

# What is a Boggart Hole?<sup>1</sup>

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## INTRODUCTION

The boggart—a word of uncertain origins (OED, ‘Boggard, -art’; Nodal and Milner 1875, 126; Wright 1898–1905, I, 326)—was once a much feared bogey in the midlands and the north of England. By the nineteenth century it had come to be associated, above all, with what might be called a ‘greater Lancashire’: the County Palatine, the south Pennines and the northern fringes of Cheshire and Derbyshire. Relative to the amount of writing that survives, most of it from the 1800s and much in Lancashire dialect, the boggart is perhaps Britain’s most understudied supernatural creature. This is true of the nineteenth century (Thornber 1837, 38, 99–104 and 329–34; Harland and Wilkinson 1867, 49–62; 1873, 10–12 and 141–42; Hardwick 1872, 124–42; Bowker 1883, 27–36, 52–58, 63–72, 77–82, 131–39, 152–58, 174–88, 212–20 and 238–42; McKay 1888), and of recent years (Billingsley 2007, 69–74; Turner-Bishop 2010; Roberts 2013, 95–105; Young 2014b). Boggart place-names have particularly been neglected. In fact, there is, to the best of the present writer’s knowledge, no study of boggart toponyms, despite the existence of tens of boggart place-names, many still in use today.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> I would like to thank John Billingsley, David Boardman, Ffion Dash, Anna Garrett, Richard Green, Denise Jagger, Stephen Lees, Wendy Lord, Eileen Ormand and the anonymous reviewer for help with the writing and with the improvement of this article.

<sup>2</sup> An honourable exception are some of the pages in Turner-Bishop 2010, but only two of the eight Lancashire Boggart Holes gathered together here are mentioned and the most interesting discussion is of fairy sites. Boggart names appear in the

To add to the problem of a lack of scholarly writing there are two other challenges that hinder analysis. First, boggart place-names are almost always microtoponyms: bridges, fields, houses, lanes and the like. As such, they are difficult to find in our records: many of the Boggart Holes discussed below depend, as shall be seen, on obscure sources including, in one instance, a single census entry and, in another, a chance newspaper report. Second, boggart names are frequently by-names. There is, in fact, a demonstrable reluctance to use boggart place-names in official contexts well into the nineteenth century: very often a boggart name co-existed with another ‘proper’ name as often happened in the North West in other contexts (Crosby 2010).<sup>3</sup> As such, a study of ‘submerged’ boggart place-names has the opposite problem to a study of ‘pixy’ and ‘fairy’ place-names from the same period—for example, Fairy Glen (Betws-y-Coed), Fairy Glen (Capelulo) and Morag’s Fairy Glen (Dunoon). These fairy and pixy place-names often nudged out traditional names in the nineteenth century, as the British middle classes beautified, as they saw it, their mansions and holiday resorts. Most of the boggart place-names were first recorded in the nineteenth century, though one name was recorded as early as 1555 (Sutcliffe 1928, 117–18), which is suggestive of the possible age of the others.

In the next pages I examine Boggart Holes, perhaps the most interesting of the boggart place-names. Fourteen examples are known: two from Derbyshire, four from Yorkshire and eight from Lancashire. The discussion begins with a site list and ends by asking what these names can tell us about boggart-lore.

Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and West Riding of Yorkshire EPNS volumes; see further the appendix. Over the next few years John Insley will publish EPNS volumes on Lancashire. However, he will concentrate on major rather than field-names, meaning that there will be few extra boggart names there.

<sup>3</sup> For example, Anon. 1889d for Boggart Close (Applegarth): see many other instances in the Appendix. Note also the associated custom of placing the word boggart, in place-names, in inverted commas, in the 1800s: e.g. Anon. 1889a ‘as far as Leech House and “boggart house” as it was commonly called’.

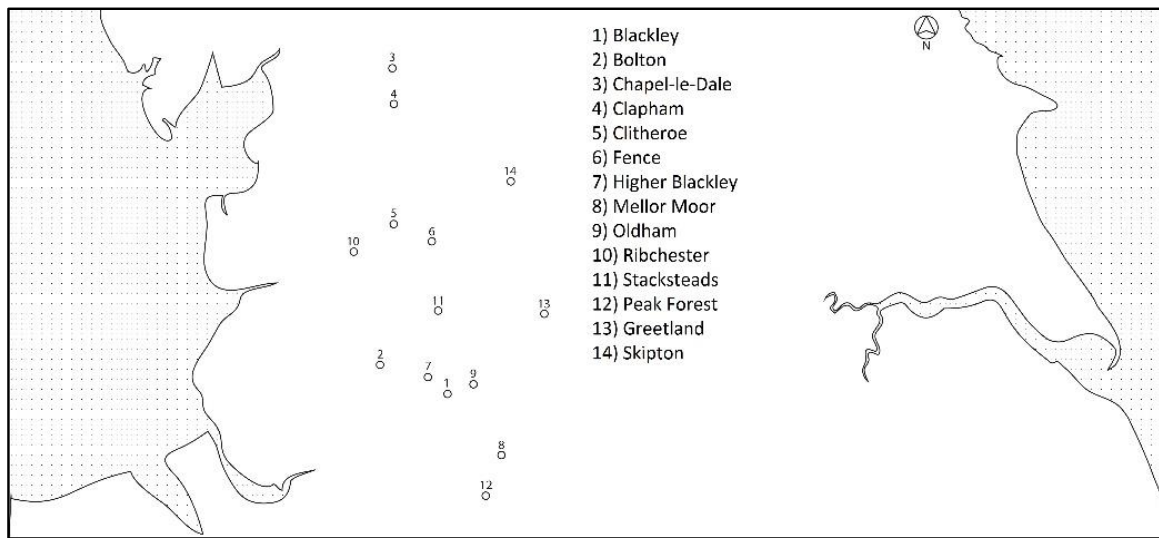


Figure 1. Boggart Holes: numbers as given in the text

### THE SITES

The fourteen Boggart Holes here are accompanied by maps. The maps are restricted to relief and bodies of water, stripping off roads and housing, though including any buildings associated with the Boggart Holes. Finally some maps have been turned on their side (while signalling north), so that the cloughs, which appear again and again, can be easily compared.

1) **Boggart Hole Clough:** Blackley, Lancashire. Boggart Hole Clough is unquestionably the best known of the sites: an extended and steep dell next to the town of Blackley. The earliest reference I have found is on a map dating to 1819: ‘Plan of the Parish of Manchester in the County of Lancaster from a Survey made in 1818–1819 by William Johnson’. However, the dell was called ‘the Clough’ as early as the seventeenth century, and given the number of cloughs in the area and the reluctance to use boggart names in legal documentation, it is quite possible that the Clough was Boggart Hole long before the 1800s (Booker 1854, 154). Certainly, in the 1840s a local solicitor preferred not to use the word ‘boggart’ on trespass signs (Waugh 1869, 225–26; Wentworth 1892, 130). There is an important tradition of writing about the Clough and its folklore, beginning in 1829, and a number of authors suggested, in the mid-nineteenth century, that the original name of the area was Boggart Ho’

Clough (the Clough of the Boggart Hall) (Young forthcoming). This suggestion has no basis in fact and the idea perhaps arose from a persistent tradition of a boggart-haunted house within or close to the Clough. There is, actually, much confusion as to which house had a boggart and, by the late 1800s, two candidates, at the opposite ends of the Clough, had emerged: Clough Bottoms Farm in the west and possibly White Moss in the east (Young forthcoming). The approximate position of the house that, by the end of the nineteenth century, had taken the name of the Clough, is signaled on the map.

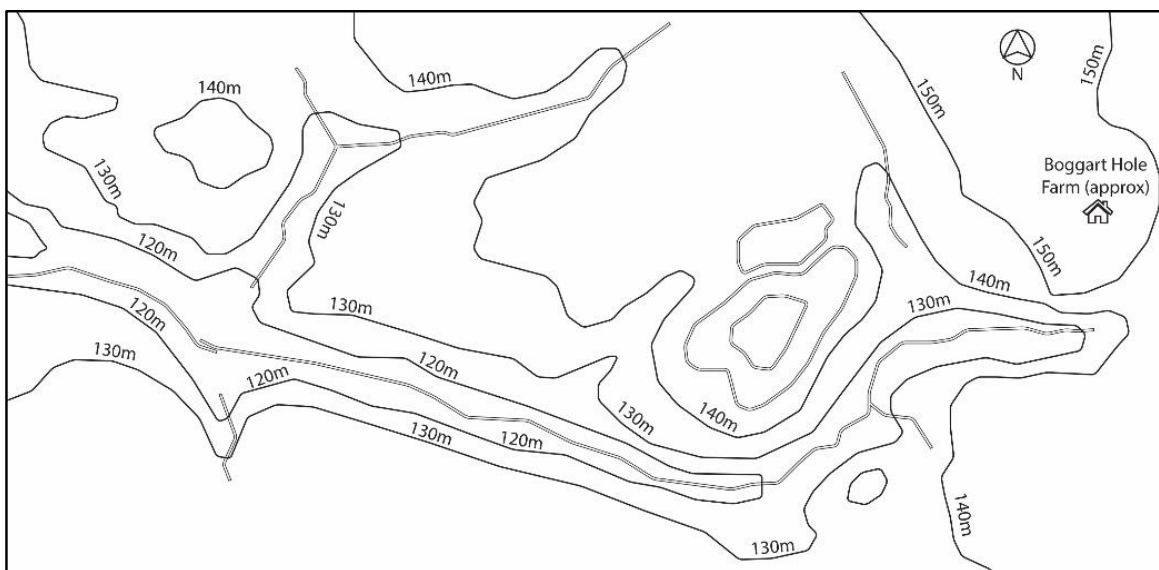


Figure 2. Boggart Hole Clough, Blackley

2) **Boggart Hole:** Bolton, Lancashire. The Boggart Hole Cottages, in the north of Bolton, stood on the edge of a steep ravine between Tonge Moor and Hall i' the Moor. The first reference I have found to the cottages is 'Boggart Hole' on an OS map for 1850 (OS Six Inch Lancashire Sheet 87). They appear on the 1911 census as 'Boggart Hole Cottages' (Bolton, Tonge, Enumeration District 2, p. 178). Note that immediately after the cottages a sheer escarpment and cliffs began on the river side, very possibly the Boggart Hole. No folklore seems to be associated with this site.

