



SHAW &  
JAGGER  
ARCHITECTS

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PROPOSED PRIVATE DWELLING

Land Adjacent to Woodfold Park, Blackburn

**APPENDIX to Addendum to CDS:  
Further Historical Investigation**

February 2024

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## Shorrock Green and Shorrock Green Hall

As part of the character assessment for the site just north of Woodfold Park Farm, the evidence for the Shorrock family and Shorrock Green was investigated. What follows is a summary of the relevant references and a reassessment of their contribution to the site.

### 1284

Court record of the Shorrock family of Shorrocks Green; cited in Crosby (2002); 1.8

### 1614

Mentioned in "The Place Names of Lancashire", Eilert Ekwall 1922, where it is recorded as Shorrocke greene in the 1614 Blackburn Parish Register

### 1625

Abram (1877), 595: In the year 1625 1st Chas I James Whithalgh conveyed an estate in Mellor to trustees to the use of Blackburn Grammar School. The estate is described in a deed dated 1687 as the Messuage and tenement with appurtenances situate in Mellor known by the name of Whithalgh House or Whithalgh tenement with several closes containing 29 acres of land meadow and pasture heretofore in possession of Richard Whithalgh gent deceased and also the new barne and close called Sedge Hole lately improved and inclosed from the common or waste of Mellor ...

This perhaps explains the Whitehalgh reference on the 1831 catalogue map. See below.

### 1672

1 From the MSS. of the late Nicholas Grimshaw, Esq., I have the following:—Oct. 1st, 1672. Rev. Leonard Clayton, being seized in fee of **Shorrock Green** tenement, did, previous to the marriage of his son John with Mrs. Davenport, and in order to it, covenant to convey the said estate within twelve months after the marriage to the use of himself for life, remainder to the son in fee. By the same articles it is covenanted that Mrs. Davenport's portion, £500, shall be laid out on land, and that such new purchased land shall be assured to the use of the son and his intended wife for their lives, and the life of the survivor of them, remainder to their heirs male, &c., remainder to the husband in taile male, remainder to his right heirs. John Clayton and Mrs. Davenport intermarried; and on May 30th, 1673, Leonard Clayton by demise reciting the articles grants the premises for 80 years in trust to permit Leonard and his assigns to enjoy the same during such part of the term as he should live. After the death of Rev. Leonard Clayton and his wife, John Clayton his son granted the premises in fee to Thomas Winckley in mortgage by lease and release and covenants that he with his wife should levy a fine thereof to him; which was done. July 9th, 1695, Thomas Winckley and John Clayton granted **Shorrock Green** tenement to Benjamin Hoghton in fee, who granted it in fee to Robert Sharples, who regranted it by way of mortgage to Mr. Hoghton in fee. John Clayton and his wife were both dead before Dec., 1706, leaving issue male then living.

Tenement is a term found in older deeds or in boiler-plate deed language which means any structure on real property. Seised in fee refers to holding clear title to real property. Hence there was an estate with a primary structure or hall.



**1682**

Rolls of the Guilds Merchant, 1682 entry:  
 “John Clayton, gentleman of Shorrock Green”

**1736**

Transactions of the Baptist Historical Society – 1909, Volume 1 - Page 191

“Baptist work in the district. was begun by the indefatigable David Crosley, once of Heptonstall Slack, then of Barnoldswick, . Tottlebank,. Cripplegate, Gildersome, and in 1736 of Bacup.; He preached occasionally at Shorrock Green Hall, but when the church at Bacup divided on his death into two parties; differing in the intensity of their Calvinism, the work in this direction languished.”

**1786**

Yates’ Map shows the Shorrock Green estate. Crosby (2002) 1.11 speculates that it is a hamlet of 5 farms with the family occupying the primary one. This supports the presence of a substantial farmhouse or hall, the property of well-established landed gentry. See e.g. the adjacent Stanley house, a lesser ‘hall’ and now a hotel for instance and not a mere cottage.



