







Views taken from Hermitage Green Lane to the old Quarry.











Source 4

Cop Holt Valley quarries

This refers to both the Finds and the Burials parts

With regards to the Cop Holt Wood on the West side of Mill Lane above Newton Brooke. This area has been excellently described in several threads on www.newton-le-willows.com website in several threads that shown, especially in the thread “Battle of Winwick Pass/Red Bank” at the following web address:

<http://newton-le-willows.com/history/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=901>

this link leads to 6 subsequent pages maybe more as it is being continually updated.

But the essence is on the Cop Holt farm side the wood contains possibly Roman or Bronze aged quarries. Here are some extracts from the thread “Battle of Winwick Pass/Red Bank”:

A few years ago when we discussed this, Bob made a very good suggestion, the Hermitage Green Lane has a number of very old quarries, bronze aged, or Roman maybe, also the land overlooking Red Bank, below Cop Halt looks to have quarried cliff faces, Bob suggested that it would be relatively easy to put all the bodies into one of the quarries, and to scrape the top soil from the field above the quarry over the edge into it, to bury the bodies. This would be a lot less hassle than burying by digging a pit, and remembering that because this battle was so mobile, being in Warrington by nightfall, that it was probably the locals that had to figure what to do with the bodies, and so a disused ancient quarry might look like a quick and handy spot.

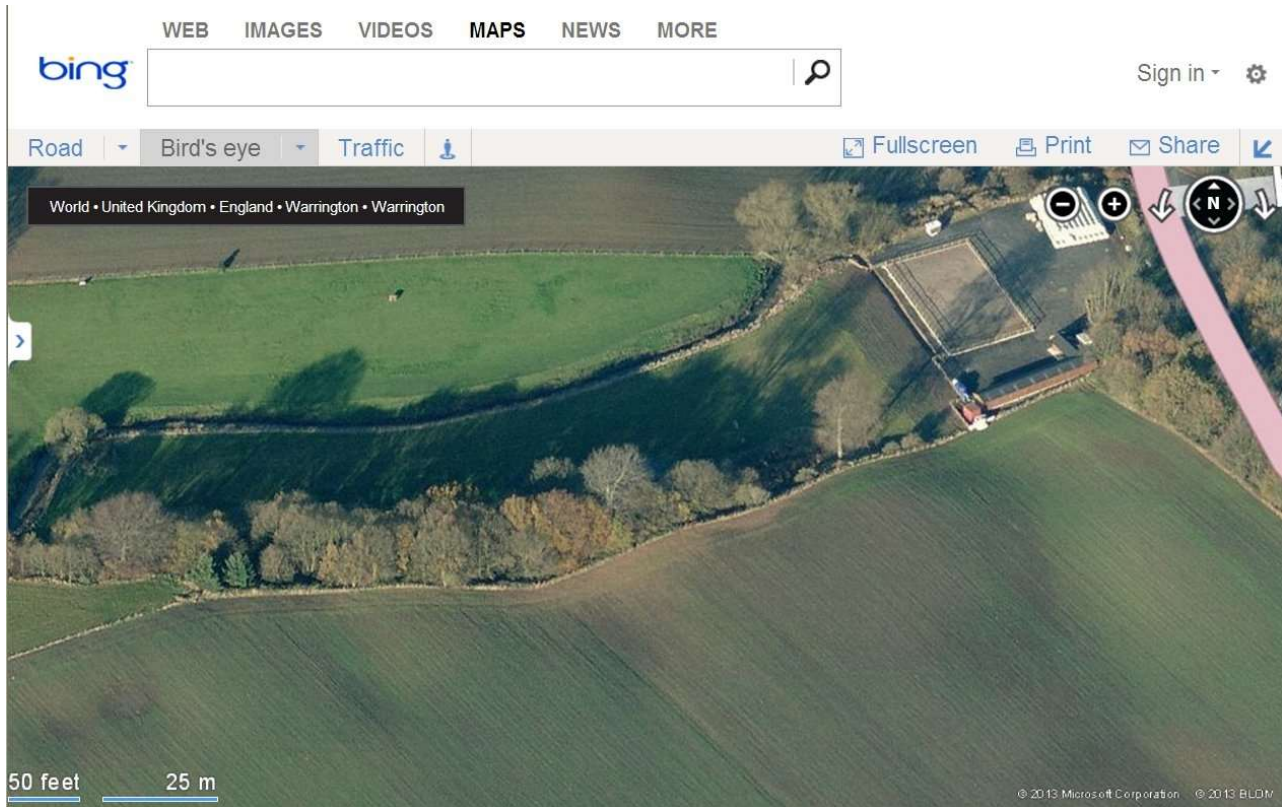
And

yes steve, i still think that is what they did, you have to remember most able bodied chaps of the day was off fighting, if not they would have been killed in action, so who was lesft to bury the bodies, and i can tell you i wouldnt like the task of digging 1000 graves, thats a job that couldnt be done in a day with a JCB, nevermind women and pensioners, kids, so i stick by my theory that the bodies where moved to below cop holt farm, cutting, and soil thrown down from the higher field, with the distance from the stream and the sand stone around there i do not think the decaying bodies would have polluted the stream, heres a link to it -

