

Little Woodhouse Ways

**A walk tracing old
pathways and developing
street patterns: how
landowners and
developers created a
Georgian and Victorian
suburb from fields and
tracks**

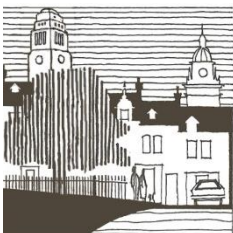
A guided walk by **Freda Matthews**,

In celebration of

Heritage Open Day 2023

And 30 years of

**Little Woodhouse Community
Association**



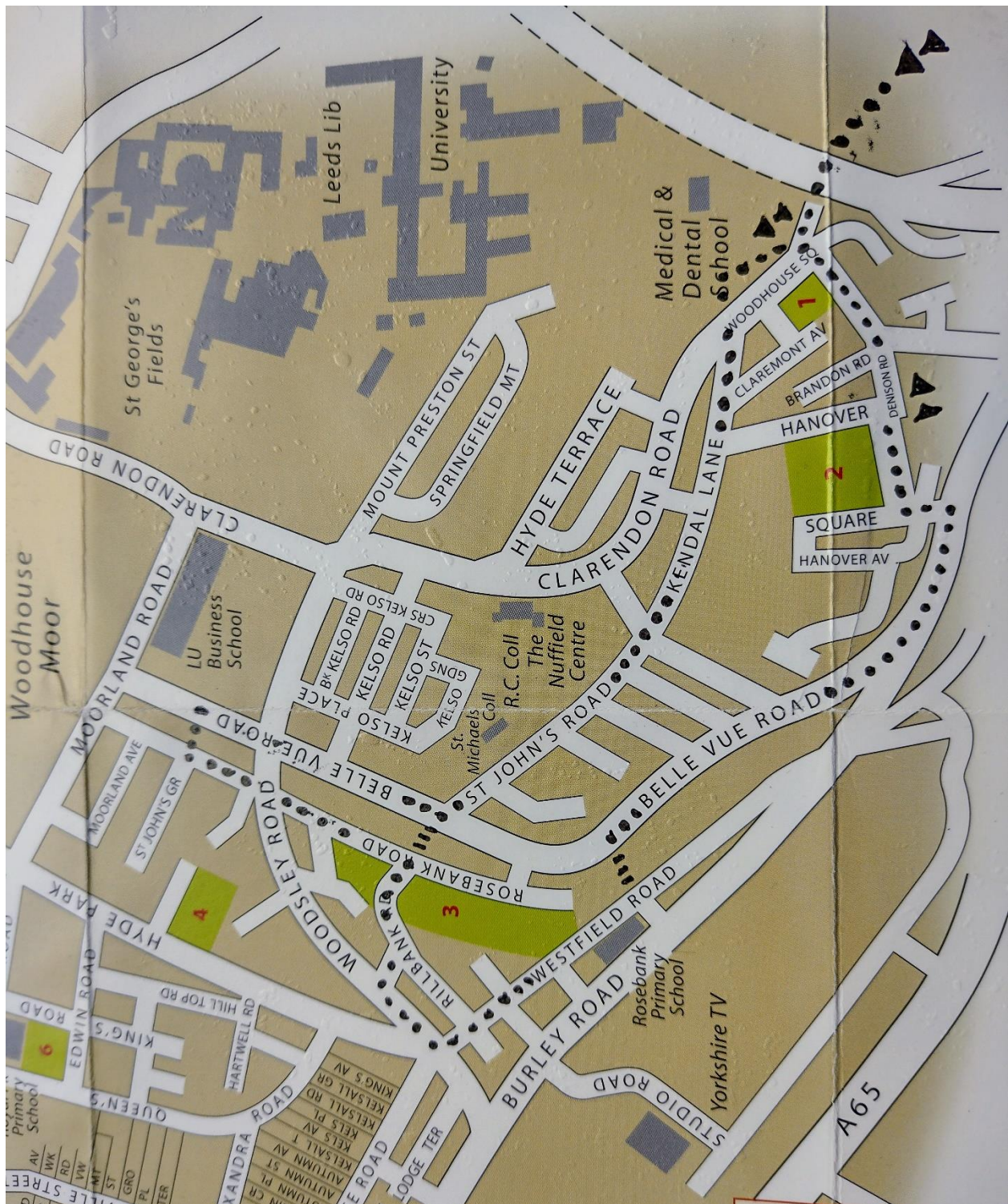
LEEDS
YEAR OF
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heritage open days

Little Woodhouse Ways

The route



FINDING THE WAYS

The walk (which can be split in two halves) traces the old lanes, alleys, highways and byways of Little Woodhouse.

Although the area has been developed, firstly as private landed estates, then as villas and terraces for the growing middle and working classes and lately by modern developers, it is still possible to see the shapes of the original topography and old field paths in the street pattern and footpaths.

The walks also follow the various owners of the land in Little Woodhouse from the earliest existing records in the 15th century to the present day and the resulting changes to the land.

There have been major shifts in the use of the lands:

- the gradual change from waste to fields
- from Crown to Abbey and absent landlords to the private ownership of local merchants
- the move of the merchants from town into this country area and the building up of their estates and grand houses
- the Victorian land development of new streets and housing plots and later terraces
- in the last century, demolition of some parts for social housing estates
- the construction of the inner ring road cutting off vehicle traffic to and from the city centre
- the expansion of the hospital and university, adapting old residential buildings for institutional use and back again.

The construction of blocks of student accommodation is only the latest development in a long chain of changes.

All of these changes have left their mark. Often old structures are not replaced, rather gaps are filled in with something new. The walk along the paths and roads of Little Woodhouse will show the evidence of all these changes.

Along the way, these will be some of the main features to look for:

- Park Lane and Kendal Lane represent the oldest ways
- Little Woodhouse Street is the old main street of the vanished hamlet of Little Woodhouse
- Hyde Park Road, Rillbank Lane and Belle Vue Road follow the topography of the land and its old field boundaries
- Chorley Lane and Brandon Road are examples of “occupation” roads put through to serve grand houses
- Hanover and Woodhouse Squares, Clarendon Road and Belle Vue Road are examples of speculative development
- Street names can reflect patterns of ownership and events, hence St Johns, Chorley Lane, Victoria and Consort
- Paths are often a lot older than their present day names e.g. Kendal Lane



WALK 1

The first half of the walk begins in Leighton Street, on the city centre side of the inner ring road and follows the path of the early drove road up the hill towards common pasture land on Woodhouse Moor, and ending at the junction of St John's Road and Belle Vue Road, themselves the results of early Victorian housing developments.

