

Victoria County History of Cumbria Project. Draft parish/township histories

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Parish/township: Natland

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NATLAND

Natland was a small, rural, township of 1,155 acres (467 ha) lying two miles south of Kendal between the River Kent on the west and the steep slopes of the Helm to the east. In 1935, land to the east of Burton Road (the A65), including Oxenholme village, was annexed to Kendal, which reduced the size of Natland parish to 892 acres (361 ha).¹ The land that was lost subsequently became the site of the Westmorland General Hospital, a superstore and residential development. Following the South Lakeland Parishes Order of 1985, Natland increased slightly in size, gaining 32 acres (13 ha) from Kendal.² Natland's western boundary was defined by the River Kent. A stream, Natland Beck,³ marked the northern boundary between the Kent and the road to Kirkby Lonsdale ('Oxenholme Road'/B6254). After following this road as far as Oxenholme Farm, the eastern boundary cut through Oxenholme station, following field boundaries just beyond the Station Inn, before turning southwards along the ridge of the Helm, a prominent hill running north to south. The southern boundary of the township passed through part of Barrows Green, reaching as far as High House (Sedgwick). It then followed the Sedgwick road northwards, before turning westward just north of Newlands; then following field boundaries around the Larkrigg estate (see [HELISINGTON](#)) towards the River Kent.

¹ Westmorland Review Order (1934).

² Census 1981 and 1991.

³ 'Natland miln(e) beck', 1714: *PNW*, 1, 113.

The name Natland - 'Nati's wood' - derives from the Old Norse personal name, *Nati* and *lundr*, meaning 'small wood' or 'sacred grove'.⁴ It is first recorded in 1170-80.⁵ A place name associated with Natland is Bodelforde, which was first recorded in 1086.⁶ Meaning 'ford near the dwelling', the site is now lost, but probably marked a ford across the Kent between Natland and Helsington.⁷ Other early names in Natland township are Cracalt (Crakehal(e) from 1290) meaning 'nook of land frequented by crows',⁸ and Oxenholme. The latter was first recorded in 1274 and refers to a water meadow where oxen were pastured.⁹ Watercrock ('land in the bend of a river'), first recorded in 1578, was the site of the Roman fort of *Alauna*.¹⁰

Landscape

Natland's gently undulating landscape slopes upwards from the River Kent on the west, rising sharply to 185m. on the summit of the Helm in the east. Most of Natland's bedrock geology comprises carboniferous limestone, with Watercrock lying on the Great Scar Limestone that runs up through Kendal. The overlying drift deposits include gravel and boulder clay, overlain by free draining, slightly acidic soil.¹¹ The latter is suitable for a range of crops. Indeed, in 1885 Natland was said to be 'generally in an advanced state of cultivation'.¹² The eastern part of the township is underlain by Silurian slates of the Kirkby Moor Siltstone Formation. In this portion of the township, which includes the Helm, the soil is peaty and far more suitable for rough

⁴ PNW, I, 112.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ W. Farrer, *The Domesday Survey of North Lancashire and the Adjacent parts of Cumberland, Westmorland and Yorkshire* (Manchester, 1901, reprinted from *Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society Transactions*, XVIII), 16.

⁷ The Kendal Corn Rents (1835-6) suggest that the site lay in Natland rather than Helsington: PNW, I, 113.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*, 121.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 113.

¹¹ <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/index.cfm> [accessed 16.1.15].

¹² Bulmer, *Dir., West.* (1885), 510.

grazing.¹³ It is still used for this purpose in the twenty-first century, as the unenclosed Helm remains common land. Glacial erosion has exposed outcrops of sandstone on the Helm, which have been quarried for building material. Glacial melting also left boulders (glacial erratics) of Shap granite in the township.

Three hundred yards to the south of Watercrock lay the Sattury, a seventeen-foot (5.2 m) high earthen mound.¹⁴ Although local tradition connects it with the Roman fort,¹⁵ there is no archaeological evidence to confirm this, suggesting it may be a natural feature, the result of glacial melt water deposits. In the medieval period there was an extensive walled deer park in Natland, which was shown on maps up to 1765,¹⁶ although in 1692 it was said to have been disparked 'long since'.¹⁷ In the twenty-first century, much of Natland's landscape is open grassland enclosed by stone walls. Trees are largely confined to the plantation around Helm Lodge, as well as boundary walls and road-side verges. The largest concentration of mature woodland lies at Grassgarth on the meeting of Oxenholme Lane with the A65. In 1970, Grassgarth and an adjoining field was bequeathed to the Lake District Naturalists' Trusts as a bird sanctuary.¹⁸

Settlement

Pre-Roman settlement is confirmed by the remains of a multivallate Iron Age hill fort on Castlesteads, the summit of the Helm.¹⁹ The Roman fort at Watercrock, an area of low-lying ground in the north west of the township bounded by the River Kent on three sides, originated

¹³ <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/index.cfm> [accessed 16.1.15].

¹⁴ RCHME, *Westmorland*, 182.

¹⁵ Thomas West, *A Guide to the Lakes, in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire* (1796), 179.

¹⁶ J. Ellis, 'A modern map of Westmorland drawn from the latest surveys' (1765).

¹⁷ *Antiquary on Horseback*, 10.

¹⁸ W. Inglesfield, *Natland and Oxenholme, the Story of a Westmorland Village* (Kendal, 2006), 135.

¹⁹ RCHME (Westmorland), 181-2; R. G. Collingwood, 'Three More Ancient Castles of Kendal', *CW2*, VIII (1908), 108-112; http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle_print.aspx?uid=1008263&showMap=1&showText=1 [accessed 6.2.15].

as a turf and timber structure in the late first century AD.²⁰ It was rebuilt in stone, likely during the middle of Hadrian's reign (AD c.130), before being abandoned during the Antonine re-occupation of southern Scotland (c.AD 142-165).²¹ The fort was then re-occupied before being abandoned in the late third or very early fourth century.²² A drought in 1887 revealed the fort's streets and buildings.²³ Excavations followed in the 1930s and 1970s, which uncovered extra-mural settlement flanking the northern and south-eastern exit roads.²⁴

By the early fourteenth century, settlement in the township was concentrated around the green in Natland village. However, it is likely that more dispersed farmsteads also appeared at an early date at Cracalt and Crow Park. By 1675 there were fifteen properties in Natland (possessing between one and six hearths), and thirteen (between one and three hearths) at Crow Park.²⁵ The Archer family were the only residents at Oxenholme, where they were assessed for nine hearths. This implies a large 'manor house' style of building. Although many of Natland's farms are likely to have been established in the medieval period, the oldest surviving properties in the township date from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.²⁶

The township contained several nineteenth-century villas, the largest of which was 'Helm Lodge', a mansion house built in 1824 by Francis and George Webster for the Kendal banker William

²⁰ David Shotter, 'The Roman fort at Watercrock (Kendal)', *Contrebris*, vol. 25 (2000), 6.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 8.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Collingwood, 'Three More Ancient Castles', 102-108.

²⁴ R.G. Collingwood, 'The Roman Fort at Watercrock, Kendal', *CW*2, XXX (1930), 96-107; T.W. Potter, 'Excavations at the Roman Fort of Watercrock', *CW*2, LXXVII (1977), 49-52; D.C.A. Shotter, 'Three Roman Forts in the Lake District', *Archaeological Journal*, 155 (1998), 338-51. The remains of the fort was described by Machell: *Antiquary on Horseback*, 11-13.

²⁵ *Westmorland Hearth Tax*, ed. C. Philips, C. Ferguson, A. Wareham (London: British Record Society, 2008), 225.

²⁶ RCHME, *Westmorland*, 180; <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-76454-the-abbey-natland-cumbria> [accessed 20.8.14].

Dilworth Crewdson.²⁷ Later alterations to the building included verandas on the south side, which were added c.1914. The west side was remodelled by W. A. Nelson following a fire in 1915.²⁸ After serving as a nursing home, the Grade II listed building was converted into a series of private dwellings in 1988.²⁹ Other large nineteenth-century villas included Newlands, which lies in south of township. It was purchased by the Fothergills upon the death of William Airey in 1877.³⁰ By this time the railway line cut through the estate, running directly behind the stables and close to the mansion.³¹ Helm Bank was built by the Keesey family in the late nineteenth century. It was divided into three dwellings by 1955, and later became offices.³²

The late nineteenth century witnessed significant settlement expansion in Natland. From thirty-nine households recorded in 1851, there were 117 by 1921.³³ This increase followed in the wake of the construction of Oxenholme railway station, which resulted in the development of a new village at Oxenholme. Twenty-five brick cottages were built at Helmside for railway employees in 1885, followed by Station Road, Natland Terrace and Hill Place before the close of the century.³⁴ Council housing was constructed at Bolefoot in 1921, with further housing added in 1937.³⁵

The first council housing in Natland village appeared in 1947, when eight houses (a mixture of terrace and semi-detached) were constructed at Park Close. Four more houses were built on the site three years later.³⁶ There was sporadic development along Helm Lane, Oxenholme Lane and Hawes Lane in the middle decades of the twentieth century. The old farm buildings at Natland

²⁷ <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-76458-helme-lodge-natland-cumbria> [accessed 27/6/14]

²⁸ CAS (K), WDCR/10/17-19.

²⁹ CAS (K), WPC/15; South Lakeland District Council Online Planning Summary: <http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/8288187.print/> [accessed 1.10.14].

³⁰ CAS (K), WDB/35/1/113.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² CAS (K), WDX/91.

³³ Census 1851 and 1921.

³⁴ Bulmer, *Dir. West.* (1885), 513; WDSO/22/26.

³⁵ CAS (K), WDX/91; WDSO/22/26.

³⁶ CAS (K), WDSO/22/26.

Abbey were demolished in 1962 and the adjoining land was privately developed as Abbey Drive.³⁷ A dozen bungalows or semi-bungalows followed soon after on Robbie Lea Drive.³⁸ In the far north of the township, buildings at Natland Mill Beck Farm were converted into four dwellings in 1984, with more homes added there in subsequent years.³⁹ The Castlesteads Restaurant was converted into flats in 1984 and eight dwellings were built near the nursery in 1986.⁴⁰ In recent decades, there have been several barn conversions. As well as dwellings for permanent residents, the township contained second homes from the late 1960s and 1970s.⁴¹

Settlement in Natland continued to expand in the twenty-first century. Several housing developments have appeared around Natland village since the late 1990s, including Smithy Close; seventeen houses at St Marks Fold; nine new homes adjacent to Natland Hall, and the Charnely Fold development opposite Park Close.⁴² In 2012, twelve dwellings were built on the site of the former nursery.⁴³ In 2014, land to the south of Natland Mill Beck Farm was identified by South Lakeland District Council as a site for further residential development.⁴⁴

In 1883, a water supply from the Helm to Natland village was paid for by public subscription⁴⁵. This was replaced by mains water by 1978, shortly after Natland had finally been given mains sewerage. Electricity was laid on in 1930s, while there was a mains gas supply to half of the village by 1978.⁴⁶

Communications

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ CAS (K), WPC/15.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ CAS (K), WDSO/22/25 & 26.

