

**THORNBRIDGE EDUCATION CENTRE,  
ASHFORD, DERBYSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY FOR  
COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME  
UPLAND OPTION**

**2004**

**Alice Ullathorne**

**Survey Archaeologist**

***CULTURAL HERITAGE TEAM  
PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY***

*© Peak District National Park Authority 2004*

## INTRODUCTION

The archaeological survey of this area was carried out in 2004 for Thornbridge Education Centre, the owner, as part of the assessment for DEFRA's Countryside Stewardship Scheme Upland Option, by staff of the National Park Authority (our ref. FCE 2272). The survey area comprised one small holding south-west of Great Longstone. The principal buildings of the Thornbridge Education Centre (feature 1) are located at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference SK 197 711.

The survey comprised a systematic search of the farmland, and discoveries were sketch-plotted on an Ordnance Survey 1:2500 base map (the Peak District National Park Authority's Phase 1 survey standard). Time did not allow an extensive archive search to be undertaken and this report should not be taken as a history of the farmland, but one that largely concentrates on the identified archaeology.

The Glossary explains archaeological terms that are used in the text.

It should be noted that although Thornbridge Education Centre was surveyed systematically, this was done rapidly over a short period of time. There may well be some archaeological features which were missed, particularly if the earthworks are low to the ground. This is inevitable since some features are only visible under specific light conditions, for example when the sun is low or at a particular angle.

A further problem to note is that any archaeological feature visible at the surface may also have buried deposits beneath it. These include foundations, postholes, pits and artefacts. Pits in particular often contain deposits which tell us much about the people who dug them. Where surface earthworks have been levelled, often hundreds of years ago, the buried archaeology can often still remain. Thus, there may well be further important archaeological sites on the farmland that still remain undiscovered.

