

## Old Roads

[Bygone Bilsdale Review](#)

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### Sources

Cannon Atkinson

*Etc see below*

### Summary

*These are a few rough notes, based on the sources below – comments welcome*

*The Mesolithic hunters arrived about 12000 years ago and made tracks through the forests on the high ground, the valley bottoms were wet and boggy. remained so until monks drained them in 12<sup>th</sup> century, possible routes – Bilsdale east moor – thurkiesti, Bilsdale west moor – hawnby to carlton?*

*Thurchilesti – ancient route from Welbury, over skiplam moor, Bilsdale east, but what's the northern end? To Bloworth and Kildale? "sti" indicates its old*

*Sperragate east/west through Helmsley, then north towards Rievaulx and west to Thirsk, interescts the Drovers road*

*Magna via 1 mentioned in Espec's land grant to Rievaulx - Helmsley, over Roppa, divides above High Crosett, left down to the Grange/Laskill, right to Stump Cross, but no signs on any maps*

*Magna via 2 – the western boundary, presumable from Carlton up the bank then along the high ground to Bilsdale West moor. Fork right to moor gate and hawnby, left probably towards Laskill, various possible routes*

*Road through urra is historic*

*Chop gate, peddlars cross road, which roads? Kirby trod/cold moor route from fisheries to Rievaulx Raisdale road and green lane to Scugdale. Perhaps up trennett, cross magna via heading for whorlton or drovers road speculative*

*on the 1851 map- Hob street, above Wether House, Daleside Road, between Cam House and High Thornhill Cross Lane from daleside road across the valley probably a similar daleside road on the east chop gate to Fangdale beck, Laskill and on to Rievaulx*

*Newgate bank developed y the monks, but then fell into disrepair*

*Check timing of the valley road, initially different route north of laskill*

*Check smugglers route mentioned by John Garbutt*

### Thurchilesti

Canon Atkinsons commentary on the Rievaulx Cartulary

<http://www.archive.org/stream/cartulariumabbat00riev#page/20/mode/2up>

Thurchilesti (Thurkelsti, Thurkersti) is mentioned on p19 and discussed in note 4. The main points in the note are:

It's not a minor track, Thurkersti is mentioned in a previous document on Skiplam Moor

Its a "sti" or "sty" – a pathway or "gate" or roadway of considerable length

The road over Skiplam Moor in NW direction passes close to Wither (Wether) Cote., For 2 miles to the north of Wither Cote it's called Aldergate, then Rollgate This roadway is old enough to have the old North – English term "gate" applied to it.

..from which comes the "magna via" crossing Tripsdale as noted above...pp20 *check where*

It goes from Tripsdale to foot of Hasty Bank, then Broughton and Stokesley

In the other direction from Skiplam moor it passes Skiplam, then the high road to Kirkby Moorside Walter Espec's boundary "turns back from Bachelor, coming down above Tripsdale until it reaches a "magna via" or established road-way coming from Turchilesti pp10nb 2

The 2500 map identifies the track north of Skiplam Moor as Little Roll Gate near the hanging stone, further south is Rollgate Bank, then past Wether Cote farm and so to the "high road into Kirbymoorside"

#### **4 trackways in Walter Espec's 2<sup>nd</sup> grant**

<http://eprints.nottingham.ac.uk/11870/1/335917.pdf> pp70

Speight, Sarah (1993) Family, Faith and Fortification: Yorkshire 1066-1250

Phd thesis University of Nottingham

Walter Espec's first grant to Rievaulx, in 1131, covered about 1,100 acres (less than 2 square miles), including 2 hamlets; some of the land was already under cultivation, parts could be reclaimed, and parts were wooded (40). In 1145 he enlarged the area to about 20 square miles (41). This second grant is important because it mentions 4 trackways on the moors which delineated the new territory; Sperragate (eastwest), Magna Via (over Roppa Moor), Thurkilisti (Welburn-Bilsdale east side), and a second Magna Via on Bilsdale west side. The Rievaulx territory was clearly well placed to become an important factor in the economy of the area.

