

Roman Buxton.

BY EDWARD TRISTRAM, F.S.A.

IT has been abundantly proved by the discovery of numerous Roman remains, that Buxton was inhabited during the Roman occupation of Britain. It has not, however, up to the present, been definitely ascertained whether there was a permanent Roman fort (*castellum*) at Buxton, or, if after all resistance to the Roman arms in the district had subsided, Buxton only then became a place of resort, owing to the attraction of the natural warm water springs, to the use of which, as baths for medicinal purposes, the Romans were much addicted.

The earliest known reference to Buxton is contained in a document generally known as the "Chorography of Ravennas," believed to have been written in the sixth century. Ravennas, in a list of Roman stations between Deva (Chester) and Ratae (Leicester) mentions *Derbentio*, which has been identified with Little Chester near Derby. In his list of stations between Lindum Colonia (Lincoln) and Mantio (Manchester) he names *Bannovallum*, *Navio*, *Aquis*, *Arnemeza* and *Zerdotalia*. *Bannovallum* and *Arnemeza* have not yet been clearly identified with any particular sites, but *Anavio* has been proved to be the name of the Roman fort on the river Noe at Brough, near Hope, and it has been suggested, and probably correctly, that *Zerdotalia* was the name of the Roman fort now known as Melandra Castle, on the bank of the river Etherow, near Glossop. *Aquae*, which is the latin designation of a watering place such as Bath, there

is little doubt must refer to Buxton, as no other place in Derbyshire or the neighbourhood would fit the description.

The suggestion has also been made that the names Aquis and Arnemeza should be read together, and that as Bath was known to the Romans as *Aquae Sulis*, so Buxton might have been called *Aquae Arnemeza*. This, however, has not been verified and must be treated as a mere assumption, unless and until some inscription should happily come to light giving the full Roman name of Buxton.

As all the places named in conjunction with Aquis by Ravennas, yet identified, have been proved to be Roman forts, there is a presumption that *Aquae* (Buxton) also falls within that category. Several Roman roads, which will presently be referred to, converge at Buxton and this fact, combined with the reference made to Buxton by Ravennas renders it highly probable that a Roman fort existed there.

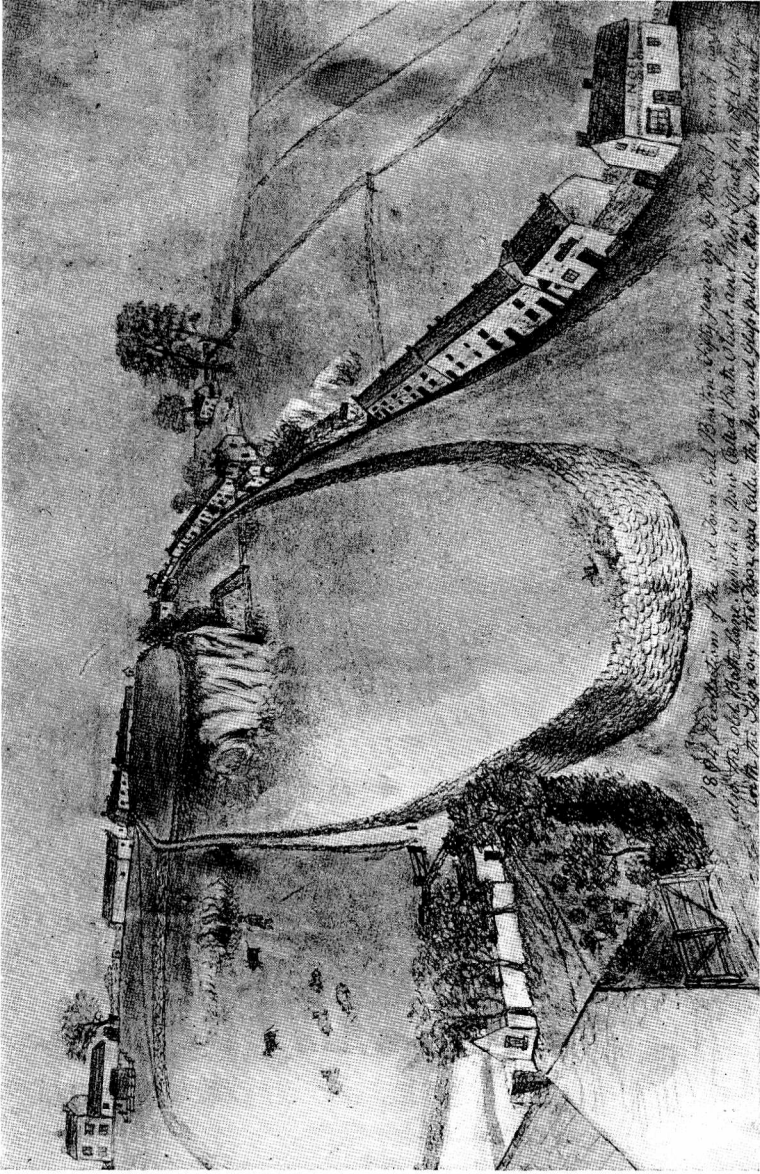
The Bishop of Cloyne is responsible for the statement that the Roman road known as Batham Gate (sometimes spelt Bathom Gate, but I have adopted the Ordnance Survey spelling which is perhaps as correct as any other), leading from Brough to Buxton, after its junction with the road from Dove Holes to Buxton, "is found by digging to have kept the same line to the hill above Buxton," meaning Corbar Hill, and consequently it has often been suggested that the Roman fort was situated on that hill. As no particulars of the digging referred to are given, nor the name of the authority who pronounced any road found, to be Roman, this statement must be regarded as doubtful. I cannot find any trace of a Roman fort on Corbar Hill; moreover the top of a high bare hill like Corbar, without any convenient water in proximity, is not likely to have been selected by the Romans for the site of their fort.

