3. Archaeological Significance
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Old Matlock Conservation Area contains no Scheduled Monuments. The establishment of a settlement, however, is of early date, comprised of two parts – the ‘Green’ in the valley bottom and the church surmounting the high limestone cliff to its south.

Whilst no building fabric survives before the 17th century (with the exception of parts of the Parish Church) it is probable that archaeological remains of earlier properties, and sites, lay within the core of the settlement – on the ‘Green’ and in the higher village.

The existing, principal, road layout within the settlement is of ancient origin reflecting the routes formed by early settlers in association with the local topography. To the east the current main road from Alfreton (A615) is a turnpike road formed in 1759-60. The principal north-south road was (and remains) Starkholmes Road to the south and Lime Tree Road to the north. Access to the medieval stone bridge at Matlock was via the ‘Causeway’.

The Historic Environment Record contains records for a number of sites, including buildings and structures that are ‘listed’, and a lead mine at Pig Tor.

The Historic Environment Records are as follows:

10020 – St Giles Church
10021 – Sundial in St Giles Churchyard
10028 – 85 Church Street (former Kings Head Inn)
10029 – 86-92 Church Street – late 17th century house altered and formed into a terrace row in 1927
10031 – 3 Knowleston Place
10040 – Pig Tor Lead Mine – a worked out lead vein (18th century)
10042 – Former Flax/Corn Mill, Matlock Green (19th century)
10050 – Malt Kiln, Matlock Green – 1855-75
10056 – 106 Church Street (Wheatsheaf House)
10070 – Bentley Cottage, 19th century – former dyehouse
10081 – Pic Tor War Memorial – 1921
99035 – Midland railway – Manchester branch
9936 – 112 Church Street – former rectory

The above list is complete at the time of writing, however other historic buildings/features/sites etc will continue to be added to the Record.

There are various remains of industrial archaeology. These are centred on Matlock Mill where the former Mill Pond still survives (in part) together with the channelling of the Bentley Brook to provide water power. Within the Conservation Area there are, to date, eleven bridges, of varying form, construction and material, crossing the Bentley Brook. A section of the base of the Brook which runs through Knowleston Place is lined with stone setts. This is a particularly unusual and rare occurrence.