

The Old Roads and Trackways of MIDDLETON & SMERRILL



Peter Cavendish reported that a bridge over Roughwood Hollow was once considered. Was the current exaggerated bend an alternative method of raising and so levelling the road?

THE ROAD TO YOULGRAVE (UNNAMED ROAD)

Perhaps it was inevitable that once the road from Youlgrave was extended to the Long Rake mines an offshoot would link it to Middleton. Or did the roads appear the other way round? The road to Youlgrave is shown on Burdett's Map of Derbyshire so it must be earlier than 1767. What is less certain is whether the route has undergone modification and what its name is or should be.

Peter Cavendish thought some rough land on the eastern side of the road to was evidence of an earlier road. He knew of papers or plans for changes to the road as it approached Roughwood Hollow, probably drawn up to improve communications with the newly built Lomberdale Hall. This included a realignment of the approach to Roughwood Hollow and speculation of whether a bridge should be constructed over the Hollow. In the event, the road was shifted westwards, perhaps to move the bend to higher ground and so lessen the drop between either side of the Hollow.

Whether this is the case or not, it would explain why some Middleton residents use the name *New Road* for the road to Youlgrave. Alice Twyford called it the *New Road* "because my father did". So was it known colloquially as the *New Road*, not in reference to the Bradford River route, as Alice thought, but because of the renewing of the road itself?

Roads get their names in different ways. According to the Post Office, the road to Youlgrave has no name. And in this absence, Apple and Google maps, and Open Street Map, label the road as if it is a continuation of Weaddow Lane. Is it time the village took the initiative and officially named the road to Youlgrave: *New Road*, *Youlgrave Road*, or even *Alice Twyford Lane*?

Further Reading

- 1767 Map of Derbyshire, Peter Burdett
- 1841 Middleton Estate (a surveyors sketchbook)
- 2009 Oral History of Middleton and Smerrill
- 2025 OpenStreetMap www.openstreetmap.org
- 2025 Google Maps www.google.com/maps/



A PALIMPSEST

MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL
Supporting the community of Middleton and Smerrill