It is stated in our Society's *Journal* for 1885¹ that "no trace of the Roman station at Buxton is visible above ground, but it is generally supposed to have been on the Stane Cliff, a hill rising above the Hall, for occasionally Roman remains have been discovered there." Stane Cliff is now called "the Terrace" in the Ordnance map, and the Town Hall is built on the southerly end of it. In the position suggested there certainly is no trace of any rampart or other indication of a Roman fort.

After a careful examination of all parts of Buxton and the immediate neighbourhood during several years, the only site I have been able to discover, which suggests any trace of a defensive work of the usual Roman shape and character is shown on the plan and surrounded by a red line.

On the southerly side of the site, behind the houses on the northerly side of West Street, is a perpendicular wall of limestone rock from twelve to twenty feet in height. This has been worked as a quarry in modern times, but from the configuration of the ground there must originally have been a steep natural bank or wall of rock on this side. The easterly side of the suggested site runs along St. Ann's Churchyard, and continues along High Street and a considerable bank or rise of ground still exists here. On the west side there runs from the southerly escarpment, what appears to have been a natural declivity eight or ten feet in height, which has been buttressed up by a modern wall between the gardens of the houses on the southerly side of Bath Street. On the north side of Bath Street this declivity continues for a considerable distance and at the westerly end of St. James' Church it would appear to have been enlarged by tipping, probably when the church was built. There is at the present time no indication of any defensive work on the northerly side

¹ p. 86.



View, from the west, of suggested site of Roman Fort as it appeared about seventy years ago.

but the making of the streets and the erection of buildings may readily account for this.

There must always have been a supply of water within a short distance from the westerly side of the suggested site and at the present day there is at least one well within the area.

The present Bath Street, formerly known as Old Bath Lane, which has been widened and the direction somewhat altered, runs through the site from east to west and would presumably follow the line of the Roman road intersecting the fort.

Mr. W. H. Salt, son of the late Mr. Micah Salt, informed me that Mr. G. Brunt possessed a water-colour sketch, showing the suggested site, drawn from information supplied by an old resident in West Street, and which represents this part of Buxton, as he remembered it about seventy years ago. In this picture, which Mr. Brunt has kindly allowed to be reproduced, the site somewhat resembles the Roman fort at Brough, and the Old Bath Lane, the narrow road to the left of the picture, running across the site, has much the appearance of a Roman road.

The Roman roads running into Buxton would naturally converge in close proximity to the fort and we shall presently consider what evidence they afford in support of this site.

In 1856, the date previously given is 1862, the lower portion of a Roman mile-stone, now belonging to our Society, and deposited in the Buxton Museum, was dug up in a garden at Silverlands in Higher Buxton. It would naturally be concluded that the position of this stone might give some indication of the location of the Roman fort, so that it will not be inappropriate here to collect and recapitulate the principal references to the finding of the stone and the inscription on it, and some additional circumstances connected with the discovery, not hitherto published, will be added.

The first mention of this mile-stone is contained in *The Reliquary* for 1862¹ where the following note occurs:—

On the 14th of June a letter calling attention to an inscribed stone having recently been found at Buxton, appeared in the Buxton Advertiser Newspaper. As considerable interest attaches to the subject of Roman roads and other remains at or near Buxton, we immediately (indeed the same day) wrote to the gentleman in whose garden it was said to have been found and also to the publisher of the Advertiser, asking for further information and enclosing to each a stamped envelope for reply, the common courtesy of which, we are sorry to say has not in either case been extended to us. All we can do therefore, in reply to our correspondent, is simply to print the letter as it appeared, and trust to further information being forthcoming at some future time. The following is the letter.

ANTIQUITIES OF BUXTON.

To the Editor of the Buxton Advertiser.

Sir,

In a garden occupied by Mr. Matthew Lees, in Higher Buxton, a stone has been discovered in turning up the soil some time since. It is about two feet long and resembles a mile-stone. Some Roman characters are still traceable on one side and from its appearance it must be of remote date. Could any of your readers tell if at anytime a road passed the site of the said garden (near the Silverlands) or for what purpose the stone was used?

I am Sir,

Yours, &c. INQUIRER.

One cannot help wondering whether it was mere carelessness or forgetfulness which prevented the Editor of *The Reliquary* from receiving a reply.

