

SOME FIELDWORK IN DERBYSHIRE BY TRENT & PEAK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT IN 2002–2003

Compiled by GRAEME GUILBERT

and including contributions from M. ATHA, S. BAKER, L. ELLIOTT,
D. GARTON, G. GUILBERT, M. HURFORD, G. KINSLEY and R. SHEPPARD
(Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD)

INTRODUCTION

During 2002 and 2003, Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit (T&PAU) undertook fieldwork of various kinds at numerous locations within Derbyshire. This selection of reports outlines the results of some of that work, employing the format of equivalent compilations in previous volumes of *DAJ*, notably in following the division between ‘definitive’ and ‘interim’ accounts adopted in all previous sets (as specified in the first set – *DAJ* 118, 148). Definitive (*i.e.* final) reports are immediately identifiable through the inclusion of information upon the whereabouts of a related fuller report and archive (often in the Sites & Monuments Record maintained by Derbyshire County Council in Matlock [SMR], sometimes also that of the Peak District National Park Authority [PDNPA]); similar information will be provided in the further report that it is intended to publish eventually for each of the sites given only interim treatment here. The sixteen reports are arranged in alphabetical order of location, each beginning with a site-name and National Grid Reference, followed by the name(s) of the individuals responsible for it.

REPORTS

1. **BOLSOVER, 21 STATION ROAD (SK 47267068)**

D. Garton

An archaeological watching-brief was conducted in June 2002, during works to extend an existing building situated on the north-eastern side of Station Road, which ascends the escarpment of Magnesian limestone adjacent to the outer bailey of Bolsover’s medieval castle. Roughly dressed limestone-blocks formed the foundations of a building whose frontage had been aligned with a series of extant post-medieval stone-built cottages standing immediately to their south-east, all occupying terraces cut back into bedrock. An area of quarry-tile flooring lying between the foundations and the road could not be related to the building. Two brick-lined, round-headed chambers cut into the rock-face behind the recorded foundations may be contemporary with them, though their date and usage must remain uncertain in the absence of documentary research.

A more detailed report has been deposited with the SMR. Thanks are due to D. Ash of Frudd Building Services, and to P. Wild for assistance on site.

2. BOLSOVER, 'CUNDY HOUSE' (SK 471709)

R. Sheppard

A scheme to restore a roofless and derelict conduit-house in Bolsover, known locally as the 'Cundy House', was carried out in 2002–03 as part of a joint initiative between English Heritage, Bolsover District Council, Bolsover Civic Society and Bolsover Old Town Council. The stated aims were to secure the condition of the building, remove a safety hazard, and raise the profile of an interesting historic structure. A report was compiled by T&PAU to record the structure both before and during its restoration and to trace its history.

This rectangular stone-built structure, with internal dimensions of 3.65x2.65m and height of 3.7m from the present floor to the top of the roof, dates from early in the 17th century (Pl. 1); it is Grade II* listed. It is located 200m north of Bolsover Castle, below an escarpment and on a spring-line. From there, water flowed by underground pipe to the Cistern House at the Castle and thence to the Venus Fountain and the kitchens of the main residence, the Little Castle. At some time, its lead pipe was replaced by a cast-iron pipe, and only when this was damaged by a road-scheme early in the 20th century did the Cundy House cease to function. Survey by EDM has shown that, despite a drop in level of about 16m to cross a valley between them, the Cundy House and Cistern House stand at almost identical levels. The conduit had worked on the U-bend principle, without recourse to pump-action.

Until the 1970s, the timber rafter roof was intact, but this was subsequently destroyed by vandals. Research by English Heritage suggests that the roof may originally have been stone-vaulted, semi-circular on the underside but gabled on the top. This would be in keeping with the partially surviving roofs of two other small conduit-houses lying to the south of the Castle. Re-set coping-stones on the Cundy House have undercuts where former roof-slates were fitted, and intact gable-kneelers indicate that the roof was formerly more steeply pitched than the most recent version. Recording of the stonework and mortar of the inner faces of the gable-walls has shown re-set stonework generally corresponding with the projected line of the supposed vault. All the original walling beneath the copings on the outer faces of the gable-ends remains intact. The former vaulting seems to have been removed carefully, possibly following deterioration, perhaps after deliberate damage, or perhaps to facilitate removal of the lead cistern when it was transferred to Welbeck late in the 19th century. The present whereabouts of that cistern cannot be traced, and it may well have been melted down for re-use of the lead. Its brick-built replacement at Bolsover had a capacity of about one cubic metre.

A detailed map of Bolsover, prepared by Colbeck in 1739, shows open water flowing from the building to a stream in the valley-bottom. It is feasible that the water-supply was sabotaged by Parliamentary forces during the siege of Bolsover Castle in the Civil War, and that the spring-water then formed a watercourse. Repairs were carried out in 1750/51 to the pipes at the building, and water once again flowed underground to the Castle's Cistern House, which was then used as a laundry. Even then the building was known as the Cundy House, and while this name is assumed to be a local colloquialism derived from conduit, the surname 'Cundy' is found in Derbyshire; but, as yet, no association of the personal name with the conduit-house has been made.

A path has been laid for public access to the building, and a display-board explains how it functioned. With a metal gate barring entry and a solid stone roof, restored with

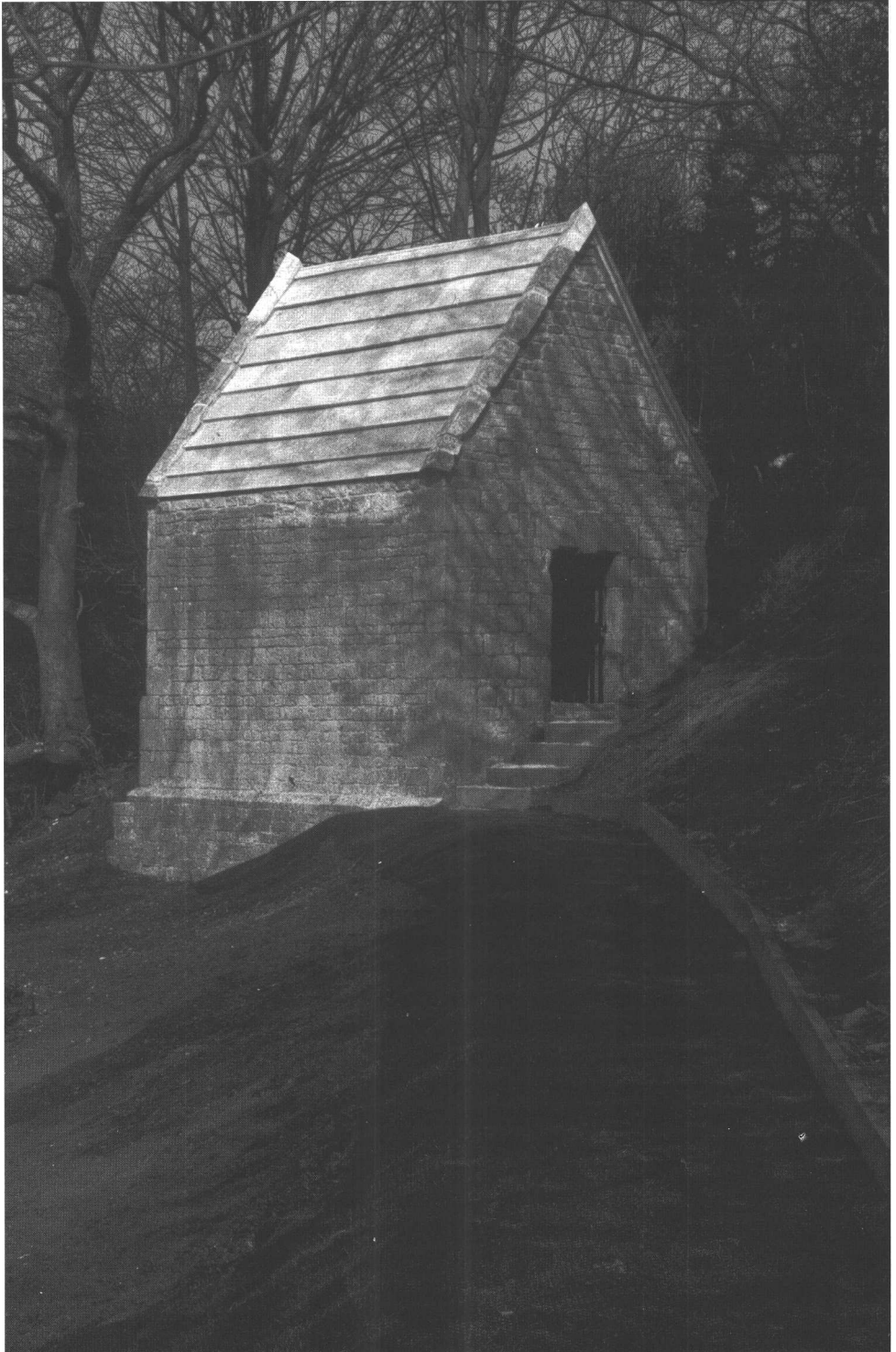


Plate 1: The 'Cundy House', Bolsover: viewed from south-east, as restored in 2003.

