

NOTES AND NEWS

Ancient Monuments

FOR twenty-five years Mr. J. P. Heathcote of Birchover has acted as the County Representative for the Ancient Monuments Board. In this capacity he has borne the immediate responsibility for the protection and scheduling of all the ancient monuments in the county. It has been a task, sometimes satisfying, often frustrating, to which Mr. Heathcote has devoted himself unsparingly throughout these years. His resignation at the end of the year, a few months after his retirement from the staff of Chesterfield School, was received with the greatest regret. The Society wishes to record its immense indebtedness to Percy Heathcote for the great service he has rendered in this office.

His successor as County Representative is Dr. P. Strange of the University of Nottingham, chairman of the Archaeological Research Group. An introductory note by Dr. Strange on the present position of ancient monuments in Derbyshire appears on pp. 92-3.

Derbyshire Museum Service

The Derbyshire Museum Service, which maintains a collection of museum exhibits for lending to schools, colleges and adult classes, is continually faced with more requests for material than can be met from its collections, which cover geology, natural history, geography, archaeology, social history, folklore and art. While it is fairly easy to extend the art, geology and natural history series, suitable archaeological, historical and folk material is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain.

From time to time the Museum Service receives most welcome additions in the form of gifts of things which enhance the quality as well as increase the size of the collections. During the past twelve months, such gifts have included a local cheese press, a local school attendance medal and a number of watchmaker's tools from a local firm; items of 19th- and early 20th-century costume and an Anglo-Saxon burial urn.

Members who possess or find objects they do not themselves want are invited to offer them to the Museum Organizer, Park Grange, Duffield Road, Derby, Telephone Derby 46380.

Deserted villages

A memorandum on the preservation of deserted medieval villages, submitted to the Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, was published by the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group in its 13th annual report (1965).

Two thousand sites have now been identified in England, but the present rate of destruction makes it essential that measures are now taken to preserve a number of the finest examples.

It is therefore proposed that the six best sites, which have impressive earthworks with the houses clearly visible, should immediately be taken into guardianship by the Ministry of Public Building and Works. Subsequently eight outstanding sites representing the major regions should also be taken into guardianship. In this second group it is recommended that Hungry Bentley or alternatively Alkmonton should be included. Finally another forty-six sites in different areas of the country should be scheduled.

This report also records the addition of eleven sites to the list of recognized deserted villages in Derbyshire. These and sites identified earlier are listed below with their grid references to the 1-in. O.S. sheets 111 and 120.

Alkmonton	196386	Gratton	209619
Arleston	335297	Haddon, Nether	235665
Ashe	262326	Hazlebadge	171800
Ault Hucknall	466652	Harthill	230646
Barton Blount	209346	Hoon	c. 224300
Birchill	216707	Hungry Bentley	180388
Bupton	c. 220370	Ireton Parva	313416
Callow	257512	Kedleston	312405
Catton	207155	Kidsley	416459
Chatsworth	260700	Lee	196517
Derwent	185885	Mercaston	278424
Drakelow	c. 240200	Sapperton	186345
Eaton-on-Dove	118363	Sedsall	111376
Eaton, Cold	148567	Sinfin	342312
Foremark	330265	Underwood	200482

A number of aerial photographs of sites in the Derby area may be consulted in the Derby Museum. Undoubtedly there remains much to be discovered about deserted villages in Derbyshire. Members interested in the investigation of such sites are invited to communicate with Dr. P. Strange,

A medieval kiln at Duffield

This kiln site was discovered when Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hoon reported the finding of pottery in their garden about 200 yds. S.W. of Duffield Castle. A limited excavation by Mr. R. G. Hughes revealed the remains of a pottery kiln, 4 ft. wide and 6 ft. long, of a simple up-draught type with a central pedestal attached to the rear wall. The alignment was north-south with the kiln on the south side. The only pieces of kiln furniture found were two pottery radial bars used to support the pots during firing.

