

## A Walk Down Ranmoor Market

### Introduction

'Ranmoor Shops' is a familiar geographical reference point for many of us who live locally but if we were to say we were going to 'Ranmoor Market', we might be met with blank expressions. Yet this was the name given to Ranmoor's collection of shops over the later Victorian period. As someone with an interest in local history, I was curious to find out more about this short stretch of Fulwood Road: who lived and worked here during this later Victorian and early Edwardian period? Through my research, a picture the community emerged, providing an insight into Ranmoor society during a period when this rural and somewhat remote part of Upper Hallam was becoming an upmarket suburb.

It became apparent that Ranmoor Market would be an ideal focus for guided walks as part of the Scissors Paper Stone Community History Project. The following is a two-part commentary on the images used in a booklet to accompany these walks and presents a selection of the material that was covered.

### Part One: background and overview of Ranmoor Market

The following three maps give an indication of how the area developed through the Victorian and Edwardian periods.



**Fig 1: 1855** (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland).

This map tells us that we are looking at Lower Rand Moor. 'Rand' is derived from an Old English word meaning 'brink, bank' or 'edge' so the place name may reflect the once open landscape which included some sort of edge or cliff. Just above the word 'Rand' you will see what are probably farm buildings, a well, fields and orchards. These belonged to Joseph Ibbotson, who also rented a grinding wheel on what is now known as

Ibbotson's Dam in Bingham Park. The building across the road which nestles into the point of a triangle of land will soon become known as the Ranmoor Inn. However, it's not recorded as a public house on this map. Looking to the left of this, you will see the words Cliff View and Cliff Terrace. Judging by local place names, the 'cliff' was clearly a significant feature of the landscape in Victorian Ranmoor. Cliff View, (now the West 10 Wine Bar), was the house and grocer's shop belonging to local farmer Isaac Deakin (1789-1859). Cliff Terrace was to be renamed Deakins Walk in the early twentieth century, (losing its apostrophe somewhere along the way), to recognise Deakin's significance to the area. Not only was Deakin a pillar of the community but he was also very likely Ranmoor's first shopkeeper, setting up his business here in the 1840s.

Left of Cliff View it reads The Highland Lad P.H., indicating that this former 'beerhouse' has already become established as a pub. It will soon be known as The Bull's Head. Moving clockwise to the top left of the map, you will see the words Wesleyan M. Sunday School Boys and Girls. This would have been the local school for many of the children living in the Ranmoor Market area.

This map reflects the impact of Sheffield's industrial revolution on this little rural area. During the second half of the nineteenth century, owners of Sheffield's businesses and factories were drawn towards areas such as Ranmoor to escape the pollution and crowding of the town. Perhaps the most notable pioneers of this westerly migration were Sir John Brown of Endcliffe Hall and Mark Firth of Oak Brook. They were followed by other wealthy families who lived in the villa-residences built



Fig. 2: 1894

during the later Victorian and early Edwardian periods. An example is Rockmount which can be seen to the immediate left of the Bull's Head (both circled), towards the bottom middle of the map. In addition, existing buildings such as the Ranmoor Inn, (in its triangle over to the right), have been developed and roads have appeared. In particular, the straight block of Marr Terrace is now visible above and to the right of the Bull's Head, running between Fulwood and Ranmoor Roads. This narrow street of red-brick terraces was built in the 1870s partly with the intention of appealing to people who might be employed as domestic servants in the area. Census returns tell us that a significant proportion of gardeners, grooms and coachmen lived on Marr Terrace during the late nineteenth century.

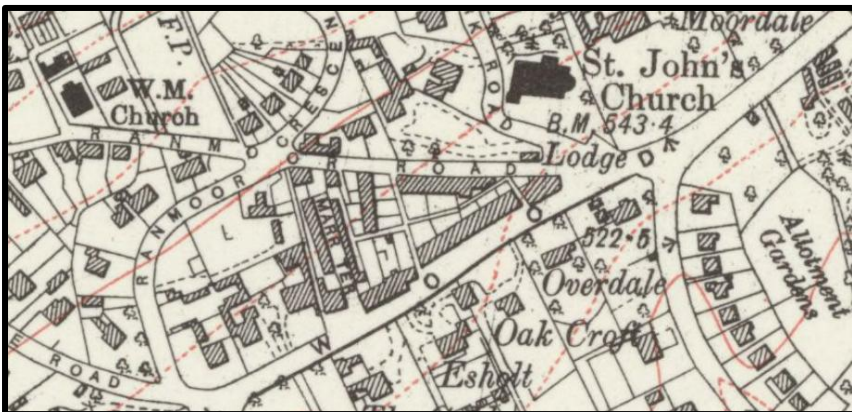


Fig 3: 1924 (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

strong presence and the former Sunday School for Boys and Girls is referred to simply as W. M. Church. Most local children would now be attending the Ranmoor Council School, (now Nether Green Junior School), which opened in the early 1900s. Marr Terrace is marked on this map with the letters **MARR TER.**

### Ranmoor Market at street level

The tram tracks and ornamented posts for overhead cables tell us that the following photographs must have been taken at some point after 1901 when tram routes reached Ranmoor. However, both images show how horse-drawn transport was still the norm, as was the use of shop awnings.

The edge of the Bull's Head and entrance to Marr Terrace can be seen to the left of this photograph, followed by the first phase of shops which were built from around the 1850s to the 1880s. The spire of Ranmoor St. John's can be made out behind the chimneys.



Fig. 4: The west end of Ranmoor Market

<sup>1</sup> Edwards, A. M. (1981). *The design of suburbia: a critical study in environmental history*. Pembrige Press.



**Fig. 5: The east end of Ranmoor Market**

This image shows the set of shops running towards the Ranmoor Inn with the spire of St. John's standing tall in the background. These were built towards the end of the nineteenth century. 'B. BROCKSOPP' stands out in pale lettering above the display window with 'PICKLED OX TONGUES' advertised below. This is Benjamin Brocksopp's butcher's shop from which he traded over the period 1895 to 1936. Just below the centre of the picture, a woman can be seen sweeping the pavement – presumably she worked at one of the shops. A man in a cap is driving a cart east down Fulwood Road. It seems to be carrying a milk churn, probably supplied by one of the many farms in the

area. Lining the road between the Market shops and the Ranmoor Inn is the symmetrical residential row of Ranmoor Terrace, (built in the 1870s), with its pinnacles topping the apex of each gable end.

These scenes look strikingly familiar: very little has changed in terms of the streetscape and there is even continuity through the businesses which trade to this day.

After this overview of the Ranmoor Market area, Part 2 will go on to focus on some of its people, shops and pubs.

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