THE
ANGLO-SAXONS
in the
Staffordshire Moorlands

A GAZETTEER OF SITES

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Near Leek
2018
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Introduction

This gazetteer started out as a handy list for my own use in understanding the impact of the Anglo-Saxon period on North Staffordshire. While giving talks to people about the Anglo Saxons I found that many of the audience were surprised that there is so much to say about them. I then resolved to draw up a more comprehensive list of all the sites of Anglo Saxon interest that I new about, and to organise the information I had gathered, into a gazetteer. This I believed could be used to demonstrate that even in North Staffordshire, an area not high on the list of Anglo Saxon interest, that evidence for the period does exist in some quantity. Of course it is well known that the Anglo-Saxons only occasionally left behind them great earthworks or fine buildings. Certainly there are no cathedrals, castles or even hoards of gold in the Staffordshire Moorlands. Nevertheless the Anglo-Saxons did impact on the countryside even if the surviving evidence is subtle and less tangible than the sort we find from other periods. Therefore in this gazetteer you will find the names of places given by the Anglo-Saxons, a list of carved stones tucked away in country churchyards, and the locations of ancient burial places, as well as a scatter of artefacts that have come to light over the years either by chance finds, the endeavours of archaeologists, or more recently by metal detectorists.

The settlement and political takeover of the lowland areas of Britain by the people we now call the Anglo-Saxons was not a single event. It was not an organised military conquest like that of the Roman Army in the first century nor that of the feudal Normans in the eleventh but was a slow settlement and assimilation over several centuries. Sometimes it did include military actions but sometimes not. Initially the Anglo-Saxons settled and gained political power in the south and eastern parts of Britain only gradually gaining control over the more westerly areas of Britain. The lowland areas of Britain where they now lived came to be called ‘England’. The north of Staffordshire along with a similar area in neighbouring Derbyshire do not seem to have been incorporated into ‘England’ until the second half of the seventh century, some two hundred years after the first Anglo-Saxons settlers came to Britain. The incoming Anglo-Saxons were very confident in their own way of life and culture, and took little from what survived of the Romano-British and Celtic cultures in Britain. The archaeological remains from the early Anglo-Saxons are strongly ‘Germanic’, as apparently were their religious beliefs, their social structures and their language. By the time literacy was introduced into ‘England’, roughly from about 600 AD onwards, nearly everyone seemed to speak English, no matter who their ancestors were.

In this gazetteer I have attempted to list all the traces of Anglo-Saxon culture that can still be found in the area in which I live. This is an arbitrary choice of the hilly and moorland area in North West Staffordshire now called the Staffordshire Moorlands District. To have strayed into Derbyshire or the lowlands of Staffordshire would have required a wider and perhaps different approach. Also this area falls mainly into the ancient Anglo-Saxon Hundred of Totmonslow. A ‘Hundred’ was an Anglo Saxon administrative sub division of a shire. The Hundred of Totmonslow was one of five such districts in Staffordshire. However the gazetteer does not include the southernmost ‘parishes’ of Totmonslow which are topographically better described as being in the ‘Staffordshire Woodlands’ rather than in the ‘Staffordshire Moorlands’. For the southern boundary of the gazetteer I have chosen the Roman road from Blythe Bridge to Rocester which usefully divides the woodlands from the moorlands. Consequently the village of Tean, along with the meeting-place of Totmonslow itself, just falls into the area. The boundaries of the present day Staffordshire Moorlands District Authority do not always coincide with those of Totmonslow so Mayfield and Ellastone are in the gazetteer while Biddulph is not.

The boundary of the gazetteer can be described as starting from Axe Edge Moor in the north, travelling anticlockwise following the river Dane and the county boundary south-westwards to Bosley Cloud. It then follows the Totmonslow hundred boundary as indicated by the boundaries of the parishes within that hundred. They include Rushton, Endon, Rownal, Western Coyney, Caverswall and Forsbrook until they meet the Roman road near Blythe Bridge. The boundary then follows the course of the Roman road eastwards skirting north of Rocester to meet the river Dove. It
then follows the course of the Dove upstream, which is also the county boundary, until the starting point on Axe Edge Moor is reached. Most of these features, such as the Roman road and the rivers Dane and Dove, would have been familiar markers to the Anglo-Saxon people themselves.

The gazetteer lists various kinds of evidence for the Anglo-Saxons which fall into four main sections. Items deserving a more detailed examination are covered by appendixes.

**Section 1.** lists **Place-names.** Most place-names in England, both nationally and locally, originate from the English language. The English language was important to the Anglo-Saxons. They can be said to have invented it in the early years of settlement in Britain and the following centuries saw them develop it into a full and vigorous language. It even began to challenge the might of Latin, until this process was curtailed by the domination of the French speaking Normans. The language developed by the Anglo-Saxons we now call ‘Old English’. The names included in the gazetteer are those for which we have actual contemporary evidence, therefore reconstructions based upon later spellings have not been included.

**Section 2.** lists only those **Burial mounds** that have been excavated and found to contain grave goods from the Anglo-Saxon period. In the Staffordshire Moorlands these mounds are usually Bronze Age mounds that have been reused by the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo Saxon intrusions date from approximately 650 AD to 700 AD. Mostly they were excavated in the nineteenth century but sadly since their discovery a number have been lost to quarrying and so these are no longer available for inspection.

**Section 3.** lists the **Carved Stone pieces** that have survived from the later Anglo-Saxon period. They are all sections or fragments of Christian stone crosses and while most are now found in churches or churchyards it is believed that many of them have been moved there from other locations.

**Section 4.** lists the **Anglo-Saxon Artefacts** that have been found in the area. They include casual finds from the past or are the result of deliberate archaeological excavations or are recent metal detector finds. This latter category cannot be a full compilation as metal detectorists are continually adding new items to the list. The numbers of artefacts found so far in the area are too few to form any coherent pattern. However they can be likened to a background shadow of the Anglo-Saxon past for they show that the Anglo-Saxons were here, even if they are not yet clearly in view. There is certainly a need for more archaeological work to be done, along with more metal detector finds to be recorded in order to fill out the picture.

**Appendix 1.** One remarkable archaeological find is worthy of being noted separately. This is the hoard of ninth century gold and silver items found at Beeston Tor in the Manifold Valley. The artefacts found there are now in the British Museum.

**Appendix 2.** There are two manuscripts from the period that mention a number of places in the Staffordshire Moorlands. These are the will of Wulfric and Domesday Book. In addition mentions of “Staffordshire” occur in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle and in a couple of writs of King Edward the Confessor.

**Appendix 3.** This contains a note about the Anglo Saxon doorway in the south wall of the nave of Ilam church.

I have visited all the sites in the gazetteer and used what knowledge of the period and its language that I have gleaned over many years. I have, of course, called upon the written works of many others such as Thomas Bateman, David Horowitz and the compilers of the ‘Corpus’ volumes and all those whose names can be found in the Bibliography. I thank them all in equal measure.

Harry Ball,
Bottom Lane Farm,
Bottom House,
Near Leek.
2018 AD
The grid squares are 10 kilometres square.
Each square kilometre is 247 acres or about two hides.

PLACES IN THE GAZETTEER

1. Rushton
2. Rudyard
3. Warslow
4. Sheen
5. Leek
6. Endon
7. Cheddleton
8. Grindon
9. Alstonfield
10. Stanshope
11. Basford
12. Musden
13. Rownall
14. Consall
15. Cauldon
16. Blore
17. Okeover
18. Kingsley
19. Western Coyney
20. Caverswall
21. Dilhorn
22. Forbrook
23. Cheadle
24. Farley
25. Wooton
26. Stanton
27. Mayfield
28. Ellastone
29. Bradley
30. Alton
31. Tean
32. Croxden
33. Denstone
Section 1.

Anglo-Saxon Place-names

The language spoken and written by the Anglo-Saxons is called Old English. It was created by them in the very early years of their occupation of the lowland areas of Britain, in those areas that have now come to be called England. Old English was formed by the fusing together of the dialects spoken by the several Germanic tribes who were arriving in Britain following the decline of Roman authority here. They included Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Frisians, Franks, Danes and perhaps others whose names are now lost to us. Later, with the coming of Christianity and literacy to England, the Old English language developed into a fully fledged literary language sufficient to satisfy all the Anglo-Saxons’ needs for discourse on historical, religious, philosophical, literary, educational and administrative matters. Surviving manuscripts are patchy but numerous, and provide us with the sources for our knowledge of the Old English language. Eventually following the influx of Scandinavian and French speakers into England in the 10th and 11th centuries Old English developed into the language we now call Middle English. Major social changes in the 14th century and later placed even greater demands on English which led to its development into the language that today we call Modern English.

Place names can be a valuable record of the past, and they have proved to be one of the enduring legacies of the Anglo-Saxon period. Unsurprisingly most place names in England are made up of words from the English language, in fact about 80% are from Old and Middle English, 15% from Old Norse or Old Norse/Old English hybrids while the remaining 5% of names originate from the British, Latin or Norman-French languages. However the influence of the various languages is not evenly spread throughout England. English language names are, of course, everywhere but Old Norse names are mainly to the north and east of England while surviving British names are scattered mainly in the western parts of England. British names of course are still widespread throughout Wales and Scotland.

It is difficult to identify with any precision when most place-names where first coined. Old English was used by the Anglo-Saxons and where early records have survived the distinctive Old English spellings can sometimes point to an Anglo-Saxon date for a place-name. However, many Old English words continued to be used unchanged for many centuries and indeed some are still current in the language today. Consequentially such place-names cannot be used with any confidence for the purposes of dating the period when they were first coined. It is sensible then to use only those names that occur in early documents. In the Staffordshire Moorlands area two documents have survived which are suitable for this purpose. One is the will of an Anglo-Saxon nobleman called Wulfric Spott, and the second is Domesday Book.

