

[Bradford Archives: DB5/24/31]

- 1731** 4/5 May Lease and Release (transfer of Mortgage): John Buck [formerly John Buck the younger of Buck Mill; now of Gargrave, Gentleman] to Trustees for Thomas Slater, on security of:

House standing near Idle Mills

with outhouses, barns, orchards, garths, gardens and closes, woods, underwoods etc.

2 Water Corn Mills and **2 Fulling Mills with 4 stocks** under one roof, called Idle Mills

Drying kiln for the Corn Mill

and ground, 'stoneries', Islands

suit and soke, service, custom, mulcture etc.

'Pusses', fans, geaves, wheels, stocks, millstones, implements etc.

Dams, waters, watercourses, goits, races, streams, clows etc.

Occupied by Edward Ackroyd

[Leeds Archives: WYL 500/299]

- 1744** 29/30 October Lease and Release – Conveyance: John Buck of Gargrave and his son John Buck of Bolton [near Bradford] to Walter Blakett of Wallington and his father Sir Walter Calverley, Baronet, of Esholt Hall:

House near Idle Mills, occupied by Edward Ackroyd

Upper Barn and **Lower Barn**

'one cottage or dwelling house there lately erected'

2 Water Corn Mills and **2 Fulling Mills with 4 stocks** under one roof on the River Aire, near the house, called Idle Mills

Drying Kiln

Ground, stoneries, islands

Suit, soke etc.

Pieces, fans, arks, chests

Wheels, stocks, millstones, utensils

Dams, attachments of dams, water, watercourses etc.

Closes:

Kiln Close, Wailes Close, New Close, Two Days Work or Miln Close, Brow Close, Back of the Kiln, Sandal Ing, Ramsden Ing, Wade Close, Oddy Ing, 3 Smithy Closes, Bottom Close, Great Ing, Coat Close with a little laith or barn, **Little Stubbing, Great Stubbing**

[WYL 500/306]

- 1768** 22 October 11 year Lease from the Stansfield estate to John Fox of 'Buck Mill and the Land &c'
- 1769** 6 December 7 year lease to William Greenwood of 'Buck Mills and the Farm belonging'
- 1770** 16 October repairs at Buck Mill, including flags and iron work - £42; and £20 to Mr. Banks 'for one pair of blue Stones which went to Buck Mill 1771'
- 1781** 14 July £10-1s-0d to Peter Walshaw for 2 pairs of millstones
[Notebook concerning Esholt estate property: *Bradford Archives*, 23D98/3/7, pp. (5), (9), (11) and (27)]
- 1794** 30 September 15 year Lease: Joshua Crompton to William Greenwood and Frances Walshaw of:
Buck Mill House
and buildings and lands
allowance to be made for:
building **8 new fulling stocks with a chamber over the whole of the Fulling Mill** to be used as a **Scribbling Chamber** and a **Water wheel** 'for the purposes of Scribbling of Wool only'
the present doors not to be injured
and to **rebuild or alter the old [Fulling] Mill** to carry the 8 fulling stocks, providing necessary wood, lime and stone, and the iron work with a pit wheel, fly wheel, upright shafts and tumbling shafts
Corn Mill to be kept in good repair with 4 pairs of working stones
No more than 8 fulling stocks to be worked in the Fulling Mill, or to pay extra rent
Tenants to repair or provide axle trees and stock bucks for the wheels
[*Leeds Archives: WYL 500/310a*]
- 1795** 4 August further Agreement: there are to be **3 new fulling stocks** and **1 new turning stock**; Mr Crompton to make allowance for the 4 old stocks now refitted
[- *WYL 500/310b*]
- 1813** 4 November Agreement for 1 year Lease: Joshua Crompton to Thomas Walshaw of Buck Mill, Miller, of property formerly occupied by William Greenwood and Frances Walshaw, both now deceased; now occupied by Thomas Walshaw and his brother William:

Water Corn Mill called Buck Mill
with **Fulling Mill, Scribbling Mill** and **Drying Kiln**

House with barns, stables

Gardens, orchards, lands and closes

In the Corn Mill:

2 water wheels and gear, etc.

1 pair of French millstones

2 pairs of grey millstones

1 pair of shelling millstones

In the Fulling Mill:

2 water wheels

8 fulling stocks with wheels etc.

In the Scribbling Mill:

1 water wheel, pit wheel, fly wheel, upright shafts
and wheels, stocks, stones, axle trees, tackle etc.

[WYL 500/310c]

1818 1 March 10 year Lease: Joshua Crompton and wife Anna Maria to David Meller, Corn Miller:

House, lately occupied by Thomas Walshaw

Part of a **Garden**

Water Corn Mill 'consisting of a ground floor and a chamber over the same and an attic storey over the whole'

with:

1 pit wheel on the axle of the water wheel, carrying by a Wallover wheel an horizontal shaft with 5 counter wheels all of cast iron, carrying by iron nuts a pair of French mill stones and 2 pairs of grey millstones; with casings, ladders and arks

1 pair of walling millstones with larder, fan, dust sieve and dust box

1 jack tackle

1 flour dressing mill carried by the horizontal shaft by iron shafts and wheels

and the water wheel race in the Fulling Mill adjoining the corn mill, with an iron grate, a clough with an iron forbay and gearing of iron wheels and shafts for drawing the same

in the wheel race is one **water wheel** with iron axle trees, arm races and half plates

also **2 drying kilns with corn bins**

and a **barn, cowhouse, stable and pig-garth and pigcotes**

closes of land [not named] – 37 acres

with appurtenances: outhouses, folds, yards, etc; passages; water, watercourses; dams, attachments of dams, banks, weirs, streams, goits, mill races; wheels, furniture, mill tackle, machinery, fixtures

Joshua Crompton reserved to himself the woods and underwoods on the premises, with liberty of access

David Meller not to allow anyone without leave from the owner to hunt, shoot, fish, fowl or sport on the land