<http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=53.441289~-2.611879&style=a&lvl=18&tilt=-90&dir=0&alt=-1000&encType=1>

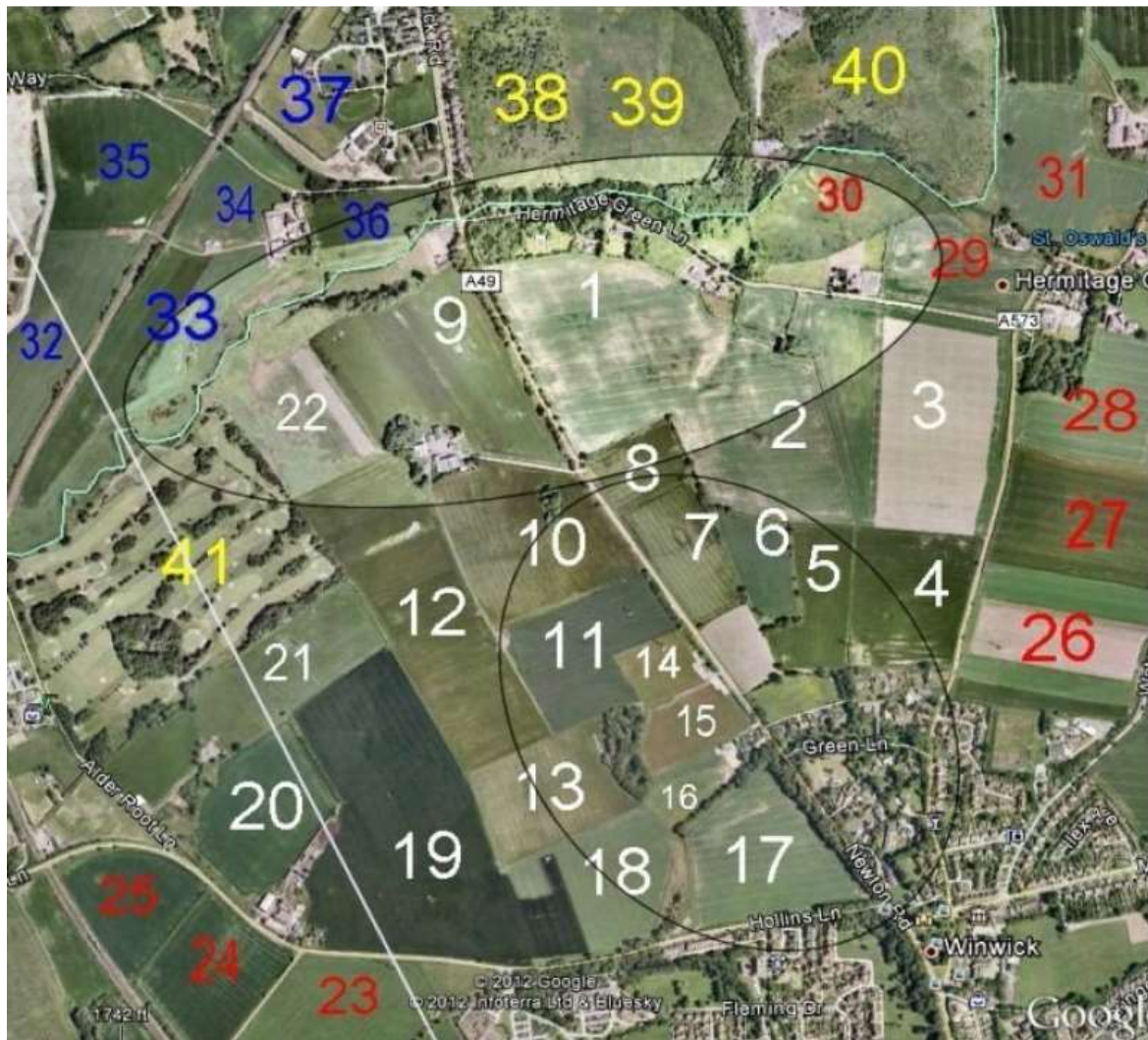
Next is the link information from Bing.com:

Ariel view of Cop Holt Wood



And to continue with extracts from the thread “Battle of Winwick Pass/Red Bank”:

What's really needed to help clarify would be a systematic metal detector search in the fields and marshy area around Hermitage Green Lane, and also on the opposite side of Newton Road, north of Cop Holt Farm, with the location of any finds of musket shot etc marked carefully on a large-scale OS Map (similar projects turned up a lot of useful information at Naseby and Marston Moor, for example). It would be a good project for Newton History Society or Warrington Archaeological Society, if either still exist, and if the farmers involved were willing to co-operate.