⁴² CAS (K), WPC/15.

⁴³ South Lakeland District Council Online Planning Summary; <http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/8288187.print/> [accessed 1.10.14]

⁴⁴ <http://www.storyhomes.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Kendal.pdf> [accessed 23.01.15]

⁴⁵ Bulmer, *Dir. West.* (1885), 513.

⁴⁶ CAS (K), WDSO/22/25.

Three routes to and from Kendal traverse Natland township: the Sedgwick road, 'Natland Road', which passes through Natland village; the Kirkby Lonsdale road - 'Oxenholme Road'/B6254 - which passes through Oxenholme; and the old Kendal to Keighley turnpike road. The latter became the A65, with upgrade work being completed in 1965 and 1967.⁴⁷ All these roads seem to pre-date field-systems in the township, as the roads do not appear to cut through field boundaries. Several smaller roads radiate from Natland village green. The village is connected with Oxenholme via 'Oxenholme Lane', which meets Burton Road. 'Helm Lane' leads south east from Natland village to also connect with the Burton Road. Heading west from Natland village, Hawes Lane leads to the River Kent, where Hawes Bridge serves as the only river crossing in the township (see HELSINGTON).

The Lancaster Canal (opened 19 June 1819) crossed by Hawes Lane at Hawes Bank and runs through the western half of Natland township, cutting through the Crow Park and Natland Mill Beck estates. Following the canal's closure in 1947, the stretch between Kendal and Crow Park was drained and subsequently used as a refuse dump.⁴⁸ That part running between Crow Park and Stainton was drained in 1957 and left to grass over.⁴⁹ In addition to the crossing at on Hawes Lane, the 'Natland Road' bridge also carries vehicles over the canal and there was a pedestrian crossing at 'Natland Hall Bridge'.

The West Coast Main Line railway cuts through the eastern portion of Natland township. Opened as the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway in 1846, Oxenholme served as the junction for the Kendal and Windermere Railway branch line, which opened in 1847. The railway had a significant impact on Natland's population and economy. It continued to be a major source of local employment until the engine shed closed in 1962 and the station closed to goods traffic in

⁴⁷ CAS (K), WDSO/22/26.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

1969.⁵⁰ Oxenholme Station was built where the line crossed the Kirkby Lonsdale road (now B6254), with a level crossing originally controlling traffic over the railway. When the station was rebuilt and enlarged in 1881-2, the road was diverted and the level crossing replaced with a horseshoe bridge.⁵¹ To the south, bridges were built to carry the track over Helm Lane, while an overpass accommodates both the A65 and the road to Barrows Green.

Since its construction, the railway has served as a source of public transport into Kendal. From the 1920s a bus service to and from Kendal ran through Natland on Wednesdays and Saturdays, which was subsequently reduced to a Saturday only service. The Wednesday service returned in mid 1960s, but with fewer Saturday services.⁵²

Population

In the seventeenth century Natland contained around thirty dwellings, which suggests a population of c.140.⁵³ By 1801 a figure of 205 was recorded, although this had fallen to 188 a decade later.⁵⁴ Numbers peaked at 251 in 1841, before falling slightly thereafter. Small increases occurred in 1861 (276) and in 1881 (287).⁵⁵ These changes reflect the growing number of railway workers at Oxenholme, with the railway becoming the next biggest source of employment in the township after farming and domestic service.⁵⁶ However, it was not until 1891 that the impact of the railway was truly felt, as Natland's population by then had risen to 464 persons.⁵⁷ By 1911,

⁵⁰ CAS (K), WDSO/22/26.

⁵¹ Bulmer, *Dir. West.* (1885), 513.

⁵² CAS (K), WDSO/22/26.

⁵³ The Hearth Tax returns recorded 31 households in 1675: *Westmorland Hearth Tax*, 225. Machell estimated around 30 families in 1692: *Antiquary on Horseback*, 10. A multiplier of 4.75 has been used to estimate population.

⁵⁴ Census 1801 and 1821.

⁵⁵ Census 1861 and 1881.

⁵⁶ Only five Natland residents were employed on the railway in 1861; there were 18 by 1861 and 56 by 1891.

⁵⁷ Census 1891.

Natland's population was double the figure recorded forty years before.⁵⁸ In 1931 the population stood at 690. Oxenholme village had expanded significantly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its transfer to Kendal in 1935 thus had a dramatic effect on population figures recorded for the township. By 1951, the population of the remainder of Natland stood at just 354.⁵⁹ However, as more housing developments appeared around Natland village from the 1960s, the population gradually rose, reaching 653 in 1981.⁶⁰ Natland has continued to grow since, its population reaching a peak of 747 in 2001, with 343 households.⁶¹

The heads of 45 households recorded in 1841 were all, with the exception of two, born in Westmorland. This proportion had declined by 1861, when the heads of 29 out of 50 households (58%) originated from Westmorland, seven of whom specified Natland as their place of birth. As employment opportunities rose through the railway, more outsiders were drawn to Natland. By 1901, around half of household heads were born in Westmorland (just six in Natland). The rest came largely from neighbouring counties - particularly Lancashire - but one or two came from as far afield as London and Dorset.

LANDOWNERSHIP

Manor of Natland

Before the Norman Conquest, Natland may have been included under 'Bodelforde', which formed part of the estate focused on Strickland held by Gilemichel.⁶² It subsequently became part of the barony of Kendal, and was apportioned to the Marquis fee.⁶³ During the 1170s,

⁵⁸ Census 1911.

⁵⁹ Census 1951.

⁶⁰ 636 persons usually resident.

⁶¹ Census 2001.

⁶² Farrer, *Domesday Survey*, 16; *Rec. Kend.*, I, 167.

⁶³ *Rec. Kend.*, I, 138. At his death in 1569, Walter Strickland held the manor of Natland of the heir of Thomas Parr as of one fourth of the barony of Kendal (Marquis fee). The manor was then valued at £26 9s 10d: *N&B*, I, 104.

William II de Lancaster granted £15 worth of land to Gervase Deincourt for his homage and service, including 'Natalund and Bothelford'.⁶⁴ In 1246, Ralph Deincourt was granted licence for a chapel in his 'court at Natland', in exchange for his moiety of Kendal church, together with a messuage and ten acres [4 ha] in Whinfell.⁶⁵ Ralph Deincourt left two sons, both of whom died without issue by 1271.⁶⁶ Natland consequently passed, along with Sizergh, to Ralph's daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Sir William Strickland (d.c.1305).⁶⁷ In 1292, Walter Strickland, who had been enfeoffed with Natland during his father's lifetime, gave over 115 acres [47 ha] of land in the township to his sister Joan and her husband Robert de Wessington.⁶⁸ The lordship of Natland has remained in the Strickland family, descending with Sizergh [see HELSINGTON] to the present day. Natland was frequently assigned as dower: in 1375 to Cecily, wife of Thomas Strickland (d.1376);⁶⁹ in 1408 to Alice, widow of Sir Walter Strickland (d.1407)⁷⁰; and in 1569 to Alice, widow of Walter Strickland (1516-69).⁷¹ In 1537, Elizabeth, wife of Sir Walter Strickland (d.1506), received land in Cracalt as part of her jointure.⁷²

In 1612, several Natland tenants bought their land and tenements from Sir Thomas Strickland (1564-1612) for £999 13s, which equated to a rate of fifty year's rent.⁷³ In 1669, more tenants in Natland, Sedgwick and Hincaster collectively purchased their customary tenures from the brothers Sir Thomas Strickland (1621-94) of Thornton Bridge and Walter Strickland (c.1628-71)

⁶⁴ *Rec. Kend.*, I, 131, 167.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, 167.

⁶⁶ S.H. Lee Washington, 'The Early History of the Stricklands of Sizergh – Part II: The D'Eyncourts and Le Flemings', *CW*2, xlv (1944), 17-18, 28.

⁶⁷ In 1271-72, Peter de Brus, lord of the Barony of Kendal, made Natland and Sizergh free from puture; *Rec. Kend.*, I, 167.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 168.

⁶⁹ CAS (K), WDD/MD/25.

⁷⁰ *Rec. Kend.*, I, 170. This was specified as Natland Park.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, 173; TNA, WARD/2/61/241/39.

⁷² *Rec. Kend.*, I, 171.

⁷³ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/8/29; *N&B*, I, 104.

of Ripon for £2,855 15s.⁷⁴ Three tenants - Allan Prickett of Grey's Inn, John Archer of Oxenholme, and Anthony Saul of Hincaster - were nominated to act as trustees for the rest.⁷⁵ By 1670, the majority of Strickland tenants in Natland were thus freeholders, although some properties continued as customary tenures into the twentieth century. In 1692, the medieval deer park was said to have been 'long since' disparked.⁷⁶ The park was leased by Thomas Strickland to Robert Shippard and his two sons in 1722 for five years.⁷⁷ In 1854, the Strickland's sold the 105 acre [43 ha] Natland Park estate and its farm to the Wilsons of Rigmaiden.⁷⁸

Apart from the chapel licence of 1246, there is no other reference to a manor house in Natland in the medieval period.⁷⁹ As the Strickland's built their permanent residence at Sizergh, their need of another manor house so close by would have been unnecessary. In the seventeenth century it was remarked that customary tenures in Natland had to be dealt with at Sizergh because there was no manor house there.⁸⁰

Reputed Manor of Natland

The Strickland's manor of Natland was not fully coterminous with the township. Some properties lay outside the Strickland's manor, including Higher House, which was held directly of the lords of the Marquis fee.⁸¹ The Strickland's sale of property in Natland in the late seventeenth century also appears to have given rise to an alternative claim of manorial lordship. In the eighteenth century, a reputed manor of Natland was held by descendants of the Prickett family.

⁷⁴ CAS (K), WDA/2/2/2; WDCW/Natland Deeds/8/2.

⁷⁵ Prickett had tenures amounting to 44s 11d annual rent in Natland, while Archer owed 41s 2d.

⁷⁶ *Antiquary on Horseback*, 10.

⁷⁷ CAS (K), WDCW/2/3/6/12.

