

Kippax is first mentioned in 1086 in "Domesday" - the record compiled by William the Conqueror of the land holdings and tax revenues of England.

Kippax is referred to here as "*Chipesch*", which means literally "Cippa's Ash Tree" ("Cippa" being an Old English personal name). The Anglians or English are first thought to have arrived in this part of Yorkshire in the 7th-century AD.

Kippax is thought to have been the administrative and ecclesiastical centre of a large Anglo-Saxon estate and, following the Norman Conquest of 1066, was the manorial centre for the northern part of the Honour of Pontefract (an area of land that covered about half of modern West Yorkshire). 14th-century tax rolls suggest Kippax had a population equivalent to Leeds.

The earliest reference to a coal mine in Kippax is in 1320-1 and Kippax thrived in the 19th-century as a coal-mining village.

A surprising number of historical features survive in Kippax. We hope that you will enjoy discovering them.

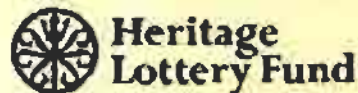
If you would like to get involved with the Society or find out more about Kippax's historic past, why not come to our monthly meetings.

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Local Heritage *initiative*

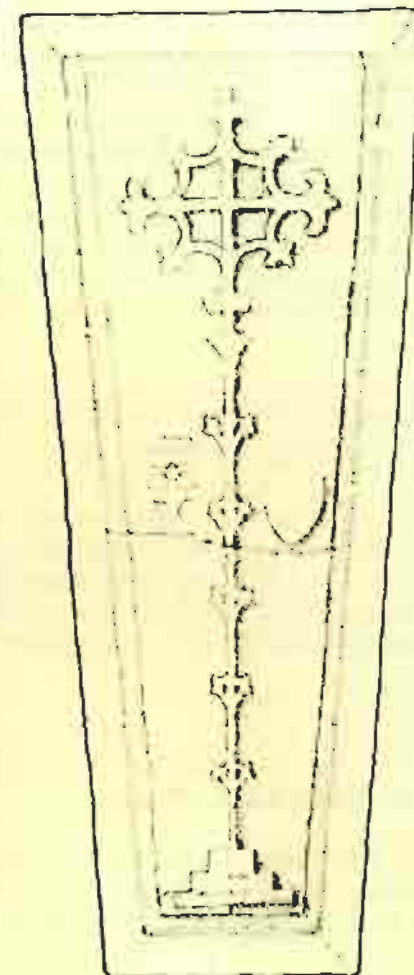


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KIPPAX



**A SHORT GUIDE TO
AN HISTORICAL
VILLAGE**

The Church:

The church is mentioned in 1086 and almost certainly exists on the site of an earlier building, possibly in wood. Two fragments of an Anglo-Saxon cross shaft, thought to be part of an early 10th-century cross, were found in the church in the 19th-century. The church probably originated as a private chapel for an English lord but is thought to have become a Minster church, probably before the Norman Conquest. The "herringbone" masonry visible in the outer walls is characteristic of 11th or 12th-century building work. A decorated 14th-century cross slab can be seen in the graveyard 20 yards east of the chancel. See front cover.

Manor Garth Hill: (a nationally important archaeological site protected by law):

The earthwork remains of an 11th-century ring-work and bailey castle are clearly visible next to the church. This may be the site of an earlier high status English hall. The castle's outer defences originally extended eastwards into what is now the churchyard.

Ash Tree School Leeds Road:

On or very close to the site of Goldsmith's School, a 16th-century free grammar school. The extant buildings today date from the late 19th century.

Sylhetti Balti:

Thought to be the oldest building still standing in Kippax (other than the church), possibly 17th-century in date.

Well Lane:

The spring, where water was obtained for drinking and washing in the days before running water, can still be seen.

The White Swan

Is on the site of a previous White Swan and the Manor Court is thought to have been held there.

Royal Oak Public House:

Formerly known as Kippax House. The building dates from about 1700 and is listed Grade II. The earlier Royal Oak was on Cross Hills

Hanover Square:

An 18th century stone wall can still be seen on the eastern edge of the square.

Old Gateposts to Kippax Park:

These are 18th century in date and are protected by listing.

The Hermitage:

An 18th century house on the North side of High Street and listed as Grade II.

Cinema:

A 1920's building in the High Street, called the Alhambra for many years.

The Old Tree Inn:

Was for many years a beer house, it could not sell spirits or strong wine.

The Commercial:

Was previously known as the Medhurst Arms.

Pinfold:

Located between No's 105 - No's 107 High Street, was used to keep stray animals until a fine was paid to regain them.

Windmill:

Boggat's or Kippax Mill. Probably of early to mid 19th-century date, there was an 18th-century windmill on a different site at Lime Hills (where it is shown on a map of 1775 and of 1817). However, by 1828 the only mill shown in Kippax is that of a water-mill (which was probably of medieval origin) on Sheffield Beck on the south side of Station Road. Boggat's mill was used for grinding corn and was converted from a windmill to a steam-driven mill in the late 19th-century.

Water Mill:

Was mentioned in the Domesday Survey and was located near the Allotments on Station Road.

Railway:

Kippax had a Railway station from 1878 to 1969, nothing remains of the station but the station cottages can still be seen