

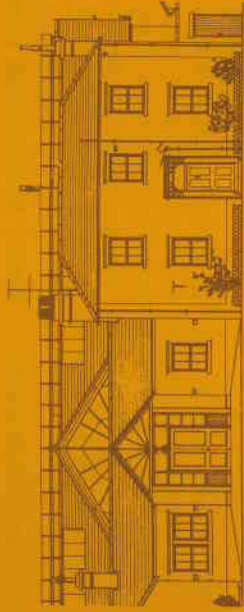
expensive. No-one benefitted greatly, least of all the workers, who in 1618 were described as: 'tattered and naked, for want of clothes and food not finding credit for bread and drinks because they were unpaid for three months and some four'. By 1626 the main Guisborough alum workings had closed down.



#### 17th century alum works

During the English Civil War, 1641 - 1644, the town was divided in its loyalties between King and Parliament. The major events passed Cleveland by, however, on the 16th January 1643 the royalist regiment of Colonel Slingsby was defeated at Guisborough by Parliamentarian forces led by Sir Hugh Cholmley. The Colonel was carried back to Guisborough where he died of his wounds three days later.

The discovery of ironstone in the Eston Hills in 1850 led to the development of industry as mines were opened, furnaces and factories sprang up on the river's edge and railways brought in coal and workers. At Guisborough, mines were opened, on Beiman Bank and at Slapewath. There were no miners in the town in 1851 but by 1861 there were 319 and by 1873, 1,600. In 1853 the Middlesbrough and Guisborough Railway was opened and a station built in Guisborough, where the Health Centre now stands. Subsequently, the rival Cleveland Railway linked Guisborough to Skelton and ran along the southern flank of the Eston Hills. This closed in 1873 when the North Eastern Railway absorbed both companies. Services were withdrawn from Guisborough in 1964.



Guisborough Station

From the 1870's depression struck the mining industry as ores were imported and many people migrated to Canada and Australia. By the end of the 19th century most of the mines around Guisborough had closed. However, Guisborough was a growing town. Between 1743 and 1881 the town's population increased dramatically from 1,500 to 6,616. The housing and facilities had to be improved to accommodate this increase; companies built houses for their workers, a sewage system was built and the Cottage Hospital and the Providence and Northgate Schools were founded.

Guisborough is now growing fast as a commuter and tourist centre on the road to the moors.

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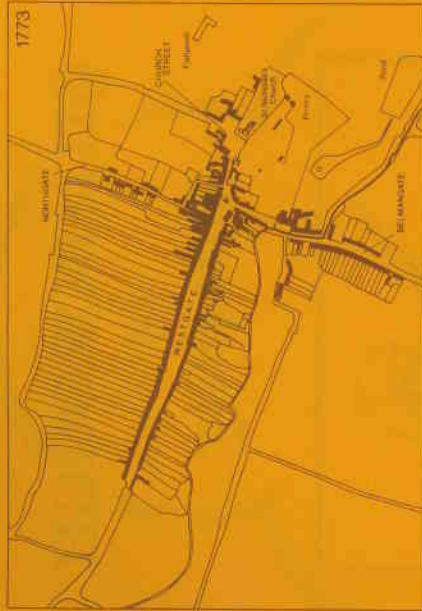
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## GUISBOROUGH in Antiquity



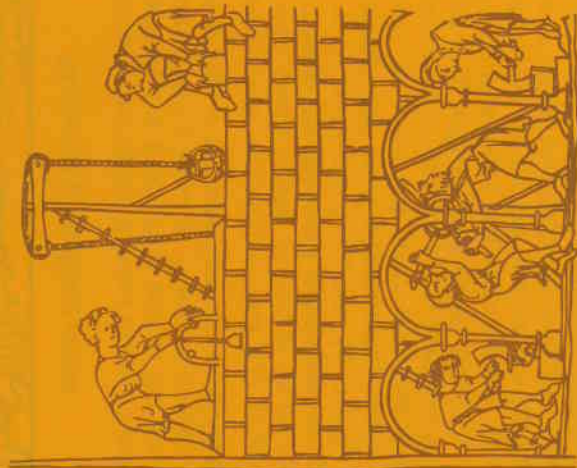
Medieval ploughing scene

Guisborough lies within a broad valley bounded to the north by the Eston Hills and to the south by the North Yorks Moors. There is evidence of human activity in the area from around 8000 B.C. The town is first recorded in 1042 A.D. when land there was given to the church at Durham, the name means 'the defended settlement' (burgh) of Gigr, a Scandinavian name. In 1066 A.D. Guisborough had been a prosperous settlement. However, in 1069 the north rebelled and the Normans were driven out of Durham and York. In revenge King William destroyed the crops and animals, burnt villages and killed people. The area had not recovered by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086; Guisborough was described as having a church, a mill and around 2000 acres of farmland, but its value had dropped from 40s in 1066 to 16 in 1086.