David Meller and the occupiers of the adjoining Fulling Mill only to use the water power from 6 in the evening until 6 in the morning; during the day the power is to be used to weork the Scribbling Mill, unless the water 'runs over

the dam stones', in which case the mills can be worked during the period of excess water

[WYL 500/310d]

1824 1 May Agreement for Lease: Joshua Crompton to Isaac Rowntree and William Rowntree:

the Fulling Mill (similar restrictions on time of use as above)
acknowledged that the Driving Fulling Stock was 'old and far worn'
also **5 closes** formerly occupied by David Meller deceased

[WYL 500/310e]

1825 5 March Agreement for Lease: Joshua Crompton to William Craven and William Brear, with Thomas Craven the younger

the Scribbling Mill

with reversion on the expiry of the other leases of **the Corn Mill** and **the Fulling Mill**

Joshua Crompton to erect cottages on the premises at a cost of £100

[WYL 500/310g]

1851 Map: Buck Mill marked 'Corn and woollen'

Idle Local Board minutes:

1867 7 August Plans of Benjamin Thornton for a Warehouse at Buck Mill approved

[Bradford Archives: BBT 8/1/1, p. 251]

1869 18 October Plans of Benjamin Thornton for a Willey Room at Buck Mill approved

[BBT 8/1/1, p. 394]

1889 29 July Idle Local Board to ask Mr Pullan, the agent for the Esholt estate, to allow a dam at Buck Mill to be let off occasionally 'so that the offensive accumulation therein may pass off with the flood'

[- BBT 8/1/6, p. 425]

1890 22 September Baildon Local Board wrote to Idle Local Board about 'the bad condition of the water in the wheel Race at Buck Mill, and to the necessity for its being let off occasionally'

[- BBT 8/1/7, p. 272]

1891 29 June another letter from Baildon Local Board, about opening the Clow at Buck Mill 'to obviate the bad smells said to arise there'

[- BBT 8/1/8, p. 50]

1906 OS map – 'Buck Mill (Disused)'

1906 Sale of Esholt Hall estate to Bradford Corporation

V. BUCK WOOD COTTAGE

There are several references to a cottage in the East Wood. There is a house on the edge of the Buck Wood, above the track that leads down to the swing bridge over the Canal near the site of Buck Mill, which would seem to be the site for this cottage.

There are no indications from early maps of other houses in the wood. The present house appears to be 19th century – a period when houses throughout Idle were being rebuilt in stone on old sites. It is rented out to a tenant (who has a dog sanctuary), and is not available for close inspection.

1585 3 November Bargain and Sale: George Earl of Cumberland and his brother Francis Clifford to William Bucke of Idle, husbandman: half share in a cottage in Idle, now occupied by Edward Dobson, with the adjacent croft; together with woods and underwoods growing on the land
[Leeds Archives: WYL 500/260]

1589 26 June William Oglethorpe and his brother Michael to William Bucke of Idle, milner: quarter share of the above property
[WYL 500/262]

1620 28 March Bargain and Sale: Judith Cage and her sons John and Anthony to William Bucke the elder and his younger son Lawrence: the East Wood; and one Cottage adjoining the wood, occupied by George Hearson
[WYL 500/277]

In **1721** John Buck the elder said his father John Buck, before his death in **1690**, had settled the East Wood and cottage on his other son, David. John Buck the elder had purchased the property from David Buck before his death in 1700.
[Bradford Archives: DB 5/24/31 – Further Answers of John Buck, father and son]
[see also Leeds Archives: WYL 500/288]

VI. CLOSES ASSOCIATED WITH BUCK MILL
Not included here as outside the survey area

VII. BUCK WOOD AND ITS MANAGEMENT

Buck Wood is part of the East Wood referred to in the 1584 Survey. All the woodlands were noted for their potential profits from the timber trees and the underwoods (coppicing, brushwood, etc.). [See Appendix 2 for extracts from the Survey]. There would have been constant felling, coppicing and charcoal burning in the wood throughout its working life: its present appearance represents a change of use.

- 1504** 26 April Letter from Dame Agnes Plumpton to Sir Robert Plumpton [during the dispute over the Plumpton inheritance]; she reports that the servants of Sir John Roclife have been selling wood from family property at Nesfeld:
'& also at Idell they haue sold holyn to James Formes & to Thomas Quertin and William Aches; and herof I can geet no more certaintie as yet'
[*The Plumpton Letters and Papers*, ed. by Joan Kirby; CUP, 1966, p.174]
- 1620** 28 March Bargain and Sale: Judith Cage and her sons John and Anthony to William Bucke the elder and his younger son Lawrence: of all that 'Continent or lande wodde and woddy grounde ... Commonly called and knowne by the name of the **Estwodde**' – 120 acres; now or lately occupied by William Bucke and George Craven; and also a cottage adjoining the wood occupied by George Hearon
[*Leeds Archives: WYL 500/277*]
- 1710** 7/8 April Lease and Release – Marriage Settlement: John Buck and his son John to Jeremy Garth and his daughter Martha, and Trustees; property includes 3 parcels of ground near the Buck's house:
Great Wood End, purchased by John Buck the elder from his brother David, adjoining Sandall Ing in the north west
Mill Wood
Mill Wood Brow
- to the use of John Buck the son; but the father reserved to himself for the next 6 years:
'All the Timber Trees Wood Underwood & brushwood (other then what shall be fitt requisite & necessary to be left standing for Wavers or Standers according to the Custome of the Country)' in Great Wood End
[*WYL 500/288*]
- 1724** 12 October John Buck the younger of Idle Mills to John Moore of Kirkstall Forge and Francis Watts of Colnebridge: sale for £300 (with an arrangement for part of the money to go to Robert Stansfield of Bradford in part payment of a mortgage) of:
'All the Springwood and Underwood & brushwood now standing growing & being within the several parcels of Woody ground' called **the Great Wood**, and **the Ley Close or new Close Spring**: 69 acres
Reserving to John Buck sufficient number of oaks – or for want of oaks, sufficient number of Ashes, Elms and other trees – as are usually left for wavers or standers [i.e. timber trees]; and sufficient wood for fencing the woods;