And

Ok, i have done a map with field's numbered, white being more likely to be battle area, I have done this to hopefully make it easier for people to join in and have their say, What do we know??

The OS maps list 1 and 9 as the battle site. do you agree, what evidence do we have, Russ found Scottish evidence at 4.

40 years ago anyone who went in the Hermit pub would have seen lots of old guns and battle evidence on the walls.

I was told they are what farmers have found over the years, so that could be anywhere unless a farmer remembers and tells us,

Bodies? A distinct lack of them,

Some letters to or from soldiers that Steve has mentioned before,

Field 17, lots of musket balls, and evidence of a battle priest being there,

Musket ball marks in Winwick Church, fired from 17.

If you can add to this list, please add it to the thread, maybe we can piece it together, what i need to know is, has anything been found on 38 and 39.

And

Here is a picture i took today, sorry it was a spare of the moment thing and i only had my phone cam with me, this is the field below Cop Holt looking north, i believe this is where the main battle started, and also with the new 10 finds today, i am sure there must have been a shot making stand set up around here, as raw lead strips were also found along with what looked like brand new shot. the picture also shows the contour of the land, i think there is a lot more to that area than we know.



The picture is taken from <http://newton-le-willows.com/history/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=901> and/or one of the subsequent pages. The field shown is taken from Cop Holt Farm Field which is on location area 9 of the battle plan above.

And

Hi, i didnt get a picture of the lead but it looked like it was coated in white, probably some church roofs needed re leading after the battle, i think the Scots were on the east flank, where this site is i would say the Royal infantry was there, at the moment i have been talking to Steve about this, i think Cromwell not only sent his Horse around HGL to come side on to the Scots, but i think he sent some Foot around by the golf course on the Roman road, a classic pincer movement ! but thats my theory.

This next picture was taken on the same spot as the other i have uploaded, but looking right to the main road, some shot was found around there, i do not know if at one time that was a pond, but i think it would make a good place for the Royalists to fire shot from, especially if the old road was in front of them.



The picture is taken from <http://newton-le-willows.com/history/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=901> and/or one of the subsequent pages of the website. The field shown is taken from Cop Holt Farm Field which is on location area 9 of the battle plan above. With the A49 street lamps clearly in view.

The blue markers on this picture according to the website text indicate musket shot find locations. The next question is, “Are these musket ball finds a result of having been fired by a Parliamentary Soldier or a newly formed musket ball which has been dropped and never fired either by the Scottish Soldiers or by the advancing Parliamentary soldiers?” Maybe there is a marked difference between the musket ball moulds used by the Scottish compared to the Parliamentary forces which is evident in the shot moulding marks?

The information from several extracts contained in the weblink:

<http://newton-le-willows.com/history/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=901>

