

Gambleside Vaccary - Field Walk 28th January 2012 - Report

We met at The Corner Café in Crawshawbooth. After refreshments we drove north and parked in the United Utilities car park below the Clowbridge Sailing Club.

We walked up the tarmac road and paused to look at the information board showing the Gambleside Trail which the group had been involved in making some years ago.

We then made our way along an old track linking the main road to the site of Gambleside Colliery, Pumping Pit. Pumping Pit, as its name suggests, suffered from water seeping into the mine. It was abandoned early in the 20th century and allowed to become a sump for the rest of the mine. The water from the old workings is now pumped by North West Water, via the modern pumphouse, into the reservoir.

We visited the Baptistry which the group arranged to have cleaned out and repaired by Conservation Volunteers in 1996. This stone tank was an open air baptistry connected with the Baptist Chapel at Gambleside. The chapel was built in about 1849 and closed in 1866. The Baptistry was later enlarged and was used for water storage for the steam engine which powered the pit-head gear of the nearby coalpit.

We then made our way up the hill to the group of trees and low walls which are all that remain of the village. This had been excavated by the group in 1996-7 and I append a plan. This excavation was limited to finding the extent of the buildings. At the time of the Blackburnshire survey the area of Rossendale was being settled by the younger sons of local families following the "disafforestation" of 1507, when areas of forest were opened up for settlement and farming. Over the following centuries the hamlet of Gambleside grew, as income was generated from the local coal mines, and from spinning and weaving wool. Traders, carrying limestone from the quarries around Clitheroe, passed through Gambleside, travelling between the Ribble Valley and Rochdale, and the old hollow way that they used, Limersgate, can still be seen.

Gambleside had important and quite extensive coal mines, the Court Rolls show it was working in 1612. The mine shaft on this site was known as the Pumping Pit, and the pit head was originally level with the top of the bank which surrounds the modern pumphouse. As the Industrial Revolution gathered pace open cast mining gave way to deep pits. The Gambleside colliery had two main shafts - Pumping Pit, located just below the settlement and a later shaft on the hillside to the south. Coal was drawn up the hillside from Pumping Pit by a continuous chain drive of tubs, then passed

through a tunnel to Swinshaw Pit on the other side of the hill. From there, it was carried down to the coal staithe at the bottom of Goodshaw Lane in Crawshawbooth, which we saw when fieldwalking in that area. Gambleside Colliery ceased production in 1936 with the closure of its major customer, the Sunnyside Print Works, located opposite the Parish Church in Crawshawbooth and North West Water still pumps water from the mine workings into the reservoir.

The construction of Clowbridge Reservoir, completed in 1866 on the site of the village corn field, sounded the death knell for Gambleside. Without some of its best land and with three of the roads into the hamlet now under water, the inhabitants began to leave to work in the mills in the neighbouring towns and it is believed that the last inhabitant left in the 1890s.

