

[Note: This is a provisional draft and should not be cited without first consulting the VCH Cumbria project team: <http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk>]

Parish/township: CLIBURN

Author: James Underwood

Date of draft: 24 Sept. 2021

CLIBURN

Situated approximately six miles south east of Penrith, Cliburn is a small rural ancient parish and township (1,890 a.; 758 ha.). Settlement comprises the village of Cliburn, and scattered farmsteads and dwellings. The parish's name probably derives from two closely related features of the local landscape: the sandstone escarpments ("cliffs") bordering the River Leith ("burn") which forms much of its south-eastern boundary. The name is variously recorded from the 12th century as, for example, Clibbrun, Clybburn(e), Clifburn(e) and Cleburn(e).¹ The modern spelling, Cliburn, became generally used after about 1850. The names of the two medieval moieties, Cliburn Tailbois and Cliburn Hervy, are derived from their original feudal owners. A detached portion, Winderwath (503 a.; 204 ha.), was transferred to Brougham civil parish in 1935, but its longstanding ecclesiastical association with Cliburn continues into the 21st century.

Landscape, Settlement and Buildings

Boundaries

The parish boundary, where not formed by water courses or ditches, generally follows straight lines between landmarks.² The northern boundary with Brougham cuts partly through Cliburn Moss

¹ *PNW*, II, 136.

² OS Map 6", Westm., Sheet VIII (1863) & Sheets VIII.NE & NW (1899).

where in the mid 19th century the demarcation was staked.³ Bolton lies to the east, separated by the River Lyvennet. The boundary with Morland to the south east follows the River Leith, and with Great Strickland to the south west it is partly along Trough Gill Syke, Woodhouse Gill and Sandwath Syke. Short deviations from these meandering watercourses may indicate that they have shifted over time.⁴ The boundary to the west circumscribes a relatively narrow strip of land, Cliburn Ling, projecting between Brougham and Clifton in a ‘pan-handle’ configuration. Here, the southern boundary is smooth and follows watercourses, but the northern boundary is jagged, perhaps resulting from land enclosures encroaching on Cliburn’s territory. Boundary stones are beside the roads leading to Whinfell Forest and to Bolton.

Winderwath (503 a.; 204 ha.), formerly a detached portion of Cliburn, was completely surrounded by Brougham parish, bounded by the River Eden on its north and east aspects and by Swine Gill on the west aspect. The detachment is ancient and of uncertain origin. Local legend attributes it to Roger de Clifford who exchanged Winderwath for Cliburn land at Julian Bower, where his mistress Julian[a] resided, so that both would then live in the same parish and manor (Brougham).⁵

Winderwath was transferred to Brougham civil parish in 1935, but it remains in the ecclesiastical parish of Cliburn at the time of writing.

Landscape

The terrain gently undulates, the highest point being 137 m. above sea level. Described in the 1680s as ‘A pleasant dry seat, well scituate, but the lands dry, sandy & barren’,⁶ landcover is mainly

³ A map of Cliburn in 1810 shows ‘The Manor of Ogleburgh’ abutting its northern boundary (CAS (K), WPR 24/3/2/1). This is probably the manor of Oglebird referred to by Nicolson and Burn: ‘A court leet is held within this forest [Whinfell], by the style of the manor of Oglebird’ (N&B, I, p.399).

⁴ OS Map, 1:2500, Westm., Sheet VIII.7 (1861).

⁵ J. Curtis (ed.), *The Fenwick Notes of William Wordsworth*, (Penrith, 2007), Humanities Ebooks, 318.

⁶ CAS (C), D/LONS/L12/4/2/2.

grassland and arable fields of moderate fertility. Soil texture is predominantly loamy, slightly acidic and seasonally wet due to impeded drainage.⁷ Bedrock comprises Penrith Sandstone Formation.⁸ Along the course of the rivers Leith and Lyvennet, there are superficial alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. There are substantial accumulations of peat at Cliburn Moss, a basin mire.⁹ Natural woodlands and plantations are mainly in the western part of the parish. Cliburn Moss was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1985 and, the part within Brougham Parish, a National Nature Reserve in 1996.

Communications

Roads and Bridges

The dominant road through the parish runs south-easterly from its junction with the A6 near Clifton Dykes towards Bolton and beyond to the A66 transpennine route. At the village crossroads this road is intersected by the old tithe road heading north through Town Head to Whinfell Forest, Winderwath and Temple Sowerby. The minor road southward from the crossroads goes through the oldest part of the village and over Cliburn Town Bridge to Morland. From Town Head a lane called Occupation Road runs eastward to Cliburn Shaw and the former ancient inclosures.¹⁰ Townhead Lane, a private road, runs westward from Town Head towards Cliburn Moss. A 30mph speed limit was enforced in the village from 1999.¹¹

The road from Cliburn through Clifton Dykes towards Penrith was judged to be ‘in great decay’ in the 1740s such that travel incurred ‘great danger’. The parish of Brougham, through which the Cliburn to Penrith road passed, was required to repair the road or be fined £5.¹² The highway at

⁷ Soilscales: Cliburn, <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales> (accessed 25 Jan. 2019).

⁸ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=cliburn> (accessed 9 Feb. 2020).

⁹ Natural England, *Cliburn Moss Natural Nature Reserve* (2014).

¹⁰ CAS (K), WPR 24/3/2/1.

¹¹ Cliburn Parish Meeting Minutes Book (1974–).

¹² CAS (K), WQ/SR/196/14.

Winderwath was a toll road by the 19th century. The tollkeeper resided at Winderwath¹³ where by 1920 a tollbar cottage was situated c.100 m. west of Eden Bridge.¹⁴

Cliburn Town Bridge over the River Leith was first recorded in 1679 and rebuilt in 1774.¹⁵ Cliburn Mill Bridge over the River Lyvennet was first mentioned in 1757.¹⁶ In 1790 this bridge was found to be ‘in great decay’ and repairs were ordered.¹⁷ During the great flood of 1–3 Feb. 1822, Cliburn Town and Cliburn Mill bridges were destroyed.¹⁸ Both were rebuilt in dressed sandstone blocks.¹⁹ A metal plaque on Cliburn Town Bridge, dated 1847, marks the boundary with Morland. Cliburn Mill Bridge has three arches and is Grade II listed. A datestone inscribed ‘R.G. 1827’ in a circular panel is on the outside of the south parapet.²⁰

West of the village crossroads by a distance of 1.25 km is the junction with Commonholme Lane leading southwards over Commonholme Bridge to Newby Head. A bridge spanning the River Leith at this location was first recorded in 1679.²¹ In 1742 it was deemed to be ‘out of repair’.²² The current sandstone structure may date from the late 19th century.

Railways

Approximately 250 m. north of the parish boundary is the former Cliburn Station, built on the Eden Valley Railway (opened 1862) which abutted the parish boundary for only a short distance.

Although lying within Brougham parish, the impact on Cliburn was significant from the mid-19th century until its closure in Sept. 1956.²³

¹³ Census 1871; CAS (K), WSPUK/5/9/7.

¹⁴ OS Map 6”, Westm., Sheet IV.SE (1920).

¹⁵ J. F. Curwen, *The Later Records Relating To North Westmorland Or the Barony of Appleby* (Kendal, 1932), 291-295.

¹⁶ Curwen, *Later Recs N. Westm.*, 9-16.

¹⁷ CAS (K), WQ/SR/495/8.

¹⁸ *Westmorland Gazette*, 9 Feb. 1822.

¹⁹ CAS (K), WQ/AB/27-30.

²⁰ NHLE, No. 1331669, Cliburn Mill Bridge.

²¹ Curwen, *Later Recs N. Westm.* 9–16.

²² CAS (K), WQ/SR/153/9.

²³ <http://www.disused-stations.org.uk/c/cliburn/> (accessed 21 Nov. 2019).

Post, carriers, buses and telecommunications

During the late 20th century, Cliburn benefitted from a regular bus service. However, its frequency steadily declined. In 1971, the villagers objected to the Ribble Bus Company's decision to withdraw its Saturday service.²⁴ By 2020 there was only one weekly bus to and from Penrith. Despite the infrequent service, a bus shelter was erected in 2000.²⁵

A post office opened near the crossroads in 1856. Letters were received via Penrith. Initially the nearest money order office was located in Penrith,²⁶ but by the early 20th century the post office in Morland was issuing money orders and providing telegraph services.²⁷ Cliburn post office closed in 1989.

The date of the first telephone service is uncertain, but Cliburn School was connected in Mar. 1930.²⁸ Superfast broadband (fibre to the cabinet) was brought to Cliburn in 2015 by Openreach, a division of BT Group plc.

Population

Twenty households in the parish (including Winderwath) were recorded in 1563²⁹ with an estimated population of 95.³⁰ By 1641/42 this had increased to 38 households and by the early 1670s to 40, with population estimates of 137 and 190 respectively.³¹ The population in 1787 was 154.³² This remained stable until 1821 when a c. 25% increase was recorded at 205.³³ The construction of the

²⁴ CAS (K), WPR 17/1.

²⁵ Cliburn Parish Meeting Minutes Book (1974–).

²⁶ Kelly, *Dir. Westm.* (1858), 19.

²⁷ Kelly, *Dir. Westm.* (1906), 45.

²⁸ CAS (K), WDS 58/21.

²⁹ A. Dyer, D.M. Palliser, *The Diocesan Population Returns for 1563 and 1603* (Oxford, 2005), 70.

³⁰ A.B. Appleby, *Famine in Tudor and Stuart England* (Liverpool, 1978), 200.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² L. Ashcroft, *Vital Statistics: the Westmorland Census of 1787* (Curwen Archives Texts, 1992).

³³ Census 1821.

railway and local station in the mid-19th century had the greatest impact, elevating it to a peak of 367 residents in 1861.³⁴ Thereafter, the population steadily declined to 162 persons in 1991.³⁵ However, by 2011 the population had risen to 274 in 110 households.³⁶

Settlement

Prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon Settlement

Mesolithic flints are the earliest evidence of human activity.³⁷ A late Neolithic axehead discovered at Bower Farm in 1960 and made from pale green volcanic tuff is typical of those produced in the Langdale area of Cumbria.³⁸ In the north-east of the parish at Cliburn Shaw there is evidence from earthworks of an Iron Age settlement on a terrace above the River Lyvennet and, close to its north, several rectilinear fields probably from the Romano-British era.³⁹ Nearby, a hoard of Roman coins was discovered with dates from AD 294 to 313; the potsherds associated with the coins conform to the period AD 290–400.⁴⁰ Archeological finds from the early Anglo–Saxon period include a copper alloy pin with a perforated heart-shaped head dating from the 6th or 7th century.⁴¹ At Winderwath there are buried remains of a Romano-British farmstead and a length of Roman road 800 m. south of Winderwath House.⁴²

³⁴ Census 1861.

³⁵ Census 1991.

³⁶ Census 2011.

³⁷ HERR, Monument Nos. 2855, 3555 and 5490.

³⁸ HERR, Monument No. 42351; P. G. Style, 'Polished axes, Petroglyphs and Pathways: A study of the mobility of Neolithic people in Cumbria', unpublished dissertation, University of Central Lancashire, 2009.

³⁹ HERR, Monument No. 19999.

⁴⁰ D. C. A. Shotter, 'A Roman hoard from Cliburn, Penrith', *CW2*, 86 (1986), 250–257.

⁴¹ Portable Antiquities Scheme: LANCUM-AFDA7A (<https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/829627>, accessed 25 January 2019).

⁴² NHLE, No. 1020924, Romano-British farmstead and a length of Roman road 800m south of Winderwath.

