

Until the second half of the twentieth century , Bramham was , above all , a farming community , with a large proportion of its residents engaged full - or part - time in farming or country activities. Farms and property locally came mainly under the ownership of four large estates -- the Lane Fox or Bingley Estate at Bramham Park ; the Estate of Lord Headley ; the Gascoignes of Hazlewood Castle , who were Lords of the Manor ; and latterly the brewery lands of the Smith family. The 1817 map of the parish illustrates that much of the land belonged to the first two of these , a situation which had existed , with other families , for centuries. Thus , traditionally , most farms were occupied , as is still the case , by tenant farmers. The 1841 Census listed 24 farmers in Bramham Parish .

However, as the 1817 map shows , within this framework , were blocks of land , usually a field or two , owned by other individuals who may or may not have lived around Bramham. Besides this , most of the houses , even the meanest cottages , had their own bit of land attached and their own pigstye, so that most villagers had a stake in the production of foodstuffs for their own consumption as well as a job on a local farm.

The pattern of farms within the parish consisted of some outside the village, and some whose houses and buildings were situated within the village itself , with fields outside . Examples were Greenhill Farm , whose lands stretched from Aberford Road , next to the allotments, up to New York Farm on Toulston Road , plus fields at the bottom of Heygate ; and Laurel Grove Farm whose fields lay away beyond Spen Lane and across towards Oglethorpe , again with a field down Heygate. There is much detailed information in the 1818 Tenancy Book.

Which fields belonged to which farms was very much a matter of ancient history , and the names of some farms reflected the lands they worked [ Westwood and Heygate would be meaningful today ; Wise Warren and Greenhill probably would not .]

No working farms lying within the village itself exist in 2000; they have been converted or demolished, often within living memory.

### **Farmhouses within the village.**

Bowcliffe	Farfield
Greenhill	Heygate
Hillside	Laurel Grove
Manor House	Milnthorpe
New York Inn	Old Hall
Old Malt Kiln	Prospect
Tenter Hill	Hilltop

### **Farms in the southern part of the parish.**

Paradise \*

### **Farms to the north.**

Low Mills [ on High St., Boston Spa , but in our parish still ] \*

Mill House

Oglethorpe \*

### **Farms to the east.**

New York \*

University \* [ comprising Headley , Spen , and Wise Warren ]

### **Farms to the west.**

College

Home [ Terry Lug ] \*

Hope Hall

Wellhill \*

Westwood \*

\* Indicates still operating as farms in 2000.