- 1 **START - Leighton Street and Park Lane**
- 2 **Great George Street and Bridge**
- 3 **Woodhouse Square**
- 4 **Chorley Lane, Little Woodhouse Street**
- 5 **Clarendon Road and Claremont House**
- 6 **Kendal Lane**
- 7 **The Claremont streets, Hanover Square and Denison Hall**
- 8 **Victoria and Consort Terraces**
- 9 **St Johns Road**
- 10 **END at corner St John's Road and Belle Vue Road, Briggs House, former St Michael's College.**

RETURN Walk back along St John's Road/Kendal Lane to Woodhouse Square

Or continue left down Belle Vue Road to Burley Road and buses

WALK 2

The second half of the walk takes up at the corner of Belle Vue Road and St John's Road and follows the lines of the hillside overlooking the Dale (valley) of the River Aire, with street layouts shaped by the natural features, field patterns and industrial and residential developments. The walk ends back in Woodhouse Square, close to the start of the first half.

- 11 **START – corner of St John's Road and Belle Vue Road**
- 12 **Belle Vue Road, Ginnels, St John's Terrace and St John's Grove**
- 13 **Rosebank Road and Rosebank Millennium Green**
- 14 **Rillbank Lane**
- 15 **Woodsley Road and Hyde Park Road**
- 16 **Burley Road, corner site Toll house and boundary stone**
- 17 **Westfield Road, Victorian school steps**
- 18 **Belle Vue Road, Park Lane and Burley St**
- 19 **Hanover Square, Denison Road, Brandon Road**
- 20 **Woodhouse Square – ENDS**

Each walk is less than a mile: they can be linked into a circular walk starting and finishing near Woodhouse Square.

WALK 1

1 START - Leighton Street and Park Lane

>> *Start from the statue outside the Nuffield Hospital, 'The Human Spirit' by Faith Babington, 2002.*

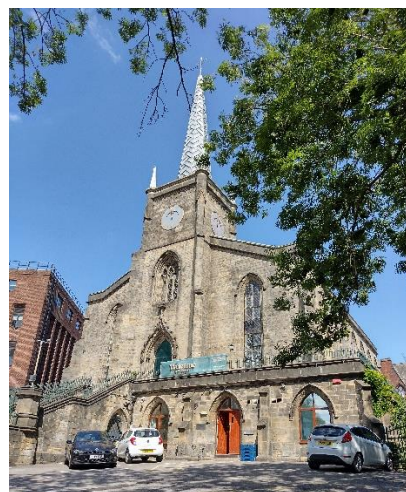
Begin the walk at the junction of Park Lane and Leighton Street and what remains of Leighton Lane. **Leighton Street** is the 19th century back street of **Leighton Lane**, the ancient track running between Park Lane and the hamlet of Little Woodhouse from at least the 16th century (now on the site of Clarendon wing of LGI). Leighton Lane disappeared finally under the Nuffield Hospital at the start of the 21st century. Park Lane, probably the oldest track in Leeds, was the road from the Manor Park of Leeds to Burley, Kirkstall, then Bradford.

The site of the Manor was near the Scarborough pub near the railway station. Leighton Street, a 19th century development, became home to industrial premises. The **Eastwood** brothers, brushmakers, had their premises there, and later in the 1860s they were residents and developers of lands in Little Woodhouse.

The lane and street were named after **Isabel Leighton of Little Woodhouse**. She left a charity for poor children in 1653, three closes (fields) in Great Woodhouse to provide its funds, (finally absorbed into university scholarships in 1980s). **Ralph Thoresby**, the Leeds historian, tells us she lived in Little Woodhouse and was a pious Puritan lady. A member of the gentry from the northern Musgrave family, she was married first to a Calverley, then to Ralph Hopton of Armley until 1643, and finally to Dr Alexander Leighton, a Scottish Puritan divine. He was imprisoned and mutilated by Archbishop Laud, released at the beginning of the Civil War. Widowed again in 1649, Isabel came to live in Little Woodhouse, worshipped at Harrison's St John's church and died in Westminster in 1653.

Leighton Lane was her route to the house she lived in, perhaps John Harrison's mansion in Little Woodhouse (on the site of Claremont).

>>> *Go up Leighton Street to join Gt George St*



St George's Church (1838) above Leighton Lane from old Park Lane

2 Great George Street

Great George Street takes its name from **St George's Church**, opposite the top of Leighton Street, built in 1838 partly for the wealthy residents of Little Woodhouse, but also for the poorer crowded population below Park Lane, who were served by non-conformist chapels. The Church was built by the Trustees from Little Woodhouse in the fields of **Mount Pleasant**, a mid-18th century merchant's house, demolished in 1894 to make way for the present Old Medical School. A footpath is shown on the **1821 Fowler Map** winding through fields near the present Gt George Street towards Woodhouse Lane. Shops with residences above were built along the street on the south side in the 1860s. The Gilbert Scott General Infirmary building was built on the north side in 1869.

The street linked into Woodhouse Lane and eventually to Merrion Street, from where John Harrison's **St John's Church** (built in 1634) can now be seen.

>>>Turn left to cross the pedestrian bridge over the inner ring road leading towards Woodhouse Square



The Bridge to Clarendon Road
(1960s for inner ring road tunnel)

The Bridge (which is really the start of the tunnel of the Inner Ring Road below it) links Great George Street to Woodhouse Square and Clarendon Road, for pedestrians and cyclists only. Before 1967, Clarendon Road began outside St George's Church and was a vehicle access to the centre of the city. Late Victorian houses lined this vanished part of Clarendon Road. The old **St George's National School**, built at the same time as the church, stood where the present Centaur carpark is. A later Junior School stood on the other side (now St George's Centre and Flats).

The construction of Clarendon Road in 1839 opened up Woodhouse Square to through traffic and compromised its quiet location. **The Inner Ring Road** (built 1967-1975) effectively cut off Little Woodhouse from the city centre.

3 Woodhouse Square

Little Woodhouse Square, as it was first known, was developed in 1825 on land which was part of the **Little Woodhouse** estate. There had been a house on the estate from the sixteenth century (if

not before) when first **John Moxon**, and later **John Kendal** lived there after he bought the lands in 1583. The present house of **Claremont** (23 Clarendon Road) was built in 1777 and added to by later owners. It was built facing across the valley, its lands stretched down to Park Lane, the main road to Bradford, overlooking the Aire river.

