

The story of Towneley Park in maps 1661-2007

Tony Kitto

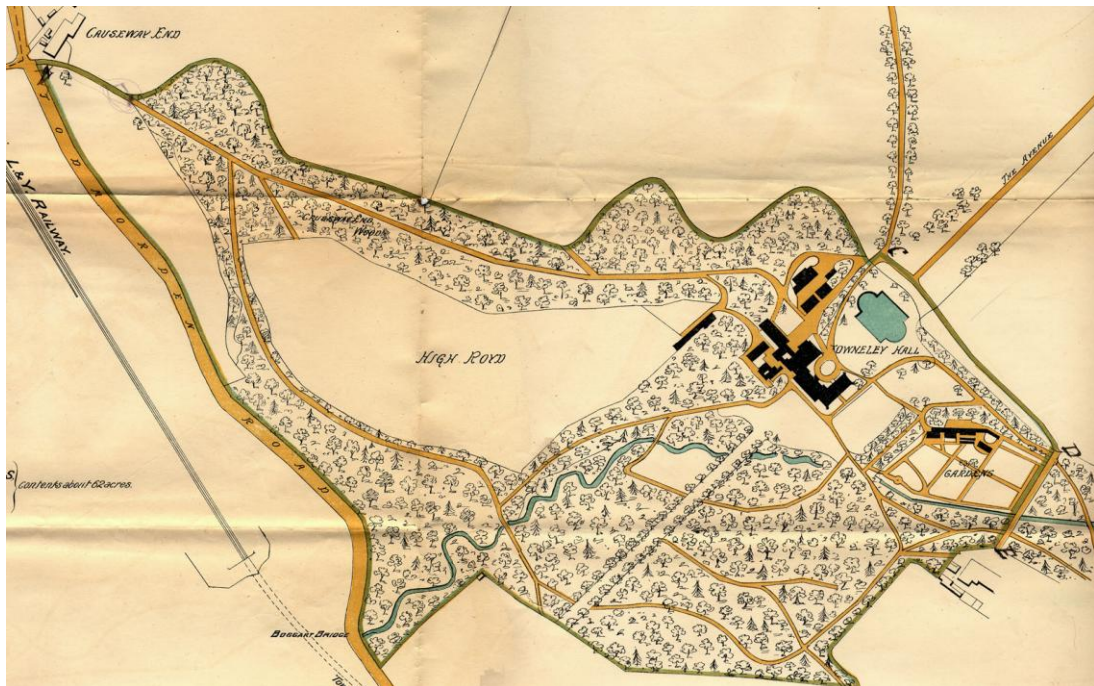
A brief history of Towneley Park from maps

Introduction

This history of Towneley Park is produced at a time when Towneley is undergoing a number of changes made possible by a Heritage Lottery Grant. The aim here is to put these changes into historical perspective. Just like Towneley Hall, Towneley Park was not created all at one time but has continually changed, for without change the park decays and becomes overgrown. These notes also aims to answer most of the frequently asked questions about the park and its main features, such as how old is it, who created it and how did they come to own it.

Maps are used to describe the main influences that have formed the park and created its boundaries. The earliest records are very vague and there is no detailed map earlier than 1661. A good place to begin is that part of Towneley first opened as a public park in 1902.

In 1896, Alice, Lady O'Hagan, offered to sell Towneley Hall and grounds to Burnley Corporation. This map was made to identify the land to be included in the offer. It remains today one of the best examples of a map of Towneley that clearly achieved its stated purpose.



The green outline identifies the land for sale. Almost all the footpaths seen within the park are still in use in 2007. Another major feature is the Copy Clough stream, clearly shown in blue. High Royd is now a pitch and putt course. It had been pasture for cows and horses for many centuries. In the early 20th century it was available for Sunday school picnics at a cost of one guinea per day, which is a reminder that right from the beginning not everything was free. The major changes to be identified from this map are the demolition of many of the outbuildings. One of the first changes in 1903 was the creation of a bowling green in the kitchen garden. Few maps are completely free of errors and one mistake on this map is the labelling of Copy Clough Bridge on Todmorden Road as Boggar Bridge. In the following pages it will become clear that there was a Boggar Bridge at Towneley long before Todmorden Road was built.

Towneley before 1661

The first map to show the name of Towneley was Christopher Saxton's Map of Lancashire in 1577. The map is dominated by hills and rivers. At this time, the roads were poor and nothing but three bridges are shown to indicate transport routes. The River Calder can be seen in the bottom right, flowing north past Holme in Cliviger, Towneley and Burnley. It then turns west to join the River Ribble and on towards Ribchester. Seven parks are highlighted in green and surrounded by fencing. The largest one is Hapton Tower (spelt as Hampton towre) but there is nothing to indicate any park at Towneley.



Towneley is first mentioned around 1200. Roger de Lacy, a Norman baron, granted two bovates of land to Geoffrey, son of Robert the dean of Whalley, for a hunting lodge at Tunleia, together with the right to share in the common pastures of *Brunleia* (Burnley). A bovat was as much land as an ox could plough in a year, roughly 15 acres or 6 hectares. Today Towneley Park covers 30 bovates or 180 hectares. Over time Towneley was written in many ways including Tunleia, Tunlay and Touneley. It means the clearing belonging to the town. In what follows all the variations are used without further comment.

The land granted by Roger de Lacy was part of a large area, known as the Honour of Clitheroe, given him by the King. He granted part to a select few people, called free-holders, and to the church. By a form of government now called the feudal system, most people had no land of their own but shared common land in exchange for working on their lord's land. They grew their own food in common plough land called the town field. They also had access to the commons, large areas of upland pasture, where their animals could graze. Much of the lower land was woodland, bog and marsh called the wastes.

Around Burnley the main cereal crop was oats and the main commodity was cattle. The cattle were taken to pasture in the hills in the summer and returned to lower land before winter. Young animals needed constant protection from wolves and so clearings were made in the woodland and enclosed with fences to prevent the cattle roaming. A woodland clearing was called a rode or royd. High Royd was probably such an enclosure and, as common pasture for *Brunleia*, it caused all the surrounding area to be named Tunleia. Heyroyd near Colne has a similar origin and there are several like-named places in West Yorkshire.

Most people at this time did not use surnames. On legal documents they would be known as *son of* or they might use the name of an area where they lived. Around 1255, Adam Abbot of Kirkstall (Abbot between 1249 and 1259) granted land in Cliviger to Walter the chaplain of Tunlay. Among the witnesses was Henry de Tunlay, probably one of Geoffrey's sons. By 1295, the last of Geoffrey's male descendants was dead and the land was inherited through marriage by John de la Legh, whose family were the main free-holders in Cliviger. Henry de Lacy (1251-1311) was then Lord of the Honour of Clitheroe. During his lifetime, profitable vaccaries or cow farms were created. The de la Legh family helped to manage these vaccaries. In 1311, when Henry de Lacy died, they were free-holders of 260 acres in Cliviger.

