Ancient Monuments in Derbyshire Scheduled by H.M. Chief Commissioner of Works under Acts 1913 and 1931, or Recommended FOR Scheduling by the Ancient Monuments Board for England.

By Thomas L. Tudor, County Representative and Chief Correspondent.

The following, previously recommended for scheduling, are now included in the official printed handbook, namely:—

Combs Moss Earthwork, one and a half miles west of the Bull Ring at Chapel-en-le-Frith, Hillside Camp. (one-inch O.S. 45B3).

Markland Grips. Earthwork, near Elmton (46C4), resembling in general character the promontary fortress, Carl Wark.

Pilsbury Castle Hills, near Hartington.

Mam Tor Earthworks, near Castleton.

A report of mischievous interference at the Pin-Hole Cave, Creswell, having been sent by the Chief Correspondent, the Board has now scheduled all the Derbyshire caves which have previously been recommended. The following are now included in the official list to December 31st, 1937.

Mother Grundy's Parlour (cave).

The Pin Hole Cave.

(Both the above are in the Creswell Crags, near Whitwell).

The Langwith Bassett Cave, Upper Langwith.

The earthwork on Fin Cop has been recommended for scheduling.

NOTES.

MELANDRA CASTLE.

Several communications have reached the Chief Correspondent during the past year concerning operations of various kinds at or near the Roman Camp of Melandra. The earlier case turned out to be a matter of gravel pits newly opened near the western ramparts, and threatening to undermine them if not stopped. The Board replied that they had negotiated with the owner to alter his direction of quarrying to avoid risk of damage to the earthworks.

The second case which brought quite a number of letters from interested persons, led to my discovering that the Manchester Classical Association had been digging in the centre of the fort in search of evidence respecting its date of origin. Apparently, the finds indicated an earlier fort of earth and timber which may date from the time of Agricola. Further excavations are intended, one main line of interest being to establish the proofs of a civilian settlement close by, of which some slight evidence has already been discovered in the way of civilian footwear, sandals and boots of leather. Also some Samian ware.

WHESTON CROSS, NEAR TIDESWELL.

This has now been skilfully repaired by H.M. Office of Works and is probably more sound than for several centuries past. It is scarcely possible to see the fractures, and no portion seems to have been lost in the recent mishap. The shaft and steps have also been put into good condition. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to improve the surroundings to any great extent, although the trees and shrubs have been severely pruned to avoid

undue moisture on the stone and to let in more light. Tideswell parish has much financial responsibility regarding their fine old church, and the prospect formerly held out as to co-operation in a scheme for making the enclosure into a way-side sanctuary is held up for the present.

The cost of this repair is less than expected. A sanction of twelve pounds was asked for from the Council of the Derbyshire Archæological Society, and that amount was duly paid over. The Office of Works has very kindly remitted three pounds of this, and another pound has been contributed by a "friend at Sheffield." Thus, with a further small expense of 4/6, the net cost to the Society for this difficult piece of work is only £8. 4s. 6d.

FIVE-WELLS TUMULUS.

A report reached me some months ago that the fence round this tumulus was broken down. The farmer in occupation, suggested a wall and asked for instructions. A suggestion also reached me from the Buxton Archæological Society that the field wall adjoining might be slued round so as not to cut through the tumulus. While agreeing, and even pressing, for the latter improvement, I strongly deprecated any wall, remembering the depressing effect of the wall at the "Nine Ladies" on Stanton Moor. The case is still in abeyance as to fence or no fence, but a wall is not sanctioned.