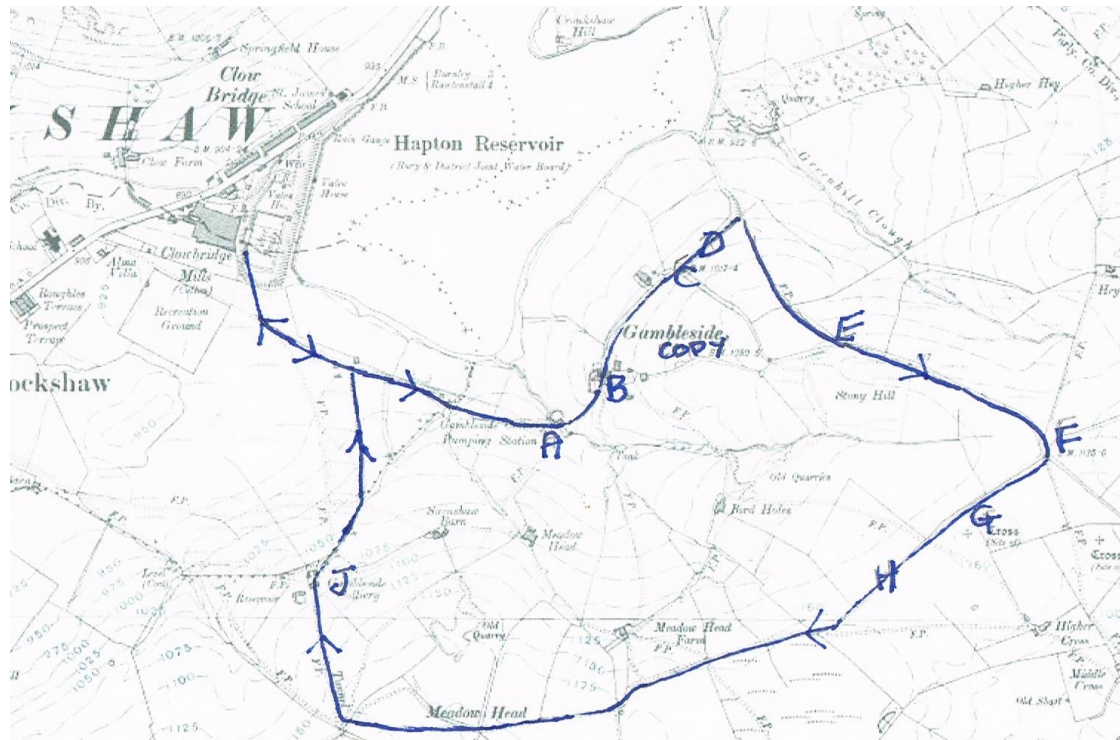
Michael tried to find the well that he had worked on and rebuilt in the hamlet but there was too much snow about. We saw the old lane which was one side of the triangular Gambleside Copy, a 9 acre field which may have been used as a stock enclosure. We walked along Limey Lane passing the ruin of New Biggin farm on our left. Nearby was a boundary stone, which also marked the entrance to Guides, an old lane, another side of the triangle.

We made our way to Compston's Cross, passing the other end of the lane. Compston's cross was erected by Alderman Samuel Compston in 1902 and is the "restored" Western Cross, at the junction of several paths. However it is not on the site of either of the two earlier crosses (Western and Eastern). We had lunch here and then set off along the Rossendale Way passing the actual site of the Western Cross to our left. It was a plain shaft with a cross carved on it socketed into a 2 foot square stone base, and was a wayside cross probably erected in the 13th century at the cross roads of two ancient tracks, one from Whalley Abbey to the Abbey's estates at Brandwood, Bacup and the other from Preston to Heptonstall which was once the centre of the West Yorkshire wool-len trade.

There were excellent views from the path and on the right was a natural bowl which could be sheltered and suitable for grazing animals. We forked right off the Rossendale way and descended to the first track, passing the remains of Gambleside Colliery and the beds for the winding engine and a small reservoir.

When we arrived at the car park it was too late to revisit the café!

Our route



Letters refer to photos.