The idea of developing the Square in front of the house was first proposed in 1820s by **John Hill**, a new owner of Claremont, and **Samuel Green**, to meet the demand for well to do housing as Leeds expanded westwards. The first two houses were built in 1830 at the south east corner of the square near Chorley Lane but were later demolished. Then bankruptcy interrupted the planned development. **Waverley House**, SW corner, was built in 1840. The terraced houses along the south side No.s 2-7 (now occupied by the Swarthmore Education Centre, established in 1909) were built in 1845-6. A local architect **Richard William Moore** lived at No.3. On the eastern side, **George Corson**, the architect of the Grand Theatre, built No.s 12 and 14 in 1868-9. Houses continued to be built on the south and east sides of the square up to 1870s.



Woodhouse Square terraces (1840-60)

The **Square's central garden** was intended as a private "pleasure ground" for the surrounding town houses (then yet to be built) designed without individual gardens. The garden continued in private use for residents until its sale to the **Wade's Trust** in 1905 and leased as a public open space maintained by Leeds City Council. The

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boundaries and circular path of the garden have survived. The original railings were removed during World War II and replaced only in 2000s. Two Mayors are commemorated in the park: **Sir Peter Fairbairn**'s statue was erected by public subscription in 1868, and a wall plaque honours **Mary Pearce**, first woman Lord Mayor in 1958.

>>>From the Bridge, take the first narrow road running uphill, Chorley Lane. At the top it joins Little Woodhouse Street.

4 Chorley Lane and Little Woodhouse Street

This lane marks the edge of the old Claremont estate. The right of way giving access to Park Lane was granted to the owner of the recently built **Little Woodhouse Hall** in 1742, as long as he maintained a gate to "depasture cattle". In 1786 **Belmont House** was built by the Oates family alongside the lane. Its most famous resident was **Joshua Tetley** the brewer, who lived there from 1839 to 1856. The house survived until the construction of the Clarendon wing in 1978.



Chorley Lane (1742) occupation road for Little Woodhouse Hall

The lane was marked as **Little Woodhouse Lane** on Fowler's 1821 map. It takes its present name from **Francis Chorley** who lived at Claremont in

the 1830s and earlier developed the 18th century Mill where **Joseph's Well** now stands.

Chorley Lane was constructed in 1742 as a private coach road, or occupation road, leading from Park Lane to **Little Woodhouse Hall**. It was divided in two when Clarendon Road was constructed in 1839, but the upper half remains and still retains its original setts.

Chorley Lane joins **Little Woodhouse Street**, the former main street of the hamlet of **Little Woodhouse**. Some of its houses dated back to the 17th century: inhabitants were recorded here from Elizabethan times and many were clothiers. After the Civil War and Restoration many were Puritan Dissenters: in 1669 Oliver Heywood the Yorkshire Non-conforming minister was arrested for preaching at "George Horsman's house at Little Woodhouse".



Little Woodhouse Street (pre C16th) once main street of the hamlet, now a hospital service road

Ralph Thoresby described Little Woodhouse in 1715 as one of the "*pleasantest hamlets in the parish*"; he came here to visit Alderman Thomas Dixon, twice Mayor of Leeds. A painting of 1806 shows Little Woodhouse was still "in the country" separated by fields from Park Square.

William Robinson, the Leeds artist and pupil of Sir Thomas Lawrence, lived at Ivy Cottage on Little Woodhouse Street. In 1834 Rev Patrick Bronte

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and Branwell Bronte wrote to him there about Branwell's drawing lessons.

There were busy shops and people living in Little Woodhouse Street until the mid 20th century. The buildings were finally demolished in the 1970s for the Clarendon wing of Leeds General Infirmary, opened in 1983. Now only the street itself remains as a private service road for the hospital.

>>>At the top of Little Woodhouse Street, cross over Clarendon Road and enter the driveway of Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road

5 Claremont and Clarendon Road

Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, is an 18th century house which replaced older buildings on this site. We know that **John Kendal**, had a house here in 1583. The present building was erected by **John Elam** in 1777. It was given the name of Claremont and further altered in 1856 by **Dr John Heaton**, a Leeds physician who was a founding member of the Yorkshire College (later University of Leeds).



Claremont House (C16th, new in 1777)

His wife **Fanny** and sister **Ellen Heaton** were leading figures in the arts and women's education and suffrage. Fanny's death in 1893 led to a big change in the grounds of the house: Claremont was sold to the architect and property developer **John Charles** and he laid out and built the present **Claremont streets** in its gardens. A part of the old garden wall can still be seen between the terraces of Claremont View and Grove.

Clarendon Road, created in 1839 as a speculative development by **John Atkinson**, owner of **Little Woodhouse Hall**, on the Claremont lands, marks the major change from the use of land for agricultural rents to a source of profits from land sales and development.

The new Clarendon Road interrupted Kendal Lane and eventually replaced the older way up to the Moor. Plots were laid out on both sides of the new road and gradually built out with large houses and their small well landscaped gardens. The textile engineer and Mayor of Leeds, **Peter Fairbairn's** Woodsley (now **Fairbairn**) House (no.s 71-75) was the first to be completed. He entertained Queen Victoria and her entourage there in 1858 when she formally opened Leeds Town Hall and knighted him.

From the 1860s the area on both sides of Clarendon Road, together with the Georgian Squares, became a popular residential area for merchants, industrialists, clergy and medical professionals providing convenient access to the growing university and hospital and city centre.

>>>Follow Kendal Lane on the left from Clarendon Road – take care, the footpath is very narrow



Kendal Lane (medieval route to Woodhouse Moor)

6 Kendal Lane

Little Woodhouse Street lines up with **Kendal Lane**, the old medieval track from the hamlet of Little Woodhouse through the fields to the common land of Woodhouse Moor. The track followed the line of a gradual ridge up to the moor, a route easier for driving cattle. It was still a country path into the early 1800s. It takes its name from **John Kendal**, Elizabethan owner of the Little Woodhouse estate.

From the 18th century the lane divided the “Claremont” and the Little Woodhouse Hall properties. The 18th century wall on the right hand side of Kendal lane was the boundary between the estates. Though now much reduced and interrupted the wall can be traced as far as the beginning of St Johns Road. After the visit of Queen Victoria in 1858, **Sir Peter Fairbairn** blocked the old route which ran behind his house and garden. Victoria Street was built as a diverted route. Gateposts and setts (cobblestones) which can be seen above 75 Clarendon Road mark the place where the old lane emerged. The rest of the lane lies beneath the top part of Clarendon Road.

In the 20th century Kendal Lane was a busy street with corner shops, a post office, a bakery and a Coop store with butchers, catering for the streets of late Victorian terraces on its southern edge.

>>>Follow Kendal Lane past the back of Claremont House stable block on the left and pause at the top of Claremont Avenue near the corner shop

7 Claremont streets, Hanover Square and Denison Hall

The first street on the left of Kendal Lane is **Claremont Avenue**, leading to the **Claremont Streets**, built in 1894-7, on lands which had been the gardens of Claremont, by **James Charles**, a builder, architect and property developer. The stone wall dividing the garden of Claremont from

Denison Hall grounds can be seen at the end of Claremont View and Grove, with a doorway (now gated) into Brandon Road.