Photograph by R. Sheppard.

locally-derived limestone which is weathering successfully to blend with the tone of the original stonework, the building should now be far more vandal-proof than before.

A full report has been deposited with the SMR (and for greater detail than included here, see Hill forthcoming). Thanks are due to English Heritage for commissioning the report; to the masons of Philip Turton Building & Consulting Services Ltd for cooperation on site; to D. Adlam, R. Borrett, G. Coupe, B. Haigh and S. Wood; and to D. Gilbert for assistance in the fieldwork.

Reference

Hill, N. (forthcoming) Restoration of the Cundy House, Bolsover Castle. *Transactions Association Studies Conservation Historic Buildings* 27.

3. BOLSOVER CASTLE, 'LITTLE CASTLE' (SK 470707)

R. Sheppard

The 'Little Castle' is a Jacobean version of a medieval keep, a building of compact plan rising four floors to a low-pitched roof hidden behind a castellated balustrade. The roof consists of three parallel sections with hipped ends, their plan interrupted by a central octagonal cupola and corner stair tower. Recent examination of the roof through two small openings has indicated that most of its timbers are still accessible and that the larger members consist of long-lived oak, many appearing to have sapwood and thus to offer good candidates for tree-ring dating. If it could be shown that this roof is the original, then its precise dating might resolve debate over the completion of the building, previous estimates having varied between 1616 (Worsley 2000) and 1621 (Faulkner 1972). Hence, English Heritage commissioned Robert Howard of the Nottingham University Tree-Ring Dating Laboratory to carry out dendrochronological dating, and T&PAU to provide a detailed measured record of the roof structure and a brief analysis of its form.

The three-section roof reflects the tripartite plan of the building which, at each floor-level, features a narrow central axis with wider bay to each side. The central section of the roof is inaccessible, but the west and east sections were both found to have four main trusses with foot-square tie-beams and short king-posts with splayed heads abutted by principal rafters, each supported by a single short strut (Pl. 2). The roof covering of lead over boards is supported on longitudinal planks or battens, seated into the rafters. The hipped ends of the roofs consist of half-trusses with smaller beams. Most of the roof timbers are jointed by simple mortice and tenon. The height of each roof from ceiling to apex is 1.2m (4ft). The span of the west roof is about 6.9m (23ft) from gutter to gutter, and the slope of the roof is about 11°. The east roof is slightly narrower and thus slightly steeper. The shallowness of the roof-space was a handicap to recording of the sides of the respective roofs, and measurements had to be made from a distance by a device with laser-beam.

Although the roof-timbers lack decorative details their overall appearance is indicative of a single phase of construction. This is supported by the widespread occurrence of positioning scratch-lines and carpenters' marks, which were found on all the major timbers examined. The timbers were regularly cut and tightly assembled, suggesting a date later than the 17th century; and dendrochronology has proved that this is not the original roof, for it dates from 1749. The structural analysis of the portions examined



Plate 2: Bolsover Castle: one of shallow trusses of roof of 'Little Castle'; king-post is 0.82m in height.

Photograph by R. Sheppard.

suggests that the total roof had been completely replaced at that time, with no original timbers re-used.

During the 1740s, the owner, the Countess of Oxford, carried out alterations at Bolsover Castle. Whilst the extensive Terrace Range was dismantled and turned into a picturesque ruin, repairs were carried out elsewhere on the site, costing upwards of £500, a not inconsiderable sum for the time. Various documents, mainly invoices, held at Nottinghamshire Archives show that all serviceable buildings had their roofs 'repaired' in one way or another. The Little Castle's existing roof was 'knocked down' and new roofs were framed for both it and several lodges around the Little Castle's forecourt. Although the invoices date to 1751, they are from different tradesmen, some clearly relating to work carried out in the previous year; and timber cut in 1749 may have been allowed to season before being used. Amongst items listed is the following entry in a bill for carpentry carried out by John Stanley: '26 Square 68 foot in Framing the Roof of the Castle and the three Wachhoues [lodges] at 12s per square: £16-0-0' (NA: DD4P/70/15; dated 14/9/1751). Calculation of the roof area of the buildings mentioned amounts to about 260m², equating to about 2780 square feet — as a 'square' is an old building measurement of 10ft by 10ft, the figure quoted of 2668 square feet of timber is a fairly close approximation.

Why the roof of the Little Castle and its lodges should have required complete replacement after a life of only about 130 years is puzzling. The leadwork may have been breached and the timbers deteriorated over this period, perhaps in the aftermath of the

Civil War, when the site was ordered to be made undefendable, and then sold to a speculator named Robert Thorpe; just how much stripping Thorpe managed to do before the site was repossessed by the Cavendish family is unclear (Worsley 1999, 24). The timbers of the Little Castle roof are generally well cut and pieces of all sizes show both adze-marks and regular saw-marks, the latter suggestive of mechanical sawing. The timbers clearly have parallel markings, suggestive of vertically-mounted reciprocating blades used in early mechanical sawing (Smith 1985, 26). However, very few mechanically-driven sawmills existed in Britain before the 1760s and they generally supplied His Majesty's navy (Ayers 1988, 125). Although the history of Welbeck's timber-trade has yet to be studied, the estate was renowned for its oak trees. Celia Fiennes and Daniel Defoe commented on them in 1697 and 1725 respectively, and Welbeck timber was used in building St. Paul's Cathedral. Perhaps the Welbeck estate was in the forefront of mechanisation, though the location of the mill and the identity of its owners have yet to be determined.

A full report has been deposited with the SMR.

References

- Ayres, J. (1998) *Building the Georgian City*. Yale.
 Faulkner, P.A. (1972) *Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire*. London.
 Smith, L. (1985) *Investigating Old Buildings*. London.
 Worsley, L. (1999) *Bolsover Castle Conservation Plan*; vol. 2 draft report, 17/8/1999. English Heritage.
 Worsley, L. (2000) *Bolsover Castle*. London.

4. **BROUGH-ON-NOE (SK 183827)**

G. Guilbert and D. Garton

In preparation for Severn Trent Water's selection of a route for a new sewer-pipe to pass between the treatment-works situated west of Laneside Farm in Hope and that east of Stretfield Road in Bradwell, various archaeological features in the landscape surrounding the Roman fort of *Navio* were examined in the field. Observations made regarding particular sites are outlined in a report of 2002 (submitted to STW and copied to the SMR and to PDNPA), and some of the relevant locations that are to remain unaffected by the chosen route merit comment here, not least because they have yet to receive the recognition afforded by entry in the SMR, though arguably deserving of an even greater measure of protection (some others, each farther from *Navio*, are likely to attract more detailed archaeological attention in advance of, and in tandem with, construction of the pipeline, intended for 2004, making them more suited to subsequent reports in *DAJ*). Related fieldwork in 2003 need be noted only briefly, for this merely involved inspection of a series of eleven trial-holes located in fields and roads lying 0.5–1.0km to west and south of *Navio*, varying 0.5–3.3m in maximum dimension, dug for the purposes of engineers, and mostly capable of achieving little archaeologically (as detailed in a second report copied to the same places, interesting particulars of which will best be explained in the context of the proposed fieldwork of 2004).

