

DUCKMANTON MOOR

Its Land, Industries & People

by G. Downs-Rose

DUCKMANTON MOOR, ITS LAND, INDUSTRIES AND PEOPLE

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To Neil:

With compliments,
for a shared interest!

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Gedff

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DUCKMANTON MOOR, ITS LAND, INDUSTRIES AND PEOPLE

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DUCKMANTON MOOR, ITS LAND, INDUSTRIES AND PEOPLE

1. INTRODUCTION

The location name 'Duckmanton Moor' in North East Derbyshire occurred in records from the late sixteenth century and remained in use, e.g. by the Ordnance Survey, into the twentieth century long after it had lost its significance. The name was originally used to denote that part of the Manor of Duckmanton which remained unenclosed into late medieval times.

For our purposes, its boundaries (See Map 1 page 2) are those used in earlier times: the courses of brooks and civil boundaries. These were: -

(i) To the north, the old manorial boundary separating Duckmanton from Staveley defined by the course of a streamlet which rises in the west and flows eastwards to join the Pool's Brook north of Tom Lane;

(ii) To the west, the old manorial and later parish boundaries separating Duckmanton and Calow, from Deepsick Lane northwards to (i) above;

(iii) To the south and east, the brook which flows from Deepsick Lane, marking the older boundary between Duckmanton and Sutton, and continues as the Pool's Brook via New Dale until joined by (i) above, north of Reynald's Brig at Tom Lane.

This definition of the Moor's location empathises well with the topographical, settlement and documentary evidence examined here.

Duckmanton Moor, prior to its enclosure, was mainly a mixture of wooded and rough-grazing land of value to those who had common use of it- the crofters and farmers who lived on its margins and used it for animal grazing, coppicing and fuel-gathering. This last activity included digging for coal where the seams outcropped. Old Field names in the Adelphi Iron Works area provide early evidence for the mining of coal and, probably, iron ore. One field name records the existence of a lime kiln there before the 18th century. In medieval times some parts of the Moor were under cultivation. The evidence for this survived in the remains of ridge-and-furrow strips in the 1930's, seen on part of an old field called, in the eighteenth century, 'Pingle', or land used in common.

This field, of more than 8 acres, lay over the A632 opposite old Arkwright Town. It flanked two other old fields, near to the Ox Pastures, which became the village allotments. The 'Pingle' and the allotments are part of the ground on which the new Arkwright Town is being built. The evidence of ancient strip-cultivation on the 'Pingle', having survived its use by villagers as a football field, disappeared after the 1939-45 War when it became a caravan park.

MAP 1. DUCKMANTON MOOR IN 1776

Unnamed Fields= The Remains of Duckmanton Moor in 1776

'C' = Croft



The building of the old village also led to the demise of the osier beds. These flanked the small brook which flowed through 'The Plantation', as it was known to earlier generations of Arkwright Town people, whose trees grew on ground disturbed by mining. Arkwright brook ran from a pond in a field opposite the junction of the A632 with Deepsick Lane and joined the Pool's Brook, via Duckmanton Works, near Blue Lodge Farm. Part of its course through the 'Pingle' was piped to allow the village night soil and ashes to be tipped there. The brook provided water for the needs of the allotments until the latter were closed in 1993. The osier beds are known to have existed in the eighteenth century, providing willow wands for making baskets similar to those used earlier by medieval miners for winding coal up nearby shafts.

In the fifteenth century Duckmanton Moor was part of a much greater area of 'waste-land' whose remains crossed manorial and estate boundaries and extended northwards beyond Inkersall and Staveley to include Handley Moor and westward to Brimington, Calow and Whittington. This larger area, 'held in common use', was called Cucksall, or Cuxsall, Moor 'where cattle might freely pass without any let, of hedge or pale, through the said common, wood and wastes'. As enclosure proceeded in the 16th century, rights of access were denied to graziers and led to legal disputes, including one in 1607 between Sir Francis Leeke of Sutton and Sir Peter Frechville of Staveley over respective tenant rights on Cucksall Moor. That Moor's name echoes the Anglo-Saxon verb, 'cuck', to defecate, from Old Norse 'kuka' (whence 'cack', a term once in common use in homes on Duckmanton Moor, and the descriptive "kack- (or keggy-) handed"). The Viking invaders left an expressive language!

Senior's Survey of Chesterfield and district in 1633 shows a surviving remnant named 'Cuxsall Moor' in that part of the Chesterfield lordship which adjoined the manor of Calow at Hady Lane. The gradual enclosure of the larger moor left such residual, isolated pockets, known in the late sixteenth century by their location names: Brimington Moor, Brampton Moor, Grass Moor, Whittington Moor- and Duckmanton Moor.

This study looks in particular at the later history of Duckmanton Moor after its final enclosure by the Leekes of Sutton Hall and its settlement by small-holders, or crofters, and small-scale farmers. It traces the changes in its agriculture and relates these changes to the extraction of minerals, coal, iron and clay. These latter activities have been carried on intermittently from at least the medieval period to the present day and account for the existence of the Moor's only village, Arkwright Town.

2. EARLY HISTORY

2,000 years ago Duckmanton Moor, like much of lowland Derbyshire, was heavily wooded country inhabited by a British tribe, the Coritani, who occupied Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. The Coritani made clearings in the woods, hunted wild boars, killed wolves, kept farm animals and grew

cereal crops. Their small settlements were linked by tracks cut through the woods. These tracks were the precursors of the paths which exist today and link Duckmanton Moor with Duckmanton, Calow, Brimington, Inkersall, Staveley and Sutton.

Occupation by the Romans had little effect on the physical character of the Moor, except that old trackways served to link inhabitants to the military roads of the conquerors. The first major changes occurred when parts of Britain were colonised by the Angles and Saxons from Germany in the 5th and 6th centuries. These invaders were descendants of the Scandinavians or Vikings, sea-farers and stock-rearers who had earlier migrated south into North East Europe and Normandy, west into Scotland and Iceland and discovered North America. In the 10th century a final wave of Vikings, from Denmark invaded England and, for a time, ruled it. The linguistic influence of these ex-Norsemen survives in the old names of fields beside the tracks and paths near to Duckmanton Works (See 7. Evidence From Field Names).

The agriculture-based and stock-rearing economy of these settlers had to be defended from internal revolts and further invasions, and a military system emerged prior to the Norman conquest in 1066 which was characterised by local chiefs holding land 'in feu' from a king, paying taxes and giving military service in return. The term 'manor' is used to define those areas of land owned by the king or held of him by the tenants-in-chief or, in many instances until the Reformation, by the Church. Ordinary people living on the manor earned their subsistence and owed agricultural and military services to their lord in return for his protection.

During that period Duckmanton Moor formed the north-west part of the manor of Duckmanton. At the time of William the Conqueror's 'Domesday' survey in 1086 Duckmanton manor was held by Geoffrey who paid tax to the king on the plough-land. The only manorial workers mentioned were 18 'censarii', rent-paying tenants who had obtained their freedom from servitude to their lord and shared 5 ploughs, needing 5 teams of 8 oxen. There were 8 acres of meadow and, according to the survey, woodland for pannage (right of pasturage for pigs and cattle) extending to 1 league in length and 1 league in breadth.

This seems to imply that, although a large part of Duckmanton manor was still wooded at Domesday, rights of pannage over an area of 9 square miles must have included lands outside the manor's boundaries. This common use of waste and woodland, was referred to above in connection with disputes over access rights to the remains of Cucksall Moor. It is interesting to note that 75 years prior to Domesday the Mercian thegn, Wulfric Spott held Duckmanton and the nearby manors of Clowne, Barlborough, Mosborough, Eckington and Beighton, and common pasturage rights which over-lapped manorial boundaries may have been established at that time.

3. DUCKMANTON MOOR IN 1766

Whyman's 'Map of the Lordship of Duckmanton', dated 1776, gives a useful picture of the Moor after enclosure and agricultural settlement had taken

place. It provides a valuable base from which to view the changes which followed in agriculture and iron and coal mining down to the present day, and these will be discussed at some length in Sections 4 and 5 below.

By 1776 the whole of the Moor was enclosed, and 75% of its fields had names (See Map 1, page 2). The remaining 25% of the Moor consisted of unnamed fields and these, though tenanted, were still known as 'common land', and the fields survived as 'common pieces' into the mid-19th century or later though they had by that time long since been absorbed by local farms.

Although all dwelling houses on the Moor are called 'homesteads' on the Lordship Map of 1776, a distinction has been made here between cottagers who had a small garden, a few fruit trees and space for a pig or a cow, and those tenants who had small-holdings large enough to provide an independent subsistence living which was sometimes augmented by other part-time work. These latter tenants are called here 'crofters'.

There were 17 dwellings on the Moor in 1776. 14 of these were crofts, and the remaining 3 dwellings were tenanted by cottagers. The crofts are marked on Map 1 and their subsequent history is discussed in Section 4.1 below. Six of the crofts became farms. These are discussed in Section 4.2. Some farms have survived to the present day, namely, Lodge, Moor, and Moor Top (or Stud) Farms. The lands of others, such as Nursery, Gorse and Brook Farms, are now owned by British Coal and their futures will be determined after current open-casting operations are completed. One farm which exists today, Blue Lodge, was not even a croft in 1776. Works Farm, too, did not exist in any form in 1776. Its birth was a consequence of the closure of the Adelphi Iron Works on Duckmanton Moor, and its demise is a consequence of the present open-casting operations. The histories of all these farms are dealt with in Section 4.2 below.

Maps 1 and 2 may be compared with interest. In the fifty years after 1776 there were only small changes in the layout of fields. There are minor differences in the names given to some fields which may be due to faults in copying from original maps or, as in the instance where 'Goss' Close (1776) becomes 'Gorse' Close (1837), are probably phonetic errors.

Apart from the unnamed 'common fields', whose location as 'Duckmanton Moor' is found in Ordnance Survey publications, an important feature absent from Map 1 of 1776 is the site of the Adelphi Iron Works which was not established until over twenty years later. The community which grew up on the Moor around the Iron Works is discussed in Section 5.1, and the coal mining community of Arkwright Town, which was settled on what in the 18th century had been enclosed common land and later an estate nursery farm, is dealt with in Section 5.2 below.



4. THE CROFTS ON DUCKMANTON MOOR

Introduction

By the middle of the 11th century part of the lands of Duckmanton manor were cultivated by small farmers. In paying rent to their lord they began the landowner/tenant relationships which continued until the sale of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate by William Arkwright in 1919. Tenants rented fields previously cleared from the wastes whose utility they shared as 'common' or 'moor'. These woodlands and wastes were then a part of Cucksall Moor as were the present day remains of West Wood and Lady's Bower Wood. The evidence suggests that those parts of Duckmanton Moor comprising the extreme north-western lands of Duckmanton manor were among the last to be cleared and settled, and this is discussed below. These were wastes on both sides of the present A632 (Chesterfield to Bolsover road), where the latter crosses the old boundary between the Moor and Calow Manor.

The earliest settlements appear to have formed a broken arc around the edges of the Moor, following the course of the Pool's Brook from Tom Lane, through New Dale (Inkersall Road) and lower Long Duckmanton to Sutton Lane, along Moor Top and at West Wood Nook on the boundary with Calow.

Typically, a croft consisted of the homestead (usually a small cottage with out-buildings for cattle, pigs and implements), a small home-field, or 'Close', with other land covering an area of 7 to 10 acres. The size of the largest crofts was approximately 20 acres, an area which provided a subsistence living for a large nuclear family. Any increase beyond that size could entail employing outside labour. The history of crofts on Duckmanton

Moor shows that they either increased in size and became farms of over 20 acres, or were absorbed by other crofts which in turn became farms. The reasons for this emerge from the histories of each croft and will be discussed below.

The change from crofting to small and medium-scale farming gathered pace during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Of course, changes were delayed or speeded up in times of slumps and booms in agriculture. In the late nineteenth century prices fell through imports of grain and lamb from the colonies and of beef from Argentina. There followed the 1914-18 War's food shortages, the recession of the 1920's and 1930's and the shortages of the 1939-45 War. These were national and international pressures which operated on events at Duckmanton Moor, but local events were equally important.

When the Smiths of Chesterfield opened the Adelphi Iron Works on Duckmanton Moor at the end of the eighteenth century, initially to make munitions in the wars with France and America, they created jobs which were filled partly by recruiting the sons of local crofters and partly by crofter families taking in as lodgers skilled workers such as foundry, furnace men and miners recruited from elsewhere. This will be discussed below, but it is worth noting that one result of the coming of the iron works was to slow down the absorption of the crofts by the developing farms. After the works closed that process resumed.

The roles of the estate owner and his land agents are less easy to identify in the absence of detailed records, except in those instances where the Arkwrights tried with little success to exploit their mineral wealth by direct management, following the bankruptcy of the Smiths (See 'WORKS FARM', below), or market gardening after 1875 (See 'NURSERY FARM', below). Given that there were no free-hold farms on the Moor prior to the break up of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate in 1919, the estate-owner's influence in the 19th Century positively encouraged medium-scale farming by redistributing land and enlarging and modernising farm buildings.

In the 1890's and early 1900's railway developments affected the distribution of the Moor's land. The Great Central line from Sheffield to Annesley ran north to south on the west side of Bower Plantation, passing Works Farm and the future site of old Arkwright Town. The Chesterfield to Lincoln line ran west to east to the south of the village site and when, in 1905, work began to link the two railway systems with a loop line, adjacent farms were affected and the newly-built village was completely encircled by railways.

Detailed records of land use and of tenancies, including those provided by the 1837 Tithe Survey and the 1919 Sale catalogue, have been examined to answer such questions as: Which Duckmanton Moor crofts survived into the nineteenth century? Which farms had developed on the Moor? How much Moor land was tenanted by farmers and crofters based elsewhere in Sutton-cum-Duckmanton parish? The details, given in the text, can be summarised as follows:

DUCKMANTON MOOR CROFTS AND FARMS IN 1837 & 1919 BY ACREAGE AND PERCENTAGES

<u>CROFTS</u>	1837	%	1919	%
Nook Lane	22		-	
West WoodNook	13.5		-	
Lodge	8		-	
Shaws	2		2	
Bennetts	8.5		-	
New Dale	19		4.5	
Inkersall Lane	-		<u>9.5</u>	
TOTAL CROFTS:	73	9.7	16.0	2.10

FARMS

Lodge	34		118	
Moor	124		121	
Moor Top (Stud)	54.5		26.5	
Duckmanton Works	118		51	
Nursery	7		24.5	
Gorse	30.5		74.5	
Brook	82.5		92	
Blue Lodge	<u>12</u>		<u>88</u>	
TOTAL FARMS:	462.5	61.1	595.5	78.70

Duckmanton/Sutton
Farms, Allotments,
& Glebe

	221	29.2	145	19.20
TOTAL MOOR:	756.5	100.00	756.5	100.00

MAP 2 (See page 10) shows that the seven crofts which survived in 1837 were on or near the western, southern and eastern boundaries of the Moor and occupied nearly 10% of the land. [An eighth, 'INKERSALL LANE CROFT' began life after 1837 for special reasons which are explained in the text.] Eight farms whose homesteads were on the Moor accounted for 61% of the land. Of the remaining 29%, 195 acres, were rented in small lots to eight farms at Long, Middle and Far Duckmanton and three farms on Sutton Lane, 16 acres of church glebe were sub-tenanted to a Duckmanton farmer, and the remaining 10 acres were allotments held by other crofters and farmers.

