

# Old Matlock

## Conservation Area Appraisal

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

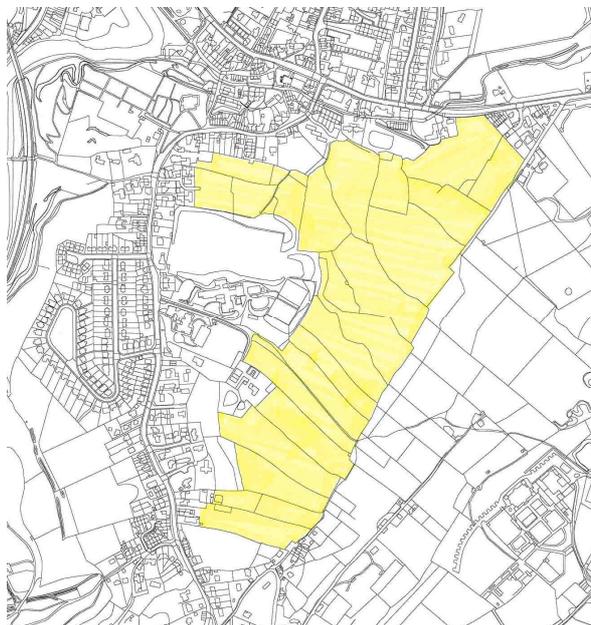
The Historic Environment Records are as follows:

- 10020 – St Giles Church
- 10021 – Sundial in St Giles Churchyard
- 10028 – 85 Church Street (former Kings Head Inn)
- 10029 – 86-92 Church Street – late 17<sup>th</sup> 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 (18<sup>th</sup> century)
- 10042 – Former Flax/Corn Mill, Matlock Green (19<sup>th</sup> century)
- 10050 – Malt Kiln, Matlock Green – 1855-75
- 10056 – 106 Church Street (Wheatsheaf House)
- 10070 – Bentley Cottage, 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

It is possible from historic maps to ascertain the remains of the pre-parliamentary enclosure field system which was, historically, associated with the

settlement. The remains of this lie on the hillside to the south east of the village and comprise a series of ‘strips’ along the slope. In practical terms, and for reasons associated with the topography of the area, this was the most obvious location for fields within close proximity to the settlement.



*Remaining area of pre-parliamentary enclosure field system*

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.



*The stone setted concave base to the Bentley Brook as it passes through Knowleston Place Gardens*