Claremont Avenue (1897) built in the back gardens of Claremont (on the left)

By 1897 the houses (all with bathrooms and identical railings) were laid out in different sizes and styles to suit different incomes. They were occupied by lower middle class residents, among them commercial travellers, nonconformist ministers, police officers and building inspectors.



Denison Hall (built 1786)

Kendal Lane passes the top of **Hanover Square** and the back of its largest house, **Denison Hall**, built in 1786 in only 101 days, on lands sold from the Claremont estate by William Lindley for John

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Wilkinson Denison. The house proved difficult to sell, *"too large for a man of moderate fortune and too near the town to be relished by the country gentleman"*. It was divided in two in 1823 when it became part of Hanover Square and was rented to gentlemen tenants. Later it housed a nursing home, an old people's home and a hotel and is now divided into large apartments. In 1864 its grounds were recalled in the diary of William Hodgson, the coachman's son, *"what a beautiful mansion it was and the large gardens laid out ... what a range I had for bird nesting in those plantations with their pleasant walks in those happy days of childhood"*.

Hanover Square The estate of Denison Hall was bought in 1824 by Leeds stuff merchant **George Rawson** to be laid out in building lots as a then fashionable Regency square. Seven houses were built before 1830 (of these five remain - no. 11 built as two houses, on the east side and no.s 37 - 40 at the south-west corner). Most of the others were built much later in the 19th century.



No 11 Hanover Square (by 1820)

Beyond the back of Denison Hall lies **the Kendals**, an estate of low rise housing which replaced the previous Victorian terraced houses and shops in the 1970s. A new street layout was used within the estate though its boundaries follow the older field outline. The remains of a garden wall

belonging to **Belle Vue House** as well as the house itself (built for cloth merchant **Michael Wainhouse** in 1792) can be seen lower down in the Kendals.



Airedale Mount (1842) looks downhill to the dale.

On the right on the corner of Kendal Lane with **Victoria Street** (named after the Queen's visit), **Airedale Mount** was another gentleman's house. Built in 1842, it was the second house in the new development of Clarendon Road. It occupies one of John Atkinson's building plots but faces over the valley to enjoy the views, rather than uphill towards Clarendon Road. As St George's vicarage in the 20th century, it housed **Rev. Percy Don Robins**, founder of the Crypt homeless shelter, who died here in 1949.

8 Victoria and Consort Terraces

Along Kendal Lane on the right, two large handsome Victorian terraces run down the hill between the more recent housing in the Kendal and Consort housing estates. They were built by the **Eastwood** brothers, brush manufacturers, who bought the lands from the Belle Vue estate in 1860. Further along they also built the **Abyssinias streets** on a similar plot and put through the new roads **St John's Road and Belle Vue Road**, again to be sold on as building plots.

>>>Continue on Kendal Lane which becomes St John's Road after Victoria Street



Old route of Kendal Lane (diverted 1860)

9 St Johns Road

The gates to the road behind the Garden building of the Clarendon Quarter mark the point where Sir Peter Fairbairn diverted the old route of Kendal Lane, to protect his grounds from being overlooked from the old lane.

St John's Road was created in 1866 from an old farm track by the **Eastwood** brothers. On the left stood an original farm building and on the right **St John's Cottage**, a farmhouse extended to form a gentleman's house. The land was bought for the foundation of a Roman Catholic grammar school in the late 19th century. The "Cottage" survived for many years as part of the school buildings.

The **Convent of The Little Sisters of the Poor**, a Roman Catholic order of nuns caring for the elderly and impoverished, stood on the plot next to Consort Terrace. This very large building opened in c.1870 and survived into the 1970s: its space is now occupied by modern flats. The **Abyssinias**, streets of small terrace houses (named after the punitive 1868 British Expedition to Abyssinia to rescue missionaries) stood in the next block, replaced by the 1970s Consorts houses. The old farm buildings survived as a garage until then.



St John's Road (1866)
On right St Michaels College (1909)

On the right-hand side of St John's Road, on the same site as St John's Cottage, **St Michael's College** was built in 1909 by Benedict Williamson SJ, the first Roman Catholic Grammar School in Leeds. The Cottage (expanded to form a gentleman's dwelling) stood as part of the school buildings until the college closed in 2008. The College buildings have since been converted and extended for studio apartments. The old route of **Kendal Lane** runs behind its buildings to join **Clarendon Road** just above Fairbairn House.

10 END at the corner of St John's Road and Belle Vue Road, outside Asa Briggs House.

WALK 2

The second half of the walk takes up at the corner of Belle Vue Road and St John's Road and follows the lines of the hillside with views overlooking the Dale (valley) of the River Aire, with street layouts shaped by the natural features, the old field patterns and the industrial and residential developments of the nineteenth century. The walk ends back in Woodhouse Square, close to the start of the first walk.

11 START – corner of St John's Road and Belle Vue Road, outside Asa Briggs House

Asa Briggs House (named after the Professor of History at the University of Leeds) is a student accommodation block (some 300 rooms) opened in 2016. It replaced **Arthur's** a former clothing factory, which later housed a police station and stabling for police horses.

Opposite the end of St John's Road can be seen the setts of a **cobbled ginnel** between two of the large Victorian terraces on Belle Vue Road. It leads through to Rosebank Road and the Rosebank Millennium Green, joining the Millennium Way steps down to Rillbank Lane (more later).



Ginnel from Belle Vue Road (1860s)

Belle Vue Road was created in the 1860s by the **Eastwood** brothers (brush manufacturers) and goes up the hill from the curving line of the ridge, which also formed a long established footpath and the top boundary for the fields below. The width of the carriageway running up to Woodhouse Moor (acquired by the Leeds Corporation in 1857) demonstrates their ambition to attract well-to-do housing to their new road.

>>>Turn right and go up the hill for about 200 yards, on the left is the second Victorian ginnel

12 Ginnels, St John's Terrace and Grove

Turning right up Belle Vue Road, **St John's Terrace** is a row of large terraced houses by various builders in the 1860s and where **the Eastwoods** themselves lived. A second **ginnel** runs through St John's Terrace to **St John's Grove**, which commands striking views across the valley from its long front gardens. At the same time, **Moorland Road** was being developed to take advantage of the recently acquired Woodhouse Moor (1857), and the new Leeds Grammar School (1858).