Medieval and Early Modern Settlement

St Cuthbert's church (12th century) and Cliburn Hall (15th century), the oldest surviving buildings in the parish, were built in elevated positions overlooking the River Leith close to the south-eastern parish boundary. The original rectory, first recorded in 1578 and including a stable and a byre, stood adjacent to the northern boundary of the churchyard.⁴³ Apart from a few scattered farmsteads and the watermill, all subsequent settlement occurred contiguously northwards of the church and hall on both sides of the village's main road. Winderwath House largely dates from the mid-17th century, but incorporates medieval features.⁴⁴

The field name Britscoghenges (Old Norse meaning 'meadow by the wood of the Britons')⁴⁵ may be derived from settlement during the Viking era. Gilshaughlin, approximately one km. west of the village, may be so named by combination of the Old Norse 'gil' (ravine) with a habitative name signifying disability (e.g. shuffling gait).⁴⁶ Adjacent to the north perimeter of Cliburn Hall, a ditch, lynchet and platform are evidence of medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity.⁴⁷ Medieval finds include a copper alloy harness pendant depicting a crown-wearing man on horseback dating from 1200–1230.⁴⁸

Archaeological excavation in Jul. 2021 of agricultural land between Greta Cottage and Melrose Cottage, east of the main village road, revealed medieval pottery (13th/14th century), sherds of Staffordshire ware (c. 1700) and a salt-glazed plate (c. 1760), clay pipe fragments (late 17th century), sherds of post-medieval glass and a small post-medieval silver button. Paved and cobbled

⁴³ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/4/1.

⁴⁴ NHLE, No. 1145359, Winderwath House.

⁴⁵ D. M. O'Sullivan, 'A reassessment of the early Christian archeology of Cumbria', unpublished PhD thesis, Durham University, 1980, p.89.

⁴⁶ *PNW*, II, 136-7.

⁴⁷ HERR, Monument No. 13603.

⁴⁸ Portable Antiquities Scheme: LANCUM-AFF428, <https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/829632> (accessed 25 Jan. 2019).

surfaces, slots and postholes at this site suggested a late 17th century workshop and field barn, probably demolished by the mid-19th century.⁴⁹

Settlement from the 18th to 21st Centuries

Many farmsteads are likely to have arisen in the medieval period and continued thereafter with rebuilding and extension as required, a process continuing into the 21st century. Within Cliburn village dwellings built before the mid-19th century extend from Cliburn Hall and St Cuthbert's church northwards to the crossroads. By the early 19th century Town Head, immediately north of the crossroads, comprised about six dwellings.⁵⁰ This area of settlement expanded significantly in the later 1800s, with the notable addition of the new school in 1877. The old school building, built in 1809, subsequently became the Reading Room.⁵¹ Also built in Town Head was the new rectory (c. 1860). The original rectory continued as Rectory Farm. Notable buildings on the east side of the main road include Melrose Cottage, built in 1824, which was a dairy and later a dame school.

Developments in the 20th century included the erection of five terraced dwellings on land to the rear of the Golden Pheasant inn, several council house dwellings, and a cluster of energy-efficient houses built in 1992 on St Cuthbert's Close by Carlisle Diocesan Diocesan Housing Association (now Mitre Housing). The number of dwellings also increased by the conversion of agricultural buildings, the Methodist chapel, the old school and the garage. The most important building development in the early 21st century was the new village hall which opened in 2002. Situated about 100 m. west of the crossroads, it replaced the previous village hall at that site which was originally moved from Haweswater where it had been used for workers constructing the dam.

⁴⁹ Railton M, *Land at Cliburn, Penrith, Cumbria: Report EH 123/04* (Eden Heritage, 2021).

⁵⁰ CAS (K), WQ/RI/15.

⁵¹ See Social History.

Mains electricity had reached Cliburn by 1937 when electric lighting was installed in Cliburn School.⁵² In 1938 a cable was laid to the church.⁵³ However, with one exception (Cliburn Hall Farm), none of the parish's farms benefitted from a public electricity supply in 1943.⁵⁴ Until a piped water supply was installed in the mid-20th century, households relied on 14 wells for freshwater.⁵⁵ To reduce dependence on septic tanks, in 2009 United Utilities constructed a wastewater pumping station adjacent to Cliburn Town Bridge.⁵⁶ Domestic gas supply started in 1998.⁵⁷

The Built Character

Most surviving early buildings were constructed with sandstone blocks, typical of the locality and probably sourced from quarries in the vicinity. Rock House, so-called because it stands on exposed solid rock, was built of clay and cobbles.⁵⁸ Originally the roofs were thatched. The last thatched roof, on Thacky Cottage, collapsed in 1905.⁵⁹ Subsequently, the roofs were slated or tiled.

The oldest buildings are St Cuthbert's church (originally 12th century; enlarged and refurbished in the 19th century) and Cliburn Hall (based on a 14th century pele tower; extended in the 16th century). Cliburn Hall was externally rendered in the late 20th century, but the underlying sandstone blocks are well dressed and laid in ashlar.⁶⁰ The Hall had six hearths in 1670. Two other dwellings had two hearths each. All other dwellings had only one hearth.⁶¹

⁵² CAS (K), WDS/58/5.

⁵³ CAS (K), WPR 24/5/1/1.

⁵⁴ TNA, MAF 32/195/94.

⁵⁵ CAS (K), WDS/58/21.

⁵⁶ Eden District Council, planning application 09/9006.

⁵⁷ *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*, 16 Jan.1999.

⁵⁸ Local inf. (H. Scott, P. Egglestone. *The Parish of Cliburn*. Unpublished notes.)

⁵⁹ CAS (K), WDS/58/19.

⁶⁰ M. W. Taylor, 'On some of the Manorial Halls of Westmorland, with remarks on internal Mural Decoration', *CWI*, ii (1876), 242–64.

⁶¹ TNA, E 179/195/73.

Winderwath House, a large mansion, is Grade II listed and dates from the mid-17th century. Incorporating some medieval features, there are extensive 19th and 20th century additions.⁶² Coats of arms installed over two external doors are of Lady Anne Clifford and of Lord Robert Clifford impaling Middleton (he married Euphemia Middleton), both reputedly removed from Brougham Castle. The coat of arms of the Reckitt family, from which Mrs Barbara Pollock descended, is in the courtyard.⁶³

LANDOWNERSHIP

Pattern of Landownership

In the 12th century, Cliburn⁶⁴ comprised the moieties of Cliburn Tailbois and Cliburn Hervy held in socage of the Cliffords as overlords whose dominance waned in the ensuing centuries. The distinction between the two moieties also faded until, by the late 15th century, Cliburn became effectively held as one manor. Cliburn was acquired by the Lowthers in 1667, but their influence declined with progressive enfranchisement particularly during the 19th century. By the mid-20th century, the Lowthers retained a few large farms and some woodlands. Winderwath, the detached portion of Cliburn parish, belonged to the Clifford family. Subsequent owners included Thomas Knyvett, Thomas Braithwaite and the Hassels of Dalemain.

Manor of Cliburn

⁶² NHLE, No. 1145359, Winderwath House.

⁶³ Local inf. 2021.

⁶⁴ Domesday Book includes 'Cliborne'. In the 19th century, Cliburn family historians claimed this was an account of their ancestral home, but that 'Cliborne' is now identified as Kibworth Beauchamp in Leicestershire. (TNA, E31/2/2/1267; CAS (K) WPR 24/17/8; B. Cox, 'The Place Names of Leicestershire and Rutland,' unpublished PhD thesis, University of Nottingham, 1971.

Cliburn was held of the Barony of Appleby as two separate moieties, namely Cliburn Tailbois and Cliburn Hervy.⁶⁵ Both are first mentioned in the second half of the 13th century and take their names from the families who then held them. When the barony was divided in 1283-4 between the Vieuxpont heiresses, sisters Idonea de Layburn and Isabel de Clifford, the latter was awarded all of Cliburn Tailbois and the major share of Cliburn Hervy.⁶⁶

Cliburn Tailbois

The Tailbois connection to Cliburn can be traced back to the early 1200s when Ivo Tailbois married Elizabeth, the widow of a Cliburn landowner.⁶⁷ The moiety was held by the Tailbois family of the Cliffords for several generations to come: in 1283, Cliburn Tailbois, measuring 1½ carucates, was held by Robert Tailbois; in 1314 by Luke Tailbois; and between 1388 and 1435 by Walter Tailbois.⁶⁸ They all held it by cornage for 12s. 4½ d. yearly. However, it appears further subinfeudation had taken place from the mid 1200s, with Cliburn Tailbois coming to be held by the le Fraunceys family, who later took the name de Cliburn. Robert, a younger son of Hugh le Fraunceys married the daughter of Robert, son of Elizabeth, by which he acquired lands in Bampton and Askham.⁶⁹ By 1255/6, Robert le Fraunceys and his wife also held lands and a mill in Cilburn, for that that year they brought a suit concerning them.⁷⁰ A few years later, in 1259, the widow of Elizabeth Tailbois's son Robert claimed for her dower a third share of nine messuages, 18 bovates, 45 a. of land, 6s. in rent, nine a. of meadow and a mill in Cliburn against Robert le Fraunceys.⁷¹ The assignment of Cliburn as dower never came to pass and Robert le Fraunceys remained in possession.

⁶⁵ N&B, I, 458.

⁶⁶ F.W. Ragg, 'Cliburn Hervy and Cliburn Tailbois, Part I,' *CW2*, 25 (1925), 340.

⁶⁷ F.W. Ragg, 'Cliburn Hervy and Cliburn Tailbois, Part II,' *CW2*, 28 (1928), 181.

⁶⁸ F.W. Ragg, 'Feoffees of the Cliffords, from 1283 to 1482', *CW2*, 8 (1908), 310; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* III, no. 70; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XXI, no. 958.

⁶⁹ Ragg, 'Feoffees of the Cliffords', 283.

⁷⁰ Ragg, 'Cliburn, Pt I', 332.

⁷¹ TNA, KB 26/160.

The le Fraunceys family also acquired land elsewhere from their Tailbois lords (in 1290 Robert Tailbois granted to ‘Robert le Francis’ his land in Bampton and Askham),⁷² and all descended regularly from father to son.⁷³ In 1367 Robert le Fraunceys’ freehold possessions in Cliburn Tailbois comprised 20 messuages, six tofts, one mill, 100 a. land, 60 a. meadow, ten a. brushwood and 200 a. of moor and pasture.⁷⁴ By this time the family also went by the toponymic ‘Cliburn’ and by the mid fifteenth century, the de Cliburns were recorded holding Cliburn Tailbois directly of the Cliffords by cornage.⁷⁵

Cliburn Hervy

In the early 1200s, Cliburn Hervy was likely in the hands of the Hervy family⁷⁶ who also possessed a few other estates in Westmorland. However, by the middle of the 13th century, the Hervy lands had been divided, probably by grants to daughters given in marriage, rather than through heiresses, as the Hervy mill was not partitioned.⁷⁷ Hugh Tylle⁷⁸ was said to have built a mill by 1255/6, when a case was brought against him by Robert le Fraunceys.⁷⁹ Hugh is also mentioned in a final concord of 1260, having granted a messuage and 80 a. in Cliburn to his brother Walter.⁸⁰ In 1281, Cliburn Hervy was held of the Cliffords by three men: Walter Tylle, John de Staffole and Hugh de Soureby, who together rendered 15s. 5d. for cornage yearly. By 1292, Tylle and Staffole also held other parcels of land in Cliburn recorded separately, rendering 6d. and four arrows, and 1lb cumin, respectively.⁸¹ William Tylle, John de Staffole and Robert de Soureby were in possession at the

⁷² CAS (C), D/LONS/L5/2/BM20.

⁷³ Ragg, ‘Cliburn, Pt II’, 181.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, 187.

⁷⁵ Ragg, ‘Feoffees of the Cliffords’, 283.

⁷⁶ Ragg, ‘Cliburn, Pt I’, 335

⁷⁷ Ragg, ‘Cliburn, Pt I’, 331.

⁷⁸ Various spellings of the family name, including Theylle, Teyl, Tyle.

⁷⁹ Ragg, ‘Cliburn, Pt I’, 332.

⁸⁰ Ragg, ‘Cliburn, Pt I’, 334.