⁷⁸ CAS (K), WDB/35/1/271. It was then in the occupation of Robert Noble.

⁷⁹ In 1597 William Shepherd owed 1 hen for hauling silver. Hallage was an obligation connected with the use of a hall: *Rec Kend.*, I, 174.

⁸⁰ *Antiquary on Horseback*, 10.

⁸¹ Higher House was part of the manor of Strickland Roger: CAS (K), WDPS/11/2.

The Pricketts had been Strickland tenants from at least the late sixteenth century,⁸² and possessed both freehold and customary tenures in Natland by 1612.⁸³ Yet Allan Prickett (recorder of Kendal 1672/3 and 1677) appears to have used his role as a trustee for other tenants in 1669 to amass a large freehold estate. Allan was succeeded by two daughters: Ann, the wife of John Harrison, and Agnes, wife of Dr Valentine Farrington of Preston.⁸⁴ In 1733, Ann Harrison, lately deceased, was declared to be ‘the last general admitting lady’ of the manor of Natland.⁸⁵ Ann was subsequently succeeded in this role by her sister Agnes.⁸⁶

Agnes and Valentine’s son and heir, Henry Farrington,⁸⁷ died childless and so the estate was divided between his sisters, Elizabeth Gardner and Sarah Starkie.⁸⁸ Natland features in an account book kept by Elizabeth’s husband, William Gardner (1731-1788), from 1755.⁸⁹

Admittances dating from the 1780s repeatedly refer to the Gardners as ‘lords’ of the manor of Natland.⁹⁰ Elizabeth and William’s son and heir, also named William, died in 1788 and was briefly succeeded as ‘lord’ by his brother-in-law and trustee, George Clayton of Lostock Hall (Lancs).⁹¹ In 1790, the trustees of William Gardner sold ‘a moiety of the manor of Natland’, which included an estimated 127 acres customary measure; (approximately 178 statute acres

⁸² CAS (K), WDX/1024; Allan Prickett, his father William, and grandfather Robert were all tenants in 1597: *Rec. Kend.*, I, 174.

⁸³ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/74.

⁸⁴ CAS (K), WDSO/338/5/2; WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/112.

⁸⁵ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/61. Ann had a son, Allan, whose daughter Anne married Captain Wilson of Low House: *Ibid.*, 9/66 & 71.

⁸⁶ Agnes Farrington is described as ‘lady of the manor’ in an admittance of 1741: *Ibid.*, 9/64.

⁸⁷ A rental of 1755 includes the customary rents due to Henry Farrington at Candlemas, amounting to £1 3s ½d: CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/75.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 9/66. William Gardner and Le Gendre Starkie were both named as Natland freeholders liable to serve on a jury in 1785: CAS (K), WDCW/6/30.

⁸⁹ Essex Record Office, D/DbA Z20/12. By 1755 Gardner had also purchased the Cottam estates (Lancs.) from Farrington, his brother-in-law.

⁹⁰ CAS (K), WDX 205. Elizabeth Gardner had rights to mines and minerals in Natland and Old Hutton: CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/66.

⁹¹ J. Debrett, *The Peerage of the United Kingdom*, vol. I, 398-399; CAS (K), WDX/205.

/72ha⁹²), plus a further twenty-five acres [10 ha] held by customary tenantry, to Edward Shippard.⁹³ At the same time, Le Gendre Starkie, son of Sarah and Nicholas Starkie, also sold his moiety of Natland to Shippard.⁹⁴ Shippard paid a total of £5,610 for the two moieties (the Gardner portion cost £2,805), which came with rights to mines, minerals, hunting, fishing, and pre-requisites of court.⁹⁵ In an enfranchisement of 1790, Shippard is described as possessing the 'lordship or reputed lordship' of the manor of Natland.⁹⁶

The Shippard family had been tenants in Natland since the fourteenth century.⁹⁷ A 'Mr Thomas Shepherd', steward of the Strickland family, was recorded at Sizergh in 1674, in addition to possessing a 'new building' in Natland.⁹⁸ He was probably the same man who bought himself free of the Stricklands in 1669, and had his Natland properties released to him the following year.⁹⁹ Robert Shippard owned Crow Park in the 1730s,¹⁰⁰ while the above mentioned Edward Shippard later resided at Natland Abbey, a building dating from the sixteenth century.¹⁰¹ However, as Shippard himself explained in 1779, 'my house never was an abbey'.¹⁰² The name probably derives from being it at one time being a property of St Mary's Abbey, York, who possessed Natland's tithes until the Dissolution.

⁹² Assuming the customary measure used in Kendal barony, which was based on a 19.5-foot (6.5 yard) rod.

⁹³ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/29 & 30.

⁹⁴ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/29; WDCW/2/8/4/8.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

⁹⁶ CAS (K), WDX/205.

⁹⁷ A 'Richard Shephird' of Natland was recorded in 1377: *Rec. Kend.*, I, 170.

⁹⁸ *Westmorland Hearth Tax*, ed. C. Philips, C. Ferguson, A. Wareham (London: British Record Society, 2008), 225-226.

⁹⁹ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/8/2.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 9/3 & 88.

¹⁰¹ RCHME, *Westmorland*, 180; <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-76454-the-abbey-natland-cumbria> [accessed 20.8.14].

¹⁰² CAS (C), DAY/5/12, no.6.

Natland Hall, a farmhouse dating from the seventeenth century, was among the properties sold to Edward Shippard by the Gardner trustees in 1790.¹⁰³ Possessed of six hearths in 1675, it was then the home of a Mr Franklin [*sic*],¹⁰⁴ who has been identified with Mr Frankland, the proprietor of Natland's non-conformist academy, but this remains unproven.¹⁰⁵ The Hall most likely served as the 'manor house' where the Gardner's court baron was held in the 1780s.¹⁰⁶

William Wilson Carus-Wilson (1764-1851)¹⁰⁷ of Casterton Hall inherited the Shippard lands through his wife, Margaret. She was not only the daughter and heiress of Benjamin Shippard, but also the niece and co-heiress of Edward Shippard. Edward divided his estate between Margaret and another niece, Margaret Braithwaite. The latter had a life interest, with reversion to Margaret Carus-Wilson.¹⁰⁸ Unlike their predecessors, the Carus-Wilsons appear to have made no claims to lordship in Natland, although in 1851 it was said that manorial rights were 'disputable' between the Stricklands and Carus-Wilsons.¹⁰⁹ The Carus-Wilson's Natland estate, including Natland Hall, Natland Abbey, Higher House and Crow Park, passed through two further generations – to the Rev. William Carus-Wilson (d.1859) and William Wilson Carus-Wilson II (d.1883) – before being sold.¹¹⁰

In 1886, Natland Hall and Natland Abbey were purchased from the Carus-Wilson trustees by Arthur Fothergill (d.1916). By 1910, Natland Hall was still the largest single estate in the township, measuring 132 acres [53 ha].¹¹¹ It was leased to George Clapham, while Fothergill

¹⁰³ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/29 & 30.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁵ CAS (K), WDX/91; WDSO/338/5/2.

¹⁰⁶ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/8/36.

¹⁰⁷ By the will of his aunt, William Wilson Carus assumed the additional surname of Wilson ([see CASTERTON](#))

¹⁰⁸ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/8/57.

¹⁰⁹ Mannex, *Dir. West.* (1851), 305.

¹¹⁰ CAS (K), WDTW/1585/1/1/3; WPR/35/7/7/1.

¹¹¹ CAS (K), WTDV/2/47.

himself resided at Newlands, where he ran a poultry farm.¹¹² The latter, together with Town End (25 acres [10 ha]), had been bought by Fothergill from John Howson in 1882.¹¹³ Fothergill's properties subsequently passed to his son, Captain J. S. Fothergill, although Natland Hall remained in the possession of Arthur's widow, Sarah, until her death in 1931.¹¹⁴ Following J. S. Fothergill's death, the estate, totalling 186 acres [75 ha], was sold in 1938.¹¹⁵ Natland Hall was acquired by A. J. Armistead, before being sold in 1979 to R. and J. Dodgson.¹¹⁶ The Hall was last sold in 2012,¹¹⁷ while Natland Abbey has become two separate dwellings.

Other Estates

According to a rental of 1755, the Farringtons and Shippards also held property in Natland of the earl of Lichfield.¹¹⁸ In 1670, Thomas Sands (d.1681) bought some 1,002 acres, 72 messuages and eight mills from the Stricklands in various townships, including Natland.¹¹⁹ The Natland properties descended to his great-granddaughter, the wife of Sir Thomas Frankland (c.1685-1747).¹²⁰ Frankland is recorded in 1743 as owing High House, Low House (both leased by Edward Wilson in 1755), Hunts Deer, Boalforth and Burnt House.¹²¹ These properties were inherited by Frankland's daughter, the wife of George Henry Lee (1718-1772), third earl of Lichfield. By the terms of Lady Lichfield's will of 1779, the Lichfield properties passed to Lady Pelham, who together with her husband, Thomas, Lord Pelham, sold them piecemeal.¹²²

¹¹² Kelly, *Dir. C&W* (1934), 107.

¹¹³ CAS (K), WDB/35/1/115.

¹¹⁴ CAS (K), WDX/489.

¹¹⁵ CAS (K), WDB/35/1/115.

¹¹⁶ CAS (K), WDSO/338/5/2. The barn and stable belonging to the Hall were sold in 2005.

¹¹⁷ <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/property-36073724.html> [accessed 22.8.14]

¹¹⁸ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/75.

¹¹⁹ CAS (K), WDCW, 2/2/10/2; WDCW/6/28.

¹²⁰ For the family descent see CAS (C), DAY/5/12, no. 2.

¹²¹ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/6, 76.

¹²² CAS (C), DAY/5/12, no. 3. A free rent was owed to the Pelhams for Hunts Deer Close in 1789: CAS (K), WDRIG/1/5/4. In 1841 Boalforth was owned by one Thomas Webster: CAS (K), WPR/35/3/1/1.