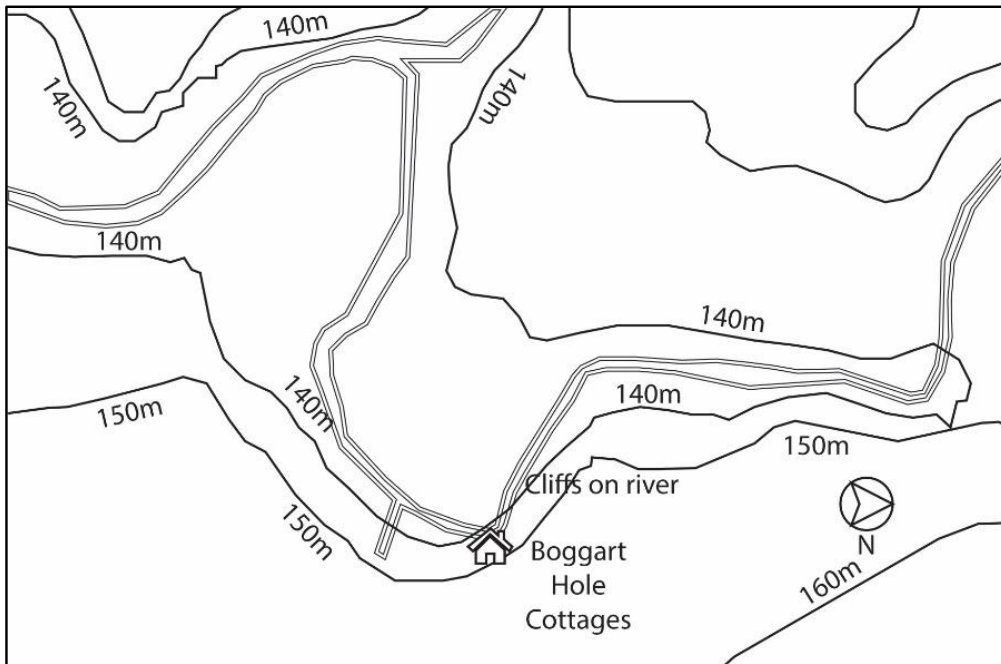


Figure 3. Boggart Hole, Bolton



Figure 4. Boggart Holes, Chapel-le-Dale

3) **Boggart Holes** (alias Ivescar Cave): Chapel-le-Dale, North Yorkshire. Just to the north of Ivescar farm there is a series of small caves in a

limestone scar, which would be difficult for even a child to climb into. They were known locally as the Boggart Holes. They are damp with running water inside and one nineteenth-century guide warns that they should not be entered ‘in very wet or unsettled weather’ (Speight 1892, 254). No folklore seems to be associated with this site, save some claims about hidden treasure (Speight 1892, 254).

4) **Boggart Holes:** Clapham, North Yorkshire (alias Boggart’s Roaring Holes). The Boggart Holes are a series of pot holes at Newby Moss just above Clapham: with a ‘roaring’ flow of water below. They are first attested as Boggart Holes in the later nineteenth century (Anon. 1885; Speight 1892, 180). There seems to be no nineteenth-century folklore writing associated with this site.

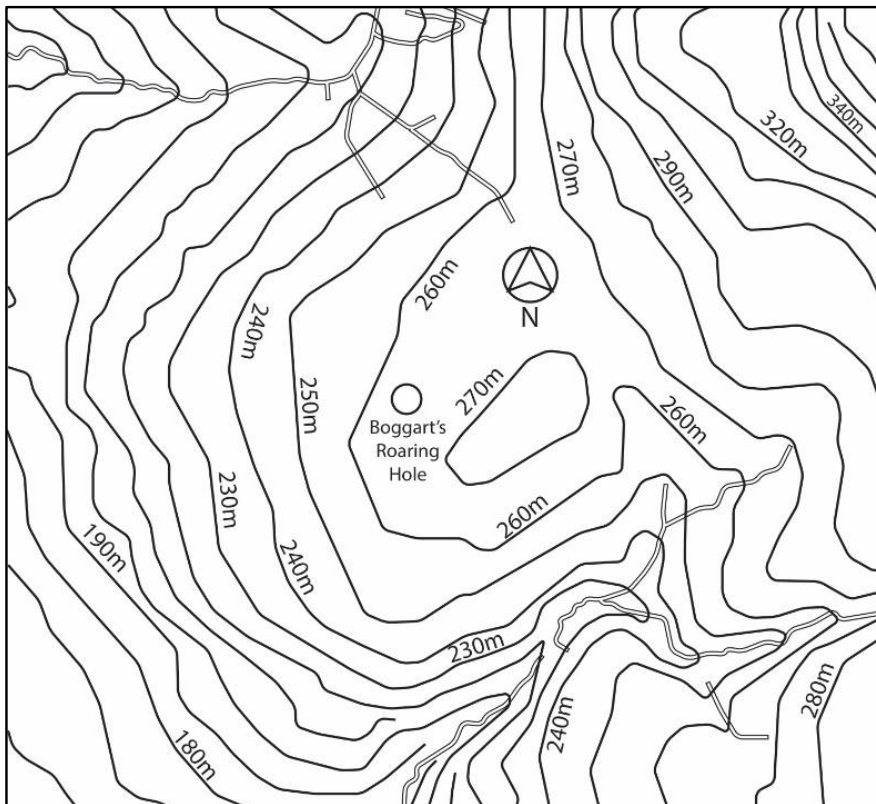


Figure 5.  
Boggart Holes,  
Clapham

5) **Boggart Hole:** Clitheroe, Lancashire. This name appears in a single newspaper article from 1880 (Anon. 1880c). In that year a legal case took place over the pollution of Pendleton Brook and the Ribble. Boggart Hole

apparently included a pool and, judging by a detailed but allusive news report, this was between Primrose (on Pendleton Brook) and the Ribble. There were three mill ponds on this stretch in the 1852 OS map. No folklore seems to be associated with this area.

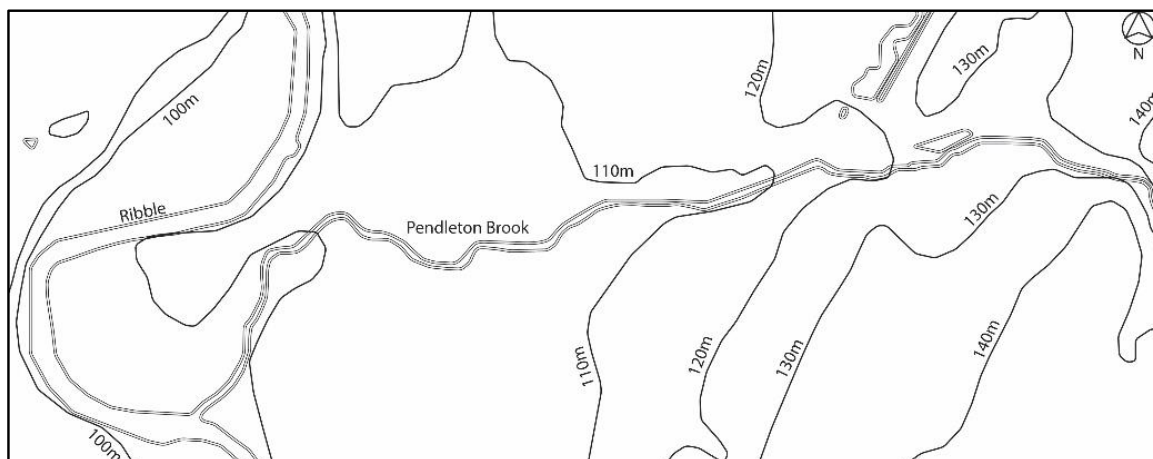


Figure 6. Boggart Hole, Clitheroe

6) **Boggard Hole:** Fence, Lancashire. In 1613, in Potts's *Discovery of Witches*, a reference is made to a Boggard Hole, where a man escaped witches who were pursuing him (Potts 1845, lxviii). This name is not attested in the eighteenth century, but re-emerges, in the nineteenth century, in Lancashire writing about the Pendle witches trial (e.g. Roby 1872, II, 137). Nineteenth-century maps associate the Hole with a farmhouse, alternatively known as Boggard Hole (OS Six Inch Lancashire Sheet 56, 1850), Boggart Hall Farm (Anon. 1896b) and Boggart Hole House (Anon. 1879a) at the eastern end of the village. The last appellation seems to have been most common in the second half of the nineteenth century. A local news story from 1897 reports that horses were spooked near this house: to 'take the boggard' is a Lancashire and Yorkshire expression meaning that a rider loses control of a horse (Anon. 1897).<sup>4</sup> A

<sup>4</sup> Compare this incident with Anon. 1852b; Anon. 1881b; and Anon. 1891. All involve accidents with horses next to boggart place-names: evidence of late belief in 'taking the boggart'?

witch bottle was also found, buried in the clough, in the late nineteenth century (Anon. 1915).