PROJECT:  
Thornbridge Education Centre,  
Ashford-in-the-Water

ILLUSTRATION No. 1

TITLE: Location of survey area

FIELDWORK DATE: March 2004

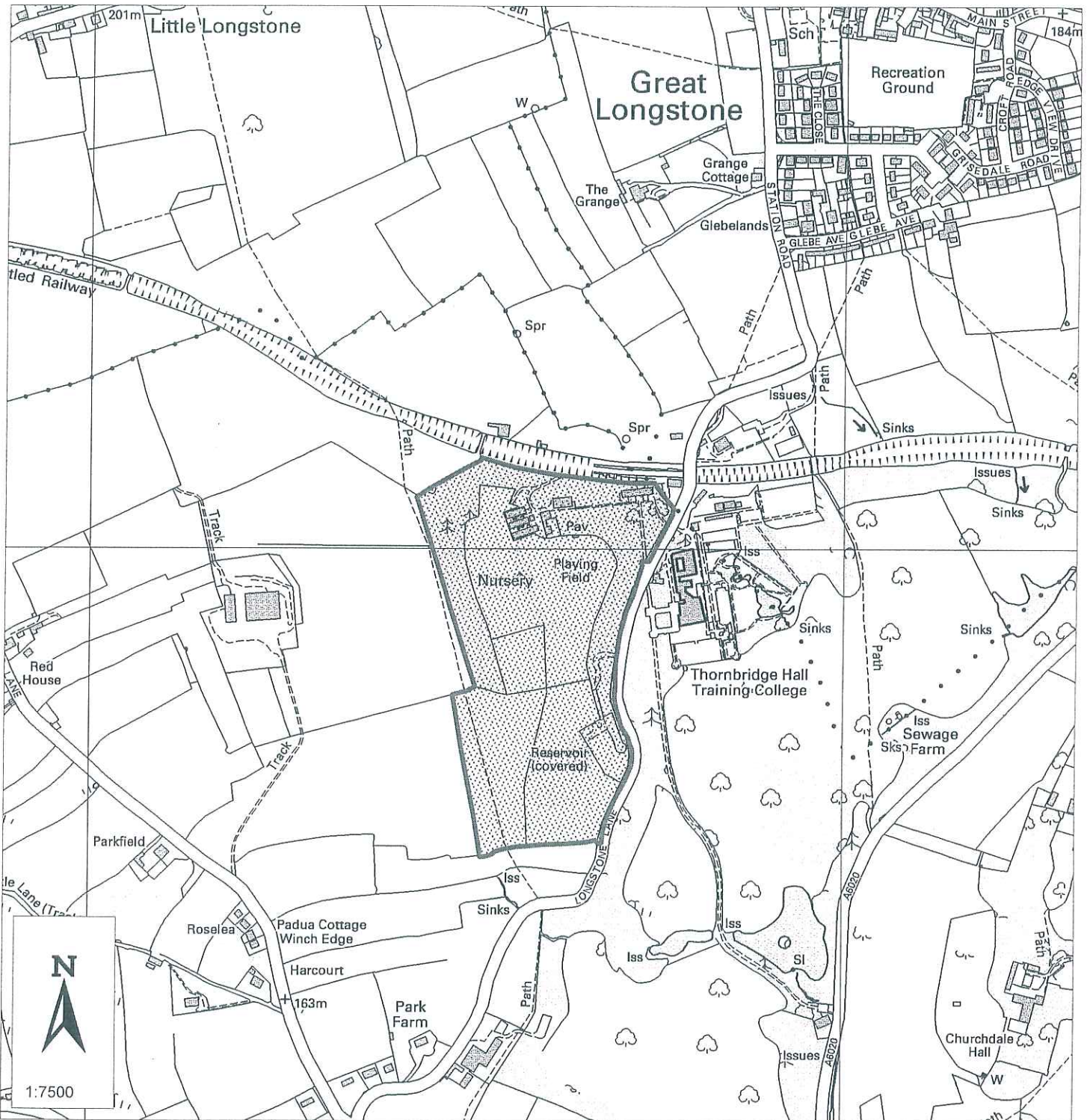
DRAWING DATE: September 2008

DRAFTSPERSON: AJU



NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Cultural Heritage Team  
Peak District National Park Authority  
Aldern House, Baslow Road  
Bakewell, Derbyshire. DE45 1AE  
Tel: (01629) 816383  
Fax: (01629) 816310  
Email: archol@peakdistrict-npa.gov.uk



## CATALOGUE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

### Archaeological Features

#### 1. Woodlands – Entrance Lodge (Listed Building 228/3/52, Grade II) (Illus. 2)

Early 20<sup>th</sup> century entrance lodge to Thornbridge Hall (now disused) from the station on the Midland Railway (photographed). It is built in a neo-Tudor style and was split into four houses after it went out of use as a lodge. It is now used as the Thornbridge Education Centre.

The 'U'-shaped lodge is built from coursed and squared limestone blocks with sandstone details and a plain tile roof with plain ridge tiles. It has moulded coping stones and kneelers on the gables and overhanging eaves on all the roofs. All of the windows are leaded. The drains are all made of lead and some have a moulded lion. The lodge is made up of five parts. The central range has a coach arch through the centre flanked by two towers on the southern side. To the east and west are north to south running ranges that will be described as the east wing and west wing below. Finally there are ranges connecting the wings to either side with the central range. All of the parts of the lodge are two storeys high with the exception of the three-storey towers on the southern side of the central range. There are seven chimney stacks on the walls of the lodge, five of which have diamond-plan shafts. There are four later single-storey offshuts on the north side of the lodge and one to the west.

The central range has four bays and the coach arch goes through the eastern of the two middle bays. The coach arch is four-centred. On the eastern side of the interior of the archway there are two doors and in the opposite wall there is a window. The doors and window have moulded lintel and jambs (the details of the doors in the eastern wall are the same as that in the southern wall of the western tower). The twelve-panelled doors have rectangular leaded windows above with a grid pattern with circles at the intersections. Above the arch in the southern wall there is a moulded surround with three roll moulds that terminate two-thirds of the way down the archway, below which the surround is chamfered. Above the chamfered arch in the northern wall is a moulded hoodmould terminating in decorative stops. Above the archway is a moulded string-course running round the range and the towers to the south. There is a second moulded string-course above the first-floor windows. Above the archway in the southern elevation is a coat of arms (with moulded hoodmould) divided in four and depicting lions and sheaves of corn. There is a dragon above and feathers and banners to either side. Above the coat of arms is a crenellated band and above that is a corbelled parapet with three semi-circular headed crenellations. To either side of the towers the corbelled parapet has plain castellations. To the north the corbelled parapet has five semi-circular headed crenellations with a Dutch gable above the archway. In the southern wall is a four-panelled door with a light with diamond-shaped leading. The doorway has plain jambs and moulded hoodmould. The windows are sunk and have chamfered mullions and details. The leading in windows has a grid with diamonds on the intersections. In the southern wall there are three ground-floor three-light windows with two horizontal transoms further dividing the windows. At first-floor level there are three three-light windows with single transoms and two two-light windows above the coach arch. Against the eastern bay of the northern wall there is a square projecting bay with windows at ground and first-floor level sweeping around the bays. The windows in the northern wall of the bay are two-light and those to the east and west are one-light. Those at ground-floor level are double-transomed. To either side of the bay at ground-floor level are one-light windows with a moulded hoodmould. Above the archway in the north wall are two two-light windows. To the west of the archway is a transomed one-light window. Against the western of the middle bays on the northern wall there is a canted oriel at first-floor level with roll-moulded base below. The single-transomed windows sweep around the bay. In the northern wall of the bay the window has two lights and those on the angles have a single light. On the north-western corner of the central range is an octagonal oriel with transomed windows in three of the sides with roll-moulded base below. Between the oriels in the northern wall there is a ground- and first-floor transomed three-light window. In the eastern wall of the central range there is a ground-floor door and a two-light window (with plan rectangular leading). On the eastern and western walls of the range there

are chimney-stacks with three diamond-shaped shafts. Below the eastern oriel is a single-storey stone offshut in the north-eastern angled wall. Below the western oriel is a single-storey brick offshut with a door in the southern wall. Against the western wall of the central range and the southern wall of the range that connects it with the west wing is a single-storey stone offshut.