The will of Wulfric dates from 1002 AD with a confirmation of it in 1004. The will records Wulfric’s gifts of many places, most of them to the Abbey at Burton. It includes a few place-names within the area covered by the gazetteer but unfortunately without any details of the places themselves. The Staffordshire Moorlands places mentioned in the will are Okeover, along with Ilam, Caldon, and Caster near by, and Rudyard and Sheen. See Section 1 Place-names and the Index.

Domesday Book was ordered by King William in 1085. The Anglo Saxon Chronicle for that year says “He also had it recorded how much land his archbishops had, and his diocesan bishops, his abbots and his earls, …… and what or how much each man who was a landholder here in England had or in live-stock, and how much money it was worth." Crucially it also records the owners and tenants along with other information about each place ‘in the days when Edward the Confessor was king’ that is, before January 1066 when he died. This important document provides us then with a record of several thousand Anglo Saxon places-names in use before the Norman Conquest.
Anglo-Saxon Place-names Known Before 1066

Unless stated otherwise all the following names are from the Domesday Book.

**Staffordshire.** This name is first recorded in 1016 in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle (D and E). It then occurs in a writ (S 1140) of Edward the Confessor dated 1062–66 AD and yet again in another late but doubtful writ (S 1155) also of Edward. The name means the ‘scir’, that is the county, in the jurisdiction of the borough of Stafford, whose name means ‘the ford by a ‘stæþ’ or landing place’.

**Totmanslow Hundred.** This name occurs three times in Domesday Book in the Latin forms of TATEMANESLAV HD, TAMENASLAV HVND and a shortened version TATESLAV HVND. In English it is ‘Tatmann’s Low or ‘Tatman’s burial mound’. Today there is a hamlet called Totmonslow near Upper Tean close by a noticeable conical hill. This has given rise to the suggestion that this was the original meeting place for the hundred. However there is neither evidence for a burial-mound on the conical hill nor does it appear to be a very practical place for meetings to be held. Furthermore there are other possible locations nearby. Oakhill and Mobberley have been suggested as more suitable. However the lack of any hard evidence makes it impossible to identify with any certainty the true location of this name.

**Alstonfiel**
It is not recorded in Domesday Book who owned Alstonfiel before 1066 or what its value was then. It had 3 virgates of land. The land had 3 ploughs, one in lordship. There was one villager in 1086.
The name means ‘Ælfstan’s field’ from the Anglo-Saxon personal name Ælfstan and the Old English word ‘feld’ which generally meant ‘open land’ or sometimes in the later Anglo-Saxon period ‘arable land’.

**Alton**
Ivar held it before 1066, it had land for 2 ploughs. In 1086 it was uninhabited or ‘waste’ as it was termed.
The name is from ‘Ælfa’s tun’. Ælfa was a personal name and ‘tun’ is Old English for a settlement such as a farm or village.

**Basford**
Before 1066 Godwin held it, he was free. There was half a hide and it belonged to Cheddleton. In 1086 it had 4 villagers and 1 smallholder with 1 acre of meadow and woodland 2 leagues long and 1½ wide. Its value then was 15 shillings with no value recorded before 1066.
The original name was probably ‘Beorcol’s ford’ from a personal name, or perhaps as ‘beorcford’ the ‘birch ford’.

**Blore**
4 thanes held it before 1066 and they were free men, but no value was recorded at that time. In 1086 there was 1 virgate of land, land for 5 ploughs, one in lordship. There were 2 villagers and a spinney of 2 furlongs. Its value was then 5 shillings.
The meaning of this name is uncertain. It may derive from the Old English ‘blor’ meaning ‘blister’ or ‘swelling’ or a ‘bare spot’ applied topographically.

**Bradley-in-the-Moors**
Before 1066 it was held by Leofric who was a free man. It had two hides, land for 3 ploughs, 6 villagers and 4 smallholders. With 1 acre of meadow, woodland 1 league long and ½ wide. Its value in 1066 was 5 shillings but in 1086 it was 10 shillings.
The name may be derived from ‘Bred leah’ that is the ‘leah’ or open space in a wood where ‘breds’ or boards were to be obtained or possibly it referred to a broad strip of cultivated land in an open field.
Castern
The name *Cætesþyrne* is recorded in the will of Wulfic but without details (see Appendix 2.) It is not mentioned in Domesday Book. It means Catt’s thorn-bush, from an Old English personal name. An Anglo Saxon secondary burial was found here. (See Section 2. Barrows).

Cauldon (Caldon)
Godiva held it before 1066 with 1 virgate of land and land for 1 plough. In 1086 it was uninhabited and recorded as ‘waste’. The name is from the Old English words ‘cælf-dun’ meaning the ‘calf hill’. The name, as Celfdon, is also mentioned in the will of Wulfric. (see Appendix 2.)

Caverswall
Before 1066 Wulfgeat held it and he was free with 1 virgate of land and land for 4 ploughs. There were 10 villagers and 2 smallholders with 6 acres of meadow. Woodland stood at 1 league long and ½ league wide. The value in 1086 was 30 shillings.
The first element of the name is probably an Anglo-Saxon personal name perhaps ‘Cafhere’ or similar. The second element is the Old English word ‘wælle’ meaning a spring or its stream.

Cheadle
In 1066 Wulfheah held 1 carucate of land at Cheadle but in 1086 this is recorded as ‘waste’ or as we would say uninhabited.
A further virgate of land was held by Godiva in 1066, she was free. There was land for 4 ploughs, 1 in lordship, with 7 villagers and 1 smallholder with 1½ ploughs. There was a mill at 12d, 1 acre of meadow and woodland 2 leagues long and 1 wide. In 1086 it was valued at 20 shillings.
The first element of this name is ‘ceto’ an early British form of the Welsh ‘coed’ which means ‘wood’. This has been combined with the Old English word ‘leah’ with the meaning of ‘a wood’ or later ‘a clearing in a wood’. At this time it is difficult to distinguish which of the meanings, wood or clearing, was intended but this is still an interesting example of the two languages coming together to form a single place-name. Perhaps a British wood was cleared by the later Anglo Saxons.

Cheddleton
Who held the land before 1066 or its value then is not recorded. However in 1086 there was half a hide and there was land for 4 ploughs with half a plough in lordship. There were 3 villagers and 1 smallholder and there was woodland ½ a league long and 3 furlongs wide. Its value was not recorded.
The name is Old English from the words ‘cetel!’ meaning kettle used in a topographical sense of a deep valley, and ‘tun’ a settlement.

Consall
Wulfheah held it before 1066 and it had 1 carucate of land. It was uninhabited (waste) in 1086.
Its name is of uncertain origin. The second element may be from the Old English word ‘halh’ meaning a nook or hollow while the first element may be from the Old Norse word for a king or perhaps derived from the Old English ‘cumb’ a valley with steep sides. All attempted derivations however have their difficulties.

Croxden
Alfwold held it before 1066 as a free man, and he also held it as a King’s thegn in 1086.
It has half a virgate of land with land for two ploughs and ½ a plough in lordship. It has 4 smallholders with one plough and one acre of meadow. Its value in 1086 is 5 shillings but no value was recorded for 1066.
The name derives from an Old English personal name ‘Croc’ possibly influenced by the Old Norse personal name ‘Krokr’ along with the Old English word ‘denu’ meaning valley.
Denstone

Ivar held it before 1066, there was land for two ploughs. In 1086 it was uninhabited and no details were recorded.
The name is from an Old English, or possibly Old Norse, personal name ‘Dene’ plus the Old English word ‘tun’ a settlement. It was Dene’s farm.

Dilhorne

Godwin, a free man, held it before 1066 together with two others, likewise free. They had a virgate of land. In 1086 there was land for 4 ploughs with half a plough in lordship and there were 5 villagers and 5 smallholders. They had 1 acre of meadow and woodland of 1 league long and a ½ wide. Its value in 1086 was 20 shillings but nothing was recorded for 1066.
The name may have developed from the Old English words ‘delf’, a digging and ‘ærn’ a house or building. It may have originally meant ‘the building by the quarry’.

Endon

Dunning held it before 1066 and there was land for 1 or 2 ploughs. In 1086 it was uninhabited.

There are two possibilities to choose from for the origin of this name. It may be ‘Eana’s hill, from Eana an Anglo-Saxon personal name with ‘dun’ the Old English for ‘hill’. Or it may be from ‘ean’ the Old English word for ‘a lamb’ plus ‘dun’ that is ‘the hill where lambs were kept’.

Ellastone

- 6 thanes held it before 1066; and they were free men. There was 1 virgate of land. In 1086 there was land for 6 ploughs. In lordship there were 1½ ploughs and 1 slave with 11 villagers and 4 smallholders with 1½ ploughs. There are 12 acres of meadow, a mill at 32 pence and woodland 1 league long and half wide. Its value in 1086 was 30 shillings with nothing recorded for 1066.

- Also before 1066 St Chad’s [Lichfield] held the fourth part of a hide. There was land for 5 ploughs (2 in lordship); 8 villagers and 5 smallholders with 3 ploughs. Meadow 3 acres; woodland 1 league long and ½ wide. Value now 12s; before 1066 9s.
The name is ‘Eadlac’s tun’ from an Anglo-Saxon personal name and the Old English word ‘tun’ meaning a settlement or farm.

Farley

Alfward held before 1066 and there was land for 1 or 2 ploughs. It was uninhabited in 1086.
The name is from Old English ‘fearn-leah’ the ferny clearing.

Forsbrook

Swein held it before 1066 and there was land for 1 plough. It was uninhabited in 1086.
The name is from the personal name ‘Fot’ perhaps Old Norse, and the Old English ‘broc’ for brook.

Grindon

Wulfgeat held it before 1066 with the third part of 1 hide. It was uninhabited in 1086.
The name is from the Old English words ‘grene’ and ‘dun’ meaning the green hill.

Ilam

Ilam is not mentioned in Domesday Book but is recorded in the will of Wulfric (see Appendix 2.).
The origin of this name is unclear. Derivation from several Welsh words have been attempted and so has a derivation from the dative of either of the two Old English words ‘hill’ or ‘hygel’. An Old English origin from ‘in the hills’ seems the simplest explanation.

