

THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK,
ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER AND GREAT LONGSTONE
PARISHES, DERBYSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY 1995

by

Bill Bevan

PEAK NATIONAL PARK ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

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HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

The following archaeological report is a result of a field survey of the farm or land undertaken by a Peak National Park survey archaeologist. It is divided into nine major parts to allow easy access to different aspects of the information.

The Summary describes changes in land use over time and notes the main archaeological sites.

Use this section for a brief overview of the development through time of the survey area as an archaeological landscape.

The Introduction describes when the survey was conducted and for whom, and its scale and scope.

Use this section for brief details of the date of survey and other technical details

Part 1 is a concise description of the types and the date of archaeological features identified.

Use this section for an overview of the archaeological features within the survey area.

Part 2 is a description of the farm field boundaries.

Use this section for an overview of the existing field system.

Part 3 discusses changes in land use over time, based on the sites identified on the ground and from basic documentary work.

Use this section for an outline of the development through time of the survey area as an archaeological landscape and for assessing the archaeological character of different parts of the area surveyed.

Part 4 is the map, showing all the archaeological features recognised by the survey.

Use this section to find out the locations of sites within the survey area.

Part 5 is the catalogue, listing all the archaeological features discovered by the survey.

Use this section for detailed description and an interpretation of each site.

Part 6 is an assessment of relative importance.

Use this section as a guide to the importance of individual archaeological features in the survey area.

Part 7 is an outline guide to managing archaeological features.

Use this section for general suggestions on how archaeology can be managed in the landscape without undue interference with usual land management practice.

Part 8 is a glossary.

Use this section for definitions of archaeological terms used in the report.

Part 9 is a bibliography of published and archive documents consulted in the writing of this report.

Use this section if more background or detailed information on the types of site found within the survey area is required.

In addition, in the Appendices there is a description of all the archive material produced in conjunction with the survey and where it is kept, and a note of how the survey information was recorded.

PROJECT	THORNBURIDGE HALL PARK
ILLUSTRATION NO.	1
TITLE	LOCATION OF SURVEY AREA
FIELDWORK DATE	NOV. 1995
DRAWING DATE	APRIL 1996
DRAFTSPERSON	WJB
REF.	/

KEY	● LOCATION OF SURVEY AREA
	— MAJOR ROADS
	— BOUNDARY OF NATIONAL PARK

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THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK,
ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER AND GREAT LONGSTONE PARISHES, DERBYSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY 1995

Bill Bevan





SUMMARY

Thornbridge Hall Park is an area of open parkland occupying the gentle limestone slopes to the south and east of Thornbridge Hall. The survey covered all of the parkland east of Longstone Lane and did not include the hall itself or the garden. Archaeological features date from the medieval period to the 20th century. Five of these are of national or regional importance (see features 1, 3, 4, 10, 14).

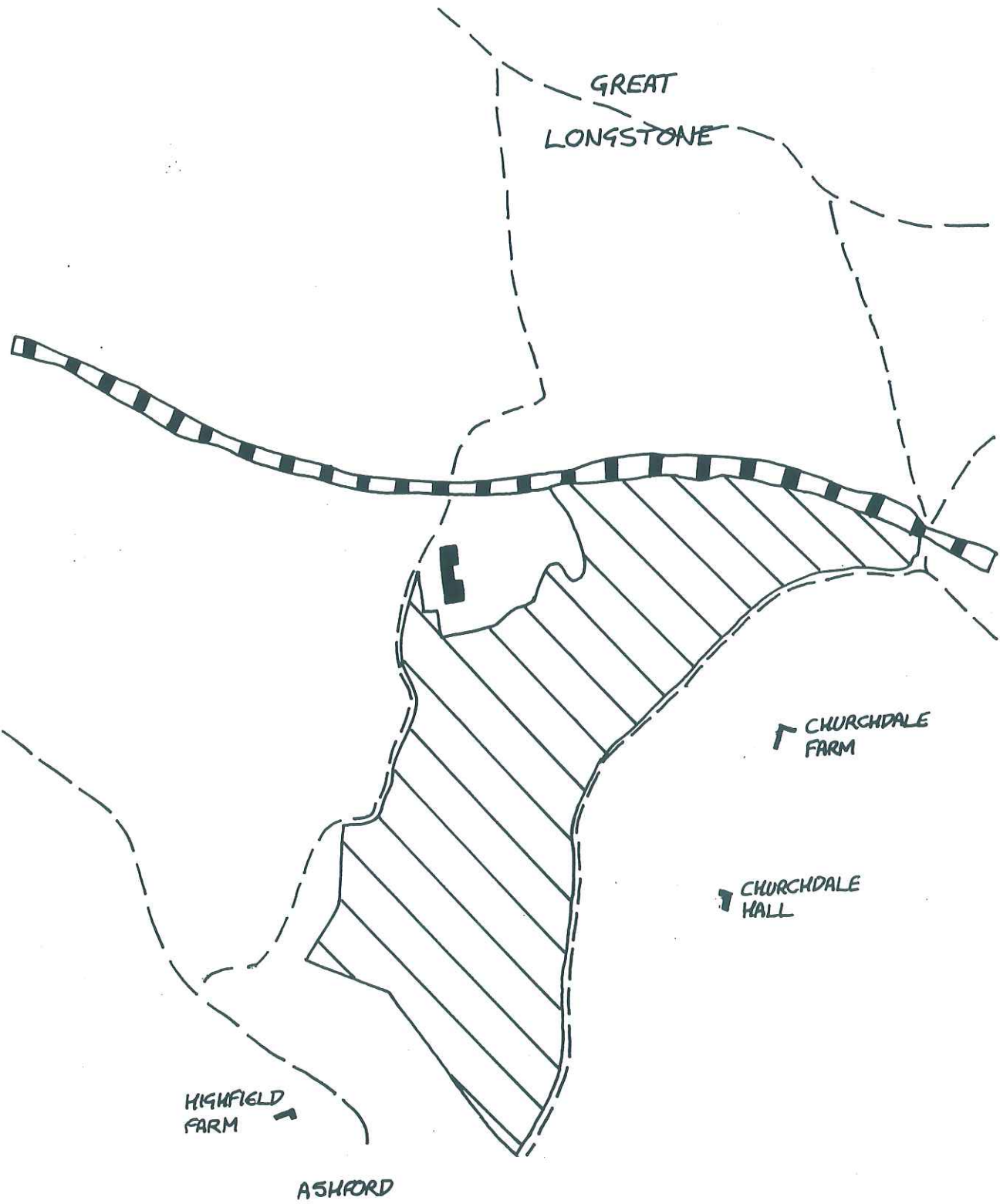
The earliest archaeological remains found within the park are the extensive ridge and furrow, headlands and lynchets of the Ashford-in-the-Water open field. The open field was established in the medieval period, possibly before the Norman Conquest of 1066. During the post-medieval period the open field was progressively enclosed so that by the mid-18th century only small areas of the field were held communally. By mid-18th century most of the survey area was enclosed with a pattern of curving field walls forming narrow fields.