⁸¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* III, no. 70.

death of Robert Clifford in 1314. Additionally, fee farms in Cliburn were held by John de Staffole, Geoffrey son of Hervey, and William de Tylle.⁸²

When William Tylle was ‘wickedly killed at Cleburn’⁸³ his land in Cliburn should have passed to his brother Walter. However, during the reign of Edward II, Walter de Tylle went to Scotland as an adherent of the king’s enemies. Consequently, Walter’s inherited land was taken into the king’s hands by Hugh de Moresby, escheator. Walter Tylle petitioned successfully for the return of his inheritance in 1344, on the grounds that in 1327/8 he had been readmitted to the king’s fealty.⁸⁴

The Hervy moiety was held by ‘diverse tenants’ in 1363.⁸⁵ These may have included Adam de Quitlawe whose daughter, Alice, married Robert le Fraunceys (Robert Cliburn) and thereby a portion of Cliburn Hervy lands came into possession of that family,⁸⁶ eventually to hold the moiety entire.⁸⁷ Robert Cliburn was also lord of the manor of Bampton Cundale (see BAMPTON), a knight of the shire and Westmorland’s representative in Parliament in the 1380s.⁸⁸ Cliburn Hervy descended to his son John who died leaving two young sons, Roland and John. His widow, Margaret, was the de Tyle heiress. She subsequently married Thomas, son of John de Warthecop, who held the moiety in 1392, probably as a courtesy title.⁸⁹ Roland Cliburn died under age, so by 1422 his brother John Cliburn had inherited the Hervy moiety.⁹⁰ In 1436 he granted to John Scarlett, chaplain, and to John Cliburn ‘junior’ (presumably his son and heir) the manors of Bampton Patrick, Bampton Cundale and Cliburn.⁹¹

⁸² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* V, no. 533.

⁸³ *Cal. Pat.* 1343-45, 292.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, 236.

⁸⁵ *Cal. Inq.p.m.*, XI, no. 312.

⁸⁶ Ragg, ‘Cliburn, Pt II’, 182.

⁸⁷ Ragg, ‘Feofees of the Clifords’, 310–15.

⁸⁸ <https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/cliburn-robert-1396>

⁸⁹ *Cal. Close.* IV, no. 1392.

⁹⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XXI, no. 958.

⁹¹ CAS (C), DLONS/L5/1/4, BM106.

By 1483 both Cliburn Tailbois and Cliburn Hervy were in the hands of the Cliburn family.

Distinction between the moieties faded except for the accounting of cornage (nowtgeld) from each moiety until the 17th century.⁹² On his death in 1588, Richard Cliburn was attested to have possessed the manors of Killerby (North Riding, acquired in 1569),⁹³ Bampton and Cliburn. The extent of Cliburn comprised 20 messuages, 200 a. of arable land, 40 a. of pasture, 180 a. of meadow, 100 a. of woodland, 200 a. of scrub and heather, 1000 a. of common land and one watermill. Worth £12 13s 4d, it was held of George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland.⁹⁴ Edmund Cliburn, born in 1605, was the last of that family to be lord of Cliburn manor. He resided at Killerby, the Cliburn family having come to prefer ‘the Yorkshire Dales to the cooler breezes of Westmoreland’.⁹⁵

Edmund Cliburn’s eldest son and heir, Timothy, sold Cliburn to Robert Collingwood (‘a Bishoprick gentleman’) in 1654.⁹⁶ Only two years later, it was bought by Roger Sawrey and his wife, Elizabeth, and almost immediately thereafter it was acquired by Edward Lee of Monkwearmouth.⁹⁷ In 1662 Edward Lee leased the manor and demesne to Sir John Lowther, apparently as security for a loan of £500 from Sir John repayable over seven years.⁹⁸ However, Edward Lee defaulted on the repayments and in 1667 he relinquished the manor and demesne to Sir John Lowther and his successors.⁹⁹ The Lowthers held the manor and demesne until the abolition of such tenures in 1935, subsequently retaining only a few large farms.

In 1810 William Lowther, 1st earl of Lonsdale and Revd John Pool exchanged land. Approximately 37 a. of land was transferred from the earl of Lonsdale to Revd Pool in exchange for c.78 a.¹⁰⁰ The

⁹² N&B, I, 293.

⁹³ Page, W. *A History of the County of York North Riding*. Volume 1 (1914) 301–313.

⁹⁴ Ragg, ‘Cliburn, Pt II’, 214–16.

⁹⁵ J. O’Hart, *Irish Pedigrees, or the Origin and Stem of the Irish Nation* (Dublin, 1892).

⁹⁶ CAS (C), DCHA/11/4/3, Volume 3 of the manuscripts of Rev. Thomas Machell, 117.

⁹⁷ Curwen, *Later Recs. N. Westm.*, 291–5.

⁹⁸ CAS (C), D/LONDS/L5/1/11; Curwen, *Later Recs. N. Westm.*, 291–5.

⁹⁹ CAS (C), D/LONS/L3/1/5.

¹⁰⁰ CAS (K), WPR 24/3/2/1.

Lowthers remained the largest landowners into the 20th century, with c.555 a. comprising Cliburn Hall Farm, Cliburn Mill Farm, Ling Farm, Rectory Farm, Brown Howe and Wood House.¹⁰¹ They also possessed woodlands at Birk Reins, Brownbank Plantation and Cliburn Ling and seven land parcels in Cliburn Shaw.¹⁰² Various parcels of land were sold by the Lowthers in the mid-20th century, notably Cliburn Hall Farm and Cliburn Mill Farm comprising approximately 207 a. and 59 a. respectively.¹⁰³

Manor House

Cliburn Hall originated as a pele tower probably erected by Robert Cliburn in the late 14th century. In c. 1450 a well tower was added. The building was enlarged by Richard Cliburn in 1567, recorded in an inscription originally above the principal entrance: ‘Rychard Clebur thus they me cawl, Wch in my time hath bearded ys hall, The year of oure lord god Who lyst, For to neam, 1567. R. D mayson’.¹⁰⁴ In 1872 the lead roof and embattlements were removed and replaced with a gabled roof.¹⁰⁵ In the 1960s, Cliburn Hall underwent extensive alteration ‘erasing all appearance of antiquity. With its utilitarian windows and pebble dashing it looks like an unfashionable block of Modernist flats; an interesting contrast with the latest houses in the village with their “period” detail.’¹⁰⁶

Other Estates

In the mid-19th century, when the rateable value of the parish was £1,754, the largest landowners, besides the Lowthers, were Maria and Julia Salmonds who had 388 a. at Winderwath (see below),

¹⁰¹ CAS (K), WTDV/2/7.

¹⁰² CAS (C), D/LONS/4/35/3/1/2.

¹⁰³ CAS (C), DLONS/L5/4/8/3.

¹⁰⁴ M. W. Taylor, *The Old Manorial Halls of Westmorland and Cumberland* (Kendal, 1892), 105.

¹⁰⁵ D.R. Perriam, J. Robinson. *The Medieval Fortified Buildings of Cumbria: an illustrated gazetteer and research guide* (CWAAS, 1998), 270–1.

¹⁰⁶ Hyde & Pevsner, *Cumbria*, 280.

the Earl of Thanet 86 a. at Ash Hill, Mr George Workman c.70 a. in Cliburn Shaw and Mr Richard Temple c.100 a. in Town Head.¹⁰⁷

In 1912 Richard Temple's Cliburn Head Farm comprised 121 a. The farmstead was immediately north of the new school, with parcels of arable land and pasture widely scattered and therefore probably gradually accumulated.¹⁰⁸ After sales in 1912 and 1928, by 1941 Cliburn Head Farm comprised only c.24 a. of land.¹⁰⁹ There was a further sale in 1947. The farm house and surrounding field eventually became the Fallowfield housing development.¹¹⁰

Common land enclosed in 1807 included Cliburn Common c.480 m. south-west of the village centre and land in Cliburn Shaw in the north-east segment of the parish.¹¹¹ Enclosure did not significantly increase the size of any individual's holdings, but maintained the occupation of land by smaller proprietors. As commutation for parish tithes, 189 a. were allotted to the rectory; the rector also had 30 a. of ancient glebe. Ten and a half acres (then worth £21 a year) were allotted for the endowment of a school.¹¹² In 1980 the Chief Commons Commissioner inquired into the ownership of Town Head Watering Place¹¹³ and Common Holme Stone Quarry,¹¹⁴ and confirmed them to be in the ownership of Lord Lonsdale. Cliburn Moss was also subjected to Commons Commissioner adjudications in 1980¹¹⁵ and 1985.¹¹⁶ In 1972, G.I. Barty-King and the Duke of

¹⁰⁷ Mannex & Whellan, *Dir. Westm.* (1849), 217.

¹⁰⁸ CAS (K), WTDV/2/7; CAS (K), WDX 1033.

¹⁰⁹ TNA, MAF 32/195/94.

¹¹⁰ CAS (K), WDB 135/1/360; CAS (K), WDB 135/1/1179.

¹¹¹ TNA, OS 34/443.

¹¹² Parson & White, *Dir. C. & W.* (1829), 587.

¹¹³ Chief Commons Commissioner. In the Matter of Town Head Watering Place, Cliburn, Cumbria. 1980. Reference No. 262/U/282.

¹¹⁴ Chief Commons Commissioner. In the Matter of Common Holme Stone Quarry, Cliburn, Cumbria. 1980. Reference No. 262/U/321.

¹¹⁵ Chief Commons Commissioner. In the Matter of Cliburn Moss, Brougham and Cliburn, Cumbria. 1980. Reference No. 262/U/320.

¹¹⁶ Chief Commons Commissioner. In the Matter of Cliburn Moss, Brougham and Cliburn, Cumbria. 1985. Reference No. 262/U/578.

Westminster had conveyed the land in question by sale to J.A., D. and J.P. Willan. The Commons Commissioner was satisfied that they should remain the owners of the land.

Winderwath

Winderwath was recorded as a medieval village in 1279 and as a manor in the early 17th century.¹¹⁷ Held originally by the Cliffords,¹¹⁸ the estate was acquired subsequently by Thomas Knyvett who then sold it in 1581 to George Clifford, earl of Cumberland for £1,600.¹¹⁹ In 1612, Thomas Braithwaite of Burneside and Warcop¹²⁰ was also seised of the ‘manor, lordship, capital messuage and demesnes of Winderwath’.¹²¹ Winderwath was later bought by William Wyvill and, after his death in 1658, it remained in his family’s ownership until sold to the Hassells of Dalemain in 1787.¹²²

Probably in the early 19th century Winderwath passed from the Hassells to Maria and Julia Salmond of York. They rented the house to James Atkinson who farmed the land at Winderwath and Highfield. Atkinson subsequently bought Winderwath and in 1870 he became Sheriff of Westmorland.¹²³ Winderwath was sold to William Longrigg in 1893,¹²⁴ ownership on his death passing to Mrs Annie Longrigg.¹²⁵ Since 1946 Winderwath House has been in possession of the Pollock family.¹²⁶ Hugh Pollock was appointed Sheriff of Westmorland in 1955.¹²⁷ The mansion was Grade II listed in 1968.¹²⁸ By 2014, ownership of Winderwath, apart from Winderwath House

¹¹⁷ Court of Wards Inq. p.m. vol. 47, no. 15 (cited by Farrer & Curwen, 1923)

¹¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* Vol. XI, 245.

¹¹⁹ TNA, C 54/1111.

¹²⁰ R. S. Boumphrey, C. R. Huddleston, *An Armorial for Westmorland and Lonsdale* (CWAAS, 1975), 48.

¹²¹ W. Farrer & J.F. Curwen, *Records of Kendale*, I (CWAAS, Rec. Ser., IV, 1923), 272.

¹²² <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1145359> (accessed 23 May 2014).

¹²³ RCHME, *Westm.*, 68–9.

¹²⁴ Kelly, *Dir. Westm.* (1894), 47.

¹²⁵ Kelly, *Dir. Westm.* (1925), 44.

¹²⁶ RCHME, *Westm.* (1936), 68–9.

¹²⁷ *London Gazette*, 15 Nov. 1955, p.6436.

