

# Exploring HILLAM

Situated two miles east of the A1 and half a mile south of the A63, originally an agricultural hamlet, Hillam remains a delightful Yorkshire village.

Each of the 23 village sites featured in this leaflet is there because of its historical interest. A convenient place to start and finish your walk is the attractive Square, where visitors can be assured of refreshments and a warm welcome at the Cross Keys.

*Below is a drawing of the Square as it was in 1957*



**1 Cross Keys** - The name is associated with York Minster. The link may be due to the fact that Archbishop Thomas I, who was Archbishop of York 1070-1100, made a grant to the monastery of Selby of lands in Fryston and Hillam. The inn once had its own back yard brewery. At ground level under the sign is a vertical concrete slab, the only relic of the wartime road barricade.

**2 Ringtree** - The current tree, a pink horse chestnut, and a circular seat were given to the village by Mr H L Lyon of Hillam Hall on 28th June 1949 to commemorate his seventieth birthday. The seat was replaced in 2000.

**3 Village Pump** - The remaining one of two, which were used up to about 1936/37. All the farms and many houses also had their own well and water pumps. The smaller square trough may be the base of an ancient cross marked on some earlier maps of the village.





**4 Rose Lea House and Cottage** - Both are part of what was, until 1961, Rose Lea School (latterly Hillam School), a private establishment founded in 1882. This was for many years an important institution in both the village and the area.

**5 Manor House** - Dating from the early 18th century, this is a handsome example of the long-house style characteristic of its period. Constructed in local limestone rubble and predominantly south-facing, there are several similar remaining in Hillam.

**6 Hillam Methodist Chapel** - The empty corner plot and part of where Kendal Cottage now stands was the site of the imposing Wesleyan chapel. It opened in 1846, largely funded, despite his being an Anglican, by Daniel Burton Mouncey of Hillam Hall. It closed in 1969 and was demolished in 1979, having been declared unsafe.

**7 Dower House** - Traditionally the home of the local landowner's widow. The property belonged to the estate of the Earl of Lonsborough, onetime lord of the manor. The historic deeds are fascinating and beautifully artistic documents.



**8 Hillam Hall** - Although the two wings bear the dates 1827 and 1875, the Hall was remodelled from an older house. Some of the outbuildings have been converted into dwellings, and the complex is listed. Mouncey, Hemsworth and Lyon are just a few of the locally important names associated with the Hall.

