

South Yorkshire Local Heritage List

Working for Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham & Sheffield

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Cinderhill Green

Status

Candidate (work in progress)

A newly recorded asset requiring checking and enhancement before adjudication

Location/Address

Land west of Beaver Hill Road

Handsworth

 [View on main map](#)

Type

Landmark, art work or way finder

Assets whose form and function are readily visible, but which are not Buildings. This category includes signage and works of art such as murals and statues.

Description

The site of Cinderhill Green, Handsworth, is a historic place where George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), preached in 1654. This is a matter of documented historical record and establishes the site's national religious and cultural importance.

Primary Evidence:

The Journal of George Fox (originally published 1694, accessible via the Internet Archive and other historical databases) records Fox preaching “at Cinder Hill Green” in 1654. This entry places Handsworth within the early mission circuit of the Quaker movement, during Fox’s travels across Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

Fox’s own words in his Journal confirm that large crowds gathered there to hear him, marking it as a significant early Quaker meeting location.

Supporting Local and Archival References:

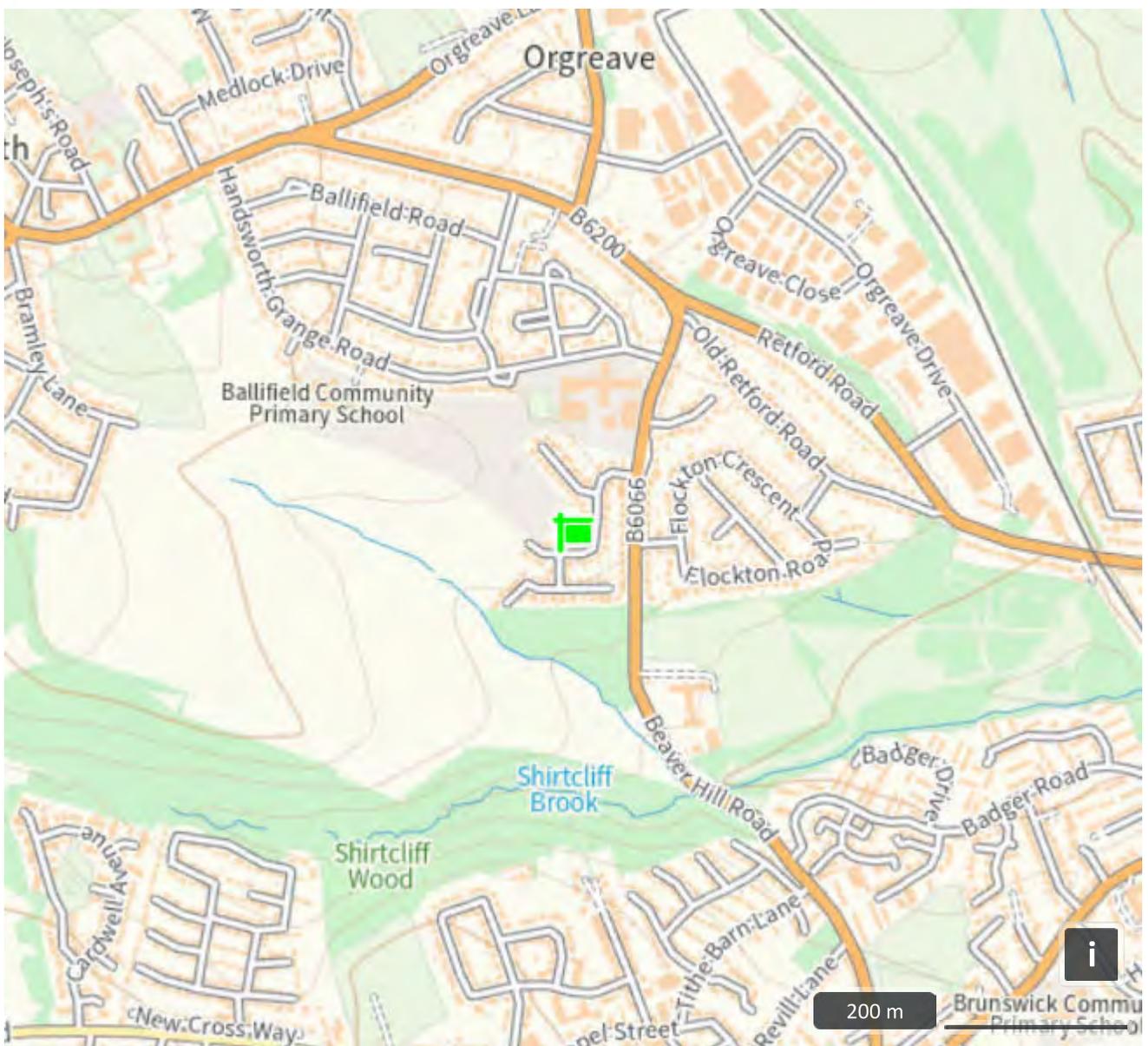
Sheffield City Archives / Picture Sheffield list Cinderhill Green as the site of George Fox’s 1654 sermon, noting “Several thousands at Cinder Hill in 1654. George Fox’s visits in 1660, 1663, 1666, 1677.”

