

Broughton South East

Fernyhalgh is on the eastern boundary of the parish and its name derives from the old English for a “field of ferns”. The community comprises of four farms and a religious shrine.

Our Lady's Well at Fernyhalgh is said to have been a place of pilgrimage from the 11th century. The present site is first mentioned in 1685 when Hugh Charnley gave the site of the “Well” in trust for the mission there and a house chapel was built around this date which is in the Parish of Haighton. More details of the shrine can be found on its website www.ladyewellshrine.co.uk.

The original chapel remained in use till 1793, when the present church of St. Mary was built a quarter of a mile away, which is in the parish of Broughton. The Grade 2 listed church was built by the Reverend Anthony Lund who had been the “missioner” at the shrine since 1773. Fr Lund as well as building the church also built the presbytery and the Hermitage house adjacent to the church.

There are records of a school in the area known as “Dames Alice’s” run by Alice Harrison from the 19th century at Haighton Top farm and another by the shrine from about 1650 which was replaced with the church school in 1836 which closed in 1971. (Ladyewell nursery)

Today it remains a small hamlet of farms to the east of the M6 with the shrine attracting large numbers to its special masses and the road to Grimsagh getting ever busier.

Its neighbour **Dorton** is a hamlet also with a long history but it is being swallowed by the extensive development that is part of the North West Preston development area. The Yates map of 1786 shows the two settlements to the north of Broughton Tower and the south of the church hamlet.

Yates map of 1786



Greenwood Map of 1818

By the time of the Greenwood Map of 1818 the roads have started to connect the smaller communities with Dorton Lane & Midgery Lane now a crossroads with over 20 properties.

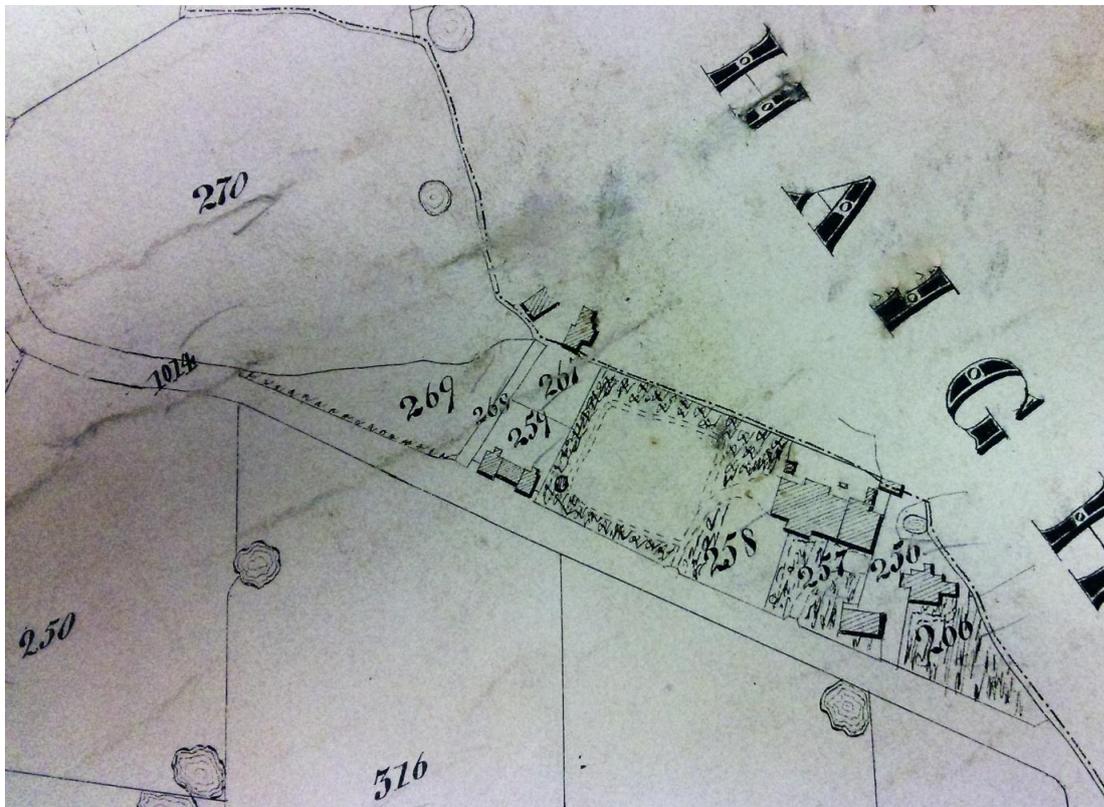


Tithe Map 1840

This is the section at "Dorton Hamlet", 75 is the field where the market was held opposite on Dorton lane is Daniel's farm 272, field 272 next to Midgery Lane, shows an outline that may indicate an earlier enclosure/wall now an orchard.