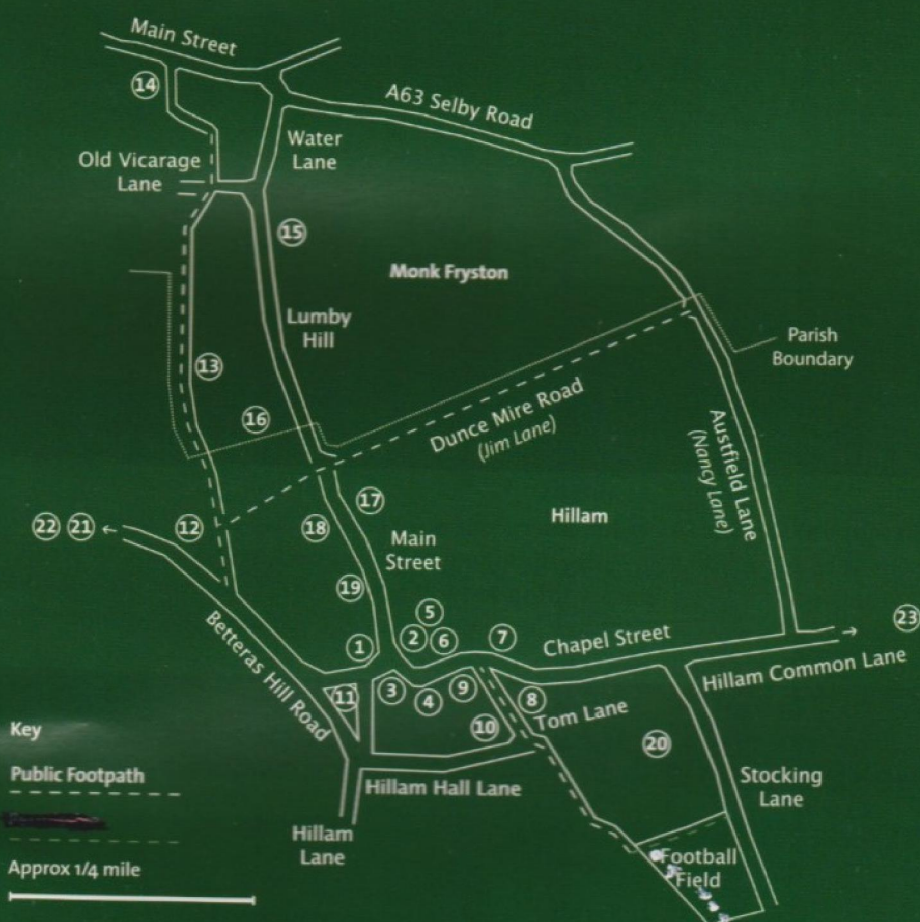


**9 Hall Farm and Outbuildings** - Dating from the early 17th century, this listed farmhouse is now the oldest of what were, 100 years ago, 22 farms within the village. Historically it is linked with what are now Tom Lane cottages.





**10 Tom Lane** - Channies and Burton Cottages, formerly one house reputed to have been the original Hillam Hall, are probably the oldest buildings in the village. Now listed, they are believed to have early 17th century origins. They were at one time an alehouse named the Lord Nelson.



**11 Pinfold** - On the right-hand verge at the bottom end of Betteras Hill Road (a stretch previously known as Pinfold Lane) stood the village pinfold, a circular construction about 6 feet high. At Easter Monday auctions villagers used to buy the right to graze stock on the village verges; stray animals were put in the pinfold until owners paid a fine to reclaim them.

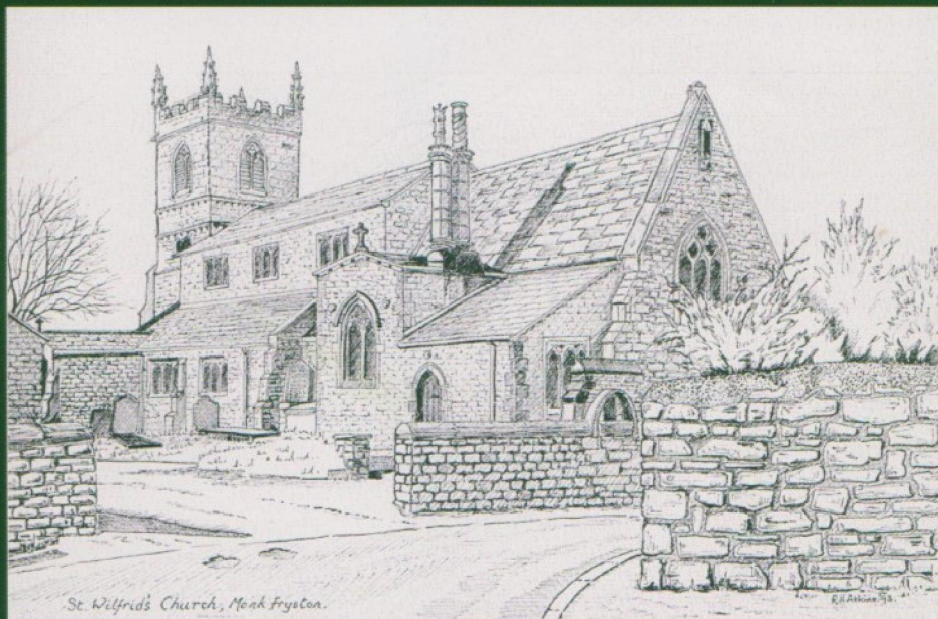


**12 Hillam Fishing Pond, also known as the Brick Pond** - Formerly Hillam Brick and Plaster Works, this area was a gypsum quarry served by a rail track to the mainline loading siding. It operated until the quarry was suddenly engulfed by a spring in the early 1900s. The workers' abandoned tools are still submerged. In 1935 five specimens of gypsum from the site were acquired by the national Geological Museum, now part of the Natural History Museum.



**13 Footpath to Monk Fryston** - Rebuilt in 2001, the path is the remaining part of one which originally linked Burton Salmon and Hillam villages with St Wilfrid's, their parish church.

**14 St Wilfrid's Church** - The parish church of Monk Fryston, Hillam and Burton Salmon is thought to have been dedicated originally to St Mary. There is evidence of a church on this site for at least 1000 years. The bells date from the 17th century; the fabric was substantially restored in 1889-91.



