

THE ANCIENT VILLAGE OF BRAMPTON

Branton is an ever-growing village to the east of Cantley and Bessacarr. For most of its history, until the twentieth century, it was known as Brampton. The Ordnance Survey map of 1849 has it as Brampton but, by 1905, it had been changed to Branton. We don't know why.

Around 1771, Thomas Jefferys published maps of the whole country, and this is the earliest known plan of Cantley and Brampton.

Within a decade, most of the road network around Cantley and Brampton was swept away, when the Cantley Enclosure enclosed Cantley Common, and divided up the existing large communal 'Open Fields' into smaller 'closes', i.e. small privately-owned fields.

As a result, most of the roads around Cantley do not match the modern road system. However, there are a number locations common to both Jefferys' map, and a modern Ordnance map. These include Cantley Church, Rossington Bridge and the Great North Road. Their positions match, showing that Jefferys' map is generally pretty accurate.



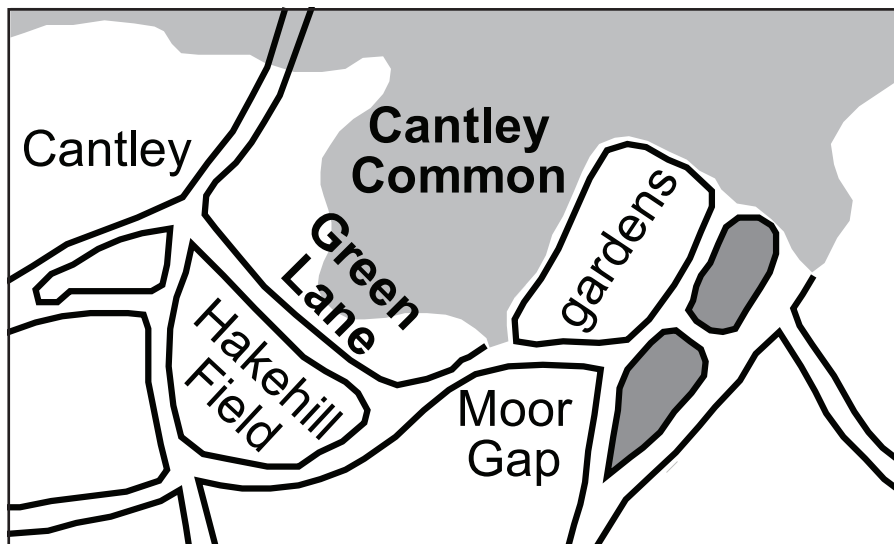
For the Cantley Enclosure, Colbeck surveyed the whole of the Parish of Cantley but, unfortunately, his plans are lost. We have no maps after 1771, until the Ordnance Survey map of 1849. But certain features have remained largely unaltered over the past two hundred and fifty years.

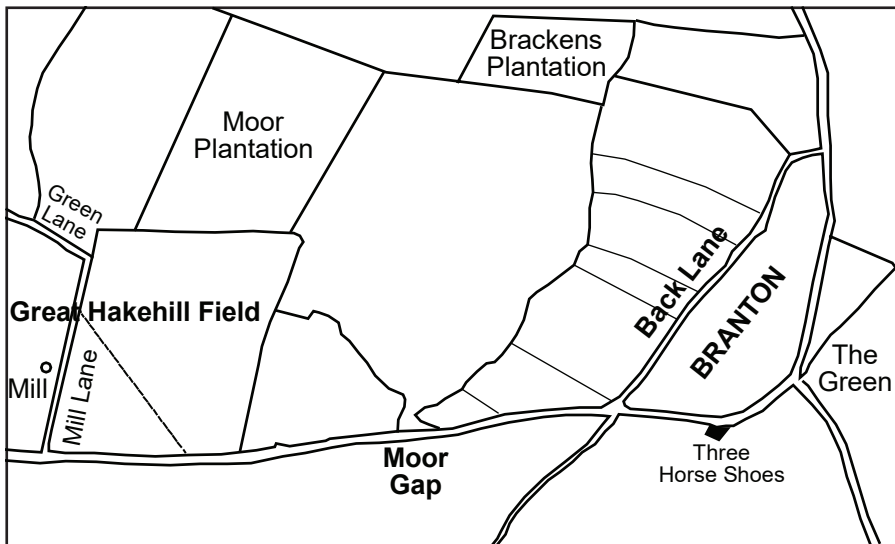
We have made a tracing from Jefferys' map of what is now Cantley and Bessacarr. When this is superimposed over a modern Ordnance Survey map, it demonstrates the accuracy of Jefferys' survey. We can do the same for Brampton, and the fit is nearly as good.

But we can't do this for both Cantley and Brampton together, because Brampton is not correctly aligned with Cantley on the map. This means that the roads linking the two villages, and the space between them, are distorted. We have to apply a small correction to the Jefferys plan.