The next reference I can find appears in *The Reliquary* for 1863.² Mr. Llewellyn Jewitt, F.S.A., there states that the stone was found in 1862 "in a lane at Buxton," but no further particulars are added. An engraving of the stone is annexed to his paper and his reading of the inscription, which has since been slightly corrected is given.

¹ Vol. iii., p. 119 of Jewitt's *Reliquary*.

² Vol. iii., p. 207.

In the *Archæological Journal* for 1876¹ is printed a paper by Mr. W. Thompson Watkin, accompanied by an excellent engraving of the mile-stone, which is now reproduced. No further details as to the exact spot at which the stone was discovered or its position in the ground are disclosed. I now come to another paper by Mr. Thompson Watkin which appeared in our Society's *Journal* for 1885.² Mr. Watkin there refers to the finding of the mile-stone as mentioned in his previous paper without further particulars and gives the correct reading of the stone as follows :—

(TR)IB. POT. CoS. I(I)

I.P.P. ANAVIONE

MP. X ..

It must be remembered that the upper part of the stone has been broken off and is missing. Mr. Watkin supplied the TR. in the first line and also the second I at the end of the first line. The inscription then reads :—Tribunitia potestate. Consul II. Pater Patriæ. Anavione Millia Passuum XII. This may be rendered into English :—" Invested with the power of a Tribune—Consul for the second time—Father of his Country—To Anavio twelve thousand paces,"—this is twelve Roman miles. It is a misfortune that the name inscribed on the missing upper portion of the stone cannot be supplied. The I at the commencement of the second line, which is very indistinct on the stone, has not been interpreted. It may be the last letter of PII.

Mr. Watkin placed a stop between the " A " and " Navio " but this, as pointed out by Professor Haverfield in our Society's *Journal* for 1904, is an error, and the correct name of the Roman fort at Brough, as proved by an inscription found at Fouligno in Italy, was Anavio.

¹ Vol. xxxiii., p. 49.

² p. 79.

It is also doubtful whether the number of miles should read X or XII but there would appear to be faint indications on the stone of the two units.

During the summer of 1913, Mr. George Lees of 80, Duke Street, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, came to Buxton and made a statement that he was the son of Mr. Matthew Lees, in whose garden at Buxton the mile-stone was unearthed. Mr. George Lees asserts that he was the actual discoverer of the mile-stone and that he found it while digging deep in his father's garden near an old lane. He gives the year 1856, as the date, and states that he was about fifteen years old at the time. The stone was lying flat, some eighteen inches below the surface and the exact spot so far as he can tell, was just inside the gateway leading to the upper Buxton Railway Station, behind the wooden building now standing there, and this spot is marked by a cross, in red ink, on the plan. Mr. George Lees pointed out the spot to the late Mr. Micah Salt and to Mr. Hardie, of Blythswood, Buxton, and the latter shortly after pointed out the spot to me. The following statement was somewhat hurriedly written out by Mr. Hardie and signed by Mr. George Lees :—

Aug. 11th, 1913.

BLYTHSWOOD,
BUXTON.

This Roman mile-stone was dug up in the garden of Mathew Lees by me at the far end of the back Lane now called South Avenue leading to the Silverlands close to where the present L. & N. W. Ry. goods Station now is, in the spring of 1856. It was given by me to John Cumming Bates of the Advertiser Newspaper and it was found standing vertically about 18 inches under the garden soil.

GEORGE LEES,
Son of the above Mathew Lees.

P.S.—I am willing to show anyone the exact spot.

This now clears up all uncertainty connected with the discovery of the mile-stone, which has hitherto been some-

what obscure. Mr. George Lees was very careful as to the year in which he found the mile-stone, and his age at the time, fifteen, and the fact that he shortly afterwards went to Canada, assisted him in fixing the year 1856.

The 25 inch ordnance map of Buxton indicates by a star the supposed position at which the mile-stone was found, but from whom the information was obtained is unknown. The position, however, differs but slightly from the spot now pointed out by the actual finder.

As the mile-stone was found lying flat, eighteen inches below the surface, which means that the upper side of the stone was covered with that depth of earth, the stone must have been lying in that position for many centuries. Judging from the fact that the stone was not utilised for building purposes, or even as a garden ornament, and consequently had not been moved for any such reason, we can scarcely be wrong in assuming that it was found close to its original position.

This mile-stone must have been placed at some point on the road between the Roman station at Buxton and Brough, and should therefore indicate to us the line of the Roman road and also point to the location of the fort.

The spot where the mile-stone was found is about five hundred yards from the suggested site of the fort and is nearly in a straight line between it and the Roman road known as Batham Gate leading to Brough, at its junction with the present road to Dove Holes. Following this line from the junction of Bath Street with High Street straight by the spot where the mile-stone was unearthed, we come to the northerly end of the field to the north of Silverlands Football Ground. Here we find a remarkably well engineered terrace-road, now quite disused, running down the steep declivity in a westerly direction, with a turn at the bottom leading to the river Goyt. The railway viaduct crosses and has blocked up this road and a very inferior zigzag continuation of it was made by the

Railway Co., to give access to the field above. I have little hesitation in ascribing the construction of this road to the Romans. It is shown on a plan dated 1800, in the possession of Mr. Drewry, at the Devonshire Estate Office, Buxton, which plan, with many others, he kindly permitted me to inspect, and I gladly acknowledge my indebtedness to him and also to Mr. Harrison of the same office for looking up the ancient maps, and for his assistance in tracing the Roman roads.