The de la Legh family purchased the manor of Hapton in 1328 and Hapton Castle became their home. John's younger son Richard took the name de Touneley. Although Richard used Towneley as his surname, he probably did not live at Towneley during the last thirty years of his life. In 1351 he rented the manor of St Saviour, at Stydd, near Ribchester. In 1388, his son, John de Tounley, became heir to all the de la Legh lands. There is no evidence in this period of the family having a permanent home at Towneley. All changed with John's only son Richard, who was born at Stydd and baptized at Ribchester Church in May 1387. By the time Richard came of age, Hapton Castle must have been falling down and he lived in Cliviger from 1408. From 1446 his legal papers record him as Ric. de Tounley of Tounley. Around this time the family built a large tower house at Towneley as their main home. It still exists today as the south wing of Towneley Hall.

The building at Towneley took place at a time when common plough land was being enclosed all over England. The feudal system was in decline from around 1300. In 1350, the plague known as the Black Death killed over a quarter of the population of England. One thousand villages had disappeared completely by 1400.

Richard's great grandson, Sir John Towneley (1473-1540) replaced the old castle at Hapton with a new home called Hapton Tower where he enclosed over 1,000 acres of land to create a large deer park. *The Rent Roll of Sir John Towneley*, an audit of his estates in the Burnley area for the year 1535-6, has survived. It gives the names of all the fields at Towneley, including names still in use today such as Broad Ing, Castle Hill and High Royd.

One field was named Chapel Lee. Dr Whitaker, the local historian, believed this was the site of the chapel of Walter the chaplain of Tunlay. In his *History of Whalley*, Whitaker wrote "*this hamlet had a village and chapel, both of which must have been destroyed to make room for the house, offices and grounds of the opulent family which followed*". Today ridge-and-furrow earthworks, possibly from mediaeval times, can still be seen within the park.

Castle Hill, part of Towneley Farm today, was according to legend the site of Geoffrey's hunting lodge but there is no evidence to confirm this. Other Towneley field names from the *Rent Roll*, such as Old Park and Little Park, are no longer in use but can be seen on later maps and provide evidence for the enclosures created in the 15th century. An enquiry in 1517 recorded that 30 acres of arable land and 40 acres of wood and pasture were enclosed at Towneley in 1491. The rent roll also records the hall lanes, garden and orchards at Towneley. As the wastes were enclosed and the woods cleared, corridors were left to give continued access to the commons and these became known as lanes.

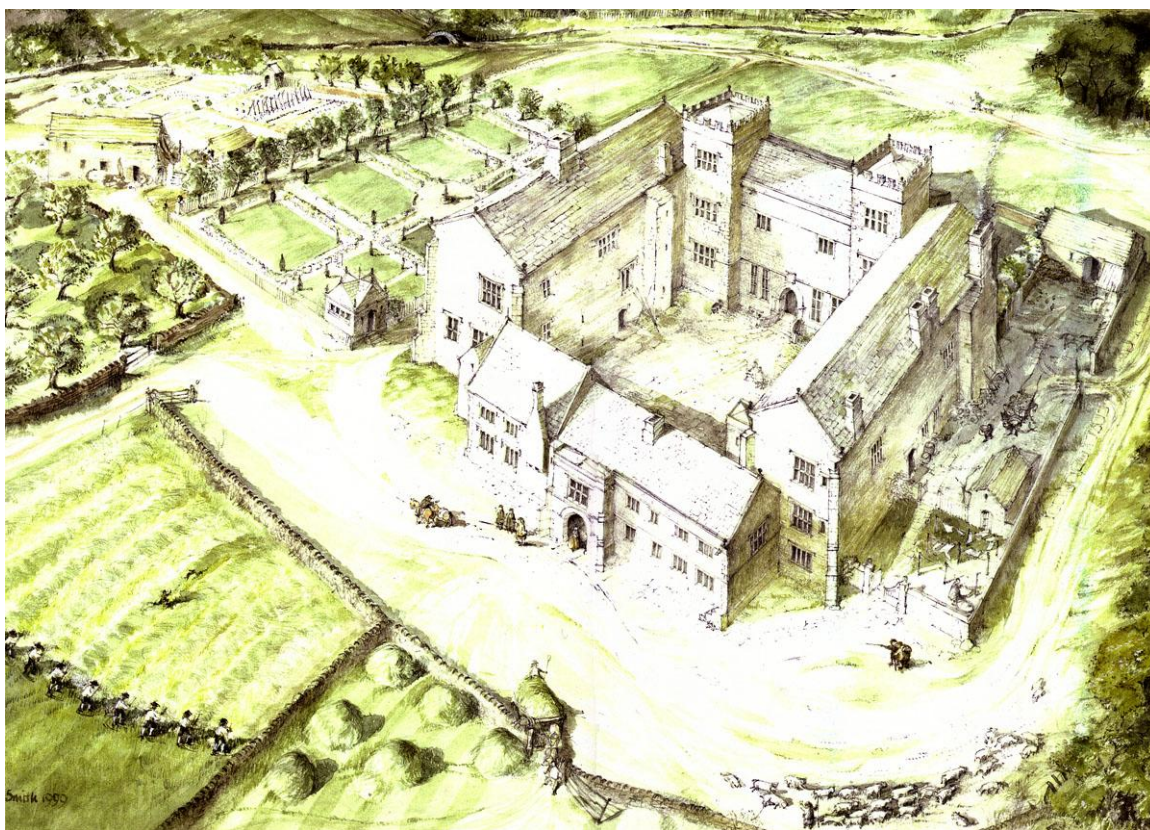
The Towneley family had mixed fortunes in the 120 years after the death of Sir John Towneley in 1540. First through marriage, they inherited the valuable estate of Nocton in Lincolnshire. Then, through their refusal to denounce their Catholic faith, they were subject to heavy fines as recusants. Finally, as supporters of King Charles I, Towneley was taken from them at the end of the Civil War. In 1660 Richard Towneley (1629-1707) sold the Nocton estate in order to regain his lands in Lancashire.

The Hamilton Maps of 1661

General Monck was responsible for the restoration of King Charles II in 1660. In return, the King created him Duke of Albemarle and gave him the land of the Honor of Clitheroe, once owned by the de Lacy family. In order to obtain as much income as possible, the Duke had his new lands surveyed in January 1663. Richard Towneley anticipated this event by asking James Hamilton to perform a private survey of Towneley lands within the Honor in 1661. Using Hamilton's survey, 15 maps were produced that survive today, showing all the public roads and the separate Towneley farms with their field divisions and tenants' names.



Hamilton's map of Towneley is oriented south rather than north and the River Calder appears on the lower left corner of this extract. The garden and orchards are probably those recorded in the 1536 rent roll. The road to "Dynly & clivicher mill", shown in the top left, continues west above the garden and the Hall before continuing south around High Royd (marked K43 on the map) towards what on later maps is shown as Causeway End. Other fields of the 1536 rent roll include Castle Hill (K35 at the top of this map) and Chapel Lee (K32 east of the garden and orchards). Broad Ing (K31) is marked in Cliviger and Habergham Eaves, with the Everage Stream dividing it as the township boundary. The Copy Clough stream joins the Everage in Broad Ing at the place where the sports pavilion is today. The third stream, joining the Everage in the centre of Broad Ing, is the Hole House Stream, which today joins the Everage higher up in Thanet Lee. The most obvious differences from today are the stables and barn in front of the house. There is no pond or Avenue, rather a wooded track curves round to the north before turning sharply back to cross the River Calder about the place where today there is a footbridge to the Riverside car park.