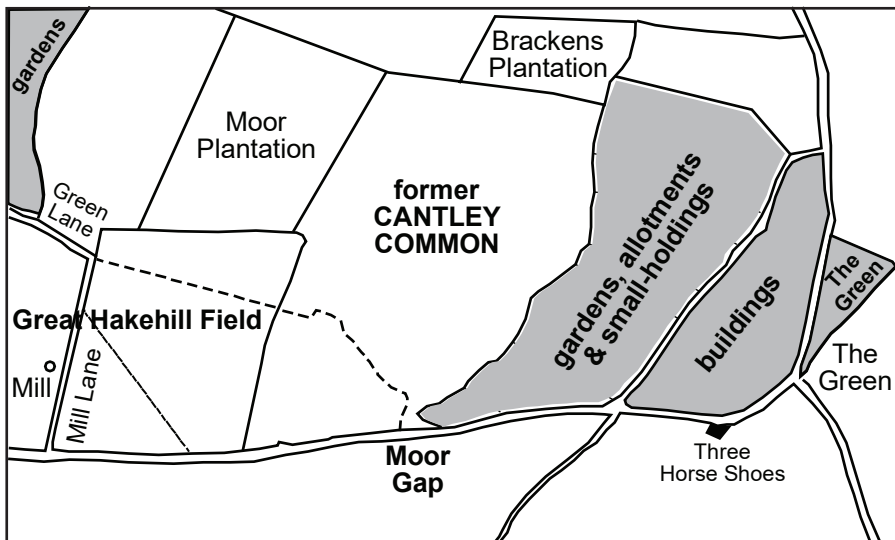
The Village of Brampton

The plan below is taken from Jefferys' map. Part of Cantley Common is shown as light grey. The buildings are shown as dark grey, with their gardens or small-holdings on the north-west side of the village. These areas, and the Moor Gap, appear almost unchanged on twentieth century maps, along with Great Hakehill Field, a former Open Field. Green Lane is misplaced, and should have ended at the Moor Gap.





These plans show Branton a century ago. The lane that runs between the cottages and their gardens has now been labelled 'Back Lane'. You can see below how Green Lane would once have run from Cantley to the Moor Gap, before it was diverted by the Enclosure. The names of some of the former Open Fields still appear on Ordnance Survey map, a quarter of a millennium after they disappeared.



Branton in the Nineteen-Eighties

The plan below is taken from a sales catalogue, when two farms were sold, forty years ago, in 1983. It appears to be based on the Ordnance Survey map published in the nineteen-sixties.

Back Lane has now become Chapel Lane. New houses have been built since the war along parts of Doncaster Road and Chapel Lane, and they have been fitted into the ancient layout of the village, shown previously. Apart from this, very little has changed.

The biggest change is to the route from Doncaster through Branton to Auckley, where there was an awkward junction involving a sharp turn.



OLD

A new stretch of road has been constructed on Doncaster Road, starting at The Three Horse Shoes pub.

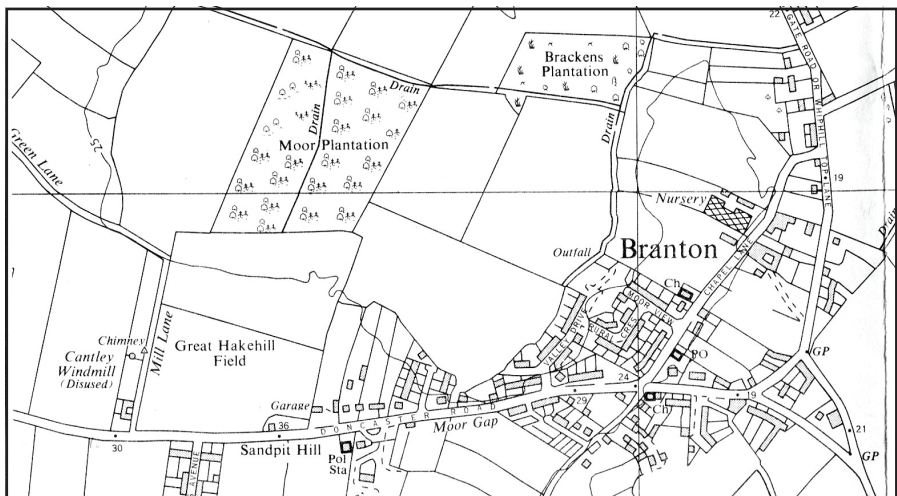


NEW

Plans For The Future

In December 1967, a Report was published by the West Riding County Council on the future of Branton and Auckley. Most of the area was fairly poor quality farmland, and so the villages were seen as suitable for housing development.

In the second half of this issue, we have reproduced parts of the section of the Report that was about Branton.



OLD & NEW

Branton has an interesting mixture of old and new buildings, mostly between Whiphill Top Lane and Chapel Lane (formerly Back Lane).

Many of the buildings are actually a combination of old and new, as in this barn conversion, The Barn, on Chapel Lane.



The New Road

The picture below shows Doncaster Road, the B1396, looking east, towards Auckley. The Three Horse Shoes public house is on the right. The stretch of road beyond the pub is a new road, built just after the Second World War, to straighten the road, and bypass the village.

Until then, the road had turned sharply to the left, along Whiphill Top Lane, and then turned sharp right, towards Auckley. The turning can be seen on the left, opposite the pub.