The three-storey octagonal towers flanking the southern archway of the central range have castellated parapets. Apart from the two string-courses that run around the whole of the central range there is a moulded string-course near the top of the towers. Just below the top string-course in the southern walls there are oval windows (with rectangular leading) in a rectangular surround. In the western tower there is a door in the southern wall with moulded lintel and jambs (the details of the door are the same as for those in the eastern interior wall in the archway through the range). In the south-western wall there are two small rectangular windows with a third in the south-eastern wall. In the south-western wall of the eastern tower there are two small rectangular windows with a third in the south-eastern wall.

The southern wall of the west and east wings have a two-storey canted bay with windows sweeping round the bay at ground-floor and first-floor level. The windows have flush mullions and surround, plain rectangular leading, projecting decorative hoodmoulds and lintels and there is a crenellated decoration on the edge of the roof of the bays. Above and below the first-floor windows there are moulded string-courses, the lower of which runs around the whole of the lodge. The southern walls of the wings have Dutch gables. In the eastern wall of the west wing and the western wall of the east wing there are small rectangular windows at ground-floor and first-floor levels. The lower floor of the northern walls of the wings are obscured by later offshuts. In the west wing a door and two windows can be made out at ground-floor level. It is likely that the same arrangement was present in the east wing. Above the ground-floor level in the northern walls of the west and east wings is a moulded string-course with a chamfered three-light window at first-floor level with plain rectangular leading and a second moulded string-course above. The gables of the northern walls of the wings have a square plinth at the point upon which the square chimney shafts sit. On the plinth there are semi-circular carvings with 'M' motifs. In the eastern wall of the east wing and the western wall of the west wing there is a two-light double-transomed dormer window with a Dutch gable and a triangular pediment above the window and chamfered mullions (elements of the design are the same as seen in the dormer window in the southern wall of the ranges connecting the central range with the east and west wings). On the western wall of the west wing and the eastern wall of the east wing there are chimney-stacks with two diamond-shaped shafts. In addition on the western wall of the west wing there is another chimney-stack with a single diamond-shaped shaft. On the northern walls of the west and east wings are chimney-stacks with single square shafts. Against the western wall of the west wing is a single-storey stone offshut with two small rectangular windows in the western wall and a third in the southern wall. Against the northern wall of the west wing is a wood and glass offshut, which is probably a greenhouse or conservatory. Against the northern wall of the east wing is a single-storey stone offshut.

In the walls at an angle between the west and east wings and the ranges connecting them with the central range there is an elaborate door at ground-floor level and a two-light chamfered window with moulded hoodmould and sill. The doors have bracketed hoodmoulds and moulded architraves. The four-panelled doors have a light at the top with a grid pattern in the leading with circles at the intersections. On the point of the gables there is a ball finial.

In the southern walls of the ranges connecting the east and west wings with the central range there is a three-light transomed chamfered window at ground-floor level. At first-floor level there are two-light dormer windows with a Dutch gable and triangular pediment above the window and mullions made of circular-section columns (elements of the design are the same as in the western wall of the west wing and the eastern wall of the east wing). In the northern walls of the ranges connecting the east and west wings with the central range there are three-light chamfered windows. At first-floor level there are small rectangular dormer windows with peaked cap pediment with a curved above.

Thornbridge Hall is located at the seat of the Longsdon family from the 12<sup>th</sup> century to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1790 John Morewood bought the hall and considerably enlarged it. The house

was entirely rebuilt in a neo-Tudor style in the 1850s and 1860s by Frederick Craven ([www.youandyesterday.co.uk/articles/Thornbridge\\_Hall](http://www.youandyesterday.co.uk/articles/Thornbridge_Hall); [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thornbridge\\_Hall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thornbridge_Hall); Pevsner 1978). From 1896 George Marples extended the house, built lodges and cottages, landscaped the park and gardens and built his own private railway station. From 1929 to 1945 Charles Boot (a well known Sheffield entrepreneur, the son of Henry Boot) owned the property. Within that time he brought many items to the hall and grounds from Clumber Park and Derwent Hall ([www.youandyesterday.co.uk/articles/Thornbridge\\_Hall](http://www.youandyesterday.co.uk/articles/Thornbridge_Hall); [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thornbridge\\_Hall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thornbridge_Hall)). Charles Boot's company was responsible for the demolition of Clumber after a fire in 1938. After 1945 the estate was taken over by Sheffield City Council. Woodlands was built in 1903-4 in the same neo-Tudor style as Thornbridge Hall (Pevsner 1978). It was built as a railway entrance to the Hall from the private railway station built by the owner of the hall, George Marples, around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **2. Wyedale House / Home Farm – Cottage (Listed Building 228/3/53, Grade II) (Illus. 2)**

Early 20<sup>th</sup> century cottage now used as part of Thornbridge Education Centre (photographed). The cottage has a walled garden, with two footgates, to the east, with square ashlar piers surmounted by ball finials and with cast-iron gates. To the west is a small elaborate early 20<sup>th</sup> century outbuilding.

