

1. The Stonehouse (Stone House) Farm Estate and Worsley Park

Visit the interpretation panel in Worsley Park to learn more about this farm estate and the origins of Worsley Park.



2. Carterplace (Carter Place)

Carterplace has a history that can be traced back to the time when the Carter family lived here in the 15th century. In 1507, it was granted as an endowment to support a chantry priest at Haslingden, but was later seized by the crown. It passed back into private ownership in 1550. Originally about 100 acres in size, Carterplace has shrunk over

the years. Which other parts of Acre do you think might once have been part of Carterplace?

3. Well and terraced houses

This Victorian spring-fed well still has some of its wooden lining intact and would probably have been the original water supply for the millworkers' houses. Visit the interpretation panel in Worsley Park to learn more about the origins of Acre village.

4. Acre Mill, the Co-operative shop, and the Great Tree Inn

Acre Mill (later re-named Hazel Mill) was founded in 1861 by a co-operative called the Haslingden Cotton Spinning and Manufacturing Company Limited on a plot of land called 'The Acre'. It was designed by architect James Maxwell of Bury who was one of the original subscribers to the company. Due to the Cotton Famine, this co-operative had to be wound up and the mill was sold before building work had finished. James Haworth and Sons bought the mill and built the weaving shed but then they also were declared bankrupt.

One of the owners in the ensuing years was the Acre Mill Company, who on 29th November 1876 accepted the plans of architects Maxwell and Tuke to build 18 cottages. These were on Pleasant Street (known locally as 'Far Row'), Parkinson Street and Ormerod Street. Whilst Ormerod Street still exists, the cottages were demolished in the 1970's and 80's.

During a major but later part of the "cotton years" Hazel Mill thrived as Nicholas Worsley Ltd, run first by the Worsley's (of Stonehouse and Carterplace) and later by the Waddington family, it was considered to be one of this companies leading Mills. The 1970's saw the mill close and later re-open as Winfield's mill store, which over the years has sold footwear, clothing, floor coverings and more recently homewares and camping equipment.

No's 477 and 479 Blackburn Road, Acre were The Great Tree Inn and the Co-op shop respectively. 'The Great Tree' was open for business by Christmas 1861 and closed about 1995. By the 1970s the shop had become a café.

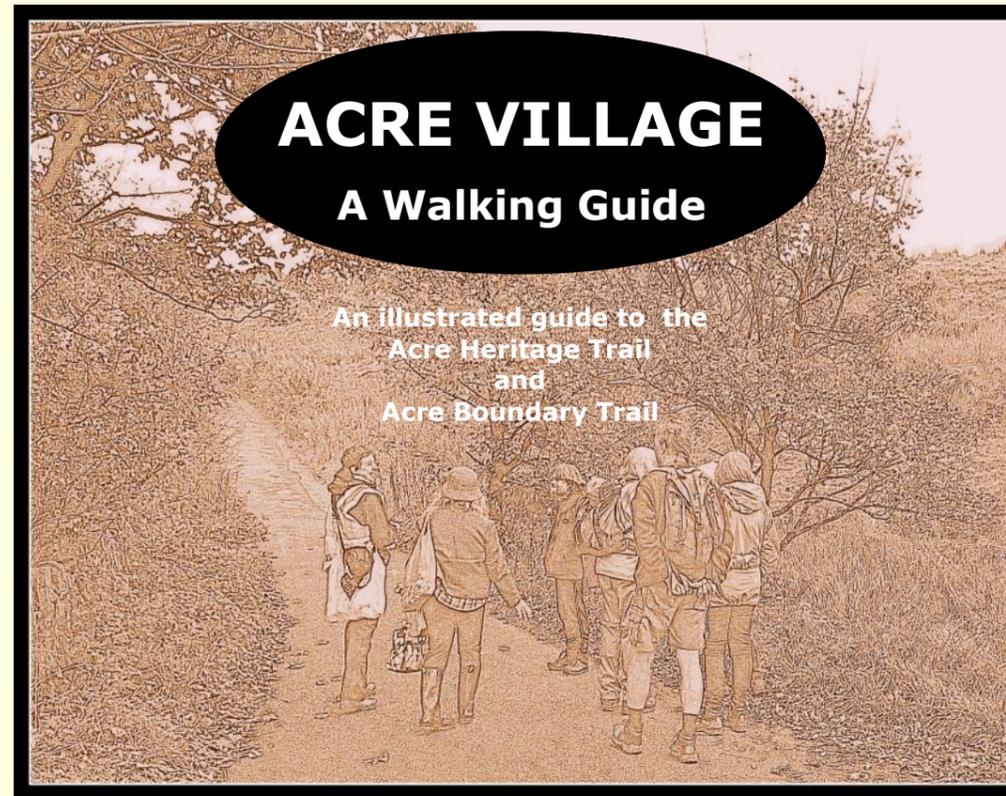


5. Railway engine

Bought by Dale Winfield, owner of the mill store, this engine is number 4001 built by Hudswell Clarke and Co. for the Manchester Ship Canal. Only 2 were ever built and number 4002 runs on the East Lancashire Railway.