¹²⁸ NHLE, 1145359, Winderwath House; www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-74219-winderwath-house-brougham-cumbria (accessed 23 May 2014).

and Hornby Hall Farm, had been transferred to Winderwath Settled Estates.¹²⁹ Winderwath House, comprising two storeys, includes remains of a medieval building but was largely rebuilt in the late 17th century. A south east wing was added in c. 1860 and later extended.

Economic History

Agriculture has long been the main economy in Cliburn, with no significant decline in agricultural land use in the modern era. Only relatively small areas of agricultural land have been used for residential or industrial development. Many small retail and craft services emerged during and after the 19th century, but had virtually disappeared by the end of the 20th century. However, since the 1960s, significant manufacturing and civil engineering businesses were established. In 2013, 150 residents (72.8% of those in the parish aged 16–74 years) were classified as economically active, half of whom worked full-time. Retail was the largest employment sector, but only slightly smaller proportions were employed in health and social work and in accommodation and food sectors.¹³⁰

Farming and Forestry

The Agricultural Landscape

The land undulates between 110 m. and 140 m. above sea level, the lowest part being at the River Leith on the southern parish boundary. The tree plantations are predominantly to the west of Cliburn village. Arable land and pastures are scattered uniformly.

The demesne associated with Cliburn Hall extended continuously eastwards to Cliburn Mill. Glebe land was scattered around the parish, each parcel comprising one acre or less in the late 16th

¹²⁹ Local inf.

¹³⁰ *Rural community profile for Cliburn (Parish)*. Action with Communities in Rural England. October 2013. www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/Resources-Publications/Parish-Profiles/Eden (accessed 27 Jan. 2020).

century.¹³¹ The first recorded enclosure of land at Cliburn Shaw, in the north east of the parish, in 1615 reserved eleven cattle grasses to the lord of the manor.¹³² Further enclosure in the parish occurred in 1664.¹³³ Thereby, by the early 19th century approximately one-third of the parish's land area became designated 'Cliburn Ancient Inclosure'.¹³⁴ At the time of the Cliburn Inclosure Act in 1806, unenclosed land comprised Cliburn Ling (c. 500 a.) bordering the Penrith road in the west of the parish and common stinted pasture at Cliburn Shaw (c. 150 a.).¹³⁵

Farming Practice

Medieval period

Oats were the earliest recorded crops in Cliburn.¹³⁶ Annual rents due to the Cliffords from free tenants holding service of cornage in the moieties of Cliburn Tailbois and Cliburn Hervy totaled 15s. 5d. in 1292,¹³⁷ rising to 20s. 1d. in 1315.⁴ Medieval rentals for the moiety of Cliburn Hervy have not survived, but a 1366 rental for Cliburn Tailbois mentions 79 a. of demesne comprising, where specified, 'ploughland' and 'grass land' of which 1¹/₄ a. were held by John Spink, half an acre by Robert Quenson and half a rood by Richard Quenson.¹³⁸

Post-medieval period: 1500–1800

When Timothy Cliburn sold the manor to Robert Collingwood in 1654, it comprised 30 messuages, a watermill, two orchards, 100 a. (unspecified), 50 a. of meadow, 80 a. of pasture, 40 a. of woodland and 200 a. of gorse, heath and common.¹³⁹ In 1664, then under the lordship of Edward

¹³¹ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/4/1.

¹³² C. Phillips, 'The Gentry in Cumberland and Westmorland 1600–1665', unpublished PhD Thesis, University of Lancaster, 1973.

¹³³ CAS (C), DLONS/L5/4/8/5.

¹³⁴ CAS (K), WPR 24/3/2/1.

¹³⁵ An Act for inclosing Lands in the Manor of Cliburn in the County of Westmorland, 3 July 1806.

¹³⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* V, no. 533; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XVII, no. 13.

¹³⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* III, no. 70.

¹³⁸ Ragg, 'Cliburn, Pt II', 244–49.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, 264.

Lee and following a 'new enclosure and lands purchased and laid to it', the annual value of rents in Cliburn demesne amounted to £115 15s.. Boon work included 13 days shearing, nine days mowing, 12 days ploughing and 12 days harrowing.¹⁴⁰ On acquisition of the manor by Sir John Lowther in 1667, the demesne comprised 123 a. with an annual value of £55 11s. 4d.. This was let for £60, also customary rents of £5 10s. and mill rent of £5.¹⁴¹

In 1715, Cliburn demesne, let to John Sanderson, yielded farm rent of £53 10s. and Cliburn Mill, occupied by John Dickenson, £3 10s. annually. Customary rents amounted to £5 12s. 9d.¹⁴² At about this time, 12 individuals were freeholders and approximately 60 were customary tenants.¹⁴³ By 1774, freeholders had risen to fourteen.¹⁴⁴ Only three customary tenants remained by 1824 and the last were enfranchised in Jan. 1938.¹⁴⁵

Probate inventories reveal that in the 16th and 17th centuries cattle and sheep predominated, and some households also had one or two horses. William Wharton, on his death in 1662, had cattle, horses and sheep to the value of £22 13s. 4d., £4 and £4 10s. respectively.¹⁴⁶ In 1677, George Dalton's 'horned beasts olde & young' were valued at £14.¹⁴⁷ The 90 sheep of John Cowper who died in 1724 were valued at £17.¹⁴⁸

Post-medieval period: Since 1800

In c.1800, 54 a. of farm land at Cliburn Hall were described as 'tolerable useful land but in general very sandy ... this ought never to lay long in grass, but be tilled and seeded in rotation (and) some small meadows might be much improved by draining but the present farmer is not calculated to

¹⁴⁰ CAS (C), D/LONS/L5/4/8.

¹⁴¹ C.B. Philips, *Lowther Family Estate Books 1617–1675* (Surtees Soc., vol. 191, 1979).

¹⁴² CAS (C), D/LONS/L3/2/36.

¹⁴³ CAS (C), D/LONS/L5/2/5/18.

¹⁴⁴ *Poll for Knights of the Shire to represent the County of Westmorland* (Kendal, 1774).

¹⁴⁵ CAS (C), D/LONS/L5/2/5/20.

¹⁴⁶ CAS (C), PROB/1663/WIN VX143.

¹⁴⁷ CAS (C), PROB/1677/WIN VX15.

¹⁴⁸ CAS (C), PROB/1724/WIN V40.

make much improvement'.¹⁴⁹ Since the 19th century, the largest farms have been Cliburn Hall Farm, Rectory Farm, Ling Farm and Winderwath Farm, mostly on productive land of good quality.¹⁵⁰ The largest, Cliburn Hall Farm, comprised 164 a. of arable land and 42 a. designated as grass land in the 19th century.¹⁵¹ When sold at auction in 1912, Cliburn Hall Farm comprised 121 a. of arable, meadow and pasture land including a right of turbary on Cliburn Moss and was entirely freehold or enfranchised customary tenure apart from customary rent of 1s. 1d. held of the Forest of the Manor of Oglebird.¹⁵²

Winderwath, the only titheable parish land in the 1840s, comprised 198 a. of arable land and 258 a. of meadow or pasture.¹⁵³ In 1881 James Atkinson farmed his own land at Winderwath and, on a yearly lease, 360 a. of Sir Henry Tufton's land at Highfield, part of Ash Hill¹⁵⁴ which straddled Winderwath and Brougham parish. He had a large stock of cattle, buying calves and young cows for rearing. He also cultivated swedes and kept a small number of ewes. Mr Atkinson gave his men £2 at Martinmass 'as an encouragement, provided they had shown energy.'¹⁵⁵

In 1841, two-thirds of households were headed by farmers or agricultural labourers.¹⁵⁶ Fifty years later, the proportion had fallen to less than half, with a corresponding increase in other occupations, many working on the new local railway.¹⁵⁷ A War Agricultural Committee was formed in Mar. 1916, organising women and children for potato planting, turnip hoeing, etc., there being no surplus adult male labour in the parish.¹⁵⁸

¹⁴⁹ CAS (C), D/LONS/L8/50.

¹⁵⁰ TNA, MAF 32/195/94.

¹⁵¹ CAS (C), D/LONS/L5/4/8/3 (undated).

¹⁵² Sale particulars, Messrs. Bleaymire & Shepherd, Penrith, 1912, privately owned.

¹⁵³ CAS (K), WPR 24/3/1/2.

¹⁵⁴ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/4/6.

¹⁵⁵ Her Majesty's Commissioners on Agriculture, 1881, 243.

¹⁵⁶ Census 1841.

¹⁵⁷ Census 1891.

¹⁵⁸ CAS (K), WPC 17/1.

Surveyed in 1930, livestock comprised 1,510 poultry, 1,172 sheep and 398 cattle, with fewer horses and pigs.¹⁵⁹ In 1943, Cliburn Hall Farm, now measuring 262 a. (the largest in the township), employed four wholetime workers for growing a variety of crops and for 150 cattle and 372 sheep. This was the only farm benefitting from a public electricity supply. Mechanisation was limited, with only one tractor at Cliburn Hall Farm and another at Winderwath.¹⁶⁰ The number of farms remained stable throughout the 20th century, with no significant change in agricultural land usage other than the sale in 1971 of the farm buildings at Cliburn Mill for conversion to a private residence.

SB & MA Threlkeld's well established poultry farm based at Howgate House expanded in 2011 when approval for a new chicken shed was granted.¹⁶¹

Forestry

In 1756, oak trees in woodlands owned by the Earl of Lonsdale were valued at £591 5s. 9d.¹⁶² In 1903, Lowther Estates planted 29,100 mixed deciduous trees and conifers in Cliburn Ling.¹⁶³ By 1951 the trees at Brownbank Plantation, formerly glebe land, had been felled.¹⁶⁴ At the time of writing, the largest woodlands — Birk Reins (c. 75 a.), Gilshaughlin Wood (c. 30 a.), Cliburn Moss and Ling (c. 24.5 a.), and Brownbank Plantation (c. 18 a.) — all mixed conifer and deciduous, are west and north of Cliburn village.

Mills, Crafts and Industry

Mining and Quarrying

¹⁵⁹ CAS (K), WDS/58/21.

¹⁶⁰ TNA, MAF 32/195/94.

¹⁶¹ <http://eforms.eden.gov.uk/fastweb/detail.asp?AltRef=11/0113> (accessed 16 Feb. 2017).

¹⁶² CAS (C), D/LONS/L/18/2/6.

¹⁶³ CAS (C), D/LONS/L/18/1/17.

¹⁶⁴ OS Map, 1:10,560, Cumb.–Westm., Sheet NY 52 NE (1957).

Common Holme quarry (1.24 a.), designated Common Land,¹⁶⁵ lies west of Cliburn village immediately north-east of Commonholme Bridge over the River Leith.¹⁶⁶ The quarry is an extension of naturally exposed Penrith sandstone.¹⁶⁷ In the late 1960s, stone from the quarry was used in constructing the M6 motorway section between Hackthorpe and junction 41.¹⁶⁸

To support construction of the new local railway, in 1861 the growing population of Cliburn included 14 men occupied as stone quarriers.¹⁶⁹

Mills

Cliburn's longest surviving watermill, recorded as early as 1255-6,¹⁷⁰ was situated near the east boundary of the parish, beside the River Lyvennet and about 100 yards downstream of where it is joined by the River Leith. The river level was raised by two dams. A grant issued in 1575 permitted the eastern end of the high dam to be bound to the land of Bolton parish.¹⁷¹ The low dam formed the mill race directing the Lyvennet's flow to a breast-shot waterwheel. Maintenance and repair of the dams was apportioned between individuals at various times. In 1715, Lord Lonsdale was responsible for repair of 14 yards of the high mill dam (51 yards were apportioned between 10 other individuals) and 12 yards of low mill dam (43 yards were apportioned between nine other individuals). Repair of the mill thatch was similarly shared.¹⁷² In 1810, the Earl of Lonsdale granted release to the tenants of their services at Cliburn mill.¹⁷³

¹⁶⁵ *London Gazette*, 20 Oct. 1970, 11501.

¹⁶⁶ CAS (K), WQ/RI/15.

