

# THE STUMPCROSS WALESBY

To determine the  
location of the Stumpcross in the Parish of Walesby



## “STUMPCROSS”

Prior to 1821, crops in Walesby were grown in three great fields;

The *Pale Field* stretching from the north boundary of the parish to Forest Lane,

The *Middle Sand Field* between Forest Land and Sandpit Lane,

*Stumpcross Field* between Sandpit Lane and the southern boundary of the parish.

These are the names of the Fields used in the Terrier of the property of the Vicarage of Walesby in 1809. (In a similar Terrier of 1777, they are named as the *North, Middle* and *South Sand Fields!*). In the Enclosure Award of 1821, the three great fields, were referred to as the *Pale, Middle* and *Stumpcross Fields* and the pathway at the boundary with Boughton was called the *Stumpcross Field Footway*.

Too much time has elapsed for us to know why *Stumpcross Field* was so-named, but the following quotations provide a likely explanation:

“Even at the end of the eighth century many Christian communities of long standing were still unprovided with any form of church. Archbishop Theodore had allowed priests to say mass ‘in the field’. A century later the life of St Willibald, written by a man of West Saxon origin, represents it as an English custom that on the estates of many lands there was no church, but only a cross raised on high for the daily service of prayer. The history of the standing cross in England is carried back to Theodore’s time by a sentence in his book of canons enjoining that when a church has been removed to another place a cross should be erected on the site of the vanished altar.”

*Anglo-Saxon England*, F.M. Stenton. p150

“Field Churches were built by the landowner whose property they remained. The thegn was entitled to remove or destroy a church on his land, subject only to the provisions that any materials from it - unusually, no doubt, timber - could only be used for building another church, and that the site of the altar should be marked with a standing cross similar to those which had already been used to identify a Christian place of open-air assembly before any place of worship was built.

The minster and field church system gave way gradually to the parochial system in the tenth and eleventh centuries and the task was completed by the Normans by about the end of the twelfth.”

*The English Parish Church*, Gerald Randall, Batsford 1982

Thus it would seem likely that some 1200 years ago somewhere in *Stumpcross Field* there stood a cross. Prior to 1821, the three great fields were divided into *Furlongs* of about 10 acres each and it would seem likely that the cross would be located in the one closest to the village.

The furlongs can be identified using :

1) from the Derbyshire County Archive, a *Map of the Estate of Henry Gally Knight in Kirton, Walesby, Willoughby, Boughton and Wellow*, which numbers the Lands within the Fields;

2) from the Nottinghamshire County Archive, document *DDT 10/19*, which provides names of persons and furlongs for the numbers; and

3) again from Derbyshire, a bundle of leases *239M/E16326-16330*, providing more detail.



## Comment

- The drawing is taken from the *Estate Map of Henry Gally Knight of 1816* and provides numbers for the lands in the Open Fields.
- *The Enclosure Submission of 1821* gives the names of the Furlongs in which the Lands are located and also the names of the Tenants working them.
- The *Leases* indicate in which of the Three Fields the Furlongs are to be found.

It is evident that:

- Sandpit furlong is in both the *Middle Sand Field* **and** the *Stumpcross Field* as it crosses over Sandpit Lane which is the boundary between them;
- Stumpcross and little Sandpit furlongs also occur in both the *Middle Sand Field* **and** the *Stumpcross Field*;
- in 1821, there was a sandhole between the Land no. 426 of Wm. Camm and Land no. 427 of James Reavell which gave the Lane its name.

It is possible to relate the numbers of some of the lands shown on the map, with the numbers shown on the leases, for instance:

426	0 0 17	Wm Camm	S.C.F. Sandhole
and 36	0 0 20	James Cam	S.C.F. 2 Lands on Sandpit Furlong, abut. E & W of little value being dug away
424	0 1 23	Wm Camm	M.S.F. Sandpit Furlong
and 23	0 1 34	James Cam	M.S.F. 2 Lands on Sandpit Furlong abut. N & S Duke E & W.
428	0 1 04	Wm Camm	S.C.F. Sandpit Furlong
and 37	0 0 39	James Cam	S.C.F. 2 Lands on Sandpit Furlong abut. E & W, Warsop Poor Land N, Mr Clerkson S.

Of more significance for locating the Stumpcross Furlong are the following:

425	0 1 06	James Reavell	M.S.F. Sandpit Furlong
and 20	0 1 13	Jonathan Cam	M.S.F. 2 Lands on Sandpit Furlong abut. on a headland N, Field fence S, Sir Geo. Savile E, Duke W.
423	2 0 25	James Reavell	M.S.F. Sandpit Furlong
and 21	2 1 07	Jonathan Cam	M.S.F. 9 Lands more abut do. Warsop Poor Land E, Duke W.
422	0 2 27	James Reavell	M.S.F. Sandpit Furlong
and 27	0 2 20	Jonathan Cam	M.S.F. A Headland and fellow on Stump Cross Furlong abutting on a headland N, & fence S, Sir George Savile E, and Warsop Poor Land W.