The existence of these 'allotments' in 1837 is of interest. They lay immediately south of the present A632 between the rail-bridge which carries that road over the old loop railway and the access drive to Gorse Farm.

They represented a surviving area of 10 acres, previously part of the common land on the Moor which, following enclosure, had not been neatly assimilated by a croft or farm. The 10 acres consisted of 8 allotments which varied in size from $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre to 2 acres, and they were rented by six crofters and farmers, including William Bennett whose homestead adjoined these allotments and Peter Smith of Blue Lodge Farm on the Moor's northern boundary near Tom Lane. Later in the 19th century, these 10 acres became part of Gorse Farm.

MAP 2. DUCKMANTON MOOR IN 1837



4.1 THE CROFT SETTLEMENTS

THE WEST WOOD NOOK CROFTS

Introduction

There is a reference in the Reports of the Commissioners on Charities, who took evidence between 1815 and 1839, to 17 acres "*anciently believed to have formed a piece of waste land called West Wood Nook*". Three fields, during enclosure, had been appropriated by the lord of the manor to endow a schoolmaster to teach poor children of the parish in reading and writing. The fields, 'Upper Free School Close', 'Nether Free School Close' and 'Stone Pit Free School Close' are shown on Whyman's 1776 Map (Map 1).

The original deeds of the land were not seen by the Charity Commissioners, but the endowment was assumed by them to have been in respect of "*an ancient school (at Duckmanton) which in 1791 was pulled down... and a new school erected*".

The '*waste land called West Wood Nook*' was a strip of waste which lay along the north-west boundary of Duckmanton Moor, north of the A632, between the Moor boundary and Calow manor. Immediately north of West Wood Nook lay West Wood proper. The waste's location still survives in the name 'Nook Lane', given to the track which runs north from the A632 between The White Hart car-park and Duckmanton Lodge.

Further reference will be made to these 'school lands' when discussing the crofts on Moor Top, below. In 1824, when Richard Arkwright Jnr. bought the Sutton Scarsdale Estate, which included Duckmanton Moor, he also bought the school lands from the trustees (i.e. himself and the parish minister), who received 42 acres of land in Brampton in their place. [In 1864 the Brampton land was exchanged again for six fields comprising 32 acres of the Duke of Devonshire's land near the old St. John's colliery at Inkersall. The Duke retained the mineral rights to these new school lands, and the coal was subsequently got by Ireland colliery. The school's trustees, at the time of this exchange, were the parish rector and the Rev. G. H. Arkwright.]

4.1.1 POOLSMITH'S CROFT

The homestead of this croft was one of two which stood on the east side of Nook Lane, but its four fields, with a total area of seven acres, lay on the west of the Lane. In 1776 the fields were still un-named, but by 1837 they were recorded as 'Old Top Piece', 'New Piece', 'Far Old Piece' and 'Near Old Piece'. The croft's occupancy can be traced back to 1786 when the tenant, John Poolsmith, married a local girl, Martha Adlington. The origins of the croft undoubtedly go back to the time of the final clearance and enclosure of the wastes of West Wood Nook.

When John Poolsmith died in 1837, aged 71, the croft was farmed by his widow, Martha, who was born in 1762, and a son Christopher, born in 1791. In 1851, the croft was twenty-five acres in size and was worked by Poolsmith's widowed daughter, Bridget. Bridget was born in 1791 and married James Gregory in 1812. She was helped in the working of the croft by Grace Hopkinson aged 50 and the latter's son George aged 20.

Following Bridget's death, which occurred before 1861, the croft's land was absorbed by Lodge Farm, and the homestead was then occupied in turn by two gardeners who worked for the Sutton Estate's agent at Duckmanton Lodge. In 1881 the last occupant was a colliery blacksmith, but by 1891 the dwelling house had been demolished and its loss made good by adapting the cottage on Nook Lane Corner for use by two families, the Charltons, and that of Joseph Barksmith a shoeing smith who was employed at Stud (Moor Top) Farm.

It seems odd that this croft more than tripled in size between 1837 and the late 1850's and yet by 1861 had been completely absorbed by Lodge Farm. By the early nineteenth century a croft of only 7 acres could barely provide a family with its subsistence. As we will see, crofts of that size either expanded into farms or were absorbed by other growing farms during the second half of the century.

In 1837 the iron-master, Benjamin Smith, rented four fields with an area of 14 acres which lay on the east side of Nook Lane, opposite the Poolsmith land. He had done this to secure access to a rich iron-ore seam which surfaced on that land. The probable explanation for the rapid growth of the Poolsmith's croft is that Smith's four fields had been part of the croft upto the late eighteenth century and returned to it when the ironworks closed in the mid-1840's. The end of the Poolsmith male line in 1837 anticipated that of the croft.

4. 1. 2 CANTRELL'S CROFT

This croft's homestead stood beside John Poolsmith's on the east side of Nook Lane in 1766. In 1837 the tenant was Thomas Cantrell and he rented 15 acres of land. His fields comprised 'Dove Bank', previously called 'Stone Pit Close', part of the 'school lands' mentioned above, in the NW corner of the Moor, one called 'Nook' across the lane from his homestead, and a 6-acre 'Common Piece' on the west side of Deepsick Lane.

Thomas Cantrell is recorded, together with his wife and daughter, in the 1841 Census return as occupant of the croft cottage. He was a grandson of Joseph Cantrell [See 4. 1. 5 LODGE FARM CROFT, below]. Cantrell's occupation was given as that of an agricultural labourer, but in 1851 he is shown as an ironstone miner and in 1861 again as an agricultural labourer but never as a farmer.

Thomas Cantrell was succeeded as tenant of the cottage in Nook Lane by the family of a colliery labourer from Coventry and later by a general labourer and his family from Pilsley. The homestead cottage ceased to be used for human habitation before 1891 and the site was shown simply as pasture and

'buildings' on the 1919 Sale Plan of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate. Like the lands of Poolsmith's Croft, those of Cantrell's at Nook Lane were absorbed by Lodge Farm and his 'Common Piece' at Deepsick Lane by Moor Top (Stud) Farm.

The fates of these two crofts were not isolated examples. After enclosure from the wastes, land was let in small lots of 7 to 15 acres, sufficient to maintain and be serviced by one family, though in practice it was less simple. The livelihood afforded could be quite marginal, such that the crofter found part-time employment on a nearby farm or, as in the case of Thomas Cantrell, employment as a miner, and worked his croft part-time. The census returns show that sons and daughters of crofters frequently found alternative work in the nineteenth century.

Some crofts grew in size, often by taking enclosed land lying at a distance from the homestead. When a croft reached a size in excess of twenty acres and needed to employ labour from outside the immediate family, the chances were that it would continue to grow and become a 'farm'. Factors such as the location of available land, availability of family or other labour, besides the expertise and working capital of the would-be farmer played an important part in the success or failure of the venture.

Those crofts which absorbed land near to the homestead had the best chance of survival. The death of a crofter through old age, or the failure of a small croft to afford the necessary subsistence living provide instances where absorption by a neighbouring farm often occurred. The strategies of an estate owner, which took account of the potential for mineral as well as farming rent, are less easy to identify in detail though they also set the scene in which the crofters lived their lives.

4.1.3- 4.1.5 THE MOOR TOP CROFTS

The land which lay on both sides of the present A632 between that road's junction with Hasland Lane and Duckmanton Lodge corner was known as 'Moor Top' down to the 20th century. By the 18th century there were three crofts on Moor Top. Two went out of existence during the 19th century. Of these one had its homestead on the land now occupied by Manton House and faced across to Duckmanton Lodge. It will be referred to as 'LODGE-CORNER CROFT'. The second had its homestead between the present day Lodge Farm and the A632 and will be referred to as 'LODGE FARM CROFT'. The third croft was known as 'MOOR TOP' and stood where the present Moor Top (or Stud) Farm now stands.

In 1776, these three crofts lay along the western limits of that area of enclosed 'common land' whose fields were un-named (See Map 1). Some of these fields were no doubt tenanted by the three crofters, but the precise sizes of the crofts at that time are not known. Moor Top Croft, for example, is shown as an island surrounded by un-named fields having two named pieces, 'Old Croft' and 'Little Croft' near the homestead.

4. 1. 3 LODGE-CORNER CROFT

By 1837, this croft had lost its identity. Its homestead and land were taken over by Benjamin Smith, proprietor of the Adelphi Iron Works, at the time of the building of his house, Duckmanton Lodge. Smith sub-tenanted the land to Samuel Renshaw (See 4. 1. 4 MOOR TOP CROFT, below), and retained the use of the homestead for employees. Two families were accommodated in it. One was that of William Davidson, an ironstone miner born in 1786 at Dronfield who, when the iron works closed, became a coal miner. After Davidson's death his wife, Elizabeth, born in 1800 at Calow, stayed on with her elder son, Henry. When Elizabeth died, after 1861, the homestead was demolished. The second family sharing the homestead up to 1851 was that of his married son, John Davidson an agricultural labourer, who may have been employed by Samuel Renshaw of Moor Top Croft. In 1861 John Davidson, still an agricultural labourer, was living in Ox Pastures (or Works) Row with his wife and seven children aged 10 and under.

4. 1. 4 MOOR TOP CROFT

This was shown, in 1776, as an island surrounded by enclosed common, with a homestead and two adjacent small croft fields totalling 3 acres. In addition the croft had, at that time, two pieces of 'school land' at West Wood Nook- 'Upper School Close' and 'Lower School Close', some 10½ acres. The school land was let in 1802 for £20 per year, (reduced in 1820 in the agricultural depression which followed the end of the Napoleonic Wars to £18 per year, when it was rented by a Samuel Renshaw).

By 1837, Renshaw farmed most of the land which lay between the A632 and the Moor's boundary with Calow manor from, and including, LODGE-CORNER CROFT's land southwards to the A 632's junction with Hasland Lane. In addition, he farmed another 33 acres in five fields which lay between Deepstick Lane and Sutton Lane. Renshaw's croft, by 1841, had developed into a holding of 54 acres known at that time, as Moor Top Farm. As a farm, its subsequent history is dealt with below (See 5. 3 MOOR TOP (STUD) FARM)

4. 1. 5 LODGE FARM CROFT

The homestead of this croft, which existed in 1776, stood beside Lodge Farm but its lands lay elsewhere. 5 acres lay opposite the croft across the A632, including 'Quarry Piece' and 'Little Bit' adjoining Moor Top Croft's homestead. In 1837, the tenant, Joseph Cantrell also farmed the 'pingle' or 'intake' land on the site of the small plantation across the A632 from where old Arkwright Town was later built, and 'Long Field' on the enclosed common land on the south side of the A632 between Deepstick Lane and Hasland Lane, making a total of 13½ acres.

In 1841, Cantrell, at the age of 90, was living in the homestead of Lodge Farm Croft with his son Thomas and daughter Hannah, both aged 60. Joseph's wife Hannah, born in 1748, died in 1828. The Cantrells had died or left by 1851.

They were followed by Catherine Bradley, born at North Wingfield in 1799, and her daughter, Catherine, born at Ashover in 1820. They employed a labourer to work what had become a small farm of 36 acres. By 1861 the Bradleys had gone and the homestead had been demolished, probably at the time of the enlarging of the Lodge Farm buildings.

OTHER CROFTS

4.1.6 DUCKMANTON LODGE CROFT

This croft is so named because its homestead once stood on the north side of Works Lane at the side of Duckmanton Lodge and within that building's present boundary. The field evidence suggests that the Lodge buildings and grounds took over most of the croft's original land, leaving the homestead with less than 1½ acres including the old croft field beside the homestead.

In exchange, the estate rented to the tenant another 6½ acres. In 1837 he had some 3½ acres, comprising two small fields each named 'Far Field' lying on the north side of Inkersall Lane east of Bower Plantation. He also had a 2½ acre field called 'Common Piece' which lay between Hasland Lane and Deepsick Lane alongside the footpath which still joins the two lanes. Further, the tenant had the use of 'New Croft', an ½ acre field just across Works Lane from the homestead. As this small field is named 'Shaw' on the 1766 Map it probably formed part of the croft's original land. Such a diffuse arrangement of land may have given rise to problems for the tenant when working it.

The croft was occupied, in 1837, by Thomas Shaw who, at the time of his marriage to Ann Tetley in 1801 was recorded as a tailor and was, presumably, a part-time crofter. Shaw's wife had been buried in 1803 a few weeks after giving birth to a son, William. A previous son, also named William, died in 1802 at the age of 3 months.

After the Shaws, the Lodge Croft homestead was used to house employees of the Estate's land agent who lived at Duckmanton Lodge. In 1881 it was occupied by George Palmer, a gardener at the Lodge, with his family from Hose in Leicestershire.

The Shaws who lived on Duckmanton Moor Top (George, a brother of Thomas is discussed below in connection with 4.7 SHAW'S CROFT) can be traced back to a William Shaw born in 1717, who died there in 1795. The surname 'Shaw' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'sceaga', meaning a shaw or wood, and suggests links with very early settlement on this part of the Moor. William Shaw had a son Thomas, born c.1750, the father of Thomas Shaw, the tailor. If, as seems likely, the family held the croft beside Duckmanton Lodge through at least three generations, its members would have witnessed great upheavals.

Their rural quiet was rudely broken when the Adelphi Ironworks opened in 1799. Carts bringing iron ore from West Wood Nook via Nook Lane, and from

Hady Hill, trundled down the old Ox Gate track, re-named 'Works Lane', to Duckmanton Works. Carts carrying cannon balls from the foundries ground their way up Works Lane. Would the Shaws blame Napoloen and the French when they lost much of their croft's land so that Duckmanton Lodge could be built for Benjamin Smith? Ironically, from the time the ironworks closed there is no further reference to the croft and it may have gone when the land was redistributed after the closure.

4. 1. 7 SHAW'S CROFT: OR MOOR COTTAGE

This was a croft. Its homestead and croft field are shown on the 1776 Map. It lies east of the Chesterfield Road, opposite the entrance to the drive to Stud Farm. Until the late 19th Century it was called 'Shaw's Croft' and in the 1919 Estate Sale it was advertised as 'Moor Top Cottage' having two bedrooms, box room, living room, scullery and pantry. Outbuildings included a pig-cote and a lodge for two cows. Its land, including a paddock, comprised 2 acres with a 650-foot frontage to the Chesterfield Road. It is now a large cottage and field and is called 'Moor Cottage', still clinging to roots lost in a distant past.

