

## HERITAGE TRAIL



## THE TENTAS

The name of The Tentas, the road that runs between Top Road and Elder Lane, is thought to have derived from a slang version of Tenters or Tenthouse. Records show that the road now known as The Tentas was called "Tent House Road" until the 1960s.

A 'tenthouse' is a building or shed containing a large wooden 'tenter' frame on which cloth was stretched after being dyed. They were used as far back as the 14<sup>th</sup> century in the process of making woollen cloth.

After the cloth was woven it still contained oils and dirt from the fleece and a craftsman called a fuller cleaned the woollen cloth in a fulling mill and then the cloth was carefully dried.

Lengths of wet cloth were stretched over the tenter using tenterhooks to prevent shrinkage and were left outside to dry. In some areas entire tenter fields (large open spaces full of tenters) were quite common.



Click [here](#) for further information on the Woven Woollen Cloth Industry in Griffydam.