### Guisborough

After Domesday, Guisborough was given to Robert de Brus, and in 1119 he founded Guisborough Priory. Religious centres at distant Whitby, York and Durham meant that there were few educated men in the Guisborough area. The Augustinians were well suited to an educational mission; they went out amongst the people rather than confining themselves to their monasteries. The Priory dominated the settlement physically



Medieval builders

and economically, since it owned all the land in the town.

Westgate was built to house the people who came to build the Priory, serve in its buildings and farm its lands. Belmangate was laid out on the main north-south route across the valley. The name is Norman-French for 'the street to the beautiful hill'.

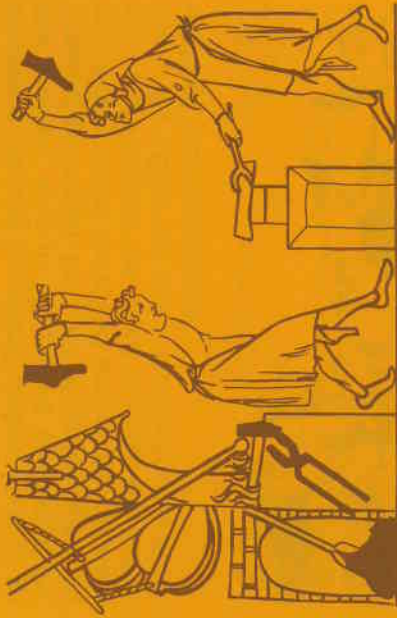
The earliest parts of St. Nicholas' Church are the 15th century chancel and tower. Medieval stained glass, to be seen in the west window of the south aisle, depicts the Day of Judgement and the Resurrection of the Dead. The Brus cenotaph was erected in the 16th century to commemorate that family.



Stained glass from Guisborough Church

Guisborough was never, strictly speaking, a medieval town as it was never granted a borough charter. This was because the Priory wanted to keep control of the settlement and the people to remain their tenants. Records show that whilst the town was as big as Whitby and Yarm its inhabitants were much poorer. The main occupation was agriculture but they were also involved with the moorland activities of the Priory through sheep farming, iron mining and smelting. One of the centres of ironworking was Glaisdale, where the Priory had a smithy and the right of taking iron ore.

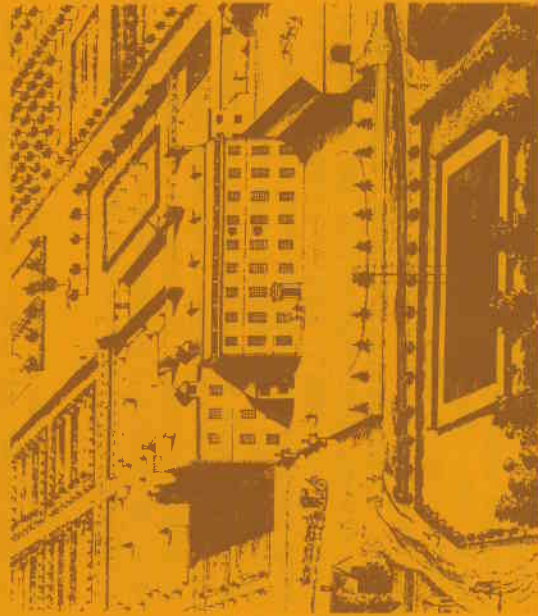
In 1540 the town faced a major upheaval. The Priory was dissolved, the monks dispersed and



Medieval blacksmiths

the lands taken over by the crown. Ten years later they were purchased by Thomas Chaloner; the Priory buildings were systematically demolished leaving only the east end standing. Chaloner then built a hall fronting Bow Street, with ornamental gardens behind and in front a court with a fountain at its centre, from which Fountain Street gets its name.

At the beginning of the 17th century alum was discovered by the Chaloners. It was used as a fixing agent in dyeing cloths but the manufacturing process was complicated and



Thomas Chaloner's hall