No clear picture has emerged as to when, given that it was a typical croft with four fields in 1776, it ceded most of its land to nearby Lodge Farm. Its fields had, in the 18th century, names which included 'croft' and 'close', and this implies that its origins go back to the enclosure of Duckmanton Moor Top. With the exception of the homestead field, "Shaw's" had lost any other land it may have had by the start of the 19th century and has not changed at all since except, of course, that the dwelling house has been enlarged and modernised. During the time for which reliable records are available, the homestead's families all looked elsewhere for a living, and it may be that it began as 'overspill' accomodation for a member of the Shaw family from 4. 1. 6 DUCKMANTON LODGE CROFT.

A grandson of the William Shaw born in 1717, namely George Shaw, brother of Thomas Shaw of Duckmanton Lodge Croft, married c. 1800 and had four children, one of whom was named William, born in 1806. William married Hannah Brailsford of Duckmanton who was also born in 1806. They had a son, Samuel and a daughter, Ann.

So this branch of the Shaw family can be traced back to 1717 and, in some detail, down to the late 19th century. In the early part of that century, William Shaw, a collier, lived at Shaw's Croft with his wife Hannah and his sister Ann. They had Job Allen, a collier, and his wife Ann lodging with them in 1841. In 1861 William, still a coal miner, was a widower living with his daughter, Ann, and her daughter, Ann Elizabeth. Also living at the croft was Ann Brailsford, his mother-in-law. In 1871 William, aged 67 and still a coal miner, having married again, lived there with his new wife Hannah, born at Hasland in 1810, his granddaughter Ann Elizabeth, and Daniel Brown aged 22, a lodger from Northampton.

By 1881 the Shaws had gone and the croft was tenanted by a Richard Boulton, a farm labourer aged 49 from Longslow, Shropshire. He and his wife had two children, Alice aged 21, who was a general servant, and a son, Heber, aged 11. They also had a lodger, Samuel Stevenson, a woodcutter, aged 20 from Brampton. The Boultons had gone by 1891 and the croft was lived in by Samuel Stevenson, a labourer aged 30 from Brampton and newly-married to Sarah, a Pilsley girl. They had a three-months old son Wilfred.

In 1919, at the time of the sale of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate, the tenant was Mrs. D Marples, and she paid an annual rent of £15. The property was purchased on her behalf by solicitors for £600. Since then the cottage and its field have changed hands several times.

4. 1. 8. BENNETT'S CROFT

The access to this croft of 8½ acres lay south of the A632 Chesterfield-Bolsover road opposite the present dwelling house, 'Greenacres', at the top of the hill which leads down to the main road's junction with Inkersall Road near the parish War Memorial. Typically, the 1776 Map shows a homestead next to a home-croft of 2½ acres, surrounded by enclosed common land. But the croft's remaining land, 6½ acres, lay at a short distance to the west on either side of the Chesterfield-Bolsover road and consisted of two pieces of enclosed common.

Who the earliest residents of this croft were is not known. In 1837 the tenant was William Bennett who had ancestors who lived in Duckmanton early in the eighteenth century. William married Elizabeth Machin of Bolsover in 1823 and the couple had a son John, born in 1830, and a daughter, born in 1832.

By 1851 William Bennett was dead and his widow kept the croft with the help of her son John, though by 1861 all the land except for the homestead and home close had been absorbed by nearby Gorse Farm. Elizabeth, then aged 65, was living in the cottage in 1861 together with her granddaughter, Elizabeth, and a 13-year old servant girl, but by 1870 the cottage had been demolished.

The orchard of Bennett's croft survived to appear on the 1919 Sale Plan and the writer remembers, as a boy in the 1930's, 'scrawming' its stunted trees for scabby, sweet, pale-green apples. Some of the last trees finally succumbed to the open-casting of the site for coal after the 1939-45 War.

4. 1. 9 NEW DALE CROFT or 'MEADOW FARM'

This croft lay near the junction of Inkersall Road and the A632 Chesterfield - Bolsover road. The land, 19 acres 1 rood, formed a long narrow strip bounded on the west by the Inkersall road and on the east by the Pool's Brook. Besides the homestead and gardens there were nine

fields. The names of the four fields nearest to the homestead which were, presumably, those earliest farmed, all contained the location's old name, 'New Dale', descriptive of the croft's position in a newly cultivated valley with rising ground to either side. The other fields had names containing 'Wood Flat', perhaps descriptive of the land's pre-enclosure character.

The croft's age is unknown, but its named fields and homestead are shown on the 1776 Map. Its position, alongside the Pool's Brook, was strategically placed between the old road from Long Duckmanton and the lane which leads west from the Inkersall Road to Calow via Works Farm. A short distance away is Tom Lane and Inkersall Lane, the latter leading westward to Brimington Common.

In 1831 the tenant was Robert Frith, living with a wife Sarah and nine children. His ancestors can be traced through his father Robert Frith, 1768-1835, to his grandfather, John Frith, 1726-1809.

The Friths were soon followed in New Dale by Thomas Watkinson, a cordwainer or shoemaker, born at Sutton in 1806 with his wife Maria, born at Heath in 1807 and Daniel, a son born at Heath in 1830. Two more sons and two daughters were born at New Dale. The croft had been reduced in size to a homestead and three fields totalling 5½ acres, the other 13½ acres having been taken over by Cherry Tree Farm at Middle Duckmanton.

The Watkinson's combined shoemaking with running the remains of the croft. In 1861 Thomas, and his two youngest sons Alfred and Joseph followed their father's trade while Daniel, an agricultural labourer, worked the croft with the help of his mother Maria, and two sisters Maria and Mary. Ten years on, and Maria the mother, now a widow, traded as a shoemaker and shared the croft with her 27 year-old son Joseph Watkinson. The latter was also recorded as a cordwainer (shoe-maker) and he had returned from Ranskill, Nottinghamshire with Emma his wife and Thomas their ten-month-old son.

When Maria died in the 1880's it was Emma her daughter-in-law who took on the role variously recorded as 'farmer' and 'cowkeeper' at New Dale, or Meadow Farm as it came to be called, and Emma was tenant at the time of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate Sale in 1919. Her son Joseph, a coal miner, and his wife Mary Ellen lived at Meadow Farm in 1920, while Emma, aged 81, lived at 37, Arkwright Town with another son, George, while retaining her business vote as a cowkeeper at Meadow Farm.

However, by 1921 Joseph and Mary Ellen Watkinson moved into Nursery Cottages, behind the three shops bought in the 1919 Sale by Woodheads the Chesterfield grocers, which fronted the Chesterfield-Bolsover road at Arkwright Town. The Watkinson's rented the shop nearest to the first row of houses, repaired and sold bicycles and charged the wet accumulators for the early village wireless sets.

The old New Dale homestead was briefly occupied by Abraham and Edith Lincoln, before they moved to the Ox Pastures in 1924, and they were followed in the Meadow Farm homestead by Charles and Lucy Penney and later by Herbert Laws.

4. 1. 10 INKERSALL LANE CROFT

This croft of 9½ acres was advertised at the time of the 1919 Sale of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate as the 'Inkersall Lane Farm'. It was the last croft to 'evolve' on Duckmanton Moor and took its name from the Lane which starts opposite the junction of the Inkersall Road with Tom Lane and goes westward to Bower Plantation.

The origins of this Lane lie in antiquity. The character of the hedges along 200 yards of the original Lane dates it back at least to the early 14th Century. A track leading from it at the plantation links at Works Farm with Works Lane from Calow to the bottom of Long Duckmanton. From the plantation, Inkersall Lane itself continued westward as a path to the Anvil Hotel at Brimington Common. From there, it aligns with the route of the present Church Lane to Calow and, at Dark Lane, via The Dingle track, on to Hasland, so providing a means of communication between Far Duckmanton (and the Old Peveril Road) and Rykniel Street, the Roman road which ran north and south through Chesterfield.

An enlarged section of an 1837 estate plan, re-drawn in 1848 or 1849, of the Devonshire land at Inkersall has, pencilled in, the site of 'Duckmanton Colliery' which lay on the Arkwright estate at Inkersall Lane end. The Plan also has superimposed on it the route of a proposed railway from Duckmanton Colliery to a branch of the Chesterfield Canal at the old Speedwell Colliery, (later the site of Ireland colliery), near Poolsbrook.

An attempt was made by Mansfelt Mills, land agent for Robert Arkwright in correspondence with the Duke of Devonshire's agent between June 1848 and November 1849, to obtain way-leave for such a railway. The attempt was frustrated by Richard Barrow of Staveley Ironworks who held the Devonshire mineral lease and objected to competition from Arkwright's mines. The thrust of the correspondence implies that an earlier, similarly unsuccessful attempt had been made by Richard Arkwright, or by the iron-master, Ebenezer Smith, to link Duckmanton Works with the Chesterfield Canal near Staveley.

The evidence is that Duckmanton Colliery, or Tom Lane Colliery as it is named on later records worked the Top Hard Coal seam via two shafts to a depth of 130 yards, for Robert Arkwright, at least into the 1850's. The 1st. O. S. 1-inch Map notes an engine at the site. The 1876 O. S. 25-inch Map marks the colliery site as having 'Old Coal Pits' and also shows three buildings, gardens and enclosures which indicate that the homestead of Inkersall Lane Farm was in occupation at the time of that Survey.

This croft's land comprised 'Little Hillside', a field of 5½ acres which embraced the old minehead and lay beside the Lane and sloped down to Ebenezer Smith's canal from the ironworks. In 1837, the field had been rented by Joseph Woodhead a farmer in Long Duckmanton. In addition, the croft's lands included the two 'Far Fields', 3½ acres, which lay immediately east of Bower Plantation. It will be recalled that these had once been a part of Thomas Shaw's croft (See 4. 1. 6 DUCKMANTON LODGE CROFT), beside Duckmanton Lodge. So the evidence is that Inkersall Lane croft was formed by taking land previously rented by other tenants.

Bower Plantation, mentioned above, stands on what in 1776 and 1837 was a field of 6½ acres named 'Upper Close', rented by Ebenezer Smith, iron master. The field was, during the late 18th or early 19th century, shallow-mined for ore from the Ball and Measure Ironstone seam and, because of its dangerous bell-pit holes, fenced against cattle, allowing a small natural wood to develop there as shown on the 1875 O.S. 25-inch Map. As a wood, it was kept in hand for the Arkwrights and coppiced to supply the wants of nearby estate farms. In the 20th century its name, according to local oral tradition, derived from nearby Lady's Bower Wood over the boundary in Staveley parish, but it owes its name, more prosaically, to John Bower, the first tenant of Inkersall Lane Croft.

John Bower, born in 1811 on Ashover Moor, is recorded in 1841 as living in Ox Pasture Row, Duckmanton Iron Works, where he was a foundry labourer. When the iron works closed he worked as a carter for the Sutton Scarsdale Estate, and he and his wife Hannah, oldest daughter of Thomas Woodhead of Ox Gate cottages, who later became a dress-maker, had a family of six children. Before 1871 Bower became the first tenant of Inkersall Lane Croft. Bower's land, as mentioned above, included the two 'Far Fields' which flanked the Plantation and Bower, still a part-time carter, carried coppiced wood from 'Bower('s) Plantation', earning the wood its name.

Following Bower's death, by 1891 the croft had passed to James Dawson, brick-maker at Duckmanton Works and part-time crofter. Dawson was born in 1831 at Overton, Nottinghamshire. His wife, Harriett, was born in Duckmanton in 1836 and they had two daughters and two sons, one a brick-maker and the other a boiler-maker's apprentice.

The tenant of the croft in 1901 was Mrs Sarah Longden. She was the widow of William Longden, previously of Brickyard Cottages, Duckmanton Works, and she farmed there at the time of the sale in 1919 when the property was bought by Staveley Company. During the 1920's and early 1930's it was occupied by Mr. Baguely who retailed fresh fish from his cart to housewives in Arkwright Town and elsewhere on Duckmanton Moor. The cottage at that time stood beside Inkersall Lane and the eaves of its low, pan-tiled roof were almost at road level.

Of the homestead, and the colliery which preceded it, all that remain are nettle-grown mounds and partly-exposed brickwork. This, the last of the crofts to be created, the mine site of Duckmanton Colliery, and the remains of the canal from the 1799 Iron Works are on land inside the boundaries of British Coal's proposed open-cast site.

4.2 FARMS ON DUCKMANTON MOOR

Introduction

Before discussing the farms which developed on Duckmanton Moor it will be useful to review the process of early settlement of the Moor. Prior to the dissolution in the 16th century of Welbeck Abbey, whose lordship of Duckmanton manor then passed to the Leekes of Sutton, there is little explicit information. Charters of gifts and sale of land in Duckmanton Manor to that time do not provide a general view of land tenancy and use on the Moor. We do have the agreement of 1451 between the Stanleys of Duckmanton and the monks of Welbeck allowing the latter to drive a drainage level for a coal mine (See 4.2.8 BLUE LODGE FARM below), as evidence that part of the Moor was 'in hand' by the 15th century.

More enigmatic is the 13th century record of a law suit brought against 'William, Abbot of Wellebec' concerning the use of 20 acres of common pasture 'between the river of Calehale (Calow) and Polesbroc (the Pool's Brook)'. The suit over 'the liberty to make and cultivate arable land or pasture' was settled to the advantage of the plaintiffs. Unfortunately the record, which may refer to land near the Calow/Duckmanton manorial boundary stream later called 'Deepsick', (i.e. the western feeder stream of the Pool's Brook), is imprecise. Many surviving charters appear to refer to land around the present village of Duckmanton or beside the river Doe Lea.

Whyman's 1776 Map of Duckmanton Lordship provides strong evidence by way of field names for supposing that by late medieval times only that part of the Moor which lay to the south and west of the present A632 road was unenclosed. But by the second half of the 18th century there were no homesteads there the size of whose lands would merit the label 'a farm'.

The 1837 Tithe Map and Schedules give a comprehensive picture of who tenanted what and where on the Moor. Although by that time there were farms, as well as the crofts discussed above, we find that 30% of the Moor land was held by farmers and crofters who lived at Far, Middle, Long Duckmanton and Sutton. By inference, it is likely that non-Moor farmers held a much higher percentage of the Moor's land 60 years previously, and that the early settlement of the Moor was achieved by farmers and crofters from the agricultural hamlets of Far, Middle and Long Duckmanton some time after those farming hamlets became established. The evidence shows that the settlement process began in the north-east part of the Moor along (as well as to the west of) Newdale. However, there was, by 1776, a cluster of 10 crofts established near the junction of the present A632 and Works Lane, and three of these became Lodge Farm, Moor Farm and Moor Top (Stud) Farm, and are discussed first.