Potentially most significant among those features of archaeological interest previously recorded close to *Navio* is the cropmark of a 'rectangular enclosure c.47.5x50m with rounded corners', centred at SK 18328275 and reaching to within 80m of the earthworks of the fort, which overlooks it from the opposite, southern, bank of the River Noe. This

is as recognized by Martin Dearne, citing air-photographs taken by Derrick Riley in April 1988 (National Monuments Record, SK 1882/9–11), and speculating that the enclosure might be the site of a Roman ‘fortlet, construction camp, baggage park or detached fort annexe’ (1993, 131, 164, fig. 7:1, pl. 6). However, Riley’s photographs, including some of January 1986 (NMR, SK 1882/1), seem to show these rectilinear dark marks as being less clear-cut and more extensive than as plotted by Dearne, perhaps requiring some more complex explanation than his squarish enclosure (in fairness, it should be added that Dearne claimed to detect only ‘faint traces of an enclosure’ whose ‘date and function must remain conjectural [*sic*]’). Moreover, inspection on the ground reveals that the site of the putative enclosure is crossed by a footpath and, more obliquely, by a broad linear hollow, probably reflecting an old channel of the Noe, which either seems an improbable siting for any military construction (if fortlet, or whatever, were to postdate water-course) or seems to confound identification of any such ‘enclosure’ (if the water-course were relatively recent). As it happens, the ‘Hope Bradwell Aston & Thornhill Inclosure Award 1819’ (Derbyshire Record Office, D1828A/PZ3) may be pertinent here, for this has the river flowing to the north of the present channel in this stretch, apparently without the sharp bend currently centred at SK 18238272, so that it would have passed just where Dearne has the enclosure. Unfortunately, there is ambiguity on this point because field-boundaries shown in this part of the 1819 plan are difficult to reconcile with those in later maps, bar that accompanying the ‘Award of. . .Tithes in the Township of Hope. . .1847’ (DRO, D1828A/PI209), which appears to mimic the basic layout of boundaries and river depicted hereabouts in 1819 rather than matching those portrayed in a plan of the neighbouring ‘Township of Aston’, prepared to accompany its ‘Award of Tithes. . .1847’ (DRO, D1828A/PI202), which has the twisting river-course much as that of today, as does the 1840 edition of the Ordnance Survey 1:63360 map. At any rate, the fact that the suspected buried channel should have failed to create a tonal contrast with adjacent ground to either side in the relevant air-photographs would suggest that whatever did give rise to these vague marks in this ‘field of hay grass’ was of no great depth, apparently belying Dearne’s inference of ‘particularly deep or organic-rich ?ditches’. All in all, these several points can but reinforce the view that the supposed enclosure identified solely from cropmarks is in need of confirmation by some different archaeological means.

Notable among features that are evident superficially in the immediate vicinity of *Navio* is a short length of possible agger, c.5m wide, extending in a northerly direction from a point close to the fort (SK 18068279) and apparently developing into a straight terrace-way, 4–5m in width, as it descends a hillside *en route* for the River Noe. This is as observed by O’Neil (1945, 11 – using ‘camber’ and ‘embanked diagonal grassy road’ to mean agger and terrace-way respectively, and mistakenly referring to the River Noe as ‘Peakshole Water’), who clearly considered it to be the first stretch of the Roman road to the fort at Melandra; and it has been accepted in that light by some (e.g. Margary 1957, 95 – who surely meant to write ‘north-west’, rather than ‘north-east’, ‘gate of the fort at Brough’; Wroe 1982, figs 5 and 18), but seemingly rejected, on varying grounds, by others (e.g. Preston 1957; Dodd and Dodd 1974, 45–6; Dearne 1993, 153). The detractors’ case can only be strengthened by recognizing that this line appears to run with the slighter earthworks of former ridge-and-furrow cultivation, in part probably marking their eastern limit (as seen at top-centre of *ibid.*, pl. 6), so that the apparent

terrace-way might have resulted wholly or partly from lynchet-formation at the margin of the open field (though the furlong to its west could, of course, have been set out to accommodate a pre-existing trackway). The possible terrace-way peters out as the hillslope lessens at some distance short of the river-bank, its projected line reaching the river at SK 18088293, where there is nothing to indicate any former route across the water; and it should be noted that this point lies well to the east of an ‘existing ford’ believed by O’Neil to relate to his line for the Roman road (*i.e.* assuming the ford in question to be that indicated by some Ordnance Survey maps at SK 17998301; and note both that this makes no appearance in the earlier maps cited above and that its position is no longer obvious through the water, even in summer).

A prominent round mound, at SK 18588267, seems likely to have been heightened and/or sculpted artificially, and is therefore difficult to accept as entirely ‘a natural accumulation’, notwithstanding Pennington’s conclusion that his digging of ‘a trench nine feet in depth right to the centre’ had shown it to be ‘not a barrow at all, but. . . a bit of the old surfaces of the Vale of Hope’ and ‘barren of relics’ (1877, 49–50, calling it ‘Brough Lane Head Mound. . . a great heap’). Indeed, Pegge had previously noticed that it ‘has been much higher in the memory of man’, and he thought it ‘evidently a barrow’ (1785, 133–4, note *k*; *cf.* more recent comments of Marsden 1977, 11 – ‘fine example’ of a ‘bowl barrow’, suggesting its dimensions to be 70ft diameter and 8ft high, but erroneously placing it at 18569268; and Barnatt 1996, 238 – ‘possible example’, placed at 18568268). Whatever the uncertainties may be, this mound, like the possible agger/terrace-way and the cropmark remarked above, should not be let slip from archaeological reckoning of the area around *Navio*, at least until the true character of each has been ascertained.

References

- Barnatt, J. (1996) Barrows in the Peak District: a corpus, in J. Barnatt and J. Collis, *Barrows in the Peak District — Recent Research*, 171–263. Sheffield.
- Dearne, M.J. (1993) *Navio — the Fort and Vicus at Brough-on-Noe, Derbyshire* (British Archaeological Reports, British Series 234). Oxford.
- Dodd, A.E. and Dodd, E.M. (1974) *Peakland Roads and Trackways*. Hartington.
- Margary, I.D. (1957) *Roman Roads in Britain, Vol. II*. London.
- Marsden, B.M. (1977) *The Burial Mounds of Derbyshire*. Bingley.
- O’Neil, B.H.StJ. (1945) Grey Ditch, Bradwell. *Antiquity* 19: 11–19.
- Pegge, S. (1785) A disquisition on the lows or barrows in the Peak of Derbyshire, particularly that capital British monument called Arbelows. *Archaeologia* 7: 131–48.
- Pennington, R. (1877) *Notes on the Barrows and Bone-Caves of Derbyshire*. London.
- Preston, F.L. (1957) A probable Roman road at Hope, Derbyshire. *Transactions Hunter Archaeological Society* 7: 269–70.
- Wroe, P. (1982) Roman roads in the Peak District. *DAJ* 102, 49–73.

5. CROWDECOTE MILL (SK 100652)

M. Hurford and R. Sheppard

Following investigation of a ruined mill-complex in 2001 (*DAJ* 124, 228–9), a watching-brief was conducted in 2003 during topsoil-stripping and trenching for a new sewage treatment works beside the River Dove at Crowdecote.

Ground-works in 2003 affected four areas, one of which (04) uncovered more of a trackway investigated in 2001, with similar results (*i.e.* two layers of metalling, upper including post-medieval pottery, lower undated). Area 01, north of the trackway, produced structural remains of unknown function/date and two irregular wall-like features that may have been part of a post-medieval corn-drying kiln. Just south of the trackway, a limestone flagged floor, also of unknown date but possibly relating to a building or yard, was uncovered in 02. In the field immediately south of this, a pipeline-trench (03) revealed pits and ditches and a number of truncated features tentatively interpreted as postholes and slots, while metalling of a probable trackway crossed its north end. A small assemblage of potsherds dating from the 10th or 11th century to the 14th century (identified by C. Cumberpatch) was recovered from the fills of four of the six ditches crossing 03. Their small size and abraded condition, together with their mixed occurrence at all levels of the infill of the ditches, indicate probable redeposition from previously disturbed contexts; and most of the features recorded in 03 date from late-medieval centuries at earliest.