Towneley as it might have appeared around 1680.

This drawing by Kit Smith, made in 1999, is based in part on the 1661 map. It is also makes use of a description of Towneley made by Ralph Thoresby when he visited in 1702. In his diary for September 2nd 1702 he wrote "The rest of the day was spent there (after we had viewed the new apartments in this college, or castle-like house,) in converse with the three brothers, Mr. Trafford, and other strangers, in the garden-house, in the midst of the fish-pond in the garden". The next day Thoresby went on to Blackburn and his diary reports of Dunkenhagh "[it] has nothing remarkable but the hall of Mr. Walmesley, which seems considerable, but like most seats of the gentry in these parts, has so many out-buildings before it, as spoils the prospect".

The complaint about spoiling the prospect could equally have applied to Towneley as shown in Hamilton's map of 1661. The buildings on the north east side, containing the chapel and gate house were pulled down sometime after 1702. According to Dr. Whitaker, the chapel was moved stone by stone to its present position in the North wing by Richard's son Charles Towneley (1658-1712). His son, Richard Towneley (1689-1735) made further changes to the building in the 1720s, creating a new entrance hall with a fashionable baroque exterior on the south west and an exit into the gardens behind the house.

Lang's Survey of 1735

Richard Towneley (1689-1735) appears to have first commissioned Robert Lang to survey Towneley in 1731. When Richard died in 1735, his son William Towneley (1714-1742) inherited and Lang provided a map of the estate. The original map has been lost but there is a copy in Lancashire Record Office (DP322). This copy was made by Edward Lovat for Charles Townley (1737-1805) in 1801. The top of the map points to the north east and the bottom of the copy is torn so the area of Copy Clough and Castle Hill is missing. The map matches the river and most field boundaries well when compared with later maps. However some individual details such as the placement of the house in relation to the pond and avenue appear to be wrong. We do not know if this is a fault of Lovat's copying or in the original. It is just another example of maps being a useful but not faultless witness of history

The map shows many features absent from the 1661 map. The stable and barn in front of the house have been replaced with an ornamental pond and the curving track towards the river has been replaced with a straight avenue of trees, both features that still exist today. There is now a walled garden with diagonal paths leading to a large central area that may have been another ornamental pond. The course of both the Everage and Copy Clough streams have been diverted eastwards to accommodate the new avenue and the walled garden. The largest changes are seen across the river. Here Townley Park and Lodge is clearly the replacement for Hapton Tower's deer park. Other evidence records that Hapton Tower was left deserted at the end of the Civil War. For many years after 1660, Towneley was the family's only residence. Today there is nothing left of the 18th century lodge but the Deer Park Pond remains.

The large wood to the west of the house in 1661 map was by 1735 a narrow strip, called Causeway End Wood, with a path from the house and stables towards Causeway End Farm. This path is still in use today. In 1715, Richard was present at the Battle of Preston on the side of the defeated Jacobite army. He was arrested and tried for treason in London in 1716. Richard managed to get acquitted and a family history (1844) records: "He cut down a fine wood of oaks near to the mansion, to pay the expenses incurred in his defence". The names of the fields that replaced this wood were the 'Farmost', 'Middlemost', 'Lowmost' and 'Nearest' Old Parkwood. These together with Old Par Meadow tell us the location of the Old Park, seen in the 1536 Rent Roll. That area is now part of the golf course.

Other fields mentioned in the 1536 Rent Roll that appear on the 1735 map include Broad Ing, Chapel Lee, the Water Earths and Argham Roid. One field name new to the 1735 map is Mitchael Earth (K33 on the 1661 map), which contains two buildings not present in 1661. These are the barn and farm house that is today called Towneley Farm. In the 18th century it was called Jacob's Laithe after the first tenant, Jacob Hall and there is a tenancy agreement between him and Richard Towneley dated 1720. On the 1735 map, by the east corner of Mitchael Earth there is a fish pond and a path that corresponds to the road from Cliviger Mill shown on the 1661 map. The location of the fish pond today is a boggy hollow in Thanet Lee from which a crocodile appears as part of the sculpture trail.

It is likely that the road from Cliviger Mill continued westwards before crossing the Copy stream higher up the clough via a bridge not shown on the 1661 map. As Kit Smith's drawing suggests, in earlier times the area close to the house would have been more like a farm yard. The changes to the house and the changes in its surroundings shown in the 1735 map all point to the family taking a greater interest in the landscape. Moving the public road further away from the house would have been another step on the way to making Towneley a much more private place.



Charles Townley (1737-1805)

After the death of William at the early age of 27 in 1742, Towneley Hall became rather neglected as a family home. His widow, Cecilia, left Lancashire at the time of the 1745 rebellion and on her return lived at Standish Hall, near Wigan. Charles, their eldest son inherited in 1758, but initially made few improvements to the grounds. Since 1692, Catholics had to pay double land tax and were barred from purchasing land; so it was not in Charles' interest to spend too

much on Towneley. It was not until 1778 that the Catholic Relief Act permitted Catholics to once again to purchase and dispose of property. In anticipation, Charles commissioned George Barret to paint this view of Towneley Park, which he paid for in January 1778.



From the 1720s, "turnpike" roads were created through out England to improve communications. The money for widening old roads and building new ones came from tolls paid by the road users. The first turnpike in Burnley was the Burnley-Rochdale turnpike of 1754. It had little effect on Towneley as it ran well to the west over Crown Point and Deerplay. A Burnley-Halifax Turnpike opened in 1759 via the Long Causeway. The road from Todmorden was improved in 1777 and a new toll bar was set up at Red Lees. As a result, people began using the road through the Towneley estate to avoid turnpike tolls.



William Yates's map of Lancashire, completed in 1786, was the first for two hundred years to be a significant improvement on Saxton's map. This extract shows both the two turnpikes and numerous local roads, but does not show any roads through Towneley. It clearly shows the Deer Park and the avenue from the Hall to the Lodge as in Lang's map, together with a double line of trees crossing the Calder and continuing towards Fulledege.

There were no detailed surveys of Towneley in Charles' lifetime, but he made use of Lang's maps of the 1730s when making his own sketch maps to plan a number of the major changes to Towneley in the last twenty years of his life. Before 1786, Charles Townley's main improvements at Towneley were a new walled garden and large scale tree planting. In 1786, a new coach road was begun across the meadows to Hand Bridge in Burnley Wood and in 1798 a lodge and "Saxon arch" was built at the Burnley Wood entrance. The lodge, called Hanbrig Castle was demolished in 1958 but the arch is still standing near what is now the Todmorden Road entrance to Towneley Park.