The first Thornbridge Hall was built between 1752 and 1790. During the late 19th century the hall and gardens were redesigned and the area of the park bought. The field walls were removed and the current park created. During the mid-20th century Charles Boot, the then owner of the hall and park, acquired the numerous urns and statues for the grounds.

PROJECT	THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK
ILLUSTRATION NO.	2
TITLE	SURVEY AREA
FIELDWORK DATE	NOV. 1995
DRAWING DATE	APRIL 1996
DRAFTSPERSON	WJB
REF.	

KEY	
	THORNBRIDGE HALL
	SURVEY AREA
	MONSAL TRAIL
	MAJOR ROADS

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THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY 1995

INTRODUCTION

The archaeological survey of this area was carried out in November 1995, for Mr Brocklehurst, the tenant, and Sheffield City Council, the owner, as part of the assessment for the MAFF Countryside Stewardship Scheme (see figs. 1, 2). Survey comprised systematic search of the park, and discoveries were sketch-plotted on an Ordnance Survey 1:2500 base (the Board's Phase 1 survey standard). Time did not allow extensive archive research to be undertaken, thus this report should not be taken as a history of the park, but one that largely concentrates on the extant archaeology. For buildings and structures of the hall and garden refer to the survey completed by Catherine Mates (Mates 1993).

PART 1

THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

None of the archaeological features inspected in 1995 had been recorded previously in the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The 1995 survey recorded a total of 5 nationally or regionally important features, comprising medieval open field ridge and furrow (feature 1), South Lodge (feature 3), the South Lodge gateway (feature 4), garden furniture situated in the park (feature 10) and the north-eastern 'dummy' entrance (feature 14). Two of these, South Lodge and the adjacent entrance, are designated as Listed Buildings. A further 12 locally important archaeological features have been identified.

Features of National and Regional Importance

A number of important archaeological features exist in the park that are medieval to post-medieval in date.

The earliest important remains are medieval and comprise the Ashford-in-the-Water open field (feature 1).

The remaining important features are all products of the conversion of this area of land into a park in the late-19th century. Three are found in the boundary of the park, South Lodge (feature 3), South Lodge entrance (feature 4) and the north-eastern 'dummy' entrance (feature 14), and were created to emphasise the importance of the resident family to the visitor or passer-by. The final important feature comprises four pieces of garden furniture (feature 10) which were brought to the park in the 1930s. They are found in the park by the entrance to the garden rather than the garden itself. It is possible that these have been moved from their original locations.

Features of Local Importance

The majority of archaeological features of local importance within the surveyed area are of post-medieval date. The majority are again the result of the creation of the parkland; the three large ponds (feature 5), driveway (feature 8), two trackways (features 11, 13) and decorated gate posts (features 15, 16). There is a revetted trough (feature 6) and a small pond (feature 7) which presumably provided water for livestock but which appear to be contemporary with the park. There is a field barn (feature 2), a small lynchet (feature 12), a set of stone steps (feature 17) and a stone-getting quarry (feature 9).

PART 2

THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK: FIELD BOUNDARIES

While field boundaries are very much part of the archaeology of an area, they are not easily listed in a catalogue because of their number and nature. Individually they may superficially seem of limited archaeological value, but put together they are of crucial importance in defining the character of the archaeological landscape. Those field boundaries comprising the currently used field system, even when ruined but shown on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map, are not included in the catalogue of sites given below (Part 5). Due to this, and the archaeological importance of field boundaries in the landscape, the field system is described here.

The only currently used wall in the park is the wall which encloses the parkland itself. The remaining boundaries are metal fences.

PROJECT	THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK
ILLUSTRATION NO.	3
TITLE	BOUNDARY CHANGES 1752 TO 1824
FIELDWORK DATE	NOV. 1995
DRAWING DATE	APRIL 1996
DRAFTSPERSON	WJB
REF.	1

KEY	
	BOUNDARY ADDED BETWEEN 1752 & 1824
	BOUNDARY PRESENT IN 1752 & 1824
	BOUNDARY REMOVED BETWEEN 1752 & 1824
	BUILDINGS PRESENT IN 1824
	UNDEFINED EDGE OF SURVEY AREA
	AREA NOT COVERED BY 1752 PLAN
	BOUNDARY EXISTING IN 1824 WITHOUT EARLIER MAP COVERAGE

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PART 3

THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK: CHANGES IN LAND USE THROUGH TIME

Archaeology is about how humans have used and affected the landscape in the past. This is not restricted to obvious archaeological monuments such as prehistoric burial barrows, ancient hillforts, churches and castles. It includes all the remains of human activity which has taken place across the land through time and survived above or below ground to the present day, whether 5,000 or 50 years old. This record includes the relics left by farmers, labourers, miners and quarrymen, which are just as important as those built by the church and landed gentry.