Not much is known about the early history of Crowdecote, which is not mentioned in *Domesday Book*, and the earliest documentary references date to the 13th century. Nevertheless, the presence of Late-Saxon pottery raises the possibility that this was one, or part of one, of the many Anglo-Saxon manors located in the Dove Valley (Hodges 1991, 116). At the very least, the pottery indicates that a settlement probably existed here not long after the Conquest. Turner (1903) mentions the remains of a castle at Crowdecote and a finds-assemblage including a coin of Henry III (reigned 1216–72). A bungalow in the hamlet is situated on Dove Mount, a possibly artificial hillock close to the river. Mottes are suspected elsewhere alongside the Dove, at Pilsbury Castle and just north of Hartington. If authentic, three mottes closely spaced along the valley would be a significant concentration, and may originate with Henry de Ferrers's attempt to maintain authority in this area early in the Norman occupation.

Accounts of the owner, the Earl of Lancaster, in 1313–14 record 85 acres of arable land at Crowdecote (Weston 2000, 109), and a mill existed there in the 1430s (*ibid.*, 105). Ridge-and-furrow earthworks close to the village indicate former open-field agriculture, while meadows alongside the Dove were probably used for sheep-grazing. The accounts show that nearby Hartington was a centre for sheep-farming activities, with at least fourteen bercaries (sheep-farms) within the manor (*ibid.*, 48). An account of 1358 mentions a bercary at Crowdecote named 'Fullwallhous' (*ibid.*, 52). Two of the ditches in area 03 with potsherds of the 13th–14th centuries near the base may relate to agriculture, though the varying orientation, width and depth of the 03 ditches contrast with the usual regularity of strip-field agriculture. The ditches may instead have been part of a system of paddocks for stock, and there is a hint of this in several slots and a posthole adjacent to one ditch.

Crowdecote is sited where two routeways cross, one running along the valley from Hartington to Earl Sterndale and beyond to Buxton, the other from Bakewell westwards to Leek; the latter crosses the Dove at Crowdecote, *en route* to Longnor, which at one time held fairs for 'sheep, cattle and pedlary' (Dodd and Dodd 1980, 91). The name of the public house, 'The Packhorse', also recalls trails passing through the hamlet. Even the element 'cote' in the place-name, first recorded in the 13th century (Cameron 1959, 365), may refer to a sheep-enclosure. In addition to the Duchy of Lancaster's bercaries,

several monastic granges in the area specialized in sheep-raising and wool-production. The presence of a possibly long-established sheepwash and of small walled enclosures in the vicinity of the mill are perhaps further indicators that Crowdecote had a long-standing role in the maintenance and grazing of sheep, as well as their movement and possibly over-wintering.

Copies of a full report have been deposited with the SMR and with PDNPA. Thanks are due to Severn Trent Water for funding the archaeological work, and to P. Caldwell, L. Hunt and G. Richards for their assistance on the project.

References

- Cameron, K. (1959) *The Place-Names of Derbyshire*. Cambridge.
 Dodd, A.E. and Dodd, E.M. (1980) *Peakland Roads and Trackways*, 2nd edn. Ashbourne.
 Hodges, R. (1991) Notes on the medieval archaeology of the White Peak, in R. Hodges and K. Smith (eds), *Recent Developments in the Archaeology of the Peak District*, 111–21. Sheffield.
 Turner, W. (1903) Notes on Old Buxton and District. *DAJ* 25: 159–63.
 Weston, R. (2000). *Hartington: a Landscape History from the Earliest Times to 1800*. Derbyshire County Council.

6. **DARLEY DALE, St HELEN CHURCH (SK 266629)**

L. Elliott

A watching-brief was conducted on behalf of the Parochial Church Council during excavations to investigate subsidence in the 14th-century south-west buttress of the earlier chancel. Fragments of Anglo-Saxon stonework have been recovered from the site, including a cross-shaft with geometrical ornament (Hanbury 1951), while the church is mentioned in *Domesday Book*. It is cruciform in plan with fabric that is largely of the 12th–15th centuries.

Two connecting rectangular trenches, *c.* 1.8x0.55m and 1.4x0.6m, were opened against the south and west faces of the buttress. Excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m, this exposed several deposits and features. The lowest layer comprised a brownish-yellow sandy clay-loam with flecks of iron-pan, which had suffered some disturbance from a partially exposed, articulated burial. The shallowness of the burial, along with its possible truncation by the buttress, suggests that it is medieval. Above this, a 0.58m thickness of yellowish-brown sandy clay-loam with dark brown mottles contained fragments of disarticulated human bone and is interpreted as grave-earth. A medieval stone coffin, lacking the cover-stone, was revealed in the south-facing section of the trench, its east end partly incorporated into the buttress-foundation (Pl. 3). Despite later disturbance, the presence of a poorly-preserved adult skeleton confirmed that the coffin is *in situ*. No artefacts accompanied the burial, though two small fragments of green-glazed pottery were found within the fill of the coffin, which itself comprised a single hollowed-out block of Ashover Grit with straight sides and without head-rest, thus differing from three examples previously found within the church and now displayed along its south side. The exposed buttress-foundation comprised a 0.8m depth of random rubble of Ashover Grit, possibly from nearby quarries at Darley Dale. Also exposed was the north-east corner of a brick burial-shaft of the late-18th or 19th century, without surviving grave-marker. It was ensured that subsequent repair-work avoided damage to the more substantial features, including the coffin and burial-shaft.



Plate 3: St Helen, Darley Dale: stone coffin built into foundation of 14th-century buttress of chancel; looking north-east; scale above coffin has divisions of 0.5m.

Photograph by L. Elliott.

A full report has been deposited with the SMR. Thanks are due to H. Jones, R. Firman (stone identification), and J. Cunnington and M. Askey (of John Cunnington Architects) for assistance on the project.

Reference

Hanbury, W.H. (1951) A pre-Norman carved stone at Darley. *DAJ* 71: 84–6.

7. **DERBY, EAGLE CENTRE (SK 356359)**

G. Kinsley and S. Baker

Evaluation was carried out, on behalf of Westfield Shoppingtowns, in advance of the construction of an extension of the Eagle Centre shopping-centre in Derby. The site of a 12th-century castle and medieval urban properties were thought possibly to extend into the development area. Due to the presence of existing buildings, the evaluation covered only the castle site. Modern overburden of 1.2–1.7m thickness was found to lie above generally undisturbed natural ground, covered by a buried soil which included 19th-century finds. Although disturbance from the existing buildings and surfaces was surprisingly slight, no medieval or earlier features or finds were identified.

8. **DERBY, St JAMES'S YARD (SK 351363)**

G. Kinsley and M. Atha

Evaluation was carried out, on behalf of Clowes Developments (UK) Ltd, in advance of redevelopment of a site between Sadler Gate and St James's Street. This location lies

within the core of the Anglo-Saxon burh and medieval town of Derby. In the vicinity lay the medieval church and hospital of St James, the cemetery of which has been approximately located to the south-east of the site. In the post-medieval period the land was open, but it was gradually subjected to encroachment from small-scale buildings into the 19th century. The evaluation showed that the northern part of the site contains medieval and post-medieval structural remains from perhaps the 13th century onwards, relating to properties fronting Sadler Gate. The southern part contains post-medieval structural remains above thick deposits probably representing dumping and cultivation from perhaps the 13th century into the post-medieval period. No certain traces of the hospital/monastery were found, though the cultivated areas could have been part of its grounds.

9. EGGINTON, MONK'S FLOOD NORTH BRIDGE (SK 270271) *R. Sheppard*

A watching-brief was carried out at the listed Monk's Flood North Bridge during its repair in 2003. Now situated on a bypassed section of the A38 north of Burton-upon-Trent, this bridge overrides one of several culverts close to the medieval Monk's Bridge, which crosses the River Dove. The Flood North Bridge contains two distinct phases of construction, a Phase I central arch and Phase II arches added to each side when the road was widened in the 18th century (Fig. 1). Part of the foundations of the arch added to the north-west had become damaged by flood-water and the arch itself had partly collapsed. The repairs to this entailed insertion of a mass concrete infilling around the original central arch beneath the road-surface and the rebuilding of the collapsed arch and adjacent walling from the foundations up. This was carried out by Wrekin Construction Co. Ltd on behalf of the Highways Agency.