Wyedale House is built from random limestone rubble with sandstone details and a plain tile roof with plain ridge tiles. The oldest part of the building is the one and a half-storey circular section to the south. This was built in about 1903 as an estate cottage. It currently has four chamfered windows at ground-floor level. Those on the south side have three-lights, the western has two-lights and those to the east have one-light. Above the ground-floor windows there is a moulded string-course. There are wooden gabled dormer windows to the west, east and south. The windows are semi-circular headed with two smaller rectangular lights below. The leading in the windows has a grid with diamonds on the intersections (similar to those in the central range of the Woodlands [feature 1]). In the centre of the roof is an octagonal stone chimney-stack with castellated top and crenellated decoration below.

Sometime between 1903 and 1922 the cottage was extended to the north (Ordnance Survey 1922). All of the later parts of the building are single-storey with plain flush details to the doors and windows (except where stated). A long range was built from the circular section towards the north. To the east of the northern end of this there was a shorter range and further east is a flat-topped building. At the intersection of the long and short ranges to the north there is a circular building. To the east of the southern part of the range and to the north-east of the original circular building is an offshut. There are three ashlar stone rectangular chimney-stacks on the extension. One is on the ridge of the long range, one is on the gable end of the short range and the last is on the eastern wall of the short range.

In the western wall of the long range there are two windows and two doors with a third window in the angle with the circular building to the south. The northern door is six-panelled. The southern ten-panelled door has a decorative bracketed wooden hoodmould. Against the western wall there are two rectangular projecting bays. The northern has four windows and the southern has seven windows in the western wall and a window in the northern and southern walls of the bay. In the eastern wall there is a door, and there is a window in the angle between the eastern wall and the northern wall of the offshut to the east of the long range. The offshut has a door and two windows in the eastern wall. The circular building to the north of the long range has a door to the north and windows to the north-west and north-east. Above there is a plain string-course and at the top the wall is coped and has a castellated parapet. In the southern wall of the short range to the east of the northern part of the long range there are two blocked semi-circular headed windows that have been replaced by a single segmental arch headed window. There is a door and a window in the northern wall of the shorter range. In the southern wall of the flat-roofed section to the east of the short range there is a door with stone steps below. In the north-eastern wall is a window. In the north-east corner is a square offshut with a string-course through the middle supported by decorative corbels. On the coped wall there is a circular stone with quatrefoil decoration.

The stone building to the west of Wyedale House is built from sandstone ashlar with coped walls and a flat roof. In the eastern wall there are large sliding wooden doors, a round window and three ionic columns. In the northern elevation there is a six-panelled door and two windows. The building was constructed some time between 1898 and 1922 (Ordnance Survey 1898; 1922). The modern Ordnance Survey map of the area names the site "Nursery"; this refers to the modern buildings to the west of Wyedale House.

### **3. Garden Walls, Gateways, Driveway and Urns (Listed Structure 228/3/51, Grade II) (Illus. 2)**

High early 20<sup>th</sup> century garden walls with a main gateway, to the south of Woodlands (feature 1), with stone piers surmounted by carved stone urns and wrought-iron gates (photographed). The sunken driveway to Woodlands (feature 1) has an avenue of three pairs of square ashlar pedestals with carved stone urns on top that were imported into the estate, probably from other country houses (photographed). Within the garden wall to the north-east is a stone footgate with cast-iron gates (photographed). Either side of the drive just inside the entrance are stone steps with ball finials. To the north of the western steps is a stone pedestal surmounted by a ball finial.

The driveway connected the railway with Thornbridge Hall to the south after crossing Longstone Lane. The driveway is sunk up to 0.8m deep. The urns flanking the driveway have elaborate fluted and scrolled bases and fluted sides decorated with figurative scenes. The bell-like lids are topped by flame finials. The garden walls (up to 1.5m high) are built from squared limestone blocks with rounded triangular-section sandstone coping stones. They were built in around 1903. The main entrance has plain square piers, and the urns above have fluted bases and are decorated with foliage swags and horseshoe motifs. The gates have arrowheads at the base, vertical bars above with scroll decoration to the sides and centre. There is a curling scroll decoration at the top. To the sides there are fixed gates in a similar style. Along the wall to the north-east the door has a Tudor-style gateway with a four-centred arch incised into the lintel and it has moulded jambs. Over the doorway is a stepped parapet. At the northern end of the garden wall (50m to the south-east of Woodlands) there is a circular rubble pier and a square stone pier. Both are topped with ball finials.

From 1929 to 1945 Charles Boot (a well known Sheffield entrepreneur, the son of Henry Boot) owned Thornbridge Hall. Within that time he brought many items to the hall and grounds from Clumber Park and Derwent Hall ([www.youandyesterday.co.uk/articles/Thornbridge\\_Hall](http://www.youandyesterday.co.uk/articles/Thornbridge_Hall); [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thornbridge\\_Hall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thornbridge_Hall)). Charles Boot's company was responsible for the demolition of Clumber after a fire in 1938. It is likely that the urns at this feature were brought from Clumber Park.

