

The Old Roads and Trackways of **MIDDLETON & SMERRILL**



Corn Mill Lane was a well engineered track with an embankment on one side and a cutting on the other. It was wide enough to provide access for horse and cart to the Middleton Mill in the 1820s

CORN MILL LANE

The owners of Middleton Estate built a succession of mills in Middleton Dale from 17c. onwards. The last, built in 1824 by the Bateman family, was a new cornmill at the bottom of Roughwood Hollow. The site, just before the river leaves Middleton, maximises the fall of water and the power it could generate for the mill.

Maps before the 1820s show previous mills on the site, but not the lane down Roughwood Hollow. However, it is shown in the 1841 Middleton Estate Surveyor's Sketchbook. So, Corn Mill Lane must have been constructed around the time of the last mill to provide access from the top Youlgrave road.

Corn Mill Lane is an engineered lane, with cuttings, embankments and a pronounced zigzag, taming the steep slope of the ravine sufficiently for horse-drawn vehicles. The lane also serviced the parish wheelwright's shop above the mill, while a still surviving bridge joins the lane to the east side of Middleton Dale.

Since 1986, Corn Mill Lane has been a section of the Limestone Way. In the 1990s, Middleton resident Emma Youatt held discussions with the Derbyshire Highways Authority on the possibility of restoring Corn Mill Lane as an accessible path to the Dale.

Returning up the ravine and over the Youlgrave road, there was once a continuation of Corn Mill Lane through Butcher's Wood, towards the mines above Lomberdale Hall.

Further Reading

- 1813 Township of Middleton (Middleton Hall)
- 1819 Enclosure Map (Derbyshire Records Office)
- 1841 Middleton Estate Surveyors Sketchbook (Middleton Hall)
- 2001 Our Middleton, residents of Middleton by Youlgrave
- 2020 OS Explorer White Peak



A PALIMPSEST

MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL
Supporting the community of Middleton and Smerrill