6. Tannerbarn (Tanner Barn)

One of the six farm estates that make up the village of Acre, Tannerbarn is a farmhouse with two adjoining cottages known as Cowhouse Cottage and Shippon Cottage. Tannerbarn may be an 18th century incarnation of a medieval barn known as Tallor barn or Tailor barn that was seen as a boundary marker for the old townships of Haslingden and Henheads.



7. Top o'th' Bank Bridge

This bridge goes over a stream that flows down a possible medieval ditch marking the boundaries of Henheads and Haslingden townships. If you look at the stream from the east side of the bridge you will see it still looks like a long ditch, but on the opposite side of the bridge the stream has been channelled using stone slabs. This was the water supply to Acre Mill. Due to its rich flora, Top o'th' Bank Field (on the right-hand side of the stream) is classed as a Biological Heritage Site.

8. Top O'th Bank Farm

Owned by the Misses Pilling and their cousin John Taylor. A plan from 1861 reveals that they had started to parcel up land to sell to the co-operative company to build houses on. However, another plan dated 1866 shows the land now being parcelled up to sell to John Haworth and Sons, cotton manufacturers. Plots are also sold to James Ashworth a stone mason and builder. Acre's terraced houses and the mill lodge are all built on parts of Top O'th Bank Farm.



9. East Lancashire Railway and A56 Haslingden bypass

You are looking down onto the A56 Haslingden bypass as it cuts through the west side of Carterplace. Officially opened on 4th December 1981, this section of the bypass follows the route of the former Stubbins to Accrington branch of the East Lancashire Railway, which was opened in 1848. A contemporary news article says this railway cutting between Haslingden and Rising Bridge was probably one of the most difficult works encountered on any of the various lines in the country as it ran through a 'bog hole' that was twenty feet and upwards in depth. Mr Perring, the company's engineer, had to battle against water to excavate nearly half-a-million yards of peat, gravel and sand. His challenges included building a three-arch bridge on quicksand at the Rising Bridge end of the cutting.



10. Older entrances to Carterplace (Carter Place)

This public right of way initially follows the route (via a bridge) that was created as an entrance to Carterplace when the railway was built, before following an older footpath. Until the advent of the railway Carterplace was accessed via a semi-circular carriage drive (part of which still exists) from Rising Bridge Road.

11. Hollin Gate, the former St John Stonefold church and site of war graves

Hollin Gate Farm takes its name from a gateway (shown on old maps as Holinyate), which stood nearby at the boundary between the common land of Haslingden and Henheads and the fields of surrounding farms. Local people had common rights to graze cattle, dig turfs of peat, collect stones and mow rushes.

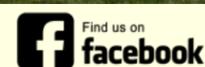
Along with Stonefold school, the former St John Stonefold church was built to replace an early 19th century mission school at Black Lane Head in Stonefold village. The land on which it stands was part of Hollin Gate Farm and was donated by Henry Wilson Worsley Taylor. The church was designed by the architect Basil Champneys whose brother was vicar of Haslingden and paid for by Martha Turner of Carterplace. The graveyard contains some war graves that have been identified and tidied by Veterans In Communities (VIC) as part of their War Graves Rossendale project.

12. Sagar Gate

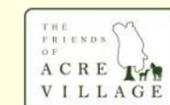
Look at the plaque on Sagar Gate to learn a little more about this point of interest.