>>>Turn left downhill down St John's Avenue which forms the back lane to St Johns Terrace. Cross over Woodsley Road to join Rosebank Road

13 Rosebank Road and the Millennium Green

Rosebank Road stands on the ridge above the steep banks of the old stream (rill). The slope was developed between 1877 and 1883 by builders of short working class terraces running along the site (Rosebanks) and down the site (Rillbanks).

The Victorian housing was demolished in the 1970s for 'slum clearance' along with shops, schools and churches. The present estates were built on the flatter land, leaving the steep hillside as open scrub and grassland. In the 1990s a local voluntary trust gained funding in 2000 for its development as a Millennium Green, a natural green space with newly laid out woodland paths, an orchard area, a rose garden and stone carvings (the memorial stone and two stone circles). The voluntary **Rosebank Millennium Green Trust** leased the site from the city council for 999 years and continues to be responsible for its maintenance.



Millennium Way Steps

One of three sets of originally Victorian steps, these modern steps replace the double row built by the St John's Trust in 1861, which led from **Belle Vue Road** through the ginnel down to **Woodsley Road**, which was built around the same time. The present steps were built in 2000 as part of the Millennium Project, including the erection of the standing stones at the top and bottom of

the steps, together with a Rose Garden, and an amphitheatre Focus Area.

Other paths on the Rosebank

The gently sloping path from the **Woodsley Road** carpark, the **Easy Access Path**, leads to the top of the Millennium Way and Rosebank Road. A stepped path which also starts from Woodsley Road goes up to the Rosehenge and Memorial Stone on Rosebank Road. **The Memorial Stone** commemorates the civilian victims of bombing in Leeds in March 1941 during World War II.



Two paths lead up from a small car park on **Westfield Road** – the slope up to the amphitheatre and **the Rose Garden**, passing the Orchard, and the steep **"Dog Leg" steps** to a small seat near the Graffiti Garden close to the junction of Rosebank Rd and Belle Vue Rd.

>> Go down the Millennium Steps past the Rose Garden and through the houses and turn left to follow Rillbank Lane

14 Rillbank Lane

Rillbank Lane follows the line of the boundary of the old Manor of Leeds. The Rillbank and Rosebank names come from the stream "rill of water" which ran down from Woodhouse Moor to the River Aire past the western edge of the St

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John's lands, near the present Hyde Park Road and which marked the boundaries of the Manor of Leeds on the near side and Headingley cum Burley Manor on the far side.

The original **Rosebank and Rillbank streets** were divided by Westfield Crescent (see 1890 OS map) with the Rillbanks on the hillside and the Rosebanks on the flatter land at the bottom of the hill (where the present estate is situated) suggesting another stream ending in Westfield Road. The land was sold off to many small builders who built workers' houses in the 1880s, including back to backs and through terraces with small corner shops. Some were literally built into the hillside.



Top of Rillbank Lane ends in a foot passage

Rillbank Lane now runs behind the row of shops and houses on Woodsley Road. It continues as a back lane over the other side of Westfield Road heading towards Burley Road, on an old path to the Boundary Stone.

>>>Turn right along Westfield Road to join Woodsley Road and at the corner look uphill.

15 Woodsley Road and Hyde Park Road

The land between Woodsley Road and Hyde Park Road makes a distinctive triangular shape which follows the field pattern of 1806. The plot is now occupied by the Leeds Grand Mosque (originally a Roman Catholic church), the Hyde Park Surgery

and the Methodist Church, all 20th century buildings but keeping to the old field boundaries.



Hyde Park Road on the left joins with Woodsley Road on the right, the sharp angle follows the old field pattern

Hyde Park Road, on the old manor boundary with Headingley cum Burley, was built in 1860s as Henrietta Street, to link Woodhouse Moor with Burley Road. Small back to back houses, including the **Verduns**, lay at right angles to the Hyde Park and Woodsley roads. The houses were swept away in the 1970s and replaced by the present **Hyde Park and St John's** estates, leaving only the white building of the former **Little Park pub**, now extended (and decorated) as student accommodation. A small park **Benson Court** was established in 2004 on the site of the 1970s old peoples' flats, in response to tenants' requests. Above these modern estates are the private road and gardens of the Victorian **St John's Grove** and the **Moorland Road** houses.

Woodsley Road, put through in the 1860s, was another speculative development by the **Eastwood** Brothers. It links from Burley Road to Reservoir Road (now the top of Clarendon Road). The covered reservoir was built in the 1840s to hold water from the river Wharfe for the growing city. The shops and houses on Woodsley Road were built in 1880s.

>>>Turn left downhill to the corner with Burley Road

Burley Road, Toll house and boundary stone

Burley Road was the ancient lane and turnpike road to Bradford and Halifax, extending from Park Lane and the old town of Leeds. It crossed the river Aire at Kirkstall, the only bridge other than Leeds Bridge until 1818 when Wellington Bridge was opened.

The house on the **corner of Woodsley Road and Burley Road**, with its pentagonal roof, is on the site of an old toll house. From the 1750s turn pike trusts were set up by private Acts of Parliament, giving them the responsibility to improve and maintain roads and to make charges (tolls) to finance the work. Toll houses were set up at the pinch points of well used routes, often with a resident toll gate keeper collecting fees. As the main route between Leeds and Bradford this would have been a valuable source of income. The advent of the railways from 1840s onwards made them uneconomic. The toll house was first shown on an 1847 OS map.

Turning left along Burley Road from the toll house the boundary stone, **The Grey Stone**, stood outside the present No. 122 Burley Road, marking the Leeds manor boundary with Headingley cum Burley manor. **Boundary Terrace** (built in 1857) still stands as part of Burley Road. On the opposite side of the road, **Greystone Street** was demolished in the 1970s.



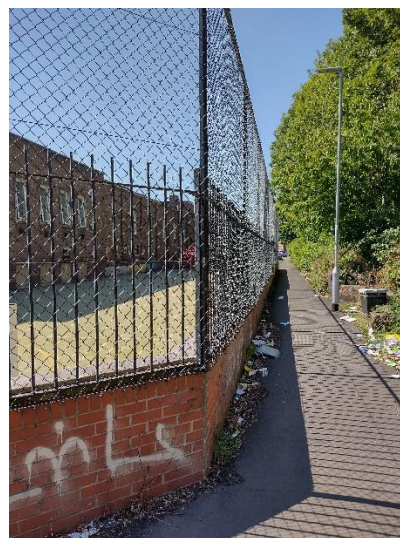
Boundary Terrace, site of the Grey Stone

>>>Continue to the left along Burley Road and take the second left turn into Westfield Crescent

17 Westfield Road, Rosebank School playground and Victorian school steps

Westfield Crescent leads to **Westfield Road**, which runs parallel to Burley Road. Though many of the houses fronting Burley Road remain, most of the terraced houses of Westfield Road have been replaced by modern flats and houses. The Leeds Federated Housing Association building combines offices and flats above (soon to be entirely flats).