with liberty of access for the purchasers and their workmen over a period up to 25 March 1732 ‘to fell cutt down & pill the said Woode & to raile, stack, park, dry, dress, chopp, & cutt the bark there; And also there to work up cord & Coal the tops cordwood & brushwood thereby accrewing & for that purpose to make pitt places & to digg & get Sods, cover & other necessaryes for Coaling the Cordwood arising or hapnin in the said parcell of Woody ground or either of them & to Coal remove & Cary away the said woods, bark, Charcoal & other matter arising’ – until the 29 September following the end of the stated period;

they are to make as little spoil or waste as possible, ‘And also shall & will leave such sufficient number of young Oakes Ashes & Elmes in the said Parcelles of Woody ground as are herein before reserved’

[cordwood: the small upper branches and toppings of trees, &c., cut into lengths and stacked into ‘cords’ – Wright: *Dialect Dictionary*]

[WYL 500/292]

1750 Survey of all the woods on Sir Walter Blackett’s estates in Yeadon, Guiseley, Hawksworth, Shipley and Idle, valued by John Long
[see Appendix 6]

1755 6 January Articles of Agreement between Walter Blackett and Robert Stansfield for the purchase of the Manors of Idle and Yeadon, and property in Esholt, Idle and elsewhere - includes the covenant that Mr John Crooks of Kirkstall Forge shall have the timber he has contracted for with Walter Blackett [the actual wood he was taking it from is not specified, but it indicates that Kirkstall Forge continued to acquire timber/charcoal from the woods in the Aire Valley above the Forge]

[WYL 500/754]

1818 1 March Agreement for Lease: Joshua Crompton to David Meller: the house and Water Corn Millm with closes containing 37 acres; Joshua Crompton reserved to himself ‘all manners of Woods underwoods and other trees of whatever age growth nature or kind’, with right of access ‘to peel fell cut down take away and carry away the same’

[WYL 500/310d]

1906 Bradford acquired Buck Wood and the adjoining woods and lands when the Esholt Hall estate was bought in order to make the Sewage Works. Management of the wood continued, originally with a commercial aspect – **c. 1935** a section of conifers was planted. Now, however, it has a leisure purpose, and is also a haven for wild life.

.....

VIII. CANAL AND RAILWAY

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal, constructed at the end of the 18th century, followed the course of the River Aire, and went through the north part of Buck Wood. The Midland Railway went through a tunnel constructed under the wood.

Leeds and Liverpool Canal

Although the Canal cut through the Buck Mill property, severing the house from the wood and cottage, it would have seemed an asset for the activities of the Fulling Mill, providing a form of transport to more distant locations without needing to carry bales up the steep track to Thackley. The towpath made an easy route for local independent weavers taking their cloth by foot down to Lesds into the 19th century. The swing bridge at the Buck Mill site was essential to preserve the long established route from village to mill, and to the stepping stones over the river to Baildon.

1766 A subscription was initiated after a meeting in Bradford on 2 July, to help defray expenses of making proper plans for the proposed Navigation to connect the east and west coasts.

[Bradford Archives: SpSt/13/2/6]

1768 Printed Booklet: *Summary View of the Proposed Canal from Leeds to Liverpool, and it's Importance to the Public* (Leeds: 1768)

[Bradford Archives: BCC/14/3]

1768 23 November An Estimate of the Intended Canal from Leeds to Liverpool – by James Brindley

[Bradford Archives: JOW/11/a/2/1]

1770 Printed Booklet: *ACT for making and maintaining a Navigable cut or Canal from Leeds Bridge ... to ... Liverpoole .. and from hence to the River Mersey* [pp. 14-15: limits the powers of the Proprietors to fell timber and brushwood except on land designated for the Canal; and the owners of the land can take the wood for an agreed price]

[Bradford Archives: DB/4/4/23]

1774 6 May Agreement between the Company of Proprietors of the Canal Navigation and William Rookes of Esholt Hall: concerning the alteration of the original line of the Canal near the house lately occupied by John Rycroft [Roccliffe]; also, a Grant that the tenants and occupiers of Buck Mill, Buck Mill Farm, Upper Esholt Mill, Strangford and Rycroft farms (occupied by Peter Walshaw, James Rawnsley, David Denbigh and Joseph Rycraft) shall have free access to the towing path from Buck Mill to Middleham Lane [i.e. Milman Lane, later Apperley Road] for horses with saddle and horses loaded with cloth or corn to be milled or ground or for other uses at the Mills or farms; and the Proprietors to make convenient gates along the towing path between Rycroft's house and Buck Mill sufficient to admit horses loaded with cloth, corn or meal

[Bradford Archives: BBD 1/1/122, Box 140 – typescript copy]

1785 3 February printed sheet: *A Retrospective View of the State of the Canal-Navigation from Leeds to Liverpool*, calling a meeting of Proprietors, as the Yorkshire and Lancashire ends are still 'detached'

1789 8 June from John Longbottom to the proprietors – the Canal is not yet complete

[Bradford Archives: JOW/11/a/2/20 and 29]

- 1841** 16 August Conveyance: William Rookes Crompton Stansfield to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company – of a piece of land 186 yards long by 5 feet 6 inches average width, as staked off from Lower Buck Wood
[*Bradford Archives: BBD 1/1/122, Box 140 – typescript copy*]

Midland Railway

The Leeds to Shipley Railway line approaches from south of the Esholt Hall grounds, crossing the River Aire into Idle and over the Canal south of Rocliffe farm. It then disappears into Thackley Tunnel, passing under Birk Hill and the west end of Buck Wood, before emerging to follow the line of the Canal to Windhill and Shipley. It was built in 1845, and a parallel new track (with extra tunnel) was built in 1900.