Nb she indicates that Thurkilisti goes to Welburn, not Kirbymoorside

The plan Howard provided "medieval roads" (see fig. below) also indicates that Thurchilesti goes to Welburn, presumably the village to the south of Castle Howard see below

Cleveland Naturalists Field Club, Proceedings 1928-32

Pp A few Cleveland place names Major R B Turton

<http://barlow.me.uk/clevelandnats/1928-32.pdf>

he suggests the road ascends past Midnight House over Botton Moor onto Urra Moor. Pp38. Rev

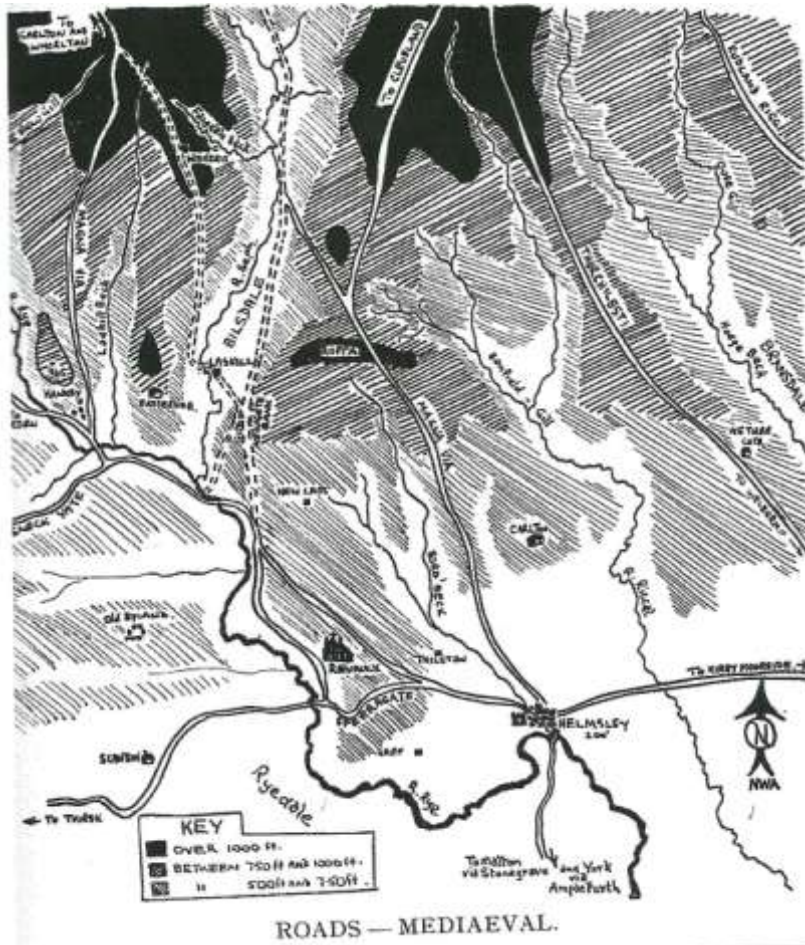
John Hawell, Perpetual Curate of Ingleby Greenhow, had suggested a more easterly?? Location.

Namd after Thorketil "or some cognate form" Anglo Saxon Cronicle 915 mentions Thurkytel jarl submitted to Edward the Elder. Another Thurkyll jarl with the sons of King Svein landed in 1069 and plundered York. Thorkyll de Cleveland is mentioned in the Whitby Cartulary. His son, Uctred, gave land in Burniston to Whitby Abbey. In domesday folio Uctred is mentioned as having hld land in Guisborough, Middleton and Hutton. Mr AS Ellis in Yorkshire Archeological Journal Vol 4 p400,401 discuss the difficulty of identifying any particular Turchil, Torkil or Thurketyl

**Sperragate** – an ancient E-W track through Helmsley to Thirsk, it passes south of Rievaulx Abbey. Sperragata is mentioned in Walter Espec's grant of land to Rievaulx and discussed by Cannon

Atkinson (<http://www.archive.org/stream/cartulariumabbat00riev#page/n139/mode/2up> pp16 note 3). It is named on the “medieval roads” fig.

**Hob Street** – passes close to Wether House, probably heading for Laskill, precise route to be determined. To the north it joins the main route along the moor tops from Carlton Bank to Moor Gate and Hawnbly. (see 1851 OS map)



Daleside road