¹⁶⁷ R. A. Hughes, *Permian and Triassic rocks of the Appleby district*. British Geological Survey Research Report (2003), RR/02/01.

¹⁶⁸ Westmorland County Council, application reference NW5589/WCC.6041A; <http://www.ukmotorwayarchive.org.uk/en/motorways/motorway-listing/m6/the-penrith-bypass-Hackthorpe-to-J41/index.cfm> (accessed 31 May 2019).

¹⁶⁹ Census 1861.

¹⁷⁰ TNA, KB26/160.

¹⁷¹ CAS (C), D/LONS/L5/4/9/1.

¹⁷² CAS (C), D/LONS/L5/2/5/4.

¹⁷³ CAS (C), D/LONS/L5/2/5/27.

Until the late 19th century it served mainly as a corn mill, but was then converted also into a saw mill.¹⁷⁴ After the mill's closure in the 1930s,¹⁷⁵ powered sawing of wood continued in Cliburn assisted by the purchase in 1945 by J. Scott of a six nominal horse power traction engine.¹⁷⁶ The mill buildings diversified for agriculturally purposes, becoming known locally as Cliburn Mill Farm. The barn was used as horse stables until its conversion into a private residence in c. 1970.¹⁷⁷ Another watermill, probably on the River Leith near Cliburn Hall and the church, was also recorded in 1255-6, but no trace of it remains.¹⁷⁸

Services

Retail

There are no records of significant retail activity before 1800. However, when Appleby was afflicted by plague in 1598, its market temporarily moved to Gilshaughlin, to the west of Cliburn village.

Inns and Ale Houses

In the 19th century, Cliburn had two public houses: the Kings Arms and the Joiners Arms.¹⁷⁹ The Kings Arms was first recorded as an inn in 1829. Thomas Coulston, the innkeeper and a weaver, died in 1841 having served as parish clerk for 24 years. The Kings Arms was renamed the Royal Arms in 1851, but it closed in the late 19th century and became a private residence (Midtown Cottage).¹⁸⁰ The Joiners Arms was situated at the village crossroads. In 1829 the victualler, John

¹⁷⁴ Census 1891.

¹⁷⁵ Local inf..

¹⁷⁶ [http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/J. and H. McLaren: AO 6266](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/J._and_H._McLaren:_AO_6266) (accessed 13 Jan. 2017).

¹⁷⁷ Local inf. 2017.

¹⁷⁸ Ragg, 'Cliburn, Pt I', 332.

¹⁷⁹ TNA, OS 34/443.

¹⁸⁰ Local inf. 2017.

Railton, also worked as a joiner and wheelwright.¹⁸¹ Subsequently, as the inn nearest to Cliburn Station, it was renamed the Railway Inn and, after the local railway closed, it then became The Golden Pheasant. By 2003, the business was unsustainable and closure was inevitable.¹⁸²

During the second half of the 19th century, trades and businesses in Cliburn included a tailor, joiners, baker, blacksmiths and a boot and shoe maker. In 1856 a post office opened in the village, although Winderwath was served by the post office in Temple Sowerby.¹⁸³ In 1905 there was a grocery, William Hall Grocers, at Rock House.¹⁸⁴ Later in the 20th century a grocer's shop opened adjacent to the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. The post office closed in 1989¹⁸⁵ and likewise the shop.

Transport Services

Cliburn Station, situated 250 m. north of the parish boundary, was built by the Eden Valley Railway Company on the line between Kirkby Stephen and Clifton. Construction of the station and rail track boosted employment in Cliburn, including many Irish and Scottish workers who lodged in the village.¹⁸⁶ Thereafter some of those employed at the completed station were Cliburn residents.¹⁸⁷

The station, including a weigh office and signal box, opened in June 1862 and by the early 20th century was serving up to five trains daily carrying passengers and goods. Reflecting the impact of the new railway and station, the Joiners Arms at the village crossroads was renamed the Railway Inn. The station closed in September 1956.¹⁸⁸ The entire line closed in January 1962.¹⁸⁹ The station

¹⁸¹ Parson & White, *Dir. C. & W.* (1829), 587.

¹⁸² *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*, 26 Apr. 2003.

¹⁸³ Kelly, *Dir. Westm.* (1858), 19.

¹⁸⁴ Local inf. 2020.

¹⁸⁵ Ken Smith, UK Post Offices by County: Cumbria, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19F1b3BQ6GUsX0rBvYavHsi46Trfrmw0U/view>, (accessed 15 Feb. 2017).

¹⁸⁶ Census 1861.

¹⁸⁷ Census 1871.

¹⁸⁸ www.disused-stations.org.uk/c/cliburn/ (accessed 15 Jun. 2019).

¹⁸⁹ <http://cliburnstation.co.uk/index.php/information/history> (accessed 12 Jan. 2017).

buildings later became a private residence and a holiday let.¹⁹⁰ The Railway Inn was renamed the Golden Pheasant.

In the mid-19th century a small garage selling petrol and servicing vehicles opened next to the Methodist Church, but had closed by the end of the century.

Visitor Economy

Despite its touristic location in the Eden Valley and proximity to the Lake District, an economy derived from visitors has never been significant in Cliburn. The signal box and weigh office at Cliburn Station were converted to holiday accommodation.¹⁹¹ The five a. garden of Winderwath House opens to the public from Mar. to Oct. inclusive¹⁹² and Winderwath Estate is available for pheasant shooting.¹⁹³

Manufacturing

Several new industries started after the second world war. In 1961, Alan Chapelhow established A J & D Chapelhow as a general joiners business. By the 1980s, the production of timber doors and windows became the main activity and, to meet rising demand, the factory expanded from 4,000 to 20,000 square feet on Ling Park. The business was later to become Ling Joinery¹⁹⁴ with new ownership. A petition to wind up Ling Joinery was published in Apr. 2016,¹⁹⁵ but the original owners bought back the business from the liquidators and relaunched it as A J & D Chapelhow (Cliburn) Ltd.¹⁹⁶ Waitings, drainage and pipeline contractors, was established on Moss Road in

¹⁹⁰ <https://cliburnstation.co.uk> (accessed 15 Jun. 2019).

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹² www.winderwathgardens.co.uk (accessed 31 May 2019).

¹⁹³ www.hhland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/104314A_104314-HH-LP-Winderwath-A5-16pp-Brochure_p1-16.pdf (accessed 31 May 2019).

¹⁹⁴ www.lingjoinery.co.uk/about_ling.html (accessed 22 Oct. 2014).

¹⁹⁵ *London Gazette*, 4 Apr. 2016.

¹⁹⁶ *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*, 17 Sept. 2016.

1970 and by 2019 had 120 employees, the largest in Cliburn.¹⁹⁷ G Lund Ltd, plant hire and civil engineers, began in 1989.¹⁹⁸ By the early 21st century, there were also several smaller enterprises including Stephen Ball Upholstery, some craft businesses and consultancies.

SOCIAL HISTORY

Social Character

Described as ‘a quiet and pleasant village, a backwater away from the main streams of traffic and with an air of remoteness; the sort of place where nothing of more than local importance is expected to happen and nothing does’,¹⁹⁹ Cliburn combines a quiet rural ambience with convenient proximity to Penrith and to major routes such as the M6 motorway and the trans-Pennine A66.

For centuries the social character of Cliburn and its communal life have been rooted in its rural setting and dominated by agriculture. In the mid-19th century approximately one-third of households were headed by farmers or agricultural labourers. Some of the former had resident agricultural labourers. Almost 45% of males over 16 years of age were involved in agricultural work.²⁰⁰

The social geography has been seamless, apart from the usual manorial hierarchy, with no significant segregation by class or religion. The hearth tax assessment of 1670 exempted the majority (23 out of 40) of households, proportionately more than in than neighbouring parishes, presumably reflecting a relatively high level of poverty.²⁰¹ Lords of the manor resided in the parish until the mid-17th century. Thereafter, the manorial holding was managed by the Lowthers’

¹⁹⁷ www.waitings.org/about-us (accessed 26 Nov. 2019).

¹⁹⁸ www.g_lundplanthire.co.uk (accessed 22 Oct. 2014).

¹⁹⁹ A. Wainwright, *Westmorland Heritage* (2004), 62.

²⁰⁰ Census 1851.

²⁰¹ TNA, E 179/195/73.

stewards. Freeholders became increasingly dominant. However, the Lowthers continued to make material contributions to the parish. During the 19th century, trustees of Cliburn School included the Earl of Lonsdale's representative.

Cliburn's fortunes were boosted in the mid-19th century by the arrival of the railway. During construction of the line and station, Cliburn achieved its largest population. In 1861, 10% were born outside Westmorland and Cumberland, many of whom were railway labourers from Ireland and Scotland housed in the village.²⁰² However, the railway resulted in no sustained increase in residents born outside the county.

During the second world war, transient populations in Cliburn included those housed in the hostel that subsequently became the original village hall. These included forestry workers, mostly Irish, the Women's Land Army and Polish citizens awaiting resettlement after the Second World War.²⁰³ Local farmers were initially wary of the 'town girls' of the Women's Land Army who came to help on their farms.²⁰⁴ Conversely, these young urban women struggled to understand the farmers' 'strange dialect'.²⁰⁵ Others living temporarily in Cliburn during the second world war included child evacuees from Newcastle and Barrow.²⁰⁶

Communal Life

Organised social and communal activities thrived during the 20th century. Some events were organised by the Parochial Church Council, partly to raise funds for the upkeep and maintenance of St Cuthbert's church.

²⁰² Census 1861.

²⁰³ Local inf.

²⁰⁴ M. Bates, *Snagging Turnips and Scaling Muck: the Women's Land Army in Westmoreland* (Curwen Archives Trust, 2001), 87.

²⁰⁵ *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*, 27 Oct. 2001.

²⁰⁶ Local inf.

Having bought the vacated original school building, James Atkinson of Winderwath donated it to the village in 1881 for use as a Reading Room and Library.²⁰⁷ The building was improved by Lord Lonsdale in 1907 and a billiard table installed. It became ‘a place where men — not women — could meet in the evening to read the papers or books from the small library and no doubt enjoy the “crack”’. The Reading Room continued until the Second World War, the Lowther Trustees having let the building to the Parochial Church Council in Dec. 1938 before it was converted eventually into a private dwelling.²⁰⁸

Cliburn Women’s Institute was formed in the early 1920s, but in 2006, when the membership was 17, it resigned from the National Federation of Women’s Institutes in protest at an increased subscription; the group reformed as a Ladies Club with no national affiliation.²⁰⁹ A Youth Club was formed in January 1958;²¹⁰ it lapsed soon after, but was then revived in 1983²¹¹, before its final dissolution in 1994.²¹² During the 1950s an annual Daffodil Fair was organised by the Parochial Church Council.²¹³ There were also a Cliburn and District and Hedging Association and a Horticultural Society.²¹⁴ A three-day flower festival held in the summer of 1987 celebrated the centenary of the extension and renovation of St Cuthbert’s church, raising over £1,000.²¹⁵ Millennial celebrations in 2000 included a carnival with a car boot sale, morris dancing, sports competitions and a disco.²¹⁶ Cliburn Band of Hope, a temperance organisation, held meetings in the school²¹⁷ and in 1917 hosted the annual meeting of the Eden Vale Band of Hope Union.²¹⁸

²⁰⁷ Bulmer, *Dir. Westmd* (1885), 326.

²⁰⁸ CAS (K), WDS 58/19; Local inf.; CAS (K), WPR 24/5/1/1.

²⁰⁹ Local inf. 2017.

²¹⁰ Cliburn Youth Club Minute Book, 1953.

²¹¹ Cliburn Parish Meeting Minute Book, 1974–.

²¹² Local inf. 2018.

²¹³ CAS (K), WPR 24/5/1/1.

²¹⁴ Cliburn Parish Meeting Minute Book, 1974–.

²¹⁵ *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*, 4 Jul. 1987, 5.

²¹⁶ *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*, 16 Sept. 2000.