Photos

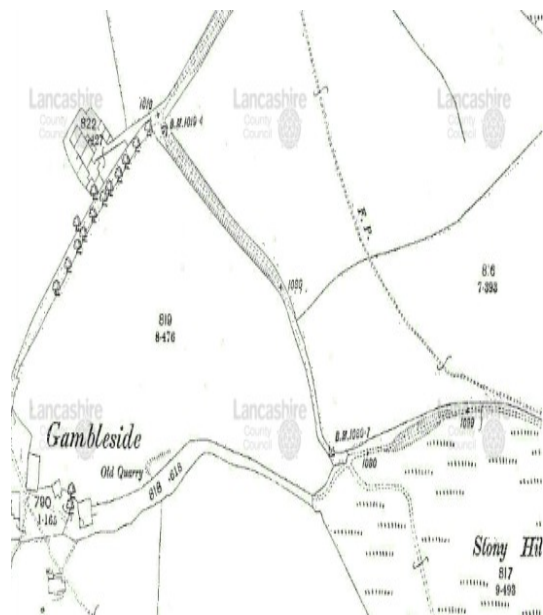
A Baptistry



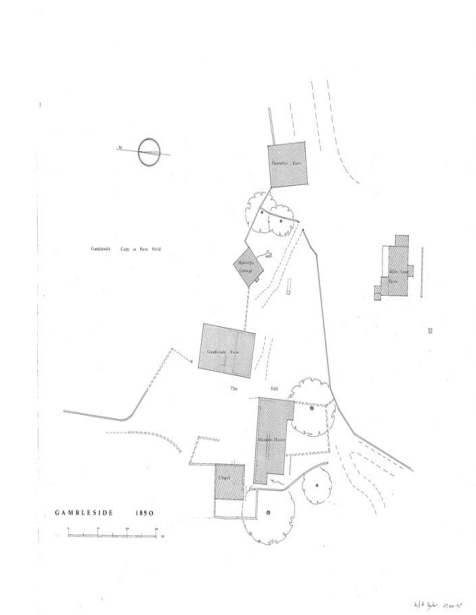
B Entrance to old lane from village



OS 1850 showing triangular
Copy



Plan of houses in 1850



Copy taken from over the wall



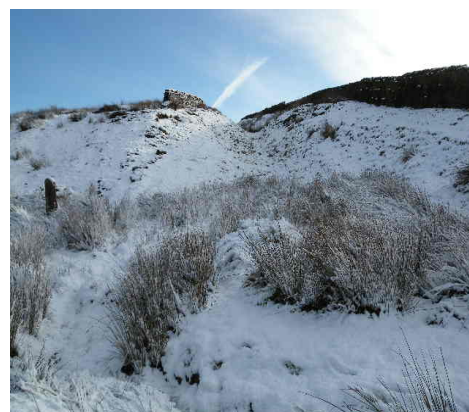
Looking back over the village
in SW direction



C Boundary Marker



C Entrance to lane called
Guides



D Limersgate



E Old lane joining track up to Compston's Cross



F Compston's Cross



G Site of Western Cross



H Rossendale Way



J Ruins of Gambleside Colliery



Gambleside Vaccary - Field Walk 24th March 2012 - Report

We met at The Corner Café in Crawshawbooth. After refreshments we drove north and parked in the United Utilities car park below the Clowbridge Sailing Club.

This was our second visit so I have not repeated the historical information given in the first report.

