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The development of the Bunter Sandstone region of Nottinghamshire

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
BUNTER SANDSTONE REGION
OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

CP

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Thesis submitted by
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for the Degree of Master of Science,
to the University of Durham
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M.Sc.

1. The Valley of the River Idle near Mattersey.

Typical of the northern part of the Bunter outcrop.
The water table is coincident with the surface.

2. In Birkland near Edwinstowe.

Woods of oak and birch with open glades are typical of the centre and south of the outcrop. The original forest of the sandstone must have been of this type.

3. A section of Bilhaugh near Ollerton.

Large clumps of silver birch are a frequent feature of the centre and south.
The smoke above the trees is from Ollerton Colliery.

4. Between Edwinstowe and Warsop.

An open common of grass heather and bracken.

1.



3.



2.



4.



5. Budby Common.

There are many similar areas on the Bunter.

6. Thoresby Park.

Part of one of the private parks, replanted after the vigorous deforestation of the 17th and 18th centuries.

7. A much frequented part of Birkland.

5.



The Major Oak, Sherwood Forest.

G 2860.

7.

6.



H. H. St. In Thoresby Park.

G. H. H. H.

Series

8. Part of Bunter Sandstone quarry, Mansfield.

Moulding and building sands produced.
The light top section is the Pebble Beds, the
darker lower part is the Lower Mottled Sandstone.

9. Close-up of Bunter exposure in same quarry.

The thickness of Pebble Beds and Lower Mottled
Sandstone can be estimated by comparing with the height
of the trucks at the base.

10. Another part of the quarry.

The extremely soft nature of the sandstone is shown
by the rain gashes on the left.

11. Lower Mottled Sandstone exposure between Mansfield
Woodhouse and Forest Town.

The sandstone appears well stratified and firm,
but the latter feature is apparent only.

8.



10.



9.



11.



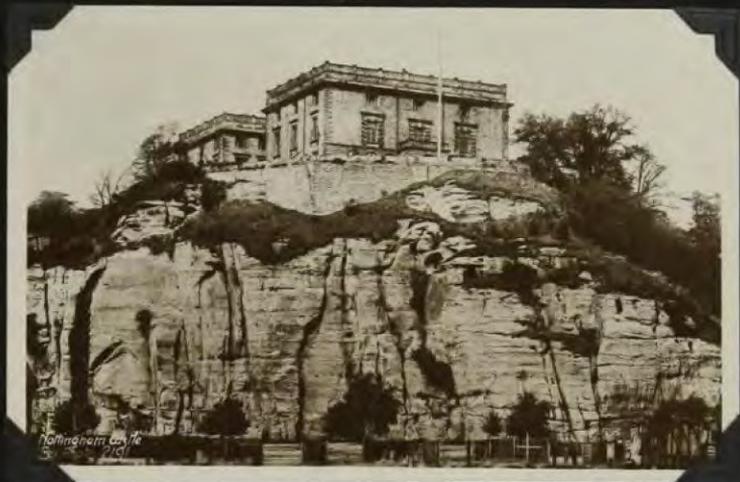
12. The culmination of the Pebble Beds at Nottingham in high cliffs overlooking the Trent valley. The height of the exposure can be estimated by comparison with the height of the two men in the right foreground.

13. The soft nature of the Pebble Beds is here shown by the use of a scooped-out exposure for single-roomed houses.

14. Near Bolsover. The western scarp face of the Permian Limestone above the Coal Measures.

15. Bolsover Castle and old village on the crest of the Permian scarp.

12.



14.



13.



15.



16.) Creswell Crags.

17.) The River Poulter passes through a gorge in the Permian Limestone. In caves in the limestone Palaeolithic remains have been discovered. (for details see "Derbyshire Coalfield" Geological memoir. pp 105 - 109).

18. Between Papplewick and Linby.

Here a small lake has been formed in the valley of the River Leen, where the flat impervious Permian marls pass beneath the saturated sandstone.