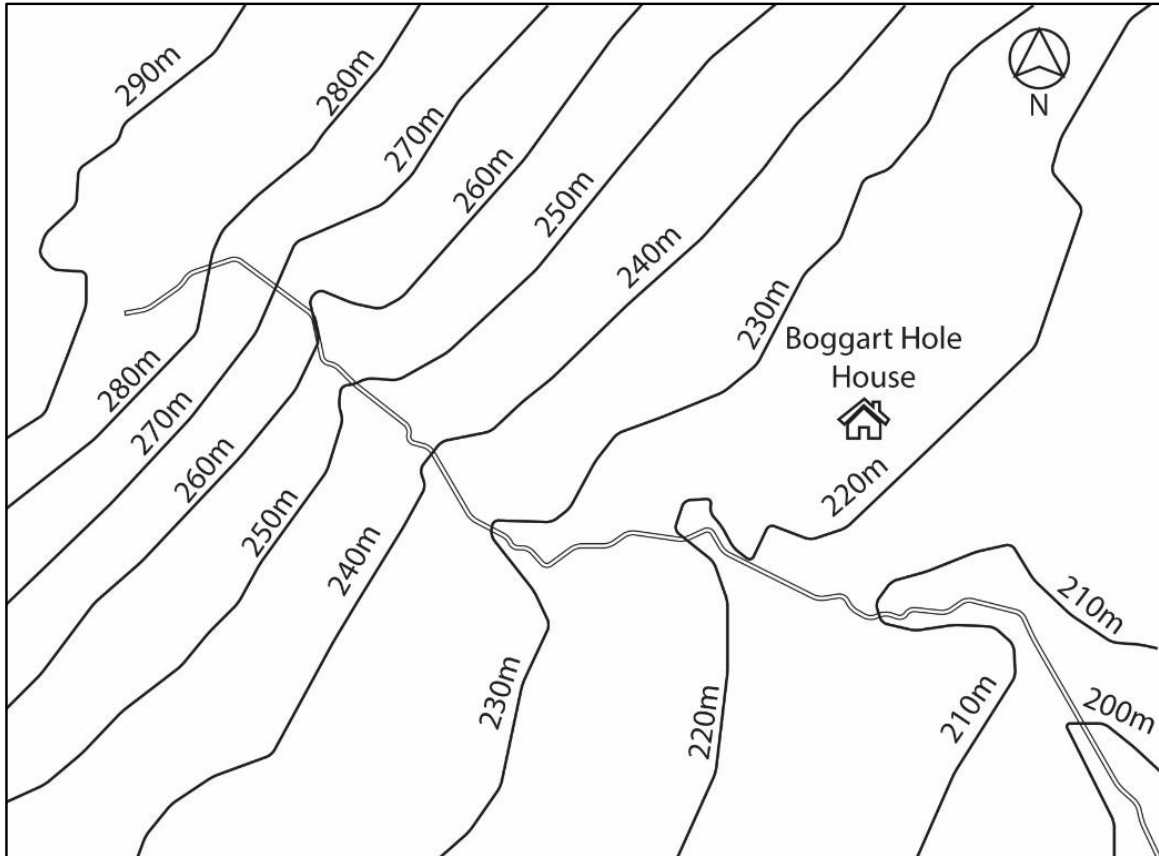


Figure 7. Boggart Hole, Fence

7) **Boggart Holes:** Higher Blackley, Lancashire. Off Crab Lane in Higher Blackley, some four miles from Boggart Hole Clough, there was a farmhouse, called Boggart Holes (note plural), which stood above a clough there (OS Six Inch Lancashire Sheet 96, 1848). This farmhouse is today beneath the crematorium complex on the western edge of Higher Blackley. No folklore associated with this building or the area survives in the nineteenth-century records.



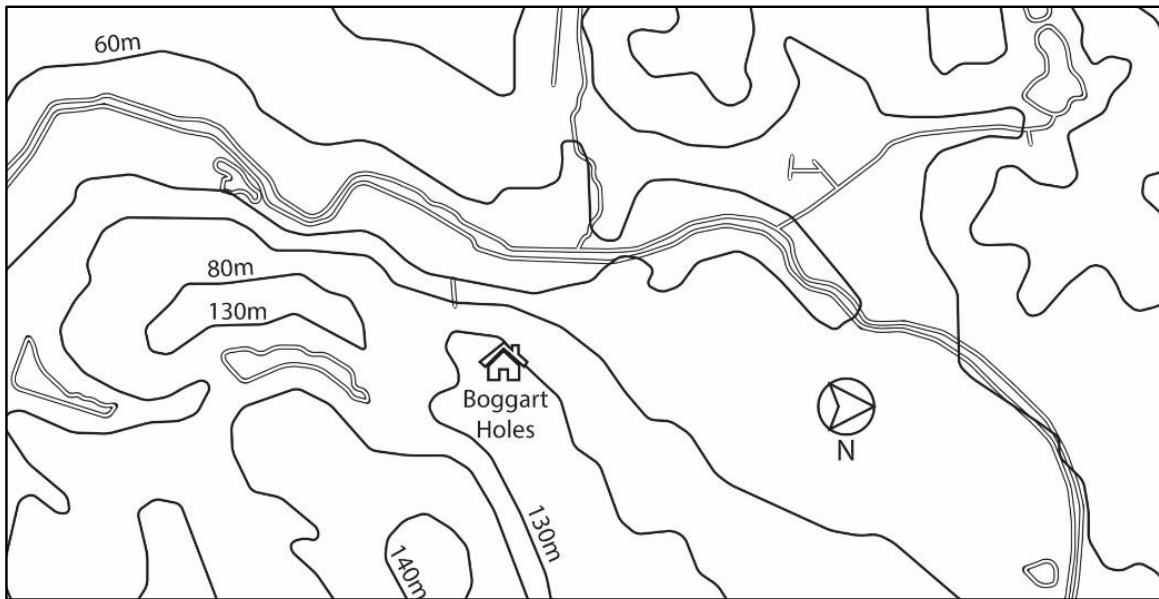


Figure 8. Boggart Holes, Higher Blackley

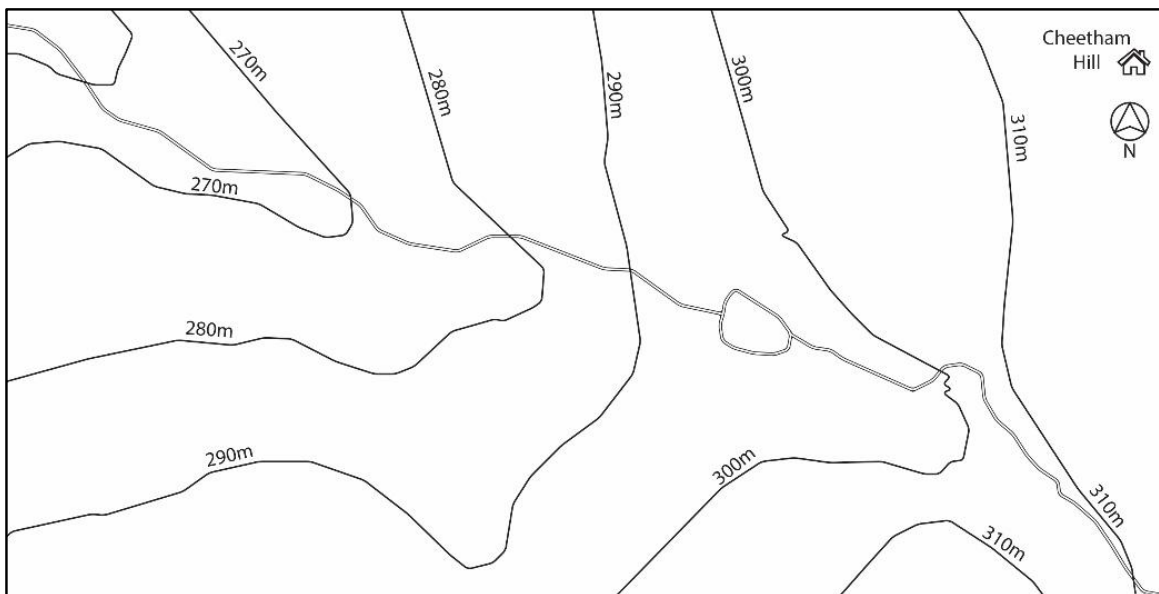


Figure 9. Boggart Hole, Mellor Moor

8) **Boggart Hole:** Mellor Moor, Derbyshire. The 1881 census included a house named Boggart Hole in which one elderly woman, Rosy Middleton, lived (Mellor, District 9, 12). The house does not appear on nineteenth-century OS maps, at least not with this name. But the order of census taking is Longshaw Clough, Cheetham Hill, Boggart Hole, then White Houses

(modern Whitehouse Farm?). This gives a specific range for Middleton's home and the best candidate would be one of the buildings in the Cheetham Hill complex. This site is not to be confused with Mellor Moor in Lancashire, with its many folklore associations (Young 2014a): in fact, there seems to have been no nineteenth-century folklore writing about the Derbyshire Mellor Moor.