Local Quaker histories (including those cited in Researching Yorkshire Quaker History, University of Hull) record that after preaching on Cinderhill Green, Fox also spoke that evening at the home of Thomas Stacye, one of the earliest Quaker supporters in the district.

Local heritage records and genealogical notes continue to reference this event as a defining moment in the establishment of the early Quaker community in South Yorkshire.

Given this substantial evidence, Cinderhill Green can be identified as a site of national religious and historic significance, worthy of preservation and official recognition — particularly in relation to the early development of Quakerism in England.

Map



Statement of Significance

Asset type

Place

Age

17th Century

Rarity

Early Quaker preaching sites in fields, village greens and manorial land do not often survive or are untraceable. Cinderhill Green is believed to be rare in encompassing both a Quaker preaching ground utilised by George Fox and a Quaker burial ground in the same landscape; and is situated nearby to the site of Ballifield Hall, the home of the Staceys - an important early Quaker family.

Here the burial ground survives in maps, records and physically; and part of the green survives. For land in a city boundary this survival is highly unusual.

Architectural and Artistic Interest

Historical maps show that the shape of the green, the ancient burial enclosure and the field boundary alignments.

It has artistic interest (historic and commemorative value) nationally and also internationally. The graveyard reflects Quaker principles plain, simple and equal: reflecting the design philosophy of early Quaker sites. The landscape itself is the artistic expression of their beliefs. The minimalist, symbolic landscape is considered artistic heritage.

The artistic interest comes from the spiritual meaning, the commemorative function, and the historic aesthetic of the place as a natural amphitheatre for large gatherings of thousands of people.

Group Value

It has group value, as a preaching site and a burial ground still survive in the same landscape. This is where early Quakers gathered, and where converts chose to be buried, showing how the community formed and how dissenting religion shaped the area.

The Stacey family supported George Fox and lived at Ballifield Hall close to Cinderhill. Cinderhill Green is not isolated, it sits within a historic field pattern that still matches tithe map boundaries, Fairbank survey boundaries and 18th century estate plans. It is a unified historic setting.

Historic Interest

The site is associated with a nationally important figure, George Fox, who preached here in the early 1650s - his visits forming part of the first spread of Quakerism across the north of England. He is recognised as a nationally and internationally significant religious reformer. The area is associated with an important national movement that was early Quakerism, spreading nonconformity, the rise of dissenting religion and the development of religious freedom.

Cinderhill Green was one of the earliest Quaker gatherings in Yorkshire, one of the very first open-air meetings of the movement, a landscape where Quaker converts gathered before meeting houses existed. At Cinderhill both the burial site and the preaching site can be identified, with early records.

The placename "Cinderhill" appears consistently from the 1600s to the present day, giving the area strong historic character.

The 1650s being a period of religious experimentation with persecution of dissenters at a time of political upheaval. This area is a surviving site from that era.

The site remains as a 1650s religious landscape .

Archaeological Interest

As an early open air preaching site the area might contain trample layers, soil compaction, boundary markers (including two boundary walls and grave markers still in the burial ground), and could contain artefacts and other features. Survival of historic field boundaries suggests the area has seen little past disturbance.