By 1823 the largest landowners in Natland besides Carus-Wilson were Francis Burton (d.1833), Thomas Strickland (1792-1835), W. D. Crewdson (1774-1851), and Christopher Wilson of Rigmaiden.¹²³ Burton was the husband of Catherine, daughter and co-heiress of Nicholas Halhead, whose family held Halhead Tenement and the Watercrock estate. The latter had been held by the Guy family in the seventeenth century, and was purchased by the Halheads from Thomas Guy in 1759, when it measured 87 acres [35 ha], for £2,501.¹²⁴ Catherine's sister, Miss Elizabeth Halhead of Bath, also had a share of the Natland estates. Together, she and Burton leased Watercrock to William Simm: jointly with his father-in-law from 1815, and then to himself alone from 1821 to 1843.¹²⁵ Parts of Watercrock were sold to the Lancaster Canal Company as the canal was built through the estate.¹²⁶ Elizabeth Halhead acquired the entire estate on the death of her brother-in-law in 1833.¹²⁷ She was named alongside Carus-Wilson as the largest proprietor in the township in 1851.¹²⁸

By 1861 both Halhead Tenement [30 acres: 12 ha] and Watercrock [79 acres: 32 ha] were in the possession of Richard Wilson of Lancaster, with William Simm continuing as tenant at Watercrock.¹²⁹ Both estates passed to Wilson's nephew, Christopher Wilson Braithwaite Wilson of Heversham (d.1898), who was named among Natland's largest landowners in 1885.¹³⁰ By 1896, Halhead Tenement had been sold to John Howson, a timber merchant, who had already

¹²³ CAS (K), WQ/RLT/Kendal/31.

¹²⁴ It had been made a freehold estate in 1669: CAS (K), WDAG/1848/Box 118. William Guy of Watercrock was buried at Holy Trinity in 1683. Henry Guy of Watercrock (d.1708) was rector of Udale 1677-1684: *Antiquary on Horseback*, 13n.

¹²⁵ CAS (K), WDAG/1848/Box 118.

¹²⁶ CAS (K), WDX/489. In 1792, the owners of Watercrock complained about the line of the canal: WDAG/1848/Box 118.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*

¹²⁸ Mannex (1851), 304.

¹²⁹ CAS (K), WPR/35/3/1/1 (Tithe Assessments 1887, 1891 and 1896).

¹³⁰ Bulmer (1885), 511. By the terms Richard Wilson's will, his nephew Christopher Wilson Braithwaite had to add Wilson to his surname: CAS (K), WDM/acc.H10705, no.5

purchased Cracalt and Crow Park.¹³¹ Howson sold Halhead Tenement, together with Crow Park (including a house called 'Hawes Bank'), to William Howson in 1912.¹³² In 1930, General Braithwaite sold Watercrock farm to Colonel W. D. Crewdson for £5,600.¹³³

William Dilworth Crewdson (1774-1851) was proprietor of the Kendal bank W. D. Crewdson & Sons. Crewdson amassed a 77-acre [31 ha] estate in the township, including Natland Beck.¹³⁴ Here he built Helm Lodge villa in 1825, which the Crewdson family used well into the twentieth century.¹³⁵ The Lodge suffered considerable fire damage in 1915, but was repaired.¹³⁶ The second largest single estate in 1910 was Natland Park [102 acres: 41 ha].¹³⁷ This had remained part of the Strickland demesne until it was sold in 1854 to Edward Wilson of Rigmaiden (d.1870) for £5,300.¹³⁸ By 1829, Edward's father, Christopher, had acquired Oxenholme Farm, the estate of which partly lay within Natland.¹³⁹ In the sixteenth and seventeenth century Oxenholme Farm belonged to the Archer family.¹⁴⁰ Oxenholme House was built to the south of the railway station in 1890 as a shooting lodge by Charles Wilson, master of the Oxenholme Staghounds. By 1934 the house was the residence of a Mr Ernest Temple.¹⁴¹ It was sold at public auction in 2011 as three lots.¹⁴²

¹³¹ CAS (K), WPR/35/3/1/1 (Tithe Assessment 1896).

¹³² CAS (K), WDB/35/1/114.

¹³³ CAS (K), WDCR/10/23 & 32.

¹³⁴ The estate on which Helm Lodge was later built was surveyed in 1801, when it measured 42 acres [17 ha]: CAS (K), WDCR/11/102. Natland Beck measured 55 acres [22 ha] in 1836: CAS (K), WPR/35/7/7/1.

¹³⁵ CAS (K), WDCR/4/201; CAS (K), WPR/35/3/1/1 (Tithe Assessment 1841).

¹³⁶ CAS (K), WDCR/10/203/17-19.

¹³⁷ CAS (K), WTDV/2/47.

¹³⁸ CAS (K), WDB/35/1/271.

¹³⁹ CAS (K), WDB/35/109. A plan of the Wilson's Oxenholme estate dating from 1850 shows that it extended either side of Oxenholme Road.

¹⁴⁰ John Archer of Oxenholme (d.1684) was a trustee named in the sale of Strickland property in 1669.

¹⁴¹ Kelly, *Dir. C&W* (1934), 107.

¹⁴² <http://www.michael-cl-hodgson.co.uk/auctions/details/11/Kendal--/OXENHOLME-HOUSE---LOT-3---SOLD---82-000/> [accessed 29/10/14].

The Wilsons of Dallam Tower also possessed property in Natland from the eighteenth century.¹⁴³ George Wilson was in possession of High House and Low House farms in 1838.¹⁴⁴ Both were sold as part of the Hawes estate (see [HELINGTON](#)) in 1896.¹⁴⁵ Manorial rents for both properties were due to W.C. Strickland of Sizergh and Captain Bagot of Levens.

ECONOMIC HISTORY

Agriculture dominated Natland's economy until the mid-nineteenth century when the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway, together with its branch line to Kendal, was constructed. The railway became a significant new source of employment, which also triggered a growth in Natland's population. The twentieth century witnessed a decline in the number of farms, with an increasing focus on livestock on those that remained. By the 1960s, the railway also declined as a source of employment, with residents increasingly finding work in Kendal.

Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry

Early cultivation patterns in Natland are revealed by several Norse and Old English field names, such as 'uttyngyapefalgh' where 'falh' means ploughed land, and 'le Tathes' denoting 'infield' or 'manured field'.¹⁴⁶ There is evidence of open fields, with extended field plots radiating out south and eastwards from Natland village towards the Helm.¹⁴⁷ The townfield, bordered by hedges, was referred to in 1312, when the lord of the manor planned to enclose land at 'le Storthes', 'le Tathes' and at 'le Quietstone above the highway'.¹⁴⁸ In the early fourteenth century, there were still large areas of waste across Natland: in 1312, Sir Walter Strickland made a grant to take

¹⁴³ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/75.

¹⁴⁴ CAS (K), WPR/35/7/7/1

¹⁴⁵ CAS (K), WDB/35/1/57.

¹⁴⁶ *PNW*, I, 112.

¹⁴⁷ OS map, 1:10,560, (surveyed 1858; published 1863).

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 169.

estovers in the wastes of the township, except those on the Helm, in 'Alde Nateland', Larkrigg and 'le Waterbankes'.¹⁴⁹

By the nineteenth century, the Helm, on Natland's eastern boundary, provided approximately 150 acres [61 ha] of common grazing, which was never subject to enclosure.¹⁵⁰ In 1824, it was noted that only two Natland tenants derived any advantage from grazing on the Helm, while others were using it who had no right to do so.¹⁵¹ This led to a call for the common to be stinted, and the grazing to be let out on an annual basis. In 1844, owners and occupiers agreed that it would be best to lease the common to a single tenant.¹⁵² However, it appears that this plan was not put into action until after 1848, when William Wilson Carus-Wilson endorsed the motion.¹⁵³ This practice of leasing to a single farmer continued into the twentieth century.¹⁵⁴ As Natland lacked its own peat mosses, several estates, including Watercreek, had turbary rights on the mosses at Levens or Brigsteer.¹⁵⁵

Following the large-scale enfranchisement by the Stricklands in 1612 and 1669, most farms in Natland were held by freehold tenure. The Strickland's only remaining property was Natland Park, which was leased out by the early eighteenth century. It was one of the single largest farms in the township, measuring 107 acres [43 ha] in 1861.¹⁵⁶ Only Natland Hall farm was larger, then measuring 150 acres [61 ha]. The majority of farms, however, were around fifty acres or less, in addition to grazing rights on the Helm.

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁰ These rights were registered under the Commons Registration Act 1965.

¹⁵¹ CAS (K), WDAG/1848/Box 118.

¹⁵² CAS (K), WDCR/4/204.

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁴ In 1953, 84 acres [34 ha] were let for £40 per annum: CAS (K), WDX/91.

¹⁵⁵ CAS (K), WDAG/1848/Box 118.

¹⁵⁶ CAS (K), WPR/35/3/1/1 (Natland Tithe Assessment 1861).

As the population rose during the second half of the nineteenth century, the proportion of households engaged in farming declined. In 1841, twelve farmers and four agricultural labourers accounted for a third of household heads.¹⁵⁷ At the turn of the century, there were nine farming households, which represented just eleven per cent of households within the township overall. In 1938, there were ten working farms in Natland.¹⁵⁸ This did not include Halhead Tenement or Low House, which had by then become private dwellings.¹⁵⁹ There were fifteen farmers (plus one market gardener) operating in Natland in 1941, including the Crewdsons, who had a home farm at Helm Lodge.¹⁶⁰ All but two of the farms in Natland in this period were tenanted. Only three had no additional source of labour; the rest had both male and female workers, numbering twenty-one people overall.

A valuation of Watercrock farm in 1795 reveals a mixed farm, where a variety of crops were grown, with hay and clover for grazing, as well as oats, barley, turnips and potatoes. An attempt had been made to grow oats on a close abutting the Helm, but it was noted that the crop had been poor despite the addition of 180 bushels of lime.¹⁶¹ Consequently, the owners were desirous of an exchange of land to gain access to lime quarries near the Helm.¹⁶² Around the same time, 'long ley' rotation was employed on Halhead Tenement, with just four acres allowed under the plough each year.¹⁶³ In 1836 there appears to have been a fairly equal mix of pasture, meadow and arable land on most farms.¹⁶⁴ In 1851, Natland's soil was described as light and fertile, with an above average state of cultivation.¹⁶⁵ Oats continued to be the main crop into the twentieth

¹⁵⁷ Census 1841: twelve farmers and four agricultural labourers.

¹⁵⁸ Kelly, *Dir. C&W* (1938), 104.

¹⁵⁹ CAS (K), WDSO/22/26.

¹⁶⁰ TNA, MAF/32/22/56. One of the sixteen was a farmer from Sedgwick, who leased land from the Railway Co. The innkeeper of the Station Inn was also listed.

¹⁶¹ CAS (K), WDAG/1848/Box 118.

¹⁶² *Ibid.*

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ CAS (K), WQ/R/C/12.