The bridge lies within the floodplain of the River Dove and Geological Survey mapping shows alluvial deposits of a former river-course where the Flood Bridge is situated. In a similar position, in the field to north of the bridge, a remnant stream still carries flood-water after periods of heavy rainfall, and this has probably been responsible for the damage to its foundations. The bridge also lies on a section of road which diverges from the otherwise straight alignment of the Roman road known as Rykniel Street, which must have crossed the Dove near to the later Monk's Bridge, whose structure partly dates from 1256, when it replaced an earlier bridge that had collapsed (Anon. 1927). The rebuilding of Monk's Bridge, and its repair and widening in 1775, shows the continuing importance of both the river-crossing and the road from Derby to Lichfield and the West Midlands. A major improvement to upgrade the road to a turnpike occurred in 1764 (Henderson 1970, 23), and it was probably then, or perhaps in 1766–77 when the nearby Trent & Mersey Canal was built, that Monk's Flood North Bridge was widened and three other culverts were built close by.

The repair-work started with machine-stripping of the modern road-surface; no trace of any earlier surface was found. The central arch was uncovered, together with sections of flanking walls attached to its corners, those on the north-west side being the more complete. Also exposed was a line of stone slabs forming a collar over the junction of the two arches. Most of the flanking walling was removed as up to 3m depth of soil was excavated from behind the arch in readiness for the concrete infill. Once this had set, work started on the dismantling of the later arch and the outer walling at the north-west

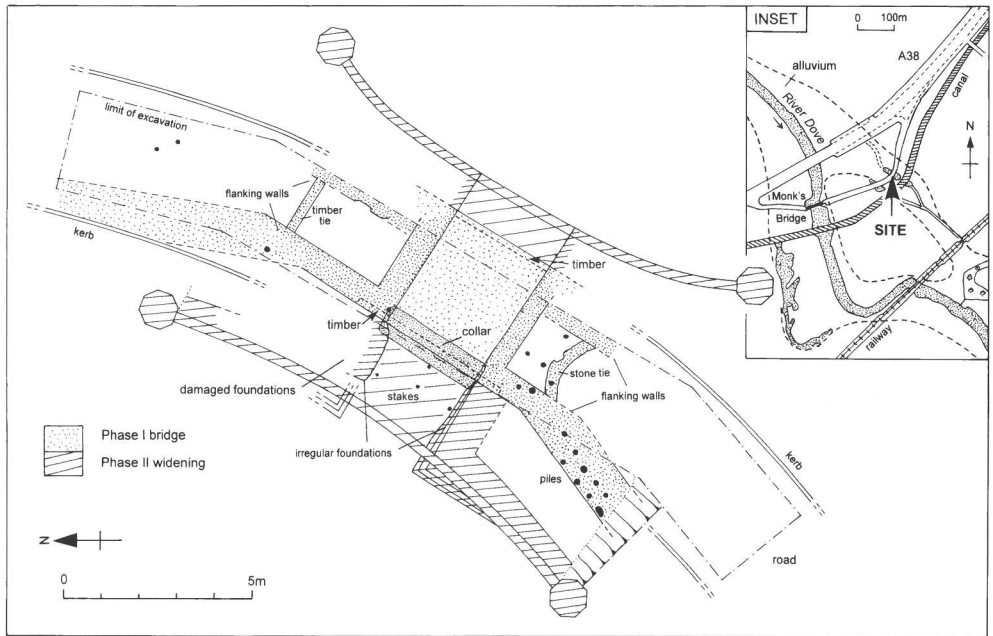


Fig. 1: Monk's Flood North Bridge, Eggington: plan of bridge together with stonework and timbers revealed during repair-work of 2003; scale 1:200, with map inset at 1:20,000.

Drawn by R. Sheppard.

side of the bridge. The area to north-west of it was drained, exposing the foundations, which were still intact on the south side. These consist of some irregular stepped rubble coursing, in contrast to the finer cut ashlar forming the arch above, and large blocks forming a corner abutment. The removal of the Phase II arch and walling revealed the west face of the earlier bridge and what remained of the flanking walls beneath the concrete. The earlier arch was segmental in shape, while the dismantled arch was more semi-circular. At each end of the earlier arch, a timber had been laid across the culvert to retain large stone blocks placed to protect the lower stonework of the earlier bridge (Pl. 4). The north-west timber was a hollowed-out tree-trunk, cut in half with its centre gouged out, presumably to help counter the scouring action of fast-moving flood-water. The oak timbers proved unsuitable for tree-ring dating.

With the dismantling of the Phase II flanking wall and the soils behind it, some other Phase I stonework was revealed near the base of the cleared area south of the dismantled arch. Only one or two courses remained, with a series of nine oak piles below them, set out in two lines about 0.40m apart; one pile was removed and found to be *c.* 1.5m long. Other piles had been observed beneath the Phase I walling in three other locations, and had probably been driven in to support the stonework over the alluvial clay on its more vulnerable western flank. The position of the piles also suggests that water may have backed up behind the bridge at this time. Both the form of the arch and masons' marks on its underside suggest a construction-date for the Phase I bridge somewhere in the 17th century. During that time, Britain experienced cooler temperatures and higher rainfall than for some centuries previously, and there are records of heavy rainfall and flooding



Plate 4: Monk's Flood North Bridge, Egginton: with most of Phase II widening removed before reassembly, west side of Phase I arch revealed together with added stone-collar and, beyond foot of ladder, one of horizontal timbers retaining stone infill; looking south-east; for scale, compare Fig. 1.

Photograph by R. Sheppard.

in various parts of the country. The last two decades of that century were particularly remarkable for their cold unsettled weather, and repairs had to be made to Monk's Bridge, Swarkeston Bridge and Dove Bridge (Jervoise 1932). Monk's Flood North Bridge may also date from that time.

A full report has been deposited with the SMR.

References

- Anon. (1927) Monk's Bridge near Egginton. *Derbyshire Advertiser*, 18 February 1927.
 Henderson, J.B. (1932) *The Story of Egginton and St Wilfred's Church*. Gloucester.
 Jervoise, E. (1932) *The Ancient Bridges of Mid and Eastern England*. London.

10. **HARDWICK PARK** (SK 4563–4663)

D. Garton and G. Guilbert

Severn Trent Water's replacement of a water-pipe across the southern part of the Park, with a branch passing through the formal Garden to connect with the New Hall, involved a variety of localized archaeological investigations. Given the damage that might be inflicted by inappropriate methods of working on land of such historic character, straddling the border of Derbyshire with Nottinghamshire and now owned by the National Trust, it was determined that as much as possible of the extant pipe should be re-lined, using the 'pipe-bursting' technique (*cf. DAJ* 124, 224). However, an open-cut trench did prove necessary south-east from the Garden, where the new pipe crosses two

cultivated fields and then a plantation, known as Lady Spencer's Wood, before exiting the Park.

Re-lining of the pipe required the excavation of a series of holes, each 12m² or less, for access, eight being dug archaeologically and twelve subjected to watching-brief during digging by other contractors. Many of those lying within the Garden (which took its present shape in the last few years of the 16th century, contemporary with the New Hall) and the adjacent Stableyard (established a little earlier, around 1590) could be contained within the backfill of the trench dug to house the original pipework. One hole, situated above a steep escarpment opposite the entrance to the Stableyard (SK 4618363550), revealed the limestone footings of a wall, the date and purpose of which remain uncertain. Four of the holes excavated archaeologically lay within pasture on sloping ground, situated below the escarpment and above Hardwick Inn, where well-preserved ridge-and-furrow is evident superficially; these revealed no features of archaeological interest, though one medieval (SK 4606963498) and one Romano-British (SK 4590963401) sherds were found among a general scatter of post-medieval and modern pottery.

On the recently ploughed land, a watching-brief covered the stripping of topsoil from the pipe-trench, averaging 1m in width. Only modern features were thus recognized, though a single struck flake of flint was recovered from clayey subsoil (at SK 4688463415) and two sherds of medieval pottery came from ploughsoil (SK 466634).