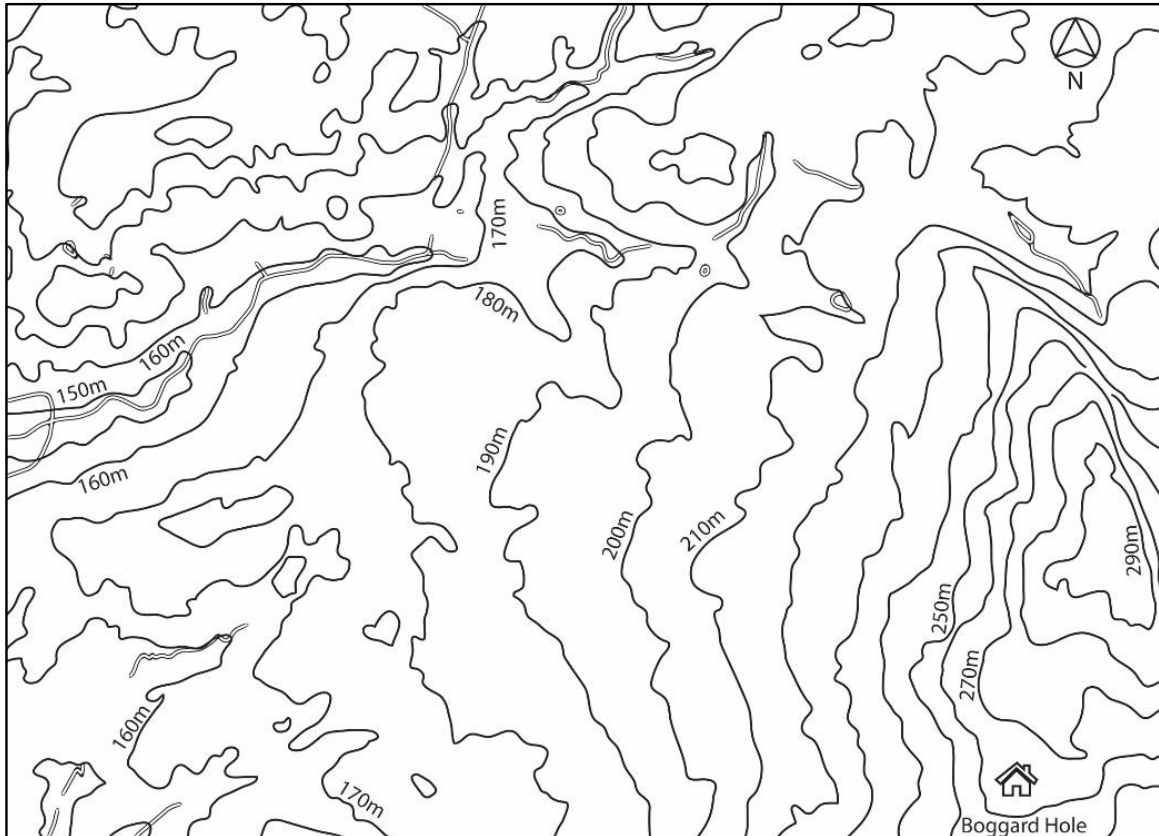


Figure 10. Boggard Hole, Oldham

9) **Boggard Hole:** Oldham, Lancashire. An 1848 map has this name on the southern part of Oldham Edge just off Henshaw Street (OS Six Inch Lancashire Sheet 97). Boggard Hole was in a developing urban centre and seems to have been quickly built over. There are no folklore associations in the records.

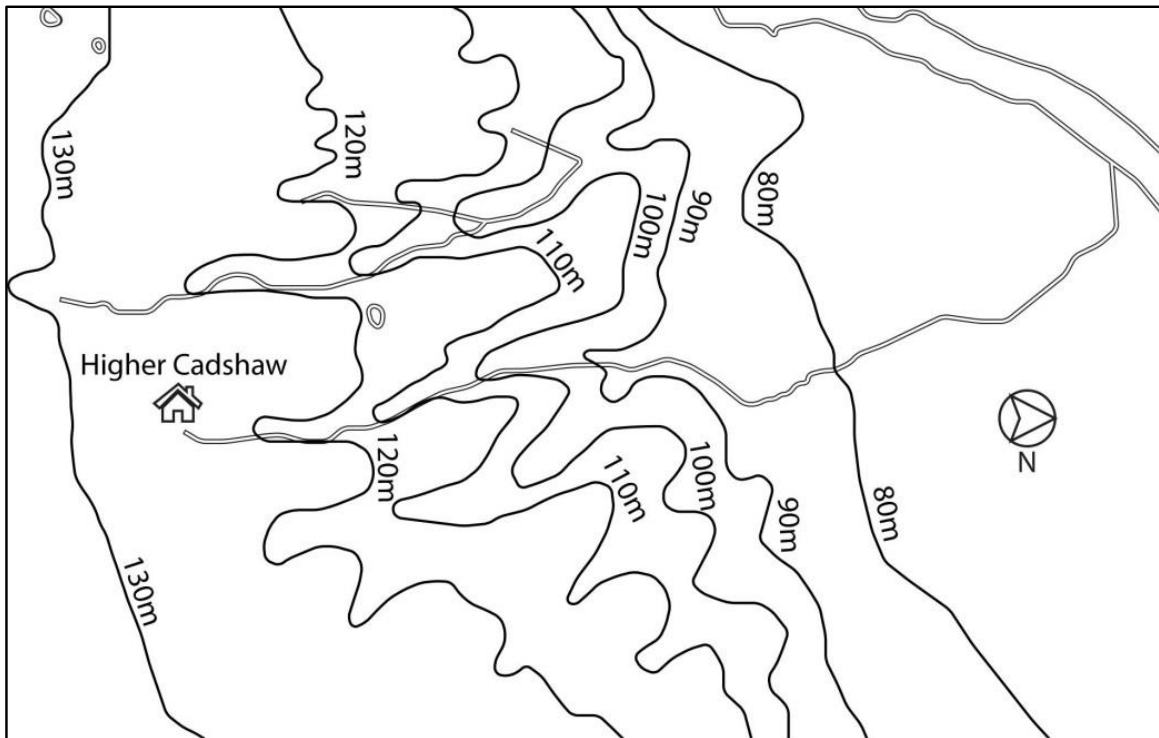


Figure 11. Boggart Holes, Ribchester

10) **Boggart Holes:** Ribchester, Lancashire (alias Higher Cadshaw Farm). There is an 1889 newspaper reference to a farm with this name (note plural): a second report confirms that this was Higher Cadshaw Farm to the south of the Ribble, a farmhouse at the head of two steep cloughs (Anon. 1889b; Anon. 1889c; see also Anon. 1921, 11). There was a nineteenth-century legend of a Starling Bridge Boggart, which would probably be too far off to be associated with the clough (Anon. 1894b). Starling Bridge is on Longridge Road about a mile to the north of the Ribble.

11) **Boggart Hole:** Stacksteads, Lancashire (associated name Boggart Foundry). There is no nineteenth-century reference to a Boggart Hole at Stacksteads, either on maps or in local histories (known to me). But the

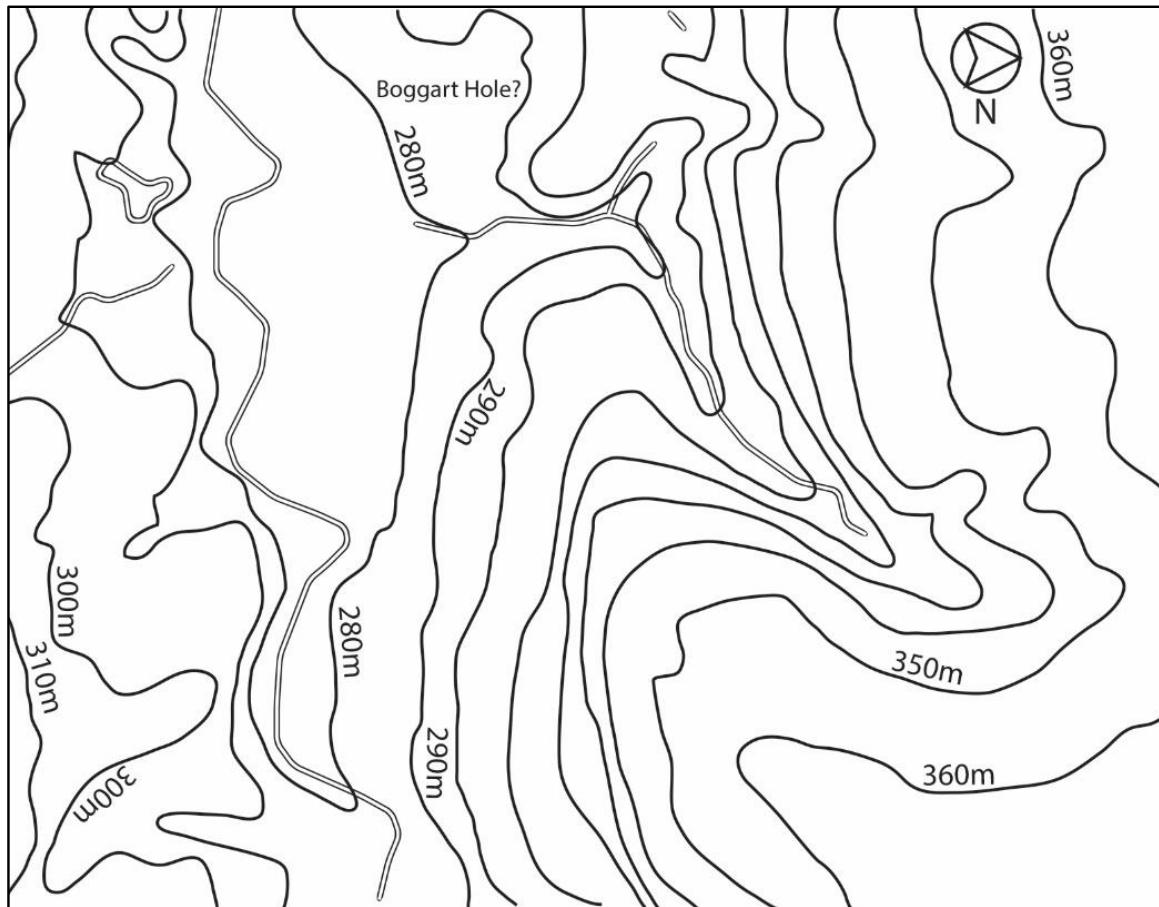


Figure 12. Boggart Hole, Stacksteads

*Bacup Times* has, on its website (<<http://www.bacuptimes.co.uk/stacksteads.htm>>), a reference to a Boggart Hole in the clough below Rook Hill.<sup>5</sup>

12) **Boggard Hole:** Peak Forest, Derbyshire. A lead mine is so named in a series of Derbyshire records from 1763 to the mid-nineteenth century:

<sup>5</sup> Note the *Bacup Times* website reports a whirlwind 15 July 1897 in or near the Boggart Hole, which is connected to the boggart. Wendy Lord, the editor, kindly corresponded with me on this and noted that any connection between the boggart and the whirlwind was speculation on the part of the website writer: it does not necessarily reflect contemporary belief. A report on the whirlwind (without boggart) is to be found in Anon. 1897a.