- 1844** Plan of the Ellicar Hill estate: the line of the proposed railway is shown, at the east end of Thackley Tunnel
[*Bradford Central Library: Local History section – ELL 1844 LIS*]

- 1845** 8 September Valuation of damage to a farm at Birk Hill occupied by Richard Garnett whilst making the railway tunnel under Birk Hill
[*Bradford Archives: 25D98: collection of items made by Ernest Garnett; the Valuation was seen before deposit, and the precise reference within the collection is not known*]
Note by Ernest Garnett: 4 July 1844 – Act for the Leeds Bradford Railway Company; the work was undertaken by Nowell & Hattersley; the Tunnel was opened on 30 May 1846

- 1846** 2 December Plan of estates at Idle and Farsley: the Railway and the east end of the Tunnel shown completed
[*Bradford Library: Local History – IDE 1846 LIS*]

- 1853** White's *Directory*, p. 382: Trains from Apperley Bridge every hour

- 1897** 27 December Idle Urban District Council minute book; to write to the Midland Railway Company about a culvert under the new Tunnel at Thackley
[*Bradford Archives: BBT 8/1/11, p. 236*]

- 1898** 18 July Idle UDC minutes: concerning the compensation from the Midland Railway Company for land at Birkhill
[- *BBT 8/1/11, p. 271*]

[- *BBD 1/1/Box 446* [temporary reference when seen: to be put under *BBT 8* – includes railway items, and a printed Notice by the Midland Railway Company about the widening of Thackley Tunnel]

Typescript booklet with notes on Conveyances by the Stansfield family to the Midland Railway Company:

- 1900** 30 January the Misses Crompton Stansfield to the Midland Railway Company: land and the right to construct a tunnel under land in Yeadon and Idle:

refers to a plan not included with the copy; includes the full right of tipping spoil etc. as excavated on land in Idle;
the Vendors reserved the use of surface land for agriculture but not building;
the Company to make fences of hedge or stone, and make good diverted roads and drains; ‘and shall cover over all spoil heaps with soil and also sow the same with grass seed and leave the same in grass’;
the Company to use shafts only for ventilation of the Tunnel;
no trees to e disturbed except for setting out the railway and making spoil banks; trees the property of the Vendors

[*Bradford Archives: BBD 1/1/122/Box 140 – typescript booklet, pp. 18-23 and 24*]

IX. BUCK MILL FOOTBRIDGE

There is still no public road bridge over the River Aire between Shipley and Apperley Bridge (a private road goes on Ainsbury Avenue, across the Canal swing bridge and through the Sewage Works). This now makes the bend in the river a delightfully secluded place with no road traffic. There was no vehicular access from Buck Mill over the river to Baildon, and the only track was up the hill to Thackley. There were, however, stepping stones near Buck Mill, and the possibility of fording the river to cross to Baildon when the water was not too high or strong. It was not until 1889 that the present footbridge was constructed.

Summary of entries from the Idle Local Board minute books:

1872 first suggestion for a bridge, to improve the communication between Idle and Baildon.

1876 the stepping stones across the river at Buck Mill were in a dangerous condition. The owner of the Mill site, Colonel Stansfield of Esholt Hall, did not feel liable to repair them. Baildon Local Board refused to co-operate in a scheme to share the cost of an iron footbridge.

[*Bradford Archives: BBT 8/1/2, pp. 74, 435-6, 452 and 459*]

1884 Baildon Local Board now complained about the dangerous state of the stepping stones, and both Idle and Baildon agreed that a footbridge would be the answer. Jowett Kendall, an architect who lived in Idle, was asked to make plans.

[- *BBT 8/1/4, pp. 405, 415-6, 430, 450-51*]

1885 Discussions about to precise crossing point; the approach path would go through Colonel Stansfield’s land. Jowett Kendall submitted plans; it would be a footbridge, and horses would not be allowed to cross as the owner on the Baildon side did not want heavy traffic going through.

[- *BBT 8/1/5, including pp. 39, 43-4, 217-8*]

1887 it was finally agreed that the footbridge would be built across the river at the site of the stepping stones by Buck Mill, slightly lower downstream than

originally suggested. Tenders were invited; William Greenwood of Bradford offered a second-hand bridge, but this was thought to be too heavy

[- *BBT 8/1/6, especially pp. 42-3, 60, 166 and 172-3*]

- 1888** Messrs Bagshaw's offer to build the bridge for £770 was accepted; commemorative plates would be put up at each end with the date and other details

[- *BBT 8/1/6, pp. 185-6, 188 and 238-9*]

- 1889** 12 April formal opening of the Bridge at 3 p.m. Members of Idle and Baildon Local Boards had a dinner at the Great Northern Hotel in Thackley, 'the utility and convenience likely to result from the opening of the Bridge being favourably commented on'. On 1 May the Idle Board members walked over the bridge to Baildon for another dinner. There was concern that children could get through the bars of the bridge and fall in the river, so wire protection was put up.

The old stepping stones were taken up and placed against the central abutment of the bridge; in due course they were taken away.

[- *BBT 8/1/6, pp. 341-2, 351, 357, 370, 375 and 381*]

Painting and repairs were done in **1891** and **1893**. Although it had been agreed that no horses should use the bridge, report was made in **1894** of a milk cart frequently going over, and the approach wall had been damaged by cartwheels for 27 feet.

[- *BBT 8/1/7, pp. 78, 300 and 393; 8/1/8, p. 1; 8/1/9, pp. 153-4, 196, 368-9 and 401*]

- 2004** Refurbishment of the bridge by Bradford Council.