4.2.1 LODGE FARM

This farm stands to the east of the Chesterfield road near Duckmanton Lodge, after which the farm is named. In 1776 a homestead occupied the site of the present farm and at that time the croft had land to the east as far as the Ox Pastures.

In 1837 it had 34 acres. When the Smiths, iron-masters of Chesterfield, obtained a lease at end of the eighteenth century from the Sutton Estate to work the coal and iron deposits under Duckmanton Moor they rented the farm land likely to be affected by the mining operations. Such an arrangement avoided possible inconvenience or loss to the landowner and was a practice commonly in use when arranging mineral leases. The British Coal Corporation has found it equally convenient to purchase the land on which they propose to opencast for the exposed coal seams around Arkwright Town.

One person whose involvement with the Duckmanton Iron Works is noteworthy was John Charlton. Born in 1760, Charlton was employed by the iron-master, Ebenezer Smith, as mining adviser to the undertaking, and he is said to have had sound knowledge of iron founding. Another aspect of his experience, that of farming, has been scarcely noticed by local historians but it is a fact which is relevant to the history of the farms on Duckmanton Moor, for during his involvement with the ironworks he was tenant of Lodge Farm and his descendants worked that farm until the 1870's.

John Charlton and his wife Sarah Wright had two daughters who married two brothers, probably of Chesterfield farming stock. The elder daughter, Ellen, married Richard Alsop in 1820 and the younger one, Mary, married Richard's brother, George Alsop, in 1824. Charlton's son, Matthew, a butcher, occupied the cottage, rented by his father, at Nook Lane Corner and may have used premises nearby at the White Hart and at Lodge Farm in pursuit of his business. There are now two semi-detached cottages at Nook Lane Corner. They were built after 1881 to replace a cottage which stood on that site in 1766. The descendants of Matthew Charlton, mentioned above, lived there before and after the rebuilding and his grand-daughter, Elizabeth, aged 69, was a tenant at the time of 1919 Sale.

John Charlton remained tenant of Lodge Farm until his death at the age of 73 in 1833 by which year the management of the farm had been handed on to his son-in-law, George Alsop, who also succeeded him in the tenancy. George Alsop increased the size of the farm during his tenancy to 63 from 34 acres by 1850 and to 100 acres by 1860. By 1871 he had been succeeded by his son, George Alsop, Jnr. and a daughter, Helen. George Jnr. farmed 105 acres and was also a grocer.

In 1881 the farm's tenant was William Houlgate, a 52 year-old widower with two adult sons and three daughters. Houlgate had been born near Derby and had moved successively to Windley, Ashley Hay, Darley Dale and latterly Temple Normanton. However, by 1891, the tenant was John Hardwick, born at Stainsby in 1854, who had come to Duckmanton Moor from Eckington. In 1919 the last estate tenant was Mr D G Dearden.

During John Charlton's tenancy, Lodge Farm's 34 acres lay to the south-east of the homestead. The small croft called Lodge Farm Croft was discussed above when it was pointed out that though its homestead lay to the east of the Chesterfield road, beside Lodge Farm proper, its land lay on the other side of the main road and was later absorbed by Moor Top, or Stud, Farm. Also, it was shown, when discussing the history of SHAW'S CROFT, above, that the latter had lost all except 2 acres of its land to Lodge Farm by 1837.

Between 1851 and 1861 the original Lodge Farm homestead was replaced by what is the core of the present farmstead. The area farmed had been increased by renting land to the west and east of Nook Lane and to the east of Deepsick Lane.

Lodge Farm began its life as a small croft with a cottage and probably a cow byre and pig sty, and details of the farm given in the 1919 Sale Catalogue make interesting reading for they reflect the effort which had been put in during the previous century for the development of the croft into a typical estate farm. The "excellent" brick-built and slated farmhouse had two attics over four bedrooms, with drawing and dining rooms, kitchen etc, and a larder and cellar basement. The "well-arranged" farm buildings were commodious, with stalls for five horses, houses for 34 cows, implement and wagon lodges and a large yard. Of its total of 118 acres, 48 were arable. The farm was bought at the Sale by Mr W T Parker for £2,000. Subsequently it has been worked by the family of Mr. J. Elliott.

4.2.2. MOOR FARM

In 1776 this farm was an established croft with fields to the east and north. The present buildings, near the site of the original croft homestead, stand back from Works Lane. Most of its land in 1837 lay between the Lane and the Staveley parish boundary. Two thirds of its fields, indicative of their enclosure from the wastes, included the word 'Close' in their names, and most of them lay near the 1837 farmstead. Two other fields bore the Anglo-Saxon descriptive term 'stubbing' whose origin comes from the Old Norse 'stubr', 'to dig up', a reference to the clearance of wooded waste land.

In 1837 this was an established farm of 124 acres. The croft cottage, which still stood between the farmhouse and Works Lane was, from 1861 to 1871, occupied by James Saunders, a colliery labourer, and his wife Hannah.

Moor Farm's tenant in 1837 was William Parker, born in 1774, who had married Mary Herrod in 1801. The couple had six children, four of them sons. There is an interesting account of William Parker. In the 1820's, he is said to have been a church warden who quarrelled with the Sutton curate because of the latter's partiality to alcohol. William turned from the established church and joined in worship with a group of non-conformists at the Duckmanton Ironworks which lay east of Moor Farm's boundary. After many vicissitudes,

which arose from problems in finding satisfactory premises for use as a place of worship and as a school for the ironworks children, Parker was mainly instrumental in obtaining land for and the building of the Congregational Chapel in Calow in 1837. When William Parker died on 25th January 1843 at the age of 69 he was the first person to be buried in the chapel graveyard.

While working the largest farm on the Moor at the time Parker would have been an interested observer of the activities at the ironworks and the cart traffic passing his farm entrance on Works Lane. Indeed, Benjamin Smith's Deep End Colliery with its winding and pumping gear worked the Main Soft Coal seam and the short access road from the Lane to it, which still exists, dates from his lifetime. North of Parker's farmstead the Smiths worked the Deep Soft coal and the Pinder Park ironstone.

The electoral roll for 1913 records 'Deep End Colliery Cottage' as occupied by a Frank Higginbottom. The cottage stood on the site of the old colliery, and it has since been replaced by a later house. In days when there was less concern about the dangers of subsidence caused by the settling of old mine workings, it was not unusual for a building, often a modified engine house left on a disused minehead, to be used for accommodation. (See: INKERSAL LANE CROFT', above. Also, 'Sutton Pit Cottage', on the site of that old colliery off the Heath road at Sutton Scarsdale, was inhabited long after the mine closed).

The Parker family were tenants of Moor Farm for over a century. William Senior was succeeded by his eldest son, Herrod Parker but by 1857 William Junior had taken over the running of the farm. I am grateful to Mrs. G. Turner who was born in a cottage at Works Farm for sight of a leather-bound copy of White's 1857 Gazetteer of Derbyshire in her possession which is inscribed with William Junior's name. A much-thumbed entry for Sutton-cum-Duckmanton parish shows Parker's name listed with those of other farmers of the Moor at the time.

The size of the household which this farm sustained through the nineteenth century is indicative of the success of its management. In 1841, besides family members there were three farm labourers and a house servant. In 1851, the farm had four non-family employees, including the house servant Elizabeth Bacon of Calow who married William Parker Junior. This couple had six sons and by 1891 the household included eleven family members and two servants. In 1919, at the time of the Sutton Estate Sale, William Junior's son John was tenant. The farm was bought by Mr Durham Stone for £2,050.

Between 1831 and 1919 the farm had only marginally altered in size from 124 acres to 121. However, it had exchanged some fields at the time of the building of the Great Central Railway in the early 1890's. It lost fields with a total area of 29 acres which lay to the south of Works Lane and stretched down to the Chesterfield road near its junction with Sutton Lane, close to the site where Arkwright Town was built in 1897. It received a similar area in fields north of the farmstead near the boundary with Staveley parish.

Thus, Moor Farm remained exceptionally stable in size over a long period of time, in contrast with several farms which had begun their lives as crofts. In 1919, 38.3 of its 121 acres were arable and the rest pasture.

A consequence of the 1919 sale of the Sutton Estate and the purchase of some of the farms by non-tenants was to make the re-sale of farm land easier for the new owners. The Estate had previously been held in trust. In the case of Moor Farm, the purchaser, Mr. Durham Stone, after renting the farm to tenants, including, latterly, Mr. Joe White, sold it to Mr. Frank Hall. The latter became known locally as 'The Rhubarb King' because of his attempt to grow that fruit in large quantities.

Mr. Hall eventually sold the farm off in two lots, the farmhouse and 61 acres of land being purchased by Mr. James Morton Butler who worked the farm as a butcher-farmer until 1991. Mr. Morton, his son owns the farm at the time of writing. British Coal Opencast purchased that part of Moor Farm which lay within the north-west boundaries of its proposed Arkwright Town opencast site, and the farm's remaining land lies to the north and west of the farmstead.

4.2.3 MOOR TOP or STUD FARM

This farm was introduced as one of the three crofts of Moor Top, and it was noted that in 1776, as a croft, its homestead had fields in the adjacent enclosed common. By 1837, the tenant, Samuel Renshaw, was renting three fields of 'school land' at West Wood Nook and seven fields on the east side of Deepsick Lane, a total of 54 acres.

Born in the 1770's, Samuel Renshaw married Catherine Greaves around the year 1800, and they had five sons and three daughters. Before 1841 his unmarried son, John, became tenant. With him were his two sisters, Susanna and Martha Renshaw and he employed two farm workers and a house servant. In 1851 the farm was recorded as having increased to 80 acres and John Renshaw was living alone and employing two farm workers and two house servants.

By 1861, Moor Top Farm had a new tenant, Joseph Crofts, born at Brimington in 1806. He was followed by his son, also named Joseph, born at Tupton in 1839. Joseph Junior, farmed at Moor Top until after 1881 and enlarged the holding to 100 acres aided by a wife, Elizabeth, two farm workers and one house servant.

However, by 1891, the farm's function had changed. It took the name of Stud Farm and the new tenant was Richard Bowmer, a stud groom born at Old Leake in 1847. Bowmer, who had a wife, two sons and two daughters, was assisted by the shoeing smith, Joseph Barksmit who lived at Nook Lane Corner. (See 4.1.1 POOLSMITH'S CROFT above.) The farm's size also radically changed.

In 1919, at the sale of the Sutton Scarsdale estate, the tenant of Stud Farm was Mr R Bingham and the land offered amounted to 26 acres. Of this, 13½ acres were Samuel Renshaw's original land around the farmstead. The other 12½ acres lay in the triangle formed by the A632- Hasland Lane, Deepsick Lane, and former Chesterfield to Lincoln Railway.

The farm house was described in the Sale catalogue as stone and brick built and tile roofed having four bedrooms, two sitting rooms and kitchen with ancilliary amenities. There was a coach house, covered stud yards, and a blacksmith's shop. Two acres next to the farmhouse were divided into four grazing plots, each with its loose box. The farm was purchased by Mr Elliott, butcher, of Calow for £1,475, and has remained in that family.

4.2.4 WORKS FARM

British Coal Opencast Executive's planning application of December 1991 gave the following undertaking in its Environmental Statement:

"18.6 CONCLUSION

a) Works Farm will remain during the operations and will be protected in the Adelphi Ironworks."

This farm takes its name from its location, the site of the eighteenth century Adelphi Ironworks, and the present farmhouse is the only intact industrial structure to have survived from the iron-working period. There was no homestead on the site in 1766 and any evidence of an earlier settlement on that part of Duckmanton Moor is not likely to have survived the building of the Ironworks and the post 1939-45 War opencasting operations on Works Farm land.

In 1837, the fields taken over by the Ironworks carried the names: 'Furnace Field', 'Saw Pit Field' and 'Brick Yard'. According to the 1776 Map, these fields had earlier names including 'Harry Oaks', 'Little Harry Oaks' and 'Great Harry Oaks'. The fields in question lay immediately east of the Ox Pastures whose medieval function appears to bear some relationship to the Old Norse origins of the names of other nearby fields. The proper name 'Harry', above, is probably the personalisation of the verb 'harry' - to ravage, lay waste, which derives from Old Norse 'herja' through Old English 'her(g)ian'. A nearby field 'Great Algroves' (1776), 'Orgreaves' (1837) means, literally, 'Ore Pits', and the locality seems undoubtedly to have suffered the 'wasting' of common land due to surface mining in medieval times.

Part of the 'Furnace Field' (1837) had, long before the building of the Ironworks, been called 'Lime Kiln Close' (1776). That poses questions about previous activities there. According to a contemporary record, the local ironstone seams, or 'rakes', consisted of nodules of carbonate of iron mixed with shells whose calcium content made it unnecessary for limestone to be added as a flux during the reduction of the ore in the Adelphi furnaces. The existence of the lime kiln prior to the Ironworks suggests that either, (assuming that iron ore was reduced in charcoal furnaces locally in medieval times), the shell material was separately calcined and its quicklime product added during the reduction process, or it was calcined for some other purpose, such as agricultural use or sand-and-lime mortar. Unfortunately, the field evidence either way has been, or will soon be destroyed.

In the 1790's the Chesterfield ironmaster, Ebenezer Smith leased 118 acres of land around his ironworks site to give access to the many iron and coal deposits which surfaced on the Moor. This land was kept in cultivation and when the Smiths' businesses encountered problems part of it was sub-let to adjacent farmers.

By the 1830's the Smiths of Chesterfield were in financial difficulties. The company had failed to make a successful move from reliance on munitions contracts into new markets and began to run down their Chesterfield and Manchester foundries. In 1820 responsibility for operations at the Adelphi Ironworks had been taken over by Benjamin Smith (1797-1886), grandson of the founder of the original Brampton Works, and in 1840 Benjamin claimed he was working two furnaces, 20 ironstone mines and three coal pits on Duckmanton Moor. His attempt to revitalise the family's fortunes by leasing and rebuilding Stanton Ironworks in 1845 took him into greater debt and in 1849 Smith was declared bankrupt and his Stanton assets seized by his bankers. A year earlier the Adelphi Ironworks closed down.

Richard Arkwright's attempts to keep his coal and iron interests on Duckmanton Moor profitable in the 1840's by negotiating a right of way for a mineral line from the Adelphi, first to the Chesterfield Canal and later to the Staveley spur of the new North Midland Railway, failed. His efforts were frustrated by his local competitor, Richard Barrow of Staveley Ironworks, who held the mineral lease of the Devonshire lands to the north and east of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate.