Westfield Road runs behind the last remaining school in the area, **Rosebank Primary and Nursery School**, (originally built in 1875 as the Burley Road Board School, later Westfield Primary). Once a through road, part of Westfield Road was closed to traffic permanently in 2002 after a public enquiry, to provide a **playground** space for this last remaining school in the area. There is still a path joining the two halves of Westfield Road, though it was left for services rather than for pedestrians.



Westfield Road (1860s) part closed for the Rosebank school playground (2002)

At the far corner of the playground, on the left another set of steps lead up the hillside at the boundary of the Rosebank Millennium Green. A **replica Boundary Stone** stands at the base and at the halfway landing an inset stone shows the legend of the **The Giant's Hand**. The Grey Stone

legend has it that a Giant flung the stone from the other side of the valley, from Armley where the fields were named Giant's Hill.

>>>Climb the steps up the hill leading to the original Victorian steps

At the top of these modern steps, a path on the left leads back through woodland to Rosebank Road and, on the right, in a few paces to the bottom of the last remaining original **Victorian School Steps** with stone and ironwork intact. The steps were put through in 1861 before any housing was built, as an incentive to investors to attract a workforce to the growing industry in the bottom of the valley. A less energetic alternative to climbing these steps is to continue up the gravel slope to **Belle Vue Road**. It emerges opposite the Consort housing estate, which has replaced the **Abyssinias** streets, in the late 1970s.

>>>Join Belle Vue Road at the top of the steps or path and turn right downhill on Belle Vue Road



View to Armley from Belle Vue Road (built 1860 along the ridge)

18 Belle Vue Road / Park Lane / Burley St

Belle Vue Road follows the line of the ridge which rises from the start of Park Lane to meet Moorland Road on the south side of Woodhouse Moor. Its line can be traced in the boundary lines of fields shown in the 1806 map. It takes its name from **Belle Vue House** which was bought for

development by the **Eastwoods** in 1861 (see below).

Highfield House, the first house to be built in Victoria Terrace stands on the left side of Belle Vue Road. It was built in 1862 for George Hirst, a dyer. It has been much extended, covering over its corner gardens: the garden wall remains.

Going down Belle Vue Road, on the right, between the modern housing and the rear of the **Roomzzz** accommodation block, the last of the three sets of Victorian steps, the **"99 steps"** leads down to Westfield Road (the actual number is disputed). Sadly, the original stone and iron work has been replaced by modern materials.



Belle Vue House (1793)

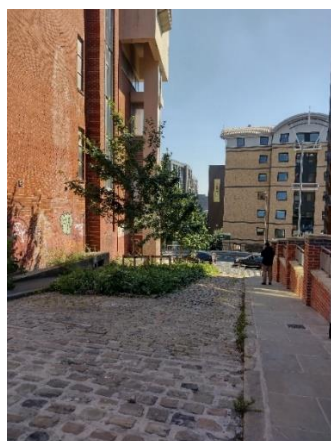
On the left side stands **Belle Vue House** which was built in 1793 as a merchant's house for the **Wainhouse** family, with its estate running down to the main valley road of Park Lane and taking in the fields to the west. In 1893 Elizabeth Wainhouse recalled its cold and lonely situation (only 6 of the 16 Wainhouse children survived to adulthood), although many visitors came to visit the beautiful garden full of fruit trees. The view over the valley was the "belle vue" of its name. It survived the development of the Belle Vue lands, was owned by the first Burley Liberal Club in 1877 and then built into a terrace of back to backs by

Little Woodhouse Ways

the end of the century. Used as an industrial store in the 1960s, it was refurbished in 1978 as residential accommodation. It is now surrounded by the **Kendals** blocks of private modern flats built in the 1980s.

>>>Continue down Belle Vue Road to junction with Park Lane

Belle Vue Road joins Park Lane at the bottom of the slope. **Park Lane** was the original route of the old road between Leeds and Bradford. Looking down to the right you can see where Park Lane joins Burley Road. To the left it continues down to run in front of the college to join **Burley Street** a road much widened in the 1960s.



Rutland Mount linking the older Park Lane and Burley Street (1850s)



The steps continue downhill next to Sentinel Towers from Burley Road to Rutland Street

The hill which Park Lane had once mounted and descended was called **St Peters Hill**. The house called **St Peter's Hall** stood at the left-hand side of the narrow street ('the Mount') leading down to Burley Street. **Burley Street** was built across the Hall's land in the 1850s to avoid the steep ascent of the hill. St Peter's Hall was demolished and the ancient St Peter's Well in its grounds (near the Highland pub) was filled in. The present-day **Burley Street** is a hidden viaduct and still rests on the Victorian arches, which can be seen from the steps next to Sentinel Towers.

The north side of Burley Street is occupied by buildings erected in the 1930s for the then Royal Mail to house telecommunication equipment. On the far side of Burley Street, yet another set of **steps (originally Victorian)** lead past the modern **Sentinel Towers** to the **Highland pub** and on down towards the valley bottom.



St Andrews's Vicarage built in the 1860s survives as a listed building below in Burley Street, now in the shadow of **Marsden House** a large student accommodation block. **St Andrew's Church and School** (built in the 1840s as a memorial to Helen Sinclair, wife of the first Vicar of St George's Church) have been demolished. Built on the St Peter's Hall land, they served the packed streets around them. The surrounding area south of Burley Road has now been filled with large student accommodation blocks.

>>>Continue left along Park Lane to turn left up Hanover Place to join Hanover Square at its SW corner

19 Hanover Square, Denison Rd, Brandon Rd

The old route of Park Lane continues down the slope. On the left stood Wainhouse's **St Peters Mill**. A new student building has been built on this site, **Oak House** previously a 1970s office block and carpark. **Clove's Well**, part of Wainhouse's **Belle Vue House** estate, was sited at the corner.

Turning to the left, Hanover Place Chapel was built for the Wesleyan Methodists in 1847 by architect James Simpson, in the grounds of **Vauxhall House** (see below). Used as an industrial store from the 1960s and badly neglected, its top storey was demolished in the 1980s (local protests prevented its complete destruction). It was listed and renovated and now functions as a Muslim cultural centre. A second storey providing accommodation is in the process of construction.



On the left, the four imposing houses on the **South West** corner of **Hanover Square** date from 1830. Nos 37 and 38 were built by George Rawson and owned by the Rawson family until 1874. The large shared portico suggests the houses may have been intended as a single one. An 1840 deed shows iron gates to the Square stood in front of no.37 and an outline of the **old lodge** can be seen on the gable end. Residents of the houses in 1840 were **Edward Baines**, the editor of the Liberal Leeds Mercury, and **Robert Perring**, editor of the Tory Leeds Intelligencer.