Ilam also has fragments of five Anglo Saxon cross shafts (see Section 3.) and the remains of a probable Anglo Saxon doorway into the church (see Appendix 3)
Kingsley
Leofric, a free man, held 1 hide here before 1066. In 1086 there was land for one plough which was in lordship. It had 2 acres of meadow, woodland 1 league long and 4 furlongs wide. Its value in 1066 was 6 shillings and in 1086 10 shillings.
Leofric also held a further 3 hides here freely before 1066. In 1086 there was land for 3 ploughs with 4 villagers and 7 smallholders with 1½ ploughs. There was 1 acre of meadow. The value of this land in 1086 was 17 shillings.
The name is Old English means the King’s ‘leah’ or clearing from a wood.

Leek
Earl Algar held it before 1066 with 1 hide and its dependencies. In 1086 there was land for 12 ploughs with 15 villagers and 13 smallholders. There was 3 acres of meadow and woodland 4 leagues long and as wide. Its value before 1066 was £4 and in 1086 it was 100 shillings.
For a simple single-element name Leek has been the cause of much discussion. The name may be from the rare Old English word ‘lece’ influenced by the Old Norse word ‘loekr’ meaning a brook or ‘leak’. There are several brooks which may have given rise to the name but for none of them is the evidence conclusive.
The church and its churchyard also contain the fragments from six Anglo Saxon cross shafts (see Section 3)

Mayfield
Earl Algar held it before 1066 with 1 hide with its dependencies. In 1086 there was land for 12 ploughs with 9 villagers, 3 smallholders and a priest having 3 ploughs. There was 8 acres of meadow and woodland 4 furlongs long by 2 furlongs wide. The value before 1066 was 40 shillings.
The name may have caused pronunciation difficulties to the writers of Domesday Book consequently the first element may be from the Old English word ‘mæddre’ with the meaning madder the plant, or perhaps from the Old English ‘maðel’ meaning a meeting or council, along with the Old English word ‘feld’ as its second element which meant ‘open land’.

Musden
Uhtred held it before 1066 and there was land for 1 plough. In 1086 it was uninhabited.
The name is from the Old English words ‘mus’ and ‘den’ meaning mouse valley.
Two secondary Anglo Saxon burials have been excavated on Musden Hill (see Section 2.)

Okeover
(Burton Abbey held it before 1066). It had 3 virgates of land with its dependencies. There was land for 2 ploughs a mill and woodland of ½ a league long and 3 furlongs wide. Its value in 1086 was 20 shillings.
The name is from the Old English words ‘ac’ meaning oak and ‘ofer’ a slope giving ‘a slope where oak trees grew’.
It was bequeathed to Burton Abbey in the will of Wulfric in 1002 AD (see Appendix 2.)

Rownall
Wulfmer held it before 1066. It had land for 1 plough. In 1086 it was uninhabited.
The name is from the Old English words ‘ruh’ meaning rough and ‘halh’ a nook or corner of land giving ‘a rough corner’.
Rudyard
Wulfmer held it before 1066. It had land for 1, or 2, ploughs. In 1086 it was uninhabited.
The name has been subject to debate. The second element is clearly the Old English ‘geard’ an
enclosure [a ‘yard’]. The first element however may be from the Old English word ‘rude’ meaning
the name of the plant rue, or possibly from the Old English ‘rudig’ red, the soil being very red at the
original location of the village near Rudyard Hall.
It is also mentioned in the will of Wulfric who bequeathed it to Burton Abbey (see Appendix 2.)

Rushton
Wulfgeat held it before 1066. There was land for two ploughs. In 1086 it was uninhabited.
The name is from the Old English words ‘rysc’ meaning rush, and ‘tun’ meaning settlement.

Sheen
Alfward held it before 1066. There was land for 2 or 1 ploughs. In 1086 it was uninhabited.
The name is perhaps from an unrecorded Old English word ‘sceon’ meaning ‘the sheds’.
It is also mentioned in the will of Wulfric who bequeathed it to Burton Abbey (see Appendix 2.)

Stanshope
Wodi held it before 1066. There was land for 1 or 2 ploughs. In 1086 it was uninhabited.
The first element of the name is from the Old English word ‘stan’ meaning stone. The second
element is the Old English word ‘hop’ with the meaning enclosed valley, perhaps its head. The
underlying limestone is close to the surface here and stony outcrops are common.

Stanton
Arkell held it before 1066. There was land for 1 plough. In 1086 it was uninhabited.
The name is from the Old English words ‘Stan’ and ‘tun’ meaning the stony settlement.

Tean
Before 1066 it was held by Wulfgeat and Wulfmer who were freemen with ½ a hide of land. There
was land for 6 ploughs. 6 villagers and 6 smallholders had 3 ploughs and 3 slaves and there were six
acres of woodland 1 league long and a ½ league wide. Its value in 1086 was 30 shillings.
Tean takes its name from that of the river Tean. This is a British name identical with the river Teign
in Devon and probably means the scatterer or sprinkler, that is a river liable to flood.

Warslow
Godwin held it before 1066. Its land size is missing but it belonged to Alstonfield. It had 4 villagers
and 2 smallholders with 1 plough and 8 acres of meadow and woodland 1 league long and ½ a
league wide. Its value in 1086 was 40 shillings.
The second element is from the Old English word ‘hlaw’ usually meaning burial mound of which
there are several in the locality. The first element could be from the Old English word ‘weard’
meaning to watch giving the watch-out mound but equally it could be from an Anglo-Saxon
personal name such as ‘Wær’ or ‘Ware’.

Weston Coyney
Wulfred held it before 1066. It has 1 virgate of land. There is land for 3 ploughs. 5 villagers has 2
ploughs and woodland 1 league long and ½ a league wide. Its value in 1086, is 10 shillings.
The name is from the Old English words ‘west’ and ‘tun’ meaning the western settlement, perhaps
west of Caverswall. Coyney is a later Norman addition.

Wooton [under-Weaver]
Swein held it before 1066. It had land for 2 or 3 ploughs. In 1086 it was uninhabited.
The name is from the Old English words ‘wudu’ and ‘tun’ giving the meaning a settlement in or by
a wood.
Section 2.

Barrows

The earliest period of the Anglo-Saxon era is not very well represented in North Staffordshire. The only evidence to have come down to us is from a number of burial mounds, called Barrows, along with a few chance finds. Most of the evidence consists of Anglo Saxon type grave goods buried with interments. The Staffordshire barrows are part of a sequence of barrows in the wider Peak District, mainly in Derbyshire, that were reused to bury Anglo-Saxons in the second half of the 7th century. All the barrows of Anglo Saxon interest, in both counties, are built within the limestone geological area now called the White Peak. Occasionally the barrows were newly constructed by the Anglo-Saxons but more frequently they were secondary burials inserted into pre-existing Bronze Age barrows. The Anglo-Saxon burials seem to reflect a take-over of the White Peak area by people of the Anglo-Saxon culture from about the middle of the 7th century. However with the growing Christianisation of the Anglo-Saxons during the 7th century the custom of burial in barrows accompanied by grave goods seems to have fallen out of use by the end of the century.

The late barrows of the Peak District have been the subject of much discussion because of the mixture of British and Anglo-Saxon cultural evidence they contain. Questions have been asked, such as, Why did the people of the Peak District still bury their bodies in barrows when flat grave burial was by then the more common practice? Why were there both British and Anglo-Saxon grave goods deposited?

Several theories have been put forward to explain these questions. Here are four of them.

- A British tribe survived in the Peak District but used some Anglo-Saxon objects.
- Anglo-Saxons settlers had taken over the area and used some captured British booty as grave goods.
- A British war band was acting on behalf of their Anglo-Saxon masters from Mercia.
- An Anglo Saxon elite took over the area and married British women who then used some British artefacts to honour their dead husbands.

The validity of any of these suggestions cannot be plausibly demonstrated; the evidence is just too thin and confused. All we can say for sure is that during the early period the Anglo-Saxons did in fact incorporate the Peak District into their political structure. By late 8th century it becomes clear that the area can properly be said to be Anglo-Saxon politically, culturally and linguistically and this can be said for the Staffordshire Moorlands as well as for Derbyshire.

The barrows in the Staffordshire Moorlands that do contain possible grave goods from the 6th and 7th centuries are recorded in the two books published by Thomas Bateman. In these he reports not only upon his own excavations and those of his father William Bateman but also those of his colleague Samuel Carrington of Wetton. Also some of Bateman’s major finds were splendidly illustrated by another of his colleagues Llewellyn Jewett, both in his own publications as well as in those of Bateman himself.

The Primary publications are

- ‘Vestiges of Antiquity in Derbyshire’ (1847) by Thomas Bateman, below called ‘Vestiges’
- ‘Ten Years Diggings in Celtic and Saxon Grave-hills’ (1861) by Thomas Bateman, below called ‘Diggings’
- ‘Grave- Mounds and their Contents’ (1870) by L. Jewitt, below called ‘Jewitt’

A number of books and studies have commented on the Peak District burial mounds. They include

• ‘The Anglian Settlement of the Derbyshire-Staffordshire Peak District’ by Margaret Fowler. Derbyshire Archaeological Journal LXXIV (1954), referred to as ‘Fowler’
• ‘A gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites’ (1964) by Audrey Meaney, referred to as ‘Meaney’
• ‘The Peak Dwellers’ by Audrey Ozanne. Medieval Archaeology vi-vii (1964), referred to as ‘Ozanne.’

All of the above articles contain lists of barrows, or finds, that the writers believe indicate the presence of people of the Anglo-Saxon culture. They do not always agree with each other.
The commonplace term ‘Anglo Saxon’ is used here in favour of ‘Anglian’ which is used in some of the above publications.
Throughout his writings Bateman uses imperial measurements, and as his works are the primary evidence and are extensively quoted, the following lists retain yards, feet and inches without conversion to metric measurements.