Coal mining continued on Duckmanton Moor. The colliery which had been sunk beside Inkersall Lane, off Inkersall Road near its junction with Tom Lane, was closed after 1850. In 1854, the shafts at the Waterloo pit were sealed with brick domes- 'the bee-hives', as they were known in this century. The 'Waterloo' was a coal pit whose two shafts lie a short distance to the east of Works Farm, off the lane which links the farm with Inkersall Road at Bottom Duckmanton. It was sunk originally to the Top Hard Seam and took its name from the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, the year in which the pit was sunk. In recent years the National Coal Board erected a pump house on one of its two shafts to provide water to Markham Colliery washery. Interestingly, residents at the old Works still called the lane mentioned above 'Waterloo Lane' down to the 1920's and 30's.

Also in 1854, the pumps on the engine at Deep End Colliery, sunk by the Smiths, were changed and two years later the engine's boiler was repaired. A plan of the 1859 workings of that colliery have survived. This mine was located on the land of Moor Farm, off Works Lane (See 4.2.2 'MOOR FARM', above) where the Deep End, or Main Soft seam outcropped, but its workings were not of great depth.

The steeply inclined seams on the Moor required the sinking of numerous shallow shafts along the outcrop of each seam. Mining much below a depth of 100 yards was impracticable without the capital of a large company with limited liability, a problem which William Arkwright solved in 1882 by leasing the mineral rights of the Sutton Estate coal to the Staveley Coal & Iron Company. That company sank collieries in the Doe Lea Valley basin at Markham and Ireland (the former sunk 716 yards to reach the Black Shale

seam), and built the mining villages of Poolsbrook, Duckmanton and Arkwright Town to serve them.

In 1853 Richard Arkwright appointed Daniel Gladwin as his clerk at the Works. Gladwin, born in 1812 of local farming stock, had been employed by Arkwright prior to April 1846 when he became clerk to Benjamin Smith at Stanton Ironworks. He returned to work on the Moor in August 1853 and in 1861 he is recorded there both as clerk in the Works office and as a farmer with 60 acres of land.

A diary begun when he was at Stanton and continued for five years at Works Farm gives glimpses of the state of flux which followed the run-down of the Smith's operations. There were stocks of iron to be disposed of (in October 1853, Richard Barrow of Staveley agreed to take 900 tons), surplus plant and engines to be sold, machinery to maintain, and a declining level of mining activities to manage.

Redundant ironworks buildings- the weigh office, pattern shop and stores- were converted to accomodate Gladwin's family and equipped for use as a saw mill and joinery shop. Farmstead buildings were added, and Gladwin planted an orchard and garden. Water was piped from an old mine shaft in the Ox Pastures to a new, brick-lined reservoir near to the saw mill to supply a steam engine which drove the saws, lathes and other powered tools for the joiners. A new kiln was built in March 1854 for the brickyard which lay to the north of Works Farm.

In 1871 the farm, reduced to 50 acres, was tenanted by Samuel Gladwin of Sutton. A small team of joiners, wheelwrights and a blacksmith were manufacturing carts and other goods for the estate. North of the farmstead, beyond the brickworks, 'Upper Close' a field of 6½ acres had been mined by the Smiths. The Bower Plantation, which had grown up on that site, previously made useless for agriculture by bell pits and 'open holes' (a local term for shallow mineral workings), was providing coppiced wood. The number of full-time estate carters employed on the Moor had fallen from 3 in 1851 to zero by 1871 and John Bower the ex-carter turned crofter at Inkersall Lane End was carrying, on a part-time basis the fence posts, rails and kindling coppiced from Bower Plantation for use by local estate farms. The brickworks, still active, were supervised by Ezekiah Dawson from Carlton, Nottinghamshire, and he and his family lived in one of the two cottages opposite the saw mill, built by Ebenezer Smith to accomodate his iron workers.

Most of the other original cottages were in occupation in 1871: two on Works Lane at the Ox Gate, seven (previously eight) at Ox Pastures Row of which three were empty at the time, two in the brickyard, and two on the old furnace site. The old stables at the Ox Pastures, occasionally used for accomodation, were also empty. Of the twelve households living in the works property at that time many members were aged ironworks employees and the heads of four were paupers.

The farm had a new tenant by 1881, William Hodson who was born at Clifton in Nottinghamshire in 1836, but in 1891 he had moved to a farm at Long Duckmanton and his place was taken by Harry Spooner, born at Chesterfield in 1858. Spooner was still tenant at the time of the 1919 Sale and he bought the farmstead, its 51 acres (of which 14 acres were let to the tenant of Moor farm) and the two furnace-site cottages for £900.

During Spooner's early years at Works Farm the Great Central Railway line from Sheffield to Annesley, and the loop railway which connected it to the Chesterfield to Lincoln line were laid (See Map 3, page 30). The loop railway, built between 1905 and 1907, boldly encircled the newly-built village of Arkwright Town and its massive embankments cut through many of the old fields to the west and south of the farm.

The clay holes of the old brickworks, which lay to the right of the track between Works Farm and Bower Plantation had ceased production and had been leased to Chesterfield Rural District Council as a refuse tip. On cessation of cart-building, the saw mill which stood at right-angles to the joiners' shop was demolished, as was the small engine house and, later, the boiler chimney. The joiners' shop was gutted of its machinery. The large upper chamber of the shop was used, with the farmer's consent, during the late 1920's as a gymnasium for the young men of Arkwright Town village under the supervision of the local policeman, and the ground floor was used as a farm implements shed.

There was an uneasy period when mining on this part of the Moor was halted and agriculture recovered temporarily from cycles of 'industrial set-aside'. After Spooner's death, his wife Hannah took over the farm for a time followed by Mr. Mosley and, later, Mr. Fry. For a brief period in the 1920's a small crushing plant stood near the farm. This recovered 'aggregates', the glass-hard slag from the old furnace tips. The rich blues and mauves found in the slag led to a claim that the banded-fluorspar, 'Blue John', had been discovered. Alas, hopes for a resurgence in mining activity at Duckmanton Works were soon dashed. The nearest locality for that semi-precious ornamental stone is at Castleton in the Derbyshire Peak.

Parts of the farm land were opencasted by the National Coal Board during the energy crises which followed the 1939-45 War and during these activities the remains of the ironwork furnaces and casting shops, coke ovens, engine houses and warehouses on 'Furnace Field' were covered over for use as rough pasture.

Much more recently, the farm's out-houses, of brick with pan-tiled roofs, have been demolished, leaving two structures, the farm house itself and an 18th century iron-worker's cottage nearby, as survivors. The farm was purchased by British Coal Opencast ahead of its operations. Daniel Gladwin's orchard, planted in 1854, was cut down in the Spring of 1993 to give access for opencast vehicles. The iron-worker's cottage near the farm is empty and the farm-house tenant expects to vacate his home. The undertaking, in the statement by British Coal Opencast quoted at the head of this part of the history of Duckmanton Moor is, in the context of the proposed privatisation of the coal mining industry, to say the least, interesting.

MAP 3. DUCKMANTON MOOR IN 1919



4. 1. 5 NURSERY FARM

This farm is situated on Sutton Lane near the site of old Arkwright Town. It received its name several centuries after its fields had been enclosed from the wastes. Prior to 1875, it was simply known by its location: '*Duckmanton Moor*', and '*Sutton Lane End*'. Although the date of its origin is not certain, 1690 is recorded in a later deed of sale and it is shown as a croft in 1776. Nursery Farm was a good example of an isolated croft which grew up on enclosed pieces of common on the southern part of Duckmanton Moor.

It was also an example, despite its title of 'Farm', of a croft which failed to increase in size and become a farm, yet survived as a smallholding until this century. In 1776, the croft held three pieces of land totalling 7 acres, consisting of 'Near Croft', 'Far Croft' and 'Common Piece'.

The tenancy of 'Nursery' Farm can be traced back to one John Pogmore, born in 1726, whose son John, born in 1754, married Ann Siddon in 1788. Their daughter Elizabeth Pogmore married Humphrey Brookes in 1806. He is referred to as 'a labourer' in 1819 and no doubt he supplemented the subsistence living shared on his father-in-law's croft with other work, for the holding at that time comprised only a cottage and garden and the three small fields which lay to the east of the cottage.

Humphrey was succeeded as tenant by his son William, born in 1811. William married Harriet Cowley and combined working the croft with the job of colliery engineer at the Adelphi (Duckmanton) Ironworks nearby. In 1857 he is recorded as a 'colliery overlooker', presumably supervising at that time the working of the Duckmanton Common coal pits for the Arkwrights, his landlord. In 1881, at the age of 70, he appears in the census as 'Colliery Manager/ Farmer'.

The 1st Ordnance Survey of the Moor, 1840 Ed., has the location, '*Duckmanton Common Pits*', on the site where old Arkwright Town was built. The same map shows a tramway from the Adelphi Ironworks, following the course of the Arkwright Brook to the north side of the A632 and terminating at a place marked 'Engine', opposite the later position of the bottom block of houses in 'Front Row' at old Arkwright Town. British Coal Opencast's planning application includes a map of known and suspected shafts and has shafts 302 and 303 marked in that area. Because of its proximity, William Brookes' tenure of Nursery Farm would not have conflicted with his being employed as colliery engineer for the Adelphi Ironworks prior to its closure.

The coal mines beside the A632 are not shown on later Ordnance Survey maps - e.g. the 1876 25-inch shows the road-side area covered with trees, which were known later to Arkwright people as 'the Plantation' - suggesting mining ended there when the ironworks closed in 1848. However, William Brookes, as noted above, was known as 'colliery overlooker' after that year and as colliery manager as late as 1870.

There is strong evidence that after the ironworks closed Robert Arkwright worked coal mines elsewhere on Duckmanton Moor. BCO's map shows a cluster of four shafts- Nos. 309, 309a, 309b and 309c on the Arkwright colliery site in the area between the old Sheffield to Annesley railway and the branch from it to the colliery's sidings. When the Yates family drove the two drifts to open up the Top Hard coal in 1937/38 No.1 Drift released water from old mine workings. Similarly, when No.3 Drift at Arkwright colliery was driven much later it cut the bottom of an old shaft at a depth of approximately 90 yards, according to an eye-witness, Harry Gould. Perhaps these were the pits which Brookes managed latterly, on land which later formed part of Nursery Farm until the advent of Arkwright colliery.

In 1875 William Arkwright of Sutton Hall developed four fields which had earlier been enclosed from the common as a nursery garden and fruit farm. The fields lay east and south of the junction of Sutton Lane and Chesterfield Road on a site where old Arkwright Town was later built. As a consequence, 'Nursery' Farm lost its original land to nearby Gorse Farm, but gained fields on the other side of Sutton Lane. At that time, the homestead was enlarged to provide stabling for twelve horses. It is probable that the enlarged stabling served to accomodate cart horses employed in the nursery work.

The development of the Great Central, and the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast railways in the 1890's quickly encroached on the farm's recently acquired lands, and the building of the village of Arkwright Town from 1897 ended William Arkwright's fruit farm scheme and the farm's marginal role in it.

In 1919, at the time of the sale of the Sutton Scarsdale estate by William Arkwright, the farm's tenant, Mr. Joshua Wigley, having recently died, the farm was bought by his executors on behalf of his widow. Of the 24½ acres of land offered with Nursery Farm at the sale, 16½ acres had been sublet at the time of the development of Arkwright Town, 2 acres being rented as allotments for keeping hens and other livestock. The farm was sold on after the Sale to Mr. Harry Russell.

In 1938 there came another profound change when Arkwright Colliery was sunk in the fields opposite the farm, and the latter's size was reduced to 0.85 acres- the homestead, gardens and orchard. Although the mine was started as a short-term venture, the 1939-45 War and the nationalisation of the coal mining industry in 1947 gave it a much longer life which finally ended in 1988. (See 5.2 THE ARKWRIGHT TOWN COMMUNITY below).

In 1991, British Coal, to facilitate its proposal to demolish and replace old Arkwright Town and extensively opencast the locality, bought the farm from its latest owner, Mr. William Tansley. Now the homestead stands empty, its gardens and outbuildings encircled by a wire-mesh security fence. If British Coal's plans come to fruition, in ten years time the farm cottage will stare across the Sutton Road to where landscaped pit heaps and a new industrial park will cover the fields which tenants and owners have cultivated down the centuries.

4. 1. 6. GORSE FARM

This farm lies on the south side of the A632 Chesterfield-Bolsover Road, midway between old Arkwright Town and Long Duckmanton. It began as a small croft of 8½ acres around a homestead. After 1776 it acquired enclosed common land on the north side of the Pool's Brook. Together with a triangular piece of common land called, 'Pingle', north of the A632, the farm's homestead and land covered 30½ acres. Its tenant was a Thomas Lowe.

By 1851 the tenant was Richard Pierce, born at Duckmanton in 1818. His wife, Mary Ann, was born at Bolsover in 1819 and in 1861 they had five children. The farm had increased in size to 60 acres, and Pierce employed a farm labourer.

Following Richard Pierce's death after 1861 his widow became tenant, helped by her son Thomas. The family remained at the farm until Mary Ann's death but by 1901 the tenancy had passed to Samuel Burton. The latter purchased Gorse Farm at the time of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate sale in 1919 for £2075, at which time there were 74½ acres of land attached to it.

The doubling in size of the farm between 1837 and 1919, from 30½ acres to 74½ acres involved some interesting re-allocations of estate land. Gorse Farm lost the small 'Pingle' piece beside the A632 to Brook Farm, but gathered in the croft of William Bennett which was discussed earlier. It took over the old croft fields of Nursery Farm (See above), extended its frontage along the south side of the A632 Chesterfield-Bolsover Road, and its western boundary along the Pool's Brook and Sutton Lane.

With the building of old Arkwright Town after 1897, Gorse Farm took over the 4½ acre nursery field which lay immediately east of the village, and the cart shed there was later rented to Richard Roach, whose lorries carried miners from the village to the Markham collieries and delivered coal locally.

The Staveley & District Public House Trust, a subsidiary of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company, owners of Arkwright Town, built the Station Hotel at Arkwright Town and sub-tenanted 7 acres of land from Gorse Farm to provide a cricket ground and tennis courts for the villagers' use beside the Great Central (Chesterfield-Lincoln) Railway. Until the 1939-45 War, Gorse Farm supplied milk to the village and the school. A farm track which ran from the village to the farm gave access to wild-flower filled meadows, shared as a play park by local children and the farm children.

After the war, Gorse Farm, and approximately 80 acres of land, was bought by Mr Charles Lowe the owner of the adjacent Brook Farm with its 90 acres (See below). The farms passed to Mr Basil Lowe who later sold the land and Gorse Farmhouse in several lots. The lots, with the exception of Gorse Farmhouse and its six attached acres, were bought by British Coal, who later purchased the Gorse Farm lot from its new owner. In the Spring of 1993, British Coal demolished Gorse Farmhouse with its pre-1776 origins ahead of its opencast operations.