To help identify changing land use through time post-survey searches of published works, archival documents and maps has been undertaken. This has included a search of the previously-published archaeological literature, as well as unpublished material in the SMR and in the Peak Park Joint Planning Board archaeological archive. Relevant texts are listed in the bibliography. A series of large scale maps was also consulted to facilitate the dating of boundaries and other features. Those used were estate maps within Ashford parish of 1752 and 1824, the Great Longstone Enclosure Award plan of 1824, the Ashford and Great Longstone Tithe Maps of 1847, Senior's undated survey during the 17th century, and the Ordnance Survey 25-inch maps of 1880 and 1922. These provide established key dates, that allow the development of boundaries and buildings to be assessed.

The maps enable something of the changes in land-use to be plotted for the area surveyed from the 17th century onwards, and for projections back into the medieval period to be made.

When looking at the development of the archaeological landscape, it should be borne in mind that when starting with the present landscape and working backwards through time, peeling off 'layers of the onion', levels of destruction increase. For earlier periods, the lack of surviving features often does not imply that the area was little used by people, but only that later farming activity has swept away the surface evidence.


Prehistoric Occupation to Romano-British

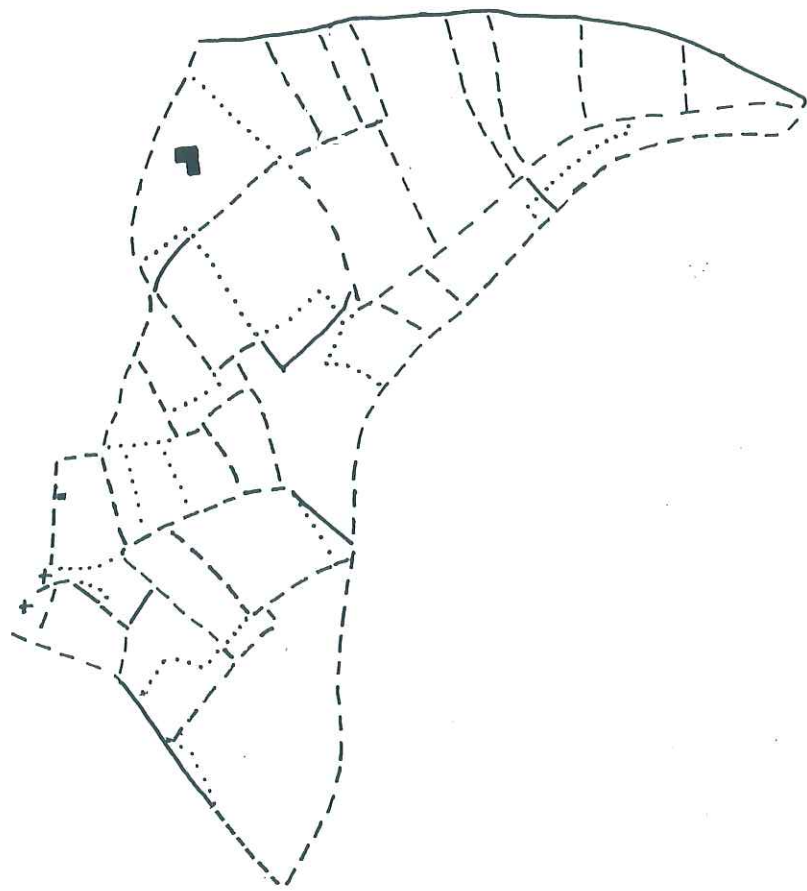
There are no structures surviving from before the medieval period. This does not mean that humans did not occupy or use the land covered by the survey area. Either no structures remain standing above ground, and there may be features surviving below ground, or no structures were constructed in this area over this long period of time.

The Development of Farming and Enclosure

An area within the southern end of the park was part of the medieval open fields of Ashford-in-the-Water. The open field may have already been created by the time Ashford is first documented in Domesday Book of 1086 as a settlement with numerous outlying communities (Morgan 1978). Land for 22 ploughs was catalogued for Ashford and its outliers. Ashford was a Royal Manor at this time and therefore a relatively important settlement in the region.

The open field survives today as an extensive series of ridge and furrow, and strip lynchet earthworks (feature 1). Each ridge and terrace between lynchets represents a strip in the open field. The ridges curve in a distinctive reversed-'S'. This pattern was formed by having to start turning the ox plough team at a distance from the end of the length of land to be ploughed. At the end of the strip the ox team would be finally turned around on an area of uncultivated ground called the headland. Open fields were a common form of land organisation throughout medieval England. While documentation of the organisation and use of Ashford-in-the-Water itself is unavailable to the present survey, evidence from elsewhere can provide a general understanding of their use. Open field use was based on communal or co-operative use of the field. The strips would have been apportioned to the villagers who

PROJECT THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK	KEY — BOUNDARY ADDED BETWEEN 1824 & 1880 - - - BOUNDARY PRESENT IN 1824 & 1880 BOUNDARY REMOVED BETWEEN 1824 & 1880 ■ ■ BUILDINGS PRESENT IN 1880 + + + UNDEFINED EDGE OF SURVEY AREA	 <p>PEAK NATIONAL PARK</p> <p>Caring for a Living Landscape</p> <p>Peak Park Joint Planning Board, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1AE Tel. 01629 816200 Fax. 01629 816310</p>
ILLUSTRATION NO. 4		
TITLE BOUNDARY CHANGES 1824 TO 1880		
FIELDWORK DATE NOV. 1995		
DRAWING DATE APRIL 1996		
DRAFTSPERSON WJB		
REF. /		



had rights to farm within the field according to the traditional customs governing its use. These customs would have been overseen by the lord of the manor and altered only with the agreement of the commoners. It is likely that a villager would have a series of strips grouped into furlongs. The furlongs were distributed throughout the field and intermixed with the furlongs of other villagers (Jackson 1962). As well as being used for arable, the villagers would have been able to pasture livestock on fallow areas and after harvest, and crop hay.

