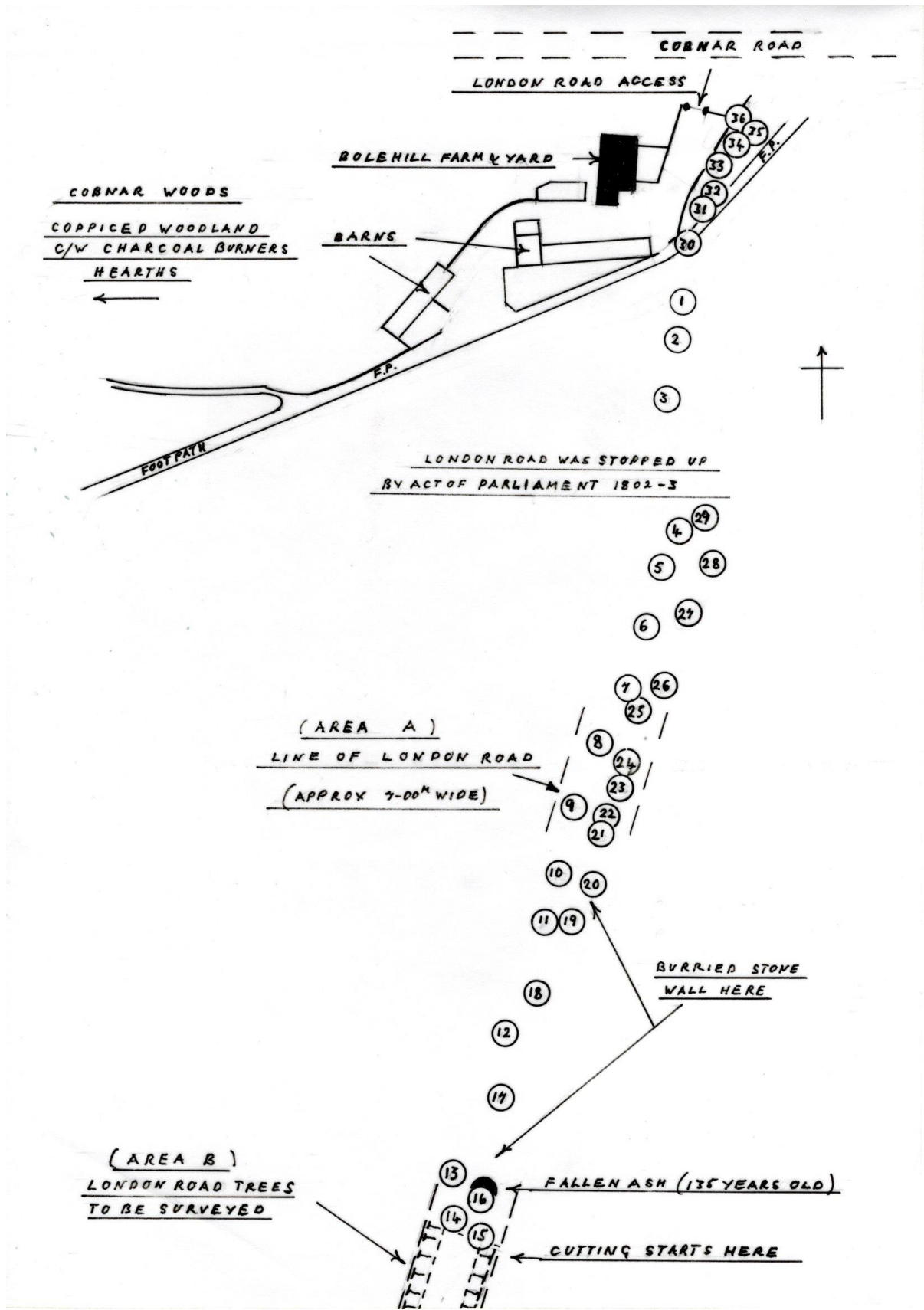


London Road Plan



London Road/Old Turnpike Coach Route through Norton Park

Closed by Act of Parliament in 1803 as a turnpike road.

The tree survey is from Bole Hill Farm pedestrian gateway to the beginning of the steep cutting to the south only. A further survey of the cutting and trees is required. An avenue of some mature and other recently planted trees forms this initial survey (photograph and plans of the avenue that includes 34 trees recorded and GPS). The length of the road is 200 metres long and 7.1 metres wide (the width varies). The pedestrian gate at Bole Hill farm is 1.06 metres wide x 1.85 metres high and comprises a stone lintel which is 1.22 metres wide over, two stone uprights each 1.85 metres high and a stone base which is 250 mm deep.