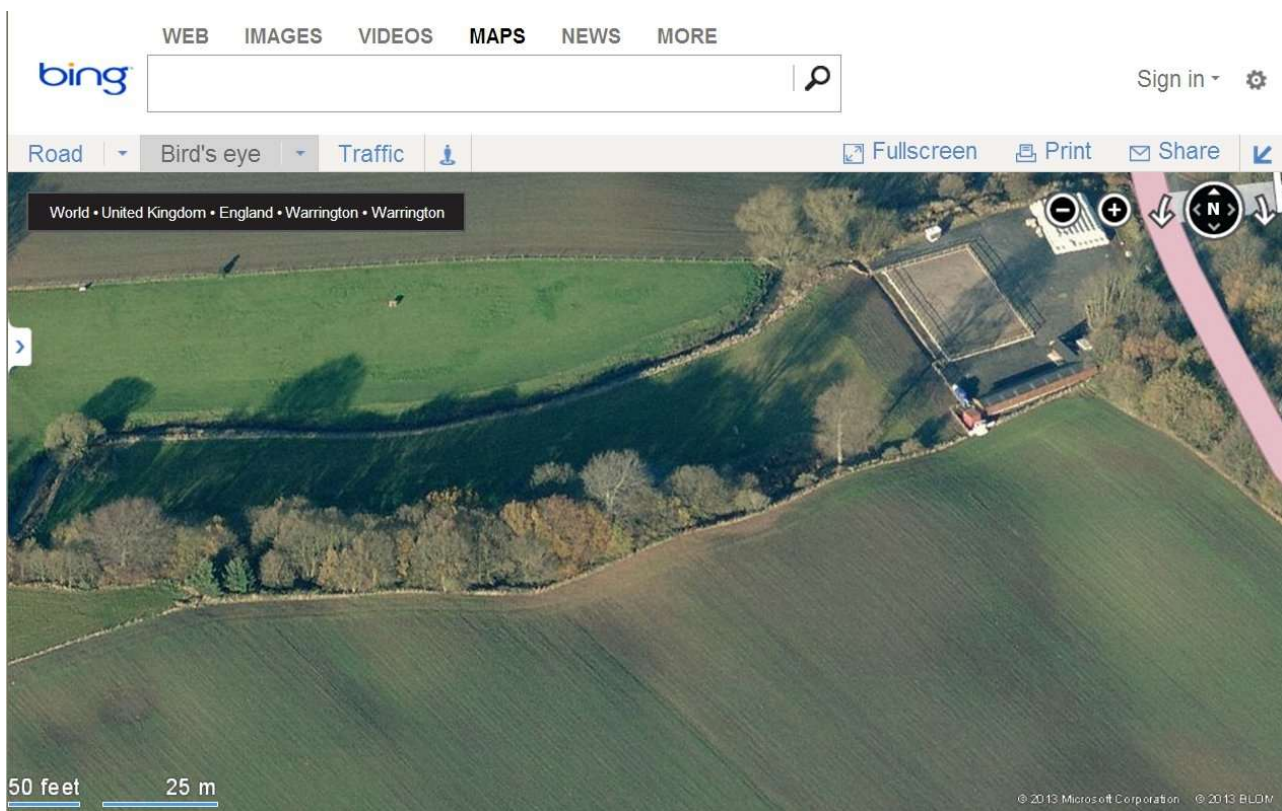
gives a flavour of what happened on the Cop Holt side to the west of Mill Lane.

- With these extra finds discovered and recorded on the website thread(s). I assume the finds information has not been handed over to 'The Museum of Liverpool Finds Liaison Officer' for official recording.
- The physical existence of quarry sites above Newton Brook gives further evidence to how the engagement progressed and possible burial sites of those killed in action. The assumption there was a hedge line at the top of the ridge above the quarries in 1648 is

possible as the hedge will be an effective soil erosion barrier as the hedge and roots will help retain the banking and the above field top-soil.

- With regards to using the quarries to bury the "killed in action either at Cop Holt Wood or Hermitage Green Lane ancient quarries, is the amount of top-soil needed to cover the bodies in order to restrict odours from the natural process of decay and also to restrict the natural behaviour of vermin if buried too shallow. This would mean the normal 12 inches or so of top-soil (the accepted fertile layer thickness for crop growth) would be stripped down to the clay area over the area used for covering the bodies in the quarry. This would then leave this part of the field only with an exposed clay surface for farming etc. Then this part of the field would take years if not centuries for weeds/grasses/leaf mould to re-establish the top-soil fertile layer over the clay area. Unless the Farmer or Landowner transported fresh top-soil on to the affected area. The 'Bing' map view at

<http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=53.441289~-2.611879&style=a&lvl=18&tilt=-90&dir=0&alt=-1000&encType=1>



shows parts of the field above the Cop Holt Wood to be less fertile in certain areas. Possible Top-soil depths could show this area is thinner than other parts of the field, which could indicate the area in the Cop Holt Wood (quarry) as a point for investigation. Also if the Cop Holt Wood quarry were used then there would be a definite lack of 'finds' in the field area above the quarry, as any dropped or fired musket shot etc would have been cleared along with the top-soil to cover the bodies. This possible lack of finds in these areas could be surrounded (where the top-soil has not been moved to cover burials in the quarries) where finds may have been located (via metal detecting records). This would also indicate the quarry was covered by the field top-soil and hence no finds, giving clues to a possible burial location.

- Unfortunately, the quarries in Hermitage Green Lane are surrounded by modern construction (houses – Penwortham and Hermitage Green Lodge) for the immediate arial view to show if

the top-soil of the fields were used to cover the burials in the quarry. So other techniques and research would be needed before investigation.

- The only source as to the origin of the quarries at Cop Holt and in Hermitage Green Lane is from the various threads contained in www.newton-le-willows.com website. As being either Roman or Bronze Age. But as the Roman road runs from Warrington to Wigan to the west of Red Bank area. The likelihood the Romans used local stone during the construction from nearby sandstone outcrops is highly plausible. Together with local important buildings would also use local stone for construction.

A series of pictures taken on the road to New Hey Farm (Public Footpath) from the Bridge across Newton Brook towards Cop Holt Wood area (North to South).