Open fields are associated with villages across the Peak District (Hart 1981). They were established during the medieval period, possibly before the Norman Conquest of 1066. They were extensively used for arable as well as pasture but with the climatic deterioration, and the population loss due to the famines and the Black Death in the 14th century villages began to decline and sheep farming became the norm. From this time onwards the open cultivation strips started to be enclosed, the boundaries frequently retaining the distinctive pattern of the earlier strips in fossilised form, often with between two to ten strips being made into single fields. Much of this enclosure was carried out in a piecemeal fashion by private agreement between commoners and the lord of the manor. In many instances the process of enclosure was not complete until the 18th or early 19th century, with small areas of strips still farmed in the traditional way, each strip being rotated between farmers from year to year.

Senior surveyed Ashford parish during the 17th century but only part of his coverage of the Thornbridge Hall Park survey area survives (Senior [n.d.]). What does survive suggests that much of the Ashford open field had been enclosed by that time. An estate plan drawn up in 1752 for land within Ashford-in-the-Water parish shows that most of the open field had definitely been enclosed by the mid-18th century (anon. 1752) (see fig. 3). Many of the boundaries followed the layout of the Ashford open field. Some of the enclosed areas were still farmed on the communal open field basis in 1752. These were predominantly those underlying and to the south of the future hall and garden. Similar curving boundaries and narrow strip fields are also shown on the earliest available plan of the part of the survey area which lies within Great Longstone parish (anon. 1824a) (see fig. 4). The distinctive boundary pattern shows that this area of the park was within Great Longstone open field and then was subsequently enclosed.

The first hall was built between 1752 and 1790, when it is recorded as being sold to the Moorwood family (Mates 1993) (see fig. 4). Limited gardens occupying a triangle of land around the hall were created. The construction of the hall and gardens removed a number of enclosed fields and some of the remaining open field cultivation strips. There appears to have been no change to the fields within the survey area between 1824 and the tithe plans of 1847 (anon. 1824a; 1824b; 1847a; 1847b). The garden was extended by only a limited amount by 1880 (Ordnance Survey 1880) (see fig. 4). To the east and south the main changes to the enclosed fields were the removal of some boundaries to make larger fields.

In 1871 the estate was sold to Frederick Craven who completely rebuilt the house then sold it on to George 'Jobson' Marples in 1896 (Mates 1993). This rebuilding took place after 1880, when the Ordnance Survey shows the house still following the pre-1871 floor plan, and the sale of 1896 (see fig. 5). Marples had the house and gardens redesigned in 1897 (Pevsner 1978). He ordered the building of the stables, South and North Lodges, private railway station and the other estate buildings. Of these only the South Lodge is within the survey area (feature 3). Marples also bought what is now the park to increase the estate to 100 acres. He had the field walls removed and created the present parkland landscape with the digging of the ponds and planting of trees. This work on the estate was complete by the time of the Ordnance Survey of 1922. However, an estate plan of 1871 suggests that some of these fields within the present park had already been acquired and planted with parkland trees (Mates 1993).

In 1929 Charles Boot bought the estate and added the numerous statues and urns acquired from Clumber Park and Greece during the operation of his building business (feature 10).

The park is an integral element of the designed landscape created by Marples. It provides a transition between the formal layout of the hall and gardens and the organic landscape of the surrounding agriculturally dominated landscape. Views are very important to the park for both

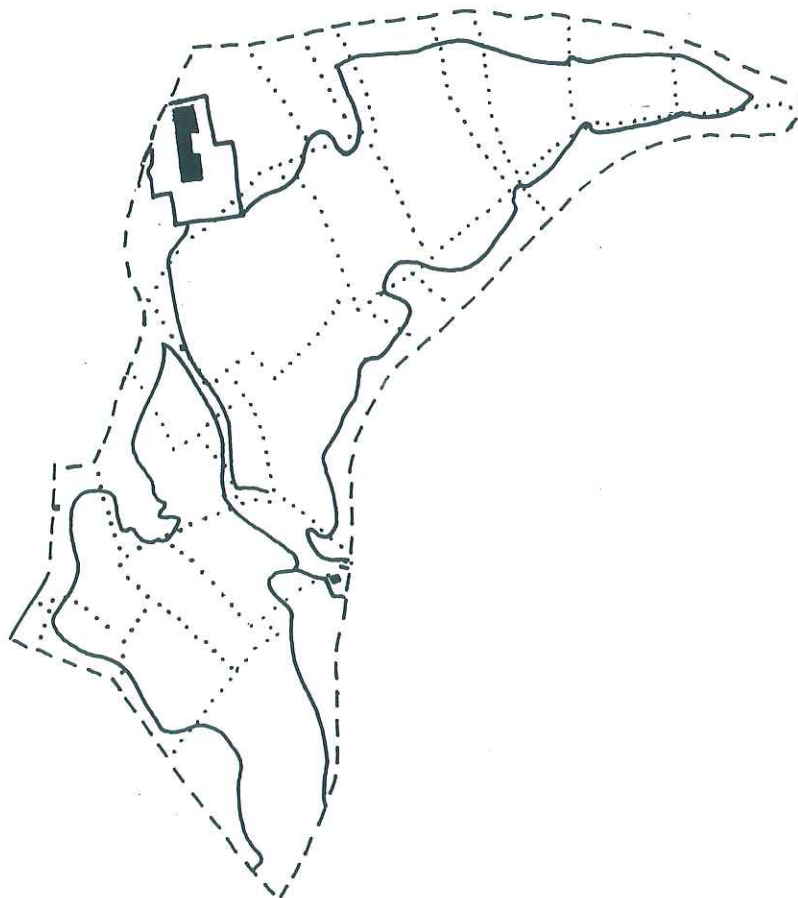
PROJECT	THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK
ILLUSTRATION NO.	5
TITLE	BOUNDARY CHANGES 1880 TO 1922
FIELDWORK DATE	NOV. 1995
DRAWING DATE	APRIL 1996
DRAFTSPERSON	WJB
REF.	/