The demise of Gorse Farm leaves a puzzle in the minds of older members of Arkwright Town community. During opencast coal operations after the War, the village 'lost' the cricket ground, latterly in use as a football pitch. A mystery seems to envelop the later ownership, or tenancy, of that amenity. After the Staveley & District Public House Trust terminated its sub-tenancy of the land at Christmas 1919 the villagers' use of it may have continued by informal agreement with Gorse Farm's owner. Had, as is supposed by some, the land been bought by the Staveley Company it should have vested in the National Coal Board on nationalisation of the industry in 1947. In which case it would have been jointly administered by the miners' unions and the Board through the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation and its community use should have been retained or substitute land provided.

The mystery now seems academic and it remains to be seen, after the opencast operations are completed, what farms if any are left on Coal Board land on Duckmanton Moor.

4. 1. 7. BROOK FARM

This farm takes its name from its position beside the Pool's Brook, upstream from the junction of the A632 Chesterfield-Bolsover Road with the Inkersall Road at the bottom of the hill of Long Duckmanton. Its sheltered position would have lent itself to the establishment of one of the earlier crofts on the Moor, one which could use the fertile land alongside the brook as a base from which to expand into a farm. In 1776, the croft had five fields, 'Croft', 'Nook Close', 'Little Nine Acre' and 'Far Moor' and 'Near Moor' closes which lay alongside the north bank of the brook. After 1776 it expanded to farm-size by crossing the A632 to take in land along the south side of Works Lane as far as the ironworks site.

Having reached 82½ acres in size at the time of the Tithe Survey in 1837, it acquired another 10 acres by 1871 between the site of the ironworks and the A632 opposite the future site of old Arkwright Town. It was the same size (92½ acres) when sold during the estate sale in 1919.

During that time only two families had farmed the land there. In 1837 the tenant was William Pearce, who was followed by his son Leonard, born in 1816 at Duckmanton. An elder brother, James, assisted on the farm while a sister, Ellen, was housekeeper. Another brother, Edward, lived at the farm and traded as a butcher. By 1861 Leonard, who does not appear to have married, farmed with the help of two labourers, and his niece, Margaret, was housekeeper. In 1871, with the farm increased in size to 95 acres, the household remained the same.

By 1877 Pearce had given up the tenancy which passed to James Dunn of Priestcliffe, Derbyshire. Dunn had a wife, Ellen, from Flagg, Derbyshire and three young children born at the farm. They kept one domestic and two farm servants. In 1891, with six children, the Pearce's were managing with one farm worker. After Arkwright Town was built the farm lost a small field opposite the village to Chesterfield Rural District Council for use as a sewage works, reducing the farm's size again to 92½ acres.

James Dunn was still tenant at the time of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate Sale, when the farm was bought by Charles Lowe. The subsequent history of the farm is given above, (See 4.2.6 GORSE FARM).

4.2.8 BLUE LODGE FARM

The farmstead stands beside the Inkersall Road near its junction with Tom Lane overlooking the Pool's Brook, the eastern boundary of the Moor. Its origins are not known but the land was farmed in the fifteenth century, probably by one of the cluster of crofts established by 'censarii' at Far and Middle Duckmanton prior to 1086. By a charter of 1451 granted to the monks of Welbeck Abbey permission was given by John Stanley and his son Robert* for a drainage level to be driven from a 'sea-coal' mine to an outfall at 'Reynaldbrigge'. This is the old bridge which carries Tom Lane over the Pool's Brook. 'Ren Brigg' (1837), a field immediately north of Blue Lodge Farm is named for the old bridge.

* Did Robert's name survive the next three centuries? Whyman's 1776 Map shows a small, oval shaped field named 'Obsitch Meadow' which was later part of the home close, 'Little Hillside', of Inkersall Lane Croft. 'Obsitch Meadow', in 1776, was beside the course of a small stream at a point upstream from where it passed under the Inkersall Road. On the other side of Inkersall Road, the brook ran beside a second 'Obsitch Meadow' before joining the Pool's Brook before Ren Brig on Tom Lane. The 'sitch' refers to a stream, e.g. 'Deepsick'. 'Hob' was a familiar medieval form of 'Rob', short for Robin or Robert. Incidentally, 'Obsitch' stream's source was once a pond in the field opposite Deepsick Lane end, and its course passed through the old Arkwright Town allotments to the Iron Works site and on to the Pool's Brook at Blue Lodge Farm.

Whyman's Map does not show a homestead on or near the site of Blue Lodge Farm in 1766 and the site of the farmstead there by 1837, a field then named 'Close', was part of a larger field in 1776 called 'Wood Flat', corrupted to 'Wooley Flat' in the 1837 Tithe Survey.

Several of Blue Lodge fields to the west of Inkersall Lane have names associated with medieval mining activities- e.g. 'Grove Pits', 'Pie (or Tye) Greave'. As mentioned under 4.1.9 INKERSALL LANE CROFT above, coal was mined at a depth of 130 yards nearby during the nineteenth century, shallower seams were opencast after the 1939-45 War, and British Coal's latest opencast proposals include lands of Blue Lodge Farm.

In 1837 Blue Lodge Farm was still a croft with 15½ acres of land, only 4½ acres of which lay next to the homestead. The remaining land was dispersed at some distance: 7 acres was glebe land and lay partly inside the site proposed for Arkwright Town new village, north of the A632 Chesterfield-Bolsover Road. An allotment of ½ an acre was held near to 'WILLIAM BENNETT'S CROFT' while the remaining 3½ acres lay off the A632 near the river Doe Lea.

The croft's tenant in 1837 was a Peter Smith, but he had been succeeded before 1851 by Thomas Frith, born at Duckmanton in 1808 and married to Mary Butler of Nottingham. Thomas Frith's lands had been increased to 48 acres which lay close to the farmstead along the Inkersall Road and, having no children, he was assisted by George, his older, widowed brother. A young nephew was employed as house servant. The Friths still held the tenancy after 1881 but by 1991 had been succeeded by Joseph Berry.

Berry, born in 1855 at Shipley, Yorkshire and married to a wife from Langwith, had a family of five young children, three of whom were born at Staveley. In 1991 his large household included the previous tenant, now retired and aged 83, his widowed mother-in-law, Sarah Bunting, born at Bolsover and Jabez Topper, a young farm servant from Crich. It seems probable that the farm soon increased in size to 88 acres by taking in fields alongside Inkersall Lane, except for those on the old coal mine site of 'INKERSALL LANE CROFT'.

This was largely the position at the time of the 1919 Sale though 12 of the 88 acres by then had been sublet to Primrose Farm at Long Duckmanton, and the tenant was a Mr. A. H. Bennett. At the Sale, Blue Lodge Farm was bought by Mr. William Mather, in whose family's ownership it has remained.

5. INDUSTRIAL SETTLEMENTS ON DUCKMANTON MOOR

5.1 THE IRON WORKS COMMUNITY

Background

Ebenezer Smith & Company, the Chesterfield firm of ironfounders, acquired their first ironworks at Brampton in 1775. From 1780 they also had an interest in a works beside the newly opened (1776) Chesterfield Canal at Stonegravels and they opened another works in Manchester.

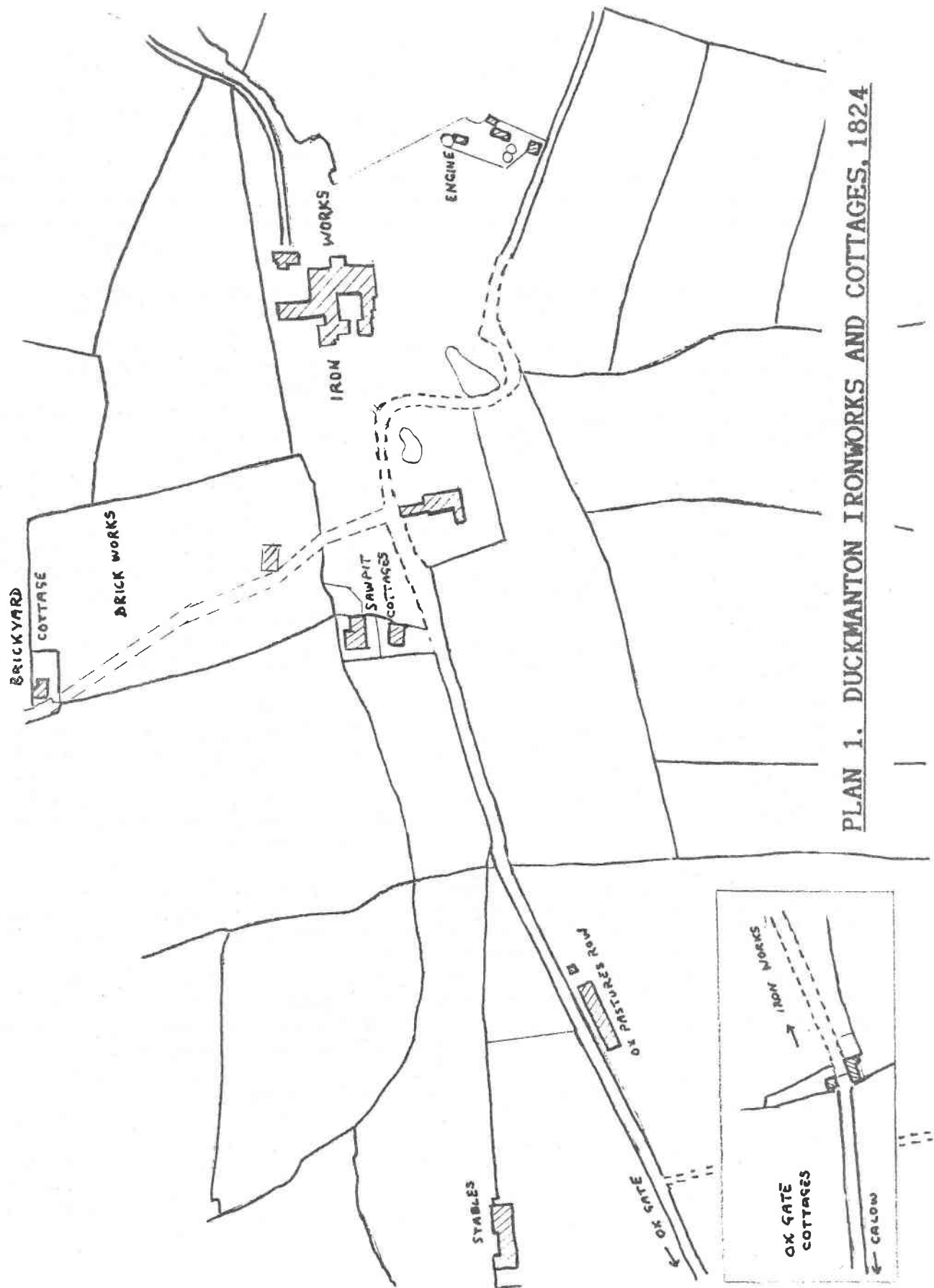
In 1799, the company developed the Adelphi Ironworks in the middle of Duckmanton Moor to exploit coal and iron from the seams which outcropped there. The ironworks had two furnaces, together capable of smelting 900 tons of iron annually, and the complex included a pattern-making shop and foundry besides numerous coal and iron pits sunk on and around the site. The Smiths' enterprises were successful whilst a market existed to supply munitions for the wars with France, 1793-1815, but they failed to diversify later into alternative home markets, mainly due to the inferior quality and costs of their products compared with those from iron made in Wales, Staffordshire and Scotland.

Of the Smiths' five furnaces, only three were in blast in 1829. The Adelphi Ironworks were taken over by Benjamin Smith, grandson of the founder of the company, in 1820, but by 1830 the works on Duckmanton Moor were in financial difficulties. An attempt by Benjamin Smith to improve affairs by leasing and rebuilding the Stanton Ironworks using borrowed capital in 1845 failed, and he was declared bankrupt four years later. The ironworks on Duckmanton Moor closed in 1848 and, although coal mining continued there under the Arkwrights of Sutton Hall, iron mining and smelting had ended after some fifty years.

The People of the Ironworks

The Adelphi's original work-force included experienced iron-workers and colliers from Calow, Brimington and Staveley, all places within daily travelling distance of the new works. Other workers were members of the crofting families living on the Moor who were engaged primarily as labourers, and some of these became skilled foundry-workers and colliers. A third group of specialist workers was recruited from the iron-working and coal mining areas in Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, and to house this last group Smith & Co. built sixteen workers' cottages.

For the location of these cottages in relation to the Ironworks see Plan 1, page 38 below. Two were midway along Works Lane at the Ox Gate. One of these was known as 'Toll Gate Cottage'. The other became notorious at the turn of this century when Nancy Price, born at Oldbury, Worcestershire, and wife of the tenant, a coal miner, was murdered there. From 1815 until after 1871 it had been occupied by Thomas Woodhead, a moulder at the Ironworks, and his family.



PLAN 1. DUCKMANTON IRONWORKS AND COTTAGES, 1824

One of the few artifacts to have survived from the era of iron making on Duckmanton Moor is a moulder's tool, found recently by Mr. Coleman of Duckmanton in the cottage's refuse heap. Evidence of the cottage's occupation points to Mr. Woodhead having been the owner of the tool.

A terrace of eight cottages was built in the Ox Pastures and two were later made into one to house an Estate joiner, John Evans from Calow, two of whose sons followed the same craft. The Row, as it came to be called, became the heart of the Ironworks community and remained so until its demolition after the 1939-45 War.

Two cottages, later known as 'Saw Pit Cottages' were built opposite the works office and pattern shop. One of these, beside the old Works Lane, still stands though it has recently been vacated by the tenant prior to the proposed open casting operations. The second cottage once stood behind this one. The writer is informed by Mrs. Peters, who was born in the neighbouring cottage, that it had a bake-house attached. Its tenant in 1841 was Thomas Bennett, a grocer, who lived there with his wife, three boys, a grocer's apprentice and a female servant. They had gone a decade later following the closure of the Ironworks.

Later a third small cottage was built near the other two, known to later inhabitants as 'The Slipper', a term which suggests that its original use may have been to provide additional sleeping space for iron-workers. A cottage which accommodated two families stood on the north boundary of the brickyard field near to Bower Plantation and two more stood on the furnace site. These last two were built after 1837. For a time, in the 1860's, two families lived in the old stables in the Ox Pastures.

Examination of the parish and census records shows that until the ironworks closed the company's cottages usually housed those skilled workers whose duties required them to live close to their work. In keeping with nineteenth century practice Duckmanton Lodge was built at the junction of Works Lane and the A632, Chesterfield to Bolsover road for the convenience of Benjamin Smith, who ran the Ironworks from 1820. Nearby, at Lodge Farm, lived John Charlton, the works manager and mine viewer.