The road in question is worthy of a detailed description as it is a most interesting local example of Roman road-engineering. The brow of the hill has been cut away to allow the same gradient, 1 in 10, to be adhered to throughout the descent. After passing through the cutting, the road bends to the left and the side of the hill has been cut away on the left hand, and the road banked up with a wall of loose stones on the right. Along the top of this wall, large surface rocks, some of which, according to Mr. Harrison's calculation, weigh nearly two tons, were placed as a fence and a few of these at the top of the road still remain *in situ*, others have fallen down on to the slope below, and probably others have been broken up for modern stone-walling, or utilised by the Railway Co. in forming the foundations for the viaduct. The road which is about 12 feet in width, merely leads to the field above, and there is no trace of any house having ever stood there or of any modern continuation of the road. It is difficult to conceive that this road, fenced with these large stones, can have been made before 1800 merely for access to a field, an easy level way to which might have been obtained through Silverlands. It is most unlikely that the expense and labour of fencing this road with these large pieces of rock would have been incurred by a farmer, or even the owner of the field above, when an ordinary Derbyshire stone wall might have served the purpose. The only believable solution is that it is a

portion of the Roman road and this is confirmed by the fact that it lies in almost a straight line between the mile-stone site and the recognised Batham Gate.¹

Batham Gate therefore may, in the absence of further definite evidence, be considered to have commenced near the junction of Old Bath Lane and the present High Street, close to the suggested site of the fort. The low-lying land through which the present road known as Spring Gardens runs, would, no doubt, have been of a very marshy character in Roman times.

The position in which the mile-stone was found, presuming that it can be taken to have been lying at, or close to its original site, is therefore confirmatory of the suggested position of the Roman fort, and there seems to be no other likely site for the fort other than that indicated, if the evidence of the mile-stone is regarded. It will be shown subsequently, when describing the Roman road from Buxton to Little Chester, that such road also commenced at the same spot, namely, close to the junction of Old Bath Lane with the modern High Street, which would presumably be the eastern entrance to the fort.

It must not be assumed that it is intended by this paper to prove that a Roman fort stood on the site pointed out above. Such proof could only be obtained by excavation, and as the ground is now covered with buildings and streets, any such work would be attended with great difficulty. The object is merely to point out the most probable situation for the fort, and to collect the somewhat scanty evidence which has come to light up to the present, bearing on the subject.

The approximate date of the first occupation of Buxton by the Romans, can only be gathered from general history and by reference to the dates of other Roman stations in the vicinity.

¹ *Derbyshire Archæological Society's Journal*, vol. xxxiii., p. 95.

The Roman invasion of Britain under Aulus Plautius took place in A.D. 43, and although the southern portion of the county, within the following five years, fell under the Roman sway, a considerable period elapsed before the northerly districts submitted to the Roman arms. The first campaign against the Brigantes, whose territory is believed to have included the hilly parts of Derbyshire, besides Lancashire and Yorkshire, was undertaken about 51 A.D., under the command of Ostorius Scapula and, according to Seneca, he obtained a complete conquest. Tacitus, however, tells us that when a few of the Brigantes who were beginning hostilities had been slain and the rest pardoned, they settled down quietly, and it would seem that they must have remained at least semi-independent for some time afterwards.

After his campaign against the Brigantes, Ostorius Scapula turned his forces against the Silures of South Wales and defeated them in a great battle described by Tacitus, who gives the most vivid account that has come down to us of an attack by the Romans on a British hill fort. Somewhat similar assaults must have occurred again and again, during the long war subsequently waged by the Romans against the Brigantes, and the Roman poet Juvenal, when writing concerning a Roman soldier stationed in Britain, speaks of his life being spent in storming the hill forts of the Brigantes. The scene of the battle was a lofty hill fortified by the Silures with ramparts of stone and with a river in front. The position defended by multitudes of the Silures and their allies, appeared so formidable that the Roman general hesitated to give the order for the attack, but the legionaries clamoured to be led forward. Their eagerness was gratified and they crossed the river without difficulty, but while attacking the rampart suffered considerably from the missiles hurled down upon them. The check was only temporary, for the legionaries quickly formed

the testudo with their shields, and under that protection tore down the rude ill-compacted rampart of stones. The Silures, who according to Tacitus were destitute of breastplates and helmets, could not withstand the fierce attack of the much better armed legionaries and auxiliaries, and suffered a complete defeat. Caradoc the king of the Silures escaped from the battle and took refuge with Cartismandua, Queen of the Brigantes, who put him in chains and delivered him up to the Romans. This seems an unworthy act, but possibly Cartismandua may have been fulfilling some engagement entered into with Ostorius Scapula for the carrying out of which hostages may have been given to the Romans.