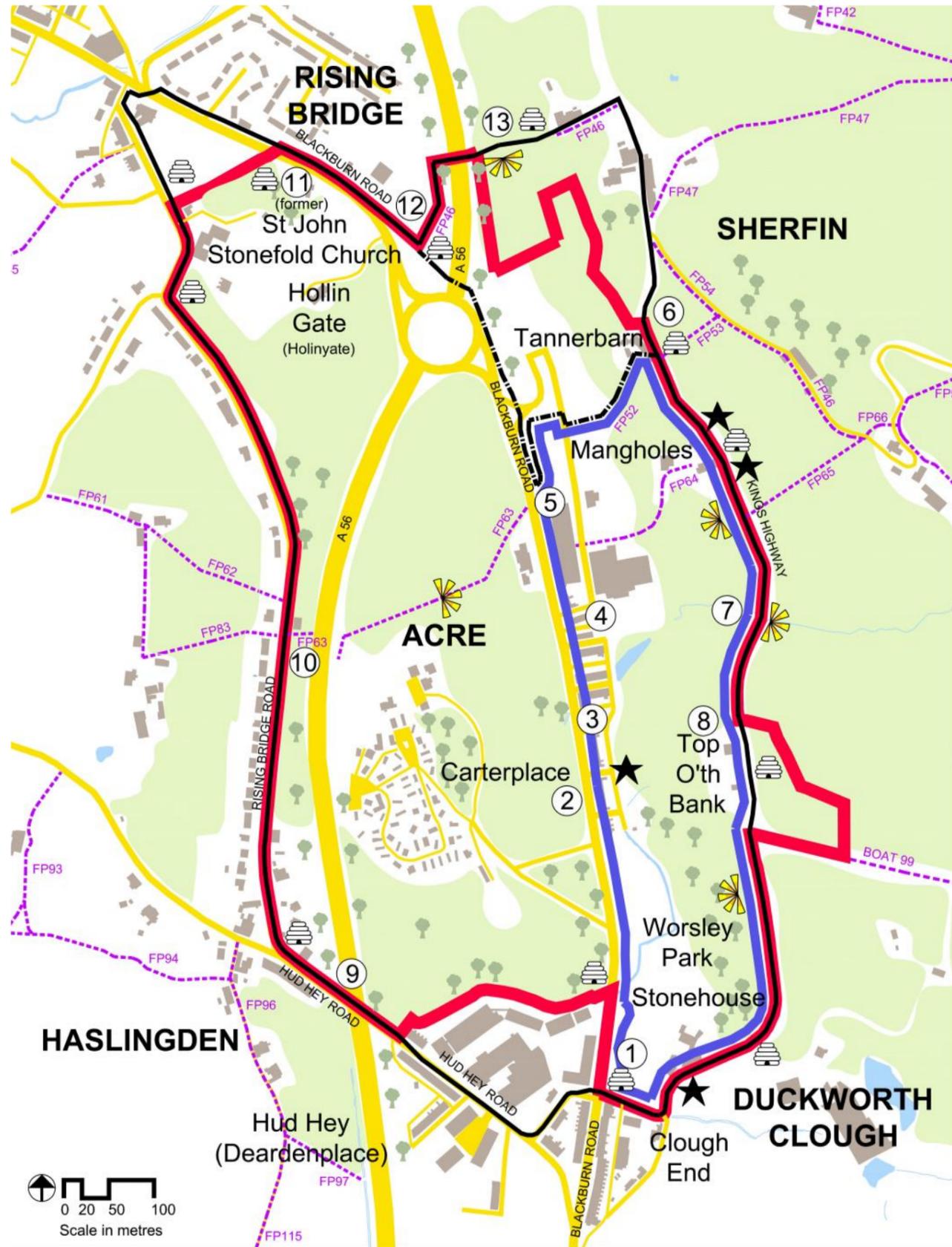
13. Sherfin

The hamlet of Sherfin stands on the old road between Haslingden and Accrington, still known as King's Highway. When John Wesley travelled this way in 1788 he said that the roads 'were sufficient to lame any horses, and shake any carriage in pieces.' The route lost its importance with the creation of a new turnpike road (the present main road) further down the hillside. Several of the cottages at Sherfin have an arrangement of windows which suggest they were used for handloom weaving. There were probably loomshops too at Tannerbarn, Mangholes and Top O'th Bank.



The Friends of Acre Village Archive





| KEY | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--|---|
| | Roads and lanes | | Wooded areas |
| | Rights of Way | | Viewpoints |
| | Rivers / waterbodies | | Points of Interest |
| | Acre Village Boundary | | Well or trough |
| | Acre Boundary Trail | | Acre Boundary Marker |
| | Acre Heritage Trail | | Alternative Boundary Trail via pelican crossing |

Acre

Dawn brings the lighting of the day
 The wafted breeze moves slowly o'er the tree
 The weaver spins and spins away
 Through weaver's windows she can see