There is potential for pre-Quaker archaeology, including medieval agricultural activity, charcoal burning /cinder use associated with possible early industrial or pre-industrial features.

Landmark Status

Cinderhill Green is a landmark in the physical landscape, visible on maps from 1600 onwards. The green lies on a historic crossing point or meeting point of old trackways, pre-enclosure boundaries and routes shown on Fairbank and tithe maps.

Residents know Cinderhill green as a historic space being tied to local Quaker history and how our community began. The burial ground adds emotional and cultural importance to our community. The place is valued as an early Quaker preaching site from the 17th century dissenting landscape, having landmark significance on a local, regional and national level.

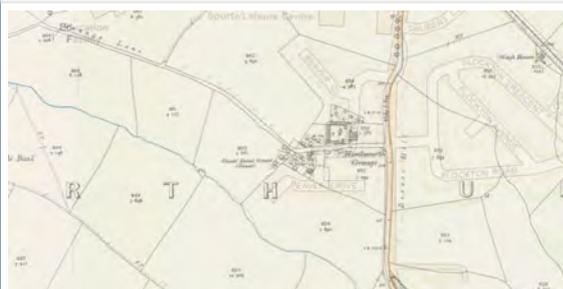
Images and Documents



Photo



Photo



1892 Ordnance Survey map overlying modern mapping (© Copyright National Library of Scotland and reused under CC-BY-SA-4.0)



Burial ground boundary wall ,
boundary markers , grave markers ,
fields behind at Cinder Hill Green

  Photo



1796 survey for Handsworth
inclosure, commons and
encroachments (© Copyright Sheffield
City Archives: FC/P/Han/5L)

Added

22 Nov 2025, 18:26

Last updated

22 Dec 2025, 18:23

External/HER references

None recorded

Comments and Feedback

Do you have any questions or more information about this record?

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 Hello
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Cinderhill Quaker Burial Ground, Handsworth

Status

Candidate (work in progress)

A newly recorded asset requiring checking and enhancement before adjudication

Location/Address

10 Beaver Drive S13 9QL

 [View on main map](#)

Type

Other site, structure or landscape

Assets that cannot fit any of the other categories. This category includes sites of archaeological interest, where the original form and function may not be apparent without the use of archaeological techniques and interpretation.

Description

The Cinderhill Quaker (or Friends) Burial Ground was the private burial ground for the Stacey family who lived in nearby Ballifield Hall, now demolished. The burial ground is located in the area known as Cinderhill Green. George Fox, who founded the Quaker movement in England, recorded in his journal: "I came up into