¹⁶⁵ Mannex, *Dir. West.* (1851), 304.

century, with thirteen farms growing between two and nine acres of oats in 1941, although wheat, kale, turnips and mangolds were also grown in small quantities.¹⁶⁶

Livestock farming was always important in Natland. A shepherd is referred to in 1292, and payment for shearing was a service attached to some customary tenures.¹⁶⁷ The wills of Natland yeoman in the seventeenth century show that most possessed both cattle and sheep.¹⁶⁸ Bees were also not uncommon at that time. By the early twentieth century, livestock farming had come to predominate. In 1941, a total of 544 acres [220 ha] were given over to permanent grazing, with a further 172 acres [70 ha] for rough grazing and 47 acres [19 ha] of grassland for mowing.¹⁶⁹ Most farms had both cattle and sheep; four possessed more than forty head of cattle, whilst three had flocks of over 100 sheep.¹⁷⁰ Poultry were also common on many farms, although Newlands was the only one to specialize in this, with over 2,000 birds.

The name 'Natland' refers to 'a small wood' or 'sacred grove'.¹⁷¹ Further references to ancient woodland can be found in names such as 'Rydding' (with variants 'Reddins' and 'Ulmeriddynyes') meaning clearing.¹⁷² Several distinct areas of woodland are referred to in 1312, including 'Brundehouse', 'le Stothes' and at Larkrigg (see [HELISINGTON](#)).¹⁷³ By 1692 Natland Park measured eighty acres, 'walled six quarters high', although it had been long since disparked.¹⁷⁴ By the mid nineteenth century, there were various plantations in Natland, many of

¹⁶⁶ TNA, MAF/32/200/56.

¹⁶⁷ *Rec. Kend.*, I, 168; CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/9/74.

¹⁶⁸ Based on a survey of Natland probate inventories (1598-1698) in Lancashire Archives. The Prickett family possessed some of the largest sheep flocks: in 1614, Alan Prickett had 198 old sheep and 43 hoggs. In 1642, William Prickett had 119 sheep and 38 lambs.

¹⁶⁹ TNA, MAF/32/200/56.

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁷¹ *PNW*, I, 112.

¹⁷² *Ibid.* The 'Riddings' was a nine acre close on the fellside: CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/8/24.

¹⁷³ *Rec. Kend.* I, 169.

¹⁷⁴ *Antiquary on Horseback*, 10.

which were concentrated around Helm Lodge.¹⁷⁵ Woodland was included in the sale of Crow Park in 1912.¹⁷⁶

Manufacturing

A licence to construct a mill 'on the water course by the gallows of Kirkeby between Kirkeby and Natalaund' was granted to Gervase Deincourt in c.1190-1200.¹⁷⁷ Robert the Miller held four acres in Natland in 1292, and in 1537 the watermill was said to have formed part of the jointure of Elizabeth Gascoigne, formerly wife of Sir Walter Strickland (d. 1506).¹⁷⁸ The mill race fed into Natland Beck. The site was acquired by the Lancaster Canal Company before 1820, who subsequently leased it out.¹⁷⁹ The mill continued to grind corn until 1935, after which it was used to generate electricity for Helm Lodge.¹⁸⁰ The last miller was employed by Jordan and Sons of Kendal.¹⁸¹ The mill was noted to be in poor condition in 1955.¹⁸²

Natland Mill Beck was reportedly home to Westmorland's first iron foundry, which was established by Mr Wilkinson of Wilson House in the mid eighteenth century.¹⁸³ The manufacture of gunpowder at the nearby New Sedgewick works (see [HELSINGTON](#)) provided a source of employment for a number of Natland residents. In 1901 members of nine Natland households worked there, most of whom lived in 'Powder Works Cottages'.¹⁸⁴ One Natland inhabitant was killed in an explosion at the works in 1901.¹⁸⁵

¹⁷⁵ OS map, 1:10,560, (surveyed 1858; published 1863).

¹⁷⁶ CAS (K), WDB/35/1/114.

¹⁷⁷ *Rec. Kend.*, I., 131.

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 168 & 171.

¹⁷⁹ CAS (K), WDCR/4/280 & 288.

¹⁸⁰ CAS (K), WDSO/22/25.

¹⁸¹ CAS (K), WDX/91.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁸³ CAS (K), WDMDS/PC/8/207 (from *Kendal Mercury*, 21 Jan. 1865).

¹⁸⁴ Census 1901.

¹⁸⁵ CAS (K), WDX/91.

There were two lime kilns near the Burton Road in 1836,¹⁸⁶ but only one of these remained by 1858 and none at all by 1897.¹⁸⁷ A sandstone quarry on the Helm was recorded from 1858.¹⁸⁸ The use of stone from this quarry was suggested by the architects for the rebuilding of St Mark's Church in 1909.¹⁸⁹

Other Businesses and Service Industries

The coming of the Lancaster to Carlisle Railway had a significant impact on Natland's economy. By 1851, the heads of five households were directly employed on the railway, including the station master and porter. This rose to thirteen householders a decade later (including six platelayers), although the number fell until new houses were built for railway workers at Oxenholme in the 1880s and 1890s. By 1901, almost fifty households were headed by individuals connected to the railway. Oxenholme Station was rebuilt and enlarged between 1881 and 1882.¹⁹⁰ The Station had a tearoom, goods depot, and sheds belonging to the Wigan Coal and Iron Company.

By 1897 Natland had its own post office located near the smithy.¹⁹¹ By 1920, the post office was combined with the village shop in a building that was once The Horse and Farrier public house.¹⁹² The business continues on the same premises to the present day. Holmes Garden Centre was established in Natland village in 1938. It closed in 2012 and has since become a housing development.¹⁹³ In the early twentieth century a laundry operated out of Laundry

¹⁸⁶ CAS (K), WQ/R/C/12.

¹⁸⁷ OS, 1:10,560, first edition (surveyed 1858; published 1863); second edition (surveyed 1897; published 1899).

¹⁸⁸ OS, 1:10,560, first edition (surveyed 1858; published 1863).

¹⁸⁹ CAS (K), WPR/35/4/6/2.

¹⁹⁰ Bulmer, *Dir. West.* (1885), 513.

¹⁹¹ Kelly, *Dir. C & W* (1897), 107-108; OS map, 1:10,560, (surveyed 1897; published 1899).

¹⁹² OS map, 1:10,560, (surveyed 1911; published 1920).

¹⁹³ <http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/8288187.print/> [accessed 1.10.14]

Cottage (later renamed Compton House) by the village green.¹⁹⁴ There were at least two shops in Oxenholme by the 1920s.¹⁹⁵ Oxenholme Filling Station was built in 1910;¹⁹⁶ a century later it was operated by Texaco.

An annual pottery fair was held on Natland village green on Palm Sunday. It was discontinued in c.1835.¹⁹⁷ Up to that time, a number of itinerant potters and their families wintered in Natland when they were not travelling selling earthenware between Easter and Michaelmas.¹⁹⁸

Economic History Since 1945

By 1955, the railway and agriculture provided employment for less than half of Natland's workforce, with many instead finding work in Kendal.¹⁹⁹ Employment on the railway declined further in the 1960s, with the closure of the tea room and engine shed, and the loss of the station master.²⁰⁰ In a survey of Natland residents conducted in 2011, six respondents worked in the village itself; fifty-five individuals indicated they worked from home, while thirty-seven respondents were involved in running a business from home.²⁰¹

The second half of the twentieth century witnessed a decline in the number of farms. Several farmhouses became private dwellings, while their land was sold or let to enlarge remaining farms. Higher House and Town End became private homes in the 1940s.²⁰² This was also the fate of the ancient Crow Park, the land of which was mostly let to the neighbouring Larkrigg estate by

¹⁹⁴ CAS (K), WDSO/22/26.

¹⁹⁵ Kelly, *Dir. C & W* (1925), 108.

¹⁹⁶ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday/dblock/GB-352000-489000/page/13> [accessed 1.10.14].

¹⁹⁷ CAS (K), WDSO/22/27/13; WDX 91.

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.* A song about the fair was published in T. Blezard, *Original Westmorland Songs* (1868).

¹⁹⁹ CAS (K), WDX/91.

²⁰⁰ CAS (K), WDSO/22/26.

²⁰¹ 'Natland Parish Plan' (2014), 4: available at <http://natlandnews.blogspot.co.uk/p/parish-plan-2013.html>

²⁰² CAS (K), WDSO/22/26.

the 1960s.²⁰³ Natland Abbey land and its buildings were let until the latter were demolished in 1962.²⁰⁴ Watercrock farm was sold to the Kendal firm K Shoes Ltd in 1965, who built a depot on the site of Chamber Ings close.²⁰⁵ In 2014 the building was a warehouse for the Clarks shoe company, who took over K Shoes in the early 1980s.

In 1978 there were six functioning farms in Natland (four within the modern civil parish): Brow Head Farm at Oxenholme [65 acres; 26ha], which was built in 1946, and Oxenholme House (34 acres; 14 ha) both reared cattle and sheep for meat; Natland Hall and Cracalt [172 acres; 70 ha combined] were run together as a mixed farm; Natland Park [131 acres; 53 ha] was a mixed farm; High House [76 acres; 31 ha tenanted] and Natland Mill Beck [180 acres; 44 ha] were dairy farms with some sheep.²⁰⁶ The latter later diversified by opening an ice cream parlour and tea room, while Natland Park functioned as a camping and caravan site in 2014. In contrast to the early twentieth century, by 1978 all but one of the farms were owner-occupied. The short horn cattle that were popular in the early twentieth century had been replaced by Frisians. While grazing on the Helm continued to be leased to a single tenant, twenty-nine commoners had registered their rights by 1972.²⁰⁷

Several local businesses were established in the second half of the twentieth century. Among them were a breeding kennels founded at Hawes Bank in the 1950s, which was still operating in 2014.²⁰⁸ During the 1970s and 1980s, Natland had two restaurants: Castlesteads, which was converted into flats in 1984, and Helm Bank, which acquired a restaurant licence in 184, before

²⁰³ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁵ *Ibid.* Col. Crewdson sold off farm stock in 1960: CAS (K), WDCR/10/37.

²⁰⁶ CAS (K), WDSO/22/25.

²⁰⁷ CAS (C), CL6 (Natland Common Land Register). By 1978, nine larger landowners were still paying tithes: CAS (K), WDSO/22/25.