X. MAPS and PLANS
showing Buck Wood and Buck Mill

- 1584** Plan said to accompany the Survey of Idle: only known through the reproduction in *The Bradford Antiquary* Volume I (Bradford: 1888), opp. p. 192; this is viewed with South at the top
- 1813** A Plan of the Manor of Idle, by Jonathan Taylor, to accompany the Inclosure Award, and lodged at Calverley Parish Church [now *Leeds Archives*] A printed copy was made by Walker & Thornton, Surveyors, in 1878
- 1826** Survey of the Leeds to Liverpool Canal: this is viewed with South at the top; the closes each side of the Canal in the Buck Wood area are named, and owners also indicated. The buildings of Buck Mill and house are shown, and the Goit and Weir marked
- 1838** Map of the Township of Idle, by Lister & Ingle; all the fields have numbers, and the colouring relates to ownership. Buildings are numbered in red, but no schedule survives for these. The field numbers also relate to the 1845 Tithe Award, which reproduced (in places inaccurately) the 1838 map in black and white.
[*Bradford Archives: 52D79/21*; a colour reproduction is available from The Idle and Thackley Heritage group]
- 1851** Publication of Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25” to the mile map
- 1861** [very large] plan of the Esholt Hall estate, showing the intended branch railway of the Midland Railway Company to Otley and Ilkley: surveyed by James Fox – this includes Buck Wood and Buck Mill
[*Bradford Archives: 35D82*]
[the Friends of Buck Wood are hoping to get a copy of all of this made, or at least the Thackley section]
- c. **1865** Plaintiff’s Plan in the case Raistrick v. Bland – this includes the west end of Buck Wood, the cottage, and the Buck Mill and house complex
[*Bradford Archives: 1D78/163*]
- 1894** Map of the urban District of Idle, by W.B. Woodhead & Son, Surveyors – fold out printed map in *Statistical and other Information relating to the Urban Sanitary District of Idle* (Idle: December, 1894)
- No date** Plan of Buck Wood, Thackley – showing a proposed road to the wood near North Hall Farm; the line of Thackley Tunnel is marked, and the outline of the spoil heap or ‘Tip’. Buck Mill is only sketched in.
[*Bradford Archives: BBD 9/1/8/8*]

- c. **1905** Maps relating to the sale of the Esholt Hall estate to Bradford Corporation, marked up to give information on the tenant's farms, etc.

[Bradford Archives: BBD 1/1/122, Box 140]

APPENDIX II

Thackley Open Air School Leaflet

SCHOOL LESSONS School work was done in the fresh air as far as possible. As well as normal lessons the girls were taught domestic skills which they put to practical use in the school kitchen and dining room. The boys were taught useful crafts such as woodwork, and gardening. All had nature study lessons and walks in the surrounding woodland.

The gardening lessons soon became an essential part of the school day for both boys and girls. Apart from providing exercise, the garden plots could be used in maths, writing, and drawing lessons, and the fruit and vegetables contributed to the school meals.

SCHOOL MEALS The meals had a major role in improving the children's health, although the porridge and treacle they were given for breakfast was a dish so heartily disliked that many pupils remembered it several decades later! Dinner was an ample 2-course meal, with solid desserts such as jam roly-poly or steamed suet puddings. Rhubarb was grown in the gardens and used regularly for desserts. The last meal was tea - milk, bread and butter, or fruit cake. On such a substantial diet, the average weight gain of a child attending the Open Air School was over 2½ kilos.

The School Showers

Dinner Time

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL The Open Air School grew until 275 pupils at a time could be taught there. For a while there was residential accommodation for a small number of boys. There were plans to extend the School into the field behind, and at one time to build a much bigger residential school in a different part of the Wood, but these never took place. There was always a great need for this type of schooling in Bradford - another open air school started in Odsal in 1927, and in the 1930s a sanatorium school for children with TB was opened in Grassington.

Thackley Open Air School closed on the outbreak of war in 1939, and was never again used as a special school. After the war it was used as a temporary school for children whose new school buildings elsewhere in Bradford weren't ready in time. After that it was a popular place for community groups such as Scouts and Guides, and other organisations held events there. Local school classes continued gardening there, and used the playing field for sports, but the building gradually fell into disrepair. It finally burnt down in 1966.

Thanks to Bradford Industrial Museum for the use of some of the illustrations.

Published with the assistance of a grant from Bradford North Area Office.

Published by Friends of Buck Wood

Thackley Open Air School

PURE FRESH AIR AND GOOD PLAIN FOOD

**PURE FRESH AIR & PLAIN GOOD FOOD
Thackley Open Air School**

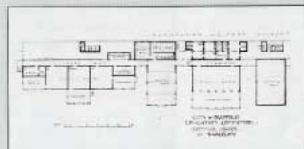
The Open Air School in Buck Wood, Thackley, took in its first pupils in the summer of 1908. Forty 'delicate' children were brought by tram each weekday for lessons and meals at the school, which was situated in the healthy surroundings of the woods. The pupils spent as much time as possible in the open-fronted south-facing classrooms and in the woodland itself. By the time the school closed in 1939 thousands of Bradford's sickly children had benefited from the special care and atmosphere offered by the school.



A general view of the Open Air School

OPEN AIR SCHOOLS The school was one of the very first Open Air Schools in the country. Bradford was a very progressive authority, and had already introduced innovations such as School Medical Officers and a school meal service, recognising that many children were held back by poverty, illness, and lack of good food. Where these problems were particularly severe, it was realised that time spent in an Open Air School would set a child back on the road to good health and normal schooling.

THE PUPILS At first the children who came to the School were from Bradford's poorest slums, where overcrowding, pollution, and bad sanitation made it difficult for sickly children to recover their health. They included children with such diseases as tuberculosis, rickets, anaemia, and chronic infections. All needed a few months of fresh air, good food, and exercise to build them up. In later years the children came from better homes, but were still struggling to recuperate from childhood illnesses such as scarlet fever, diphtheria, and from TB which was still a problem in Bradford.



An early plan of the School

THE BUILDINGS The School was built facing the grassy slopes of the raised area formed from waste material excavated from Thackley railway tunnel. The children could play up there as well as in five acres of woodland allocated to the School. At first there were just two classrooms, with baths, kitchens, etc., but within the first year many other chalet-style buildings were added, making space for 120 children. They were arranged in a long line, stretching out from a central block which included the dining room with its open veranda. Each of these wings - one for boys and one for girls - contained not only classrooms but also resting sheds where the children slept every afternoon.

