

Many of the field and place names of Great Ayton have their origins in Old English, Middle English, Old Norse and, less frequently, Old French. These arose because of the invasions, migrations and settlement in Britain by successive waves of northern European peoples after the departure of the Romans in 410 AD.

Anglo-Saxon, or Old English, was the standard literary language up to around 1150 AD. Norman French was absorbed into Old English to give Middle English and this was in use between 1150-1550 AD. Old Norse refers to the Germanic languages of Scandinavia down to the 14C.

Every piece of land under cultivation had its own name. When people spent their lives working in the fields it was necessary for them to give meaningful names to the places in which they worked. Field names were more frequently used in speech and therefore tended to be less permanent than other place names. The word 'field' has changed its meaning over the years. Originally it denoted an area cleared of trees and it became an element in place names, eg Hatfield. The cultivation of the land brought the name to mean 'unenclosed land for agriculture' and these great fields of common arable land were given distinguishing names. Enclosure, which produced the pattern we see in the countryside today, of hedged, walled or fenced fields, gave rise to many of the current field names but large numbers can be traced back several centuries to the great field or even the furlong names. Field names are more often two word phrases with the first name being the qualifying name which gives it its specific meaning eg, ox, mill, chapel. The second word is usually a generic term that appears very frequently in every list of field names eg, close, garth, flatt.

#### Cassification of Field Names.

There are over twenty categories into which field names may be placed.

Size of Field	Distance from house	Direction from house	Order of field from house
Shape of field	Type, colour of soil	Fertility of land	Natural features
Crops grown	Type of cultivation	Wild plants on land	Domestic animals on land
Name of owner	Roads near land	Land on a boundary	Buildings on land
Folk custom	Christian names	Arbitrary names	Archaeological features
Money value	Trade of occupier	Person maintained	Legal terms

#### Classification: Examples from the Tithe Map of 1846.

Size: Great Cut Field, Great Nunthorpe Close.  
 Specific indication of size: Three Acres.  
 Distance from house or village: Far Garth.  
 Direction from house or village: South Hill Close.  
 Order of field from house or village: Sixth Tillage Field.  
 Shape of field: Shoulder of Mutton, Jaw Bone Field.  
 Type of soil: Sand Hill, Gravel Hill, Stony Close.  
 Fertility: Fatten Pasture.  
 Natural features: Roseberry, Bank Side.  
 Farming practice: Stack Yard Field.  
 Crops grown: Potato Garth, Clover Close.  
 Wild plants: Bullister Field, Rushey Close.  
 Domestic or farm animals: Calf Garth, Horse Pasture.  
 Wild animals: Fox Close.  
 Buildings on land: Boil House Field.  
 Proximity of roads, bridges etc: Pannierman Lane Field, Three Brigg Close.  
 Name of owner: Scottowes Closes, Lawsons Close.  
 Trade of occupier: Tan House Field, Smiddy Gap.  
 Person maintained by income from land: Widow Croft.  
 Money value of the land: Halfpenny Hill.  
 Archaeological features: Howe Hill.  
 Folk custom: Devils Acre.  
 Industrial usage: Brick Kiln Field.