In September 1798, Charles Townley wrote in his diary that Smith the painter of Skipton had come to start painting various points of view. On October 13th, the diary laments "Smith the painter brought three miserable drawings of the scenes he lately sketched here". This unsigned watercolour may be one of them. It shows the coach road with Dyneley Knoll in the distance. The building on the left is Lower Barn, which can be seen in the Lang map of 1735. Close to the barn is a small bridge that is not recorded in any published maps but can be seen on one of Charles's own sketch maps of this period.

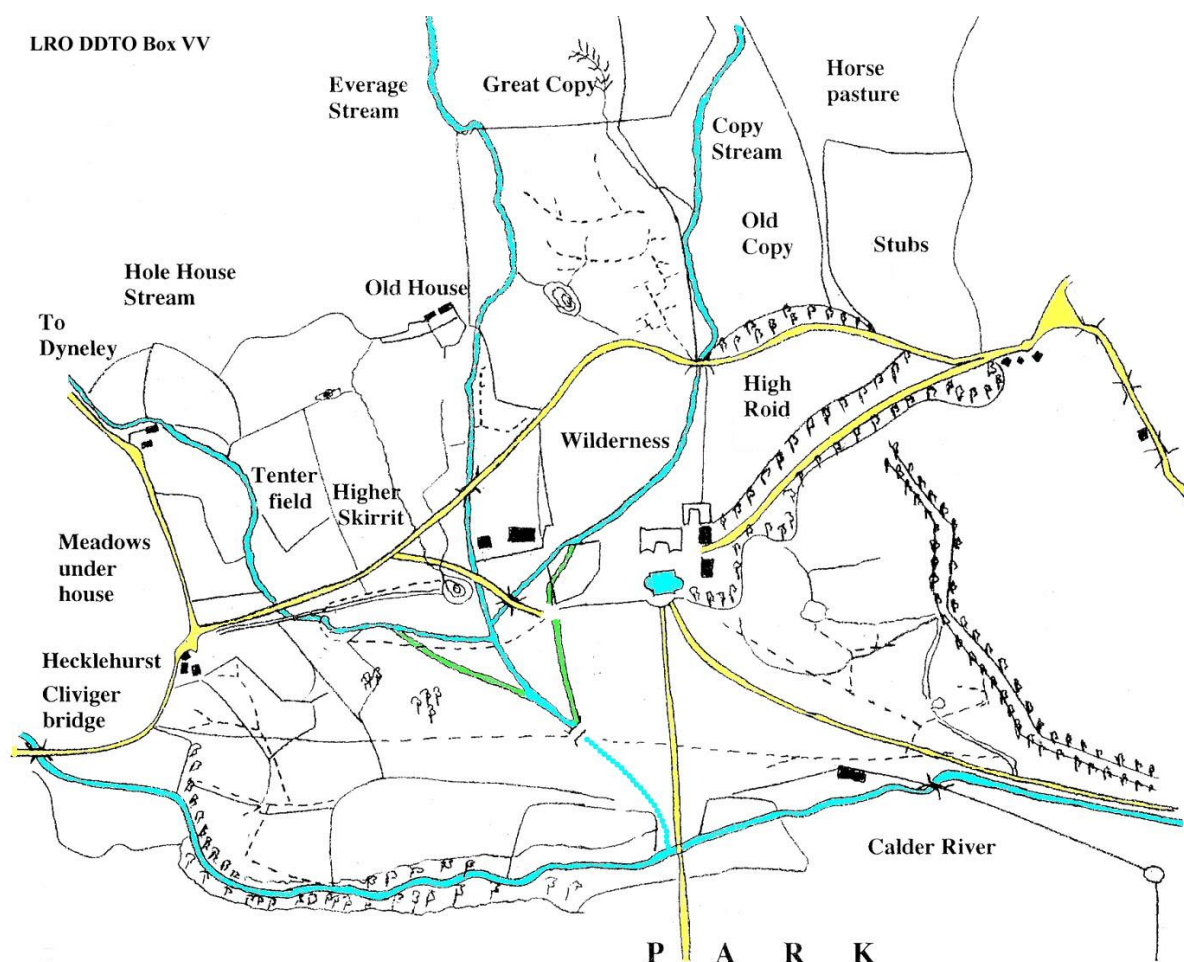
Around Towneley Hall itself, Charles built a number of outbuildings including a brew-house that still survives and is today the Museum of Local History. Amongst the plans for outbuildings around 1788 are references to the road to Boggard Bridge. Boggard was the 18th century spelling of boggart or ghost. Although this is the earliest mention of Boggard Bridge in the Towneley archives, it is probable that there was a bridge over the Copy Clough stream at this point from a much earlier date.

Charles diverted the Copy stream to its present position in 1771 as part of changes to the walled garden. He probably diverted the Hole House stream in 1790 at the time he was also diverting the road from Cliviger Mill so it ran above Jacob's Farm. The drainage of the land had always been a problem. Charles employed Joseph Elkington to implement a new drainage system in 1795. The new method was to dig the drains to a depth of 9 feet rather than the normal 2 feet depth. This was more expensive but Charles was pleased with the results of drains made in on near the most boggy parts, reporting - "those swampy parts were mostly impassable for cattle but they became solid land in a few weeks after the drains were made".

Drainage sketch map of ca. 1797

This drawing is based on one produced by Sarah Law in 2006 as part of her *Archaeology Report On Towneley Hall, Lancashire, Up To 1902*. That in turn makes use of a map drawn on tracing paper by Charles Towneley sometime around 1798. It is likely that he was tracing the field boundaries from an existing estate map. [LRO DDT0 Box VV].

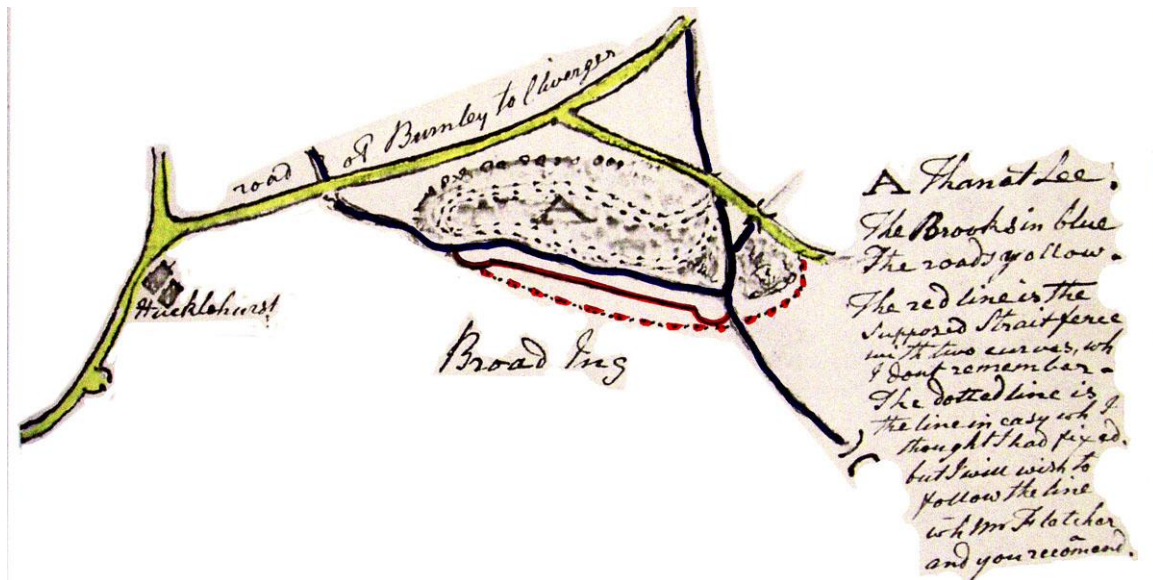
The map was oriented with the top pointing to the south east. In the present version of the drawing, the roads are marked in yellow and the streams in blue and green. Those marked green show the course of the streams before Charles Towneley diverted them. The broken straight lines appear to be the location of the Elkington drains.



