



[J. K. St. Joseph]

TWYFORD.
Ring-ditches and enclosures.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE TRENT VALLEY,
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

By R. G. HUGHES.

THE River Trent has taken its full share of traffic into this country from the North Sea in prehistoric and later times. The Derbyshire section where the river is joined by the Derwent and Dove has a special importance as a link between the Lowland and Highland Zones, as recent excavations at Swarkeston by Merrick Posnansky and Ernest Greenfield have shown.

Signs of occupation on the broad floodplain of the Trent had long disappeared from view, but the dry summer of 1959 accentuated the crop-marks in this well-drained area and Dr. St. Joseph was able to obtain aerial photographs of a number of unsuspected sites, mainly between Aston upon Trent and Willington. These include linear ditches, ring-ditches, enclosures, field systems, trackways, pit alignments and a possible cursus. The crop-marks represent different periods of occupation but in the main they are Iron Age and Romano-British with some Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon.

A preliminary survey and a small excavation of the interesting site at Twyford (Plate XXXVI), which covers several acres, have been undertaken by Mr. S. O. Kay and the writer. The large ditch circle shown at the top of the aerial photograph measures over 80 ft. in diameter and is likely to be the drainage ditch of an Iron Age house. The rectangular enclosure with two openings is a stockade of the same period. The smaller circles are probably huts of the Romano-British period, and the others are ditches around field-systems. Agricultural activities and bad weather limited the time available for excavation, and only one piece of Iron Age pottery was found, although several Romano-British pieces were found on the surface by John Wigley.

An excavation by W. A. Cummins and members of a Derby W.E.A. class at Swarkeston Lows Farm has produced evidence of Romano-British occupation as well as a little Iron Age pottery.

In the following list of these Trent Valley sites the numbers in brackets refer to the catalogue of the Cambridge Collection of Aerial Photographs:

Aston upon Trent, SK 242292 (YU 84). Linear ditches, field systems, circles and a trackway.

Chellaston, SK 383295 (YU 79). Double ring-ditches, ring-ditch and enclosures.

Swarkeston Lows, SK 366295 (YU 75). Two barrows, main ditch encircling the area and a double row of pit alignments.

Swarkeston Lows Farm, SK 362295 (YU 68). Complex of enclosures proved to be Iron Age and Romano-British.

Swarkeston — Barrow upon Trent, SK 363287 (ABO 38, VW 64). Enclosures, D-shaped enclosures and circles.

Barrow upon Trent, SK 345286 (YU 63). Large double ring-ditches, rectangular enclosures, pits and pit alignments.

Barrow upon Trent, SK 344284 (YU 60). Enclosures and two parallel ditches, possibly part of a cursus.

Twyford, SK 318291 (YU 59). Complex of ring-ditches and enclosures.

Willington, SK 296288 (VW 55). Double ring-ditches and enclosures.

Egginton, SK 284291 (YU 54). Ring-ditch.

The photograph of the site at Twyford (Plate XXXVI) is reproduced by permission of Dr. J. K. St. Joseph, Curator in Aerial Photography, University of Cambridge.