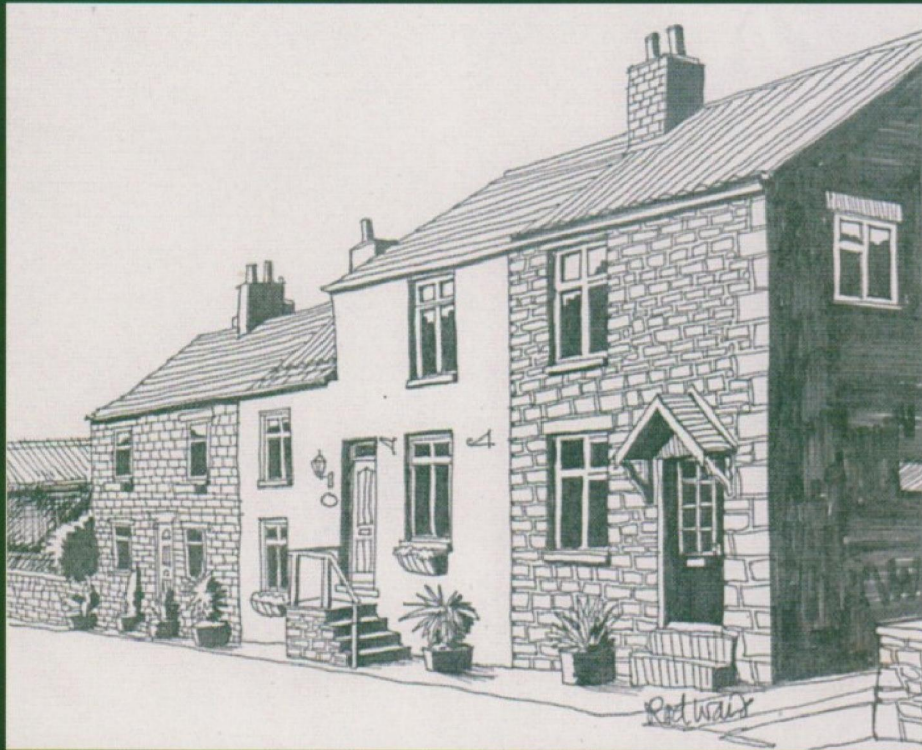
**15 Old Primary School** - The school was constructed in 1857, replaced in 1999 and subsequently converted into a house. Older villagers remember the earth closets, the installation of mains water and taking turns to sit at the front of the class to be near the only form of heating, the potbellied stove.





**16 Mill Close** - Within living memory, a flourmill known as Hillam Mill stood at the top of what is now Mill Close. First it had the sails removed and then years later, about 1922, the top. It was pulled down in 1953 to make way for housing.

**17 Quaker Burial Ground** - Situated near the brow of the hill, in an area known locally as the Burial Garth. The land (now built upon) was provided by the Ward family. The names are known of at least sixteen Friends interred there between 1667 and 1833.



**18 Breakfast and Hillside Cottages** - Part of a picturesque terrace. The mid 20th century saw the demolition of several terraces of cottages, once a feature of the village.



**19 Orchard View Outbuilding** - Drawing prior to recent renovation. Until the 1930s, the workshop of the village joiner, who was also the wheelwright and undertaker. There are conflicting reports, but this may have been the site of the first Hillam Methodist meeting place.



**20 Hillam Cricket Ground** - The ground with its original pavilion was laid out by Harry Lyon, owner of Hillam Hall in the early 20th century. Hillam Hall Cricket Club later became Hillam and Monk Fryston CC. The club bought the ground from Mr Lyon's family in the 1970s.



*Out of the centre of the village:*

**21 Hillam Gates** (approx 1/2 mile from the Square) - This line opened in 1840 during the railway boom and was first marked on the 1885 OS map. It linked Hillam to the erstwhile large interchange station at Milford Junction. The signal box was demolished in the mid 1980s when CCTV was installed.

**22 Milestone** (approx 1 mile from the Square) - Located about 150 yards south of the junction of Betteras Hill Road with the A162. Known locally as the Old London Road, this was a toll road run by the Doncaster to Tadcaster Turnpike Trust, which was set up in 1758. The listed structure, mapped by Thomas Jefferys in 1771, is inscribed with the distances from London, Ferrybridge, York and Tadcaster.

**23 Maspin Grange Farm** (approx 2 miles from the Square) is the possible site of a mediaeval monastic grange. The earlier name of the area, Markenfen Moor, indicates the type of land which surrounded Hillam before draining.

Grateful acknowledgements and thanks to

**Artists** - Ralph Atkins

Monk Fryston Art Club: Kathy Bowers, Gibson Burnett, Jean Dearn, June Elsey, Frances Kretschmer, Heather Walker, Rod Ward, Marjorie Webster

**Cartographer** - Tony Hudson

**Designer** - Paul Force

**Consultant** - Geoff Woodall

**Permission for route across football field** - Monk Fryston Football Club

First published October 2005

Revised edition July 2006

**Hillam Historians**

[www.hillam-village.co.uk](http://www.hillam-village.co.uk)