

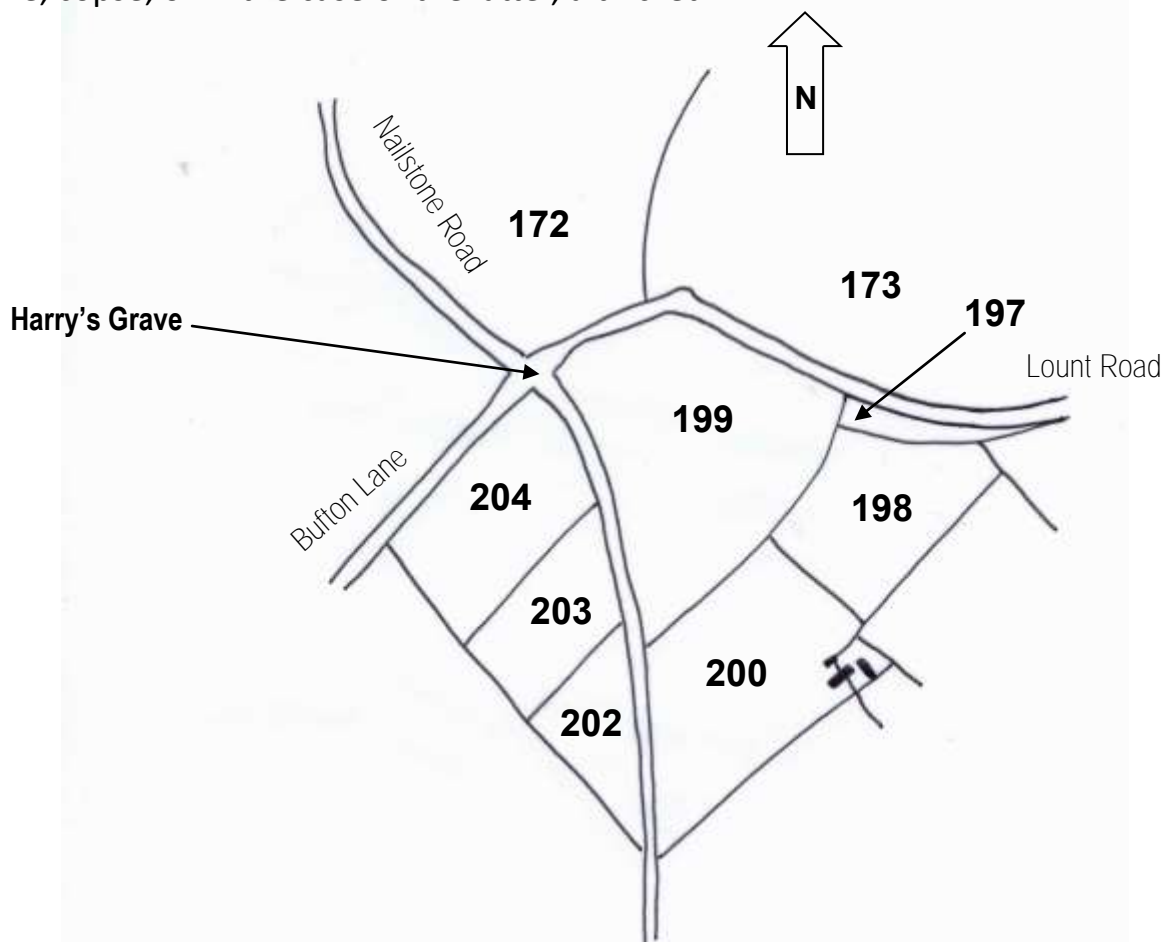
More on Harry's Grave

The cross roads between Nailstone Road, Bufton Lane and Lount Road (at SK 403 058) is known locally as Harry's Grave. In a previous article I noted that the Anglo-Saxon word *graef* meant a grave, pit, hollow or even a pool in a hollow, and suggested that the grave might be that of a pauper buried just outside the Parish. Prof Barrie Cox in Part VI of *The Place Names of Leicestershire* lists the field name *Harvey's Grave* under the Parish of Nailstone, and cites the same *graef* root for the name. A local resident who was born in the cottages at Bufton has told me their water used to come from a spring on the NW side of the cross roads. This has now been piped, but at one time there would have been a pool in a hollow here.

After publication of the previous article, some local residents told me old village stories that the Harry buried at Harry's Grave was variously a local farm boy who died after being beaten by his master, a local tramp, and the local milkman's horse.

Richard Liddington has recently drawn my attention to the Nailstone Tithe Map of 1840 (ROLLR Ti/227/2), along with an amended tithe award. Field numbers 199 and 204, on the Carlton side of the cross roads are variously listed in these documents as Harvey Grove, Harveys Grove, Harveys Grave, Harveys Grave Close, and Harrys Grave Close.

On the topic of word origins, Tony Squires has pointed out that the current word 'grave' can also be a corruption of the Old English words *graf* and *graefe*, both of which can mean a grove, copse, or in the case of the latter, a thicket.



I now think it is unlikely that Harry's Grave is the site of a burial, and most probable that the 'Grave' part of the current name is a corruption of *graf*, *graef* or *graefe*. With the word 'Grove' on the Tithe Map, this might imply that there was once a wood or thicket on the site, and that the current name 'Grave' is a corruption of 'Grove'. However, given the existence of a spring, the Old English meaning of the word *graef* meaning a pool in a hollow seems to be the most likely root of the name, in which case the name 'Grove' on the Tithe Map is an error or corruption of the name 'Grave'.

This leaves unanswered the question of the identity of Harvey or Harry.

It is interesting that in 1840 there was a small farm in field 200 between Nailstone Road and Lount Road. There is now no trace of these buildings. Field 197 was a roadside garden and is now a wide highway verge, while the other small fields have been amalgamated.

Selected details of the numbered fields on the Tithe Map are listed below:

Field no	Field name	Owner	Occupier
172	Big Carlton Close	Earl Howe	Edward Knowles
173	Far Carlton Close	Earl Howe	Edward Knowles
197	Garden	Earl Howe	Thomas Ison
198	Money Close	Cosmas Neville	Joseph Hextall
199	Harveys Grave	Cosmas Neville	Joseph Hextall
200	Barn Close	Cosmas Neville	Joseph Hextall
202	Little Shoulder of Mutton	Cosmas Neville	Thomas Cheshire
203	Big Shoulder of Mutton	Cosmas Neville	Thomas Cheshire
204	Harveys Grave	Cosmas Neville	Thomas Cheshire

I thank Richard Liddington, Tony Squires, local residents and the staff of the Record Office, for their advice and help.

Chris Peat