Key to tree dimensions (RAD = Radius of branch canopy) (DIAM = Diameter of tree stem/trunk)

Survey facing South Top to Bottom

1. Sycamore (mature) RAD = 17m DIAM = 1.4m
2. Sycamore (mature) RAD = 13m DIAM = 1.4m
3. Sycamore (mature) RAD = 14m DIAM = 1.4m
4. Oak (sapling) RAD = 300mm DIAM = 50 mm
5. Oak (sapling) RAD = 500mm DIAM = 60mm
6. Oak (mature) RAD = 12m DIAM = 960mm
7. Oak (semi-mature) RAD = 4m DIAM = 180mm
8. Oak (mature) RAD = 12m DIAM = 700mm
9. Oak (semi-mature) RAD = 3m DIAM = 150mm
10. Ash (sapling) RAD = 1m DIAM = 80mm
11. Oak (mature) RAD = 12m DIAM = 800mm
12. Oak (mature) RAD = 12m DIAM = 240mm
13. Oak (mature) RAD = 12m DIAM = 1.80m
14. Ash (mature –multi) RAD = 4.5m DIAM = 200mm each stem

Survey facing North Bottom to Top

15. Oak (mature) RAD = 4m DIAM = 420mm
16. Oak (mature) RAD = 4m DIAM = 350mm
17. Hawthorn (mature) RAD = 5m (multi-stemmed)
18. Ash (mature) RAD = 3m DIAM 160mm
19. Maple (semi-mature) RAD = 1m DIAM = 80mm
20. Maple (semi-mature) RAD = 1m DIAM = 80mm
21. Sycamore (mature) RAD = 7m DIAM = 500mm
22. Hawthorn (mature) RAD = 5m DIAM = 350mm
23. Sycamore (mature) RAD = 10m DIAM = 900mm
24. Hawthorn (old mature) RAD = 6m DIAM = 500mm
25. Oak (small mature) RAD = 4m DIAM = 80mm
26. Ash (semi-mature) RAD = 5m DIAM = 260mm
27. Not identified (poor) RAD = 1m DIAM = 60mm

- 28. Lime (semi-mature) RAD = 2m DIAM = 80mm
- 29. Red Sycamore (sapling) RAD = 1m DIAM = 60mm
- 30. Maple (mature) RAD = 12m DIAM = 3.5m
- 31. Maple (mature) RAD = 12m DIAM = 2.2m
- 32. Holly (mature) RAD = 3.2m DIAM = 200mm
- 33. Holly (mature) RAD = 3.2m DIAM = 200mm
- 34. Holly (mature) RAD = 12m DIAM = 2.2m
- 35. Holly (mature) RAD = 12m DIAM = 2.2m
- 36. Holly (mature) RAD = 12m DIAM = 2.2m

London Road Continued

The road surface is now grassed and constitutes a green drive.

A further survey is required to establish the actual road construction. On the left hand side of the drive from north to south, there is evidence of the remains of a dry stone retaining wall continuing up to where the cutting begins.

Fallen Tree





The recent loss of an ash, which fell during strong winds, show the diameter to be 950mm by 15 metres long. Because it was on the ground, it could be measured at 15 metres high. The radius of the canopy was 3m approximately. (Recorded 19th June 2019) NB The tree had been sawn up for disposal, therefore it was possible to count the annual ring growth, which was 135 years. The tree had established itself at the side of the now hidden stone retaining wall and over the years grown into it and over it. The main root structure grew into the soil on the leeward side with 3 main roots growing into and over the buried wall. The combined weight of the tree and strong wind caused the stone wall root anchorage to give way and the whole was uprooted and fell (displacement of root ball is 2m deep x DIAM 4m wide). The stone wall shows to be 1.6m high x 800mm wide. NB Most of the remaining trees on the left hand side of the avenue appear to be growing over and into this dry stone wall. Some further research is required here for provenance.

Further tree survey is required (area 280m long x 20m wide)

A further section of historic trees grow on both sides of the cutting down to the footpath in the woodland at the junction of the two streams. The cutting is overgrown and comprises steep banks and to establish a tree survey would mean cutting down overgrowths to access the area. NB Friends of Graves Park had considered opening up this section of London Road as an historical walk complete with information board. It would be a major job to achieve this and need to be carefully planned and agreed by SCC and the heritage people. It certainly would constitute a walk back in history.

Bole Hill Farmyard, the Barns/Stables

Having established historically the London Turnpike Road through the hamlet at Bole Hill and that Bolehill Farm would have been a stage post up to the road closure in 1803. Friends of Graves Park decided to examine what provision there was for changing and resting horses which would say have drawn a coach up the long and steep incline from Sheffield to Bole Hill. We looked within the farmyard and viewed the barns which still stand there. Whilst

these have been and still are used for varied purposes (Photos of Ernest) whilst much altered, there are numerous large doorways across the frontage facing the farmyard. To achieve an understanding that there are at least 12 potential stables available, ample paddock room if the fields which were linked to the farm were used for grazing and resting horses (3 fields rented by Biggin, 389, 388 and 387). In respect of water, this could be drawn from the pump located close by in Bole Hill Lane (now Cobnar Road). In addition there are 2 large barns which could have been used for storing hay and straw, plus another barn complete with a stone built gated enclosure outside the farm yard. Within the farm yard, adjacent to the farm, is a stone built living accommodation for possibly housing farm or stable hands. NB (SCC) All these buildings are still standing, although in a poor state of repair. There is a need to discuss with SCC the heritage potential of the farm buildings (could this be put to a better use?). There would have been massive effect on the livelihood of people at the hamlet of both Bole Hill and Little Norton when the road was closed (see Armitage) NB In terms of available water for the farm, located a source of water still running today at the boundary of the then field number 956, owned by S Shore (part of Spring Park). It issues from a bank side in Old Park and heads towards London Road (this is piped now, but there is no evidence of a pond).

Plan of GPS recordings