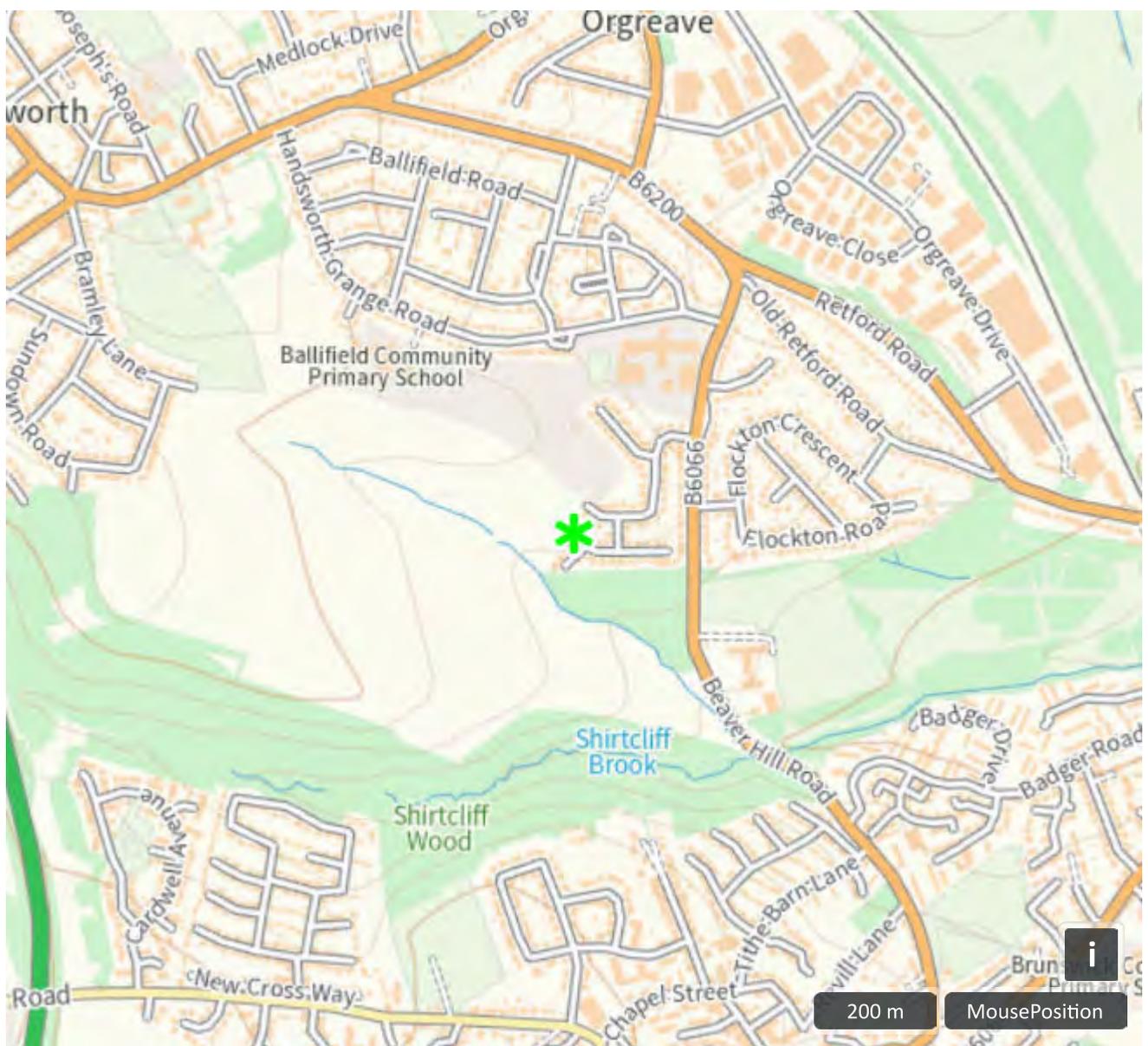
Yorkshire... till I came to Cinder Hill Green, where there was a meeting judged to be about two and a half thousand people, and all peaceable and quiet. The Lord's power and presence was with us, and His truth was declared among them". Fox notes that afterwards "I went that night to Thomas Stacey's house" where he later preached on several occasions.

The graves are intact but markers have been destroyed or displaced. One remains in the back garden of 10 Beaver Drive, inscribed "WL 1673" and the Handsworth Museum has one for William Bullas, dated 1697. A few grave stones are broken up but remain on top of the drystone wall that defines the site on two sides. Also present are two gate posts or boundary markers.

The burial ground is marked on a map of 1799, its boundary identical to what is now the rear garden of 10 Beaver Drive, and is labelled "Burying Ground in which several of the Stacey [sic] family were interred in the 17th Century" and the allotment records it as "Burying Ground in use about a Century ago" (Sheffield Archives document ref. ACM Han5L).

A further public part of the burial ground is suggested to have extended south-west into the top half of the back gardens going down Beaver Drive, and also into the field behind the properties, as all have to pay ground rent for the top half of their gardens to Sheffield City Council.

Map



Statement of Significance

Asset type

Archaeological site

Age

Recorded burials at the site date from 1667, contemporary with the early years of Quakerism, which formed in the mid-17th century.

Rarity

The site is rare as an early Quaker burial ground. Burials at the site are not recorded to have been removed and survival of buried remains is expected to be good.