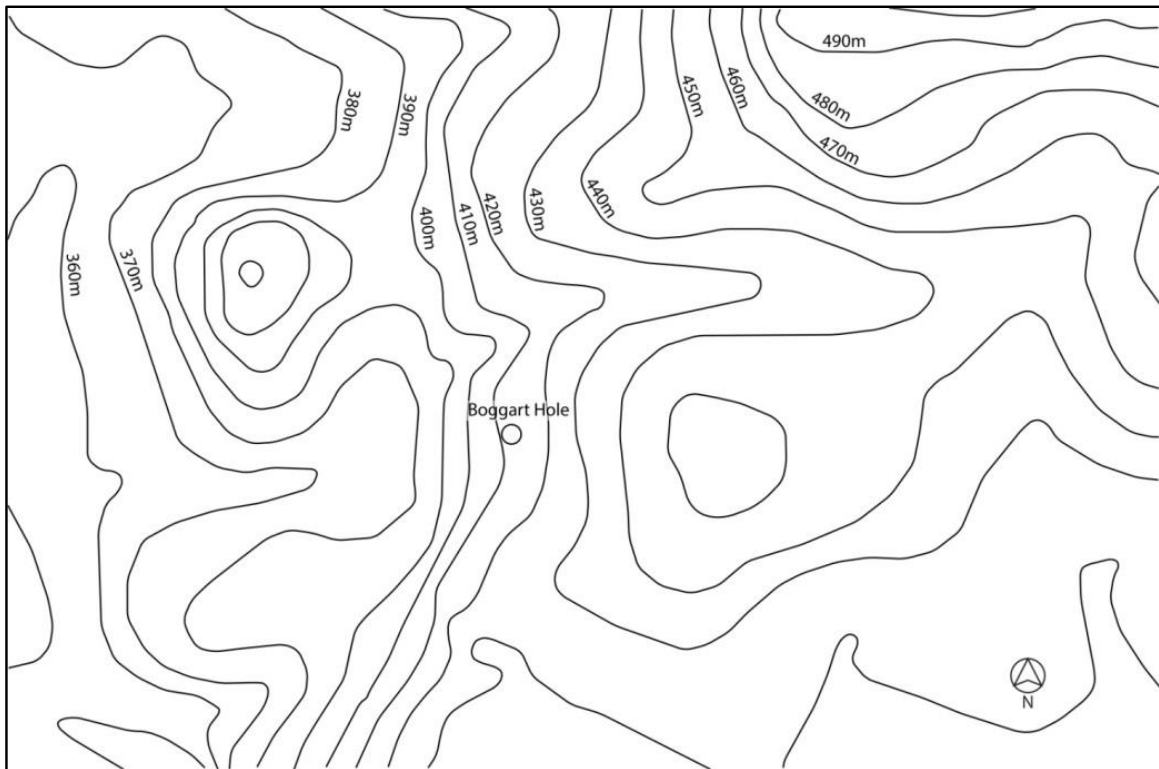


Figure 13. Boggard Hole, Peak Forest

the pit head stood to the south-east of Peak Forest (Heathcote 2001, 17). There are no signs of caves here on the OS. Either the Boggard Hole referred to the pit itself or it referred to the ravine, without a river, that came down immediately and sharply to the north between two peaks.

13) **Boggard Hole:** Greetland, West Yorkshire. This is a field-name that appears in association with Lambert House, near the centre of what is today Elland. The Boggard Hole is first recorded on a map dating to approximately 1770 (Longbotham 1933, 70a). It is close to a small reservoir and the field marks the point where a small dell opens out into the larger Calder valley.

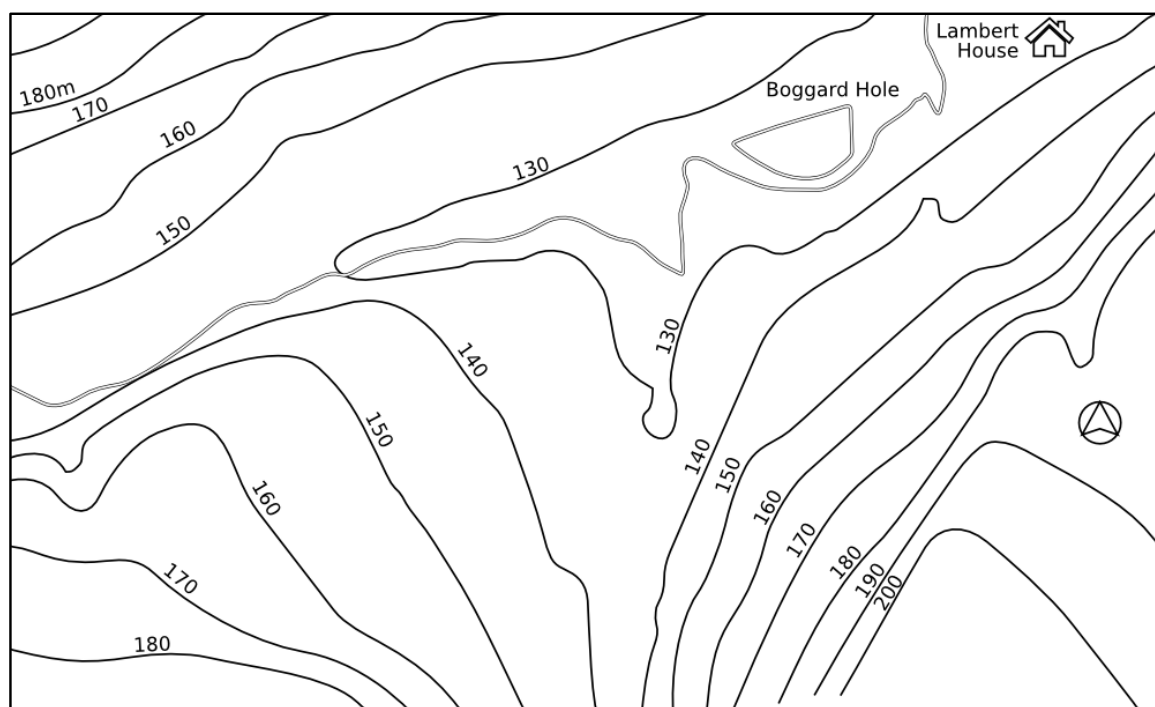


Figure 14. Boggard Hole, Greetland

14) **Boggart Hole**: Skipton, West Yorkshire. This name appears as a ‘modern field name’ (Smith 1961–63, VI, 71). I have been unable, though, to place it on the map.

#### DISCUSSION

‘Hole’, in an English place-name, usually refers either to a cave or to a hollow or to a valley. ‘Hole’ is particularly associated with a cave in the case of supernatural creatures (Reaney 1960, 223–24), and the name Boggart Hole has often been understood in this sense, particularly by those from outside the North West. However, when we turn to the Boggart Holes listed above a different pattern emerges. First, almost every name is close to water and in or on the edge of a narrow steep often wooded valley, typically called in Lancashire a ‘clough’. There is, in fact, one telling nineteenth-century Lancashire source that seems to use ‘boggart holes’ as a synonym for cloughs (Hayhurst 1887, 170): ‘The boggart holes and cloughs by the Irwell side have become the seat of a wealth-producing

industry'. There is also a nineteenth-century short story (from Warwickshire) that envisages a boggart hole as a ravine (Traice 1904).

The exceptions need briefly to be addressed. Boggart's Roaring Holes are an unusual formation outside the typical Boggart Hole distribution area, to the north of Lancashire: the same can be said of the Boggart Holes near Chapel-le-Dale. Perhaps in the North Riding a boggart hole was a cave. A more fruitful point of comparison to Lancashire boggart holes from the Yorkshire Pennines and beyond might be Yorkshire's many Hob Holes. Take, for example, Hob Hole in Saddleworth immediately to the east of Oldham: the earliest attestation is on a 1770 map (Buckley 2010, II, 71). In Lancashire the only supernatural cave names in 'hole' are fairy holes as in Turner-Bishop (2010, 99), to which might be added the Fairy Hole Cave on Warton Cragg (OS Six Inch Lancashire Sheet 18, 1848) and Fairy Hole Wood near Lickhurst (OS Six Inch Lancashire Sheet 46, 1847).

Boggard Hole in Oldham, meanwhile, has no water in its immediate vicinity. But it stands above a valley, through which the Roch runs, and this valley is known locally as the Clough: though if the boggart hole in question is the Clough, then Oldham's Boggart Hole is the biggest and widest 'hole' listed here. The location of this name on Oldham Edge probably depended on 'Boggart Hole' being transferred, in an earlier period, to a building on the high valley side: much as in 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 10. The original name for the clough was, then, neglected as the town came into being, and this putative farm- or cottage-name remained, at least for a time. The reluctance to use boggart names in documentation means that we often only know about these names when a building picks up the landscape name: this fact of a rural name surviving through a house name may have led, at least in part, to the need for boggart house legends, something that is particularly clear in the writing about Boggart Hole Clough at Blackley (Young forthcoming). A similar mechanism perhaps operated for the Boggard Hole at Peak Forest and Boggard Hole at Greetland, though this time it was, respectively, a mine and a field, rather than a house, that absorbed a landscape name.

Shaw (1887, 101–02) argued that Oldham's Boggard Hole and other hole place-names depend on depressions. Wright, in his celebrated dialect

dictionary (1898, I, 326), describes a boggart hole as ‘a haunted hollow’ (as well as ‘a mythical place of terror invented with the idea of frightening children into good behaviour’). I would reject the idea of a boggart hole as a hollow or depression, given the series of Boggart Hole maps. Note that the only example of ‘Boggart Hole’ as a depression known to the present author was a Great War mine crater (Horsfall and Cave 2003, 149)!