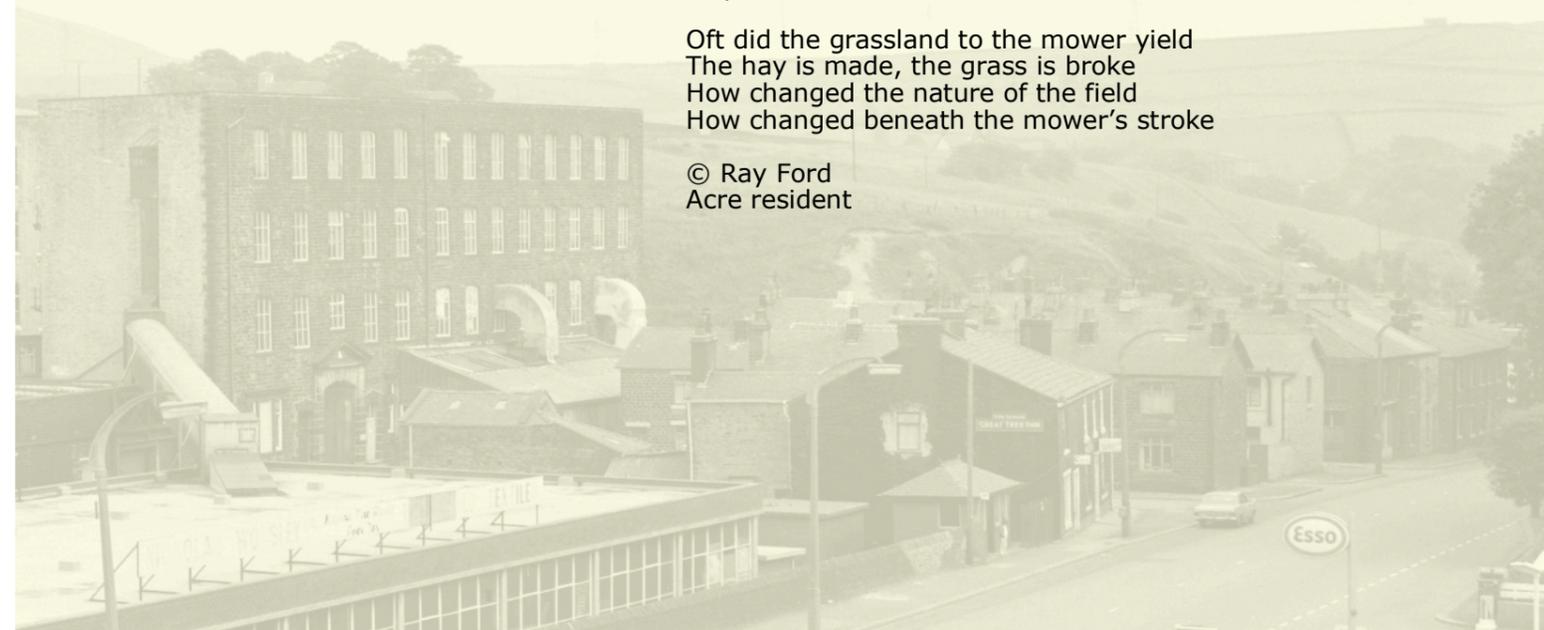
The stream swirls down to Ye Old Acre Mill
 Cowhouse and Shippon cottages at Tannerbarn
 Windmills silently circle on the hill
 Above the large trees at Top O'th Bank Farm

Beneath the large sycamore in the shade
 Autumn leaves falling in a heap
 On this golden lawn forever laid
 The silent flock of lambs and sheep

Intensive winds will bring the morn
 The cat is sleeping on the shed
 The noisy shrill of the motorway horn
 May rouse the animals from their bed

Oft did the grassland to the mower yield
 The hay is made, the grass is broke
 How changed the nature of the field
 How changed beneath the mower's stroke

© Ray Ford
 Acre resident



The Acre boundary trail

This trail is a 2 ½ mile walk that follows the village's boundaries as closely as possible. A moderate route, the boundary trail is mainly well surfaced though with some steep sections of path along the King's Highway. The section of trail along FP46 from Sagar Gate to the hamlet of Sherfin, crosses the A56 bypass and is steep and unmade. You should be able to complete this loop in one hour, or you might choose to take a little extra time to stop off, enjoy some of the stunning views and discover a little more about this Victorian mill village and the areas earlier history.

The Acre heritage trail

This short route is approximately 1.2 miles in length and moderately difficult, it takes about an hour at a very relaxed pace. The route is relatively well surfaced apart from the steep unmade easterly section of FP52 over Tannerbarn Farm. The Kings' Highway contains sections of steep undulating ground and walkers should be aware that this route is shared with other traffic. Walkers should wear suitable footwear and clothing

Both trails can be joined at various points along their route. If you fancy exploring further afield by connecting to one of the many public rights of way (PROW's) that lead off from the various points along our village's walking trails, the OS Explorer number 287, West Pennine Moors will be of use. Please remember that when walking in countryside enclosed footwear should be worn and as you are bound to encounter plenty of sheep and other farm animals, dogs must be kept on a lead.