²¹⁷ CAS (K), WDS/58/5.

²¹⁸ *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*, 10 Feb. 2017.

Village Hall

These diverse groups and activities had largely disappeared by the start of the 21st century.

However, the recently opened Village Hall provided a good location for a variety of new regular social events such as, in 2020, a weekly knitting group and indoor bowling club and monthly bingo.²¹⁹

The first village hall was a building moved from Haweswater, where it was a hostel for workers constructing the dam, and reconstructed in Cliburn. This was used initially as accommodation for men (mostly Irish) working in the local forestry industry, for Polish citizens possibly awaiting resettlement and then as a hostel by the Women's Land Army.²²⁰ The parish purchased the building in 1949 and, after refurbishment and construction of a stage, it was opened as a village hall in 1952. In 2000, a National Lottery grant of £438,605²²¹ was awarded for the building on the same site of the new Village Hall which was opened in 2002.²²²

Between 1980 and 2010, the communal life of Cliburn was depleted by the closure of the village shop, post office, garage, school and public house and the reduction of public transport services. Ivy Spooner (1924–1999), described as 'at the heart of Cliburn community', had served behind the counter of the village shop and post office for more than 40 years and latterly also ran the garage.²²³

Amateur Sport

In Jul.1905 a Cricket Club was inaugurated²²⁴ and by 1910 there were also a Girls Club and a Rifle Club. Between 1955 and 1969 there was an annual Football Competition with teams entered from

²¹⁹ www.cliburnparish.org/whats-on.html (accessed 17 Mar. 2018).

²²⁰ Local inf. 2017.

²²¹ www.gotlottery.uk/community-fund-cliburn-village-hall-8-73898 (accessed 10 Sept. 2018).

²²² *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*, 25 May 2002.

²²³ *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*, 31 Jul. 1999.

²²⁴ CAS (K), WDS/58/19.

neighbouring parishes and from even further afield such as Caldbeck. Matches were played on a field adjoining Ling Road and Commonholme Road leased from Mr Harrison of Melkinthorpe for a rental of 100 cigarettes.²²⁵

Recreation Grounds

Plans for a Play Area in the village began in 2006 when Eden Housing leased suitable land behind Rectory Cottages. Eden Housing Association and Eden Play Partnership granted £2,000 and £22,500 respectively and in 2008 The People's Millions awarded £58,500.^{226,227} The Play Area, which includes an adult gym and wildlife garden, was opened by Lord and Lady Lonsdale in Oct. 2010. The Cliburn Community Play Area Association²²⁸ and Cliburn Public Hall²²⁹ are both registered charities.

Education

Pre-1870

The first school, next to the original rectory, was built in 1809 by subscription²³⁰ on land given by George Workman, a farmer of 70 a. in Cliburn Shaw. The school room was approximately 26 ft. long and 18 ft. wide.²³¹ Endowed to the school under the Enclosure Act 1808, an allotment of 10.5 a. of land yielded an estimated £20 per year, administered by seven trustees including the rector and

²²⁵ Local inf. 2018.

²²⁶ *News and Star*, 22 Dec. 2008.

²²⁷ www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/press-releases/scotland/final-peoples-millions-grants-made-in-the-borders (accessed 11 Sept. 2008).

²²⁸ <http://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1128452&subid=0> (accessed 11 Sept. 2018).

²²⁹ <http://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=523055&subid=0> (accessed 11 September 2018).

²³⁰ Parson & White, *Dir. C. & W.* (1829), 587.

²³¹ CAS (K), WDS/58/1.

a landowner in Cliburn whose son attended the school. The teacher in 1815 was a Quaker.²³² All children were charged a ‘small quarterage, varying from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 4d.’ as set by the trustees. The curriculum comprised ‘reading, writing, and accounts and classics, if required’.²³³

On average, 20 pupils attended the school in the early 1820s.²³⁴ By June 1866 this had risen to 48 pupils, of whom 22 were girls.²³⁵ An inspection in Sept. 1865 concluded that the school had been ‘much neglected by the Master’, ‘discipline is bad’, ‘religious knowledge is miserably low’ and ‘writing and spelling poor’. Appointment of a new teacher, Daniel White, resulted in ‘great improvement’ by Feb. 1866.²³⁶ However, at that time the education was ‘confined to elementary subjects’ with ‘no demand for higher instruction’.³⁶

Education in the 19th century also included a dame school in what is now Melrose Cottage.²³⁷

Post-1870

In 1877 a new school was built in Town Head at a cost of £800.²³⁸ The two main rooms were 639 and 180 square feet in area. The Parochial Church Council in 1898 decreed that no child should pay a fee to be educated in Cliburn School.²³⁹ By 1905, the school was under the control of the County Council.²⁴⁰

During the Second World War, some children attending the school were evacuees from Barrow and Newcastle who were housed temporarily in Cliburn.²⁴¹ Due to dwindling pupil numbers, Cliburn

²³² J. Platt, *The Diocese of Carlisle, 1814-1855: Chancellor Walter Fletcher's 'Diocesan Book', with additional material from Bishop Percy's parish notebooks.* (Surtees Soc., vol. 219, 2015), 295.

²³³ TNA, CHAR 2/304.

²³⁴ *Further Report of the Commissioners Appointed in Pursuance of Two Several Acts of Parliament.* House of Commons, 1822.

²³⁵ *Schools Inquiry Commission*, XIX, 1869, 333–34.

²³⁶ CAS (K), WDS 58/1.

²³⁷ Local inf. (H. Scott, P. Egglestone. *The Parish of Cliburn.* Unpublished notes.)

²³⁸ Kelly, *Dir. Westm.* (1894), 47.

²³⁹ CAS (K), WPR 17/1.

²⁴⁰ Bulmer, *Dir. Westm.* (1905), 141.

²⁴¹ Local inf. 2018.

School closed on 15 Jul. 1983. The remaining 17 pupils were transferred to Bolton Primary School or Appleby Grammar School.²⁴² The building became a private residence.

Money from sale of the school and its land was endowed to a trust fund to support the education of future children from the parish.²⁴³ Cliburn School Endowment Fund distributed £2,900 in 2016/17 to children living in the parish attending secondary school and further education establishments up to the age of 25 years.²⁴⁴ Since the closure of Cliburn School, primary school children have attended mainly Bolton or Morland schools and secondary school children go to either Penrith or Appleby.

Adult education was meagre. In 1904 ‘scientific lectures’ were proposed to be held during winter months.²⁴⁵ In 1922 Arthur Briscoe, headteacher of Cliburn School and keen to contribute to ‘mutual improvement in the village’, gave two lectures on fruit growing, grafting and budding and established a Mutual Improvement Committee.²⁴⁶

Social Welfare

The will of Edward Knipe (d.1575), rector of Cliburn from 1557 to 1574, left ‘twenty nobles of white rent’ annually for distribution by his executors and their successors to the poor of the parishes of Warcop (where he was vicar) and Cliburn.²⁴⁷ This bequest was administered by the vicar and churchwardens of Warcop. There was a dispute in the 1670s between Charles Crow (vicar of Warcop, 1663–83), acting on behalf of the poor of Cliburn and Warcop parishes, and Humphrey

²⁴² CAS (K), WDS/58/6.

²⁴³ Local inf. 2018.

²⁴⁴

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/CharityWithoutPartB.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1001245&SubsidiaryNumber=0> (accessed 14 Mar. 2018).

²⁴⁵ CAS (K), WPC 17/1.

²⁴⁶ CAS (K), WDS/58/5.

²⁴⁷ H. Hornyhold–Strickland, ‘The Will of Edward Knipe, a Tudor vicar of Cliburn and Warcop’, *CW2*, 44 (1944), 151–9.

Wharton who conceded and settled arrears in money due to them.²⁴⁸ In 1703, the total poor stock comprising the income from Knipe's will and subsequent donations and bequests amounted to £3 10s..²⁴⁹ A subsequent rector, Richard Shepherd (incumbent 1689–1738), bequeathed a further £3 10s. to the poor of the parish, for distribution at Christmas.²⁵⁰

In the early 19th century, the churchwardens of Warcop continued to administer Knipe's bequest and regularly transferred 13s. 4d. annually to Cliburn parish where it was added to the interest of the Poor Stock then valued at £58. This was distributed to five or six poor families not receiving weekly pensions.²⁵¹ In 1931, the parish's annual income from Knipe's charity remained at 13s. 4d..²⁵² Since the 1880s this money had been received from Lord Lonsdale or the Lowther Estate.²⁵³

The parish has had no health care facilities and organisations. The Union Workhouse in Shap cared for two children from Cliburn in the 1880s²⁵⁴ and for at least one person from Cliburn in the early 20th century, a 73 year old woman described as a 'certified imbecile'.²⁵⁵

Winderwath House served as an old people's home during the second world war.²⁵⁶

RELIGIOUS HISTORY

St Cuthbert's church,²⁵⁷ the main place of Christian worship in the parish since at least the 12th century, is a rectory. There was an outlying chapel in the detached portion of the parish at Winderwath, but no trace of it remains. With only two exceptions, since the 16th century this

²⁴⁸ TNA, C 91/14/23.

²⁴⁹ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/1/2.

²⁵⁰ CAS (C), PROB/1740/W327.

²⁵¹ TNA, CHAR 2/304; W. Simpkin and R. Marshall, *An Account of Public Charities in England and Wales* (1828).

²⁵² CAS (K), WPR 24/4/4/9.

²⁵³ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/1/7.

²⁵⁴ Census 1881.

²⁵⁵ J. C. McVail, *Appendix volume XIV. Report to the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress*. HMSO (1909), 216.

²⁵⁶ NHLE, No. 1145359, Winderwath House.

²⁵⁷ C. Wright, 'Cliburn Church', *CW2*, 12 (1912), 131–4.

rectory frequently attracted incumbents with a university education. The rector was resident in the parish until the mid-20th century. Since the 1960s Cliburn has been united with an increasing number of neighbouring parishes, becoming one of ten in the North Westmorland Churches benefice in 2017.

Church Origins and Parochial Organisation

The Grade II listed²⁵⁸ St Cuthbert's church occupies an elevated site at a 'lovely spot overlooking a sweep of river with great oaks'²⁵⁹ at the southern end of the village. It contains Norman features²⁶⁰ and was first recorded in 1133. The church sits on a raised plateau with a curvilinear profile (linear to the north and west, curved to the south and east) surrounded by a rectangular churchyard.

The church is among many in northern England dedicated to St Cuthbert,²⁶¹ but in this instance the dedication is certainly pre-Reformation in origin. Cliburn is included in a list of these churches compiled in 1416 and inscribed over the choir door in Durham Cathedral. These dedications were once regarded as legendary resting places of St Cuthbert's body,²⁶² but historical evidence is lacking.²⁶³ There is no pre-Conquest sculpture connected with the site.

The ecclesiastical parish of Cliburn includes Winderwath (formerly a detached portion of the civil parish) where by 1343 there was a chapel, annexed to St Cuthbert's church, south-west of Winderwath mansion.^{264,265} Traces of the chapel were reportedly still visible in 1820 but there is no trace at the time of writing.²⁶⁶

²⁵⁸ NHLE, No. 1357504, [Church of St Cuthbert](#) (accessed 22 Oct. 2014).

²⁵⁹ Hyde & Pevsner, *Cumbria*.

²⁶⁰ RCHME, *Westm.*, 67–9.

²⁶¹ V. Tudor, 'St. Cuthbert and Cumbria', *CW2*, 84 (1984), 73.

²⁶² C. Eyre, *The History of St Cuthbert* (1887), 103.

²⁶³ T.H.B. Graham & W.G. Collingwood, 'Patron Saints of the Diocese of Carlisle', *CW2*, 25 (1925), 1–27.

²⁶⁴ *Petitions to the Pope: 1342–1419*, Volume V: 2 Clement VI. (1896), 54–75.

²⁶⁵ CAS (C), DCHA/11/4/3.

²⁶⁶ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/4/3; HERR, Monument No. 11964 (accessed 14 Mar. 2020).