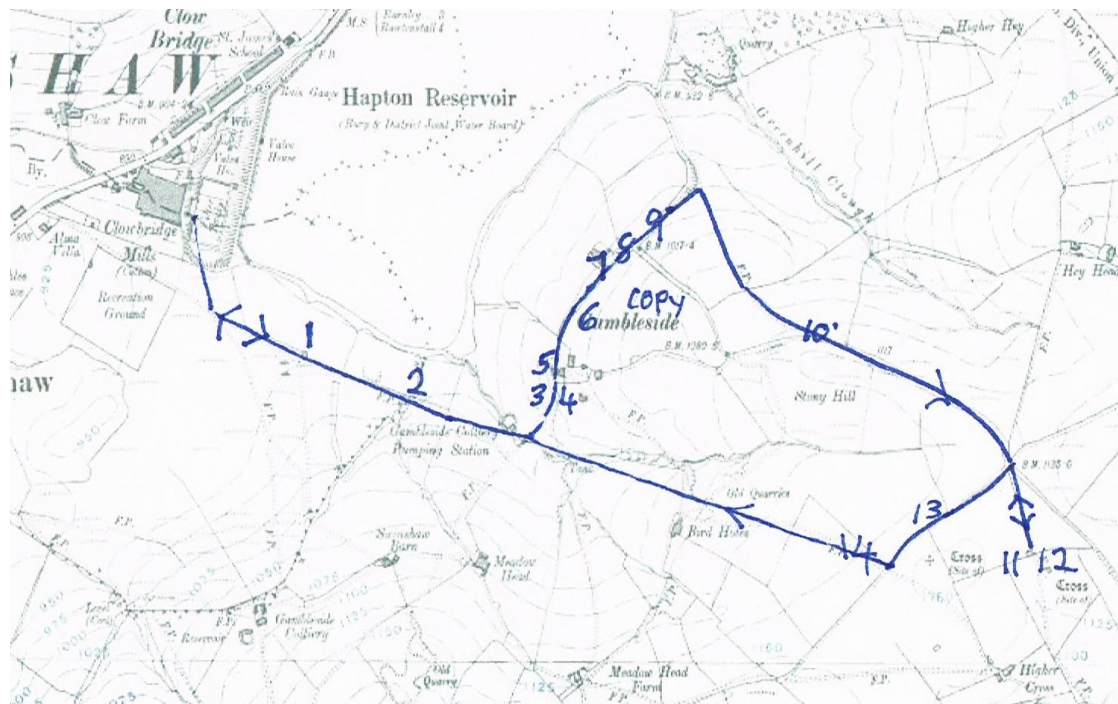
We walked up the tarmac road and then made our way along an old track linking the main road to the site of Pumping Pit. We visited the Baptistry and then made our way up the hill to the remains of Gambleside village. Michael succeeded in finding the well that he had worked on and rebuilt in the hamlet. We walked along Limey Lane pausing to look at the ruins of New Biggin farm on the left. We made our way to Compston's Cross. We had lunch here and then set off to locate the stone marking the site of the Eastern Cross. Eventually it was found lying flat in some rushes, and was re-erected.

We walked back to Compton's Cross and then along Rossendale Way, diverting to photograph the stone marking the site of the Western Cross. We forked right off the Rossendale way and descended to a concrete pyramid that had been noticed by Alex on the previous visit. We found that it covered a mine shaft.

The village was visited again and mole heaps were kicked, the group's approved method for locating flints etc. This time Michael found a piece of a highly decorated bowl of a pipe, and Lynn found a smaller piece of a different pipe.

We made our way to the car park and adjourned for tea and scones at the New Waggoners.

Route



Numbers refer to photos.

Photos



	
<p>3. Entry to lane from Gambleside village</p>	<p>4. Found at last. Michael's well</p>
	
<p>5. View of reservoir from the village. Possible winter pasture?</p>	<p>6. Copy. Communal pasture for village?</p>
	