**Anglo-Saxon Barrows**

**Alstonefield.** - Steep Low at SK 1235 5612 (or Pea Low at SK 1308 5645)
50 yards in diameter and 15ft high; constructed of loose stones.

In *Diggings* Bateman names a barrow dug by Samuel Carrington in 1848 as Steep Low. That this barrow is the rocky hill now called Steep Low has been questioned by Gunstone who identifies the barrow as Pea Low, which is a large mound on a ridge half a mile north of Alstonfield. Gunstone gives no reasons for this identification but he may have been led to this view by the reports of the excavations in *Diggings* see below. Gunstone 2 gives the (present?) size of Pea Low as 38 paces in diameter and 10 feet high said it is built of loose stone.
The descriptions of the excavators seem to fit the construction of Pea Low better than Steep Low. The latter is more like an outcrop of natural bed rock rather than a man-made mound and Pea Low is still crossed by a stone wall while Steep Low is not.

Three excavations were carried out on ‘Steep Low’ (Pea Low)

**Excavation 1** in 1845 by Bateman.
Meaney says (from *Vestiges*) that “Bateman attempted to excavate Steep Lowe, 50 yds diam., 15ft high, constructed of loose stones. Villagers had found near the top of the mound a secondary burial with an iron spearhead and a lance-head (both with split sockets) and a knife, all near the head.” The villagers also found three Roman coins and Bateman took the burial to be Roman also. See ‘Vestiges’ pp. 76-7 for more details.

**Excavation 2** in August 1848 by Samuel Carrington.
*Diggings* pp. 121-2 reports Carrington’s first attempt on this barrow. It records how three days were spent digging at ‘Steep Low’. The report says because of “the large size of the tumulus, and the stony material employed in its construction, it is impossible to lay bare any part of the surface of the land on which it stands without employing timber to secure the sides from running in”. Only prehistoric and Roman coins were found on this occasion.

**Excavation 3** in September and October 1848 by Carrington.
*Diggings* pp.125-6 records a further attempt to more fully excavate ‘Steep Low’ when “two men were constantly employed for a fortnight”. During this work it says “Close to the surface, beneath the foundations of a stone fence (wall?) which had been built across the hill, the writer picked up an
iron spear-head, which had doubtless been deposited with the remains disinterred in 1845 (Vestiges p. 76), but which being under the wall, not at that time being taken down, escaped observation. We have since received an iron arrow-head, an article of great rarity in tumuli, that was picked up by a looker-on when we first opened the barrow"

The casual finds and the excavations brought to light a number of prehistoric and Roman and Anglo-Saxon burials.

The Anglo-Saxon finds were:
  An iron lance-head. (as above)
  An iron spearhead. Catalogue (J.93. 1135) p.232
  One iron arrowhead. Catalogue (J.93. 1133) p.232
These items are accepted as being ‘Anglo-Saxon’ by Bateman, Meaney, Gunstone and Ozanne. They were not discussed by Fowler.

**Blore** – Barrow at SK 1338 4915
Opened in 1849 by Carrington in a field called Nettles (Net Lows?)
Diameter 13 yards.

Quote from Diggings p.142. “Nearer the edge, on the same side of the barrow, (S.W. side) we found some remains of an un-burnt skeleton, which had been previously disturbed, and not far from it were two articles indicating the internment to have been of late period; namely the bottom of a kiln-baked vessel of blue clay, showing marks of being turned on a potters wheel, and a small iron ring 1¼ inch in diameter.”

The ring is in Catalogue (J.93.1168) p.239.
The barrow is listed as having an Anglo-Saxon secondary burial in Meaney and Gunstone 2. Ozanne lists this as a minor Anglo-Saxon site not being closely datable.

**Caldon Low** on Wredon Hill, in Wooton Parish. SK 0880 4703. Opened by Carrington in1848.
19 yards in diameter and three feet high.
Wredon Hill has been substantially removed by quarrying and the site of the barrow is totally lost to Wardlow Quarry.
Diggings says “It contained two skeletons extended at length about the centre”…. “one of the bodies, which was possibly interred at a subsequent period to the other, as it was not more then two feet from the surface of the barrow” …. “Vestiges of the hair of the former (higher) were perceptible about the skull, which was that of a young man, and in perfect preservation; and a small pebble was found at the right hand”… “At some distance from either of the skeletons, but nearest to the higher internment, from which, however, they were full two yards, lay an iron spear, thirteen inches long, with part of the shaft remaining in the socket, and a narrow iron knife, eight inches in length. An examination of these by the microscope, enables us to add the further information that the spear has been mounted on an ashen shaft, about one inch of which yet remains, owing its preservation to being saturated by the ferruginous matter produced by the decomposition of the iron” …. “The knife shews fewer traces of the vegetable, and more of the animal structures, the tang where inserted into the handle, shews the impression of horn.”

Iron Spearhead in Catalogue (J.93.1152) p.235
Iron Knife in Catalogue (J.93.1153) p.235

Meaney, Ozanne and Gunstone 2. all list this as a possible secondary Anglo-Saxon burial. It is not mentioned by Fowler.
**Caulden Hills** near Waterhouses; Unlocated.
Opened by Carrington in 1848; eighteen yards in diameter and three feet high.

*Diggings* p.153 “on Caulden Hills, in a lower situation than those before examined there.” …..“We found, however, the remnants of a skeleton, the slender femur of which measures seventeen inches, a fragments of a plain globular, narrow-necked vessel of firmly-baked sandy ware, with a polished black surface, produced mechanically, and not by the application of glaze, which may be of Roman-British, or even Saxon manufacture.”

‘Fowler’ says that the restoration ”seems to bear a considerable likeness to a Frankish bottle vase.”

‘Ozanne’ calls this “an unequivocally seventh century find.” based upon Jewitt’s drawing which she reproduces. Illustration with her article p.44. Fig 13 a.

‘Gunstone 2. under ‘Waterhouses 5’ says “a bottle-shaped vase of seventh century date.”

**Calton** at SK 1081 5027.
Opened by Samuel Carrington in 1849. Secondary burial.
18 yards in diameter and 18 inches high surrounded by a bank 4 feet high above the natural level.

*Diggings* p.128 reports that “the N.W. part of the area unexplored, which occasioned us to devote another day to the examination of that portion, where we discovered another skeleton of an adult, of slender proportions, laying extended in the back, with the head pillowed upon a flat stone, which afterwards proved the cover of a small cist. By the side of the body was a short thick-backed iron knife, which had been inserted into a wooden haft.”

Part of an iron knife – much rusted. 3¼ inches long. *Catalogue* p. 220 (J.93-697)

Meaney repeats the *Diggings* report.

Ozanne lists this barrow as a Minor Anglian site. See p. 43 under ‘Blore’s Field’

Gunstone 2 (under Waterhouses 22) calls this “an Anglian intrusive burial”

**Eastern near Ilam** at SK 1202 5355.
Opened by Bateman in 1845 and Carrington in 1850.
35 yards in diameter, 4/5 feet high

Gunstone 2’ (Ilam no.16) reports, from *Vestiges* pp.73-4, that “In the mound were the remains of at least 5 other skeletons, and an iron knife”, (with a horn handle according to Meaney)

On the basis of the iron knife this is seen as a possible Anglo-Saxon secondary burial by Meaney, Ozanne and Gunstone 2.

A small bronze bracelet with a secondary burial laid on its back with head to the West was also found by Carrington in 1850 in the same mound. Fowler considered the bracelet to be Anglo-Saxon but Meaney and Ozanne considers it to be Romano-British while Gunstone 2. says it is Early Bronze Age.

**Musden Hill** Barrow II at SK 1178 5008
Opened by Samuel Carrington in 1848.
21 yards in diameter and 5 feet high. A secondary burial.

*Diggings* p.120 reports that “More to the east was a skeleton with the head to the outside of the barrow, near it was a lump of flint devoid of form; and above and around it were fragments of two globular narrow-necked urns, ornamented with a few projections upon the shoulders, which had contained burnt bones. These are of the kind attributed to some of the Saxon tribes, many examples having been found in various cemeteries in this country, as well as on the Elbe, by the late Mr
Kemble. Below the calcined bones that had filled these urns was a thin layer of gravel, which had been exposed to heat sufficient to melt the small particles of lead ore usually found in it.”

‘Ozanne’ says that “These urns are not extant, but one is known, fortunately, from the illustration by Jewitt, and was clearly Anglian. The knobbed projections appear to have been applied rather than pushed out from the inside. …. Urns with applied knobs are unlikely to be very early and a date in the sixth century is probable. Illustration in Ozanne p. 44. fig 13 b.

Meaney follows Ozanne on this.
Gunstone 2 (under Waterhouses 19) also says the urns were “probably of the sixth century”

**Musden Hill** Barrow IV at SK 1161 5014.
24 yards in diameter and 3 feet high and composed of earth.
Opened by Samuel Carrington in 1849.

*Diggings* p.148 reports that “About half way down, in the centre, we found a skeleton, near to which was a second much decayed, but apparently of a young person; by the side of the head was a pebble, and a circular ring of bronze, with a ribbed front, which, from the remains of the iron pin, we conclude to be a brooch. Beneath the head was another like it, in better preservation. The rust from the iron pins retained the impressions of woven cloth and hair but whether the latter results from contact with a skin garment, or the hair of the corpse, it is impossible to decide : the last is, however, most probable. Under the body was much charcoal.”

The bronze rings (brooches) are illustrated in one of Jewitt’s publications.
Fowler lists the brooches as “Romanizing, or Celtic.”
Meaney says “The annular brooches are round-sectioned and decorated with continuous transverse lines. They probably belong to the VII century.
Ozanne says that the barrow “yielded a pair of annular brooches”. She discusses the brooches at some length citing parallels and concludes that “In the light of present knowledge, a date in the seventh century would seem to be most likely for the Musden brooches also.”
Gunstone 2 (under Waterhouses 21) says “2 Anglian intrusive burials, one with a pair of annular brooches possibly of seventh century date.”
Illustrations in Ozanne p. 40; fig 12 i.j. and Fowler p. 144.