## Interpretation of Field Names.

### Examples from the Tithe Map of 1846

Airy Holme	ON 'aerj'	Summer grazing.
Beck Field	ON 'bekkr'	Land by a beck.
Bog Close	M E 'bog'	Waterlogged land.
Bond Gate Close	M E	Bondeman,unfree villager.
Broats	O N 'brot'	Small piece of land.
Bullister Field		Bullace trees.
Charley		Chalk or charcoal present.
Coat Wood Close	OE 'cote'	Cottage, hut or animal house.
Cross Flatts	ON 'flat'	Level land or unit of land.
Dingledon Field	OE 'dyncge'	Manured land.
Dykes	OE 'dic' or	Drain.
Fawcett Nooks	ME 'noke'	Land with many corners.
High Foul Syke	OE 'sic'	Land beside a stream.
Garth	ON 'gardr'	Enclosure.
Golden Field		Productive land.
Harp Field		Triangular piece of land.
Howl field	ON	Artificial mound, tumulus.
Ing	ON 'eng'	Meadow,pasture.
Holme	OE 'holmr'	Riverside land,water meadow.
Intake	ON 'inntak'	Enclosed land.
Jaw Bone Field		Shape.
Lawns	OF 'launde	Open space in woodland.
Fatten		Fertile land.
Newfoundland		Land newly brought into use.
Nursery Field		Land on which young trees were planted.
Priest Close	OE 'preost'	Land owned by the priest.
Roods	OE 'rod'	Land having area of a quarter of an acre.
Rushey Close	OE 'risc'	Land abounding in rushes.
Scarth Hill Close	ON 'skarthi	Gap, hare-lip.
Smiddy Gap		Smith's activities, bloomeries.
Stell Field	OE 'stell'	Stream,place for catching fish.
Stripe	OE 'strip'	Long,narrow piece of land.
Suet Car	ON 'kjarr'	Marsh.
Tofts	ON 'topt'	Site of a building.
Trough Close	OE 'trog'	A valley.
Whinney Bank	ON 'hvin'	Land on which gorse grew.
Chapel Field	ME 'chapel'	Land by or forming endowment of a chapel.

### Examples from Applebridge Field 1656. (Pre-enclosure survey)

Haverker	ON 'hafri'	Land on which oats are grown.
Ewebanck Flat	OE 'eowu'	Land for ewes.
Crabtre Field	ME 'crabbe'	Land with crab-apple trees.
Bushey Gayts	OE 'busc'	Land with bushes.
Fflaghes Flat	ME 'flagge'	Land with waterside plants, flag iris.
Crosewath		Land with a ford.
Howlewath	OE 'alor'	Land with alder trees and ford.
East Wandills	ON 'vondre'	An allotment of land, vondre-a measuring stick.

## GREAT AYTON FIELD NAMES: TITHE MAP, 1846

Numbers indicate designation on tithe map.

Eight Acres	84	Bolton Garth	
Five Acres	122	Bond Gate Close	64
Four Acres	143	Brick Field	159a
Fourteen Acres	80	Brick Garth Field	19
Seven Acres	103, 155	High Brick Garth Field	21
Six Acres	357	Low Brick Garth Field	3
Three Acres	448	Brick Kiln Field	226, 83a
High Airyholme	349a	Brick Kiln Hill	83a
Low Airyholme	379	Three Bridge Close	
Angrove Field	435	Broats Closes	146
Appletree Field	116	Broats East Close	
Ayton Field	439	Broats West Close	
Ayton Lane Close	110	North Broat	128
Ayton Lane Field	190	Bruff	386
Little Ayton Field	450	Buck Bank	254
Balmer Close		Bullister Field	70
Balmer Hill Close	360	Bulmer Close	
High Banner Hill Close	359	Butchers Field	400
Bank	489	Croft Butchers Close	
Bank Side	531	New Laid Butcher Close	256
East Bank	539	Calf Garth	43, 356
North Bank	333	Middle Calf Garth	509
South Bank	341	Cart House Field	
Bankside Intake		Chapel Field	242
Barnfield	392, 536, 405, 157, 269, 179, 237, 373	Charley	130
Back Barn Field	334	Christopher Youngs Close	
Low Barn Field	335	Church Yard Field	259
South Barn Field	354	Clover Close	142
Barn Out Offices	398	Little Clover Close	127
Green Barr Close		Coat Wood Close	
Bartle Field	95	Coblin Garth	154
Bartrams Croft		Copley Close	377
Batts	302	Cow House Field	455
Bean Field	129	Far Cow House Field	454
Beck Field	286, 185, 402	First Cow House Field	192
Far Beck Field	203	Second Cow House Field	193
North Beck Close	275, 280	Cow Pasture	16,41, 290, 291, 337, 409, 513
South Beck Close	419	Coxhoe	553
West Beck Close	294	Croft	202, 255, 306, 307
Beck	419, 425	Cross Flatts	292
Bell Close or Holmes		Cross Flatts Close	
Black Bank	383	Great Cut Field	30
Bog Close	32	Dam Field	317
Bogg Field	551	Dam Lands	
Boil House Field	395	Davison Field	173
Boil house Garth	480	Dingledon Field	255
Field above Boil House	394	Doddy	320
Bolton Garth		Drain Field	
Bond gate Close	64		