We also learn from Tacitus that Petilius Cerealis, who was appointed Governor of Britain about A.D. 70, attacked the Brigantes, who were considered the most populous tribe in Britain, and after many sanguinary engagements overran a great part of their territory. It appears that York, the capital of the Brigantes was not permanently occupied until the year A.D. 81, and that the Brigantes continued, probably at intervals, to maintain some resistance to the Romans up to the middle of the second century.

We may assume that Buxton came under the Roman power not later than the foundation of the Roman forts of Brough and Melandra Castle. These dates are somewhat obscure, but Professor Garstang when writing on the Roman fort at Brough remarks,¹ "that the general scheme of defence in which the Roman fort at Brough was a unit, belongs in the main to the early and middle second century." This appears to be the general result of the excavations undertaken by our Society in 1903, and is confirmed by the inscription on a stone tablet then discovered which bears the names of Julius Verus, Governor of Britain and the Emperor Antoninus Pius.

¹ *Derbyshire Archaeological Society's Journal*, 1904, p. 179.

With regard to Melandra Castle, Professor Haverfield¹ observes that the coins found there "suggest that Melandra Castle may have been established at least as early as the reign of Agricola, A.D. 78-85. Mr. H. Williamson² also considers that "on a general survey of the whole evidence, we shall probably not be far wrong in concluding that Melandra was occupied certainly from very early in the second century, and probably as early as about A.D. 80." Melandra Castle therefore would appear to have been constructed by the Romans somewhat earlier than Brough.

We shall, therefore, probably be correct in assuming that Buxton, which is in a more southerly position, and perhaps more easily accessible than either Brough or Melandra Castle, was occupied by the Romans towards the end of the first century, A.D.

In later years of the Roman rule, Buxton became a health resort. Bath fulfilled this function for the residents and troops located in the south and west of England, and in a similar manner but on a much smaller scale, Buxton provided natural warm water baths for the midlands and the north. The discovery of the Roman baths occurred as long ago as the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and in Whitaker's *History of Manchester* (second edition, published in 1773), the following account is given:—

The Roman bagnio at this place was plainly discernible by its ruins within the present century. The dimensions were then traceable by the eye, and the wall of it was brick, still rising about a yard in height upon three sides, and covered with a red coat of Roman cement, hard as brick and resembling tile. The bason was floored with stone, and supplied not by any of the springs which feed the present bath immediately above, but by that finer source of water which is now denominated St. Annes' Well, and was then enclosed within it. And thus continued the

¹ *Derbyshire Archaeological Society's Journal*, 1907, p. 14 supplement.

² *Derbyshire Archaeological Society's Journal*, 1907, p. 128 supplement.

very curious, and only remains of the Roman baths in the kingdom so late as the year 1709, when Sir Thomas Delves, with a gothick generosity of spirit, destroyed the whole, in order to cover the spring with the stone alcove that is over at present. But about fifty yards to the east of this, on driving a level from the present bath to the river in 1697, was found an appendage probably to the Roman bagnio, a bason about four yards square, but made with sheets of lead that were spread upon large beams of timber, and broken ledges all along the borders. This additional bath was replenished from another spring which is about fourteen yards to the south of it, and called Bingham Well.

It is stated in *Archæologia*¹ that in 1781, when the foundations of the Crescent were being dug, another bath was discovered, thirty feet in length from east to west, and fifteen feet broad from north to south. It was supplied by a spring which rose at its western end, and there was an outlet for the water at the eastern end which had a floodgate attached. It was lined with concrete formed of lime and pounded tile, and at one end was a deep cavity.

Mr. Bateman in his *Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire* is responsible for the statement that "Roman coins are frequently discovered at Buxton and the neighbourhood," but gives no particulars of them except that, "the late Dr. Buxton possessed several coins of the third brass of Constantine." During the making of the new road from Spring Gardens to Silverlands about five years ago, a silver denarius of Augustus Cæsar was found and is now in the possession of Mr. W. H. Salt. It was struck in Rome about 18 B.C., and bears on the obverse the head of Augustus facing the right, wearing an oak wreath, and inscribed CAESARE AVGVSTO, but the last two letters of the first name are obliterated. On the reverse appears a circular domed temple showing six columns, between which are seen two *signa cohortium* with an eagle standard in the centre and at the sides the

¹ *Archæologia*, vol. ix, p. 137.

inscription MAR VLT (Mars Ultor). The first letter, however, does not appear. It is somewhat surprising that such an early coin should have been discovered at Buxton, as it must have been struck nearly one hundred years before the Romans occupied that place. Of course it is possible it may have been brought to England by way of trade before the Roman conquest, but the presumption is that it was lost sometime after the Romans subjugated this part of Britain, and perhaps not until the third or fourth century. Another small brass coin was discovered at the same time but it is in too poor a condition to be identified.

Extensive finds of Roman pottery have been made in years past at Silverlands, principally, as far as I can ascertain, about one hundred yards to the north-west of the spot where the mile-stone was found, and there is little reason to doubt that a Roman villa, or other considerable building, was erected there in proximity to the road joining the Old Bath Lane and Batham Gate.