**Wetton near Thor’s Cave.**
Barrow opened by Samuel Carrington in 1850. No actual burial was found.
Nine yards in diameter and very slight elevation. Red earth mixed with chert.

Unlocated, but *Diggings* pp.172-3 says “situated between that object (Thor’s Cave) and the road to Grindon. Owing to its very slight elevation it is not easily seen, and a wall crosses it some distance from the centre.” This barrow could be at SK 1042 5471.

*Diggings* p.172 reports two objects being found together, one a small bowl “of rather globular form, four inches high, is carved in sandstone like some of the Irish urns”. The other “which may be styled a bronze pan or kettle, four inches high and six in diameter, with a slender iron bow like a bucket handle.” Both items are illustrated in *Diggings* p.173 from Jewitt.

Stone vessel Catalogue (J.93-125) with a photograph, on p.34.
Bronze vessel Catalogue (J.93-904) p.158. and described as “Probably Romano-British”. Also with Jewitt’s illustrations of both vessels.
Fowler sees the bronze pan (bucket) as being similar to one found at Chessel Down described by Balwin Brown in his ‘Arts of Early England’ Vol III p.103 and illustrated in Vol IV p. 475. Meaney calls this barrow “Doubtful”. She says “The stone vessel is B(ronze) A(ge); the bronze one could be R(oman)B(ritish) or Coptic; nothing was found on the site to prove it A(nglo)S(axon).” Gunstone 2 under (Wetton 9) says “Neither has been satisfactorily dated.”

**Wetton, Borough Fields** at SK 1077 5470. Desultory excavations by Samuel Carrington from 1845 to 1852. Barrow nine feet in diameter and less than one high.

In *Diggings* p.193 Bateman reports that “As far back as the year 1845, Mr Carrington opened a very small barrow in a field in his occupation, called the Borough Hole. The mound was not more than nine feet across, or raised one foot above the surrounding land, but contained a skeleton, extended at full length, accompanied by a spear and knife of iron.”

Carrington’s own report was printed by Bateman in *Diggings* starting on page 194, and three possible Anglian burials were found. **The first** is reported on page 195 where Carrington says “A small mound, which covered a human skeleton, accompanied by a spear-head and knife, both of iron, was broken up in the Spring of 1845; and two more internments have been found, in the same field, during the present year (1852).”

**The second** came to light in August 1852. On p.201 Carrington reports that “After we had removed some large blocks, a human skull appeared upon the rock, by which it was evident that we had unawares broken into a cist, which by careful examination was found to contain the skeleton of a female – the femur measuring seventeen inches, and the skull indicating a person of middle age – which lay on the right side, with the head towards the south and the feet to the north.” …. “The bones were embedded in compact dark-coloured earth, intermixed with charcoal and burnt bones, and the body had been interred with three small beads, two of lilac-coloured and one of blue glass and a plain bronze ring fibula, 1½ inches diameter, about the neck, as they were discovered upon removing the skull. An iron awl, several iron nails and pieces of stag’s horns and other animal bones, were found about the skeleton.”

**The third burial** is reported on p.202 where Carrington says “In the course of the autumn of 1852, it was observed that the ground, at one side of the place where the internment was found in 1845, was slightly raised;” On the following page he says “On the undisturbed level we found a slender bronze skewer, 12½ inches long, having the thicker end cleverly fashioned by the graver into the cloven foot either of a ruminant animal or a hog, from whence it is gradually attenuated to a point. Continuing our labours from the depression where the stag’s horns were found, at a short distance we discovered a human skeleton that had been previously disturbed, and much broken in consequence. It lay about a foot below the turf, extended at length, with an iron knife, six inches long, and a smaller implement, probably the point of a javelin, near the head.”

Summary of finds.

1st burial – extended skeleton in a barrow. Male.
- iron spear-head
- iron knife

2nd burial - skeleton on right side, head to the south feet to the north. Female.
- two lilac-coloured glass beads.
- one blue glass bead.
- bronze brooch 1½ inches diameter.
- iron awl.
- several iron nails
- pieces of stag’s horns.

- bronze skewer 12½ inches long
- iron knife six inches long
- iron point of a javelin
Fowler accepts the three burials as Anglian. She describes the glass bead from the second burial as bi-conical and the ring fibula as “a bronze annular brooch with a corroded pin, and with a little decorative grooving;” and she illustrates these on p.142 item 1. Meaney says “The size and ornamentation of the annular brooch might indicate a VII date for the female interment; the other burials may be A(nglo)S(axon) or R(omano)B(ritish). Ozanne notes the difficulties posed by the mixture of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon finds on this site. She remarks that “an Anglian cemetery was in the immediate vicinity of a Romano-British settlement; or one should say, rather, that this seems to be the likely interpretation of what Bateman entitles the ‘desultory excavations’ of Carrington” She notes that “all three skeletons were in the immediate vicinity of Romano-British rubbish.” but then comments about the bronze brooch found in the 2nd burial being “decorated with groups of short transverse lines, and has a recess for the pin, a detail common on Anglian ring-brooches, but not on Roman ones.” She also says about the 1st burial, that in the barrow, “The size of the barrow is in favour of a British attribution, the weapons of an Anglian.” She ends her discussion of the burials with the remark that “Carrington’s descriptions are so muddled that one may not draw any valid conclusions from the coincidence here of British and Anglian remains, which are not necessarily contiguous in date.” Gunstone 1. p.44. lists the three burials as Anglian. 

Note. The ‘Romano-British’ settlement seems to have been abandoned as no subsequent occupation material has been found. The present, and presumably newer, village of Wetton is half a mile away. A question then arises. Is it likely that the Romano-British would bury their dead within a lived-in settlement? If the answer is no then perhaps this would strengthen the suggestion that the 3 burials are those of Anglians from the new village.

**Wetton** Three barrows are recorded in *Gunstone 2*, each of which contain a later secondary burial which may possibly (and only that) be from the Anglo-Saxon period.

Wetton 2. is named as Slip Low, near Wetton in *Diggings* p.181 but its precise location has not been identified. A skeleton of a young person was found in the south edge of the mound. A few pieces of flint and a piece of urn were also found which may indicate an early period for the burial or may have been spoil from the earlier excavation.

Wetton 3. is described in *Diggings* p.188 as being “near Stanshope, about 300 yards from Longlow”. *Gunstone 2* describes this as unlocated. At a high level various fragments of urns, two pieces of bronze, an iron awl and a piece of thick green glass. Carrington speculates that this may a previously plundered Saxon burial but others have doubted this.

Wetton 4. *Gunstone 2*, from *Vestiges* p.66, describes this as Near Wetton, Taylor’s Low and Unlocated. It contained a cist burial, a skeleton in a rock cut grave above which was a cremation in a small octagonal cist; and above this was a skeleton. It is possible that this upper skeleton could be a later secondary burial from the Anglo-Saxon period. It is also possible that this barrow may actually be Wetton 5 in *Gunstone 2* whose location is given as SK 1121 5474. Gunstone simply records this as “damaged” but this location on modern O.S. maps is called Wetton Low. Also Wetton Low’s present size and shape seems to fit quite well the illustration of ‘Taylor’s Low’ in the book ‘Barrow Digging by a Barrow-Knight’ by the Rev Stephen Isaacson. It seems most probable that Taylor’s Low in *Vestiges* p.66 and Wetton Low are one and the same barrow.
There are a number of Anglo Saxon sculpted stones in the Moorlands. Most appear to be fragments of stone crosses dating from the ninth or tenth centuries. The majority now rest in churches or churchyards but many of them are known to have been moved from their original locations. For this reason we cannot be certain of their original purpose. Some commentators have suggested that the stones in the churchyards are memorial crosses raised in honour of prominent people, although none of them bare any inscriptions while others claim that the taller crosses could be preaching crosses for use before a church had been built, or perhaps when it was only a small wooden structure. However a few crosses are found in elevated positions, often some distance from any known human habitation, and these have been claimed to be way-markers to guide travellers, or even stopping places giving them the opportunity to pray for a safe journey. Sadly all of these suggestions are only conjecture for which reliable supporting evidence has yet to be found.

All of the more obvious Anglo Saxon fragments in the area covered by this gazetteer have now been included in the ‘Corpus XIII of Anglo Saxon Stone Sculpture for Derbyshire and Staffordshire’ published 2018. The authors of this particular volume have taken a strict view of what they consider to be ‘Norman’ and what they think is ‘Anglo Saxon’. This has led them to exclude the concept of a ‘transitional period’ when Norman and Anglo Saxon styles and practices intermingled, presumably when ‘Anglo Saxon’ sculptors were used by their new ‘Norman’ masters. Consequently a few interesting stones have been passed over in the ‘Corpus’ without inclusion or discussion. Some of these are mentioned in Supplement 1.

The Stones listed below uses the numbering system of the ‘Corpus’. Also the dates given are the estimates of the authors of the ‘Corpus’ but as Rosemary Cramp their General Editor has said “so far no analytical method has been devised to date carved stone in absolute terms” so caution needs to be used when quoting them.

### Alstonefield

**Alstonefield 1.** Part of a cross shaft. This stone stands in the churchyard by the north aisle. It is about 27 inches high 11 inches wide and 7½ inches thick. One broad side has been largely cut away but the opposite side facing east has a nice panel of plaited interlace. The two narrow sides have simple interlace slightly different, but both are damaged from about midway towards their base. The stone is Roaches or Ashover Millstone Grit

Date, perhaps 10\(^{\text{th}}\) century.

**Alstonefield 2.** Part of a cross shaft. This is now lost, perhaps stolen. It stood 32 inches high, 15½ inches wide and 9 inches thick. As the stone has been cut back on two sides these measurements do not represent its original size. The present broader side has an interlace pattern of Staffordshire knots while the narrow side has two standing figures one above the other, the lower one being an armed warrior.