MEDICAL CARE Children were selected for the School by the School Medical Officer. Their health was carefully monitored whilst at the School, by a Doctor and by School Nurses.

They were regularly weighed and measured and had their blood tested. The children were given supplements such as 'Parrish's Chemical Food' and cod-liver-oil-and-malt. Hot and cold showers and baths ensured that they were clean, and that skin problems were dealt with promptly.



Woodworking Class for Boys

THE SCHOOL DAY The day was long, but was not all hard work. It began with breakfast at 9 a.m, and ended with games from 5.30 to 6 p.m. In between were lesson periods, games, meals, and the compulsory rest period in the afternoon. In the open resting sheds, which had rolling shutters for wet and windy weather, or out in the Wood, the children were wrapped in blankets and had to lie perfectly still on camp beds for 1½ hours. This was seen as a vital part of their health care.



Resting period out in the wood

APPENDIX III

Monument Condition Survey Form

Site No: _____

OS Grid Ref: _____

Site type

- Earthwork Quarry Embankment Track
 Findspot Building Foundations Boundary feature
 Hollow way Enclosure Other (see description below)

Part of: _____

Visible dimensions: _____

Photographs

Digital:	Col slide:
----------	------------

Brief Description (further text and sketch over page if required)

Surface Cover (tick appropriate box and estimate % coverage)

- Nettle/bramble/low vegetation _____ % of site
 Brick/rubble..... _____ % of site
 Leaf litter _____ % of site
 Grass..... _____ % of site
Scrub _____ % of site
 Deciduous trees _____ % of site
 Coniferous trees..... _____ % of site
 Mixed trees _____ % of site
 Built on (building/road etc...) _____ % of site
 Broken ground (other than ploughed)..... _____ % of site

APPENDIX IV

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT BUCK WOOD, IDLE (SE 174 394)

This specification has been prepared for Dr Eileen White of the Friends of Buck Wood

1. Proposal

1.1 The project is to be funded through the Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) from the Countryside Agency, in partnership with the Friends of Buck Wood, with the aim of managing and restoring this Council-owned ancient woodland for the benefit of all sectors of the community. The project has a number of main elements, of which archaeological survey is one.

2. Summary

2.1 Buck Wood is currently owned by Bradford MDC, and lies within the administrative area of Bradford MDC to the north-east of Shipley.

2.3 English Nature's West Yorkshire – Inventory of Ancient and Semi-natural Woodlands (Draft) 1989) records the area of Buck Wood as 28 ha., of which 4 ha. is Ancient semi-natural woodland, with the remainder Ancient replanted woodland.

2.4. There is reason to believe that archaeological remains exist in the woodlands but little is known as to their extent and state of preservation. The South Yorkshire survey “**Fuelling the Revolution: the woodlands that founded the Steel Country**” has reported a 10-fold increase in the number of archaeological sites now known to be found in South Yorkshire woodlands. Recent surveys of small number of woodlands in the Kirklees and Leeds Districts have confirmed that previously unknown archaeological sites also survive in some numbers within West Yorkshire. West Yorkshire Archaeology Service – Advisory Service has advised that it will not be possible to assess the archaeological implications of future management on the basis of the available information. It has therefore been recommended that archaeological field survey should be carried out to guide and inform future management.

3. Archaeological background

3.1. Buck Wood is included in English Nature's Inventory of ancient woodland (Provisional) – West Yorkshire, 1994. There are a number of known sites of archaeological interest adjacent to Buck Wood, including:

The former site of Buck Mill (WYSMR PRN 2852). Footings of the building were noted during a site visit by WYAS in 1987.

Thackley Tunnel (WYSMR PRN 7010) which passes through the southern tip of the wood.

Other known sites in the vicinity of the wood include a number of stray finds comprising both prehistoric flint objects as well as Roman coins, brooches and burials.

3.2 The proposed work is intended to provide a firm basis for future management, informing the production of management plans which make provision for the possible effects of woodland management on archaeological field monuments.

3.3 The Friends of Buck Wood are also interested in both raising awareness of the site of the former Buck Mill, as well as the possibility of pursuing further archaeological investigation of the site.

4. Requirement for a survey

4.1. Management of the woodlands is necessary for their well-being and long-term future, but there is a need to ensure that archaeological remains, which may be present, are not damaged or destroyed. It has therefore been recommended that an archaeological survey should take place to obtain further information on the presence and preservation of any archaeological features and deposits.

4.2. The objectives of the survey should be to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological features and deposits within the specified woodland, as far as possible within the limits of this specification, and to identify any potential threats. This includes both archaeological features within the woodland and historic features associated with the woodland itself.

4.3. The survey should investigate the whole of the area indicated on the accompanying plan. Archaeological features, exposed archaeological deposits and finds should be recorded, with an approximate grid reference, but no attempt should be made to excavate these. Surface finds may be collected for dating purposes. All features providing evidence of past woodland management - such as single coppice stools, or areas of coppicing, pollarding, and veteran trees - should also be recorded.

5. Survey Techniques

5.1. The archaeologists on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations, and the contractor must ensure that all relevant requirements are met with regard both to their own personnel and to members of the public. **The WYAS Advisory Service and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents which may occur to contractors engaged**

to undertake this work while attempting to conform to this specification.

The following work will be required:

5.2. **Stage 1:** a review of relevant cartographic and documentary sources held in local archives. This should help identify the likely nature and distribution of monuments that may be encountered where feasible. **This stage must include at least one visit to the Sites and Monuments Record** (note a fee is charged for commercial consultations).