The road from Cliviger Bridge, at the bottom left, forks at Hecklehurst with one road going to Dyneley and the other going via a bridge over the Everage stream and above the Wilderness to Boggart Bridge and the old lane to Causeway End. There is one diversion from this road, known early in the 20th century as Dark Walk, that is today is the road to Towneley Farm and Castle Hill cottages. The fish pond marked on the 1735 map appears to be marked by a circle next to Dark Walk. There seem to be several other ponds at Castle Hill and in Old Park Wood. The building near the River Calder is Lower Barn and a bridge is marked close by as is seen in the watercolour of Lower Barn from about this time.

Thanat Lee

This sketch map is from a letter sent by Charles Townley to his steward Thomas Forshaw in February 1800 describing the haha to be built to separate Thanat Lee from Broad Ing. It matches the drainage sketch map but does not include the fish pond nor the old path to Hecklehurst seen in the earlier map. Instead it shows a circular path similar to the one in Thanet Lee Wood today, but in 1800 the path remained on the south east side of the stream.



Before the diversion of the Hole House stream, the area marked "A" contained two small fields, which in a 1661 map of Cliviger were tenanted by Edward Watson as part of Hecklehurst farm. Although the new plantation became known as Thanet Lee in the 19th century, Charles Townley always wrote it as Thanat Lee. It comes from Thanatos, Greek god of death. The area immediately to the west was known as Chapel Lee. Dr Whitaker in the History of Whalley reports "A small close, now partly included in the kitchen garden is still remembered by the name of the Chapel Lee - and, within this enclosure, I have heard one of the old workmen affirm, that human bones have been discovered". He also wrote that Charles Townley's conversation was seasoned with a kind of Attic irony. Giving his new enclosure a name meaning "Death's pasture" is perhaps a good example.

Thanat Lee served both as a plantation and for ornamental walks. In November 1798 Charles recorded planting walnut trees, Spanish chestnuts, red poplars, snake barked viburnums, purple beeches, purple alders, weeping ash, broad leaved ash, laburnums sweet scented and American mountain ash in the new front Borders and gardens in Thanat Lee. In 1801 he wrote of a communication walk over stone bridge betwixt new and old Thanat Lee and in 1802 the walk was extended, probably as we see it today. Charles was proud of his ornamental walks and made careful measurements of them. An undated note in his hand, now in Lancashire Record Office, records an *Admeasure of the walks through the Plantations at Townley*. These included

- From Hall door by Middle Walk to Hall door 540 yards
- From Hall door by the garden lime walk and lower lake 480 yards
- Higher walk by Boggard bridge great oak from Hall door to hall door 824 yards
- Grand Tour by higher walk and round Thanat Lee 2200 yards

Two 19th Century Lancashire Maps

Greenwood's 1818 Map of Lancashire



Hennet's 1830 Map of Lancashire



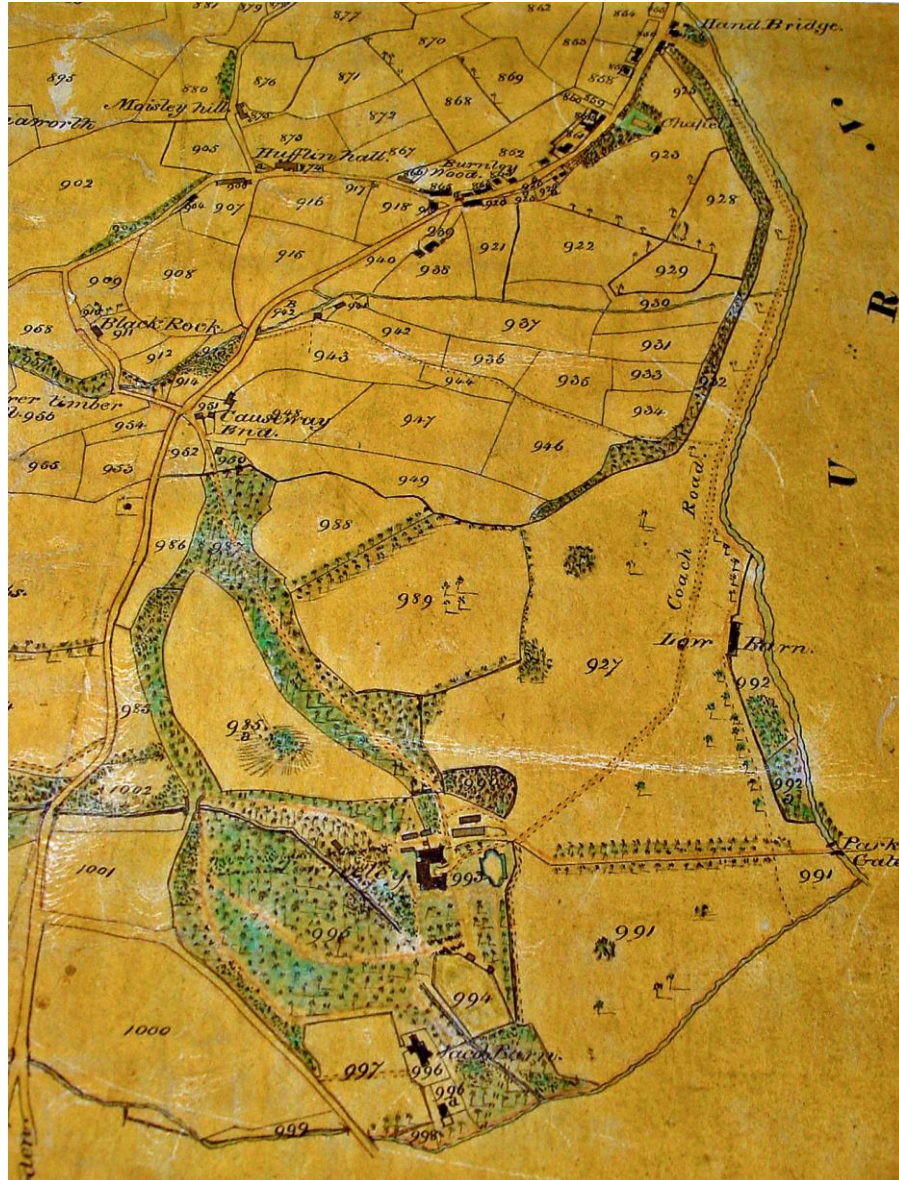
Since Yates's map of 1787, more turnpikes were built and canals were also adding to the transport network. A new map of Lancashire was needed and Greenwood's map met that need. The extract on the left shows a major change in the roads around Townerley. The original Burnley-Rochdale turnpike over Crown Point was not well used and in 1817 a new Burnley-Bacup turnpike was built from Turf Moor and passed Causeway End. Charles Townley had been an advocate of a new road before 1800 but the builders of turnpikes were always aiming to avoid the cost of bridge building, which was one reason why they had so long avoided crossing the Copy Clough.