The pipe-trench was taken through a modern break in the boundary between the cultivated fields (SK 4683863424), and this boundary is known to follow both the former park-pale, lying close to the south-eastern corner of the early Park (established some time before 1610), and the current county-line, the course of which is likely to have been set out prior to the Park. Excavation there was conducted manually, showing the ditch of the pale to be 3.1m wide by 0.8m deep (as measured from the base of ploughsoil); it had been backfilled before being cut by a narrower gully. No evidence for any bank cast up from the ditch was preserved at this point, though adjacent stretches of the pale, surviving as earthwork, show that, in keeping with its function as the perimeter of a deer-park, it was placed at the outer (*i.e.* here eastern) margin of the ditch.

The complete 35m length of trench (up to 2.5m in width) crossing Lady Spencer's Wood (SK 4692463341 to 4693763374) was excavated by hand, encountering three known features: a footpath metalled with limestone-chippings and thought perhaps to have originated early in the 19th century, when a 'walk' was extended into this part of the Wood; an earthen bank, just 2m wide by 0.4m high and with a slight scrape along its inner foot, marking the perimeter of an extension to the Park effected in the mid-17th century; and a green lane running west/east along the southern edge of bank and Wood but thought possibly to be of earlier origin than both, having approached a gateway into the early Park. The cambered surface of the lane had been metalled with a single layer of rounded quartzite pebbles, and a shallow gully had run along each side. A cutting of 1.3m width was excavated through the bank; fortuitously, this encompassed a large posthole, cut as much as 0.8m deep below the bank and containing an apparent post-pipe of *c.*0.5m across, with a tiny body-sherd of a probable Midland Yellow pot of the 16th century incorporated among the post-packing. It thus seems likely that the perimeter of the mid-17th century comprised a substantial fence, or pale, with meagre bank at its foot and without a functional ditch, just as had been inferred from superficial signs. The northern edge of the Wood, now bounded solely by a relatively slight wooden fence, was

once marked by a gully, but this cannot be dated. Besides a scatter of sherds of modern pot and glass, single pieces of medieval and Romano-British pottery were recovered from topsoil overlying the metalling of the lane, while nine struck flakes and blades of flint, none closely datable but all presumed prehistoric, came from various contexts within the Wood.

In due course, it is proposed to publish a more detailed account of the excavations across the successive lines of the park-pale.

11. ILKESTON, RUTLAND MILLS (SK 46604161)

M. Atha and D. Garton

In response to a proposal for redevelopment, two evaluation-trenches were excavated, one within and one outside a two-storey building constructed in *c.*1900 as part of a factory-complex fronting on to Market Street. The evaluation was requested by Erewash Planning Authority because the site lies within a parcel of land known as Hall Croft, the supposed location of a medieval manor-house described in a post-mortem inquisition of 1381, though it is absent from 1598 mapping of the area (Stevenson 1975, 7). In 1838, the Market Place was enlarged and flattened. These works provided levelling material for a new cricket-pitch (Bagshaw 1846, 188) in the area of Hall Croft, and, taken together with a reference to the levelling of Church Hill in 1739 (Trueman and Marston 1899, 214), this suggests extensive modification of the topography. St Mary's School was constructed in the eastern half of the former Hall Croft in 1875; this was demolished when the Inner Ring Road was built in the 1980s.

The trench within the building (3x2m) revealed a buried turf-line at 1.1m depth, the upper 0.1m of which contained abundant pottery of the 18th–19th centuries and clay-pipe fragments – this is interpreted as the 19th-century cricket-pitch buried by redeposited clay/sandstone. A body-sherd of black-glazed red ware of the 18th–19th century was recovered from beneath this surface. Excavation ceased at 1.8m within a central *sondage*, reaching down to a clay subsoil presumed to overlie Middle Coal Measures.

The trench outside the building (to its east; 10x2m) reached a buried soil at 0.6–0.9m below modern ground-level, probably another remnant of the cricket-pitch, here much disturbed during construction and demolition of the adjacent St Mary's School and by service-trenches.

Two sherds of late-medieval purple ware (from body and rim, probably 15th–16th century) and a body-sherd of possible Cistercian Ware (pre 1560s), all from the buried soil, were the only archaeological indications of activity before the 18th century.

It has been recommended that future building-development should be restricted to ground above the level of the old cricket-pitch.

Thanks are due to StoneyStreet Properties, for commissioning this work, and to their Estates Manager, R. Prior; to Julian Owen Associates Architects; to A. Myers, for advice, and G. Stroud, for historical information, both of Derbyshire County Council; to P. Caldwell and I. Forbes, for assistance in the field. The pottery was identified by A. MacCormick. A full report has been deposited in the SMR; the archive and artefacts will be deposited at Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

References

- Bagshaw, S. (1846) *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Derbyshire with the Town of Burton-on-Trent*. Sheffield.
- Stevenson, P. (1975) *Maps and Plans of Ilkeston, 1598–1885*. Ilkeston and District Local History Society Occasional Paper 5. Ilkeston.
- Trueman, E. and Marston, R.W. (1899) *History of Ilkeston together with Dale Abbey, Kirk Hallam, West Hallam, Shipley and Cossall*. Ilkeston.

12. LATHKILL DALE, BATEMAN'S HOUSE (SK 194658)

R. Sheppard

Following a pilot study in 2001, a scheme to consolidate the ruin of Bateman's House was completed in 2003 by the present owners, English Nature, with advice from English Heritage. The ruin, once the home of the mining-agent after whom it is named, was built early in the 19th century and abandoned scarcely 50 years later following the demise of lead-mining in the valley. Prior to consolidation of the remaining walls, a quantity of rubble was removed by the contractors, Historic Property Restoration Ltd. This was monitored archaeologically, so that architectural fragments from former windows, doors, etc could be recorded by both photography and basic measurement. As parts of the structure were being revealed from beneath obscuring rubble and vegetation, recording was extended to the standing structure (Fig. 2; Pl. 5).

The original part of Bateman's House (rooms 1 and 6 in Fig. 2) is curiously sited immediately above a deep vaulted shaft, thought to have been dug in c.1830 to house an experimental water-pressure or disc engine for draining the sough below (Rieuwerts 2000, 55). It may have been preceded by an adjacent shaft of similar plan and depth, which was partly infilled at some stage. Now open to the sky, the latter provides access to a short underground passage connecting the two shafts. Early views of the building and remaining structural features reveal that the south elevation once featured a large opening of a size equal to the width of the shaft behind it. Together with the presence of the shafts and a nearby water-lead, this points to an industrial use of the building originally.

Following removal of the engine in the mid-1830s, the building was adapted for domestic use. Fireplaces and windows were added, together with brick walls dividing the original floor-space into two smaller rooms and a passage. On the north side of the building, two rooms were added (3 and 4 in Fig. 2), and a doorway was made connecting the smaller of the two with the original building. The larger of the new rooms, with single external doorway and generally unlit at ground-floor level, was probably a stables with hayloft above (although the upper floor may have been added later for accommodation). At the time of censuses in 1841 and 1851, the house was occupied by James Bateman, his family and some visitors / domestic staff.

A third phase of building is represented by the addition of a small room (2) with barrel-vaulted roof (now surviving only at its lowest course). In the north wall of this room, a small opening led to a channel or flue-like feature set into the top of a raised area and running to another opening in the east wall of area 5 (Fig. 2); this could be reached by another stone platform with roughly-hewn steps (5A). The usage of room 2 and the platform is unknown, but the channel was found to contain crushed stone – a shale or toadstone with sulphite minerals – which had become blackened by the burning of fuel.

