

Ancient Monuments of Derbyshire

SCHEDULED BY H.M. CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF WORKS
UNDER ACTS 1913 AND 1931 OR RECOMMENDED FOR
SCHEDULING TO THE ADVISORY BOARD.

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Correspondent; Ancient Monuments Board for England.

The following, mentioned in the previous *Journal* (1935) as recommended for scheduling, now appear in the official list as scheduled, namely:

64. Lady Cross on Big Moor, 45B10,¹ about one mile north-west of Barbrook Reservoir, Holmesfield. Probably one of the Beauchief Abbey boundary crosses; massive base and part of shaft. See below—"Notes and Emendations," for further references to these crosses.

65. Hathersage. Earthworks in Sheffield Plantation, near Longshaw, 45B10.

66. Earthworks near the above, 45B10. Both are probably hut dwellings; not yet excavated.

Advanced notice has also been received that the following recommendations have been passed by the Board, namely,

72. Combs Moss. Earthwork, 45B3. One and a half miles west of the Bull Ring at Chapel-en-le-Frith. Hill-side camp.

73. Mam Tor., Earthwork, 45A5. One and a half miles west of Castleton. Hill top entrenchments.

74. Markland Grips, 46C4. Earthwork. (Resembling Carl Wark.) A large promontory fortress near Elmtun.

¹ Figures and letters following names refer to 1 inch O.S. maps, Popular Edition.

68. Pilsbury Castle Hills, 45G5. Earthworks by the river Dove, west of Parsley Hay railway station.

Readers who wonder why the important earthwork, Carl Wark is not included here are informed that soon after the recommendation was sent in, the Sheffield boundary was extended to include the area, which is in their water catchment scheme. Carl Wark is now in the official lists for Yorkshire.

The scheduling of caves, with considerable reservations, is now adopted as a policy by the Board, but only in cases where very definite archaeological considerations exist. The following caves are now under protection of the Acts, and unauthorised exploration is strictly forbidden, namely:—

69. The Pin Hole Cave,

75. Mother Grundy's Parlour. Both these caves are in the Creswell Crags, 46C5, and have produced Palaeolithic remains.

76. Cave at Upper Langwith, 46E5. See this Society's *Journal*, Vol. XXXV, page 137. Also has Palaeolithic interest.

The following new recommendations have been sent in, namely:—

77. Anglo-Danish cross-shaft in private possession in Two-Dales Darley Dale, 45G10. An article in this volume of the Society's *Journal* fully explains the archaeological value of this monument.

78. Moated Mound at Morley, 53E14, near Derby. A very perfect specimen of this class of earthwork. See the *Victoria History*, Vol. 1, page 375.

NOTES ON SCHEDULED MONUMENTS.

Certain events during 1936 concerning monuments scheduled some years ago, call for special notice here, they are as follows, namely.

WHESTON CROSS, NEAR TIDESWELL.

This cross with mediaeval sculptured head, partially restored shaft and base, suffered damage in the spring of 1935 through exposure, but partly through the failure of an ancient repair to the right arm of the cross bearing a figure of the Crucifixion. This breakage already existed when Chantrey's Peak Scenery was published more than a century ago. It was afterwards repaired but a second breakage has now occurred in the same place. Apparently the stone has broken twice before, and this being the third time, the problem of repair (drilling out old dowels, etc.) is a very technical one. After some delay in negotiations with the owner of the cross, and other questions, which have lengthened out the time, the Office of Works have now consented to carry out the repair by their own staff. At the present moment the fragments are in the underground workshops in Whitehall where I have seen the work of repair in progress. Owing to the fact that the Cross is not in the Guardianship of the Department but still retained as private property, the cost is not payable by the Office of Works. A special concession however has been made and the cost will be borne jointly by the Department and this Society, the latter having passed a sanction for this arrangement. It is hoped the Cross will be repaired and the shaft also, during the coming summer.

From numerous enquiries made in and about the locality it seems evident that this cross was once a wayside-cross or shrine, and that it stood originally at the three-way junction opposite Wheston Hall. I am told that in the seventeenth century the owner of Middleton House Farm moved it on to his ground where it still stands. He set it up so that it faced the house, with the Crucifixion standing edgewise to the road. The shaft is a patchwork affair bearing the date of some repair in 1847. The reverse side shows the Virgin and Child with mediaeval

symbols of the Virgin, the star at the head of the cross and two roses at the ends of the arms. The Crucifixion has been partially mutilated and made to look ugly. Indeed the work is all rather crude, including the cuspings. But the religious intention makes the monument an unusually interesting object dating probably from the fifteenth or late fourteenth century.

In conjunction with some Tideswell people a scheme was started to purchase the small plot of ground on which the cross stands and to tidy it up and make a pleasant little wayside retreat about the cross steps. The Society viewed this idea favourably, but insufficient support from Tideswell parish has indefinitely postponed this good work.

MELANDRA CASTLE, GLOSSOP.

Information reached me early in 1935 that gravel pits were being worked too near to the embankments of the Roman fort of Melandra, and threatened a collapse of the earthwork if not at once stopped. This was reported to the Office of Works. Melandra like other valuable monuments of Derbyshire history is still in private hands, and although it must not be destroyed, a policy of conciliation rather than coercion is usually considered desirable. After some delay it was agreed that the work would be restricted, to avoid damage.

DALE ABBEY.

These ruins, excavated in 1879 under the auspices of the Society, have become thickly overgrown during recent years, and almost invisible. Through some misconceptions of responsibility during the summer of 1935 a student from Trent College, who pleaded permission from Earl Stanhope, went on the ground and attempted some clearance of the coarse grass and weeds covering the foundations. But in doing so some damage was done to the open tomb in one of the south chapels of the choir.

This encroachment has now been stopped. In the course of my enquiries I learned that the owner of the ruins, Earl Stanhope, offered the site to the Ancient Monuments Board for Guardianship, a step which we wish other owners of such things would copy, but the offer was not accepted for the following reason. The excavated portion of the abbey only reached to the central tower of the church, including of course the choir, side chapels, chapter house, and about half the cloister. All the western buildings, the nave of the church, the refectory, dormitory, guest house (if any) and the western half of the cloister, were left undiscovered under cottages and gardens adjoining. These were not within the plot of ruins retained by the earl when the Stanton Iron Company bought the surrounding property. Thus a very considerable portion of the abbey cannot be excavated without consent and surrender by this company. Their property extends from the foundations of the central tower of the church, west and south to the surrounding roads. The reason why the government department had to decline the gift was that they would have no power to carry the work of excavation to completion. It remains therefore the virtual responsibility of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society to care for and clean up the ruins as laid bare in 1879. The interior of the chapter house (its covering is merely of a temporary nature) contains many interesting tiles and other lesser fragments of ancient work which might well be more secure elsewhere or otherwise better looked after. The masonry of the great east window has been pointed up and made secure. How this occurred we cannot say. There is an ancient tradition in Dale that so long as this window stands no tithe is paid. Can any reader tell us more on this curious point?