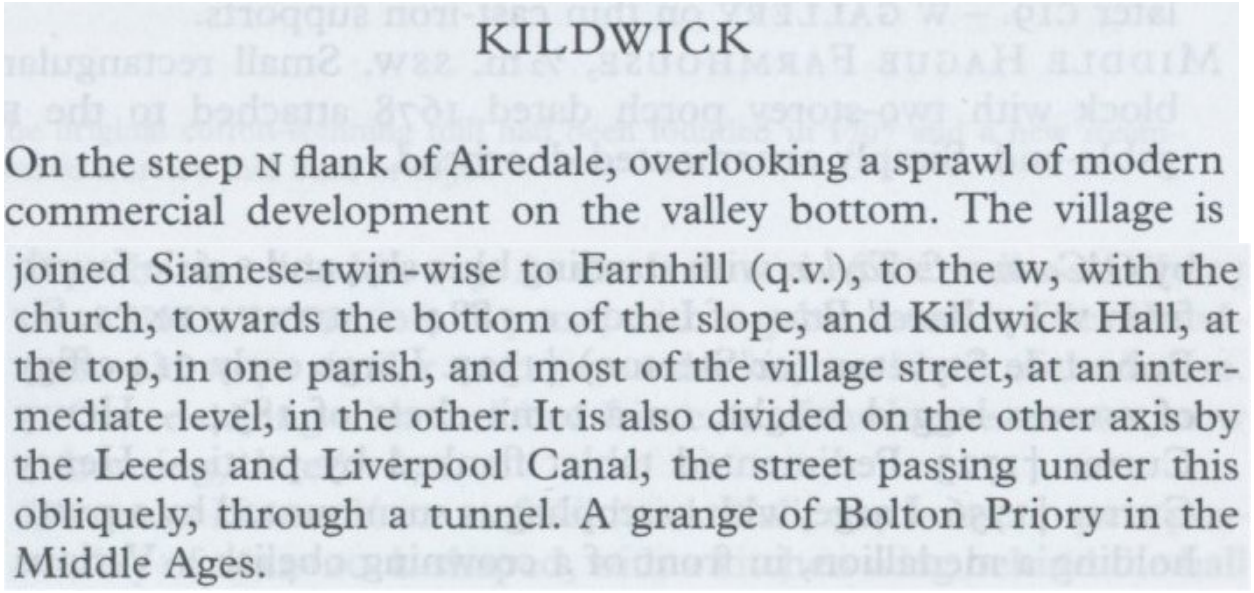
Pevsner on Kildwick

Between 1951 and 1974 Nikolaus Pevsner compiled a series of county-by-county guides to "The Buildings of England". Since his death, in 1983, this 46-volume work has been continuously revised and expanded and "Pevsner" is now regarded as the definitive work on architectural design and history.

Here is the Pevsner entry on Kildwick in the 2009 Yorkshire – West Riding edition.



KILDWICK

On the steep N flank of Airedale, overlooking a sprawl of modern commercial development on the valley bottom. The village is joined Siamese-twin-wise to Farnhill (q.v.), to the W, with the church, towards the bottom of the slope, and Kildwick Hall, at the top, in one parish, and most of the village street, at an intermediate level, in the other. It is also divided on the other axis by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, the street passing under this obliquely, through a tunnel. A grange of Bolton Priory in the Middle Ages.

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ST ANDREW. The so-called 'lang kirk' of Craven at 145ft (48 metres) is one of the longest in the West Riding. Perp W tower, of gritstone blocks, broad and crenellated with a stair-turret at the SE corner. Nave of six bays and chancel of four, without structural division between them; aisles and chancel chapels. The nave falls into two parts, the first four bays Dec and the other two Perp; and it appears that the latter represent the area of a former chancel, the present chancel being added in a second Perp phase. A further peculiarity, doubtless due to the sloping site, is that the cross-section of the church is asymmetrical, with a low clerestory on the S side only. To the N the aisle roof is at a higher level, continuous with that of the nave. The Dec bays of the nave arcades, with quatrefoil piers and double-chamfered arches, are probably no later than *c.* 1300 (cf. Skipton);* but the aisle windows alongside, with reticulated tracery, are some decades later (also cf. Skipton). Those on the N side are straight-headed but to the S the heads are truncated – the windows here presumably reused after a widening of the aisle which brought the eaves down to a lower level. The Perp arcade piers are octagonal, the windows, including the clerestory, mainly straight-headed apart from that at the E end, of seven lancet lights under a three-centred arch (cf. Gisburn, Bolton-by-Bowland). Kingpost roof, with arched-brace subsidiary trusses in the nave and ornamented wind-braces between the rafters and purlins. W window and doorway renewed *c.* 1868, S porch 1873. Restoration 1901–3 by *Austin & Paley*.