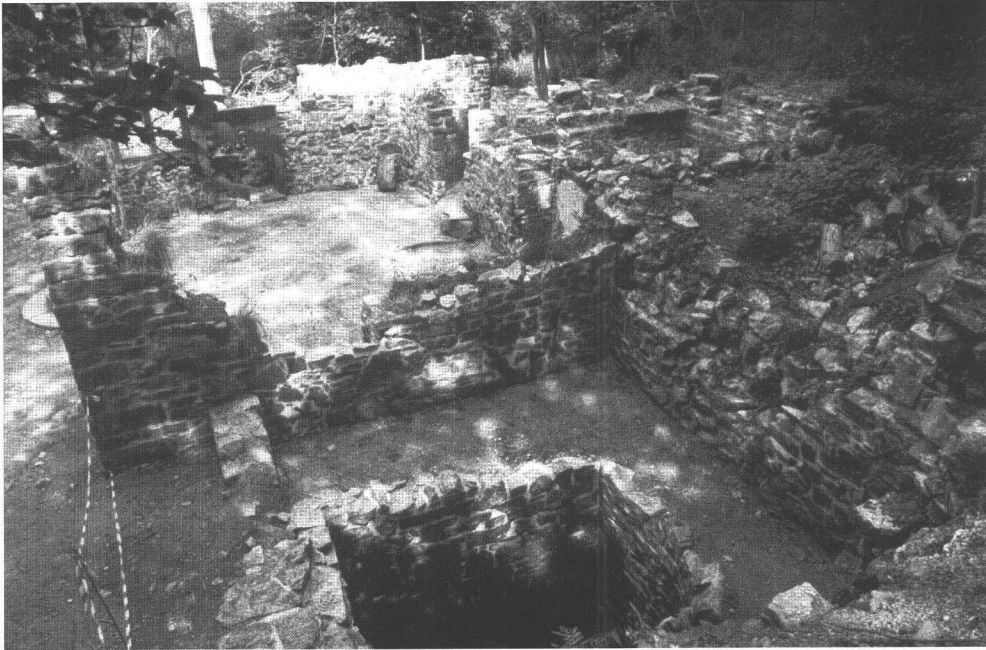


Plate 5: Bateman's House, Lathkill Dale: ruinous building during consolidation-works of 2003, with open top of shallower of two shafts in foreground; looking north; for scale, compare Fig. 2.

Photograph by R. Sheppard.

Further detailed analysis of this stone might reveal trace elements and a possible connection with later mining activity, when gold was thought to exist in the valley.

A census of 1861 failed to mention either Bateman or the Dale; in the same years, a visitor by the name of William Adam lamented the dereliction of the miners' sheds and the state of the garden at Bateman's House. Photographs show the building was still standing in about 1900, although the roofing and upper floors may have been deliberately removed to thwart squatters. At some point after 1958, a local farmer pulled some of the walls down to recover building-stone. Following the recent remedial treatment, the building is now open to the public, along with access to the shaft below.

Copies of a full report have been deposited with the SMR and with PDNPA; it is hoped that a more detailed account will be published in due course. Thanks are due to B. LeBas of English Nature and to the workmen of HPR Ltd for their cooperation on site, and to R. Firman for his comments on the crushed stone.

Reference

Rieuwerts, J.H. (2000) *Lathkill Dale, Derbyshire — Its Mines and Miners*, 2nd edn. Ashbourne.

13. MATLOCK, RIBER CASTLE (SK 307590)

R. Sheppard

Riber Hill, also known as Riber Top, is a ridge of Ashover Grit reaching a height of about 250m. Its north-west side slopes steeply down to the Derwent Valley and Matlock,

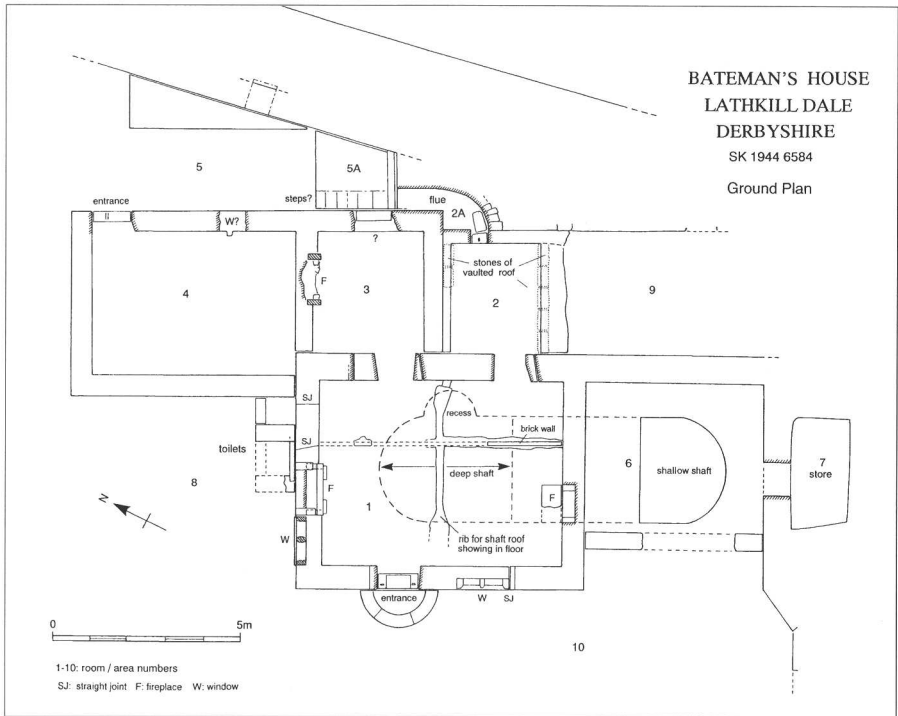


Fig. 2: Bateman's House, Lathkill Dale: plan of building and shafts; scale 1:200.

Drawn by R. Sheppard.

from where Riber Castle appears on the horizon. The Castle is Grade II listed and lies within a Conservation Area. Following a proposal to develop an area that includes the Castle, its outbuildings and walled gardens, car-parking areas and several stretches of open grassland skirting the western side of the Castle grounds, a walkover survey and preliminary documentary search were undertaken.

Riber Castle is a mock-castle, designed and built in 1862–8 by the hosier and hydrotherapy magnate John Smedley. Later used as a school, a store and, most recently, a zoo, the interior was stripped in the late 1950s, and the building is now abandoned, though it remains a prominent landmark when seen from a distance, known locally as 'Smedley's Folly' (Spencer 2001). Its contemporary outbuildings have been altered to varying degrees and now retain few original internal features. Few records remain of the buildings before the 1950s, and much of what is known derives from a sale catalogue of 1892 and from descriptions by visitors.

Only one prehistoric feature is recorded close to the study-area: a collection of large stone blocks supposedly forming a cromlech or a possible structure of religious or ritual significance. First described in 1783 (Bryan 1887, 39–40), and later mentioned by antiquarians L. Jewitt (*ibid.*, 41–2) and T. Bateman (1848, 120), it was known locally as the 'Hirst Stones'. When seen by Jewitt in about 1834, only its lower part remained, and this may have been lost to the quarrying of stone for the Castle. Although no other archaeological remains are known within or adjacent to the study-area, the location,

near the summit of a spur overlooking the Derwent Valley, suggests that this results from a lack of detailed fieldwork and/or recent agricultural activity.

Some relatively early features may have survived as earthworks incorporated into the post-medieval, *i.e.* enclosure-period, landscape, most obviously an elongated, egg-shaped area of Riber Top shown on the Matlock Enclosure Award map of 1784. The proposed development lies within the north part of that area and, although the Castle outworks now cover most of its northern curving boundary, a short length of bank may survive at its southern limit. Another short length of bank on the north-west slope is roughly aligned on an extant boundary to the south-west and an altered wall-line to the north-east. This bank may have been both a part of the relatively straight, western side of the egg-shaped area, as indicated on the 1784 map (and on the 1848 tithe-map), and part of a long south-west/north-east land-division of unknown age.

Riber Top is also recorded as having been the site of boles, *i.e.* depressions used for lead-smelting until late in the 16th century (Kiernan 1989, 191). These are difficult to identify on the ground, but a depression in the walled area south-west of the Castle has been suggested as a possible example, though an exploratory quarry seems a more likely explanation for this.

A full report has been deposited with the SMR.

References

- Bateman, T. (1848) *Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire*. London.
 Bryan, B. (1887) On a cromlech formerly standing on Riber Hill, Matlock, in the County of Derby. *DAJ* 9: 39–44.
 Kiernan, D. (1989) *The Derbyshire Lead Industry in the Sixteenth Century* (Derbyshire Record Society 14). Chesterfield.
 Spencer, B. (2001) Follies. *Country Images*, November 2001, 16.