A major benefit for Townerley and Cliviger residents was that, by the addition of a short stretch of road skirting Castle Hill, the new Copy Clough bridge could be used and the continuing expense of maintaining the old Boggart Bridge for heavy traffic avoided. Then in 1818, too late to be included on the Greenwood map, a branch of the new turnpike was taken down to Walk Mill and on to join the Burnley-Halifax turnpike at Bull's Head. This new road was called the Union turnpike and completed the network of roads that today help to frame Townerley Park.

After 1818, the market was flooded with other versions of maps of Lancashire but it was not until 1830 that Hennet's map, surveyed in 1828 and 1829, arrived as a worthy successor to Greenwood's map. The Union turnpike is shown on Hennet's map together with a much simpler and clearer outline of Townerley Park, which was now highlighted to show the full extent on both sides of the River Calder. Greenwood's map claimed to be accurate because it used details taken from local sources. A close look at the details for Townerley show it was often a problem matching together surveys from two or more surveyors with different methods without adding error. In Greenwood's map, Townerley Hall is clearly not aligned correctly with the Avenue and Deer Park. A similar mistake in matching two sets of surveys may account for apparent errors in Lovat's copy of Lang's map of 1735. Of-course, neither is Hennet's map without errors, particularly in the spelling of place names such as Field Edge for Fullede. Mere Clough gave both map makers difficulty, with Greenwood offering 'Near' Clough and Hennet offering 'Mear'.

1834 map of Habergham Eaves Township

This map was published in 1837 by Edward Lovat using a survey drawn up in 1834. The map is oriented with north west at the top. This extract shows the eastern corner where the Everage meets the Calder. In 1836, Parliament passed the *Act to Regulate Parochial Assessments* and this map would have helped to levy the local rates based on property values.

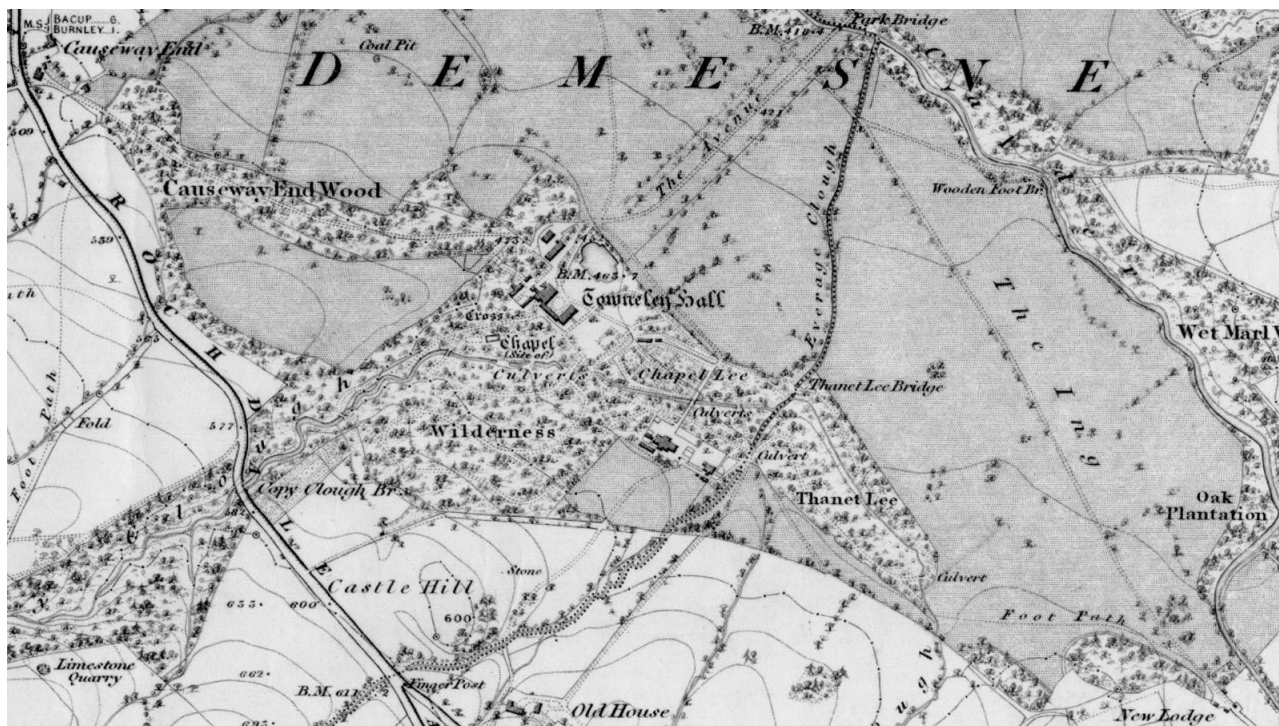


Each field is marked with a number to identify it together with all buildings. The Catholic chapel, completed around 1820, can be seen just south of Hand Bridge at the top of the map. The old road dividing Castle Hill (#1000) and Heapwife Meadow (#1001) and Boggart Bridge both appear to be as wide as the turnpike and Copy Clough Bridge. The map does not show a road over Boggart Bridge, but the Towneley Plantation Book and Timber Account, written by Lovat in 1836, records the trees in "High Royd and the Old Lane".

The course of the Copy Stream between the two bridges appears straight but this is probably because the survey did not need that level of detail to estimate the field areas. In other respects the map matches well with the Ordnance Survey map that came ten years later. The dotted lines on the map show footpaths. One is clearly seen passing "Low Barn" to join the Coach Road. Another path skirts fields #943, 944 and 946 to join Todmorden Road with the Coach Road. In later years, this path became known as the Rabbit Walk.

Ordnance Survey Map of 1848

The official map-making body in Britain, the Ordnance Survey only began to survey Lancashire in 1841. Burnley was surveyed in 1844, contoured in 1847 and published in 1848. None of the earlier maps of Towneley included contours, so it is fortunate that the contouring was completed just before the railway from Todmorden to Burnley cut through the southern side of Castle Hill and tunnelled under the Rochdale turnpike just inside Habergham Eaves.