### **4. Pedestal and Urn (Illus. 2)**

Early 20<sup>th</sup> century square ashlar pedestal surmounted by a carved stone urn imported into the estate, probably from other country houses (photographed).

The urn has a fluted base and top. It is stepped down to the pedestal. On the sides there are engraved oval shapes with foliage below. From 1929 to 1945 Charles Boot (a well known Sheffield entrepreneur, the son of Henry Boot) owned Thornbridge Hall. Within that time he brought many items to the hall and grounds from Clumber Park and Derwent Hall ([www.youandyesterday.co.uk/articles/Thornbridge\\_Hall](http://www.youandyesterday.co.uk/articles/Thornbridge_Hall); [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thornbridge\\_Hall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thornbridge_Hall)). Charles Boot's company was responsible for the demolition of Clumber after a fire in 1938. It is likely that the urns at this feature were brought from Clumber Park.

### **5. Possible Garden Terrace (Illus. 2)**

Lynchet, with stone steps down the middle, possibly defining the eastern and southern edges of a garden terrace of probable early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

The lynchet is up to 1m high. The garden is not marked on any available map of the area.

### **6. Stone Table (Illus. 2)**

Carved marble pedestal with a circular sandstone table-top (photographed) presumably of early 20<sup>th</sup> century date, although the pedestal does look as if it might have been reused from elsewhere. Just to the south are two ridges; these either relate to the ridge and furrow of feature 8 or are planting ridges.

The ridges are approximately 4m wide and up to 0.5m high.

### **7. Bird Bath (Illus. 2)**

Carved sandstone bird bath, of Post Medieval date (photographed). This was probably imported in from another country estate.

### **8. Ridge and Furrow (Illus. 2)**

Three areas of low broad Medieval-type ridge and furrow, pre-dating the creation of Thornbridge Hall and grounds, that were presumably once continuous.

The ridges are up to 7m wide and 0.8m high. In parts the ridge and furrow looks disturbed. The area was in the township of Ashford in the Medieval period so this ridge and furrow was probably created by people from Ashford.

### **9. Building (site of) (Illus. 2)**

Site of a small rectangular building (now gone) documented as existing in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The building was created some time before 1824, the date of the earliest available map of the area to show buildings (anon. 1824). It was removed some time between 1898 and 1922 (Ordnance Survey 1898; 1922).

### **10. Ridge and Furrow / Strip Lynchets / Field Boundary Lynchets and Banks (Illus. 2)**

Two areas of degraded broad Medieval-type ridge and furrow to either side of a broad bank that either marks the edge of a Medieval-type cultivation strip or the site of a removed field boundary of Post Medieval and/or earlier date. To the west are six lynchets and one bank defining the edges of Medieval-type cultivation terraces or marking the sites of Post Medieval and/or earlier field boundaries. All these features pre-date the creation of Thornbridge Hall and grounds.

The ridges are up to 4.5m wide and 0.2m high. The bank is approximately 4m wide and up to 0.3m high. The lynchets are up to 0.5m high. The area was in the township of Ashford in the Medieval period so this ridge and furrow was probably created by people from Ashford.

### **11. Dew Pond (Illus. 2)**

Medium-sized 19<sup>th</sup> century dew pond, now dry. The hollow has been partly filled by slope wash to the east. To the west the pond is embanked.



The pond is embanked to the west, up to 0.5m high. It was created some time between 1824 and 1879 (anon. 1824; Ordnance Survey 1879).

## **12. Field Boundary Lynchet (Illus. 2)**

Lynchet marking the site of a removed field boundary of Post Medieval and/or earlier date.

The lynchet is up to 0.3m high. The boundary is not marked on any available map of the area suggesting it either went out of use some time before 1752 (the date of the earliest available map of the area) or that it was only used for a short period of time (anon. 1752).

## **13. Decorative Plantation Screens and Plantings (Illus. 2)**

Late 19<sup>th</sup> century decorative plantation screens and plantings in the parkland of Thornbridge Hall.

The plantation screens to the east and north were created some time between 1879 and 1898 (Ordnance Survey 1879; 1898). Between 1898 and 1922 the land around Woodlands and to the south (in the survey area) was emparked, the decorative plantations were created and the plantation screen to the west was created and that to the north was extended to the south (Ordnance Survey 1898; 1922). From 1896 George Marples extended Thornbridge Hall, built lodges and cottages, landscaped the park and gardens and built his own private railway station ([www.youandyesterday.co.uk/articles/Thornbridge\\_Hall](http://www.youandyesterday.co.uk/articles/Thornbridge_Hall); [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thornbridge\\_Hall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thornbridge_Hall)). It is likely that the screens both date from around this period of the improvement of the estate.

### **Other Features – Not for Conservation**

## **14. Roller (Illus. 2)**

Fragment of a Post Medieval sandstone roller (photographed).