KEY	<p>—— BOUNDARY ADDED BETWEEN 1880 & 1922</p> <p>- - - - BOUNDARY PRESENT IN 1880 & 1922</p> <p>..... BOUNDARY REMOVED BETWEEN 1880 & 1922</p> <p>E ■ BUILDINGS PRESENT IN 1922</p>
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those within the house and those outside the estate. The house stands on high ground while the land occupied by the park falls away to the south and east. From the house there are views over the park to the wider countryside. The trees planted around the edges of the park help to merge the park into this countryside by making the boundary less distinct. They also provide privacy and emphasise the location of the estate when seen from outside.

The park is a highly designed landscape, even though it has been planned to look naturalistic. Designing and creating such a landscape is a process of demonstrating control over nature. This is one way for a landed family to claim social status by showing that it has the money and land to complete such a project. When mature such a designed landscape also has the appearance of having been established for a long period of time. The dual impression of the natural world and historic depth help to legitimise the position of the landowning family by placing their right to own the land in both the past and the natural world. Such parks are therefore socio-political as well as aesthetic landscapes.

Woodlands

All of the woodlands were planted as part of the design of the parkland. They provide privacy and emphasise the park's boundary when viewed from the outside. From within the park the woodlands reduce the boundary's intrusiveness into the landscape and help to merge the park's highly designed landscape into the surrounding largely agriculturally formed landscape. The only place where there is a gapping in the woodlands there is a very steep bank which blocks views from the outside into the park and acts as a 'natural' ha-ha to again help blend the park into the surrounding landscape when viewed from inside.

Industries

There are no remains of industries within the park.

Communication Routes

The only communication route within the park is the driveway (feature 8) which runs from the South Lodge entrance (feature 4) to the hall via a gateway in the south-west corner of the garden boundary. The importance of this driveway for communicating messages about the family to visitors is highlighted by the ornate nature of the South Lodge entrance which includes natural, supernatural and ancient designs. Access to the park is also available via much less ornate gateways in the north, west and east boundaries. These appear to only have ever been for agricultural purposes.

Landscape Categorisation.

The analysis of land use through time allows the park to be identified as a single zone which has its own archaeological landscape characteristic. While change to the landscape is often inevitable and sometimes desirable, wherever possible the character of each area should be retained (or at least not destroyed thoughtlessly). This does not necessarily lower the value of features within these zones which are not part of the character of the zones.

Parkland overlying medieval open field - The survey area comprises the whole of the Thornbridge Hall parkland. On an undulating topography this landscape has been designed as open grassland dotted with individual trees and enclosed within shelter belt woodland and an estate wall. It provides an integral part of the relationship between the formal hall gardens and the surrounding countryside, both linking and separating the two. The park overlies parts of the medieval open fields of Ashford-in-the-Water and Great Longstone. These open fields survived until the creation of the park as curving boundaries forming narrow strip fields. Within the southern part of the park the Ashford-in-the-Water medieval open field still survives as ridge and furrow and lynchets.

