

## 4. Statement of Case

Both Maplebeck Road (Intake Lane) and White Stub Lane are currently recorded as dead end bridleways on the Definitive Map. The 1847 Tithe Maps and Awards for both Hockerton (**A05 & A06**) and Kirklington (**A07**) record White Stub Lane as a road with no charge i.e. public. The former also records what has become Hockerton BW4 as a public road to Maplebeck. Maplebeck is north of Winkburn parish it must have been a through route, via White Stub Lane or Winkburn. The 1835 Sanderson Map (**B01**), an accurate locally surveyed and published work, records Hockerton BW4 as an enclosed 'Cross Road' continuing as an open 'Cross Road' at the side of Hickerton Moor to link to White Stub Lane shown as an enclosed 'Cross Road'. In this context a 'Cross Road' would be a secondary public road between major highways.

The three 18<sup>th</sup> Century Estate maps (**A01** to **A03**) show Hockerton Moor as an area of open moor with a number of routes crossing it. The boundary between the Hockerton and Winkburn estates was shown as a much bumpier line (**E01a**) than present day, and the roads marked tended to vary in representation, but surveying and cartographic skills were still fairly rudimentary that early in the century.

The 1738 Hockerton and Kirklington map (**A01**) shows the whole of road from the Hockerton end to the Eakring end (**A01c**). Maplebeck Road isn't shown as a separate lane, but the Hockerton Dumble (stream) meeting the road just to the west allows the relevant field boundary to be identified. There are gateways (**A01e**) shown in the correct places at either end of field 127. A further gateway into White Stub Lane was shown immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of Hockerton Moor.

The 1766 Hockerton map (**A02**) shows the through connection to White Stub Lane, albeit with the addition of a route to Winkburn. The 1766 Winkburn map (**A03**) was produced in a very similar style, which helps with comparison. White Stub Lane was shown on both maps as part of the holdings demonstrating that it was in general use. Section F of the evidence gathers together the 17<sup>th</sup> century maps for Eakring (**F01**), Hockerton & Kirklington (**A01 & F02**) and Winkburn (**A03 & F03**) to show that people in all four parishes had need to use White Stub Lane for access.

By the 19<sup>th</sup> century the field boundaries were more settled and cartographic skills had greatly improved. The 1835 Sanderson map (**B01**), the first accurately surveyed map of this part of Nottinghamshire, and the 1840 Old Series OS map (**B02**) both show the same route from White Stub Lane to Maplebeck Road, with the parish boundary on the latter map following the northern side of the Lane. In the intervening 80 years since the 1766 maps, many of the bumps in the boundary (**E01**) had been smoothed out, probably for practical convenience in managing the field boundaries.

It is the 1843 Hockerton Estate map (**A04**) & 1847 Hockerton Tithe Map (**A05**) and Award (**A06**) that first record the parish boundary as being on the south side of White Stub Lane with a kink as it swops back to the north side. It is likely that during the process of smoothing and defining the boundary to make it more manageable that the hedge was replanted to the south of the lane to reflect the agreed position of the boundary.

The 1884 the OS 6" map (**C01a**), the first produced after the 1841 Act, still shows White Stub Lane as a continuous route along the parish boundary via Hockerton Moor to Maplebeck Road. At the point (**C01b**) where it crosses into Winkburn parish the lane carries straight on, but the parish boundary suddenly switches from one side of the lane to the other. This is strong evidence that the boundary had moved not the lane. OS mapping (**C01** to **C05**) then continues to show the same route until at least 1947. The 1924 Bartholomew Map (**B03**) also shows the whole route as a white road.

Nottinghamshire XXIX.NE (inclu  
Surveyed: 1883 to 1884  
Published: 1884

England and Wales, 1842-1952



There is still extensive evidence of the claimed route to be found on the ground through Dales Wood (Hockerton Moor along the Hockerton/Winkburn boundary passing). There is a ditch inside the wood (**E01 to E09**) marking the parish boundary, as shown on the modern OS mapping, with the line of the claimed route across a corridor of land, some 7m or more wide, along the northern edge of the wood. In places this corridor is above the adjacent field indicating that this part of the wood hasn't been taken from the field, but has always been part of the wood to the south. At the eastern end there is evidence of a hollow way, i.e sunken way, entering the wood from the direction of Hockerton BW4. Whilst this sunken way isn't particularly deep it can be traced for some distance along the eastern and northern fringes of the wood. To the west of the wood, a thicket marks where the parish boundary suddenly crosses the claimed route as shown on the 1884 the OS 6" map (**C01a**).

For both the residents of the four parishes and the wider public an important reason for the existence of the whole White Stub Lane/Maple Lane route is that the alternative route through Kirklington has the very steep hills. Kirklington Hill (**F03a**) has an 11% gradient (**F02a**) and the road from Kirklington to Eakring has a 10% gradient (**F02a**), which would have been even more difficult because of the greater overall change in height. Both hills would have presented very serious obstacles to horse drawn vehicles, both going down and going back up. The alternative route to Eakring across Hockerton Moor (**F03b**) and along White Stub Lane avoids both hills and offers much more accessible gradients (**F01a**). The aerial photo (**F04b**) shows the claimed route in relation to the two bridleways at either end. Importantly it shows how the route avoids the steep hill north of Kirklington, shown at the bottom of the image. The estate maps (**G01 to G03**) illustrate how residents of the four parishes would have needed to use the route to access landholdings within each parish.

## Summary

### **Proof of public access rights**

The three 18<sup>th</sup> century maps show a link from Maplebeck Road to White Stud Lane.

The complete route was used by people in four parishes to access outlying land (Eakring, Hockerton, Kirklington & Winkburn) - a large group of people, i.e the public.

Recorded as a 'Cross Road' by Sanderson and on the 1840 OS map as a white road.

White Stub Lane & Maplebeck Road recorded in Tithe documents as public roads with no charges.

About 75% of the route, including both ends recorded as bridleway on the Definitive Map.

Route shown for over 200 years as a through route.

Archeological evidence in Dales Wood, Hockerton Morr supports the existence of the route.

Topography – avoids very steep hills on the alternative route through Kirklington, a very big problem for horse drawn vehicles.

No Quarter Session Highway cases stopping it up recorded for Hockerton or Winkburn.

### **Proof of route**

Whilst there is some local variation in the 18<sup>th</sup> century on the Hockerton Moor part of the route, this is offset by consistent evidence of one route as a white road from 1835 until 1947 once the parish boundary had been accurately defined in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. OS evidence supports the assertion that during the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was the parish boundary that was fixed the south of the lane, not the lane that relocated to the north.