Most of the rest of the square was filled with houses between 1870s and 1890s. The Methodist

Sunday School, which stood on the site above the Chapel, was replaced in 2010 by the modern **Charles Apartments**. This block of flats has a façade accurately replicating the Victorian terrace (nos 33 - 6) and hard to see the join. The Square is now completely residential.



>>>Walk along the south side of Hanover Square to the SE corner, pause at the carpark entrance of Park Lane campus

The former **No 1 Hanover Square** stood on the site of the present College carpark. Its entrance faced towards town rather than towards the Square with a lodge at the entrance gate to the Square. Hanover Square was renumbered in 1961 including Nos 1 -10 Claremont Terrace, now 1-10 Hanover Square. The houses below are now numbered round the Square from 11 (previously two houses 27 – 28) clockwise to 53 (Denison Hall). There is no No. 13.

Leading from the SE corner of the Square, **Denison Road** was built as a link road from the south east corner of Hanover Square to Woodhouse Square. It was put through in 1840.



Denison Road (1840) built to link Hanover and Woodhouse Squares

On the right-hand side of Denison Road, the area now covered by the Park Lane campus of Leeds City College was the site of **Vauxhall House**, an 18th century grand house. By 1826 **Hanover Place**, a terrace of houses with long gardens had been added and later streets with many small houses were built in the grounds of the House. **Hanover Street** ran diagonally from Hanover Square to join Park Lane (Burley Road). Vauxhall House was replaced in 1875 by **Park Lane Board School**, later the College of Clothing Technology, forerunner of the present college. The house at No 1 Hanover Square and the Hanover streets were demolished in the 1960s to make way for the **Park Lane College** building.

>>>Continue to the end of Denison Road at the junction with Hanover Way. Turn to the left to see the setted Brandon Road

Brandon Road is a private road behind Hanover Square East. It is a relic of the 18th century coach road from Park Lane to Denison Hall. Originally it linked with Hanover Lane (now a cul de sac across Clarendon Way) to form the coach road. Later, after Hanover Square was laid out in 1823 in the grounds of Denison Hall, it became the access road to a tall Grade 2 listed building which is now No. **11 Hanover Square**. At the top of the road the gateposts can still be seen.



Brandon Road (1766) built as an occupation road to Denison Hall

Brandon Cottage, mentioned by that name in directories from 1880s, was probably a servants' lodge. On the right-hand side of the top of Brandon Road are the remains of an 18th century wall which after 1786 separated the **Claremont** and **Denison Hall** properties. The stones have been relaid following a collapse in the 1990s.

The present **Hanover Way** running down to Burley Street, was constructed in the 1960s, replacing **Hanover Street** and **Hanover Lane**, the latter survives in part as a cobbled stretch of path between the buildings of Joseph's Well and the College University centre.

>>>Enter Woodhouse Square at its SW corner

20 Woodhouse Square

Entering **Woodhouse Square** at its south west corner, **Waverley House** was built as two houses in 1840 by John Clark. It was lived in during most of the 19th century by members of the **Atkinson** family, who owned Little Woodhouse Hall and were responsible for much of the development of

Little Woodhouse Ways

both Woodhouse Square and Clarendon Road. It has been a Temperance Hotel and students stayed here in the early days of the Swarthmore Quaker Adult Settlement in the early 20th century. It now houses offices.



Waverley House (1840)

The site above Waverley House is now occupied by **Sycamore House**, a student accommodation block opened in 2019. It is built on the site of **St Anne's RC School**, opened in 1905 and closed in 1992, it was eventually demolished in 2005.

The north side of the Square is occupied by the **Claremont Streets**: Avenue, Grove and View, together with Claremont Villas (now 1-6 Claremont Villas on the west side of Clarendon Road) and Claremont Terrace (now No.s 1 - 10 Hanover Square). Built by the **Charles** family, builders and architects, in the late 1890s, the streets (some still setted) were arranged to fit the land available: the houses range from back-to-backs to through terraces, the larger with bay windows, to cater for different levels of income.



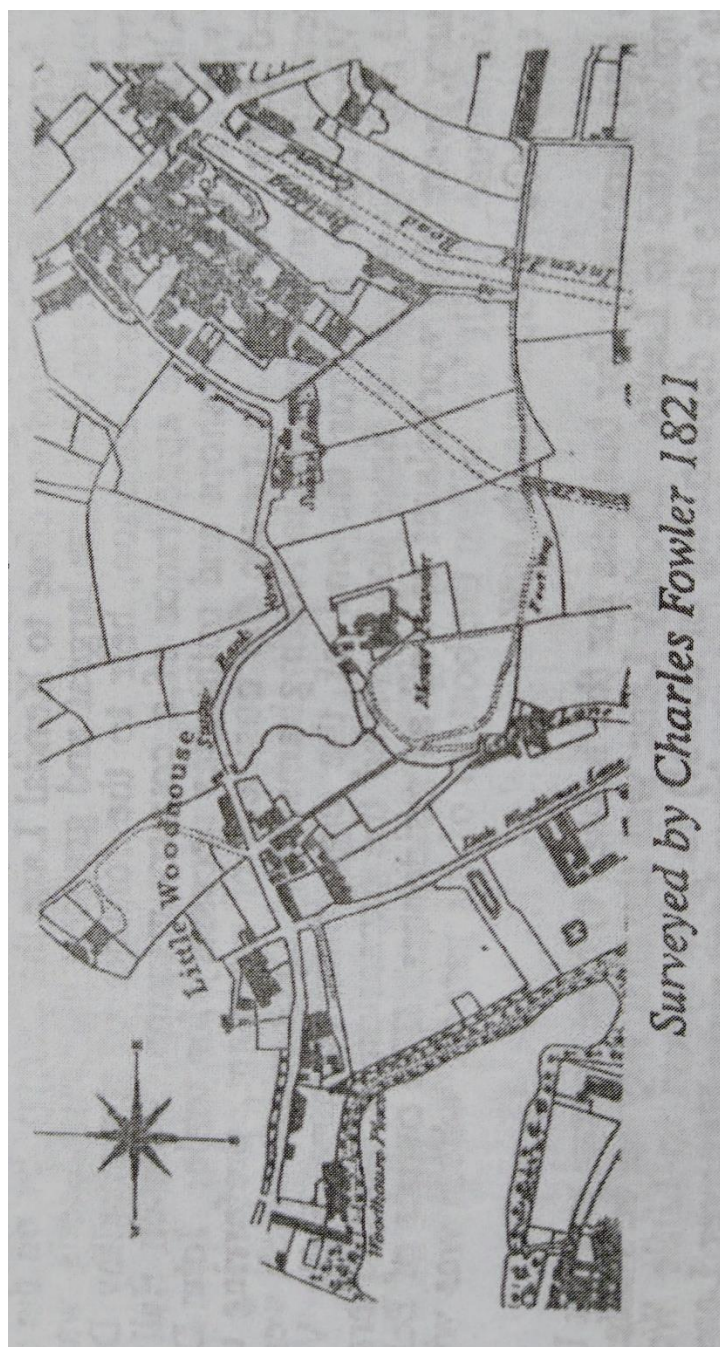
Statue of Sir Peter Fairbairn, who hosted Queen Victoria on her visit to open Leeds Town Hall in 1858. Her carriage approached up the recently laid out Clarendon Road. After his death in 1961 a public subscription paid for this statue.