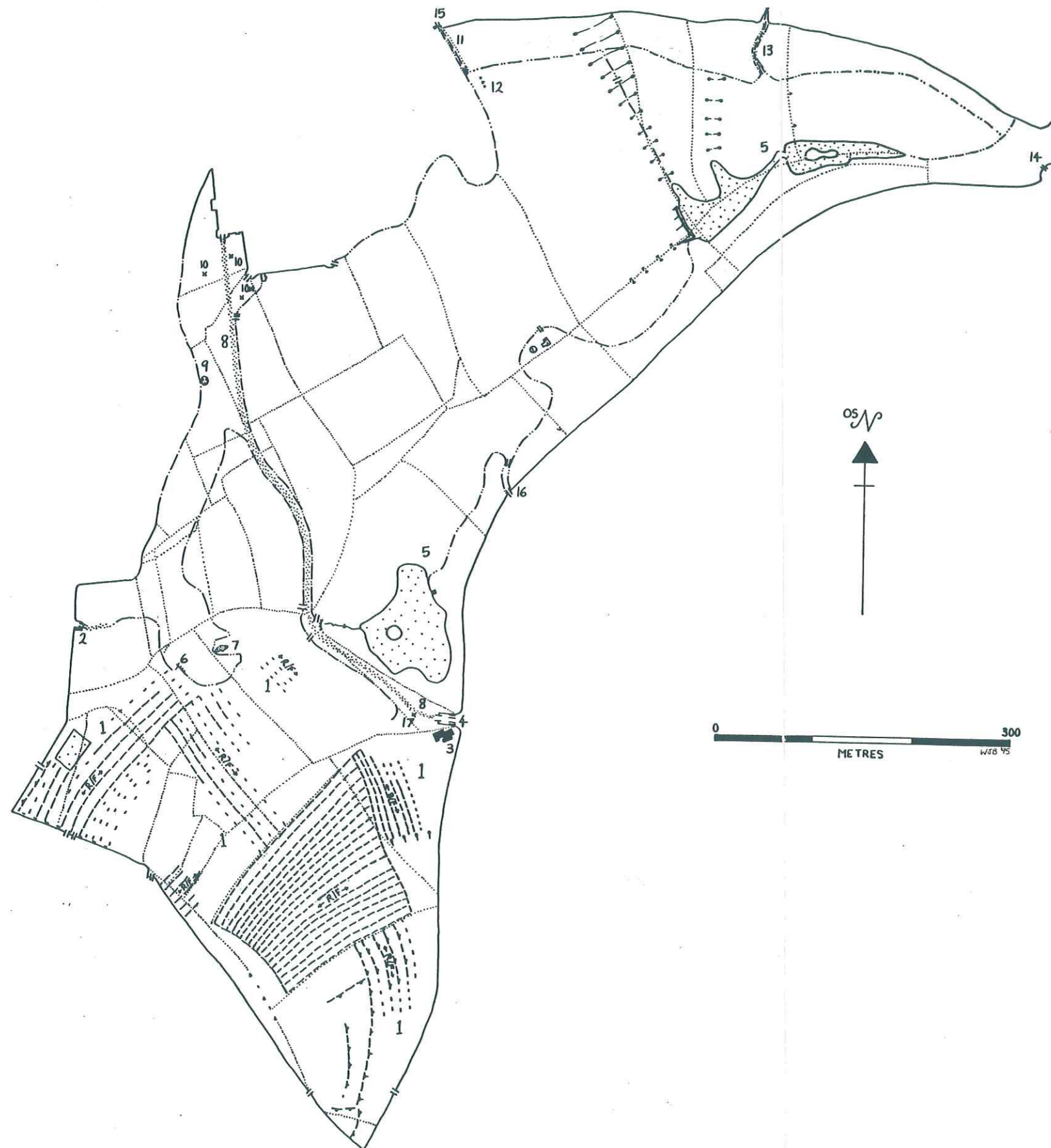
PART 4

THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK: LOCATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

The following plan (figure 6) records all the archaeological sites identified in the park during fieldwork in 1995. Each archaeological feature is identified by a number which corresponds with that used in the catalogue in Part 5.

It should be remembered that although the park was surveyed systematically, this was done rapidly over a short period of time. There may well be a few further archaeological features which were missed, particularly if the earthworks are low to the ground. This is inevitable in that some features are only visible under specific light conditions, when the sun is low or at a particular angle. Vegetation also causes seasonal problems in some locations, for example in spring and summer when the grass in hay meadows is long. Survey in woodland can be particularly problematic if the understorey is thick, or if the trees are young and low to the ground.

A further problem to bear in mind is that the archaeological feature visible at the surface also have buried deposits beneath them. These include foundations, postholes, pits and artefacts. Pits in particular often contain burials or other 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 in the park that remain undiscovered.



PROJECT	THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK
ILLUSTRATION NO.	6
TITLE	ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES
FIELDWORK DATE	NOV. 1995
DRAWING DATE	APRIL 1996
DRAFTSPERSON	WJB
REF.	/

- KEY
- WALL — GATE
 - METAL FENCE
 - SITE OF BOUNDARY
 - R/F — RIDGE & FURROW
 - - - INDISTINCT/POSSIBLE RIDGE & FURROW
 - ▼ ▼ ▼ LYNCHET
 - TRADITIONAL BUILDING
 - MODERN BUILDING
 - - - DISUSED TRACKWAY
 - TRACKWAY IN USE
 - POND
 - DAM
 - x MISCELLANEOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE
 - ?? ? NATURAL SLOPE

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PART 5

THORNBRIDGE HALL PARK: CATALOGUE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

1. Ashford-in-the-Water Open Field.

A system of ridge and furrow, headlands and lynchets covers much of the southern end of the park. These are remains of cultivation strips within the open field of Ashford-in-the-Water. Each ridge and lynchet was an individual strip within the open field. Most of the strips follow a distinctive curving course which allowed the ox-pulled plough to turn at the end of a furrow. The width of the strips varies between approximately 7 and 10 metres.

Most of the ridge and furrow is low-lying and in some places so ploughed-over that it is only visible under favourable light conditions. The lynchets are much more distinct because they occupy steeply sloping ground. One lynchet is overlain by the park boundary wall showing that the open field was in use and abandoned before the area was converted into parkland. Some of the ridges and lynchets end at headlands which were areas that the plough could be turned around on at the end of a furrow.

At least five distinct areas of cultivation strips can be seen in this area of the open field. The areas join together through the ridges of one area using a single ridge of another as a headland. The ploughed-over nature of the remains suggests that the original extent of the field was greater than the extent of the surviving strips.

Open fields were a common form of land organisation used throughout medieval England. While documentation of the organisation and use of the open field within Thornbridge Hall Park itself is unavailable to the present survey, evidence from elsewhere can provide a general understanding of their use. Open field use was based on communal or co-operative use of the field. The strips would have been apportioned to the villagers who had rights to farm within the field according to the traditional customs governing its use. These customs would have been overseen by the lord of the manor and altered only with the agreement of the commoners. It is likely that a villager would have a series of strips grouped into furlongs. The furlongs were distributed throughout the field and intermixed with the furlongs of other villagers (Jackson, 1962). As well as being used for arable, the villagers would have been able to pasture livestock on fallow areas and after harvest, and crop hay.

By 1752 the open cultivation strips had been enclosed (anon. 1752), most of the boundaries retaining the distinctive pattern of the earlier strips in fossilised form, often with between two to ten strips being made into single fields. Much of this enclosure was carried out in a piecemeal fashion by private agreement between commoners and the lord of the manor.

2. Field Barn.

A single-storey field barn situated on the park boundary at one of the entrances. The entrance is a simple design in contrast to the more ornate entrances on the east side of the park, and would have probably been solely used for agricultural access to the park.

3. South Lodge (Grade II Listed Building - 228/3/9).

South Lodge is a single storey, irregular plan, gatehouse built around 1900. It is built of coursed limestone rubble with Millstone Grit dressings and quoins. The roof is red tiles with diamond set chimneys. The gables are moulded stone with moulded kneelers topped by ridge ball finials.

The Lodge acts as gatehouse for the main south-east entrance to the park and hall (feature 4).