PROJECT: Thornbridge Education Centre, Ashford in the Water

ILLUSTRATION No. 2

TITLE: Location of archaeological features

FIELDWORK DATE: March 2004

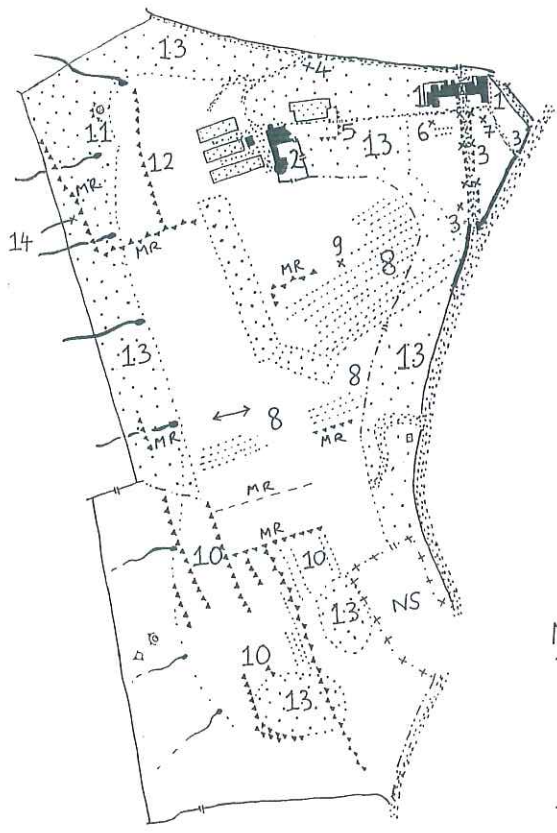
DRAWING DATE: March 2004

DRAFTSPERSON: AJU

- KEY
- WALL
  - - - METAL RAILINGS
  - + + FENCE
  - | - GATEWAY
  - | -| BLOCKED GATEWAY
  - ▼▼▼ LYNCHET
  - ▲▲▲ BANK
  - - - DITCH
  - - - BROAD RIDGE AND FURROW
  - ↔ DEGRADED RIDGE AND FURROW
  - TRADITIONAL BUILDING
  - ▣ MODERN BUILDING
  - ▤ TRACKWAY IN USE
  - QUARRY PIT / HOLLOW
  - ∩ NATURAL SLOPE
  - ⊙ POND
  - ⋯ WOODLAND
  - MR BOUNDARY REMOVED SOMETIME AFTER 1880
  - NS NOT SURVEYED
  - X OTHER FEATURE / SITE OF FEATURE



NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
 Cultural Heritage Team  
 Peak District National Park Authority  
 Aldern House, Baslow Road  
 Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1AE  
 Tel: 01629 816383  
 Fax: 01629 816310  
 Email: archol@peakdistrict-  
 npa.gov.uk



## THORNBRIDGE EDUCATION CENTRE: ASSESSMENT OF RELATIVE SITE IMPORTANCE

The following is an assessment of the relative importance of the archaeological features discovered within the survey area. It is made by the National Park Survey Archaeologists in the light of those archaeological features known throughout the region at the time of the survey.

<u>LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE</u>	<u>FEATURE CATALOGUE NUMBERS</u>
Archaeological Features of National or Regional Importance	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13
Archaeological Features of Local Importance	9, 11, 12
Standing Buildings of National or Regional Importance	1, 2, 3
Standing Buildings of Local Importance	-
Other Features – Not for Conservation	14

Features of National or Regional Importance are all-important to the understanding of the archaeology of the Peak District and in many cases the wider area. Sometimes individual features of lesser importance are classified as regionally important because when they are put together with other features as a group they take on regional importance. All contain valuable information which ideally should be recorded in greater detail than the brief inspection notes made during the rapid survey described here. This would take the form of at least a more detailed survey. If at some future time a feature in this category comes under threat of damage or destruction, excavation may well be desirable if conservation measures cannot be negotiated. Some of the features in the Nationally or Regionally Important category in the Peak District have been designated as Scheduled Monuments and are protected by government legislation. There are no Scheduled Monuments in the survey area.

Locally-important features are those which are important to the archaeology of the locality. Such features should not be regarded as of lesser value for they contribute to the development and character of the local landscape.

Standing buildings are listed separately because they present different management problems. In some cases, they are protected under the Listed Building legislation. This separate listing does not mean that many buildings are any less important archaeologically than any of the archaeological features listed as being of National or Regional Importance. Listed buildings in the survey area are features 1, 2 and 3.

The last entry in the table above 'Other Features – Not for Conservation' includes all those features in the catalogue which for a variety of reasons we recommend should not be included in any conservation agreement. In some cases features are catalogued because they help explain features within the land-holding but they are not themselves on the holding. Examples are, farmhouses or halls that once were the focal point for land management, railway lines that run through a property, and milestones on roadside verges. Past finds of archaeological artefacts, such as small numbers of flint tools, in ploughed fields within the land holding are often random samples of the kind of finds that may well occur over wide areas of the landscape and

there is often little value in including these in agreements. In some cases modern or natural features are included in catalogues because they have in the past been wrongly interpreted as archaeological features or because there is a danger that this will occur in the future. For example, some clearly modern mounds may in years to come, once fully vegetated, look much like prehistoric barrows.