*Yates' Map*



*Modern map overlaid*

Crosby states that Shorrock[s] Green occupied the area between what is now Woodfold Park Farm and the entrance gate onto Further Lane. If that were so, Yates’s label is either in the wrong place, or the Green extended each side of the Nab Head to Arley Fold road. Later evidence indicates that the Green definitely occupied land to the north of this.

Modern analysis of Yates’s map does exist and it is clear that his building squares are not accurately located. Where a known house correlates with a Yates square, it is often drawn some 20 times larger than reality. His map’s importance was in its accurate laying down of the main road network to help Lancashire landowners navigate the county.

The 5 squares below the title “Ravens Wings” roughly correspond with Ravenswing and Cooks farms in the north and the two Channel Houses and Sugar House south of them.

1816

Dixon's map does not show Woodfold Park, even though the park was made in 1799 c.

1818

Greenwood's map does show the park but no detail of the triangle north of the park.



1793

From Abram (1877), p344. "1793, May 9, The Governors agreed to a proposal by Mr Sudell for an exchange of certain lands in Mellor belonging to the School known by the name of the Lower Great Meadow and a small corner of the Barn Meadow for certain other lands in Mellor belonging to Mr Sudell being the Nearer Green Meadow, Further Green Field, Shorrocks Green Croft and part of the Meadow Field ..." This includes the former Whitehalgh holding.





1824

Baines' map shows the Park and Shorrock Green north of it but Further Lane is not shown.



1828- 31

The 1828-9 Hennet map shows Sugar House and the Stable Court but not Shorrock Gn.





1828- 31 cont.

Shorrock Green is shown on the estate survey in the 1828 and 1831 auction sales particulars.



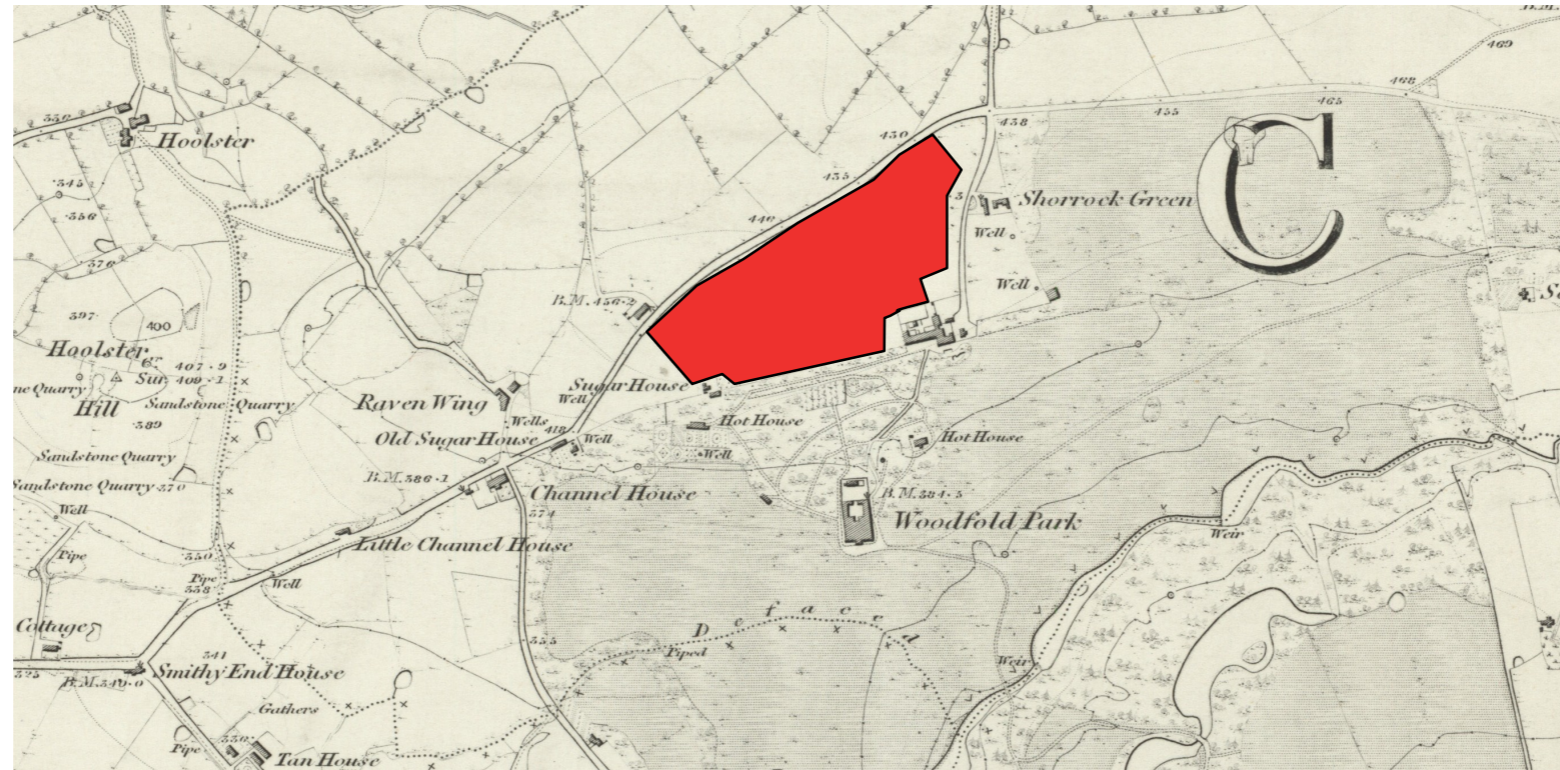
The Image below illustrates the above map with the current road layout overlaid.