4. South Lodge Gateway (Grade II Listed Building - 228/3/10).

The gateway by South Lodge (feature 3) is one of the two main entrances into the park and hall. It is an inturned walled entrance with 18th and late 19th century cast iron gates suspended from Millstone Grit piers. There are central double gates hung on two 4 metre high square stone piers. The piers have raised panels to east and west, banded rustication around all sides and moulded cornices. They are topped by 19th century urns decorated with four projecting griffin heads and plant motifs. The side gates are supported by two piers approximately 2.5 metres high with banded rustication and topped by similar urns to the central piers. The gates have scroll decoration.

The walls continue past the gates to form an enclosure with a west-facing entrance through which the drive (feature 8) enters the park.

The entrance architecture has been designed with natural, supernatural and ancient elements. This makes statements about the family who live at Thornbridge Hall which are broadcast to people either as they first enter the grounds or pass by on the road outside. The symbolism in the designs helps to legitimise the position of the family at the hall, by connecting their landholding, and therefore, social position in both the past and the natural world.

5. Three Ponds.

Three ornamental ponds have been created in a line along a valley bottom which forms the lowest-lying land in the park. Only the southernmost appears to have a watercourse running in to it, the others presumably collecting run-off and rainwater. The two northern ponds have been created behind an earthen dam at the southern end of the middle pond. The ponds have been designed to form a link between the grassland and tree belt along the park's eastern boundary and probably to provide fishing and other recreational use. There is a brick boathouse on the banks of the southernmost pond. They also form part of the deliberately planned 'naturalisation' of the parkland which gives the feeling of living within a natural landscape, but one which has been humanly controlled.

6. Revetment and Trough.

A stone water trough. It has been revetted along one side to prevent soil upslope from encroaching into it.

7. Pond.

A small pond situated in low-lying, marshy ground. The pond is much smaller than the three large ponds (feature 4) and may be natural unless the whole of the marshy area was once a much larger pond which has since near-completely silted-up.

8. Driveway.

The driveway which runs into the park via the South Lodge gates (feature 3), follows a sinuous course uphill and runs to the Hall via the west side of the garden.

9. Quarry.

A small stone-getting quarry. The stone may have been used for field walls, buildings or the driveway.

10. Garden Furniture.

Four structures are situated around the drive as it approaches the entrance to the garden west of the Hall. These are an ornamental urn, a base for an urn, a statue of a male figure and a piece of a column. It is possible that none of these structures are in their original locations. Other urns in the park are placed either side of gateways suggesting that these two

have also come from a gateway. The male statue would be more appropriately located in the garden.

11. Trackway.

A trackway which leads along the eastern side of the garden to cross the railway line via a foot bridge.

12. Lynchet.

A short, shallow lynchet which appears to have been produced by ploughing ending short of a mature tree at this line.

13. Trackway.

A trackway which leads to an underpass which runs through the railway embankment. The underpass has now collapsed.

14. North-eastern 'Dummy' Entrance.

A set of iron gates and railings forming an inturned entrance. The entrance leads immediately to part of the woodland planting around the boundary of the park. The intended driveway to the hall was never constructed so that the gates have become a false entrance.

15. Decorated Gate Posts.

A pair of Millstone Grit gate posts which have been decorated with chiselled herring bone pattern either side, a diagonal pattern topped with a semi-circle on the park-facing sides and diagonal marks forming the stems and leaves of plant motifs on the outside-facing sides. The posts are effectively decorated versions of typical agricultural gate posts and noticeably less ostentatious than the park's main gateways.

16. Gate Posts.

Square Millstone Grit gate posts with banded rustication and topped by pagoda roof style blocks. The blocks may have once been the bases for garden furniture such as urns. The gate posts are less ostentatious than either those of the South Lodge entrance (feature 4) or the 'dummy' entrance, but are architecturally styled rather than being plainer agricultural gate posts.

17. Stone Steps.

Short flight of stone steps leading from the driveway to adjacent ground at a higher level.

PART 6**THORNBRIDGE HALL: 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 archaeological features recorded regionally at the time of the survey.

Features of National or Regional Importance are all important to the understanding of the archaeology of the Peak District. 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 normally could take the form of more detailed survey. If at some point in the future a feature in this category comes under threat of damage or destruction, excavation may well be desirable if conservation measures cannot be negotiated. Only some of the features in the Nationally or Regionally Important category in the Peak District have been designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments and are protected by government legislation. There are no scheduled sites in the park.

Locally important features are those which are important to the archaeology of the locality.

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 is not to say that many buildings are any less important archaeologically than the archaeological features listed as being of National or Regional Importance.

<u>LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE</u>	<u>FEATURE CATALOGUE NUMBERS</u>
Archaeological Features of National or Regional Importance	1, 4, 10, 14.
Archaeological Features of Local Importance	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17.
Standing Buildings of National or Regional Importance	3.
Standing Buildings of Local Importance	2.

PART 7

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, and 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 often not just important in its own right. Sometimes it is the general 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 visible tip of the iceberg, hiding buried archaeological deposits of settlement or ritual activity.

Not all archaeological features or landscapes can be conserved, nor is it desirable that the countryside become 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 either of their nature or value. Once farmers and other land managers realise that features tell us something of 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, designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments by the Department of National Heritage through English Heritage. Other features can be conserved under schemes such as the Countryside Commission's 'Countryside Stewardship' or the Peak Park Board'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 can usually be achieved by choosing alternative sites which are of little archaeological importance, but which are no less convenient. Leaving archaeological mounds and hollows, rather than creating flat fields, often has little effect on the way fields are managed or on their profitability. Alternatively, this positive approach may be rewarded by conservation payments.

Ploughing and rotovating will often 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 case 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, as for example with ridge and furrow.

Tree planting should avoid archaeological features where possible, and the natural establishment of saplings or scrub should be controlled. 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 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 it has to take place, a detailed photographic or measured record of a feature may be desirable before the tipping takes place.