## SAFEGUARDING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE - WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Introduction

Many archaeological features have survived for hundreds or thousands of years. Each feature is a unique record of past human activity, even though it may be similar to others. Once destroyed, it is gone forever.

Archaeology covers all the remains of past human activity, from ancient stone circles to tracks used by our grandparents. It not only includes relics such as churches and castles, but also the walls used by farmers, and the mines and quarries that provided wealth from the ground.

An individual archaeological feature is not only important in its own right. Sometimes it is the general archaeological character of a landscape, including its many features of "local importance" that is archaeologically valuable. The 'humps and bumps' identified as archaeology may be the "tip of an iceberg" where more extensive archaeological deposits of settlement or ritual activity are concealed below ground.

Not all archaeological features or landscapes can be conserved, nor is it desirable that the countryside becomes a 'cultural theme park' where everything is fossilised. However, many features can be safeguarded at little or no inconvenience to landowners or tenants.

Many archaeological features have been destroyed in the past due to lack of knowledge of either their nature or value. Once farmers and other land managers realise that collectively such features tell us much about our past, they are usually happy to safeguard them, particularly if there is no significant conflict of interest with the profitable management of the holding.

Only a small number of the most important features are protected by law against ground disturbance and are designated as Scheduled Monuments by the Department of National Heritage, advised by English Heritage. Other features can be conserved under schemes such as DEFRA's Countryside Stewardship Scheme or the Peak District National Park Authority's Farm Conservation Scheme.

### Surface Remains

After having survived for hundreds or thousands of years, the safeguarding of archaeological features is often easy - they are usually best left well alone, by continuing the management traditional to the field or moor where they are found. When locating new activities or buildings, conservation of archaeological features can usually be achieved by choosing alternative sites which are of little archaeological importance, but which are no less convenient, agriculturally. Leaving archaeological mounds and hollows, rather than creating flat fields, often has little effect on the way fields are managed or on their profitability. Such a positive approach may be rewarded by conservation payments.

Ploughing and rotovating may sometimes be necessary from a financial point of view, however, fields containing important archaeological features can sometimes be managed as permanent grass and other fields ploughed with equal profit. In some cases, rotovating or direct drilling cause little damage now, because shallow ploughing has taken place several times over the last two centuries. In contrast, deep ploughing

may damage intact burials and other deposits. This said, any ploughing will reduce the height of earthworks.

Livestock damage can be reduced by placing supplementary feeders and licks away from archaeological features, or by moving their locations regularly where remains are extensive, for example, in areas with ridge and furrow.

Tree planting should avoid archaeological features where possible. To avoid damage from pulling or digging out stumps, it is better to cut the trees close to the ground and then to poison the stump and leave it to rot. Trees can seriously damage features through root activity. When trees have to be felled, on or near archaeological features, it is necessary to consider in which direction they will fall, where the brash will be burnt, and the route vehicles will take when removing the timber. With large plantations, archaeological advice should ideally be sought in advance of new planting, replanting, thinning and clear felling. The deep ploughing which is often undertaken when preparing for new moorland planting destroys most archaeological features.

Tipping and dumping (some of which may need planning permission) should be avoided as much as possible as they bury archaeological features, making their recognition and interpretation impossible. If tipping has to take place, a detailed photographic or measured record of archaeological features may be desirable before such takes place.

Vehicles repeatedly crossing an area will quickly cause damage, especially when the ground is wet. If archaeological features cannot be avoided, different routes should be followed each time they are crossed.

### **Field Boundaries**

Walls and hedges are often on old boundary lines which go back hundreds of years, and have archaeological landscape value even when they have recently been rebuilt or replanted. All furniture, such as sheep troughs, field stiles, gate posts and water troughs should be retained when walls are rebuilt.

### **Buildings**

A major exception to easy management of the archaeological resource is the care of standing buildings. Once these have become redundant they are expensive to maintain. If alternative uses or sources of repair grant cannot be found, then there is often little choice but to let them decay or to demolish them. In the sad event of this happening, the Peak Park Survey Archaeologists would welcome the opportunity to do further recording, either by taking photographs, or exceptionally, by making measured drawings.

New buildings (some of which will need planning permission) should, wherever possible, be sited to avoid archaeological features.

### **Metal Detecting**

Metal detecting can cause major damage to a feature and the important information it may contain and should not be allowed to take place on archaeological features. Such activities rarely produce anything of financial value and often the only finds that can date a feature are removed. Knowing that a find is from a feature is usually of little use unless its exact relationship to particular structures and layers is known.

### **Specialist Advice**

The above notes present a few general guidelines on good practice which we hope will help safeguard the archaeology without causing serious inconvenience.

If there are any specific questions about management or planned development then please seek advice from the National Park Cultural Heritage Team. Normally the archaeologists can be contacted through the Countryside and Economy Team advisers, or through Development Control caseworkers.

If buildings have to be demolished or earthworks levelled, then detailed archaeological recording work should ideally be undertaken. If several months notice is given, then this allows a considered course of action to be followed through, and work to be carried out with minimal inconvenience and delay to the landowner.

