

# Skirlaugh, East Riding of Yorkshire

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## Up to 1834

A row of poorhouses was situated in North Skirlaugh as shown on the 1855 map below.



North Skirlaugh poorhouses site, 1855.

Some poorhouses also stood at the west of Witherwick on what is now West Lambwath Road.





www.workhouses.org.uk  
 Skirlaugh workhouse site, 1910.

The layout of Skirlaugh was a little unusual and was somewhat reminiscent of Sir Francis Head's model [courtyard plan](#) adopted by some Kent unions in the 1830s. A rectangle of buildings, with an entrance block at the east, enclosed a large central courtyard. The courtyard was divided by a central partition between male and female sides, with each side further subdivided into two yards, perhaps one for the able-bodied and one for the elderly and infirm.



Skirlaugh main block from the east, 2001.  
 © Peter Higginbotham.



*Skirlaugh main block from the north-east, 2001.  
© Peter Higginbotham.*

The workhouse closed in 1915, with the children and few remaining inmates being removed to Beverley. The workhouse became a military hospital in 1916, then was taken over by the the local council in 1922. The building was then converted to housing known as Rowton Villas.

The buildings were later used as offices by Holderness Borough Council (now the East Riding of Yorkshire Council).