Vehicles repeatedly crossing an area may 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. Wall furniture, such as sheep throughs, gate posts and water troughs should be retained during wall rebuilding.

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, while it very rarely produces anything of financial value. Often the only finds that can date a feature are removed. Knowing that a find is from a feature is often 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 Archaeology Service. Normally they can be contacted through the Farm and Countryside Service caseworkers, 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 at times which cause the landowner minimal inconvenience and delay.

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

PART 8**GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS USED**

- ENCLOSURE AWARD** Between the mid-18th and late-19th centuries a large amount of waste and common land was enclosed in England and Wales. This enclosure movement was undertaken under a strong belief in the need for agricultural improvement amongst landowners at the time. To enclose land the distribution of the newly enclosed fields had to be approved. This approval could be via an Act of Parliament, the central courts or private agreement between local landowners. In all legally ratified cases, and some privately agreed examples, an enclosure award setting down the agreed extent and layout of the enclosure in writing and a corresponding plan were drawn up. The level of accuracy and detail that field boundaries are planned to is usually good, but in most cases only those built as a result of the award are depicted. Their coverage therefore varies from one area to another. In the case of Parliamentary Awards these were often done on a parish by parish basis.
- FIELD SYSTEM** Fields can often be recognised as falling within distinct types and into discrete units; these are termed here field systems. In the Peak District early examples can be identified that date back 4000 years to the Bronze Age. Other examples are Romano-British, while much of the present farmed landscape comprises medieval or post-medieval field systems.
- HEADLAND** Usually a low, wide bank running at a right angle to the end of lynchets or ridge and furrow within medieval open fields. It was the turning area for the oxen (or horses) and plough, at the end of a furlong or stretch of ploughing. It also often doubled as an access route from village to the cultivation strips within the open field.
- HOLLOW WAY** The line of a trackway, usually disused, eroded into a gully during its use in the past. Some major routes may be extensive networks of braided tracks running parallel to and crossing over each other. They often pre-date turnpike roads and were used by packhorse and foot traffic, and in some cases by wagons.
- 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 along a slope. Lynchets are usually found running along slopes and accumulate soil upslope from downward movement of soil after ploughing which is trapped by the boundary. They lose soil downslope where ploughing cuts into the slope. Where a boundary has later been removed, a lynchet is often the main 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 open fields.
- MEDIEVAL** The period which dates from the Norman Conquest of 1066 AD to approximately 1500 AD. Also known as the Middle Ages.

- OPEN FIELDS** In the medieval period, from at least as early as 1100 AD, Peak District villages were surrounded by large open fields. 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 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 individual strips were enclosed from an early date.
- POST-MEDIEVAL** The period after the Medieval, beginning at approximately 1500 AD and continuing up to the present day. Distinct from the Medieval because of the change from a feudal to capitalist society and the rapid development of industrialisation.
- PREHISTORY** The period from the first human presence in the region, covering many thousand years, to the coming of the Romans and the first written documents just under two thousand years ago.
- RIDGE AND FURROW** In many fields that have not been ploughed in recent years, the land is corrugated by many parallel ridges, known as ridge and furrow. Earlier examples tend to be wider and more massive and have origins as medieval cultivation strips (see Open Fields). In some instances they continued to be used and modified until as late as the 18th or 19th centuries. Narrow ridge and furrow tends to be 19th century in date (or from 1939-45), 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 ridge and furrow tends to occur on heavier, thicker soils, but is rare on the thin soils of the limestone plateau.
- SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORDS** Lists of archaeological sites, and summaries of what is known about them, which (in the Peak District) are kept by County Archaeologists.
- TITHE MAP** Maps of townships and parishes were made during the early to mid-19th century to accompany inventories and assessments of fields liable to pay money, known as tithe, to the local church to support the vicar. The level of accuracy and detail that field boundaries are planned to varies from one area to another. Sometimes only those boundaries enclosing the land on which tithe was payable are depicted. Their usefulness therefore changes from one area to another.
- TURNPIKE ROAD** The present road network was built in the 1700s and 1800s, often as toll roads known as turnpikes. These roads were a radical improvement on what went before and allowed the distribution of the commercial products of the industrial revolution. Their routes can still be recognised from their toll houses and distinctive milestones.
- WALL FURNITURE** This term is used to cover such details found in drystone walls as gateposts, stiles, sheep throughs and water troughs.

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APPENDICES

A: THORNBRIDGE: DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY ARCHIVE

Documents

This report.

Drawings (as included in reduced form in this report)

- Figure 1 Location of Thornbridge Hall Park
- Figure 2 Thornbridge Hall Park Survey Area, at 1:10,000.
- Figure 3 Boundary Changes, Ashford parish, 1752-1824, at 1:10,000.
- Figure 4 Boundary Changes, 1824-1880, at 1:10,000.
- Figure 5 Boundary Changes, 1880-1922, at 1:10,000.
- Figure 6 Archaeological Features, at 1:2500.

One file containing the photographic archive catalogue and cross reference to the PPJPB archaeological photograph collection (retained by the PPJPB - viewable upon request).

One folder of field notes (retained by the PPJPB - viewable upon request).

B: FEATURE RECORDING - SURVEY SPECIFICATIONS

The survey undertaken to produce this report comprised systematic if rapid search of the land within the survey area. Every part of the park was inspected from at least one vantage point and care was taken to avoid blind areas by taking in further vantage points. Every potential feature was inspected more closely to plot its extent, form and interpretation.

In enclosed land and where large scale maps were available, discoveries were sketch-plotted on an OS 1:2500 base. This is the National Park's Phase 1 survey standard. The plotting of features in these areas is relatively accurate because of the scale of the maps and the use of nearby features, such as field boundaries, to gauge relative locations between known points. We believe that under these conditions the normal error of plotted site locations is limited to plus or minus 5 metres.

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