## Conclusion

The inference from this last entry is that Stump Cross Furlong has been absorbed into Sandpit Furlong and was originally to the East of it. Stump Cross Furlong may have disappeared when the Cottages on Sandpit Lane were built sometime in the eighteenth century. As the Carpenter's Arms is sited on what was, Mill Head Furlong it seems likely that the Stump Cross was sited on the land between Brake Road and Sandpit Lane and close to where they meet.

Tony Spratley



2) Clerkson / Henry Gally Knight / Fitzherbert Lands

Enclosure submission 1821 DDT 10/19

*(Land nos., acreages, and names relating to a Map of 1816)*

	a	r	p		
424	0	1	23	Wm Camm	Sandpit Furlong
426	0	0	17	Wm Camm	Sandhole
428	0	1	04	Wm Camm	Sandpit Furlong
429	0	1	12	Wm Camm	Sandpit Furlong
430	0	1	37	Wm Camm	Sandpit Furlong
431	0	0	35	Robert Brown	Sandpit Furlong
434	0	1	14	John Gilbert	Sandpit Furlong
422	0	2	27	James Reavell	Sandpit Furlong
423	2	0	25	James Reavell	Sandpit Furlong
425	0	1	06	James Reavell	Sandpit Furlong
427	0	0	22	James Reavell	Sandhole
433	1	0	09	James Reavell	Sandpit Furlong
432	0	0	34	Mark Whitworth	Sandpit Furlong
435	0	1	07	Mark Whitworth	Sandpit Furlong
457	0	0	20	Mark Whitworth	Sandpit Furlong
458	0	0	06	Mark Whitworth	Sandpit Furlong

3) Leases 1750's (?) - Sir George Savile died in 1784)

***James Cam's Farm Mofse's Tenemt. included***

Middle Sand Field

23 0 1 34 2 Lands on Sandpit furlong abut. N & S, Duke E & W

South Field or Stump Crofs Field

36 0 0 20 2 headlands over the sandpits abut. E & W, of little value being dug away

37 0 0 39 2 Lands on Sandpit furl. abut. E & W, Warsop Poor Land N, Mr Clerkson S

38 0 1 00 2 Lands & 2 gores on **little Sand Pit furlong** abut. N & S, Mr Clerkson E, Mr Clerkson & furlong W

39 0 0 23 2 more on do. abut. do. Duke E & W.

***John Hurst's Tenemt. in Walesby***

In the Sand Fields

5 0 3 02 2 Lands on **Stump Cross furl.** Middle Field abut. N & S, Mr C E, Duke W.

***Sam Storey's Tenmt. at Walesby***

Stump Crofs Field

4 0 1 18 2 Lands on Sandpit furlong abut. E & W, Mr Clerkson on both sides

***Jonathan Cam's Farm now Thos Borobanck's at Walesby***

Middle Sand Field

20 0 1 13 2 Lands on Sandpit furlong abut. on a headland N, field fence S, Sir George Savile E, Duke W.

21 2 1 07 9 Lands more abut. do. Warsop Poor Land E, Duke W

27 0 2 20 A headland and fellow on **Stump Cross furlong** abut. on a headland N, & fence S, Sir George Savile E, Warsop Poor Land W

28 1 2 29 7 Lands on do. abut. on a stinting N, & enclos. S, a furl. E, Mr Clerkson W

South Field or Stump Cross Field

43 0 3 02 3 Lands on Sandpit furlong abut. E & W, Duke N, Mr Clerkson S

44 0 3 19 2 Lands more on Sandpit and Mill Hill abut. E & W, Mr Clerkson N, Duke and Warsop Poor Land S.

48 0 2 10 8 Lands at **Stump Crofs** or **little Sandpit furlong** abut. fence N, Road S, Byron's E, Mr Clerkson W



From Map of  
Henry Gally Knight  
1816

Numbers of strips in  
Sandpit furlong  
Walesby

additions:

Middle Sand Field  
Stumpcross Field  
Brake Road  
Sandpit Lane  
Mill Head Furlong  
Nordale Furlong

MIDDLE SANDFIELD

NORDALE FURLONG

Duke

425

Duke

424

Duke

Duke

423

Warsop Poor

Duke

Savile

422

Duke

426

Savile

427

Duke

428

Savile

Duke

429

Duke

430

431

Duke

STUMPCROSS FIELD

MILL  
HEAD  
FURLONG

BRAKE ROAD

Duke of Newcastle

Middle Gate

Scale: 1 inch = 3 chains