The pottery consisted mainly of squat unglazed cooking-pots, about 8 in. in diameter and 7 in. in height, with beaded rims and sagging bases. There were also fragments of unglazed jugs with pinched spouts and strap-type

handles and a very small number of glazed sherds. In all cases the decoration was restricted to incised lines around the upper part of the pots.

No coins or other dating evidence was found. By comparison with pottery from other midland sites, the Duffield kiln is dated to the period between the mid 12th century and the early 13th century. A report of what is thought to be the first excavation of a medieval pottery kiln in Derbyshire will appear in the next volume.

Cruck-framed buildings

A note in the *Journal* for 1960 referred to the survey of these buildings in Derbyshire that had been started by the Architectural Section. A provisional list, giving the location of such buildings with their National Grid reference and brief details of the crucks, has now been compiled by F. Marston. It is hoped to publish this list with a distribution map in the 1967 volume. The purpose of this note is to ask members, who know of cruck-buildings which may not have been recorded for this survey, to send details to Mr. Marston, _____, or to the editor. The dating of these buildings presents difficult problems and any clear evidence on this question would be particularly welcomed.

Accessions to the Local History Collection, Derby Borough Library

Mr. Bletcher has reported that the Derby Corporation has deposited further records: over 1,000 items from the Borough Education Committee including account books, minute books, correspondence and log-books for a number of Derby schools; from the Town Clerk's and Treasurer's departments records mostly of the 18th and 19th centuries including chamberlains' and wages accounts.

The Pares collection has some 7,000 documents of the Pares family of Hopwell Hall dating from 1760. They are concerned with family matters as well as with financial, legal and political affairs and include daily correspondence between Thomas Pares, a banker in Leicester, and his son in London. Deposited by Major J. Pares, _____ 1. The Hodgson collection, deposited by Mr. J. Hodgson, _____ contains deeds and a few wills, 1636-1958, mainly concerned with the Crich area. The Spencer collection, deposited by Mr. G. H. N. Spencer, _____ includes deeds and wills, 1635-1873, mainly related to the Stanley and Ashford areas, and letters, 1797-1915, mostly concerning the NaDauld family with a copy of its pedigree, 1650-1780. Mr. Birch of _____ has deposited a number of wills and deeds of that district, 1682-1899.

The East Midlands Baptist Association has deposited through the Rev. T. J. Budge various documents related to the Chesterfield Baptist Church: church meetings minute book 1873-1947, deacons' meetings minute book 1885-1946 and a building scheme minute book 1925-7. The Little Eaton Brewery Company has deposited cash books, 1906-23, and sales' ledgers, 1913-25.

Microfilm copies of the census enumerators' returns for Derby in 1841,

1851 and 1861 have been acquired. Theses by Leslie Greaves on "The circulating libraries of Derby, 1757-1871" and by the Rev. M. R. Austin on "The Church of England in the town of Derby and the adjoining townships of Litchurch and Little Chester, 1824-85", and a dissertation by W. H. Rodgers on "Some factors in the location and growth of industry in Derby" have also been added to the collection.

The demolition of historic buildings in Derby

In spite of all efforts the demolition of the few remaining historic buildings in Derby continues apace. One must be realistic and concede that essential development must not be held up by the presence on the site of one or more buildings which may have sentimental attraction but little artistic merit. Often a building has been allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair that its retention entails an almost prohibitive cost in repairs. On the other hand, however, there are still a number of meritorious buildings which remain and these should be preserved, if at all possible, for the enjoyment of future generations.

The Derby Civic Society, whose membership includes corporation officials, members, and interested representatives of the public, reports in its periodic "News Sheet", on its efforts to focus attention on certain buildings which are thought to justify public effort for their retention. It is understood that the corporation is considering ways and means whereby the public may be kept informed, so far as is practicable, of future encroachments of the development plan. It is hoped that these steps will ensure that more time is allowed for consideration and discussion before the actual process of demolition is put into operation.

It is understood that the "Big Room" behind Messrs. Butler's premises in the Market Place is the subject of a compulsory purchase order and will presumably be demolished. Houses in St. Alkmund's churchyard have been knocked down and the church is to suffer the same fate. However, present proposals envisage the retention of the old Derby School, set back with an appropriately developed frontage, and also of the existing façade of the Assembly Rooms—which it is hoped to incorporate in the future new development.