Roaring Boggart Holes, Boggart Holes (Chapel-le-Dale) and the Oldham Boggart Hole need not, then, alter the general pattern. One problem that I have been unable to resolve is, however, the plural Boggart Holes in Upper Blackley, in a clough where there are no caves; and likewise Boggart Holes near Ribchester, another clough without caves. In the case of Upper Blackley the proximity of Boggart Hole Clough may have encouraged a different form: but, again, why the plural? In the case of Ribchester Boggart Holes, which stands at the head of two small dells, there were multiple cloughs. However, this does not seem to work for Upper Blackley.<sup>6</sup>

What conclusions can be drawn about boggarts from this place-name evidence? Overwhelmingly the evidence for boggarts comes from the nineteenth century, when boggart traditions were in decline. In these traditions, though, it is possible to make out a fundamental division in boggart lore: there are domestic boggarts associated with houses; and country boggarts associated with rural sites (bridges, woods, lanes, and so on). These are non-contemporary terms, but a reading of the canon of nineteenth-century boggart stories bears the division out.

Most nineteenth-century evidence relates to house boggarts, where there is often confusion with ghosts: tradition did not particularly distinguish between ghosts and solitary fairies in the North West. There are, instead, only scraps of evidence about country boggarts. For example,

<sup>6</sup> Is it possible that we are dealing with a plural generic to refer to a wider area of land? I owe this point to the anonymous reviewer who gave the following example: ‘in the Pennines ... the plurality means not that there is one Pennine here, and another different Pennine there, but that a large body of ground is being referred to’.



we know that owl pellets were sometimes called ‘boggart muck’ in Lancashire (Barber 1910, 255; see also Wrigley 1940, 9). We know, too, that ferns were ‘boggart meat’ (Anon. 1863). We have traditions about boggarts shape-changing out in the wilds: house boggarts rarely shape-shift (Harland and Wilkinson 1867, 56). Indeed, shape-shifting country boggarts should be compared with what Katharine Briggs called ‘bogey beasts’ (Briggs 2011, 34, 47, 70, 109). On the basis of the evidence presented above, we now, as well, know that the country boggart was often associated with steep valleys (cloughs) and with running water. It would be tempting to associate the country boggart with the Scandinavian troll that was supposed to enjoy similar habitats: for instance, Trow Gill, a steep clough near Clapham, possibly ‘troll’s gill’ (Mawer and Stenton 1924, 90), looks like text-book boggart territory. We might recall, too, Gawain descending into a small, suspiciously boggart-sounding glade, where there is a barrow, to meet the Green Knight.<sup>7</sup> We might even remember Alaric Hall’s tentative claim that there was an early medieval division between monsters living in low-lying wet places and gods and elves living on the heights (Hall 2006, 80; Hall 2007, 66). If this hypothesis stands the test of time—Hall himself notes that the evidence is ‘vanishingly slight’ (Hall 2006, 80)—then country boggarts should perhaps take their place besides Grendel and the Anglo-Saxon *thyrs* in the watery places below.

<sup>7</sup> Gawain sees, on the final leg of his journey, no sign of shelter but ‘hyyghe bonkkez and brent vpon bothe halue’ and ‘ruyghe knobled knarrez with knorned stonez’ before finding the mound (*berg*) ‘bi a bonke the brymme bysyde / Bi a forygh of a flode that ferked thare’ (Waldron 1970, 122–23). It was a steep dell as the ‘borne blubred therinne as hit boyled hade’. There he finds the mound has a cave in it. I thank Richard Green for this suggestion. Note that there have been several attempts to locate the chapel (Armitage 2007, 9).

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- YN = North Riding of Yorkshire
- YW = West Riding of Yorkshire

#### APPENDIX: A HANDLIST OF BOGGART TOPONYMS

The following is a list of 108 boggart place-names gathered together by the author: boggard, boggart etc, though not bogle, boggin or other related but fundamentally different forms. The list is certainly incomplete. Indeed, it is striking how many names have come down to us thanks to one chance reference. For example, our knowledge of Boggart Lane (Whiston, La) depends on the fact that a woman was attacked at that place in 1893, that the attack became a legal matter, that the local press chose to report the attack, that the journalist used what was possibly a by-name and that the words ‘Boggart Lane’ digitized successfully. Many other names will have been lost in the chain of historical custody. Better and increased digitization, as well as careful combing of north-western Ordnance Survey maps will bring more boggart names to light.

In what follows I have detailed the locality and the county, the earliest reference that I have been able to find and other references that give

information as to location. It is very possible that some of these names are duplicates and it is, likewise, possible that some different boggart names have been accidentally lumped together. I have noted when place-names appear in EPNS volumes. Name-forms within quotations are italicized.

**Big Boggart [Field] (Sale, Ch):** Anon. 1852a, associated with *Boggart Lane* (Sale, Ch).

**Bogard Close (Nether Soothill, YW):** Smith 1961–63, II, 194.

**Boggard Bridge (Ovenden, YW):** Mount Zion Grave Sales records ‘Jonas Robinson of *Boggard Bridge, Ovenden*’ 1849, grave 67 (<<http://mountzionhalifax.free.fr/Sales.php?MBY>>); *Boggard Bridge* 1881 Census, Halifax, Ovenden, Enumeration District 18, p. 15.

**Boggard Close (Great Horton, YW):** ‘*Boggard Close*, occupied by John Balme’ 1766 (Cudworth 1886, 88); ‘In Bowling-Lane, Part of *Boggard Lane*’ (Anon. 1825).

**Boggard Close (Netherthong, YW):** ‘*Boggard Close* or Little Ing’ (Anon. 1871; Smith 1961–63, II, 288).

**Boggard Closes (Broughton, YW):** Smith 1961–63, VI, 43 under ‘Modern Field Names’.

**Boggard Field (Elland, YW):** ‘A CLOSE of LAND, called the *BOGGARD FIELD* in Elland’ (Anon. 1803; Anon. 1816). To be associated with Boggard Hole (Greetland, YW)?

**Boggard Field (Gisburn, YW):** Smith 1961–63, VI, 169.

**Boggard Hall (Brumby, L):** *Boggard Hall* also known as Burgess Hall (Anon. 1860b; Cameron *et al.* 1985–2010, VI, 38, dates the earliest attestation to 1824).

**Boggard Hole (Fence, La):** *Boggard Hole* 1613 (Potts 1845); *Boggard Hole* 1850 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 56 [House]; *Boggart Hole House* (Anon. 1879a); *Boggart Hall Farm* (Anon. 1896b).

**Boggard Hole (Oldham, La):** *Boggard Hole* 1848 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 97.

**Boggard Hole (Peak Forest, Db):** Boggard Hole, a mine just to the south-east of Peak Forest: *Bogerd Hole* 1763, *Boggard Hole* 1805, *Bogardhole* 1844

(Heathcote 2001, 17, citing the Peak Forest Barmasters' Books for 1752–1856 in the Derbyshire Records Office).

**Boggard Hole (Skipton, YW):** Smith 1961–63, VI, 71.

**Boggard House (Bredbury, Ch):** *Boggard House* (Anon. 1828; Dodgson 1970–97, I, 111).

**Boggard House (Esholt, YW):** *Boggard House* 1851 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 202, to the north of Esholt Hall; 'we take the road in the rear of the hall, passing the *Boggard House*, so named because it was some time untenanted, and the simple rustics in the neighbourhood imagined that they saw lights in the house after the death of a person named Strothers ... [O]ld Strothers spirit, while visiting his old home, amused itself by playing at marbles with other wandering ghosts!' (Anon. 1875; Smith 1961–63, IV, 145).

**Boggard House (Grassington, YW):** *Boggard House* 1853 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 134, on Edge Lane a half mile to the east of Grassington.

**Boggard House (Halifax, YW):** *Boggard House* 1797 (Anon. 1845; Smith 1961–63, III, 108).

**Boggard House (Midgley, YW):** *Boggard House* 1555 (Sutcliffe 1928, 117–18; Smith 1961–63, III, 133–34). Sutcliffe's attestation refers to the reign of Mary and Philip.

**Boggard Houses (Greasley, Db):** *Boggard Houses* 1881 Census, Barford, Greasley, Enumeration District 11, p. 24.

**Boggard Houses (Horsley, Db):** *Boggard Houses* 1881 Census, Belper, Horsley, Enumeration District 6, p. 24. Possibly the same as Boggart House (Kilburn, Db)?

**Boggard Ing Farm (Huddersfield, YW):** *Boggard Ing* (Anon. 1854a); *Boggarding* (Smith 1961–63, II, 259).

**Boggard Lane (Armley, YW):** Smith 1961–63, III, 213.

**Boggard Lane (Baildon, YW):** 'Holden or *Boggard Lane*, as it is now generally called' (Anon. 1875); 'Holden Lane... A "boggart" or ghost was at one time supposed to haunt this road, hence it is still sometimes called *Boggart Lane* by the older inhabitants' (Baildon and Baildon 1912–27, I, 16).

**Boggard Lane (Cawood, YW):** 1851 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 206, to the north west of the village; Smith 1961–63, IV, 38.

**Boggard Lane (Charlesworth, Db):** *Boggard Lane* 1899 OS Six Inch, Derbyshire Sheet 2SE, to south-east of the village, off Back Lane.

**Boggard Lane (Gringley, Nt):** renaming ‘Queen-lane instead of *Boggard-lane*’ (Anon. 1854b).

**Boggard Lane (Hipperholme, YW):** ‘A portion of the old pack horse road between Bramley lane and Lower Winter Edge is styled *Boggard Lane*. It is now impassable’ (Turner 1869).

**Boggard Lane (Oughtibridge/Worrall, YW):** *Boggard Lane* 1855 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 288, at Hagg Stones.

**Boggard Lane (Penistone, YW):** *Boggard Lane* 1854 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 273, to the south-west of the village (Smith 1961–63, I, 338).

**Boggard Lane (Yeadon/Guiseley YW):** ‘[The development] will create extra traffic on *Boggart Lane* that is a public footpath and lots of people use the route to walk down into Nunroyd park and into Kirk lane park’ (*Report of the Chief Planning Officer, PLANS PANEL WEST, Date: 21st January 2010, Subject: PLANNING APPLICATION 09/02813/FU, 5*).