Stone type not known.

Date, 10\(^{\text{th}}\) century.

**Alstonefield 3.** Fragment of a shaft. Inside the church at the west end of the north aisle, lying loose. It is 26½ inches high, 8¼ inches wide and 7 inches thick. Two sides have been cut back probably for some architectural purpose. Both carved sides have open interlace with circle decoration, but differ in design and are incomplete.

The stone is Roaches or Ashover Millstone Grit.

Perhaps 10\(^{\text{th}}\) century.
Alstonefield 4. A fragment of shaft. Inside the church and cemented into the western end of the north wall of the north aisle. Height 11½ inches and 17½ inches wide. The decoration consists of plaited interlace with mouldings on two sides. The fragment is laid on its side.
Stone : Longnor or Sheen Sandstone, Millstone Grit Group.
Date 10th century.

Alstonefield 5. This is a small fragment probably of a cross shaft. Height 6¾ inches, 10¼ inches Wide, 7 inches thick. Interlace on one side and part of a figure on the opposite side, but both are damaged and fragmentary.
Stone : consistent with the Hawskmoor Formation, Sherwood Sandstone, of the Leek inlier. Probably 10th century.

Alstonefield 6. Round shaft reused as a sundial. Standing to the south of the church. Height 41¼ inches, Width 15¾ tapering to 7½ inches. A plain undecorated round shaft somewhat ovoid. Its slightly bulbous shape is similar to a number of similar shafts in Cheshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire.
Stone : Ipstones Edge Sandstones, Morridge Formation, Millstone Grit Group.
Date perhaps 10th century.

Alstonefield 7. The Upper square (rectangular) section of a round shaft type. Inside the church at the west end of the north aisle. Height 20½ inches, width 8½ inches, thickness 5½ inches. This section is almost complete but lacks the cross head. Each side is decorated with simple interlace, one side being of the Greek key type.
Stone : Ipstones Edge Sandstones, Morridge Formation, Millstone Grit Group.
Date : 10th century.

Alstonefield 8. A fragment of the upper square section of a round shaft type. Inside the church at the west end of the north aisle. Height 13¼ inches, width 10½ inches, thickness 8 inches. The fragment is small and damaged. Each side is decorated with simple interlace, one side being of the Greek key type.
Stone : Roaches or Ashover Grit, Millstone Grit Group.
Date : 10th century.

Alstonefield 9. A small fragment of the upper square section of a round shaft type. Inside the church at the west end of the north aisle. Height 13 inches, width 8½ inches, thickness 8½ inches. The fragment is small and damaged. Each side is decorated with simple interlace, one side being indeterminate.
Stone : Roaches or Ashover Grit, Millstone Grit Group.
Date : 10th century.

Alstonefield 10. A small fragment of the upper square section of a round shaft type. Inside the church at the west end of the north aisle. Height 13 inches, width 9½ inches, thickness 6¾ inches. The fragment is small and damaged. Three sides are decorated with simple interlace all heavily damaged, one side is totally cut away.
Stone : Roaches or Ashover Grit, Millstone Grit Group.
Date : 10th century.

Alstonefield 11. This could be either a piece of a rectangular sectioned cross shaft or part of the upper section of a round shafted cross. Inside the church at the west end of the north aisle. Height 19½ inches, width 9 inches, thickness 8½ inches. All four sides are decorated with a simple interlace but one side has a 'lump' that suggests it may be incomplete.
Stone : Roaches or Ashover Grit, Millstone Grit Group.
Date : 10th century.
Alstonefield 12. A fragment. Built into of the exterior of the north wall of the north aisle at its western end. About 7¾ inches above the ground. One face is visible and decorated with a simple interlace, very worn. Height, if upright, 13 inches, width 8 inches. Stone: Roaches or Ashover Grit, Millstone Grit Group. Date, possibly 10th or 11 centuries.

Alstonefield 13; 14; 15; 16. Parts of round columns. Inside the church at the west end of the north aisle. Two are about 11 inches in diameter and approx 20 inches high of stone from Roaches or Ashover Millstone Grit. Two narrower at 10 inches and 7 inches diameter and 20 inches and 8 inches tall of stone from Ipstones Edge Sandstones, Morridge Formation, Millstone Grit Group. Origin: Unknown. Date: Unknown.

Heaton

Heaton 1. Round shaft with a fragment of a square upper section. In Holmes Chapel since 1966. Moved to Heaton before 1939 from unknown location to become a cattle rubbing post. Height 4 feet 5 inches, diam’ 14¾ inches. Very worn and weathered decoration on two sides. Stone: Described as ‘sandstone’. Date: 10/11th centuries.

Ilam

Ilam 1. Rectangular section shaft. In the churchyard south of the church. Height 7 feet 4¼ inches, width tapering from 17¼ inches, thickness tapering from 8½ inches. Decorated on all sides with interlace and some figures but much weathering and damage. Re-erected from three pieces. Stone: Helsby Sandstone Formation, Sherwood Sandstone Group. Date: 10th century.

Ilam 2. Round shaft with remains of cross head. In the churchyard south of the church. Height 54¾ inches, width 13 inches max, thickness 12¼ inches max. Decorated with interlace on all sides of the square section and some very worn decoration just below the collar. Stone: Ashover Grit, Marsden Formation, Millstone Grit Group. Date: 10th century.

Ilam 3. Part of a shaft. Built into the exterior west wall of the south chapel near the S.W. corner. Height if upright, 21½ inches, width 6¼ inches. Decoration of simple interlace. Stone: Ashover Grit, Marsden Formation, Millstone Grit Group. Date: 10th century.


Ilam Estate

Ilam Estate. A rectangular section shaft. In ‘Paradise Walk’ along the north bank of the River Manifold. Height 5 feet 3 inches, width 22½ inches max, thickness 19¼ inches max. Decorated with figures in arched panels and pellets and interlace covering all sides. All sides are heavily worn, damaged and weathered and the decoration difficult to see. Stone: a member of the Ashover Grit, Marsden Formation, Millstone Grit Group. Date, late 9th or 10th centuries.
Leek

Leek 1. A rectangular shaft with a runic inscription. In the churchyard, east of the south porch. Height 6 feet 1¼ inches, width 17¼ inches, thickness 12¼ inches. Very badly damaged but some interlace can be seen on three sides. The fourth side contains a small piece of a runic inscription towards its base, but too fragmented to read. Stone: Suggestive of Helsby Sandstone Formations, Sherwood Sandstone Group rather than Millstone Grit.
Date, 10th century.

Leek 2. Part of a shaft lying horizontally in the north aisle. Height 4 feet 11 inches, width 17¾ inches, thickness 24½ inches. Tapered. Very badly damaged and worn but traces of interlace can just be seen on two (perhaps three) sides. Stone: Roaches Grit?, Marsden Formation, Millstone Grit Group.
Date, 10th century.

Leek 3. A section of a rectangular cross shaft. The so called “Calvary Stone”. Inside at the west end of the north aisle. Height 20 inches, width 12½ inches, thickness 6¾ inches. One side cut away but three sides in good condition. Wide side with figures, the other two sides with interlace. Stone: Helsby Sandstone Formation, Sherwood Sandstone Group rather than Millstone Grit Group.
Date second half of 9th century.

Leek 4. Top of a rectangular shaft with a fragment of a cross head. Inside, at the west end of the north aisle. Height 17 inches, width 12½ inches, thickness 6 inches. One wide side is decorated with a cross and interlace, the other wide side with a circular design and interlace. The two narrow sides each have designs similar to ‘Greek key’ patterns. Stone: Roaches Grit?, Marsden Formation, Millstone Grit Group.
Date, 10th century.

Leek 5. Two parts (‘a’ and ‘b’) of a cross head. ‘a’ is inside the church at the west end of the north aisle. Height of ‘a’ 13½ inches, width 13¾ inches, thickness 5 inches. The two parts ‘a’ and ‘b’ together make an almost complete cross head but ‘b’ is now lost and is only known from a drawing in Sleigh’s ‘History of Leek’. Both front and back are decorated with a trefoil type interlace design. Stone: (‘a’) Roaches Grit?, Marsden Formation, Millstone Grit Group.
Date, 10th century.

Leek 6. A Round shaft with square top section and the boss of a cross head. In the churchyard to the east of the church. Height 9 feet 11¼ inches, max diameter 19¾ inches. The collar is decorated with an interlace pattern all round. Below the collar the round shaft is decorated with 4 simple motifs, one a badly worn cross perhaps later. Above the collar one side of the square section is decorated with a plant scroll pattern, 2 sides with interlace patterns and the fourth with a key pattern. Stone: Helsby Sandstone Formation, Sherwood Sandstone Group rather than Millstone Grit.
Date, 10th century.

Upper Hulme

In the 1990s near to Roach House a carved stone was discovered in a stone wall. It appeared to be a fragment, about a foot high, from the rectangular part of a round shafted cross. Unfortunately the stone is now lost but a photograph had been taken by local historian Faith Cleverdon. This photograph shows two sides, one lit and the other in shadow. The well lit side is decorated with a key pattern while the darker side perhaps has a plant scroll design. Both designs are known from similar cross fragments in both Staffordshire and Derbyshire. Nothing more is known about this stone.
Date, 10th century.
Section 4.

Artefacts – Casual finds

Beeston Tor  -  A Hoard from St Bertram’s cave. See Appendix 1 for a fuller report.

Farley
An Saxon Sword? shown on OS 6” map (SK 04 SE) found in 1837 at SK 071 432. The site is now under buildings at Alton Towers. Nothing more known. See VCH 1 p.212.

Forsbrook
Gold Pendant. A casual find from Forsbrook near Cheadle. It is early 7th century and it incorporates a Roman Imperial gold coin (Solidus of Valentinian II AD 375-9) in a setting of cloisonné cells with garnet and blue glass inlays. It is about 1.2 inches in diameter. It is now in the British Museum with a replica in the Potteries Museum.
References to it are made in the following –
‘The Anglo-Saxons’ by James Campbell p.52 with a picture.
‘Anglo-Saxon Jewellery’ by Ronald Jessup, ps.32 and 52 with picture on p.53.