²⁰⁸ CAS (K), WDSO/22/26.

being converted into office building in 1988.²⁰⁹ Oxenholme still had two grocery stores in 1978,²¹⁰ but there was just one left by 2010, which also served as a post office. The latter was put up for sale in 2013.²¹¹

SOCIAL HISTORY

Natland lacked a resident lord to provide social leadership, and the lord's influence in the township further diminished following enfranchisement in the seventeenth century. Yet many of the township's larger landowners were involved in community life and acted as local benefactors. This included resident families like the Shippards (who financed Natland's first purpose-built school), as well as absentee landowners such as the Carus-Wilsons. From 1825, Natland became home to the Crewdsons of Helm Lodge. William Dilworth Crewdson (d.1908), who served as sheriff and deputy lieutenant of Westmorland, made a significant contribution to Natland's new church and served on the management committee of St Mark's Boy's Home.²¹² His nephew and heir, Colonel Crewdson (d.1972), also a sheriff of Westmorland, acted as chairman of the parish council for fifty-seven years.²¹³

Of the twenty-nine households surveyed in 1675, just over one-third possessed more than one hearth. The largest property in Natland village possessed six, although the Archer family's home at Oxenholme had nine.²¹⁴ From 1825 the largest dwelling in Natland was Helm Lodge, which employed half a dozen domestic servants. By the second half of the nineteenth century, most of Natland's working population were newcomers. In 1861, only seven heads of households were born in Natland itself. Around half came from elsewhere in Westmorland, but others were from

²⁰⁹ CAS (K), WPC/15.

²¹⁰ CAS (K), WDSO/22/25.

²¹¹ <http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/business/10625663.print/> [accessed 19.11.14].

²¹² CAS (K), WDCR/8/3 & 4.

²¹³ CAS (K), WDSO/22/27/12. Colonel Crewdson was also a co-optative trustee of Shippard's charity: CAS (K), WPR/35/12/4/1.

²¹⁴ *Westmorland Hearth Tax*, 225. The probate inventory of Miles Archer (d.1679) describes a substantial house, including a hall and parlour: Lancashire Archives, W/RW/K/R402A/26.

further afield; several of those working on the railway were from the far south of England. However, by 1901 the majority of those working on the railway (then the largest source of employment in Natland) came from Westmorland and surrounding counties.²¹⁵

At the time of writing, Natland had a higher than average number of older adults. Most of those of working age were over forty and represented approximately two fifths of the population.²¹⁶ Around a third of Natland's population were aged over 65. In 2011, there were twenty non-resident households, most of which represented second homes.²¹⁷ Since the 1980s, Natland has had three Parish Plans, the latest being produced in 2014.²¹⁸ Emerging from a process of consultation with local residents, the action plan considered traffic problems, housing development, community life, and affordable energy.

Community Activities

The housing developments at Oxenholme in the late nineteenth century led to the construction of Helmside Reading Room by 1894.²¹⁹ Built by the railway company for its employees, it was in use for meetings of the Pensioners Club in the 1970s.²²⁰ It closed in the early 1980s and became a private house.²²¹ Natland Village Hall opened in 1956, after almost a decade of campaigning by the Village Hall Committee. A barn, which had been bought for £250, was converted for the purpose. The conversion cost £1,275, with some funding coming from the Ministry of Education.²²² The Hall hosted the Natland Horticultural Society from the 1950s, and was later

²¹⁵ Census 1901.

²¹⁶ 'Natland Parish Plan' (2014), 3: available at <http://natlandnews.blogspot.co.uk/p/parish-plan-2013.html>.

²¹⁷ *Ibid.*

²¹⁸ *Ibid.*

²¹⁹ CAS (K), WTDV/2/47; Kelly, *Dir. C&W* (1894), 114.

²²⁰ Kelly, *Dir. C&W* (1938), 103; L. Oldham, *Oxenholme: The Railway Village* (1995), 12.

²²¹ Oldham, *Oxenholme*, 12

²²² *Westmorland Gazette*, 14 Apr. 1956.

used by badminton and table tennis clubs.²²³ It also served as the venue for meetings of the Natland and Oxenholme Women's Institute, which was established in 1919.²²⁴ The Hall was extended and refurbished in the late 1990s.²²⁵ A grant was awarded by the Twenty-First Century Village Halls for England fund, while £10,500 was given by the parish council.²²⁶ At the time of writing, the Hall was used each morning by Natland & Oxenholme Pre-school during school term-time.

The Horse and Farrier public house existed in Natland village by 1829,²²⁷ but had closed by the early twentieth century when it was converted into a shop and post office.²²⁸ The Captain Ross and Clinker public house stood at Barrows Green in 1849.²²⁹ Previously named The Grey Horse, the building was later incorporated into what became Ross Lodge.²³⁰ The Station Inn at Oxenholme was built after 1858,²³¹ and was known as the 'Oxenholme Station Hotel' in 1885.²³² Cockfighting was once a popular sport in Natland, and the remains of a cockpit lie near St Mark's Home.²³³ Charles Henry Wilson (1846-1927) of Oxenholme House was master of the Oxenholme Staghounds for fifty years.²³⁴

Education

From 1674 to 1683, Natland was home to an Academy run by the nonconformist minister Richard Frankland (d.1698), who moved to Natland from Rathmell in Yorkshire.²³⁵ In 1692,

²²³ CAS (K), WDSO/22/55. Natland's flower shows from 1955 until the 1990s.

²²⁴ Inglesfield, *Natland*, 124.

²²⁵ *Ibid.*

²²⁶ CAS (K), WPC/15.

²²⁷ Parson & White (1829), 672.

²²⁸ It is listed in the 1891 Census.

²²⁹ Mannix, *Dir. West.* (1849), p.329.

²³⁰ Inglesfield, *Natland*, p.132; Parson & White (1829), 672.

²³¹ OS map, 1:10,560, (surveyed 1858; published 1863).

²³² Bulmer, *Dir. West.* (1885), 596.

²³³ RCHME, *Westmorland*, 180.

²³⁴ *Westmorland Gazette*, 12 Mar. 1927.

²³⁵ Francis Nicholson and Ernest Axon, *The Older Nonconformity in Kendal* (Kendal, 1915), 113-154.

Natland chapel was used as a school for local children, despite there being no salary for a master.²³⁶ However, a schoolmaster may have been present long before this time; it was reported in 1692 that ‘some now living’ could still remember prayers being read in the chapel by a schoolmaster.²³⁷ By 1735, the inhabitants of Natland raised an annual subscription in order for someone to teach their children, as well as read prayers in the new chapel.²³⁸ Educational provision was given a surer footing when the owner of Crow Park, Charles Shippard, built a school in 1777, where Greek, Latin, English, writing and mathematics were taught.²³⁹ Between them, Shippard and the Rev. George Kendal paid for a schoolmaster’s salary (each giving £8), while Shippard also made an endowment through his will.²⁴⁰ Shippard’s legacy continued to be paid by his heirs until c.1860, when it was discovered there was no legal obligation to continue. The amount was subsequently reduced, falling to two guineas a year by 1884.²⁴¹

In 1818, thirty two children were taught at Natland day school.²⁴² By 1824, twenty-seven children attended on average, and the school also possessed a small library for the benefit of the parish.²⁴³ A new school was built in the following year. William Wilson Carus-Wilson numbered among its trustees, while Robert Towson was headmaster.²⁴⁴ When the land on which the school stood was conveyed to the Carlisle Diocesan Trust in 1889, membership of any future the management committee was stipulated as including the minister of Natland and any curate he appointed;

²³⁶ *Antiquary on Horseback*, 10.

²³⁷ *Ibid.*

²³⁸ Butler, *Cumbrian Parishes*, 210.

²³⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*; Parson & White, *Dir. C & W.*, 653.

²⁴¹ Bulmer, *Dir. West.* (1885), 512.

²⁴² ‘A digest of parochial returns made to the select committee appointed to inquire into the education of the poor: session 1818’, vol. I; there was also a Sunday School.

²⁴³ Cheshire Archives, EDA/7 (Articles of Enquiry 1824).

²⁴⁴ Parson & White, *Dir. C & W.*, 653.

Natland's churchwarden; two subscribing managers (paying a minimum of £1 1s to the school funds); and two parent managers elected by other parents of children attending the school.²⁴⁵

Owing to Natland's growing population, the school was enlarged in 1879. The London and North Western Railway Company contributed to the costs, which amounted to £230.²⁴⁶ At the same time, a house for the schoolmaster was also built. The main subscriber towards the cost of this was Mr Metcalf of Prizet.²⁴⁷ Between 1882 and 1884, the house was used a home for orphaned boys until St Mark's Home was built (see below).²⁴⁸ In 1895, Rev. Charles Whitaker conveyed a plot of glebe land to Carlisle Diocesan Trust for the purpose of building a new residence for schoolmaster or mistress.²⁴⁹ In 1968 this house was sold to the diocese and used as a residence for retired clergy.

Natland School was expected to educate boys living nearby at St Mark's Home, in addition to the increasing number of children from Helmside. In 1885, there were ninety scholars, but by 1905 this had increased to 160.²⁵⁰ It was duly reported that overcrowding at the school had become 'rather serious'.²⁵¹ The decision to expand was deferred, before the project ran into difficulties over the acquisition of land.²⁵² There had also been a notable turnover in teaching staff during this period, with five headmasters from 1881 before the arrival of Mr Goodwin in 1893; he stayed until 1919.²⁵³ The enlargement of the school was completed in 1909.²⁵⁴ This had been made possible by the Diocese's acquisition of a small field behind the school known as 'School

²⁴⁵ CAS (K), 35/11/4/6.

²⁴⁶ CAS (K), WDX/407 (T. Percy Bryer, *An Account of Schools and Schoolmasters of Natland*).

²⁴⁷ Bulmer, *Dir. West.* (1885), 512.

²⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁹ CAS (K), WPR/35/11/4/1.

²⁵⁰ *Ibid.*; Bulmer, *Dir. West.* (1905), 553.

²⁵¹ Westmorland County Council Education Minutes 1905-06, p.324

²⁵² Westmorland County Council Education Minutes 1907-08.

²⁵³ CAS (K), WDX/407 (Percy Bryer, *Account of Schools*).

²⁵⁴ Westmorland County Council Education Minutes 1909-10, p.108.

Parrock', which was purchased from Arthur Fothergill in 1909 for £45 1s.²⁵⁵ In 1914 the school was said to be able to accommodate 184 children, though average attendance was 115.²⁵⁶

As a Church of England voluntary aided school, the catchment area of Natland school covered the ecclesiastical parish of Natland. It therefore continued to accept Oxenholme children, despite Oxenholme being transferred to Kendal Municipal Borough in 1935. During the Second World War, the school also took children evacuated from South Shields, Newcastle and Barrow. There were 156 children on the roll following the evacuation from the North East in September 1939, which brought sixty-five evacuees.²⁵⁷ The number rose to 163 by spring 1941 before the Barrow evacuees (many of whom were Catholic) were removed to Sedgwick.²⁵⁸ The number of children at the school fell to 112 by September 1942²⁵⁹ and to eighty by December 1945.²⁶⁰

From 1957, boys aged eleven upwards attended Kendal or Heversham Grammar Schools, while girls went to Kendal High School.²⁶¹ Initially, this eased the pressure on numbers at Natland, as just forty-four children were left on the roll.²⁶² But this figure increased significantly in the next decade, resulting in the need for a new school on Oxenholme Lane. A planning application was submitted in October 1961. However, the project stalled due to a lack of central funding and a failure to decide on how many children it should accommodate.²⁶³ The project was approved by the Department of Education in 1964, and a new planning application was made in for a school that could accommodate eighty pupils.²⁶⁴ The new school was opened by the bishop of Carlisle

²⁵⁵ CAS (K), WPR/35/11/4/7.