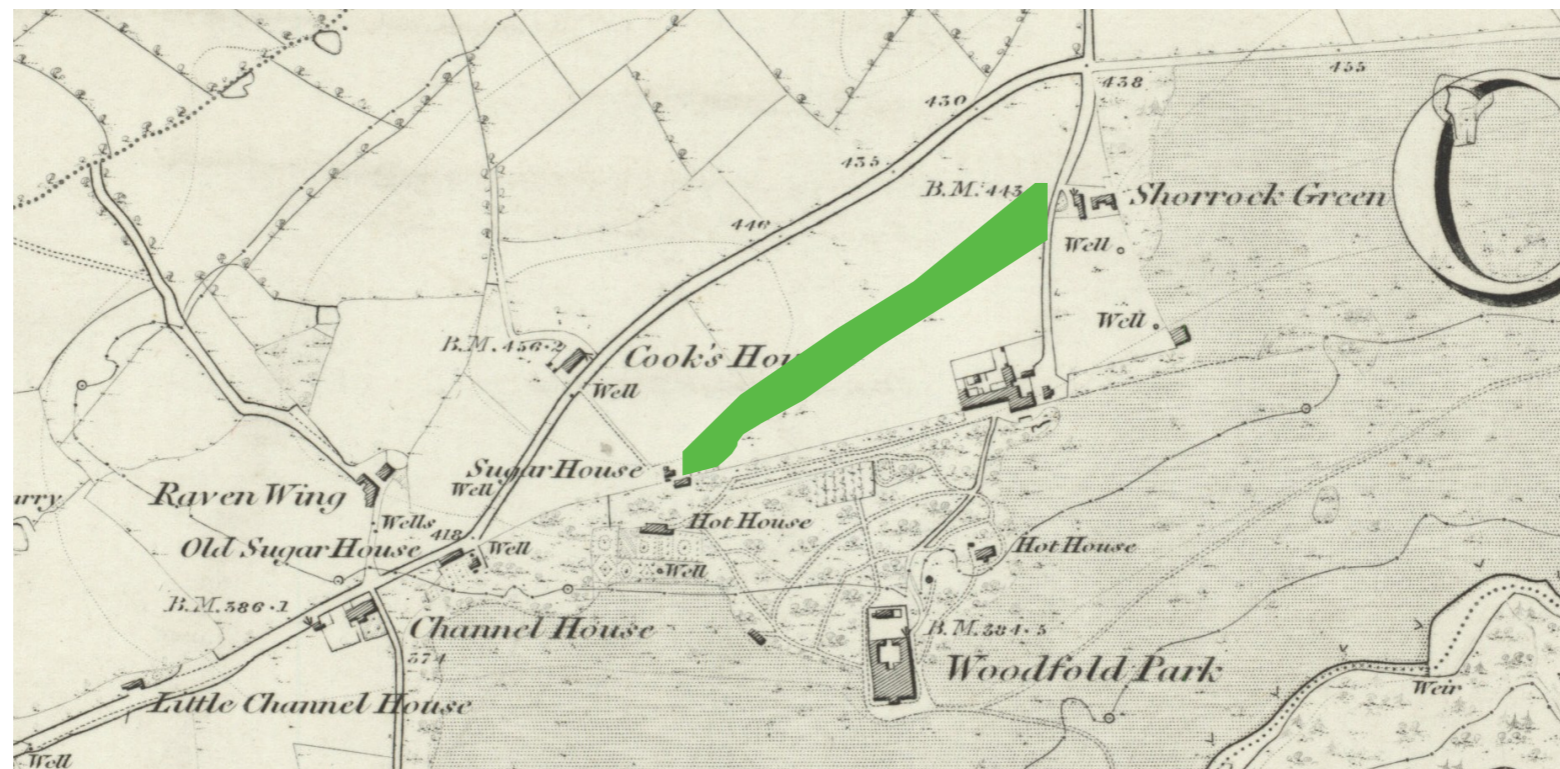
The auction maps show the main road diverted via the new Further Lane, the old E-W road being taken into the park and the new northern wall built along it. They show the new hall and gardens, the “offices” and stables court now known as Woodfold Farm, a building halfway up the northern drive labelled Whitehalgh, and a tree lined track on the diagonal linked to Sugar House and its barn just outside the north wall. The triangular space north of the wall is labelled Shorrock Green in line with Crosby’s description and Baines and OS 1844.