Exit from Woodhouse Square to the Bridge.
(Clarendon Road cut off in 1960s for construction of inner ring road.)

- ENDS -

Little Woodhouse Ways - Maps

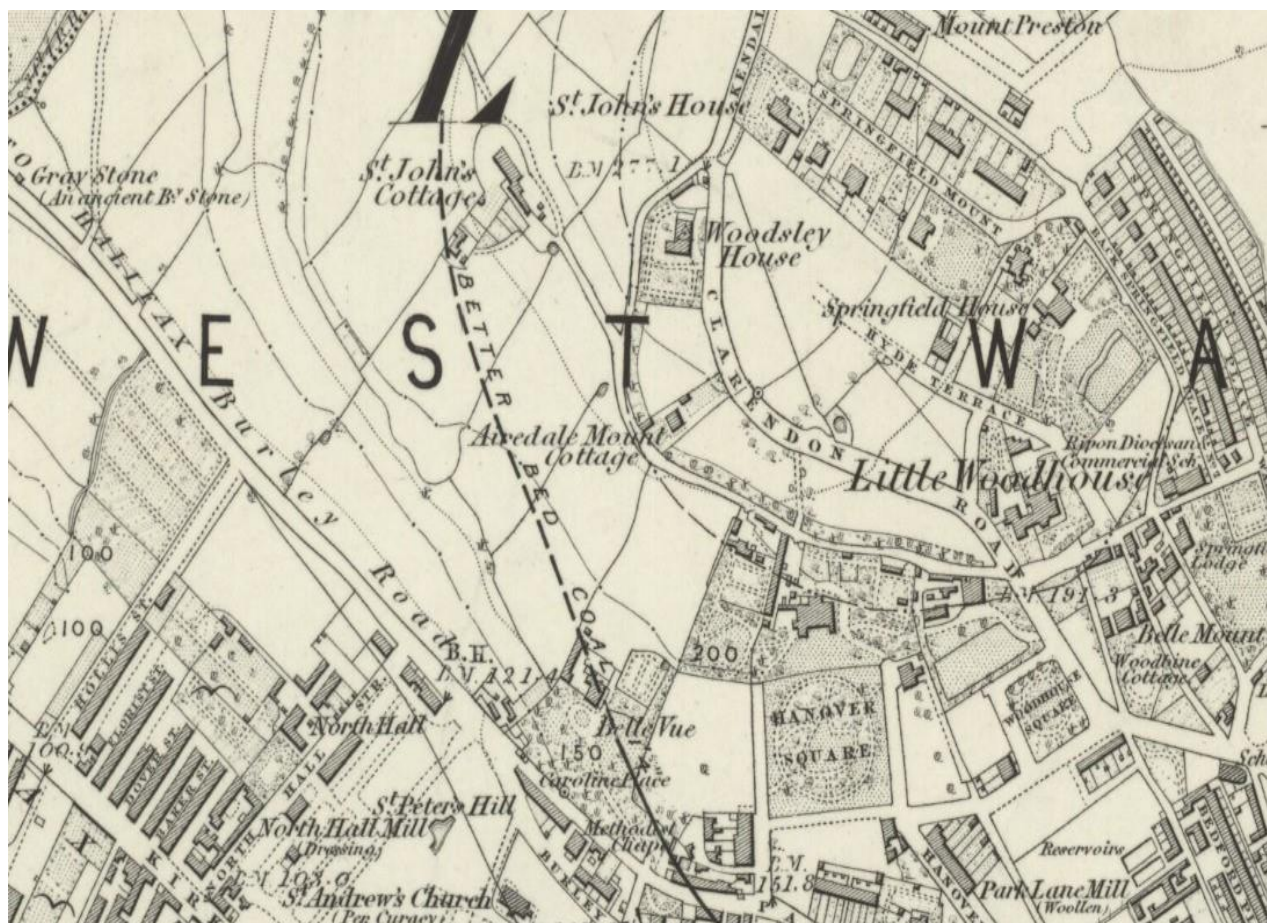


Map 1 - 1821

Fowler's map 1821 shows Atkinson's House (now called Little Woodhouse Hall) above Kendal Lane and Claremont below it. Clarendon Road is not yet been established. Denison Hall has been built with a plantation separating it from the Claremont gardens but Hanover Square is not yet laid out. There are still a number of fields separating the Little Woodhouse hamlet from the town of Leeds.

Little Woodhouse Ways

Ordnance Survey 1852 showing Little Woodhouse Street and the old route of Kendal Lane behind Woodsley House built by Peter Fairbairn (now Fairbairn House), joining the newly constructed Clarendon Road



Map 2 1852

This map shows the field boundaries across the estate lands – for example, the distinctive curved shape of the field boundary along the ridge from Belle Vue House later to become Belle Vue Road.

Hanover Square is laid out but has only 4 houses at its SW corner and 2 uphill on the east side (still existing) and a 7th later demolished at the south east corner.

Below the garden of Belle Vue House, Burley Road has split into Park Lane (the old road) and Burley Street, a flatter route.

Map 3 1890 Tithe Map 1890 Crown Copyright

Kendal Lane has been blocked to protect the back of Woodsley (now Fairbairn) House. And replaced by St John's Road (joining to Belle Vue Road) and Victoria Street uphill to meet Clarendon Road. The area between St John's Road and Belle Vue Road has been filled with terraces.





Map 4 1908 Ordnance Survey 1908

The whole area is built up, with the exception of the grounds of the Leeds Grammar School to the north and St Michael's College on St John's Road and the space behind the college which was used for allotments until the Kelso Gardens houses were built there in the 1930s. A clothing manufactory occupies the site next to the college. The 'V' shape where Woodsley Road joins Hyde Park Road reflects a previous field pattern.