No reliable figures for total numbers employed during the period when the Adelphi Iron Works was in operation have survived. Those living in non Ironworks cottages on Duckmanton Moor who were employed at the Adelphi can be identified from local source material. However, it is not practicable to separate out the numbers of workers who may have travelled daily to the Ironworks, from Calow, Brimington and Staveley, from the many iron and coal workers of those parishes who were employed at other local coal and iron concerns. For example, the 1841 Census shows:

	Duckmanton Moor	Calow	Brimington
Foundry Workers	19	4	13
Ironstone Miners	2	25	42
Coal Miners	5	31	50
Others	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTALS	32	62	106

The higher figures for ironstone and coal miners resident in Calow and Brimington compared with those resident on the Moor are partly due to the existence of other places of employment in the locality, as mentioned above. However, much of the Adelphi iron ore was mined in the Westwood area and may have been bought in by the Ironworks from the contractors (or 'butties') operating there. For there was a local '*Miners' Association of the Westwood and Bower Ironstone Companies*' whose Committee met at the Red Lion Inn, Brimington, and sought in 1844 to negotiate improved conditions with the 'Masters'.

One can do little other than infer that some of the Brimington miners were indirectly employed by the Adelphi and that, similarly, some of the Calow miners worked in the Hady pits which also supplied the Adelphi Ironworks.

Over the fifty years during which the Adelphi Ironworks were operating, 70 workers with their families lived in the company's cottages and 8 more lived elsewhere on the Moor either with crofters or in cottages rented by the Works. 55 different family names have been identified as resident in the Adelphi Works cottages during that period, and several families stayed there for three generations.

These industrial workers and their families gave shape, during the lifetime of the Works, to a community on the Moor which had its own identity and sense of place. It remained a close community, because of its relative isolation from the Moor's other inhabitants for 160 years, until the old cottages were demolished as unfit for human habitation in 1957.

As was described above (See 'WORKS FARM'), the function of the Ironworks site changed in the 1850's when the farm land around the site reverted to agricultural use and the land-owners, the Arkwrights of Sutton Hall, redeveloped the brickworks and converted the pattern shop into a joinery and black smithing works for making estate carts. These latter activities continued late into the nineteenth century and recruited new families to the works cottages. The heads of these families included joiners and blacksmiths, brickmakers and carters. Those wage-earners of the original Adelphi community who had depended on the ironworks for a livelihood and did not move on after their closure found alternative employment locally in agriculture and mining. Some of their wives took up sewing and dressmaking and three out of ten wives became charladies. Some of the older men, unfit for work, lived out their lives on parish relief.

The next significant change came in the early 1890's with the building of the Great Central Railway line from Sheffield to Annesley which cut through the old Ox Pastures site. This coincided with the running down of the brickworks and joinery workshops. But the change which was to have a longer lasting effect was the obtaining of a lease of the Sutton Estate coal by the Staveley Coal & Iron Company who, during the last decade of the nineteenth century developed the Markham, Ireland, Bonds Main and Calow collieries. The huge increase in mining activity and the need for more skilled and unskilled miners led the company to create the mining villages of Poolsbrook, Duckmanton, Temple Normanton and Arkwright Town. Arkwright

Town is dealt with in more detail below, but the effect of the change on the small Duckmanton Works community must be mentioned here.

According to the 1891 census the Works population was changing again. Miners and colliery labourers from Dudley in Worcestershire, Southwell in Nottinghamshire, from Cheshire, Leicestershire and Bedford are recorded. In that year a Charles Percival, a mine labourer, was living in the 'Toll Cottage' at the Ox Gate. Another miner from Nottingham was lodging with his family. The Percival's stayed in the cottage for over forty years. Other descendants of residents recorded in the 1891 census were living at the Works up until the 1939-45 War.

The making of the loop line in 1905 which joined the Sheffield to Annesley with the Chesterfield to Lincoln railway found employment for signal box workers and lengthsmen, some of whom were accommodated in the Adelphi cottages and this led later occupants to assert that the terrace of cottages at the Ox Pastures had been built by the railway company! In fact, most of the cottages' workers and their relatives remained closely connected with the coal industry.

Some families from the Works community moved into the new village of Arkwright Town during its construction, and their places were filled temporarily by miners recruited from outside the area who were on the colliery housing waiting lists. Conversely, occasionally, families from Arkwright Town moved into the Works cottages, so there was a steady turnover of families there.

Having served in the 1914-18 War, some of the married sons of local miners, during a shortage of housing which followed that war, moved into the Works cottages, and the greater housing shortage immediately after the 1939-45 War led to similar use of the cottages on the Moor.

The council house building boom of the 1950's and 60's, designed to deal with the chronic post-War housing shortage and slum problems, saw the demolition of most of the Adelphi cottages. The two at the Ox Gate, the seven at Ox Pastures Row, one opposite Works Farm and the two Furnace Site cottages were demolished, leaving the larger cottage opposite the farm. The last was vacated in March 1993, in preparation for the opencast work, finally ending a two-centuries-old industrial community.

The writer is indebted to Mrs. G. Turner of Lowndsley Green for sight of her fascinating personal memoirs about life among the people of the ironworks community in the period prior to the 1939-45 War: the neighbourliness of the cottagers; walks to the school and shops at Arkwright Town and to Calow Chapel; home entertainment in the evenings; the excitement of deliveries from Woodhead's and other local tradesmen; the friendly local farmers, and the noisy rush of steam trains on the main Great Central line. It was Mrs. Turner's father who described to Philip Robinson, author of 'The Smiths of Chesterfield', his and his own father's memories of activities at the Adelphi Works in the 19th Century.

5.2. THE ARKWRIGHT TOWN COMMUNITY

Background

The Top Hard Coal seam surfaces near the track-bed of the Great Central Railway which once ran immediately west of the allotments of old Arkwright Town and the site of the new village. The seam dips to the east and was worked from shafts sunk 106 yards deep at the Adelphi Ironworks on the Moor, 130 yards deep on the mine site at Inkersall Lane Croft and 307 yards deep in the shaft of Markham No.1 (Black Shale) colliery. 6 beds of iron ore and 20 seams of coal lie under Duckmanton Moor. The outcrops of these seams were worked in medieval times and the seams were followed, as they dipped, by means of shafts sunk by Benjamin Smith & Co. and the Arkwrights of Sutton Hall. The old workings in Bower Plantation illustrate how the method of working changed as the miners followed the dipping seam from the surface: opencasting at the outcrop, gaining deeper access by means of bell-pits with a maximum depth of 18 yards and, finally, sinking deep shafts to work the seam on the 'pillar and stall' system. The sites of 44 old shafts and 13 drifts have been recorded on Duckmanton Moor.

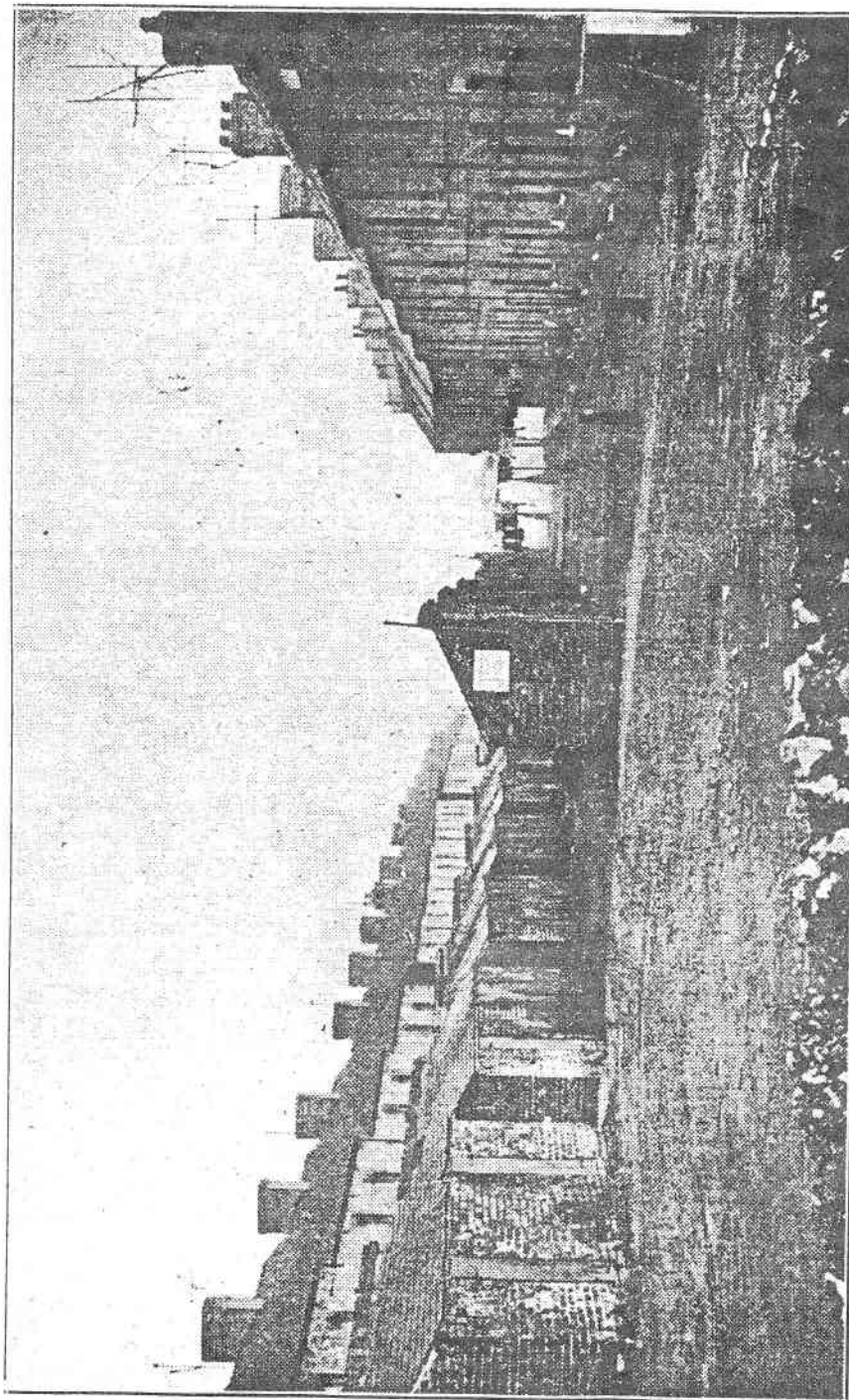
In 1863 the Staveley (Coal & Iron) Co. was formed to take over Richard Barrow's ironworks at Staveley with a paid-up capital of £391,000 and in June 1882 the company took a 63-years lease of all the coal beneath the land of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate, an area of over 5,000 acres, and successively sank Ireland, Markham, Calow Main and Bonds Main collieries.

The Staveley Company's directors' annual reports record that by June 1884 Markham No.1 shaft had been sunk to the Top Hard seam and in 1887 the Markham No.2 shaft had reached the Deep Soft seam at a depth of 534 yards. A row of terraced cottages for colliery officials and skilled workers was built in the pit yard between these two collieries. In June 1892 the directors reported good progress with the building of rows of workmen's cottages at Poolsbrook, 129 being inhabited and the total of 200 were due to be completed by December 1892. These cottages housed the miners of Ireland and Markham collieries. Near Temple Normanton, a village of 84 houses was built by the Company to serve Bonds Main colliery, sunk in 1895 and sold to the Clay Cross Company in 1923. In 1897 the Staveley Company, having purchased a site, produced plans for the building of 229 houses in 7 rows for a mining settlement on Duckmanton Moor, the new village of Arkwright Town.

The New Community Of Arkwright Town

In the event, 5 rows were completed with a total of 160 houses. The new village's site had formed part of William Arkwright's fruit, or nursery farm (See NURSERY FARM), and that property already included 6 nursery workers' cottages and the nursery foreman's house.

Each of the 5 rows was divided into three terraced blocks of 6 to 12 houses. Rows were separated by wide, open backyards on which were built



OLD ARKWRIGHT TOWN, PRE-IMPROVEMENT

by courtesy of 'THE DERBYSHIRE TIMES'

earth closets and coal-places for each household, with two households sharing a common ashpit. Service roads separated the back yards between the rows and ran past the 'fronts' of each row. Town gas for lighting and cooking was piped from Chesterfield. Each house had a cold-water tap above a stone sink in the kitchen/living room and, until a public supply was provided, the water came from two old Lancashire steam boilers sited on Deepsick Lane. These tanks stored water pumped from a pumphouse near the railway station at Arkwright Town.

A school, for 282 children and 140 infants was built in 1900 and leased to the Derbyshire Education Authority. Three shops were added at the top end of Chesterfield Road and a school-house built for the headmaster. The 'Station Hotel' was built and leased to Staveley and District Public House Trust Ltd, and permission was given for the building of a Methodist chapel. A Miners' Welfare Institute was built on Sutton Lane. Six more shops were added later, comprising a general store at Nursery House, two stone faced ones next to the Institute on Sutton Lane and three fabricated ones: one beside the railway bridge opposite the school and two facing the Front Row across the Chesterfield Road (See Plan 2, page 44).

Land across the A632 was rented for garden allotments with spare ground for a football and recreation field. Other recreation land and a small swing-park was provided beside the Chesterfield to Lincoln railway.

Figures for residents, based on the annual electoral rolls, reflect the rate of building and occupation of the village. The earliest residents moved into the 'Front' row which faced the A632. This row, together with the top block of the 'Second' row was completed by 1900. By the following year, three rows, and the top blocks of rows four and five, had been built and were partly occupied. Building was completed by 1902 when the school was in use. Because the school had been designed for a larger village, it accepted children from Bottom Duckmanton, Duckmanton Works, Moor Top, Bole Hill, Calow Green, Sutton Spring Wood and surrounding farms, leavening the educational experiences of the miners' children.

After the first houses were occupied and while other families moved in there was an appreciable movement from one house to another as friends chose to live closer or as people exercised a preference for different parts of the village. A number of families left after a short period of residence. Some left for the Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire pits, some moved into the Nursery Cottages, others into those built 100 years previously for the workers of the Adelphi Ironworks. The lower rents of the former, and the less-crowded environment of the latter were the likely attractions.

Until the outbreak of the 1914-18 War the period of waiting before being allocated a house at Arkwright Town, inferred from electoral roll data, appears to have been only a matter of months. Married miners from beyond daily travelling distance usually took lodgings and were joined by their families as soon as money for removing furniture or setting up a home had been earned.

The settlement of Arkwright Town took place against the background referred to above, namely, the manpower requirements at the pits at Ireland, Markham, Bonds Main and Calow Main, and the availability of housing at Poolsbrook, Duckmanton, Temple Normanton and Arkwright Town. While, on the whole, the first miners in Arkwright Town tended to work at the Markham collieries (No. 2 Pit especially), spare housing capacity in the village, until the end of the First World War, was available to other Staveley Company miners, and the Company never operated a strict 'pit-and-village' policy. Good workers found little difficulty in changing villages, as the figures below for Shirebrook and Markham bear out:

The first 111 families housed at Arkwright Town were from the following places:

Derbyshire:	Chesterfield	26
	Calow	21
	Shirebrook	16
	Brimington	11
	Hasland	6
	Temple Normanton	4
	Markham Cotts.	6
	Duckmanton Works	4
	Nursery Cottages	7

Other Counties:	<u>10</u>
Total	111

The figures for Duckmanton Works and Nursery Cottages are those of families whose menfolk were previously in lodgings there. Most of the Chesterfield men had chosen to move rather than continue to travel to work daily.