We will now refer in detail to the Roman roads running out of Buxton. There are four roads which have been pointed out as Roman by many writers and may be accepted as such. These are the roads:—(1) to Little Chester; (2) to Stockport and Manchester; (3) to Brough; (4) to Dove Holes and on to Melandra Castle. There are two other roads which have been generally considered to be Roman, but the assignation of which is not so well evidenced, and these are the roads:—(a) to Leek; (b) to Macclesfield. We will take them in the order given above.

The line in which the road to Little Chester left Buxton has not hitherto been defined. This road can, however, be clearly traced in the paddock at the back of Heath House, London Road, and especially at the south-easterly end of the paddock, and also in the field in front of "The Highlands" stables, London Road. In order to prove that the slight ridge running through Heath House

paddock formed the site of the road, with the permission, most cordially given, of the owner Dr. G. H. Thompson, I had a section of this road uncovered in the presence of several gentlemen interested in archæology, and we also subsequently uncovered, in two places, the recognised Roman road just beyond, and on the opposite side of the present road to, the Cemetery. All three sections were identical in character. We found that large surface stones weighing from one to two hundredweight or so, were placed for support along the side of the road where the ground had a downward slope, and the remaining width of the road was formed of smaller surface stones. The road was very much disintegrated, and it seems probable that the traffic became gradually diverted to the present road, owing to the dilapidated condition into which the Roman road had fallen.

About the year 1878, during the digging of the foundations for a building on the northerly side of the London Road, opposite the Primitive Methodist Chapel, a "pitched" road was disclosed which was believed to be Roman.¹ The spot where this road was found is within one hundred yards of the junction of the Old Bath Lane and High Street and nearly in a line with the Roman road discovered in "Heath House" paddock and in the field in front of "The Highlands" stables, and points further, south-easterly, to the well-known Roman road in the fields just beyond and opposite to the Cemetery. It may be mentioned that the Roman road here cannot be seen from the present road, as it runs a few yards beyond, and is hidden by the second stone wall on the southerly side of the present road.

The Little Chester road therefore commences near the junction of the Old Bath Lane and High Street, runs, probably by the "pitched" road above-mentioned, through "Heath House" paddock and the field in front

¹ D. A. & N. H. Society's *Journal*, 1903, p. 161.

of "The Highlands" stables, crosses the Sherbrook near the present-day bridge, and then continues on to the recognised road in the fields on the opposite side of the present road to, and a little beyond, the Cemetery. It is probable that the road may have bent somewhat in climbing up the steep rise after crossing the Sherbrook. From this point the Roman road runs almost parallel with the modern road for some miles, until, at the "Duke of York" Hotel, the present road bends southerly and both roads are identical to Henmoor. Here the Roman road bears to the north-east of the present road and they do not again intersect, as the latter takes a more southerly course to Ashbourne, while the Roman road runs straight on and does not touch that town. The Roman road is visible passing through Middle Street and Benty Grange, and runs to the south of Arbor Low Stone Circle, between it and the present road. It is visible in the fields for several miles until it reaches Pike Hall. It then passes south of Aldwark, crosses Brassington Moor, by Hopton, and between Kedleston Park and Duffield to Darley Slade, near to which it joins the Roman road known as Rykneld Street, and with it crosses the Derwent into Little Chester.

Perhaps the best description of the Roman road from Buxton to Stockport and Manchester is contained in a letter¹ dated the 15th August, 1782, written by Mr. Watson, which runs as follows:—

On the southern side of Stockport the country is so cultivated that for several miles it can be found only by the names of Pepper Street in the Township of Bramall, of Street Fields and of Street Lane, in the Township of Adlington, then passing through Pot Shrigley and Rainow it goes by the Great Lows to Saltresford Hall, where it is called the Old Gate, from thence to Pym Chair, to the head of the River Goit, between which places, for about two miles together, it has the name of The Street, and near the

¹ *Roman Cheshire*, by Watkin, p. 77.

summit of the hill it is distinguished by the appellation of Embridge Causeway, which the country people used to think was made by the Devil. From Goit's Head it stretches away to Cracking Stones, where it has the denomination of the Old Road, and from thence (as is evident by visible traces of it here and there), it went to Buxton.

Mr. Sainter in his *Scientific Rambles Round Macclesfield*, gives a very similar account of this road.

It has also been stated by several antiquarians that a Roman road ran from Buxton to Whaley Bridge and on to Stockport, but no very definite proof of it appears to have been discovered.

The Roman road to Brough (Anavio) is known as Batham Gate,¹ and where clearly defined from its junction with the present road to Dove Holes, is so marked on the ordnance map. This road has been referred to previously as indicating the position of the Roman fort, but it may be as well to give here a description of the whole route, and as this road has been described by previous writers from its commencement at Brough, we will adopt the same course. The line of the road as given by Bishop Cloyne² up to its junction with the Dove Holes road is as follows :—

On leaving Brough it is discoverable bearing S.W., as soon as it passes the second water flash called the Burghwash, and fragments of its broad ridge may be seen in the lane. It then enters Bull Meadow, running up the hedge on the left, but soon appears again in the lane leading to Smaldale, where the right hand hedge stands upon it. It then runs into the enclosures called the Doctor's Pastures and Bagshaw Pasture, and after crossing Gray Ditch, bends N.W. to ascend the hill, being found by the spade and plough in a line well known to the farmers, till it comes upon the moor three-quarters of a mile on the Brough side of Bathom Edge, where the crest of it is quite plain, to the stone fence which separates Bradwell and Tideswell Moors, retaining

¹ See the account given in vol. xxxiii., p. 95 of this *Journal*.