Advowson

The church was appropriated initially to the Abbey of St. Mary of York, the right of patronage having been granted by Ranulphus de Micenis, founder of the Priory of Wetheral.²⁶⁷ The appropriation was subsequently confirmed in 1133 and again in 1156 by Athelwold, the first Bishop of Carlisle. In the early 13th century, the church was ceded by the Abbott of St Mary's to Walter Mauclerk, the fourth Bishop of Carlisle, and his successors, saving a pension of 10s. to the Priory of Wetheral.²⁶⁸ Bishop Silvester de Everdon confirmed the cession in May 1248.²⁶⁹ In 1657, the right of presentation, formerly belonging to the Bishop of Carlisle, was then vested in the Lord Protector.²⁷⁰ The patronage soon reverted to the Bishop and was exercised by him until 1874. St Cuthbert's church passed into lay patronage on 20 Oct. 1874 when Bishop Harvey Goodwin exchanged with the earl of Lonsdale the rectory of Cliburn for the churches of Embleton and Lorton.²⁷¹

In the 1960s Cliburn parish formed a joint benefice with Bolton parish, its immediate neighbour to the east. This arrangement was dissolved in the 1970s when Cliburn combined with Clifton and Brougham to form a new benefice in the Penrith Deanery.²⁷² Subsequently, Cliburn joined the united benefice of Morland, Thrimby, Great Strickland in the Appleby Deanery,²⁷³ under the patronage jointly of Lord Hothfield and the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle.²⁷⁴ The parishes of Bolton and Crosby Ravensworth joined the group in 2005 to form the Leith–Lyvennet benefice.²⁷⁵ In 2017

²⁶⁷ Todd Diocese MS, p. 346 (cited in J. Platt. *The Diocesan Book of Walter Fletcher, Chancellor of Carlisle Diocese 1814–46*).

²⁶⁸ *Reg. Wetheral*, 350.

²⁶⁹ Curwen, *Later Recs. N. Westm.*, 291–95.

²⁷⁰ *Commonwealth Survey* 1657.

²⁷¹ *London Gazette*, Oct. 20, 1874, 4767–4768.

²⁷² CAS (K), WPR 24/6/1/3.

²⁷³ CAS (K), WPR 24/5/1/4.

²⁷⁴ CAS (K), WPR 24/6/1/3.

²⁷⁵ <http://www.morlandchurch.org.uk> (accessed 7 Oct. 2014).

the benefice was further enlarged to include the parishes of Askham and Clifton and renamed North Westmorland Churches. The benefice's rector resides in Morland.

Church Endowment

In 1291, the church was rated at £13 6s. 8d., but in 1318 the value had reduced to £3 6s. 8d, coinciding with a period of invasion by Scots.²⁷⁶ By the mid-14th century, the incumbent's duties also included the annexed chapel at Winderwath.²⁷⁷ In 1535 the rectory mansion and glebe were worth 13s. 4d. annually and tithes and oblations £8 12s. 4d.²⁷⁸ The living was rated at £40.²⁷⁹ In 1657 the incumbent, John Ardrey, had tithes worth £20 and glebe land worth £4 annually.²⁸⁰

In 1777 the rectory was rated in the king's books at £9 1s. 5¹/₂d. and the clear yearly value, as certified to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, £40 10s..²⁸¹

During the incumbency of John Pool (incumbent 1802 to 1833) the yearly value increased from £60 to £400, the enclosure of the common land in 1807 having resulted in 189 a. being allotted as commutation for the tithes of the parish.²⁸² By 1840 the only tithable land was the estates of Winderwath and Highfield, paying in total £56 13s. 7d. annually.²⁸³

In 1858 the living was valued at £150 per annum with a residence,²⁸⁴ 30 a. of ancient glebe having already been allotted to the rector. Thus, in 1894 the rector benefitted from c.220 a., the largest

²⁷⁶ Curwen, *Later Recs. N. Westm.*, 291-5.

²⁷⁷ *Petitions to the Pope: 1342-1419*, Volume V: 2 Clement VI. (1896), 54-75.

²⁷⁸ *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.

²⁷⁹ *Commonwealth Survey* 1649.

²⁸⁰ Curwen, *Later Recs. N. Westm.*, 291-5.

²⁸¹ N&B, I, 457.

²⁸² Parson & White, *Dir. C. & W.* (1829), 587.

²⁸³ CAS (K), WPR 24/3/1/2.

²⁸⁴ Kelly, *Dir. Westm.* (1858), 19.

parcels comprising Brown Bank, part of Cliburn Shaw and Whinney Bank.²⁸⁵ However, by 1935 only 30 a. of this land was retained²⁸⁶ and, by 1982, it had been sold to the tenant farmer.²⁸⁷

The gross income of Cliburn rectory in 1974 was £213.

Rectory House

The terrier of 1578 records ‘the Parsonage House with two Barnes thereto belonging is builded upon one croft near to ye Church-yard’.²⁸⁸ The curtilage abuts the north wall of the churchyard incorporating a small gateway for pedestrian access to the church. When visited by Bishop Percy the house was found to be ‘a very small, poor building’, but new outbuildings had been erected by the incumbent, John Pool.²⁸⁹ The rectory was sold for £189 8s 11d to Lord Lonsdale in 1896²⁹⁰ and thereafter continued as a farmhouse for Rectory Farm.

In the mid-19th century during the incumbency of Clarke Burton, an new rectory was built on the west side of the road between Town Head and Cliburn Station. The 7 a. site contained the rectory house, stable, coach house, cow house, wash house and harness room with gardens and plantations. The new rectory was sold in 1957²⁹¹ and some outbuildings converted into private residences. It was grade II listed in 1984.

Religious Life

Middle Ages to Reformation

²⁸⁵ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/4/7.

²⁸⁶ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/4/10.

²⁸⁷ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/4/13.

²⁸⁸ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/4/1.

²⁸⁹ Platt, *Diocese of Carlisle*, 293.

²⁹⁰ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/4/8.

²⁹¹ Local inf.

The first recorded rector, incumbent in 1250, was Nicholas Malveysyn.²⁹² He was succeeded in 1302 by Peter Tilliol²⁹³ who in 1303 was then appointed to the vacant rectory of Clifton. Henry de Rosse, installed in 1342, was the first rector recorded as serving also the annexed chapel at Winderwath.²⁹⁴ Other notable rectors from this period include John Clibburn appointed in 1457 ‘who is a priest, and by both parents of knightly birth’.²⁹⁵

Reformation to Interregnum

The rectors during this period included Edward Knipe, a graduate of the University of Oxford. Rector of Cliburn from 1557 to 1575, he also held Warcop parish in plurality. Knipe reputedly placed a curse²⁹⁶ on Richard Cliburn, then lord of the manor, who had remained a Catholic while enjoying the patronage of ultra-protestant associates; this duplicity offended Knipe.²⁹⁷ Knipe was also much engaged in money lending and, on his death in 1575, his will waived many outstanding debts. He also directed his executors to purchase ‘twenty nobles of white rent’ for distribution to the poor of the parishes of Warcop and Cliburn.²⁹⁸

The Interregnum

Timothy Tullie was incumbent from 1639 to 1656. Initially a ‘non-covenanter and disaffected’, his subsequent career suggests that he modified his position, eventually becoming a Canon of York.²⁹⁹ John Ardrey, appointed in 1657, was a Prebendary of Carlisle and also held Kirkland and Great Musgrave.³⁰⁰

²⁹² *Reg. Wetheral*, 350.

²⁹³ Local inf. Incumbents list in St Cuthbert’s church, Cliburn.

²⁹⁴ *Petitions to the Pope: 1342–1419*, Volume V: 2 Clement VI. (1896), 54–75.

²⁹⁵ *Cal. Papal. Reg.*, 1455-64, 289.

²⁹⁶ Ragg, ‘Cliburn, Pt II,’ 210.

²⁹⁷ J. H. Claiborne. *William Claiborne of Virginia* (New York, 1917), 35.

²⁹⁸ H. Hornyold–Strickland. ‘The will of Edward Knipe, a Tudor vicar of Cliburn’, *CW2*, 44 (1944), 151.

²⁹⁹ Nightingale, *Ejected of 1662*, II, 1243.

³⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

1660–1840s

In 1676 there were 96 persons of an age to communicate, with no popish recusants or other dissenters³⁰¹ apart from two Quakers.³⁰² In the early 19th century there was ‘one family of Quakers’.³⁰³ Cliburn had 11 Methodists in 1803;³⁰⁴ before the Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1832 they met in a room licensed for that purpose.³⁰⁵

Among Cliburn’s longest serving rectors was Richard Shepherd, appointed in 1689, formerly curate of Kirkby Thore. Shepherd was well regarded by Bishop William Nicolson who noted that ‘This decency [of St Cuthbert’s church] is chiefly owing to the good care of the present Rector, Mr Shepherd, who (tho’ he never had the Advantage of any University-Education) is a discreet and worthy Clergyman’.³⁰⁶ Impressed by Richard Shepherd, Bishop Nicolson offered him the better remunerated vicarage of Lazonby, but he declined and remained rector of Cliburn for 50 years until his death in 1739. Initially Shepherd relied on parochial custom and memory for tithe payments, but these were often not fulfilled.³⁰⁷ In 1690, he took action in the Cathedral Court of Carlisle against the defaulting parishioners. This prompted an agreed settlement,³⁰⁸ but the issue probably recurred until the early 19th century³⁰⁹. Richard Shepherd is commemorated by an inscribed plaque in the south aisle of St Cuthbert’s church.

1840s to time of writing

³⁰¹ F. G. James, ‘The population of the diocese of Carlisle in 1676’. *CW2*, 51 (1951), 137–41.

³⁰² A. Whiteman, *The Compton Census of 1676: a critical edition*. (Oxford, 1986), 627.

³⁰³ Platt, *Diocese of Carlisle*, 295.

³⁰⁴ G. H. Bancroft Judge. *The Beginnings of Methodism in the Penrith District* (Wesley Historical Society, Vol. 19(7), 1933/34), 158.

³⁰⁵ Platt, *Diocese of Carlisle*, 296.

³⁰⁶ Nicolson, *Misc Acct.* 77–8.

³⁰⁷ CAS (C), D/LONS/L/1/25/2.

³⁰⁸ CAS (K), WPR 24/1/3/1.

³⁰⁹ Platt, *Diocese of Carlisle*, 294.

Seventy-two parishioners, of whom thirty were Sunday scholars, attended Sunday morning service on 30 March 1851³¹⁰ and the church was soon to be extended to provide more seating. However, in the 20th century attendances declined. In the early 1900s, two holy communion services and an evensong service were held every Sunday, with evensong also each Wednesday.³¹¹ By the mid-1950s, the number of services had reduced to Sunday matins weekly and evensong on alternate Sundays.³¹² In 2020, now in a benefice with nine other parishes, holy communion was on average once monthly.³¹³ Attendances had dwindled to single figures except for joint services with other parishes of the benefice and on major festivals such as Easter and Christmas. There was a Sunday school in the mid-19th century³¹⁴ which continued until the 1980s.³¹⁵

Methodism was sufficiently active in Cliburn in the late 18th century for the parish to have been included on the 'Plan of 1791'. Cliburn and Morland had eleven members in 1803.³¹⁶ The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel opened in 1852. It was built on 100 square yards of land purchased by William Shearman of Penrith, a Wesleyan minister, which he sold for £5 to George Byers, a yeoman of Cliburn, and others.³¹⁷ In addition to regular worship, a Sunday school was also held in the Chapel. However, active Methodists declined in Cliburn during the 20th century and, when the Chapel closed in 1974, there were only three members (aged 60, 86 and 94 years).³¹⁸

The longest serving rectors in this period were the Revds Clarke Burton and George Day. Clarke Burton, a Cambridge graduate and qualified barrister, was appointed rector in 1858, becoming Rural Dean of Lowther in 1877 and Honorary Canon of Carlisle in 1892.³¹⁹ He oversaw the

³¹⁰ TNA HO/129.

³¹¹ CAS (K), WPR 24/1/5/1.