²⁵⁶ Kelly, *Dir. C&W* (1914), 114. John Goodwin was master while Elizabeth Proctor was in charge of infants.

²⁵⁷ Westmorland County Council Education Minutes 1939-40, p.190.

²⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 1941-42, p.149; CAS (K), WDSO 22/26.

²⁵⁹ Westmorland County Council Education Minutes 1942-43, p.158.

²⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 1945-46, p.45.

²⁶¹ *Ibid.*; CAS (K), WDX/407 (Percy Bryer, *Account of Schools*).

²⁶² CAS (K), WPR/35/4/3/5 (*The Church on Natland Green*).

²⁶³ CAS (K), WPR/35/11/5/3.

²⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

in June 1967, having cost £31,000.²⁶⁵ The old school was demolished in May 1969, and three bungalows were subsequently built on the site.²⁶⁶

An extension to the school was built in 1972 and opened by the bishop of Penrith,²⁶⁷ but the number of pupils further increased, and temporary classrooms were installed in 1984-85.²⁶⁸ A further extension was completed in 1989 after £4,000 of funding was raised.²⁶⁹ In 1994, St Mark's Primary School had 114 pupils in four classes and five full-time teachers.²⁷⁰ A new school hall was opened in 2003.²⁷¹

Charities

Through the efforts of the Rev. Charles Whittaker, St Mark's Home for Orphan Boys was founded in 1884 and opened the following year.²⁷² The four-acre site on which it stood cost £460, which was raised by donations from local children.²⁷³ The building was designed to house twenty-five boys, with a preference for orphans from the diocese of Carlisle. Whittaker served as the first warden.²⁷⁴ In 1894, ownership of the Home was transferred to the Central Church of England Society for Waifs and Strays (which became the Church of England Children's Society in 1947), but was managed by a local committee that included W. D. Crewdson of Helm Lodge.²⁷⁵ St Mark's temporarily closed in 1960 so that the building could be altered to

²⁶⁵ CAS (K), WDX/407 (Percy Bryer, *Account of Schools*); Westmorland County Council Education Minutes, 1967-68, p.67.

²⁶⁶ *Westmorland Gazette*, 23 May 1969; Westmorland County Council Education Minutes, 1967-68, p.67.

²⁶⁷ CAS (K), WDX/407 (Percy Bryer, *Account of Schools*); a one acre site had been purchased of a purpose: Westmorland County Council Education Minutes, 1972-73, p.71.

²⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁷¹ Inglesfield, *Natland and Oxenholme*, 121.

²⁷² Bulmer (1885), *Dir. West.*, 513; CAS (K), WPR/35/4/3/5 (*The Church on Natland Green*).

²⁷³ *Westmorland Gazette*, 5 Apr. 1884.

²⁷⁴ Bulmer, *Dir. West.* (1885), 513.

²⁷⁵ *Ibid.*; Kelly, *Dir. C&W* (1897), 107; L. Oldham, *A Home in the Country: St Mark's, Natland* (1993), 15.

accommodate girls.²⁷⁶ It closed again in 1974 and was re-opened the following year as a holiday centre for deprived children.²⁷⁷ The Home finally closed in 1994 and was sold. The Appletree Treatment Centre, which provides support for severely traumatised children to help them cope with school, was built in the grounds, opening in 1995.²⁷⁸

In 1947, a Dr Barnardo's Home for boys opened at Barrows Green House (built before 1912).²⁷⁹ It became a short-stay home in 1971, and was later used for children with physical and learning disabilities. It closed in 2002 and was converted to private residences.²⁸⁰

By his will of 1779, Charles Shippard established two charities in Natland: one used funds from the Crow Park estate to pay the salary of a schoolmaster (£40 p.a.); the other charged £4 p.a. to the Natland Hall estate to provide for the poor.²⁸¹ Arthur Fothergill, Natland largest landowner in the early twentieth century, served as a trustee for the Shippard Trust, and was succeeded in the role by his son.²⁸² Another charity was established in 1824, when John Creighton left nineteen guineas, the interest of which was to be used to buy bread for the poor of Natland who attended church.²⁸³ In 1975, the two trusts were amalgamated to become the 'Shippard Creighton Trust'.²⁸⁴ It was intended to be used for the benefit of the poor, but fell dormant in the 1990s. The Trust was closed after 2003 and the remaining funds were given to the charity Manna House, which supports the homeless in South Lakeland.²⁸⁵

²⁷⁶ CAS (K), WDSO/22/26.

²⁷⁷ CAS (K), WDSO/22/25; WPR 35/12/4/4.

²⁷⁸ www.appletreeschool.co.uk [accessed 05.09.14].

²⁷⁹ http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_history/barnardos_homes/barnardos_homes_nw.htm [accessed 05.09.14]; OS map, 1:10,560, (surveyed 1912; published 1920).

²⁸⁰ <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2002/jan/30/charitymanagement.charityfinance1> [accessed 21.11.14].

²⁸¹ Parson & White, *Dir. C & W.*, 38. This money continued to be paid by future owners of the Natland Hall estate.

²⁸² CAS (K), WPR/35/12/4/1 & 2.

²⁸³ CAS (K), WPR/35/4/4/2 & 3.

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*; WPR/35/4/4/3.

²⁸⁵ Information supplied by Mr J. Chandler 2011, printed in the catalogue for WPR 35/12.

The Charles Whitaker Fund was established in 1914.²⁸⁶ Natland's former vicar left £20 in his will to fund a prize (in the form of books) for two boys at St Mark's Home who had learned the catechism.²⁸⁷ The terms of the award was changed to benefit girls as well as boys after 1974.²⁸⁸ The Fund was closed in 1996 and the remaining money used for the benefit of St Mark's Church of England Primary School.²⁸⁹ Another charity, the Mary Sharp Fund, amounted to £13 7s. 1d. when it was invested in War Stock in 1927.²⁹⁰

RELIGIOUS HISTORY

Natland was originally a chapelry of Kendal parish. Its tithes belonged to St Mary's Abbey, York until the Dissolution, after which it was given to Trinity College, Cambridge. By the sixteenth century, the township's inhabitants were regularly baptized, married, and buried at Holy Trinity in Kendal.²⁹¹ Although Oxenholme village became part of Kendal Borough in 1935, it remained part of Natland ecclesiastical parish.

The first record of a place of worship in Natland was in 1246, when Ralph Deincourt was given licence for a chapel at Natland.²⁹² Reference to a cross is also made in 1312.²⁹³ However, there is no further mention of a place of worship until the seventeenth century, when a chapel was consecrated by Bishop Hall (1662-68).²⁹⁴ This chapel was repaired in c.1687, but had already fallen into decay by 1692.²⁹⁵ The building measured nine yards long by five yards wide and lacked a graveyard. The chapel was still in a ruinous condition. in the early eighteenth century, by which

²⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁷ CAS (K), WPR/35/12/4/4.

²⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁰ CAS (K), WPR/35/12/4/1.

²⁹¹ *Registers of Kendal, 1558-1631*, 3 vols (CWAAS, 1921, 1922, 1952).

²⁹² *Rec. Kend.*, I, 167. At the same time, Deincourt granted to Roger Pepin, rector of Kendal, the site for a tithe barn in Natland.

²⁹³ *Ibid.*, 169.

²⁹⁴ Butler, *Cumbrian Parishes*, 120.

²⁹⁵ *Antiquary on Horseback*, 10.

date its endowment had been embezzled and no services were performed there.²⁹⁶ A new chapel was built on the same site in 1735, but by 1825 it was in a dilapidated state and too small to accommodate the inhabitants of Natland.²⁹⁷ It was replaced by a new chapel on a site 100 yards away, which contained Natland's first burial ground. The new chapel, designed by George Webster, was consecrated in August 1825.²⁹⁸ Local landowners, William Wilson Carus-Wilson, Francis Burton, and Daniel Wilson, each gave £100 towards this enterprise, while a further £100 came from the Society for Building New Churches.²⁹⁹ The building cost amounted to £550.³⁰⁰ The chapel was reseated in 1872, and enlarged seven years later, with the addition of a chancel, vestry, and organ chamber.³⁰¹ But it was soon insufficient for Natland's steadily growing population.³⁰² A new church, designed by Austin and Paley, built in 1909 with seating for 270, was consecrated in November 1910.³⁰³ While it was under construction, a licence was granted for the school room and a former workshop in Cracalt to be used for worship.³⁰⁴ The foundation stone of the new church was laid in June 1909 by Lieutenant William Dilworth Crewdson (d.1972), whose uncle and namesake, W. D. Crewdson of Helm Lodge, had been a driving force behind the new church before his death in 1908.³⁰⁵ His widow also contributed a substantial amount to the building costs in memory of her late husband (including £1,700 for the tower), but she also died before the consecration service.³⁰⁶ A further £1,000 was given and all the remaining debts cleared by Lieutenant (later Colonel) Crewdson in memory of his uncle. The pulpit and font were donated by Addison Swinglehurst, and the tower clock and bell by Arthur

²⁹⁶ Butler, *Cumbrian Parishes*, 120.

²⁹⁷ CAS (K), WPR/35/1/7/1.

²⁹⁸ CAS (K), WPR/35/4/4/1.

²⁹⁹ Parson & White, *Dir. C & W.*, 652.

³⁰⁰ CAS (K), WPR/35/4/3/1.

³⁰¹ CAS (K), WPR/35/1/7/1; WPR/35/4/3/1.

³⁰² CAS (K), WPR/35/1/7/1.

³⁰³ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁴ CAS (K), WPR/35/1/7/2.

³⁰⁵ CAS (K), WPR/35/1/7/1.

³⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

Fothergill of Newlands.³⁰⁷ Two new windows were unveiled in 1947: one dedicated to the memory of Sub-Lt. Ernest Mark Cecil Maples, who was killed in a flying accident in 1944, and the other to the memories of Captains George and John Keesey.³⁰⁸ The church was extended in 1981 to include a kitchen, toilet and a new vestry.³⁰⁹

Natland chapel received several endowments from Queen Anne's Bounty: in 1746, 1749 and 1754, amounting in total to £600.³¹⁰ The living was further increased in 1754 by endowments of £100 left by Archbishop Bolter, primate of Ireland (d.1742), and £100 by Nicholas Halhead.³¹¹ Collectively, these sums (totalling £800) were used to purchase land at Skelsmergh, Old Hutton and Barbon, which yielded an annual rental income of £70 by 1829.³¹² A further augmentation of £200 from the Bounty Fund was made in 1773, together with £200 from the earl of Thanet.³¹³ A total of £400 raised through subscriptions and the Bounty Fund in 1843 was used to purchase land at Oxenholme and Cantley (Sedbergh).³¹⁴ By 1851, leases of the Skelsmergh and Old Hutton properties yielded £53 p.a., but the Barbon estate had been sold and the money invested.³¹⁵ By 1878 the Natland curacy also received £10 p.a. rent charge from Trinity College, Cambridge, and a further £10 10s annuity from £260 invested in Furness Railway stock.³¹⁶ The total amount of annuities received that year was £178 4s.³¹⁷ The value of the living was further increased in 1896,

³⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁰⁸ CAS (K), WPR/35/4/10/1.

³⁰⁹ CAS (K), WPR/35/4/6/4.

³¹⁰ CAS (K), WPR/35/2/2/3; Butler, *Cumbrian Parishes*, 210.

³¹¹ CAS (K), WPR/35/2/2/2; Christopher Hodgson, *An Account of the Augmentation of Small Livings by 'the Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne for the Augmentation of the Maintenance of the Poor Clergy', and of Benefactions by Corporate Bodies and Individuals to the End of ...1825* (London, 1826), 170.

³¹² Parson & White, *Dir. C & W.*, 653.

³¹³ CAS (K), WPR/35/2/2/3.

³¹⁴ *Ibid.* This comprised of half of Becksid Farm in Cantley. The other half was held by Underbarrow benefice.

³¹⁵ Mannix & Whellan, *Dir. West.*, 305.

³¹⁶ CAS (K), WPR/35/2/2/3.

³¹⁷ *Ibid.*

partly through a gift from W. D. Crewdson.³¹⁸ By 1949, rents and investments fetched £359 6s 6d p.a.³¹⁹

In the seventeenth century prayers were read in the chapel by a schoolmaster³²⁰ - possibly the non-conformist minister Richard Frankland. This practice continued into the eighteenth century, for in 1735 Natland's inhabitants raised a subscription for a teacher who would undertake this role.³²¹ A licenced curate, William Towson, was appointed to Natland in 1747 and was still in office in 1776.³²² The perpetual curacy itself was in the gift of the vicar of Kendal, the first appointee to this office being George Kendal in 1777, who remained in office until his death in 1804.³²³ He had been licenced in 1770, after which he worked as a schoolmaster at Kendal Grammar School, where he continued to reside after his appointment to Natland.³²⁴ During his incumbency, services were held twice on Sundays and the Catechism was expounded in Lent. The inhabitants still had to attend the parish church in Kendal for the Holy Sacrament.³²⁵ Natland's baptismal registers date from 1777, although no burials took place there until the building of the new church in 1825.

Joseph Fawcett of Kendal was appointed perpetual curate in 1825 and remained until 1866.³²⁶ A former curate of Kendal parish church, Fawcett had five successive stipendiary curates to officiate for him at Natland. Nevertheless, Fawcett was the first incumbent known to reside in the township himself. He rented a cottage from Carus-Wilson, who then sold it to serve as a

³¹⁸ Kelly, *Dir. C&W* (1934), 107.

³¹⁹ CAS (K), WPR/35/4/4/7.

³²⁰ *Antiquary on Horseback*, 10.

³²¹ Butler, *Cumbrian Parishes*, 210.

³²² Lancashire Archives, DRCH 18 (Exhibition Book, 1749).

³²³ Cheshire Record Office, EDA 1/8 (Act Book); Butler, *Cumbrian Parishes*, 210.

³²⁴ Cheshire Record Office, EDV/7/1/258-353 (Articles of Enquiry preparatory to Visitation 1778).

³²⁵ *Ibid.*

³²⁶ Cheshire Record Office, EDA/1/11 (Act Book).

permanent vicarage in 1840.³²⁷ A new vicarage was completed in 1884, at a cost of £1,400.³²⁸ Half of this was met by the diocese, the Bounty Fund, and Marshall's charity, while the other half was raised through subscriptions.³²⁹ The first vicar to live there was Charles Whitaker B.A. (vicar 1875-1897), who had himself purchased the site of the new parsonage from the Carus-Wilson family in 1881 for £110.³³⁰ A son of the master of the Blue Coat School in Kendal, Whitaker had trained at the London College of Divinity.³³¹ As vicar of Natland, Whitaker founded the St Mark's Home for orphan boys, and provided lodging and tuition for several trainee ministers.³³² During Whitaker's incumbency, the church was re-seated in a way which reflected the influence of the Oxford Movement; whereas seats had previously faced the pulpit, in 1872 they were reconfigured to face the altar.³³³ Whitaker was succeeded in 1897 by William Kewley,³³⁴ who in turn was succeeded by Natland's second longest serving vicar, Edward Millar M.A (1907-1949).³³⁵ Natland's first female vicar, Angela Whitaker B.A., was appointed in 2009.

At the close of the nineteenth century, Holy Communion was celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month, with Matins and Evensong held weekly.³³⁶ By the 1960s, Holy Communion was celebrated every Sunday, with a second morning Communion on the first, third and fifth Sunday.³³⁷ Matins and Evensong were held on alternate Sundays. By 1981 the pattern had changed: Holy Communion was celebrated every weekday morning (except Monday) and on

³²⁷ CAS (K), WPR/35/4/3/5 (*The Church on Natland Green*).

³²⁸ CAS (K), WPR/35/2/2/1 & 2; WDCR 8/203/36; Bulmer, *Dir. West.*, (1885), 512.

³²⁹ CAS (K), WPR/35/2/2/3.

³³⁰ CAS (K), WPR/35/2/2/1. The plot was part of the Natland Hall estate. Whitaker sold it to the Diocese in 1893 for £125.

³³¹ Crockford's *Clerical Directory* (1890), 1,364.

³³² In 1891, Whitaker had three theological students living with him: Census 1891.

³³³ CAS (K), WPR/35/4/3/5 (*The Church on Natland Green*).

³³⁴ Previously the incumbent of Millom (1876-81) and Ulpha (1897-97): Crockford's *Clerical Directory* (1890), 733.

³³⁵ CAS (K), WPR/35/4/9/1.

³³⁶ CAS (K), WPR/35/15/1/1 (Natland Parish Magazine 1898).

³³⁷ CAS (K), WPR/35/15/1/2 (Natland Parish Magazine 1962).

every third Sunday.³³⁸ Matins was also restricted to every third Sunday, and Evensong every fourth. In 2014, Holy Communion was celebrated every Sunday and Thursday, while Matins was held every third Sunday.³³⁹

A mission room was built in Oxenholme in 1906. A children's choir helped to raise £850 for its construction.³⁴⁰ It closed in 1951.³⁴¹

Non Conformity

The only non-conformist recorded in Natland was a single Methodist in 1778/79, when it was noted that this marked a decline in their number.³⁴²

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Manorial Government

Prior to their enfranchisement in the seventeenth century, Natland tenants had to pay their heriots and other dues at Sizergh in the absence of a manor house at Natland. They may have also had to travel to Crosscrake to attend the Strickland's courts there, as was the case for tenants on other Strickland manors (see [HELSINGTON](#)).³⁴³ Courts baron were held in the name of the Farringtons and Gardners (descendants of the Prickett family, who claimed lordship of a reputed manor of Natland) at Natland Hall in the later eighteenth century.³⁴⁴ When Edward Shippard bought the reputed manor in 1790, the estate came with manorial rights, including perquisites of courts.³⁴⁵ However, there is no evidence that he or his successors held courts.

³³⁸ *Ibid.*

³³⁹ <http://natlandnews.blogspot.co.uk/p/st-marks-church.html> [accessed 3.10.14]

³⁴⁰ Oldham, *Oxenholme*, 13.

³⁴¹ *Ibid.*

³⁴² Butler, *Cumbrian Parishes*, 210.

³⁴³ *Antiquary on Horseback*, 68.

³⁴⁴ CAS (K), WDCW/Natland Deeds/8/36.

³⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

Township Government

Records for Natland's Select Vestry for the Poor all date from the nineteenth century. At that time, the vestry comprised the vicar, two surveyors of highways, an overseer of the poor and a chapel warden. Former chapel wardens included some of the more significant landowners in the township, such as Arthur Fothergill. The school was used for annual vestry meetings. A separate account was kept for clothing given to the poor, which was usually in the form of clothing or thread.³⁴⁶ A rate levied separately to that for poor relief in the parish was for the purpose of paying a mole-catcher, who was given £2 per annum (1838-1845).³⁴⁷ Natland became part of Kendal Poor Law Union in 1836, having previously belonged to a Gilbert Union centred on Milnthorpe Workhouse.³⁴⁸

Natland became part of South Westmorland Rural District in 1894. However, the earliest surviving minutes of the Natland Parish Council date from 1913, whereupon Col. Crewdson of Helm Lodge was elected as chairman: a role in which he served until 1970.³⁴⁹ A representative from the board of school managers was included on the council, as were two overseers until 1928. In 1919, the County Council complained that Natland was not complying with the 'Rats Order' of 1918, as the parish council had failed to appoint someone to receive rats' tails.³⁵⁰ In addition to the annual general meeting, ordinary meetings of the Parish Council were held irregularly. Initially, there was a minimum of two per year, although this increased to a monthly or bi-monthly basis by the later twentieth century. Up until the end of the 1970s, meetings were usually held in the schoolroom, after which time the Village Hall and church vestry were also

³⁴⁶ CAS (K), WPR/35/7/2/1.

³⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁸ CAS (K), WPR/35/7/2/2.

³⁴⁹ CAS (K), WPC/15/1.

³⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

made use of. In 2014, the Parish Council usual meet on the last Monday of the month at the Village Hall.

Since its creation, one of the Parish Council's primary concerns has been the maintenance of Natland's public rights of way. It has also been very active in organising community events that surrounded national celebrations, and formed a fire squad during WWII.³⁵¹ Thanks to the efforts of the Parish Council, Natland met with frequent success in the 'Best Kept Village' competition from the late 1970s onwards.

³⁵¹ *Ibid.*