The OS 6" survey of 1844 (pub 1848) gives more detail. The house halfway up the drive is now labelled Shorrock Green, indicating that it is Shorrock Green hall or house. The track diagonally across to Sugar House is shown, as is the connexion between Sugar House and the 1830s kitchen garden of the Woodfold estate. Shorrock Green, its buildings and green space is clearly part of the Woodfold estate and contiguous with the immediate setting of the house thus confirming why it formed one lot at the auction of 1831 (Lot 2).



Below Image shows the 1844 OS highlighting the diagonal avenue and Shorrock Green



The fields between the diagonal avenue and Further Lane are described as pasture, i.e. grazing land for sheep or cattle.



Lidar Image highlighting the avenue running across the site



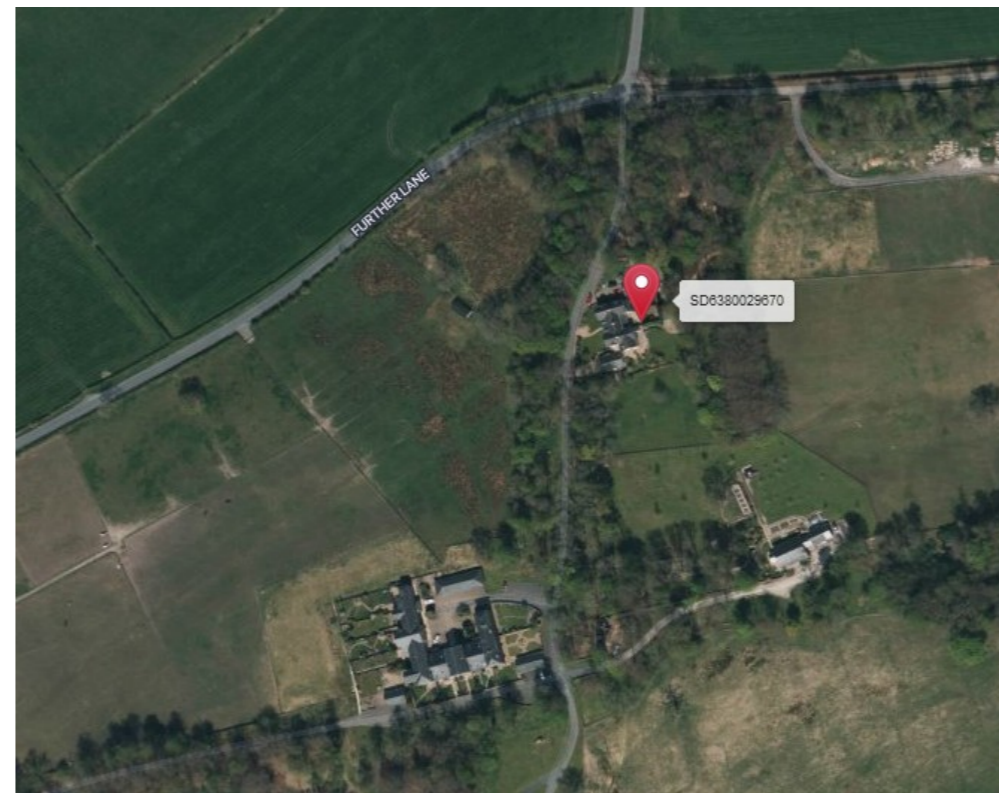
Grid Location of Shorrock Green as per Historic England Records

Historic England Research Records  
 Monument Number 43533  
 Hob Uid: 43533  
 Location : Lancashire ,Ribble Valley ,Mellor  
 Grid Ref : SD6380029670  
 Summary : Shorrock Green(site of)(Demolished c.1868)  
 More information : [SD63802967 ASP.] Shorrock Green [TI] (1)

'Shorrock Green. The family of Shorrock appear here at an early date. William and Henry, sons of Roger de Shorrock, occur about 1300. Richard de Shorrok was one of the largest contributors to the subsidy of 1332 William his son was a freeholder here in 1336.

John de Shorrock contributed to the Poll tax in 1379: and his son an heir William was in possession of 'Old Shorrock' in Mellor in 1411. Geoffrey Shorrock made his will before witnesses in 1459. For a long period the descent of the estate cannot be traced, but ultimately it passed to the family of Clayton of Blackburn." [Not shown on current (1913) 6" sheet.] (2)

VCH - The site of SHORROCK GREEN lies within an area of wooded ground on the east side of the drive leading to WOODFOLD PARK FARM. HUNSTMAN'S COTTAGES, a terrace of three cottages of 19c. date stand about 30.0m to the west of the site. Miss PARKER, who lives in the north end residence, has heard of the name of SHORROCKS GREEN and suggested the house was dismantled when the cottages were erected. She has lived here for 70-odd years, but never saw any remains of the house in that time. (3) [Remains identified by EH 1958]





## Analysis

Shorrock Green, the home of the Shorrock family is recorded as far back as the C13. A tenement or hall is recorded since the C17. English Heritage research confirms the ruin of the mediaeval house 30m east of Huntsman's Cottages.

The triangular site under consideration has always formed part of the Woodfold estate which was created around 1798/9.

There was a tree lined track connecting the 1844 Shorrock Green house with Sugar House and the hot house and walled kitchen garden of Woodfold Park. These two substantial buildings as well as the stables court (now Woodfold Farm) are all outside the park walls but clearly formed part of the estate. This is reflected in the sales catalogue as all the buildings and green were offered with the hall and its immediate setting as one lot in 1831. The 1844 Shorrock Green house and land was until 1625 owned by the Whitehalgh's and gifted to the Grammar School.