<p>7. Limey Lane</p>	<p>8. Stone from farm ruins</p>



9. Entry to Guides lane



10. Other end of lane.



11. Stone in rushes



12. Re-erected stone marking site of Eastern Cross



13. Stone marking site of Western Cross



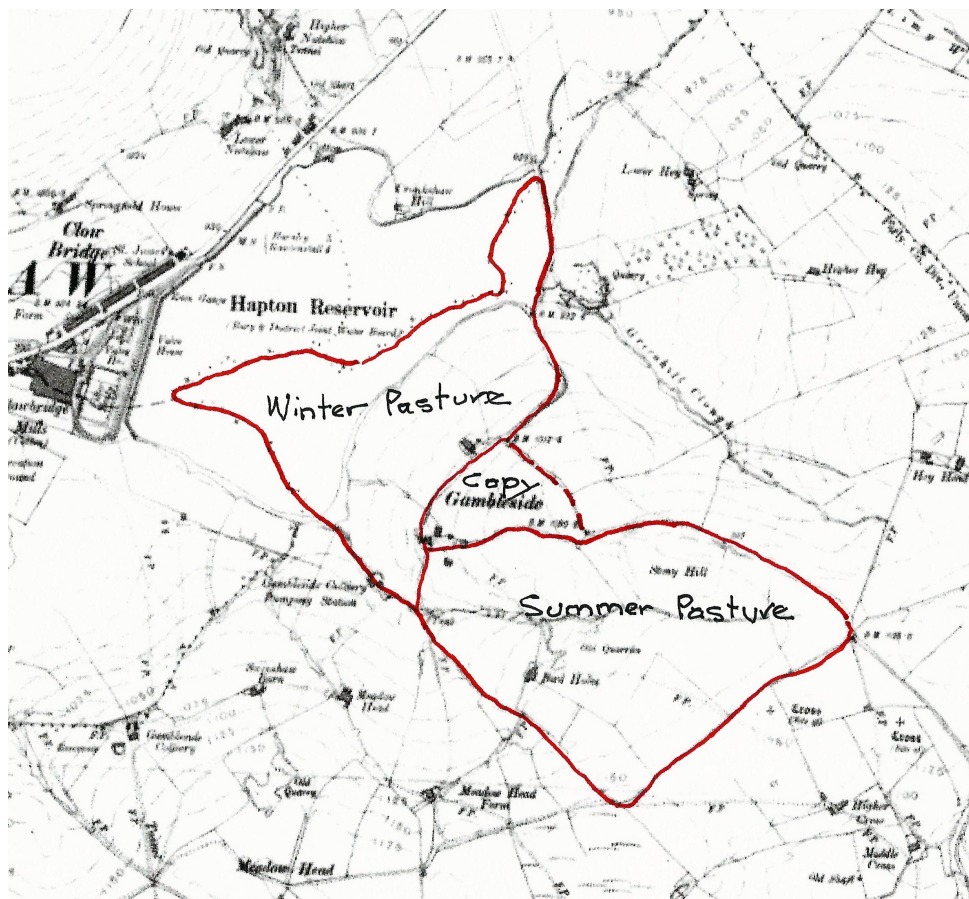
14. View towards village and reservoir. Possible summer pasture?



15. Pieces of pipe

I have included a suggested map of the vaccary, and notes on the early history of Gambleside

Possible boundaries of vaccary.



Area of winter pasture 55 acres
Area of summer pasture 104 acres

Gamulside history

	Reference
Gamall, heofod hill, place is in a high situation	Place names of Lancashire Cheetham Sociey Vol81 p92
Details are given in the accounts of 1323-4 for the booths ofand Gambleside	A History of Lancashire Victoria History p434
1323 Gamelshevid let to farm 20s	The Royal Forest of Lancaster p367
1341 Gamelshead let to farm 60s	The Royal Forest of Lancaster p374
1342 Gamelside let out	Economic History of Rossendale p32
1467 To William Leyland , for 10years, the vaccaries of Rowtenstall and Constabulleghe with the close called Okenhenwode, the herbage and pasture of Crawshawbooth, Lufclough, Prymerorosdyk, <i>Gamulshed</i> , Bacopbothe and Horleyhede, with other vaccaries and pastures in the other forests for £108 7s a year rent and 100s increase	Whitaker History of Whalley p353 Royal Forest of Lancashire p256
1479 Rent £4	Whitaker History of Whalley p315
Latter part of 15c the rent was £2 1s 8d	A History of Lancashire Victoria History p434
1507 let to Oliver and George Ormerod for £4 compared with an earlier rent of 44s	A History of Lancashire Victoria History p434
1527 George and Oliver Ormerod paying 4 and 2 marks respectively	A History of Lancashire Victoria History p434
1557 Datestone of Old Gambleside Mansion House	Stories in Stone.p146 John B Taylor
1609 John Birtwisle and Oliver Ormerod chief tenants	A History of Lancashire Victoria History p434
1621 John Ormerod was free tenant	A History of Lan-

	cashire Victoria History p434
1662 four Ormerods and two Hargreaves paid the £4 rent	A History of Lancashire Victoria History p434
1664 Datestone Hey Head Farm near Gambleside N of Compston's cross Now in sailing club car park The Ormerod family George	Stories in Stone. P148 John B Taylor
1695Datestone Old Lower Meadowhead Farm Ormerod family, Peter	Stories in Stone. P151 John B Taylor