Group Value

The site has group value with other early Quaker sites in the region. The Cinderhill burial ground is amongst the first formed in South Yorkshire, which include ones at Burton (est. 1657), Hoylandswaine (est. 1657), Fishlake (est. 1655-61), Warmsworth (est. 1660), Thorne (1673), Bowcroft (est. 1675-6), Broad Lane in Sheffield (est.

1675), Woodhouse (1687), Meetinghouse Lane in Sheffield (est. 1738), Penistone (est. 1763), Balby (est. c.1798), and Barnsley (est. 1815).

Historic Interest

George Fox, founder of the Quaker movement in England, recorded in his journal that he preached at Cinder Hill in 1653 several times, to thousands of people. He stayed at Ballifield Hall with the Stacey family, many of who are buried in the graveyard. In addition, the site has interest in its association through the Stacey family with Mahlon Stacey who emigrated to New Jersey in America in 1679; Mahlon, by then a devout Quaker, was the first European colonist to settle what would become Trenton where he established a plantation called Ballifield.

Archaeological Interest

The burials within the site, and any evidence of the development and use of the burial ground, are of archaeological interest.

Landmark Status

The site is a landmark in relation to the formation of Quakerism, with the current tenant of no. 10 Beaver Drive reporting lots of people knocking at the door and asking to see the burial ground from all over England, and some from the USA, as well as people walking in the fields behind his house looking for it.

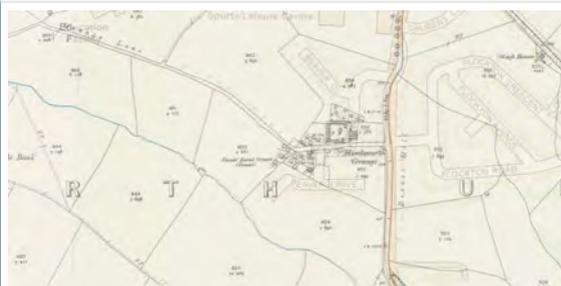
Images and Documents

  Photo



original boundary wall .all grassed area is the graves site

  Photo



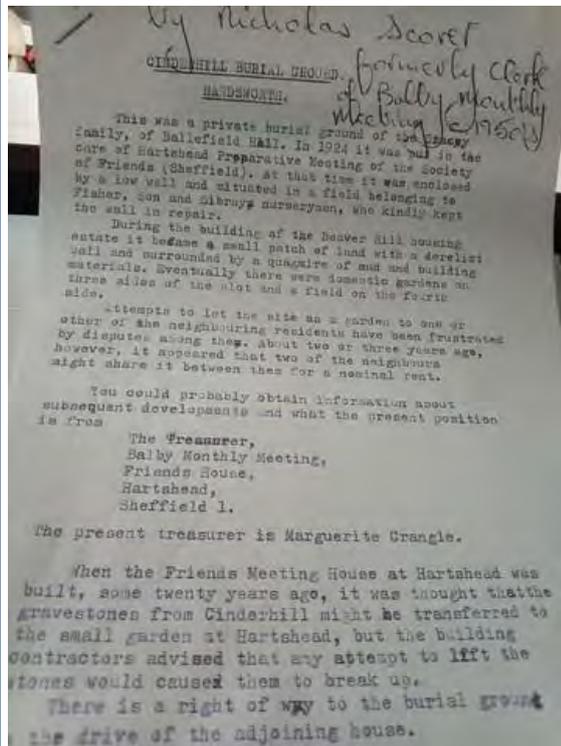
1892 Ordnance Survey map overlying modern mapping (© Copyright National Library of Scotland and reused under CC-BY-SA-4.0)

  Photo



1796 survey for Handsworth inclosure, commons and incoachments (© Copyright Sheffield City Archives: FC/P/Han/5L)

Document



Documentary research

Photo



broken gravestones on top of the dry stone wall

Photo



grave marker back garden of 10 beaver drive WL 1673

Photo

Photo



grave marker of william bullas
1697. currently in handsworth
museum



looking to the left of the site



Photo



looking to the right of the site



Photo



gate posts or boundary markers

Added

21 Oct 2025, 10:12

Last updated

23 Dec 2025, 12:59

External/HER references

None recorded

Comments and Feedback

Do you have any questions or more information about this record?