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SCREENS, flanking the chancel and at the W end of the S chapel. Perp, simple, that on the N side heavily restored. C17 dates on dados refer to seating in the chancel. – PEWS. Eltoft family pew in the N chapel, inscribed 1633 EE, with enriched panels and balustraded superstructure. Other simple reused pieces in the N chapel and chancel, dated 1624, 1716 etc. – Brass eagle LECTERN, 1875 by *Hardman*. – FONT. Octagonal, Perp, with Instruments of the Passion. Base and cover 1868. – SCULPTURE. Fragments of Anglo-Saxon crosses. One cross-head and five different shafts are represented. Two of the shafts have figures, the other three close interlace. Nothing seems earlier than C10. – COPE. Made of material from a Chinese Imperial garment, removed from the Imperial Palace at Beijing in 1947. – ROYAL ARMS, painted. Signed and dated *G. Fether*, 1727. – STAINED GLASS. Includes N aisle third from W, 1873 by *O'Connor & Taylor*, with startling blue sky; and S aisle fourth from W by *Powell Bros.* of Leeds, *c.* 1884. – MONUMENTS. Sir Robert de Styveton (or Steeton) †1307. Large early C14 effigy of a cross-legged knight, on a tomb-chest of 1854. – Henry Currer †1723. Pedimented tablet flanked by putti. – Henry Currer †1756. Large, with sarcophagus surmounted by a putto holding a medallion, in front of a crowning obelisk. – Various tablets including Thomas Garforth †1811 and Caroline Wray †1817, both by *C. Fisher* of York.

At the S and W entrances to the churchyard rusticated GATEPIERS, probably early C19, with wrought-iron gates and overthrows. Within it, a HEARSE SHED, *c.* 1825.

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KILDWICK HALL. A memorable group, of house and ancilliary buildings. The main part of the former is probably of the 1650s: see the arms of Currer and Haworth over the entrance – i.e. Hugh Currer (inherited 1653) and his wife Ann Haworth (†1656) – and a rainwater head dated 1663 reused on the Justice Room (*see* below). Three storeys, the top one partly in the roof. Compact half-H plan, with full-height porch against the r. cross-wing. Gables to the wings, porch and the front of the hall range. Mullion-and-transom windows to the ground and first floors, three-light mullioned windows with truncated-ogee heads (cf. Friars Head, Winterburn) to the top storey of the hall range and porch. On the W flank staggered two-light windows lighting the staircase. At the back a two-storey kitchen block dated 1673 inside, originally detached but now linked to the main building by a range running along the back of the latter, the W part of which is probably of the early C18, the E part 1858. The hall is entered directly from the porch and has its fireplace – moulded and segment-headed – at the opposite end. Moulded ceiling beams and panelling, some *ex situ*. The staircase is beyond, in the rear part of the W wing, of stone with C17 plasterwork to the landing ceilings. One first-floor room in the E wing has C17 panelling, inlaid overmantel with blind arcading, and decorative plasterwork to the frieze and ceiling beam soffit. C17 stone fireplaces in some other upper rooms.

In front of the house is a garden wall crowned by urns, and remarkably grand early C18 GATEPIERS, rusticated and fronted by pilasters, and crowned by half-pediments which in turn are surmounted by lions. A further set of gatepiers opposite across the road, to the lower garden. At the W end of the wall, at right angles to the house, is the so-called JUSTICE ROOM, a smart design of *c.* 1700 so presumably built for Henry Currer (†1723) who was an active Justice of the Peace; but there is no firm evidence of its having been used for this purpose. Two storeys – the lower was a coachhouse – and two by three bays. Tall cross-windows, pedimented ends, rusticated quoins to the first floor, angle pilasters below. The original entrance was at the N end – the external steps up to the first floor on the garden side were

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probably added in C19. At the far E end of the wall a small C17 GARDEN PAVILION. Square, with a gable to each side. Hoodmould stops similar to those on the kitchen block of the house. Coved ceiling with enriched frieze. W of the house a BARN, now housing, dated 1671.

GRANGE HALL, ½ m. E of Kildwick Hall. C17 house in part possibly of 1614–20. L-shaped, with a kitchen wing behind the hall and a staircase compartment in the angle. At the front a one-storey porch crowned by a stone balustrade, and two gables, one with a stepped three-light attic window and the other incongruously surmounted by a later chimney. In one of the first-floor rooms a segmentally coved ceiling with geometrical patterns of moulded ribs (cf. Hawksworth Hall) and vine-scroll decoration to one of the tympana. C17 panelling and two overmantels to the ground floor, staircase with vertically symmetrical balusters.

At the top of PRIEST BANK, between the two halls, a C17 house extensively restored 1899. The front gable with a three-light window under a truncated-ogee hoodmould similar to those at Kildwick Hall probably belongs to the restoration phase.