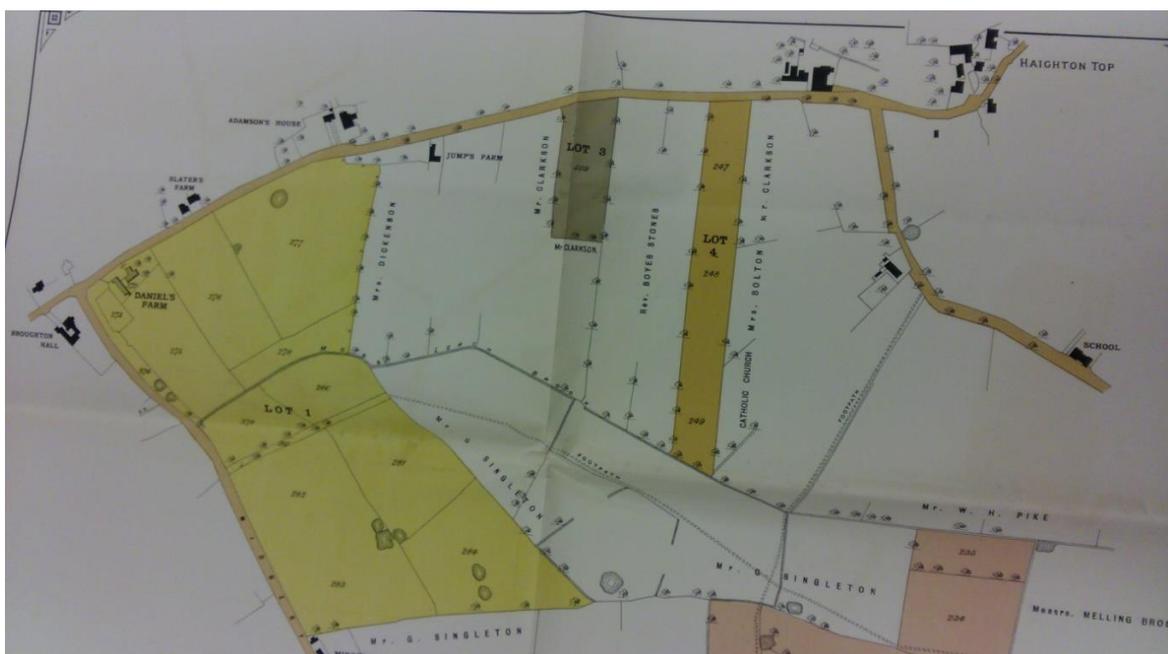


The tithe map 1840, this section shows in detail the complex at Fernyhagh, 259 is the school, 257 the church, 250 the presbytery. The farmhouse is just in Haighton Parish behind the school as is the "Ladywell" further down the lane to the west.



This map shows in more detail Daniels farm and was the auction detail map from 1872 when the properties were sold, the "enclosure" is still shown to the west of the Farm.

The farm/estate had "lots" in Haighton. Most of the and locally was owned by the Singletons & the



Other mentions:

“The old hamlet of **Dorton** that once held monthly markets and hiring fayres is now a place of poor repute and abandoned farms”, circa 1898

“A topographical Dictionary of England by Samuel Lewis 1848” listed (1) the **churchyard cross** (steps remain), (2) **Daniel's Cross** (now at the gate of Bank Hall) & (3) **Duxen Dean Cross** on the northern parish boundary near the bridge of which only the base now exists. Three others at Durton Lane, Durton Green and Fernyhalgh have been destroyed.

“**Edgars**” now called **Edmundson's Farm** is on the south eastern boundary of Broughton opposite the entrance to Fernyhalgh Lane. This complex is associated with the land on which Fernyhalgh shrine is built and at one time was also a hostelry.