**Boggard Wood (Dodworth, YW):** *Boggard Wood* on the road to the south of Ben Bank Farm (*Silkstone Valley Walks: Silkstone Common to Falthwaite*, undated but recent pamphlet, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough).

**Boggard Wood (Ilkley, YW):** ‘The old names of fields are often very suggestive of former events and conditions. Thus we have in Ilkley township [...] *Boggard Wood*’ (Collyer and Turner 1885, 256; Smith 1961–63, IV, 215).

**Boggard Wood† (Horsforth, YW):** ‘*Boggard Wood Nook*, Outwood Lane’ (Anon. 1937).

**Boggart Barn (Revidge, La):** *Boggart Barn* (Anon. 1850b), on the Roman road. Connected with Boggart Farm (Revidge, La)?

**Boggart Bridge (Burnley, La):** *Boggart Bridge* (Anon. 1862).

**Boggart Bridge (Dendron, La):** *Boggart Bridge* 1851 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 22.

**Boggart Bridge (Ogden, YW):** *Boggart Bridge* 1852 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 215.

**Boggart Bridge (Selby, YW):** *Boggart Bridge* 1851 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 221, on Selby Lane to the north of the town (Smith 1961–63, IV, 34).

**Boggart Chair (Colne, La):** *Boggart Chair* (Anon. 1878a); ‘two cottages [...] Netherheys, in *Boggart-chair*, Barrowford-road’ (Anon. 1881c).

**Boggart Close (Snelston, Db):** Cameron 1959, III, 603.

**Boggart Closes (Leeds, YW):** ‘in the *Boggard Closes*, in Leeds’ (Anon. 1787).

**Boggart Colliery (Howden Clough, YW):** *Boggart Colliery* 1854 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 232.

**Boggart Cote (Crawshawbooth, La):** 1849 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 72, on a hillside to the west of the Bold Venture Mill; ‘and *Boggart Cote*, near Rawtenstall’ (Ditchfield 1906, 93).

**Boggart Croft (Goosnargh, La):** recorded 1814 (Cookson 1888, 28–29).

**Boggart Farm (Revidge, La):** *Boggart Farm* (Anon. 1864). Connected with Boggart Barn (Revidge, La)?

**Boggart Field (Ashton On Mersey, Ch):** Dodgson 1970–97, II, 6.

**Boggart Fields (Howden Clough, YW):** *Boggart Fields* 1854 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 232; *Boggard Fields* (Smith 1961–63, II, 181).

**Boggart Hill (Leeds, YW):** *Boggart Hill* 1851 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 203.

**Boggart Hole (Bolton, La):** *Boggart Hole* 1850 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 87; *Boggart Hole Cottage* 1911 Census, Bolton, Tonge, Enumeration District 2, p. 178.

**Boggart Hole (Clitheroe, La):** *Boggart Hole* (Anon. 1880c).

**Boggart Hole (Greetland, YW):** Longbotham 1933, 70c; Smith 1961–63, II, 49. To be associated with Boggart Field (Elland, YW)?

**Boggart Hole (Mellor Moor, Db):** 1881 Census, Mellor, Enumeration District 9, p. 11.

**Boggart Hole (Stacksteads, La):** Referred to in the historical section of the *Bacup Times* newspaper <[www.bacuptimes.co.uk/stacksteads.htm](http://www.bacuptimes.co.uk/stacksteads.htm)>

**Boggart Hole Clough (Blackley, La):** Plan of the Parish of Manchester in the County of Lancaster from a Survey made in 1818-1819 by William Johnson; Wentworth 1892, 128–136.

**Boggart Holes (Chapel-le-Dale, YN):** Speight 1892, 254.

**Boggart Holes (Clapham, YN):** Anon. 1885; Speight 1892, 180.

**Boggart Holes (Higher Blackley, La):** *Boggart Holes* 1848 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 96.

**Boggart Holes (Ribchester, La):** *Boggart Holes* (Anon. 1889b; Anon. 1889c).

**Boggart House (Audenshaw, La):** *Boggart House* 1848 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 105, to the north of Audenshaw and to the east of Droylsden; ‘from Red Hall to *Boggart House*’ (Anon.1865).

**Boggart House (Bradford, YW):** ‘Upper Esholt Mill to what was called *Boggart Hoase* [sic]’ (Anon. 1901).

**Boggart House (Broughton, La):** *Bogart House* 1881 Census, Preston, Broughton, Enumeration District 18, p. 9; ‘There is a *Boggart House* near Broughton Church’ (Ditchfield 1906, 93).

**Boggart House (Carnforth, La):** ‘Between Bolton-le-Sands and Camforth, on the road side, is situated a house having the reputation of being haunted, and has ever, within the memory of that oft quoted personage “the oldest inhabitant,” been known by the appellation of the “*boggart house*”’ (Anon. 1851a).

**Boggart House (Cromwell Bottom, YW):** appears to be a late-nineteenth-century house (Billingsley 2010, 39).

**Boggart House (Cuddy Hill, La):** ‘a traditional route past *Boggart House*, to Cuddy Hill, thence through Inskip, St. Michaels, and Duncombe’ (John 1876). This is probably Boggart House Farm (Newsham, La).

**Boggart House (Dalton, La):** ‘Gildsley or *Boggart House* Dalton nr Southport’ 1911 Census, Dalton, Enumeration District 1, p. 91.

**Boggart House (Ellel, La):** ‘Some six or seven hundred yards beyond the railway bridge at Barrow Beck there is house on the west side of the road known as “*Boggart*[”] *house*; a few yards further, on the opposite side of the turnpike, is a road leading to Ellel Chapel and school’ (Anon. 1866). This description seems to correspond to Leach House on the 1848 OS Six Inch Map, Lancashire Sheet 34.

**Boggart House (Garstang, La):** *Boggart House* 1847 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 39, on Cabus Nook Lane to the north of Garstang.

**Boggart House (Howden Clough, YW):** *Boggart House* 1854 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 232; *Boggard Ho[use]* (Smith 1961–63, II, 181).

**Boggart House (Kettlethulme, Ch):** *Boggart House* 1881 OS Six Inch, Cheshire Sheet 29, to the south-east of the village (Dodgson 1970–97, I, 111).

**Boggart House (Kilburn, Db):** ‘*Boggart House, Kilburn*’ (Anon. 1909). Possibly the same as Boggard Houses (Horsley, Db).

**Boggart House (Matlock, Db):** *Boggart House* 1891 Census, Wirksworth, Matlock, Enumeration District 16, p. 18.

**Boggart House (Strelley, Nt):** *Boggart House* 1911 Census, Strelley, Nt, Enumeration District 8, p. 65.

**Boggart House (Westhoughton/Hindley, La):** ‘*Boggart House* or Alder Lane’ 1841 Census, Wigan, Hindley, Enumeration District 5, pp. 5–6; *Boggart House* 1849 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 94, to the east of Hindley and to the south of Westhoughton; ‘all in the County of Lancaster, and terminating on the north-westerly side of a lane called Pungle-Lane, situated in the township Westhoughton, in the parish of Dean, in the County of Lancaster, in a field in the said township of Westhoughton, occupied by Ellen Gregory, and known by the name of *Boggart Housefield*’ (Anon. 1846); ‘the intended main line will cross Marsh Brook, near *Boggart House*’ (Anon. 1860a); ‘*Boggart House Farm* in Sandy-Lane’ (Anon. 1881a); ‘and another house so-named [i.e. Boggart House] near Hindley’ (Ditchfield 1906, 93).

**Boggart House (Wigan, La):** ‘Holme House or *Boggart House*’ (Anon. 1836); *Boggart House* (Anon. 1843b); Holme House 1849 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 93, to the north of Wigan.

**Boggart House (Wrightington, La):** ‘*Boggart House* is situated a little to the north of Boars Den . . . . A road called Robin Hood Lane runs past Boars Den. Between a certain gate and Dangerous Corner, the old man assured me, this road is haunted by a boggart. His brother had seen it many times, and it “went clankin’ round th’ field in chains”. Some two years ago, during the sickness of one of the inmates of *Boggart House*, the visitations of the house ghost became so frequent and terrifying, that the inhabitants finally fled in terror, and the house was empty at the time of my visit’ (Price 1899, 190–92); ‘*Boggart House Farm, High Moorlane, Wrightington*’ (Anon. 1941).

**Boggart House Farm (Newsham, La):** Anon. 1879b; Anon. 1880a. Note that this does not seem to be Boggart House (Broughton, La), though they are very close and have similar names.

**Boggart House Farm (Out Rawcliffe, La):** “*Boggart House*” Farm, Out Rawcliffe’ (Anon. 1848).

**Boggart House Farm (Wetherby, YW):** ‘*Boggart-House Farm*, situated in the Parish of Thorp-Arch, near Wetherby’ (Anon. 1796); ‘near *Boggart House Farm*, between Wetherby and Walton’ (Anon. 1878b; Smith 1961–63, IV, 245 gives references from 1817 and 1843).

**Boggart Lane (Bradford, YW):** Anon. 1835, 3; ‘there is a lane called till lately, *Boggard Lane*, but now it takes the title of Eastbrook Lane’ (Anon. 1837); ‘a street meeting was held at a place known as *Boggard Lane* top, in George Street in the town’ (Anon. 1843a); ‘One street was called *Boggard Lane* and indeed it was the most appropriate name which could have been chosen’ (Anon. 1843c, 7); ‘Eastbrook Lane, commonly called *Boggart Lane*’ (Anon. 1850a).

**Boggart Lane (Bulwell, Nt):** a level crossing ‘on a footpath leading from what is known as “*Boggart-Lane*”, in the Bulwell district, across the fields to Arnold’ (Anon. 1899).

