

## From Windmill Hill

Enchantingly England , diminutive in miniature, with beauty  
Neat , low - key , diverse , not grand , ornate in scale.

Sharp morning light , sun slanted low , pricks out ,  
In limestone white , the ministerial towers of York ,  
Engaged a thousand years in pomp and power ,  
Set off , beyond the plain , by smudge of Wold ,  
Howardian Hills , and , tucked away behind, the Viking coasts  
Where plunderers , horde on horde , refined with native blood ,  
Produced , uniquely , Yorkshire's brood .

Slow flowing Wharfe ,in tribute to Hardrada ' s stream ,  
Pre - nemesis of Harold 's fall , meanders  
Through the tumbling weirs , past British Library's ugly pile,  
The scar of Papyrus , Thorp Arch 's threatening growth,  
And would - be spa , discarded in the rush to rail ,  
Though now , in late Elizabethan times , aspiringly genteel.

Way out from Boston's bosoming trees , a far off replica,  
Seeming primeval in design , hacked out of white stone cliff ;  
Cantering the hills of Hambleton , this mighty horse rears up  
Above the vale where Thompson's mightier mouse holds sway

Nearer again lie Catholic Clifford's monuments ; at either end  
A church ; between , a nunnery where former calm gives way  
To order of a differing kind , control of miscreant boys ;  
And , close at hand , silently humane, the school  
Where present nuns bring hope to deaf and blind.

Down left , the snaking lane past lately hacienda ' d farm ,  
Brick hovel boxed in stone to meet improving style ,  
Attracts attention to another highway , just beyond ,  
Arterial route bound up in history's deeds two thousand years ,  
The great road north and south , for Roman legions ;  
Feuding English barons ; princes of the Scottish blood ;  
And Irish bombers --- all taking nationalistic aim.

Be human instinct as it may, a far - off glimpse  
Of ancient Almscliffe ' s gritty mass impels to mind  
This scene , unspoilt though changed by need  
And fashion ' s passing fads , should yet inspire  
A constant joy transcending Man ' s inconstancy.