Mayfield
A Coin Hoard was found at Mayfield ‘before 1844’. They were English and more than 20 in number of approximate date of 1060 AD. No other objects or container are known. The present location of the hoard is unknown.
Information sources:-

Old Furnace
A small piece of 9th C. Pottery found by Time Team at Old Furnace 2 miles east of Cheadle.

Staffordshire Moorlands
[1] A silver Strap-end about 1½ inches long. Date about 850AD. This is a metal detector find from “somewhere in the Staffordshire Moorlands” (but probably Wooton) on Boxing Day 2004. The find was reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the strap-end is now in the Potteries Museum. A report of the find appeared in ‘The Sentinel’ on 14th October 2005.

Thor’s Cave, near Wetton
[1] Two Anglo-Saxon Annular Brooches in bronze from the early Anglo Saxon period. One lightly incised; iron pins missing (presumed corroded away); each about 1½ - 2 inches in diameter. Found in Thor’s Cave near Wetton. They are now in Potteries Museum in the Thor’s Cave cabinet – Items 16 and 17. [In 2014]
[2] Bronze Ring. This is said to be quadrangular in section and plain over-lapping terminals. Recorded by G.H.Wilson in ‘Cave Hunting Holidays in Peakland’ pp. 43, 44 and 46. Found in the Fissure Cave adjoining the west ‘window’ of Thor’s Cave. Wilson thought it to be 10th century. Also from Fissure Cave upper level, coarse hand made pottery fragments. Saxon? Wilson p 22

Throwley
Appendix 1.

The Beeston Tor Hoard

In the 1920s a group of amateur diggers was formed by the Reverend G.H.Wilson of Chorlton-cum-Hardy near Manchester. His aim was to undertake archaeological work in the caves of the Peak District. They called themselves ‘The Brotherhood of the Pick and Shovel’ but despite their comical name they did serious work and made important discoveries in the caves of the Manifold Valley and elsewhere. Their more significant finds were purchased by the British Museum. The artefacts were mainly from the Neolithic Age but one outstanding find was from the Anglo-Saxon period. This was the Beeston Tor Hoard.

The Anglo-Saxon hoard was discovered in a cave at the foot of Beeston Tor in the Manifold Valley a few yards downstream from where the river Hamps joins the Manifold. The cave is difficult to find and not easy to get to in wet weather but during dry Summer weather both rivers run underground allowing easier access along the dry river bed.

The Saxon hoard was found at the back of the cave buried in the floor gathered together in what seemed to have been a leather bag or purse. Sadly the diggers were not able to recover any of the leather but its contents consisted of 49 silver coins, two silver disc brooches, a plain gold ring, two further rings made of very fine gold wire and a plain bronze strap end. Wilson’s report also says that “under the larger of the brooches a quantity of fine gold strands were found, some of which adhered to the back of the brooch as if they had been part of a piece of gold decorated fabric.”

The Larger Brooch.
This brooch is nearly three inches in diameter, made of silver and inlaid with niello. Niello is a silver (or copper) sulphide used as an infill in the hollows of a piece of jewellery which gives a shiny black background surface to contrast with the exposed polished silver. It can look quite striking. See illustration on p.32.

The brooch has a design based on a series of four overlapping circles and nine bosses, actually dome-headed rivets, one of which is now missing. The fields formed by this design are filled with motifs of leaves and abstract patterns with some simple interlace designs. The design, and its execution, is considered by some authorities to be rudimentary, even crude but nevertheless the overall effect is pleasant enough for most people.

Its date is thought to be between 850 to 900 AD. The British Museum says before 875.

The Smaller Brooch
This brooch is a fraction under 2 inches in diameter and is made of silver and its decoration is highlighted with niello. The basic design features four circular openwork fields with four silver bosses between them surrounding a central circular field and boss. Each of the four fields has a foliate design similar to a fleur-de-lys, while the central field has a cross. These designs are formed by the metal being completely pierced through. The solid areas between the fields are decorated with animals in the Trewhiddle style. This brooch has rather cute birds, but often one finds dogs or other animals in this style. The brooch is complete with its pin and catch-plate.

The style suggests a late ninth century date for its manufacture. The British Museum says before 875 AD.

Other items
The hoard also includes a ring, thought to be a finger-ring. It’s made of gold, but very plain and difficult to date.
There were two more rings also made of thin gold wire, which may have been earrings. There was also some thin gold wire which seemed to have been woven into a cloth fabric of some sort but unfortunately the cloth had already perished away when the wire was found.
The hoard also contained a small piece of plain bronze of unknown function.
The Coins
However the most numerous items in the hoard were the 49 silver coins. All of the coins, save one, are of the Burgred or Lunette type. This type had three horizontal lines of inscription on the back with the top and bottom lines fitted into a half moon shape hence the name ‘Lunette’. The type was introduced by Burgred king of Mercia in the early 860’s and taken up by Ethelred king of Wessex and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The design was still used by Alfred in the first two or three years of his reign before he introduced a design of his own making.

The coins were all pennies and they were issued by four different kings and an archbishop, here listed.
- 1 coin of Ethelwulf of Wessex 838 – 858
- 1 coin of Ceolnoth Archbishop of Canterbury 833 – 870
- 7 coins of Ethelred I of Wessex 866 – 871
- 20 coins of Burgred of Mercia 853 – 874
- 20 coins of Alfred 871 - 900

All the coins except that of Ethelwulf are of Burgred’s design (the Lunette type)

The coins are useful in dating the deposition of the hoard. Certainly the hoard could not have been hidden before Alfred’s accession in 871 when he first started to issue coins of the Burgred type. Nor does the hoard include any of Alfred’s new type coins which were issued from about 873/4. This suggests that the hoard was likely to have been buried between 871 and 875 or possibly a little later. A deposit of about 873-5 is suggested by the British Museum.

This possible date range has led to suggestions that it was buried in response to the incursions and settlements of Danes into the eastern portions of Mercia during the late 800s. This was certainly a turbulent period. In late 873 the Danish army moved from Torksey in Lincolnshire to Repton in Derbyshire where it built a fortification and stayed there for about a year. As a result of this King Burgred of Mercia left his kingdom and fled to Rome. In late 874 the southern army attacked Wessex but having failed to overcome Alfred it returned to Mercia in 877. It then divided that kingdom into two parts. A client king, Ceolwulf by name, was given charge of the western part of Mercia while the Danish army settled in the east and divided up the land there. It seems likely therefore that sometime during this turbulent period our hoard was buried.

The finding of buried treasure in a cave is bound to lead to the telling of imaginative stories. So here is one to tell the children:-

A ruthless Viking army is storming across the countryside. A wealthy family, fearing a bloody death, or worse, fled from their home with what valuables they could carry and headed for the hills. Some of the nearest hills, a safe 20 miles from Repton where they lived, are those surrounding the Manifold Valley. Here in a desolate spot they found a hidden cave in a towering cliff and crept in. Huddling inside they decide to bury their valuables where they would be safe. But tragically after leaving their hiding place a grisly fate overtook them and they never returned to recover their hidden treasure. And there it lay, for a thousand years, until the Reverend Wilson found it and gave it to the British Museum for all of us to see.

Perhaps this is not a very good story for children; it hasn’t got a happy ending. It may make a legend though, if it gets repeated enough times.

Of course, we have no idea what actually happened. The only thing we know for certain is that the owners never returned to recover the valuables which they had so carefully hidden.
Appendix 2

Manuscripts

Manuscripts are our primary source of early place-names. The soundest way to use a place-name when identifying an Anglo-Saxon location is to use only those place-names found in manuscripts that date from the period. Unfortunately only two Anglo Saxon manuscripts have survived which mention places in the Staffordshire Moorlands. However three other manuscripts do mention the name ‘Staffordshire’.

Domesday Book
The biggest source of place-names, and also other information is the Domesday Book. This was ordered to be compiled by William the Conqueror in 1085. Its purpose was to record the names of settlement places and taxable assets throughout England. It gives details of ownership, land area, active population and stock plus a taxable valuation. It not only recorded the circumstances for the years 1085/6 but also included much information from the time of Edward the Confessor i.e. before 1066. These earlier details give us a valuable picture of the agricultural landscape and tenure-ship in the late Anglo Saxon period. It also records several thousand Anglo Saxon places-names in use before the Normans arrived. Domesday Book is the chief source of the names in Section 1 ‘Place-names’ and all the names on the Map.

The Will of Wulfric Spott ( Charter S 1536 )
The second useful manuscript is the will of Wulfric a Mercian thegn, along with its confirmation by King Edward the Confessor. The will, drawn up in 1002 AD is in favour of Burton Abbey, Tamworth and several notable people. It survives as a copy made in the second half of the 11th century. The donations bequeathed by Wulfric were confirmed by King Edward in 1005 AD and the confirmation document now appears along with the will in charter S 1536; now kept safely in the Record Office at Stafford. The will records the gifts of many places, most of which go to the Abbey at Burton but with some going to a religious house at Tamworth and a few more to other beneficiaries. A handful of the lands granted to Burton are places in the Staffordshire Moorlands. They are Rudyard, Sheen, and Ilam along with Musden, Caldun (Cauldon) and Castern. These appear in Section 1 Places, and in the Index.

Three other manuscripts record the name ‘Staffordshire’.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (versions D and E)
The earliest record of “Staffordshire” is in 1016 AD when the Chronicle reports that Prince (later King) Edmund and earl Uhtred “went to Staffordshire, and to Shrewsbury and to Chester and harried on their side and Cnut on his.” [Perhaps the people of Staffordshire favoured Cnut over Edmund, or was his army just short of provisions?]