³¹² CAS (K), 24/6/1/1.

³¹³ <https://northwestmorlandchurches.org.uk/services/> (accessed 26 Nov. 2019).

³¹⁴ Platt, *Diocese of Carlisle*, 296.

³¹⁵ Local inf. (Recorded in PCC accounts, stored locally).

³¹⁶ G.H. Bancroft Judge, 'The beginnings of Methodism in the Penrith District', *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society*. 19 (1933/34), 158.

³¹⁷ Curwen, *Later Records*, 291-95.

³¹⁸ CAS (C), DFCM 3/3/3.

³¹⁹ *Alum. Cantab.* Vol. II: 1752–1900, 467.

extension of the church in 1866/67. Rector for 50 years until his death in 1908, a window in the church was dedicated in his memory. George Day, a graduate of Oxford and Durham universities, was incumbent from 1921 to 1956.³²⁰ His wife, Ada, was organist and a skilled embroiderer whose work is still used in Cliburn church. Their daughter Marguerite became a doctor in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Wounded in action in Belgium, she was awarded the MBE (Military) in 1944.

During the night of Sunday 11 Dec. 1988 the church was broken into and communion silver³²¹ with an insured value of £2,000 was stolen.³²²

When services were cancelled in 2020/21 during the covid-19 pandemic, the benefice collaborated with other parishes in the Heart of Westmorland Mission Community to produce video recorded online services.

Church Architecture

St Cuthbert's Church

The chamfered round chancel arch is of late 11th or early 12th century construction. Most of the windows are 19th century alterations to the building, but the north wall of the chancel has a 13th century lancet window. The 12th-century doorway, reset in the south wall during the 1886/7 extension, has a corbelled stone lintel carved in a chevron pattern with stone blocks bearing small human figures at each end. The west jamb of the doorway bears a consecration cross. The east jamb has traces of a sundial.

³²⁰ *Crockford's Clerical Dir.*

³²¹ R.S. Ferguson. *Old Church Plate in the Diocese of Carlisle* (Carlisle, 1882), 145.

³²² CAS (K), WPR 24/5/1/4.

The font has a Norman shaft with zig-zag decoration, probably late 12th century.³²³ A hutch-type chest in the nave is initialled and dated “T.H. 1696”. A stone cross in the churchyard south of the chancel has a modern shaft set on a medieval base.

The porch incorporates two sandstone coffin lids, probably 13th century.³²⁴ Two inscribed Roman stones, found in July 1886 during excavations to extend the church, are embedded in the internal wall of the porch. The inscription on one refers to the rebuilding of a bath and may have come from the fort at Brougham;³²⁵ the other is part of an altar but the inscription is now illegible.³²⁶

Shortly after the Reformation, the original stone bench seating around the walls was augmented by oak pews on both sides of the nave. In the 12th century, two pews were installed in the chancel. One was inscribed ‘Timothy Wyvill, 1642’ and granted to Winderwath; the Wyvill family owned Winderwath in the 17th and 18th centuries. Two smaller pews were erected under the arch: one was marked ‘A.P.’, attributed to Anne Countess Dowager of Pembroke (Lady Anne Clifford); the other bore the initials of the Cliburne family of Cliburn Hall.³²⁷

In 1703 the church was ‘very little, but neatly enough kept’ although ‘the Quire is cover’d (or siel’d) with rotten boards in some danger of falling’.³²⁸ On his first visit in 1815, Walter Fletcher, Chancellor of Carlisle Diocese, described St Cuthbert’s church as a ‘mean structure’ and ‘poor building’. He ordered various improvements, but there had been no noticeable change when he returned in 1827.³²⁹

Minor repairs and alterations were carried out in 1849, but the most significant alterations occurred in 1886/87 during Clarke Burton’s incumbency. To accommodate the growing population, the church was enlarged by constructing a south aisle in which the 12th century doorway and porch

³²³ Hyde & Pevsner, *Cumbria*, 280.

³²⁴ RCHME, *Westm.*, 68.

³²⁵ D. B. Campbell, *Roman Auxiliary Forts 27BC–AD378* (Oxford, 2009), 53.

³²⁶ C. Wright, ‘Cliburn Church’, *CW2*, 12 (1912), 131–4.

³²⁷ Wright, *Cliburn Church*.

³²⁸ Nicolson, *Misc. Acct.* 77–8.

³²⁹ Platt, *Carlisle Diocese*.

were reset. The church was thoroughly renovated and re-roofed, a new floor laid, the pulpit placed at the north-eastern corner of the nave and the organ, made by Wilkinson & Sons of Kendal, installed in the new south aisle. The stone seating, described by Fletcher as 'an ugly damp projecting wall' was removed and replaced with wooden pews in the nave. Two bells were installed in a bell cote. The larger bell made by C & G Mears, London, and the smaller by Jonan Robinson, Liverpool, are both dated 1849.³³⁰ The cost of these alterations was £1,450, defrayed by subscriptions.³³¹

Improvements to the church in the 20th century included: a window in memory of Clarke Burton, dedicated in 1910;³³² an oak font cover presented by the Cleborne family in the USA in memory of Admiral Christopher James Cleborne³³³ and dedicated in 1929;³³⁴ a carved oak reredos consecrated in November 1949, panelling and candlesticks donated by the Longrigg family of Winderwath;³³⁵ an electric organ blower;³³⁶ electric heaters;³³⁷ and rehangng the bells. By 2010, the bells had ceased to be used.

To create more space for burials the churchyard was extended and the new area consecrated by the Bishop of Carlisle on 6 Jun. 1999. Lord Lonsdale had sold the required land for £1 and provided stones for the new wall,³³⁸ the parish paid the conveyancing fee and the labour costs were donated by the family of Mrs Barbara Pollock of Winderwath in her memory.³³⁹

Other Religious Buildings

³³⁰ CAS (K), WPR 24/5/1/4.

³³¹ Kelly, *Dir. Westm.* (1897), 44.

³³² CAS (K), WPR 24/1/5/1.

³³³ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/2/2.

³³⁴ CAS (K), WPR 24/1/5/1.

³³⁵ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/2/3.

³³⁶ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/2/4.

³³⁷ CAS (K), WPR 24/4/2/5.

³³⁸ CAS (K), WPR 24/5/1/4.

³³⁹ Local inf.: letter dated 5 Mar. 1999 from Revd Kenneth Cove to parishioners.

Land was bought for a Methodist chapel in 1800 for £7 10s. together with an adjacent plot of land for £15 comprising a site area of 330 sq. yards. The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was built of sandstone in 1852. The chapel room was approximately 24 feet long and 18 feet wide with a boarded floor. The chapel closed in 1974.³⁴⁰ The building was sold to the owner of the adjacent garage and converted into a private residence.

Local Government

Manorial Government

Approximately 50 court records survive for the period 1662 to 1925, the earliest being for the court baron of Edward Lee held on 7 May 1662 with Thomas Fletcher as steward. The business was mainly tenures and fines including for disrepair of hedges, for trespass in person or by livestock and for cutting wood, heather or turf where not permitted.³⁴¹

Between 1727 and 1763 a court baron is recorded as being convened annually. In May 1787, a court leet with view of frankpledge was held twice in Cliburn Hall before George Wheatley, steward of Cliburn manor. With 13 impaneled as jurors, John Robinson was presented and found to be constable for the ensuing year and again in 1789. Another court leet was held on 28 July 1789.³⁴² These are the only surviving records of a court leet for the manor.

Manorial government declined in the early 19th century with increasing enfranchisement. In 1806, 39 tenants were enfranchised, seven of whom sold their tenements to Lord Lonsdale.³⁴³ A further 15 enfranchisement deeds were recorded in 1810³⁴⁴ including the release of tenants from services to

³⁴⁰ CAS (C), DFCM 3/3/3; Local inf.

³⁴¹ CAS (C), D/LONS/L5/2/5/21.

³⁴² CAS (C), D/ LONS /L5/2/5/22 & 23.

³⁴³ CAS (C), D/ LONS /L5/2/5/26.

³⁴⁴ CAS (C), D/ LONS /L5/2/5/28.

Cliburn Mill.³⁴⁵ Subsequently, the manor court for Cliburn was held every few years.³⁴⁶ A stone pinfold adjacent to the east wall of St Cuthbert's churchyard was recorded in 1859, but had disappeared by the late 1890s.³⁴⁷

Parish Government

Initially, the churchwardens served as overseers of the poor, receiving the income and making disbursements. The churchwardens did not always shoulder their responsibilities alone; for example, in January 1703, twelve men were appointed to assist them. In the year ending Easter 1776 the expenditure on account of the poor was £7 1s 0d, increasing in the subsequent decade to average £16 15s 11d annually.³⁴⁸ By the 1820s annual expenditure on poor relief had risen to approximately £38,³⁴⁹ and in 1835 it amounted to £42 14s 0d.³⁵⁰

In September 1836, Cliburn was one of 22 parishes forming the West Ward Poor Law Union. The parish had two overseers, recorded in the valuation lists for 1924 as George Ellis and David Wilkinson, the latter serving for a further two years with J. Clarke.³⁵¹

Cliburn was a constablewick,³⁵² although records of appointment to the role are confined to the late 1780s.²

Evidence for surveyors of highways in the parish is lacking. However, the disrepair and maintenance of highways and bridges was frequently dealt with by Appleby Quarter Sessions

³⁴⁵ CAS (C), D/ LONS /L5/2/5/27.

³⁴⁶ CAS (C), D/ LONS /L5/2/5/10 (no records exist from 1827 to 1855).

³⁴⁷ OS Map, 1:2500, Westm., Sheet VIII.7 (1861) and (1898).

³⁴⁸ *Poor Law Abstract, 1804*, 554.

³⁴⁹ *An Account of the Money Expended for the Maintenance and relief of the Poor 1825–1829.* (1830), 214.

³⁵⁰ *Poor Law Com. 2nd Report*, 398.

³⁵¹ CAS (K), WSPUK 5/9/7.

³⁵² L. Ashcroft, *Vital Statistics: the Westmorland Census of 1787* (Curwen Archives Texts, 1992), 163.

during the 18th century.³⁵³

Post 1894 Arrangements

Cliburn was in West Ward of the ancient county of Westmorland. Cliburn Parish Council existed from 1894 to 1973. Minutes in 1910/11 record serious health concerns arising from the lack of a piped supply of fresh water; at that time 53 dwellings relied on deep wells in sandstone yielding “exceedingly hard water”. In March 1931 the Parish Council resolved to form a committee to plan for a village hall. From 1956 to 1961 only two people attended the meetings held annually in March; no business was conducted.³⁵⁴

Cliburn was incorporated in North Westmorland Rural District in 1935. Concurrently, the detached portion of Winderwath was transferred to the civil parish of Brougham by which it was already surrounded. (Winderwath continues to be a detached portion of the ecclesiastical parish of Cliburn.)

In 1974, when Cumbria county was formed by uniting Cumberland and Westmorland, Cliburn was included in the local government district of Eden. Cliburn is one of 18 small parishes in Eden District which have Parish Meetings rather than Parish Councils. Until 2018, the Clerk of Cliburn Parish Meeting was a resident of the parish. Although required to assemble only twice a year, Cliburn Parish Meetings are held on several occasions annually, invariably to consider significant planning applications. Applications for minor alterations to existing buildings were generally supported, but frequent objections to build new dwellings cited existing pressure on local facilities (e.g. schools, medical services) and proposed designs not in harmony with the village’s

³⁵³ CAS (K), WQ/SR/153/9; WQ/SR/196/14; WQ/SR/233/10; WQ/SR/233/11; WQ/SR/268/10; WQ/SR/390/17; WQ/SR/495/8.

³⁵⁴ CAS (K), WPC 17/1.

architecture.³⁵⁵ During the Covid-19 pandemic Parish Meetings continued by video conferencing, although some parishioners were reluctant to participate in this way.³⁵⁶

³⁵⁵ www.cliburnparish.org/parish-meetings.html (accessed 13 Feb. 2019).

³⁵⁶ Local inf.