Ideally a holistic approach to management should be adopted that also includes ecological and landscape considerations. The Authority's Countryside and Economy Team offers guidance on all such issues.

## GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

ASHLAR	An architectural term for high quality well-finished smooth stonework used in the superior parts of a vernacular building such as quoins and those around openings. Sometimes also used for main walls as a whole.
CASTELLATED	An architectural term for a structure with wall details built to look like battlements of a castle
COPING STONES	The top layer of stones on a wall. They can be either irregular or are rounded and may sit on top of a thin layer of through stones. Also known as cams.
HOOD MOULDS	An architectural term for protruding stone ridges over windows that have vertical ends.
KNEELER	An architectural term for a carved stone forming the termination at the eaves of a parapet or coping, often cut with a curved shape known as an ogee.
LYNCHET	An artificial bank formed by a build up or loss of soil against a field boundary, or deliberately produced as the downslope edge of a cultivation terrace on a slope. Lynchets are usually found running along slopes and accumulate soil upslope, derived from downward movement of soil after ploughing, which is trapped by the boundary. They also lose soil downslope where ploughing cuts into the slope. Where a boundary has later been removed, a lynchet is often the main surviving evidence that a wall or hedge once existed. Those forming cultivation terraces often appear in groups and date from the Medieval period and once lay within strip fields.
MEDIEVAL	Used here for the period that dates from the Norman Conquest of 1066 AD to approximately 1500 AD. Also known as the Middle Ages.
MULLIONS	An architectural term for vertical bars dividing lights in a window, which can be of stone or wood.
POST MEDIEVAL	The period after the Medieval, beginning at approximately 1500 AD and used here to include modern features up to the present day. This period is distinct from the Medieval because of the change from a feudal to capitalist society and the eventual rapid development of industrialisation from the 18 <sup>th</sup> century.
RIDGE AND FURROW	In many fields that have not been ploughed in recent years, the land is corrugated by many parallel low ridges, known as ridge and furrow. Earlier examples tend to be wider and more massive and have origins as Medieval cultivation strips (see Strip Fields). In some instances they continued to be used and modified until as late as the eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries. Narrow ridge and furrow tends to be nineteenth century in date (or from 1939-45 using old ploughs), resulting from ploughing using a fixed mould-board plough. There are rare exceptions to these trends, including pre-Medieval ridge and furrow of various forms, wide but straight examples of relatively modern date and hand dug examples of various dates. All types of ridge and furrow tend to occur on heavier, thicker soils, but are rare on the thin soils of the limestone plateau.
SILLS	An architectural term for lines of stonework dividing two storeys to accentuate the line; also called string courses.



- STRIP FIELDS** In the Medieval period, from at least as early as 1100 AD, Peak District villages were surrounded by large strip fields (often referred to as 'open fields' – in upland areas it is debatable whether some parts of them remained open for long and thus the term strip field is preferred). While often bounded at their edges by banks and ditches, internally they were initially divided into a large number of unfenced cultivation strips. The use of strips allowed a fair distribution of different grades of land between lord and villagers. This agricultural system was designed to favour the needs of arable cultivation. It seems to have been introduced into the area from the lowlands of the Midlands. In the Peak District, pastoral farming was of equal or greater importance, and some individual strips or parcels of strips were enclosed from an early date. Others, in less favourable locations in what are known as 'outfields', may have only been used in an intermittent way from the outset.
- TOWNSHIP** A term given to a subdivision of a Medieval parish, which have developed into civil parishes in many parts of the Peak District. Such divisions were usually given the name of the principal settlement therein but also included farmland and open pasture attached to that settlement.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- anon. 1752 Estate map of Ashford-in-the-Water Parish. Derbyshire Record Office.
- anon. 1824 Estate map of Ashford-in-the-Water Parish. Chatsworth: Chatsworth House Archives 2737
- Ordnance Survey 1840 One Inch to a Mile map (unpublished two inch version), First Edition, Sheet 81 SE.
- Ordnance Survey 1879 Twenty-Five Inch to a Mile maps, First Edition, Derbyshire sheets XXIII.6.
- Ordnance Survey 1898 Twenty-Five Inch to a Mile maps, Second Edition, Derbyshire sheets XXIII.6.
- Ordnance Survey 1922 Twenty-Five Inch to a Mile maps, Third Edition, Derbyshire sheets XXIII.6.
- Pevsner, N. 1978 *The Buildings of England: Derbyshire* Harmondsworth: Penguin. 2nd ed.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to the Thornbridge Education Centre for giving permission to survey the land. The Derbyshire Record Office and the Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement gave access to maps as noted in the Bibliography. Sarah Whiteley and John Barnatt provided information, advice and comment. Philippa Davey and Steve Manchester carried out the duplication of illustrations and the binding of the report.

Report Completed 09/2008

M:\shared\archol\Reports\Agri-environment\Countryside\_Stewardship\_Scheme\CSS\_2004\Thornbridge\_Education\_Centre\_(FCE\_2272)\Thornbridge\_Hall\_(FCE2272)\_Report