19. Near Oxton.

Shows the gentle rise of the Waterstones from the edge of the Bunter and the capping scarp of the Keuper Marls. The summit was the site of a British camp.

16.



18.



17.



19.



20. Near Oxton, looking north.

The photograph shows:-

- (1) The undulating Bunter country and series of dry valleys.
- (2) The boulder-clay moraine in the distance, the site of Old Blidworth.
- (3) The position of Blidworth Colliery.

21. North of Newstead in the Robin Hood's Hills district.

Shows the edge of a dry valley in the Bunter.

22. The other side of the same dry valley showing smaller valleys funning into the main one.

23. Near Larch Farm between Blidworth and East Kirkby.

The photograph shows:-

- (1) The valley of Rainworth Water, marked by the line of trees, where the land sinks to the level of the water - table.
- (2) A large scale poultry farm. The field on the right has been lying idle for a few years and is being improved by its new use.

20.



22.



21.



23.



24. The Idle at Bawtry.

"Contrary to the import of its name is a full and quick though not rapid and unsafe stream".

25. The valley of the Maun, between Mansfield and Edwinstowe.

The photograph shows:-

- (1) Fairly wide flat valley of the stream.
- (2) The site of the Duke of Portland's large irrigation scheme (the flood dykes) of the first half of the 19th century.
(V.C.H. Notts II. p 378).

26. The same nearer Edwinstowe.

27. The valley of the Poulter, five miles north of Ollerton.

The course of the stream is marked by the line of trees on the right: the valley on each side is wide, flat and marshy.

24.



26.



25.



27.



28. The River Poulter, five miles north of Ollerton.
29. Deep well in the Bunter, near Newstead.
30. Field in Lindhurst parish, two miles South of Mansfield.

Shows:- (1) Extreme number of large pebbles in the
soil.

(2) The very light nature of the soil in
which furrows will not maintain themselves.

31. Land reverting to its natural condition on the same farm.
Marsh vegetation indicates its nearness to the
water-table.

28.



30.



29.



31.



32. Near Larch Farm, between Blidworth and E. Kirkby.

Land reverting to its natural state. Bracken is invading the field from the country lane side.

33. Bawtry.

"It stands upon the great highway from London to Scotland; and this makes it to be full of very good inns and houses of entertainment."
For its size Bawtry now appears to be overweighted with inns and hotels.

34. An artificial lake in the valley of the Poulter. The alluvial flats have been drowned for several miles.

35. Mattersey on the Idle.

From the north it has an attractive, even rather imposing, appearance but inside the village there is evidence of the effects of the decline of agriculture.

32.



34.



Carburton Lake, The Dukeries

G.2653.

35.



High Street and Market Hill, Bawtry.



33.

36. Blyth.

The tower is that of the old Priory Church. The style of the houses and spaciousness of the village suggests its earlier prosperity, when it was a market centre. The market is now held at Bawtry.

37. Blyth from the church tower. The right hand road at the road junction leads to Worksop and Mansfield, the left hand road to E. Retford.

38. Ollerton village on the Maun.

39. Old Blidworth on the boulder clay ridge.

36.



E. L. S. W-81. BLYTH.

38.



37.



E. L. S. W-82. BLYTH.

39.



- 41.) Papplewick. Prosperous agricultural village owing
42.) to its nearness to the Leen Valley. The road
shown is the old Mansfield-Nottingham route which
was short-circuited by the turnpike road in 1787.
- 43.) Calverton. 43 is taken from the Bunter. The photograph
44.) shows the rise to the Keuper scarp beyond the
village. This was the site of a British camp. The
village is fairly large and is connected with the
hosiery industry. It is the birth place of
William Lee, inventor of the stocking frame.
A coal mine is now being sunk to the west of the
village through the Bunter.

41.



*Capplemick
Potts*

43.



42.



44.



Upper Main Street, Calverton (Notts)

*Raphani Tuck & Sons Ltd
London*

- 44a. Everton. Creates an impression of modest prosperity.
45. Budby. Typical forest village. Original settlement
in a clearing on the Meden.
46. Ranskill. Bears the impress of agricultural decline.
The road is the Great North Road.