The map highlights the Towneley demesne, that part of the estate used by the owners and not let out to tenants, similar to Henket's 1830 map. By now the whole of the area, not just the Deer Park, became known as Towneley Park. There are a number of features not shown on earlier maps including New Lodge at the Cliviger entrance to Broad Ing. A piece of land by Copy Clough Bridge, not numbered on the 1834 map, is shown to have paths and bushes. On later plans, this area is recorded as a nursery market garden. Other commercial activity in the park can be seen with a coal pit in the centre of Park Woodfield by Causeway End.

The map shows the Hall grounds in great detail and a number of features are clearly labelled. These include Chapel (site of) in Copy Clough just behind the Hall. This matches a building shown to be still standing in the 1834 map. In later times there have been attempts to relate this to the supposed mediaeval chapel of Walter the Chaplain of Tunlay and Chapel Lee, the area taken over as a walled garden by Charles Townley in the 1780s. It is much more likely that this building was a temporary chapel for local Catholics from around 1803 when the family chapel was being renovated. It may have continued as such until Burnley Wood Chapel was completed around 1820. One feature about which there is no doubt is the cross adjacent to the Hall. The Burnley or Foldys Cross was brought to Towneley around 1790 from the grounds of Burnley Parish Church after it was vandalised. It was renovated and moved to its present position at the top of Lime Avenue by Burnley Corporation in 1911.

Another bridge over the Copy Clough stream into the Wilderness can be seen on this map. There is a later bridge in the same place today as part of the walks around the woods. The family continued to improve the walks after Charles Townley's death and one important change, before Peregrine Towneley's death in 1846, was the addition of large numbers of rhododendrons, both in Thanet Lee, the Wilderness and along the path to Causeway End.

The Towneley Estate after 1848

When Peregrine's elder son, Charles Towneley (1803-1876), inherited Towneley he began to develop a herd of shorthorn cattle that between 1849 and 1863 won 26 gold medals and over one hundred other trophies at agricultural shows across the country. A description of Towneley at that time recorded some of the problems encountered in rearing the cattle. First was the large increase in the local population of Cliviger, Burnley and Habergham Eaves, up from around 6,000 in 1801 to almost 40,00 in 1861. This brought "*countless dogs which accompany the pedestrians along the open footpaths, and the butchers and others who will handle the cows as they pass along, forgetful that they may have been near diseased beasts*". As a result, the Towneley servants attempted to close the public footpaths in 1857. The stile to the Rabbit Walk in Todmorden Road was blocked up and the wooden foot bridge over the Calder by Wet Marl Wood, seen in the 1848 Ordnance Survey map, was thrown down. After several court cases, resulting in bad publicity for the family, the public rights of way were re-opened. Subsequently, public goodwill was further improved by allowing large gatherings within the grounds to celebrate national events such as the marriage of the Prince of Wales in 1863.

Another problem, for which the family could not be entirely blameless, was the increasing smoke pollution with increased industrialisation. The family leased nearby land at Timber Hill and Black Rock Farm to the company of Messrs. Brooks and Pickup for mining coal and fireclay. According to an account from around 1870, the belching chimneys were "*coming to within 100 yards of the farm-yard, and one where several tons of salt are burnt to glaze tiles, spreads smoke like a thick white fog, and taints the air with sulphuric acid. Several of the oak trees have died from its effects, and the herbage suffers as well*".

There were still deer in the park in August 1856 when the Burnley Advertiser reported that four had been found dead there, killed by lightning. A new lodge, later called Lodge Farm, was built in the Deer Park in 1858 with an entrance on Brunshaw Road. The Deer Park itself was still undivided when John Towneley, Charles's brother and the last of the male line, died in 1878. The estate was divided between the families of their daughters. The estate was so complex that it took a private act of parliament, the *Towneley Estate Act of 1885*, to arrive at a just settlement. It is still useful to historians as it gives the name of every field and each tenancy on the estate in the period 1878 to 1885.

The next OS map of the area around Towneley was surveyed in 1891 and published in 1893. Whilst the earlier map was surveyed at a scale of 6-inch to a mile, the new map used a scale of 25-inch to a mile. It provided much more detail including an indication of the numbers of trees planted and their different types. The 1896 map shown in the introduction was based on this map. The main change since 1848 was the building of Castle Hill cottages close to the Home Farm, completed around 1869. The map also showed a well in Thanet Lee and numerous air shafts for the coal mines of Messrs. Brooks & Pickup.

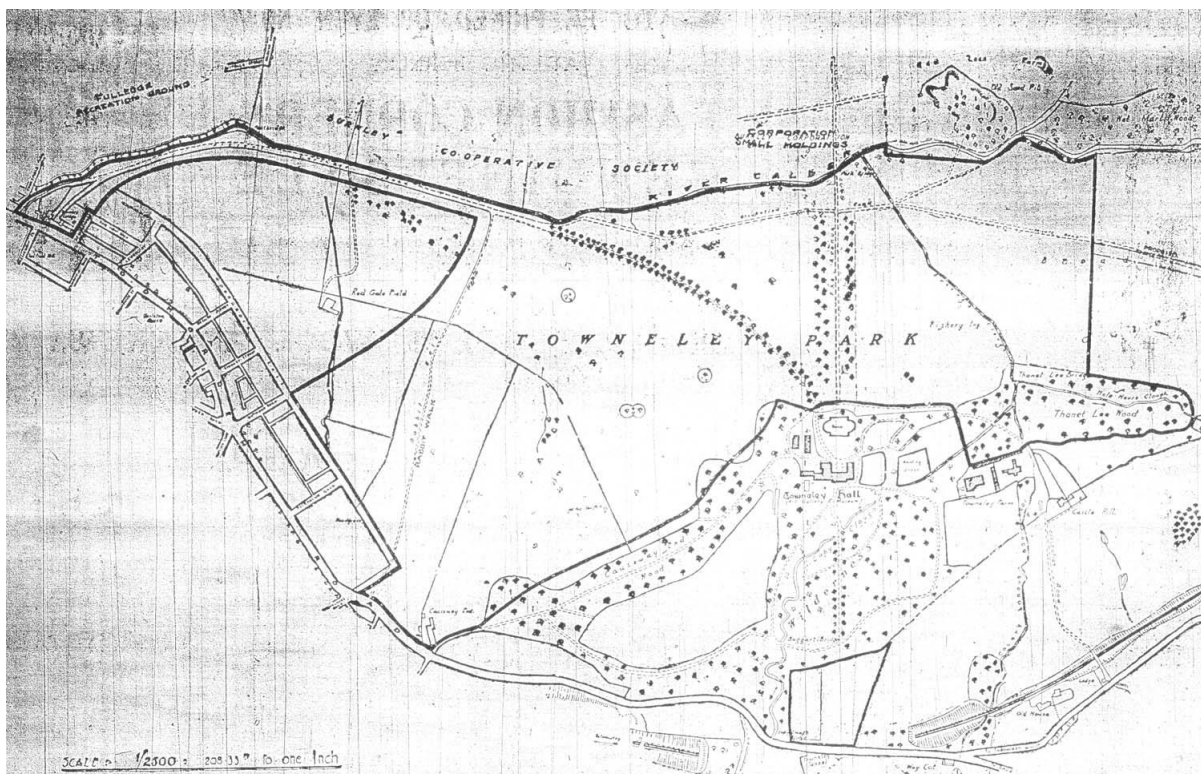
The part of the Towneley Estate given Alice Mary Towneley, Lady O'Hagan, included Towneley Hall and its demesne and she settled there as a widow in 1886. She was unable to maintain the house with only a sixth of the former income and in 1896 she offered it for sale together with a portion of the land to Burnley Corporation. Apart from the Pleasure Grounds and the Wilderness behind the Hall, Lady O'Hagan offered the woodlands and pasture lands laying between the house and Causeway End. Burnley Corporation completed the purchase in November 1901. The delay was caused by the difficulty of securing the mineral rights, owned jointly by the O'Hagan, Bertie and Gordon-Lennox families, to ensure the Hall was not undermined.