**Boggart Lane (Droylsden/Audenshaw, La):** *Boggart-lane* crosses Ashton New-road (Anon. 1896a).

**Boggart Lane (Ecclestone, La):** *Boggart Lane* 1881 Census, Prescott, Ecclestone, Enumeration District 11, p. 30.

**Boggart Lane (Hellifield, YW):** Anon. 1880b.

**Boggart Lane (Pudsey, YW):** *Boggart Lane* (Anon. 1870); ‘There are several substantial bridges on the railway, among which may be mentioned that ... over *Boggard Lane*, near the Allanbrig Mill reservoir’ (Rayner 1887, 217).

**Boggart Lane (Rochdale La):** new Newbold Brow? (Anon. 1918; Anon. 1930).

**Boggart Lane (Sale, Ch):** ‘besides having a frontage to Marslands-Road abuts for a considerable distance upon *Boggart-lane*’ (Anon. 1852a; Anon. 1877).



**Boggart Lane (Skelmanthorpe, YW):** *Boggart Lane* 1854 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 261, to the north of the village (Smith 1961–63, II, 222).

**Boggart Lane (Sowerby Bridge, YW):** *Boggart Lane* 1908 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 230, to the south of Station Road (Smith 1961–63, III, 142).

**Boggart Lane (Ulleskelf, YN):** ‘Ozendike Lane or *Boggart Close*’ (Anon. 1844); *Boggart Lane* 1849 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 205, just to the west of Ossendike House; *Boggard Gate Close* 1845 (Smith 1961–63, IV, 67).

**Boggart Lane (Whiston, La):** ‘*Boggart-lane*, Whiston’ (Anon. 1893a).

**Boggart Platt (Goosnargh, La):** Cookson 1888, 51 and 311.

**Boggart Stones (Saddleworth, YW):** *Boggart Stones* 1854 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 271, on the high moors to the east of Upper Mill; *Boggart o’th’ Moss* (Smith 1961–63, II, 313, citing the 1843 O.S. map).

**Boggart Walks (Whalley, La):** *Boggart Walks* 1848 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 55, to the west of Whalley.

**Boggart Wood (Allerton, YW):** *Boggart Wood* 1852 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 216, a wooded valley just to the south of modern Allerton (Smith 1961–63, III, 247).

**Boggart Wood (Hollingworth, La):** a hare ‘ran by Benny Hill through *Boggart Wood* to Higher Fold’ (Anon. 1906).

**Boggart Wood (Nether Alderley, Ch):** Dodgson 1970–97, I, 97.

**Boggart Yate (Hambleton, La):** *Boggart Yate* 1848 OS Six Inch, Lancashire Sheet 43, to the south of Hambleton.

**Boggart’s Inn Farm (Wirksworth, Db):** ‘*Boggart’s Inn Farm*, near Wirksworth’ (Anon. 1893b); ‘*Boggart’s Inn*, Wirksworth’ (Anon. 1894a).

**Buggard Close (Crich, Db):** Cameron 1959, II, 440. The anonymous reviewer informs me that the source is the Tithe Apportionment of 1847 for Crich in Derbyshire (Derbyshire Record Office: D2360/3/112; plot 1238).

**Buggard House, The (Stretford, La):** *the Buggard House* 1753 (Stretford registers; Crofton 1899, I, 160).

**Buggart Field (Wilmslow, Ch):** Dodgson 1970–97, I, 233.

**Further Buggards Croft (Irlam, La):** ‘the *Nearer Buggards-croft* and the *Further Buggards-croft*’ (Anon. 1797).

**Higher Boggart Stones (Widdop, YW):** *Higher Boggart Stones* 1851 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 214; see also Lower Boggart Stones (Widdop, WY; Smith 1961–63, III, 192).

**Little Boggard House, The (Ardsley, YW):** ‘*Boggard House, Ardsley*’ (Anon. 1851b); ‘At the village of Ardsley, near Barnsley, there is a house known to old residents as “*the little boggard house*”, for that is the way in which they pronounce “boggart”’ (E. G. B. 1895).

**Little Boggart [Field] (Sale, Ch):** associated with *Boggart Lane* (Sale, Ch) (Anon. 1852a).

**Lower Boggart Stones (Widdop, YW):** *Lower Boggart Stones* 1851 OS Six Inch, Yorkshire Sheet 214, see also *Higher Boggart Stones* (Widdop, YW; Smith 1961–63, III, 192).

**Nearer Buggards Croft (Irlam, La):** ‘the *Nearer Buggards-croft* and the *Further Buggards-croft*’ (Anon. 1797).

**Old Boggard House, The (Leeds, YW):** Mayhall (1860, 416–17) gives 1751 as the founding date of this Wesleyan Chapel; a 1752 reference is given by Wesley (1827, II, 210). The name apparently comes from Boggart Closes (Leeds, YW).

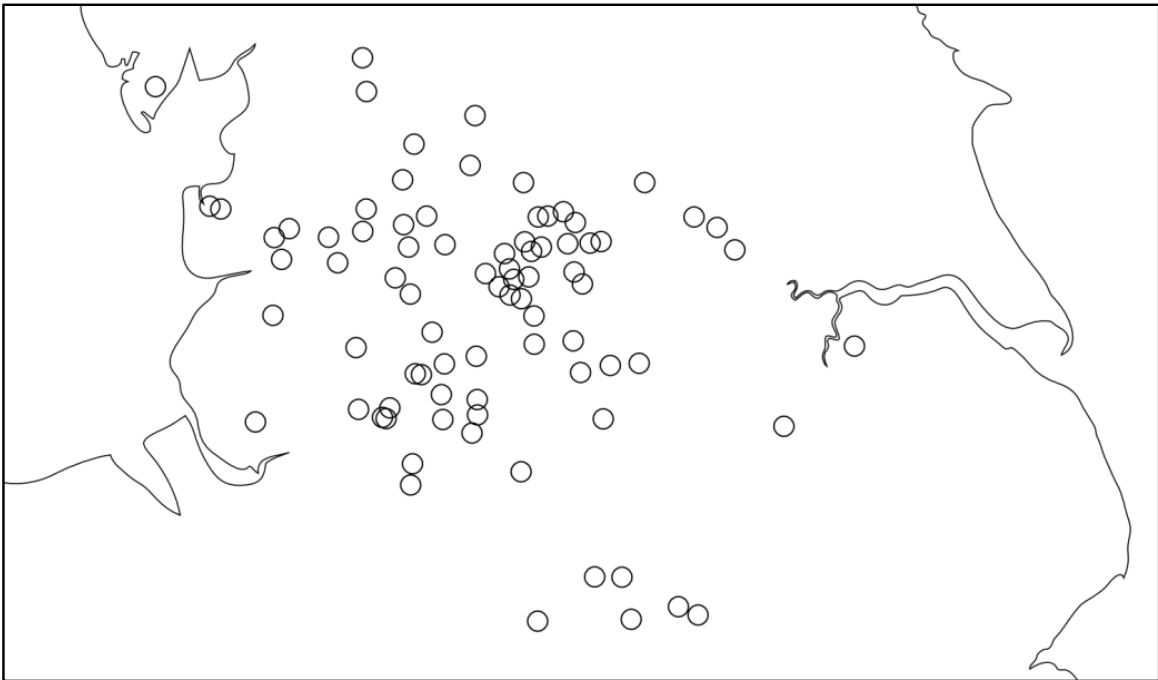


Figure 15. Boggart place-names  
Settlements with more than one boggart name have been marked just once.

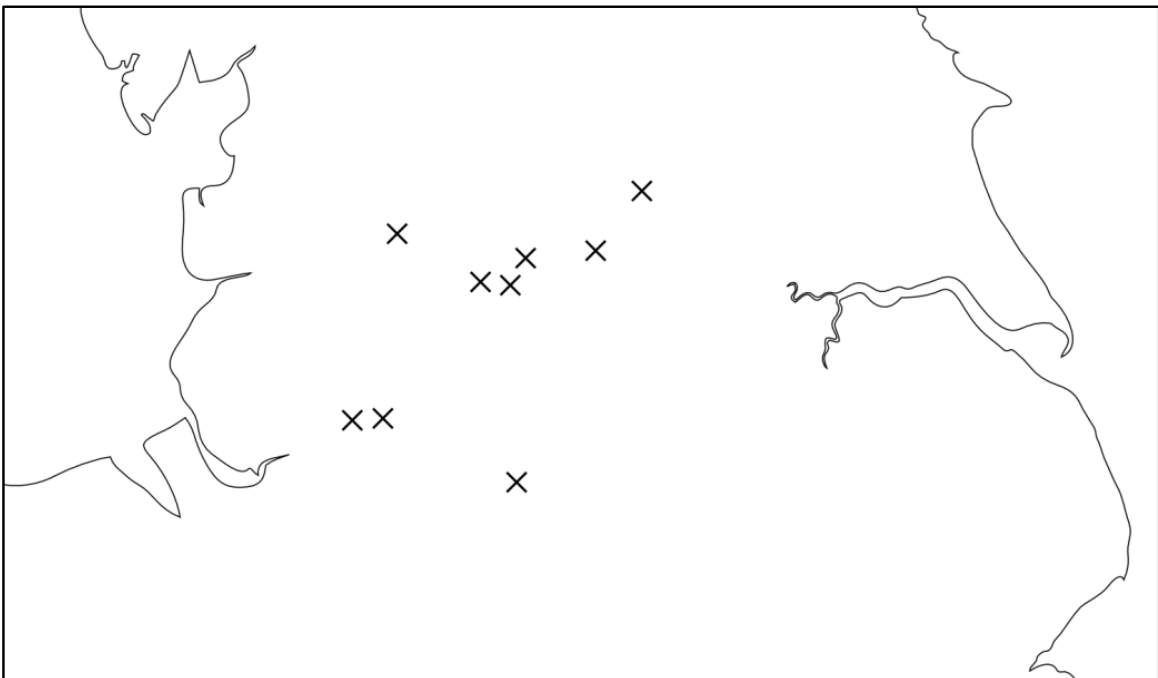


Figure 16. Boggart place-names attested before the year 1800