14. SOUTH NORMANTON, AMBER PARK (SK 457575)

R. Sheppard

Ten trenches were excavated by machine in September 2003 to evaluate the archaeological potential of three fields off Berristow Lane. The evaluation was carried out for Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd, before construction of a new warehouse. An earlier desktop assessment had failed to find evidence for prehistoric or Romano-British activity in the area, but documentary evidence points to possible coal-mining dating from at least the 17th century. Three collieries were worked near this site in the 19th century.

Only four trenches revealed archaeological remains of any significance, the others containing only plough-marks, an earlier field-boundary, field-drains, and a cluster of clay-pipe fragments. In trench 01, a circular pit, c.0.95m in diameter and containing charcoal, was similar to numerous features excavated recently near Arnold in Nottinghamshire, where they have yet to be dated (Garton and Malone 2002). Part of a large depression lying within trench 06 was at least 8m across and 1.5m deep; this was filled with industrial waste mixed with disturbed natural clay, and may once have been either a pond or a brick-pit. In trench 08, two parallel ditches of unknown purpose contained dark ash and coal, indicating industrial activity; one was edged with four courses of handmade bricks, many shaped as though originally intended for a curving wall, such as the lining of a mine-shaft, and reused here.

At the eastern edge of the development area, trench 10 was hand-dug to determine the presence and degree of survival of the railway/tramway shown on several maps of the 1830s and used to carry coal from near Blackwell to Pinxton Wharf, where it was transferred to canal-barges. Stone foundations were uncovered in the base of the present field-ditch at a point where it is almost 5m in width. These consisted of spreads of smaller stones to either side of a central patch made up of larger smoothed stones and pebbles. Gaps in the stone-spreads indicated where timber-sleepers had lain. The positioning of the outer stones, if intended to act as a bed for the rails, indicates that a rail-track of approximately 1.5m gauge was used and later removed, though further archaeological investigation would be needed to confirm this. The narrowness of the field-ditch south of trench 10 means that the railway must have crossed into the adjacent field — on Sanderson's map of 1835, it is shown to have deviated from its otherwise straight alignment by as much as 10m from the ditch. A survey (photographic and drawn, including profiles) was made along the length of the field-ditch and the adjacent field.

A full report has been deposited with the SMR.

Reference

Garton, D. and Malone, S. (2002) Arnold, Thiefdale, 159–60 in S. Speight (ed.), *Archaeology in Nottinghamshire 2001. Transactions Thoroton Society Nottinghamshire* 106: 145–60.

15. SPONDON, St WERBURGH CHURCH (SK 398359)

L. Elliott

Although first mentioned in *Domesday Book*, the dedication to a 7th-century Mercian princess and the existence of an Anglo-Saxon cross-shaft in the churchyard (Routh 1937, 34–5) suggest an earlier foundation for this church. Following destruction by fire in 1340, the fabric largely comprises tower, nave, chancel and south aisle of the late-14th century, with additions of the 19th and 20th centuries (Cox 1877, 293–303). The cross-shaft now stands to the north of the church, though at one point it stood in the south-west part of the churchyard (*ibid.*, 302), within the area of a proposed extension to the vestry. Archaeological evaluation of the extension area, involving two 2x1m trenches, revealed a grave-earth containing an abundance of disarticulated bone (including eleven skulls), with articulated skeletal remains present at a depth of 1.25m, and a single sherd of Romano-British pottery. Investigation of two post-medieval stone-slab tomb-covers lying within the area revealed no corresponding brick-built shaft below, suggesting they are not *in situ*.

Subsequently, a watching-brief was conducted over the excavation for a raft-foundation of 7.25x 9.75m, reaching to only c 0.5m depth, on the south side of the vestry. The bulk of this area was covered by grave-earth, with the exception of a spread of redeposited clay-loam in the south-west corner, partly removed by three grave-cuts, with a possible fourth visible in the west-facing section. A shallow oval pit towards the centre of the area produced the only significant quantity of disarticulated bone, representing burials disturbed during previous work on the church or in the churchyard. The remains of a brick burial-shaft, containing a cremation-casket of 1917, were uncovered in the north-east corner, partly truncated by the existing vestry. These remains, which were covered and left *in situ*, relate to the two grave-slabs noted above, suggesting that the latter were moved c.0.75m eastwards during construction of the vestry. Except for two

courses of the south-west buttress of the south aisle, no foundations belonging to medieval elements of the church were exposed.

During demolition of the existing vestry, two examples of 17th-century graffiti were exposed on the former external surface of the west wall of the south aisle. Both comprise a rectangular box, with smaller box above, topped by a simple cross, all formed from single incised lines with deeper, circular holes punched at their ends. The date 1672 is incised within each larger box, while the smaller ones contain the initials IO and WC respectively.

A full report has been deposited with the SMR. Thanks are due to R. Holt, H. Jones, L. Mayhew, M. Parnham, R. Pugh (Churchwarden), and J. Cunnington and R. Brook (of John Cunnington Architects) for assistance on the project.

References

- Cox, J.C. (1877) *Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire, Vol. III, The Hundreds of Appletree and Repton & Gresley*. Chesterfield, London and Derby.
- Routh, R.E. (1937) A corpus of the pre-conquest carved stones of Derbyshire. *Archaeological Journal* 94: 1–42.

16. WILLINGTON to WETMORE power-line (SK 304279 - 256243) G. Guilbert

Replacement of overhead power-lines along a c.6.2km route over the floor of the Trent Valley between Willington, in Derbyshire, and Wetmore, Burton-upon-Trent, in Staffordshire, involved the removal of 22 steel pylons and the erection of 47 poles, five of steel and the remainder of wood. This required the excavation by machine of 134 holes in total, 68 of them in the c.3.5km stretch within Derbyshire; these varied c.1.5–2.5m in depth, and most were roughly 2–3m² in extent (occasionally up to 10m²), though several of the holes for steel poles (all in Derbys) required a larger area, varying 25–36m². All were subject to archaeological watching-brief, but this offered little opportunity for close observation except in the case of those for steel poles, which were stripped of topsoil in advance of the deeper digging, thus to permit manual cleaning at the surface of subsoil. No features or deposits of apparent archaeological interest were observed in any of the holes, and nor were any artefacts earlier than post-medieval (themselves each in topsoil) recorded from any of those in Derbyshire, all of which were cut through alluvial clays (even where crossing land mapped as ‘river terrace deposits’ by British Geological Survey – 1:50,000 sheet 141, ‘Loughborough’, 2001), though almost all reached sand-and-gravel within 2m of the present ground-surface. The sole discovery of note in respect of human activities came in Staffordshire, where a few flints were retrieved from topsoil in a short stretch of the route (c.450m) that rose slightly above floodplain-deposits to traverse an isolated tract of sand-and-gravel terrace (as reported in *West Midlands Archaeology* 46 [2003]).

Despite the largely negative results emanating from the project itself, at least in archaeological terms, the time spent on the valley-floor (intermittently during October–November 2003) was useful in allowing some field-observations to be made *en passant*, all within pasture close to either the course of the power-line or one of several routes used to gain access to points along it. Most of these observations involve the survival of earthworks of abandoned ridge-and-furrow cultivation, presumed medieval, at locations

not yet adequately recorded in the respective County SMRs (to which they have now been communicated, appended to a full report on the fieldwork): notably, two sizeable blocks of good preservation in Derbyshire, one on the floodplain between Repton and Willington (previously put to use in aiding interpretation of The Buries enclosure – Guilbert 2004, 248), the other in Egginton parish, on a river-terrace situated north-west of the confluence of the Trent with the Dove (being part a more extensive area of ridge-and-furrow mapped from air-photographs – Dalton 1991, 88, map 3); both are worthy of continued preservation and detailed recording. It is of some interest that these earthworks in Repton parish should remain so well defined, for it has become evident from the holes opened in the course of the power-line project that some part of the ridge-and-furrow there overlies a considerable thickness of alluvium and that it has not become smothered in such deposits, thereby implying a negligible build-up of alluvium through post-medieval and more recent centuries.

Reference

- Dalton, R. (1991) Maps of the Egginton Enclosure Award: reconstruction and interpretation. *DAJ* 111: 85–92.
- Guilbert, G. (2004) Borough Hill, Walton-upon-Trent — if not a hillfort, then what? *DAJ* 124: 242–57.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of various sponsors of Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit in the publication of this paper.