5.3. **Stage 2:** a programme of field survey. The woodland will be sub-divided and coded by compartment. Each compartment should be systematically surveyed. Two levels of survey are envisaged. As a minimum requirement, each compartment of the woodland should be surveyed to Level 1. **Level 2 survey will form part of a separate future project and should not be included in the costing for this tender.**

5.4. The levels of survey are as follows:

5.4.1. **Level 1** - Systematic walk-through of each compartment, noting the presence or absence of archaeological monuments with each monument located and a brief text description, including a discussion of relationships with associated monuments. Distances between transects will be determined by visibility and vegetation, they should however be a maximum of 50m, and less if necessary, with all rides and boundaries walked. Each monument to be given a unique identifier code or number. The archaeological features are to be sketched on a map base at 1:2500 (or 1:1250 if appropriate) to a locational accuracy of not less than ten metres, and more accurately where possible. Linear features are to have both ends located. The photographing of features in woods can be difficult, however record shots should be taken where possible. These should be colour slide using a film that shows good contrast in green and scales should be used. Where earthworks are to be photographed a 30m white tape should be laid over the earthwork so as to show its profile. The written record should be on a pro-forma, which should be agreed in advance with the WYAS Advisory Service. Areas where it has not been possible to walk or view should be clearly indicated.

5.4.2. **Level 2** - Detailed survey of specific monuments or woodland compartments, including detailed locational information determined by electronic methods. Survey information to be in an industry-standard digital format, such that it can be imported into CAD and GIS packages. The exact format to be determined following discussions with WYAS Advisory Service. The areas to be surveyed at this level will be determined in consultation with WYAS Advisory Service and relevant woodland officers, on completion of the level 1 survey and submission of the level 1 draft report.

6. Survey Proposal

6.1. A detailed survey proposal should be formulated by potential contractors and submitted to the WYAS Advisory Service, via the client, for approval. The proposal should include:

6.1.1. A description of the proposed methods of survey and recording system.

6.1.2 A projected timetable for work on the site.

6.1.3. Details of the arrangements made for deposition of the finds and site archive (see section 9 below).

6.2. The work shall be carried out by appropriately qualified and experienced staff; details of staff numbers and their relative experience of woodland survey should be included, plus their responsibilities in carrying out the work. Staff c.v.'s should be included (unless already supplied to WYAS in previous project specifications).

7. Site Monitoring

7.1. The WYAS Advisory Service will be responsible for monitoring the fieldwork. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork must be given by the archaeological contractor to the WYAS Advisory Service in order that arrangements for monitoring may be made.

8. Report

8.1. The survey should result in an illustrated report including background information, methods, detailed results including clear textual description of what has been observed, an assessments of the survey, conclusions and discussion. Drawings and plans should be included, plus **clear** location maps with grid references, as well as a list of all sources consulted. Specifically, it should include:

- an outline of the survey techniques utilised and the limitations and/or problems encountered.

- a summary of the archaeological periods and monuments encountered, in chronological order, to assess the diversity and survival of the resource. This should include an interpretation of the earthworks and any observed relationships and estimates of their dates.

- a catalogue which includes the following fields of information, per : unique site identifier; national grid reference (grid letters plus minimum of eight figure); monument type (where known). Where a monument type is given, it should be an approved term, as given in the standard thesaurus of monument types (RCHME 1999). Where a monument type cannot be confidently given, the reasons for this should be given in the accompanying text description. Monuments recommended for future more detailed surveying should be identified both in description and plan. Observed (i.e. present) bank heights and ditch depths should be recorded.

- A set of base maps at an appropriate scale, cross-referenced to the catalogue. The maps should clearly and accurately indicate those areas which were difficult to survey or were impenetrable and require further work. Where appropriate, copies of earlier maps should be included.

- management recommendations. These should include: forms of marking for sites which are difficult to identify or locate; recommendations for further archaeological work, where appropriate.

8.2 Colour-slides should be mounted, the mounts marked with the township name (IDLE) in capitals (at the top) the name of the wood under; the national grid reference (SE 174 394) at the bottom, with the date the photograph was taken on the right-hand side of the mount. The slides should be supplied with an appropriate conservation slide-hanger (for a filing-cabinet).

8.3. Monuments should be categorised into a series of levels, in line with the methodology developed for the Weld Estate, Dorset (Keen and Carreck 1987). The levels, signifying both a feature's importance and the general consideration recommended that it be given, are as follows:

Level I - Archaeological and historical features of special (i.e. national/regional) importance which warrant the greatest possible protection.

Level IB - Level I monuments, which appear to have been badly damaged or destroyed.

Level II - Archaeological and historical features of lesser (i.e. local) importance.

Level IIB - Level II monuments, which appear to have been badly damaged or destroyed.

Level III - Former archaeological and historical features of special importance for which there is confidence that no coherent archaeological remains (including buried features) are recoverable.

An additional star rating (i.e. II* or IIB*) is to be used to indicate monument whose nature, function and use can be ascribed with reasonable confidence.

The conservation objectives of these categories are as follows:

Level I - To prevent the feature being damaged, altered or tipped on; to encourage positive management through active conservation in association with woodland management by the landowners (and English Heritage, in the case of Scheduled Ancient Monuments).

Level II - To retain features in this category wherever possible; to make provision for consultation if proposals are being considered which might affect or alter a feature; to allow for and/or assist with the recording of features affected by a change in land use or any development.

Level III - All archaeological potential lost. No constraint on forestry operations. Amend records accordingly.

8.4. The report will be made available to the WYAS Advisory Service, for incorporation in the County Sites and Monuments Record. As well as a printed copy of the report, copies of the electronic files should be provided in the following formats:

- 1 copy in Word for Windows or compatible format
- 1 copy in text (ASCII) format

8.5. All other documents relating to this work (e.g. survey results, survey reports) should also be provided in the same formats. Survey data files should be provided as a printout, and in an electronic format to be agreed with the WYAS Advisory Service, prior to the commencement of work.