20th Century

Towneley was opened as a public park in June 1902. The local newspaper was quick to point out that of the 62 acres allotted 49 were of woodlands and gardens and highlighted the various walks in the woods. The Corporation made a number of changes in the early years. Refreshments and toilets were at the top of their list of priorities in 1902, followed closely by a bowling green. This last was built in the kitchen garden in 1903. A larger boulder from Higham was placed behind the Hall in 1907. Few people take any notice of it today but it gives its name to Boulder Walk, which runs by High Royd up to Boggart Bridge.

By this time the Deer Park had already been sub-divided into three separate farms, Deer Park, Lodge Farm and Lower Red Lees. Lady O'Hagan's son offered these and the rest of the old Towneley Demesne as part of 16 lots by auction in August 1906 but there were no bids for them. However, in 1909 that part including the Deer Pond, Lodge Farm, was compulsory purchased by Burnley Corporation under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1908.

Discussions to purchase the rest of the land were active in 1912 when it was proposed to build a 60-foot street across the meadows to Walk Mill. In 1924, the plan was abandoned due to risk of mining subsidence. Finally, in August 1927, Lord O'Hagan sold 174 acres of land south of the Calder to the Corporation. The Corporation used most of the land for a golf course and playing fields but one important part of the purchase was Thanet Lee. This was opened to the public as part of the Towneley pleasure grounds in 1930. Now it became possible to take Charles Townley's *Grand Tour* by higher walk and round Thanet Lee.



This map, titled **Corporation's Land Purchase At Towneley Holmes**, was published in the Burnley News on August 13th 1927. It reported

"The land is 173¾ acres in extent and comprises practically the whole of the fields on the right of the road leading through Towneley Holmes, and extending as far as the Borough boundary near to Park Pit. It is shown within the thick black lines on our drawing. ... A plot in Red Gate Field, which has not been acquired by the Corporation, is at present being laid out as an electric hare course by the British Greyhound Sports Club".

The greyhound course closed in 1935, allowing schools and playing fields to be built and the golf course extended.

The 1920s was the period of greatest activity. In 1925, tennis courts and another bowling green were built at Causeway End. The cenotaph was dedicated in 1926 and the surrounding memorial garden completed over the following three years. In 1929, the 19th century servants' wing of Towneley Hall was taken down and, using the resulting stone, three cottages were built at the east end of High Royd. In the same year a music pavilion with terraces to seat 2,000 was completed on the south side of High Royd. In 1963, the pavilion was demolished after vandalism and arson. Since the early 1970s, High Royd has been the home of a highly popular pitch and putt course.

One black spot was the small-holdings, which were built and tenanted between 1910 and 1914. There is a map dated 1917, showing a neat grid of 2 acre allotments, but simple maps cannot always provide a good indication of the landscape.



This photograph, taken from Moseley Road in 1935, shows the small holdings in the middle distance. The tall chimney in the bottom right was part of Towneley Pit. Towneley Hall, hidden by trees, is just behind it. The houses of the small holdings can be seen all the way up Deer Park Road. The nearest to the Calder is still standing today and can be seen near Towneley Garden Centre.



The Deer Park in the 1940s has best been described by the writer Jessica Lofthouse "A dismal mile of hen-pens, empty hen-cabins and grey box houses ... I doubt even if summer sun and buckets full of eggs could make the deer park an asset to the Towneley pleasure grounds." In 1973, the area was appropriated by the Burnley Council's Development Committee with a change of use to public open space and residential purposes. Today most of the area is a 9 hole golf course.

Barwise car park and picnic area was created in the late 1970s to provide additional car parking on the south west side of the Park. It is named after Joseph Barwise, who ran a dahlia nursery there for over 50 years from 1910. He had great success in flower shows and was considered to be the country's best dahlia grower. The picnic area was known as Heapwife Meadow in the 19th century and there had been a nursery garden in the adjoining two acres used by Barwise since at least 1844.

By the early 1990s Burnley Borough Council recognised the need for a management plan to protect and improve the quality, character and appearance of Towneley Park and the surrounding area. Consultations with park users began with an open public meeting in June 1992. Consultations having continued right up to the present and the first draft management plan, produced in 1994, eventually became the basis of a successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid ten years later. Offshoots, a community-based, organic garden, was opened in the old walled garden in 1997 and, in the same year, a sculpture trail was begun in Thanet Lee using the stump of a dead beech tree. Charles Townley's name of Thanat Lee has proved prophetic.

Towneley Today

Maps have been important at Towneley since Hamilton surveyed the Towneley demesne in 1661. This map, showing Towneley Park today, aims to welcome and inform visitors, encouraging them to make full use of the facilities available.



[Since 2007, Unity College has moved across Towneley Holmes Road to the area marked on the 2007 map as "Land owned by Lancashire County Council". In 2011, the old Unity College site was restored to parkland as Woodgrove.]

Further information

About maps

Maps for Historians by Paul Hindle (published by Phillimore, Chichester, 2002)

Lancashire - a history of the County Palatine in early maps by J Bagley and A Hodgkiss (published by Neil Richardson, Manchester, 1985)

About place names

The place names of Lancashire by David Mills (published by Batsford, London, 1976)

About mediaeval Lancashire

The Royal Forest of Lancaster by R Cunliffe Shaw (published by Guardian Press, Preston, 1956)

About Cliviger history

A Pennine parish - the history of Cliviger by Titus Thornber (published by The Rieve Edge Press, Burnley, 1989)

About Towneley history

Tracing the Towneleys by Tony Kitto (published by Towneley Art Gallery & Museums, Burnley, 2004)

An architectural history of Towneley Hall, Burnley by W. John and Kit Smith (published by Heritage Trust for the North West, Pendle, 2004).

Acknowledgements

Sarah Law's unpublished "Archaeology report on Towneley Hall, Lancashire, up to 1902", has proved invaluable, particularly the sections on Charles Townley (1737-1805).

The images are by permission of:

Towneley Hall	pp 1, 2, 5, 8 (upper), 9, 10, 11, 12 (right), 13, 14, 16, 17, 18
Sir Simon Towneley	p 4
Lancashire Record Office	p 7
W. John Smith	p 8 (lower)
Burnley Library Local Studies Centre	p 12 (left)