Green spaces historically called Shorrock Green, lie both south and north of the north park wall. Yates's label of 1786 shows Shorrock Green and a typical bunch of his squares above the 'k' in 'Shorrock'. It is not as has been suggested a linear settlement from Alum Scar Lane to Arley Fold. There is no doubt though that at the time of the 1831 auction, the area north of the wall was Shorrock Green and a diagonal track connected two substantial buildings – the house called Shorrock Green in 1844, once the principal building of an estate owned by the Whitehalgh's, and Sugar House. The latter building at the southwest of the track was an estate farmhouse with its own drive off Further Lane and directly connected with the hothouse and walled kitchen garden of the estate from the 1830s. The building at the NE end is described in the auction catalogue of 1831 as cottages, shippon, gardens and croft, once the property of the Whitehalgh estate, reflecting the status of all the former large houses that Sudell bought in order to make Woodfold park. Stanley House, a good C17 mansion was similarly downgraded by Sudell to cottages. By 1844, the date of the first OS map, the NE house had been reinstated in status and labelled "Shorrock Green" consistent with OS typography for 'Gentleman's Seat'. It had a crescent shaped carriage sweep which is shown on all the detailed maps that show the property. It has a clearly defined main block, square in plan with a long southern wing, along with a large stable block, gardens and fields.

The LGS say "The suggestion of an axial 'avenue' described in the Character Study crossing the application site towards Shorrocks is most likely the former line of Further Lane, relict features of which are indicated on the 1840s OS map". This is incorrect. The original line of the E-W route is shown on Yates and Crosby confirms this. We used the term 'avenue' to denote an approach to the house lined with trees.

They say further, "reference is made to Shorrock 'Hall' previously occupying the position of Huntsman's Cottages. There is no map evidence of any named Hall or principal building in this location which is more likely that of a hamlet or cluster of agricultural buildings". Huntsman's Cottages is described as "an estate building in Regency style which accommodated employees." Later they reiterate they are "unconvinced of the aspiration to raise the historic status of Shorrock Green."

The assessment tries to determine the historic character of the area rather than trying to raise or lower aspirations. The Huntsman's Cottages that currently exist are not those attached to Shorrock Green as defined in 1793 and again in 1844. They are a different building erected c. 1868 on the demise of Shorrock Green. That the building had a carriage sweep and connected via a track to Sugar House is supported by the map evidence.

We know that Sudell married into the Livesey family who also include the Whitehalghs (Abrams 404) which would have made acquiring Mellor land straightforward. He was on the board of governors at the Grammar School and that would have eased the land swap involving the fields adjacent to further lane. The Claytons of Shorrock Green were also on that board. (Abrams 342;336).

The LPA officer's report refers to local research which locates the Claytons at Whitehalgh house/ Shorrock Green in 1666.

HE research of 1958 indicates that Shorrock Green was a house of the C14 which ultimately passed to the Clayton family and then Henry Sudell. It was demolished c. 1868. Huntsmans' Cottage was built using the stone from the house some 30m to the west. This is consistent with the Whitehalgh family owning it in the C17 and passing it to the Claytons and then on to Sudell.

A close reading of Yates suggest that Woodfold Park is built south of Shorrock Green. The Shorrock house, the hall/tenement of the Clayton family is on Shorrock Green croft or 'waste' and had 29 acres of lands before Sudell bought it. When Sudell imparked the area, he adopted the name Woodfold from south of the Arley Brook and erased the southern reaches of the green associated with Shorrock Green that lay within the new park. In the 1851 census, Shorrock Green was occupied by Mr Redwright who farmed 80a.

The important character aspect is that the park ran up to the ridge where the old road and the new wall lay. Yet the Whitehalgh/ Shorrock Green house, the Sugar House and the stables court beyond the wall all formed an integral part of the working park in the wider setting of Woodfold Park House and pleasure grounds. This triangle of activity was buffered against the public road (Further Lane) by grazing fields, bounded by hedges and trees entirely in keeping with all the other hilltop farmland on the northern side of Further Lane.