8.6. The attached summary sheet should be completed and submitted to the WYAS Advisory Service for inclusion in the summary of archaeological work in West Yorkshire published biannually by that office within "*Archaeology and Archives in West Yorkshire*" and, if of regional or national significance, within an archaeological journal. It is also required that the contractor should be prepared to present the results of the work to the public, both as a lecture at a future "West Yorkshire Archaeology Day" and other appropriate events.

9. Deposition of Archive

9.1 The project archive is to be fully indexed and ordered and is to include any copies of plans or maps, and any notes, including those made in the field, photographs and sketches. The project archive is to be deposited in a suitable local Record. In this instance it would be West Yorkshire Archive Service – Bradford, 15 Canal Road, Bradford, BD1 4AT, tel: 01274 731931.

References

Keen L. and A. Carreck 1987 *Historic Landscape of the Weld Estate, Dorset* Lulworth, Dorset.

RCHME 1998 *Thesaurus of Monument Types A standard for use in archaeological and architectural recording*. Second edition. Swindon.

Table 1. List of Woodlands

Wood Name	Area (HA)	Central grid reference
Buck Wood: Idle	28.0	SE 174 394

(Areas are as existing as recorded by English Nature in West Yorkshire – Inventory of Ancient and Semi-natural Woodlands (Draft) 1989)

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service – Advisory Service
Douglas Moir

Senior Archaeologist

Registry of Deeds
305178
Newstead Road
Wakefield
dmoir@wyjs.org.uk
WF1 2DE

Telephone: (01924)

Fax: (01924) 306810
e-mail:

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This specification is valid for a period of one year from date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

APPENDIX V

Methodology and Survey Proposal

Description of the proposed methods of survey and recording system

Level 1, Stage 1

We propose to allocate 3 person days to review the cartographic and other information held in the West Yorkshire County Sites and Monuments Record, West Yorkshire Archives Service and, if appropriate, any other local archive or museum sources and local history sources with a view to retrieving information on the historical and archaeological background, the range of known monuments in the area, and potential further monuments indicated by mapped features, place-names, or other local history evidence.

Level 1, Stage 2

Where practicable, we propose to distinguish between a first stage brief walkover survey (Stage 2a) and a second stage monument recording phase (Stage 2b). This approach has the advantage of allowing an overview assessment of landscape and archaeology within each area and greatly facilitates the recognition and interpretation of any archaeological features present. We have adopted this approach in respect of survey of ancient woodland near Richmond, North Yorkshire, undertaken on behalf of the National Trust, where a range of sites including earthwork boundaries, tracks and charcoal burning stances were recognised and recorded, and survey of prehistoric monuments on open moorland near Great Ayton, North Yorkshire, where again a range of monuments was identified. The approach has also been satisfactorily used in surveys of Calverley, Bradleygate, Benhomly and other woods in West Yorkshire undertaken early in 2004. Application of this approach may be modified by site conditions and prevailing weather.

Level 1, Stage 2a

Walkover survey - each woodland area will be the subject of walkover survey by a two person team walking between 10 and 20 m apart depending on vegetation cover. A two person team is proposed in order to undertake the survey efficiently and to address issues of Health and Safety. The walkover survey will enable the character of the woodland landscape to be assessed as a whole, and facilitate the recognition of the range of monument types present. The location of monuments will initially be marked with a flag. If satisfactory conditions obtain, photographs will be made at that point on the basis that better photographic opportunities may not be present at stage 2b. If there is a likelihood that flags will be removed by visitors, or if there is a requirement to safeguard a particular site, recording of the site will be completed at this stage.

Level 1, Stage 2b

Monument recording - on completion of the walkover survey of each area of woodland the flagged sites will be revisited and a record made on a standard record sheet, appropriately amended to take account of local conditions (draft enclosed). This will record the attributes of the monument, its condition, local land use and vegetation, and will make some assessment of vulnerability and any management requirements. If not previously photographed during Stage 2a, photography using 200 ASA 35 mm slide film and 5 megapixel digital camera will be undertaken. It should

be noted that experience shows that digital photography will be more satisfactory than traditional photographic film in woodland conditions at this time of year. The slides are therefore likely to represent a sample rather than the complete inventory of sites, which will be covered by digital images. At this point the monuments will be reviewed in the field, and their identification validated, by the project manager, who has extensive experience of field assessment of a wide range of monuments.

The team will employ hand-held GPS with locational accuracy around 8 m and recent experience suggests that this is the most accurate locational method in woodland where no mapped landmarks are within 30 m. It should be noted that the hand-held GPS is most effective when there is limited or no leaf cover, another reason for suggesting that survey is best undertaken during the months of January, February, or March, while ground conditions are at their clearest after vegetation die-back and snowfall.

Reporting

A report will be produced to contain the information requirements set out in Item 8 of the project specification, illustrated with digital images and with a supporting wallet of transparencies. The other requirements of Items 8 and 9 of the project specification will be also be fully addressed. A digital copy of the report can be made available on CD. The survey team will also provide one day of community workshops/guided visits, while the team leader will make a contribution to West Yorkshire Archaeology Day.

Projected timetable

It is proposed that the survey should be undertaken during February, as this is the time when undergrowth has died back and been substantially reduced by weathering - in any case it should be completed before mid-April, when regrowth accelerates rapidly. It is estimated that survey would be undertaken in a single block of time, dependent on weather conditions.

Deposition of finds and archive

It is not proposed to retrieve finds unless any artefacts are encountered which are at risk from being left *in situ*. The archive will be collated and deposited as required by Item 9 of the project specification.

Staffing & Health and Safety

The project will be undertaken by Steve Sherlock (CV on file with WYAS) or an equivalently experienced field archaeologist should he not be available when the survey is commenced, together with another experienced team member. The project will be supervised and assisted in the field as indicated above by Blaise Vyner (CV on file with WYAS). Further outline information is also available on web site: www.meander.demon.co.uk

A Risk Assessment will be undertaken at the inception of the project and this will be reviewed and updated in respect of field conditions once survey is underway.