Charter S 1140
Between 1062 and 1065 AD Edward the Confessor greets “all my thegns in Staffordshire” in a writ regarding an estate at Perton in the south of Staffordshire

Charter S 1155
In another late, but doubtful writ in favour of the priests at Wolverhampton Edward the Confessor sent greetings to “all my thegns in Staffordshire”

Printed copies of all Anglo Saxon charters can be obtained by searching the ‘Electronic Sawyer’ using the charter numbers (including the ‘S’).
Appendix 3.

Ilam Church Doorway

The church at Ilam has an interesting blocked doorway in the south wall of the nave. It is clearly visible from the outside but obscured by plaster inside. It is tall (8 ft 9in.) and narrow (2 ft 9in.). It would have appeared even taller had the outside ground level been level with the nave floor, now three steps below. The doorway was round headed, but only half of it remains as part of it was cut away when a square window was inserted into the south wall. The stones of the jambs and the head are plain and much worn with weathering. The south wall itself is built of rough rubble and is only 2 ft 9 in thick. It also appears to be sitting on a square plinth. The doorway and the wall are clearly untouched by the restorations to the church by G. G. Scott in the mid 19th century. The shape, proportions and the lack of any later decoration certainly point to an Anglo Saxon date for the doorway. Furthermore, the thinness and the rough rubble of much of the south wall also suggest that this is of a similar date, at least in part.
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G.H. Wilson in ‘Cave Hunting Holidays in Peakland’1926.
More Stones

1. Stones adjacent to the area of Gazetteer.

Ashbourne
A section of a rectangular cross shaft now inside the north transept of Ashbourne church. Height 28¾ inches, width 11¾ inches, thickness 8¼ inches. One wide side with an animal decoration but badly worn and the other three sides with interlace patterns in better condition.
Date, 10th century.

Checkley
Checkley 1. A section of a rectangular cross shaft in the churchyard south-west of the church. Furthest from the church. Height 5 feet 2½ inches, width 19¼ inches, thickness 13½ inches. Highly decorated on all four sides with interlace, circles and figures.
Stone: Helsby Sandstone Formation, Sherwood Sandstone group.
Date Late 9th or 10th century.

Checkley 2. A section of a rectangular cross shaft in the churchyard south-west of the church, between Checkley 1. and Checkley 3. Height 4 feet 5½ inches, width 22½ inches, thickness 13¾ inches. Decorated with panels of interlace and figures on all sides but more worn than Checkley 1.
Stone: Helsby Sandstone Formation, Sherwood Sandstone group.
Date Late 9th or 10th century.

Checkley 3. A section of a rectangular cross shaft in the churchyard south-west of the church. The nearest of the group to the church. Height 4 feet 8¼ inches, width 17¼ inches, thickness 13 inches. The decoration is too badly worn to be identified.
Stone: Hollington Formation, Sherwood Sandstone group.
Date uncertain but probably as Checkley 1 and 2.

Chesterton
A section of a rectangular cross shaft in the porch of the church hall. Height 44½ inches, width 14½ inches, thickness 8¼ inches. One broad side depicts a figure holding a cross, with the feet of another figure just above. The two narrow sides are decorated with differing interlace designs. Despite some damage the decoration can be clearly seen. The other broad side has been cut away and hollowed out.
Stone: Millstone Grit Group.
Date, Late 9th or 10th century.

Norbury
Norbury 1. The lower part of a rectangular cross shaft inside the church on the south side of the nave at the west end.
Height 5 feet 5 inches, width 15¾ inches, thickness 10¼ inches. One broad face with interlaced circles, one narrow side with interlace and a warrior figure. The other broad face has a simple interlace and the second narrow side is mostly damaged but with some ‘Staffordshire Knot’ decoration still showing.
Stone: Millstone Grit Group.
Date, Early to mid 10th century.
Norbury 2. A section of a rectangular cross shaft inside the church by the west wall of the nave. Height 3 feet 10 inches, width 14 inches, thickness 12 inches. One broad face with a complete interlace pattern in good condition, both narrow side with simple interlace patterns, one heavily damaged. The other broad face has some interlace and the top of a figure on its upper third. No decoration survives below and as the stone is cemented to the floor this face cannot be easily seen.
Date, Early to mid 10th century.

Stoke on Trent
Two reassembled pieces of a rectangular cross shaft in the churchyard of St. Peter ad Vincula, Stoke, south west of the church. Height 3 feet 11¼ inches, width 8½ inches, thickness 7¾ at the top. One broad side with an interlace pattern with Staffordshire Knots and one narrow side with a simple interlace pattern. The other broad face has a debased plant-scroll pattern partially cut away. The other narrow side has a Greek key pattern on the top quarter, the remainder having been cut away when the stone was used as a lintel.
Stone: “consistent with Chatsworth Grit (of Staffordshire facies) and Kniveton Sandstone, Millstone Grit.”
Date, 10th century.

Wincle Clulow
Clulow Cross near Wincle stands in a spectacular position on a large mound close by the A54 from Congleton to Buxton. It is a round shafted cross that has lost its cross head but it is still 9 feet 1½ inches high and 11 inches at its widest point. The lower two thirds or so of the shaft is cylindrical while the upper part is rectangular in section and has plain panels on all four sides. There is just a small part of the cross arm remaining from the head.
Stone: Possibly Roaches Grit from the Millstone Grit Group.
Date, Late 10th or early 11th century.

Wincle Grange now in Swythamley Park
Part of a round shafted cross now in Swythamley Park, Staffordshire but formerly from Wincle Grange. It is a round shaft with an upper rectangular section with four plain panels. There may be some very light decoration on the round section just before the collar separating it from the upper rectangular part. A modern plain cross-head has been added at the top.
Stone: Millstone Grit Group.
Date, 10th or 11th century.
2. ‘Transitional’ Stones
from the Anglo Saxon and Norman overlap

Waterfall
The church at Waterfall has a carved stone built into the exterior of the eastern gable of the chancel. It can only be viewed from ground level but it seems to be a simple circle and a cross together, carved in relief. It cannot be seen whether the circle overlays the cross or otherwise without closer examination. The estimated size is approximately 15 inches high and 12 inches wide. The stone may be a grave marker; it is similar to other grave markers such as are found in Lincolnshire and Northumberland. With so little to go on its age is doubtful, it could be late Anglo Saxon or Norman or even later Medieval.

Ipstones Tympanum
Tympana are usually considered to be a Norman introduction into England although plain ones are sometimes claimed to be of Anglo Saxon date. The tympanum in the church at Ipstones however is carved with two beasts with coiled tails fighting, possibly representing good and evil. They are arched over with a foliate scroll design. The carving is best described as being crude, not at all what one usually expects from Norman work. It is a pity then that ‘Corpus XIII’ did not include an analysis of this sculpture. Their expert opinion might have been useful. The tympanum is now set into the south wall of the nave having been saved from the earlier church when it was replaced by the present structure in the late 18th century.

Ilam Font
The font is a striking feature in the church at Ilam. It is tub shaped, now mounted on a later stone stand and decorated with figures and animals in six arched panels. In these panels we find a pair of figures holding hands, two panels each with an animal with its head facing backwards holding a scull in its mouth. There is a lamb with a cross on its back topped with a bird (a dove?). The other two panels each contain a figure, one male and one female. The panels have been claimed to depict the legend of St Bertelin, whose tomb is in the south chapel, and a plausible case can be made for this. The font has been claimed to be Anglo Saxon work by the authors of several Peak District guide books. This is understandable because of the presence of Anglo Saxon crosses in the churchyard and the ancient doorway in the south wall of the nave. However Pevsner and others say it is probably post Conquest. Nevertheless the figures and animals are so simple, some would say barbaric, that it is hardly a flattering example of the European art being imported by the Normans. The font certainly doesn’t look ‘Norman’ so it is easy to believe that whoever the patron of this piece was, he probably used a local Saxon mason to do the job rather than bringing in a Norman one. The authors of ‘Corpus XIII’ make no comment either way, they just ignore it.
Supplement 2.

Thorpe Cloud Penannular Brooch

Thorpe Cloud near Ilam
Thorpe Cloud is just outside of the area covered by this Gazetteer but it seems appropriate to include the record of this artefact here. In the late 1960's Joyce Birch, a member of the Archaeology Section of Leek Field Club examined a Penannular Brooch that had been found by a metal detector on Thorpe Cloud. She made a careful and measured drawing of the artefact which she passed on to Harry Ball a fellow member of the club and the author of this Gazetteer. The drawing is reproduced below and the notes on the drawing read:-

Measured in millimetres
3.80cm below surface found
by metal detector on top of Thorpe Cloud
Penannular brooch of Fowler 1963
Type F
C5th Early Saxon Brooch

The name of the finder is not known nor is the present location of the brooch. Therefore at the present time this drawing is the only evidence known to the author.
Beeston Tor – Small Brooch

Beeston Tor - Large Brooch
Forsbrook Pendant

Wootton Strap End
The English Companions is nation-wide Anglo Saxon society dedicated to the celebration of Anglo Saxon Culture, its History, Art and Literature in all of its forms. It was founded in 1966 in response to the celebration of the national defeat and disaster 900 years before and set out to give a more balanced view of the Anglo Saxon people involved. We currently have more than four hundred members throughout the country and abroad.

The objectives of the society are to raise people’s awareness of Anglo Saxon culture and to bring together like minded people. To these ends we publish a quarterly magazine, provide a website and an online discussion group and provide occasional lectures and social gatherings including an annual ‘feast’. Some areas hold regular local meetings and make visits to Anglo Saxon places of interest. We also provide the opportunity for members to learn to read ‘Old English’, the language of the Anglo Saxons, via a correspondence course and a few members provide a living history presence at suitable events.

The society, which is now a Registered Company, welcomes all interested people but takes a strictly neutral political and religious line in all of its activities. People may join the Society using information from the website below.

www.tha-engliscan-gesithas.org.uk

Company No. 04134039.
Reg. Office. Bottom Lane Farm, Bottom House, Nr. Leek. Staffs. ST137QL