² *Magna Britannia*, vol. v., p. 212.

here its original breadth of 18 to 20 feet, and visible in a long straight streak of green, amidst the heather. It is also visible on the Buxton side of this hedge for about a mile, bearing S.W. for the inclosures in the dam of the forest, and crosses the turn-pike road from Manchester to Chesterfield, then just after entering Hernstone Lane it is visible in the field on the left, where in a dry summer the grass is of a different colour ; from hence it runs in a straight green lane towards Fairfield.

The green lane the Bishop speaks of is the lane marked " Batham Gate " on the ordnance map, which joins the Dove-Holes-Buxton road about a mile from Fairfield Church. There is scarcely a doubt that Batham Gate turned in a more southerly direction, at or near its junction with the present Dove Holes road, and ran straight into Buxton. The presumption is that the Roman road through Dove Holes and on to Melandra Castle is of earlier date than Batham Gate, and this would account for the latter joining the Dove Holes and Melandra Castle road at the nearest point, instead of being continued as a separate road to Buxton. In confirmation of this it will be remembered that a somewhat earlier date has been assigned to the fort at Melandra Castle, than to the fort at Brough.

It is recorded in our Society's *Journal* for 1903,¹ that Mr. Brittain, Auctioneer, Buxton, about the year 1878, made an excavation at the side of his garden at Fairfield, and found a piece of pitched road which was dug up and the stones utilised, amongst them was a Roman mile-stone which ultimately was built into the foundation walls of his new stables in Spring Gardens, Buxton. His house at Fairfield is nearly opposite the Bull's Head Inn on the main road.

The house then occupied by Mr. Brittain is now numbered 147 in Fairfield Road. I have made further enquiries with regard to this alleged mile-stone, without, however, eliciting any further particulars. The late Mr. Micah Salt appears to have seen it, but his son knows nothing more

¹ Page 161.

about it. The approximate position in which it was placed in the foundations of the stables is known, and it is entirely hidden from view. In order to extricate it, considerable difficulty and expense would be incurred.

Batham Gate and Melandra Castle roads, after their junction, appear to have run somewhat on the line of the present road to a point to the east of Fairfield Churchyard, and then to the east of the present road, probably following the line of the old road, which ran through the site of Mr. Brittain's house, crossing the Wye near the present bridge, then turning to the left up the terrace road to the field to the north of the football ground, and then in a straight line by the spot where the Roman mile-stone was found, to the Old Bath Lane, where also the Little Chester road joined.

The Dove Holes and Melandra Castle road, as mentioned above, was identical with Batham Gate until about a mile beyond Fairfield Church, where Batham Gate separated and ran to the north-east, and the Dove Holes and Melandra Castle road continued straight on. Mr. Watkin¹ writes "that a road, of which from time to time fragments have been observed, connected Buxton with the station at Melandra Castle, but no attempt has been made to thoroughly trace it. That it existed, however, is certain." A portion of this road is discernible to the west of the present road leading to Dove Holes beyond the junction of Batham Gate. This road, however, has not been further traced since Mr. Watkin wrote.

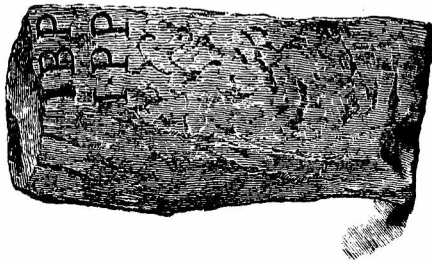
The road from Buxton to Leek, and the old road from Buxton to Macclesfield are believed by many antiquarians to follow the line of Roman roads. There is little direct evidence in favour of this supposition as regards the Leek road. With reference to the Macclesfield road, the ridge of an ancient road can be seen on the northerly side of

¹ D. A. & N. H. Society's *Journal*, 1886, p. 212.

Green Lane, Burbage, running nearly parallel with it, and pointing westerly to the old Macclesfield road, and continuing easterly through the Burbage golf links towards the southerly end of Temple road. The late Mr. Micah Salt suggested that this road ran through the field known as "Fern Park" and joined the Roman Little Chester road near the present bridge over the Sherbrook. I cannot, however, now trace the line of this road through Fern Park. The late Mr. Salt¹ reported that this road was, some years ago, laid bare near the "Sycamore Cottages," Green Lane, and "from its worn but workmanlike construction it appeared to be Roman."

The approximate routes of the Roman road to Little Chester and of Batham Gate, as above described, are indicated on the map by red lines, and the suggested site of the Roman fort is edged red.

¹ D. A. & N. H. Society's *Journal*, 1903, p. 159.



Right (proper).



Full front.