E. H. ASHBURNER

Some radiocarbon dates for the Peak District

The object of the present note is to record and comment briefly on the radiocarbon dates for the Peak District recently released by the British Museum Research Laboratory. All are based on samples from recent excavation of Bronze Age sites:

Harland Edge, Beeley

Pit 2	BM-178	3440±150 B.P.	(c. 1490 B.C.)
Pit 3	BM-210	3700±150 B.P.	(c. 1750 B.C.)

Brown Edge, Totlely

Burial 1	BM-177	3000±150 B.P.	(c. 1050 B.C.)
Burial 2	BM-211	3200±150 B.P.	(c. 1250 B.C.)
Burial 4	BM-212	3480±150 B.P.	(c. 1530 B.C.)

Barbrook II, Holmesfield

Burial 1	BM-179	3450±150 B.P.	(c. 1500 B.C.)
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Full details of the food vessels associated with the Harland Edge dates are recorded elsewhere in this *Journal* by D. N. Riley,¹ and as these are the first for this ceramic type there is little means of comparison. Current archaeological thought favours the development of the food vessel from the Peterborough series of the Late Neolithic and the range of the Harland Edge dates might be taken to cover the greater part of this development; statistically, however, the weight of evidence suggests that these burials were made during the latter half of the 17th century B.C.

The Brown Edge² and Barbrook II³ sites have both produced collared urns and two of the dates (BM-177 & 179) were directly associated with them. The Brown Edge urn is of Pennine type and therefore of Longworth's primary series. It was found together with burial 2 beneath a small cairn within a circle. The late dates attributed to these two burials, however, conflict with archaeological evidence; also as burial 4 appears to be secondary but has the earliest carbon date, we must assume contamination, perhaps from the severe moorland fire of 1959. Apart from the recently published date for the Bleasdale circle⁴—the type site of the Pennine urn—which regrettably appears to relate to an earlier phase of the site, the only other available dates connected with this ceramic type are from the Penmaenmawr stone circle 278.⁵ These span the 15th and 16th centuries B.C., into which, incidentally, the fourth burial at Brown Edge would fit well.

The Barbrook II urn is of Longworth's secondary series and was found beneath a cairn within a stone circle. Other dates⁶ which might be considered in this context include those from Swarkeston barrow 4⁷ and City Farm (site 3)⁸ and give a similar date range to that for the primary series although perhaps extending into the 13th century B.C. It is probably coincidental that the dates available for the primary urns are late in the series and certainly some overlap may be expected between the two.

We may note too that unurned cremations occurred both at Brown Edge (burial 4) and Barbrook II and in each case may be considered secondary to the construction of the circle; BM-212 relates to that at Totlely and the almost identical date for the urned burial at Barbrook II provides a *terminus post quem* for the unurned burial there. While we would like much more evidence that the unurned cremation is a valid cultural trait of the later Bronze

¹ pp. 42, 44-6.

² Excavation by J. Radley to be published in *Archaeological Journal*.

³ Excavation by writer continues.

⁴ NPL-69 (1810±90 B.C.).

⁵ NPL-10 & 11 (1405±155 B.C. & 1520±145 B.C.).

⁶ I am grateful to Dr. Ian Longworth for information.

⁷ NPL-17 (1395±160 B.C.). *D.A.J.*, LXXX (1960), 36.

⁸ GrN-1686 (1490±60 B.C.).

Age, the practice certainly seems to have been current by the beginning of the 14th century B.C. at the latest. It may also be noted that on the available evidence contemporaneity between the upland cemetery traditions and those manifest amongst the Deverel-Rimbury folk of the south cannot be established, the latter flourishing during the 11th and 12th centuries B.C.

The radiocarbon dates for Britain in the Bronze Age are still too few to make but the broadest of generalizations. In order to make a few comparisons with these dates from the Peak District, any possible regional variations in the development of the collared urn have been ignored.

GEOFFREY LEWIS