44 A.



45.



46.



- 47.) Newstead.
48.) Priory founded by Henry II. At
Dissolution of the monastries the priory
lands passed to the Byron family.

49. Worksop Priory Church.

47.



The Ruins, Newstead Abbey
Fox Series 183.

48.



- Newstead Abbey -



49.

50. Clumber.

51. Welbeck.

Seats and estates of the new mercantile class, who gained possession of monastic lands at the Dissolution. Now affected by long continued agricultural decline.

50.



Clumber House, The Dukeries.

6157

51.



6117.

WELBECK ABBEY Notts

52. Wollaton Hall.

A symbol of Elizabethan mercantile activity.

(See Chambers "Notts. in the 18th C." pp 9 - 11. and article "Wollaton Hall" in "Memorials of Old Notts". edt Guilford).

53. Thoresby. Another of the large estates in the Dukeries, severely affected by agricultural depression, and in danger of break - up.

54. Shireoaks Colliery and the Chesterfield - Stockwith Canal, 2 miles west of Worksop.
Two important factors in the industrial rise of Worksop.

55. Thoresby Colliery, Edwinstowe.

Photograph taken from Bilhaugh. Symbolic of the change overtaking the centre and south of the Bunter. Within a hundred yards from this position one can be completely out of sight of the colliery in the middle of oak and birch woods.

52.



Wollaton Hall, Nottingham
Real Photo 1882

54.



53.



Thoresby Hall
Real Photo 1883

55.



56. Thoresby Colliery from the Edwinstowe - Ollerton road. In contrast to older collieries the mine is a long way from Edwinstowe village and the tip is comparatively inconspicuous.

57. Sky - line in the Leen Valley. Taken from the edge of the Bunter, west of Hucknall Torkard.

58. Looking down the Leen Valley from Hucknall.

The photograph shows:-

- (1) The parallel road-rail communication down the valley joining Mansfield and Nottingham.
- (2) Bestwood colliery in distance, and beyond, the rise of the Bunter.

59. Bestwood Colliery on the Leen.

56.



58.



57.



59.



60. Blidworth Colliery and colliery village.

The photograph shows:-

1. the planned village.
2. Remnants of the old forest in foreground.

61. Manton Colliery.

Sunk through the Bunter east of Worksop. Another modern colliery village, at a good distance from the mine. The Chesterfield - Stockwith canal runs parallel to the road by the colliery.

62. Ollerton Colliery and New Ollerton village.

63. Langold Colliery and village.

All the usual associations of mining have been 'tucked away'. The approach to the colliery is like a park entrance. The village has pleasant modern houses with good gardens and the streets are fringed with grass and trees.

60.



62.



61.



63.



64. Industrial Mansfield.

Photograph from the south.

65. The site of the old swain-mote, 2 miles south of Mansfield.

66. Mansfield has always been an important market.

64.



MANSFIELD FROM THE SAND HILLS 390.

65.



66.



Market Place, Mansfield. 394.

67.) East Retford.

68.) The town creates an impression of real material prosperity.

67.



G. 2876

Carolgate, Retford.

68.



G. 2832

Market Square, Retford.

69.) Worksop.

70.) There are still remnants of the time when the life of the village was dominated by the priory. The modern town is expanding towards north and east in particular.



108 PRIORY GATE HOUSE, WORKSOP.

69.



70.
Bridge Street, Worksop.

71.



BLYTH. TAKEN FROM
THE SOUTH ON THE
WORKSOP - MANSFIELD
ROAD.

73.



NORTH OF NEWSTEAD IN THE
ROBIN HOOD'S HILLS
UNDULATING BUNTER COUNTRY
WITH SERIES OF DRY VALLEYS.

72.



LARGE SLATE QUARRY, PASSING
BETWEEN EAST KIRBY AND
BLIDWORTH.

74.



BETWEEN MANSFIELD AND
BLIDWORTH,
TYPICAL BUNTER FURROW PLOW
FIELD SCENE.