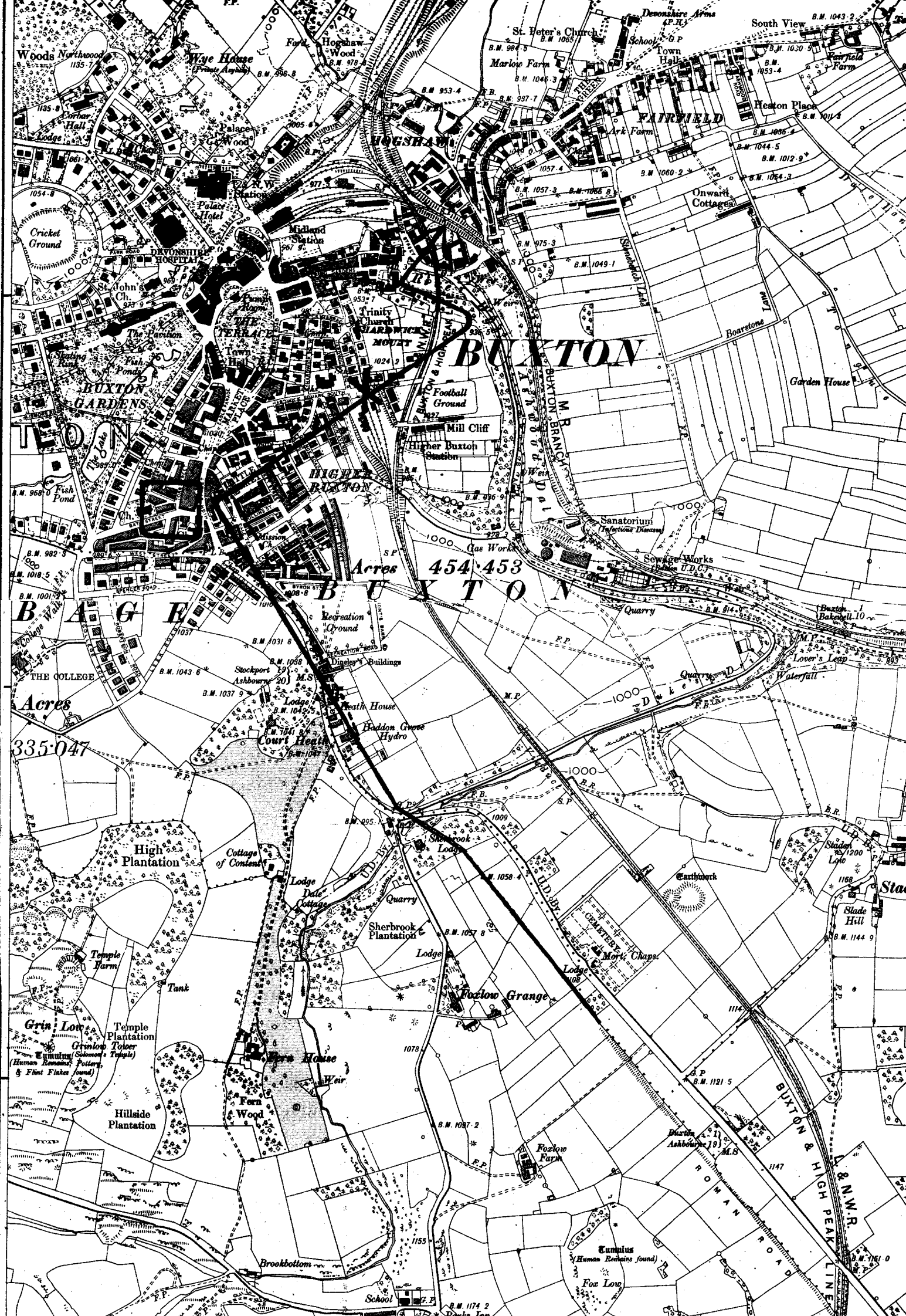
Left (proper).

Roman Mile-stone found at Buxton.

THREE VIEWS OF THE ROMAN MILE-STONE FOUND AT BUXTON.

Reproduced by the permission of the Archeological Journal.

TO FACE P. 104.



BUXTON

454 453

335 047

Woods Northwood
1135-7

Wye House
(Private Asylum) B.M. 956-8

St. Peter's Church
B.M. 1065

South View
B.M. 1043-2

Cricket Ground

DEVONSHIRE HOSPITAL

HOGSHAW

FAIRFIELD

BUXTON GARDENS

TRINITY CHURCH

Heaton Place
B.M. 1011-3

THE COLLEGE

INGHE
BUXTON

Football Ground

Onward Cottages

BAGRE

Acres

Sanatorium
(Infectious Diseases)

Acres

Recreation Ground

Sewage Works
U.D.C.

High Plantation

Court House

Quarry

Temple Farm

Dale Cottage

Quarry D

Grin Low
(Human Remains found)

Sherbrook Plantation

Earthwork

Hillside Plantation

Fern Wood

Stade Hill
B.M. 1144-9

Brookbottom

School

Mark Chapel

Brookbottom

School

Foxlow Grange

Brookbottom

School

Foxlow Farm

Brookbottom

School

Fox Low
(Human Remains found)