One suspects that behind the usual economic and social factors that attracted families to Arkwright Town there were many less obvious, personal reasons for moving as these memories illustrate:

Mr-----'s parents had lived in the row of cottages in Markham colliery pit-yard. *"My mother was always complaining that the soot from the pit chimneys mucked her washing on the line. So my father got her a house at Ducky Works, but she was too lonely there and we came to Arkwright."*

Mrs-----'s parents had moved to Calow in 1898 from the south and her father found work at Staveley Company's Calow Main colliery, sunk in 1899. *"It was the cost of the 1/- (5p) cab fares from Chesterfield to Calow church that did it, unless you wanted to carry your shopping up those hills. There was a railway station at Arkwright Town, and it was only 1½d from Market Street station. So my parents moved to Arkwright, and it was about as near the pit (Calow Main) as Calow was. We moved in 1902, and for years there were lots of empty houses with broken windows in the bottom blocks of the back rows."*

The Arkwright Town railway station on the Chesterfield to Lincoln line may have induced other people to move to the village. It was the chief means of travel to shops in Chesterfield until regular bus services were developed in the 1920's. The railway's links with the east coast resorts of Skegness and Cleethorpes, provided a cheap way of reaching the sea, and day trips were frequently organised. A day trip to Cleethorpes for 600 people in 1935, organised by the Miners' Welfare Institute was typical.

The reason for the building of the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway in 1892, to carry coal from the new, deep coal mines of North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to ports on both the east and west coasts, proved to be a dream. Passenger traffic stopped in December 1951 and a few years later the station closed.

Perhaps a fall in the number of houses inhabited, from 111 in 1910 to 85 in 1913, reflected the state of unrest in the mining industry which led to the 1912 Strike for a shorter working week. Generally, Staveley Company miners were not militants. In 1866, three years after its formation, the Company had refused to allow miners' unions at its pits, ejected 100 union members and their families from Company houses at Barrow Hill and brought in 'black-leg' labour. By the end of January 1867 local unionism had collapsed.

The story of that episode, and of sacked miners living in tents at Inkersall during the winter of 1866/7, survived to remain part of local mining demonology well into the 20th century. Nor was the Company more tolerant after the 1926 Miners' Strike. By and large, miners who took part kept a low, non-militant profile. Those who did not were sacked and 'black-listed', their names circulated through the coal-owners' organisation to colliery managers elsewhere in the county.

The writer, as a child, when staying with relatives in a small mining village near Dudley in the 'Black Country', heard an ex-checkweighman tell how he had been sacked from a Staveley Company pit and was still vainly seeking work. Another 'black-listed' union official had to wait until the nationalisation of the mines in 1947, when he was appointed to take charge of industrial relations policy over 21 pits with an office at Bolsover. Previously he had begged a living at small garages as an agent selling petrol for the Russian Petroleum Company. 'R. O. P.', sold at 2½p per gallon!

The 1921 miners' strike occurred when the Government ended War-time controls on minimum wages. Its aftermath was a 'rationalisation' of the coal industry which caused the closure of many small pits in less productive coalfields. There was a movement of new families into Arkwright Town in the 1920's from such coalfields- chiefly Staffordshire and Durham. The Government, through its 'Dole Offices', directed unemployed miners to jobs in the newer coalfields. The writer's father, made unemployed by the Staffordshire closures, was given the choice of emigration to the lignite pits of Australia or to work in the Staveley Company's Derbyshire pits. He chose Markham and, after a period in lodgings, was given the tenancy of a house, No 66, at Arkwright Town.

The depression of the 1920's, which coincided with the 1926 Strike and continued into the mid-1930's, put the Derbyshire collieries on short-time working. In 1927, the average miner worked only 3½ shifts per week, for which he was paid 53p per day. Commercial entertainment, by way of the cinemas and variety theatre in Chesterfield, was beyond most purses although pennies were spared for children to attend the Saturday morning screenings at the Hasland cinema.

Through that decade, village children watched, curious and puzzled, the bizarre spectacle of the street entertainers- people who begged their way through the working-class districts in the late 1920's and early 1930's. They included disabled war veterans, the unemployed from the Welsh and Durham coalfields and those who risked imprisonment for begging and the loss of parish relief for their wives and children. They slowly progressed up and down the backyards of the rows, with their wheeled pianolas, a barrel-organ mounted on old pram chassis, battered accordians and trombones, or simply sang to the accompaniment of the sound of the bones or spoons which they rattled together or banged rhythmically on their heads, arms, legs and knees.

Much of the history of the community at Arkwright Town during the depression is anecdotal, passed down by word of mouth, as distant in time and comprehension to the present generation as the Battle of Waterloo. But a report in February 1928 by one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Schools says this of Arkwright Town:

"The school is situated in a mining village in which the effects of the coal strike and subsequent trade depression have been felt and there is still much suffering... Much valuable social work has been done... midday meals are arranged at a trifling cost to the parents and (a snack) of cocoa (actually hot milk!) and biscuits is given at 10.45 a.m. in the most necessitous cases. The funds ... have been raised by the personal efforts of the Infants' Headmistress." The charge for the daily cup of hot milk and five button-sized ginger biscuits to non-necessitous cases was 1p per week.

The school records tell of the horrific incidence among children of influenza, whooping cough, chicken pox, measles, scarlet fever and diphtheria. Class attendances could fall by 50% in a few days, recover, and plunge again as a new scourge struck. Each school year could be disrupted several times for a child and classmates. The school fought to achieve a good monthly attendance record which was rewarded by a half-day holiday at the discretion of the managers. A frequent sight, drawing a sympathetic crowd of wives and school-mates, was the dark brown coloured fever ambulance arriving to load a child, wrapped in a large red flannel blanket, to be whisked away for several weeks to Mastin Moor Isolation Hospital.

A bright yellow ambulance, registration R2206, built on the Rolls Royce chassis of a car previously owned by the late Chairman of Staveley Company, Charles Markham, began service in 1926 and often called at Arkwright Town. It had accommodation for two stretcher cases and two sitting cases, the latter for delivering injured workmen to their homes with injuries not serious enough for admission to Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

Injuries sustained at work in the pit, leading to 'compensation cases' being employed on light work, were common place. The Company's compensation doctor, Dr. Badcock, held a weekly surgery in the front room of No.5 Arkwright Town where the injured were examined for fitness for return to work. Fillers with 'beat' hands were fixed up with protective leather palm-pads and men with broken ankles given 'light work' as soon as they could hobble.

In the early 1930's a Company electricity supply to the houses replaced gas lighting and provided tentative street lighting. The outside service blocks were reconstructed to take water-lavatories and dispense with the earth closets and ash-pits. The introduction of a modern sewage system reduced the incidence of diseases until injections against them came with the National Health Service after the 1939-45 War.

The 1914-18 War had brought demands for more coal and saw the Arkwright Town houses in full occupation. In 1918, there were 156 recorded households and 31 houses were in multiple occupation. As well as lodger-miners, some with their wives, front rooms were occupied and kitchens shared by married sons and daughters of the householders. The number of houses in multiple occupation fell, temporarily, during the early 1920's as married children moved into vacant property then rose over the rest of that decade in spite of some movement to a new estate at Duckmanton.

In 1930, with 159 of the 160 houses occupied, 67 were in multiple occupation. It was still commonplace at the time for married children to live with parents, in-laws or lodge with another family until money had been saved to furnish rented accommodation elsewhere, or until a vacant house became available in the village.

1945 found accommodation even more acute with 72 Arkwright Town houses in multiple occupation. The 1939-45 War, with its increase in young marriages aggravated the shortage of housing for young married couples and their children who lived in the village. The situation was not alleviated until the council and Coal Board estates of the 1950's and 1960's were built at Calow, Brimington, Bolsover, Hasland and Hady Hill.

In 1947, with nationalisation of the mines, the village passed to the National Coal Board's ownership. The state of the property had been neglected during the 1939-45 War. After the village was featured on 6th January 1961 in 'The Derbyshire Times' as: '*a shameful settlement despite its proud industrial name*', the Coal Board carried out a refurbishment of the village. (See 'Plan of Old Arkwright Town' Page 44) Indoor bathrooms and toilets were built and the old pantries converted for use as hallways or for coal storage. The old service blocks in the backyards were demolished, the yards converted to gardens, and 12 houses demolished to afford access to new garage blocks. The rows were named and the new streets were re-numbered. In 1977 the Coal Board sold off houses to those sitting tenants who wished to purchase them and the remainder to a private property company.

After the War, eight bungalows were built for retired persons on Sutton Road by the local authority, followed in the 1960's by 10 more properties erected on a site named Rosling Close between the village and the site of the demolished railway station. The school house, which had ceased to house the head teacher, after being let to other tenants was demolished in 1976.

A link with the past was lost when the Miners' Welfare grounds ceased to be used as winter quarters in 1968 by Timmy Ray's travelling fun-fair. It and Oadley's fair had both visited the village each year for generations, bringing their traditional steam traction engines, swings, roundabouts and side-shows.

A caravan site grew up on the old refuse tip across the A632 from the village. It appears to have started during the War when two miners from Rock Lane footrill stayed there in caravans during the week. Later, the site was bought by a Mr. Barnes who rented out caravan accomodation and let pitches to a few who owned their own. When the site changed hands, it was extended in size but limited to owners of mobile homes, and known as Castle Croft. The occupiers of the mobile homes were mainly retired couples, and the population of the site grew by 1988 to a maximum of 38. British Coal bought and cleared the site in 1992 prior to the building of the new village.

However, by the end of the 1960's the role of Arkwright Town as a traditional mining village was drawing to its close. The last generation of its miners' sons was being recruited at a time when coal's monopoly as the dominant energy source was threatened by nuclear power, the gas fields in the North Sea and by potential oil resources found there. The coal industry, despite increases in productivity and efficiency resulting from intensive mechanisation and reductions in manpower, began to contract its output.

The villagers shared the unease which began in the 1970's as mines closed and reached its greatest intensity during the miners' strike of 1984/5. Faced by the determination of a government which had laid in stocks of coal for the industry's chief customers, the Electricity Boards, and was prepared to break the will of the miners through penury and adroit use of the law, disillusionment set in and the strike gradually collapsed.

There were two chief consequences of the strike: First, mining communities became divided and the traditional unity of purpose and common action of the men was lost forever. Second, it gave rise to Women's Support Groups. For the first time in the history of coal mining in Britain, miners' wives and daughters took on a new, truly feminist role. They gave practical support to their husbands and brothers, organised food relief collections and emergency communal feeding arrangements, toured abroad to raise money and manned the picket lines.

For many women these experiences helped to change the popular image of the traditional miner's wife's role, and their supportive action has been very

visible during the nationwide public opposition to pit closures in 1992 and 1993 . The women's 1984 Strike experiences are best described by an Arkwright miner's wife, Norma Dolby in her excellent book, "Norma Dolby's Diary".

The Arkwright Colliery

The part played by the Arkwright Colliery in the life of the community merits special notice. In 1937, a group of Staveley Coal & Iron Company's directors formed the Arkwright Colliery Company and developed a small drift mine on land opposite Nursery Farm on Sutton Lane. In 1938, two drifts were cut in the Top Hard seam to mine a projected output of 500 tons per day. The Yates, a family of Arkwright miners employed previously at Markham colliery, played a key role in the opening out of the new mine.

War-time needs for energy and the post-war nationalisation of the British coal mining industry turned what had begun as a short-term venture into a mine which lasted for 50 years. Successive development plans, including the cutting of a third drift, were embarked on to work reserves in six more seams and increase the annual output.

The shortage of deep-mined coal during and after the 1939-45 War led the National Coal Board to use opencast mining techniques in those coal fields where seams lay near the surface. Between 1946 and 1966, 12 such sites were worked around Arkwright Town over an area of 1130 acres. From these sites, 2,283,000 tons of coal were produced. As these undertakings were sub-contracted by the National Coal Board to private contractors, apart from temporary environmental problems the open-casting had few effects on the village and the employment of its mine-workers.

In 1982, Arkwright colliery had a budgetted output of 630,000 tons per year employing 950 workers. The mine was no longer viewed as a separate undertaking. Because of the limited, dwindling reserves of coal for Arkwright, Markham and Bolsover collieries a special Consultative Meeting was held at Arkwright colliery in October 1982 to define that colliery's future. Long term activity would be concentrated at Markham colliery. After 1987 output at Arkwright would fall and its workers would travel underground to work at Markham colliery.

A total of seven coal seams were worked from Arkwright colliery. These, with the dates of working were:

Top Hard	1938-52
1st Waterloo	1951-69
2nd ..	1969-79
2nd Ell Coal	1971-77
Deep Soft	1980-83
Tupton	1960-82
Three-Quarter	1979-88

Events at Arkwright colliery soon reflected the Coal Board's policy of countrywide mine closures, leading to the Miners' Strike of 1984/5. After the strike, the run-down of the pit began in earnest. Between November 1985 and February 1986, 126 men were made redundant and of 420 men employed in June 1986 120 more were scheduled to leave by the end of that year. The rundown continued, and a few men were transferred to other collieries. In February 1988 the colliery closed. As soon as the mine's equipment had been salvaged, the drainage pumps were stopped and the access drifts were sealed.

The Methane Gas Threat And Its Consequences

On the night of the 9th of November 1988 a state of emergency was declared in the village. Gas Board engineers called to investigate a reported gas leak in a home in Hardwick Street concluded that methane gas was escaping from underground workings. Checks for the gas in nearby Penrose Street and Chesterfield Road properties found other houses affected and 110 people were evacuated from 56 houses for two weeks while safety measures were taken.

British Coal, denying any legal responsibility, installed a gas pumping plant on the site of the closed colliery and the District Council began a safety monitoring programme in the village.

There was a second alarm in the autumn of 1989 when an exposed coal seam near the village caught fire and burnt for four weeks, raising the fear that the methane below ground would ignite and blow up the village. A plan to remove 5,000 tons of coal from the seam was considered, but abandoned after discussions in April 1990.

A more radical remedy was chosen. British Coal applied for planning consent in December 1991 to opencast 3.2 million tons of coal from the Middle Coal Measures which underly Duckmanton Moor, and to reprocess 800,000 tons of coal on the derelict Arkwright Colliery site. Under the proposals, a new village of Arkwright Town would be built inside the embankments of the old loop railway, north of the A632, and the old village would be demolished and the methane problem solved. Owners of property living in the old village would be given semi-detached houses in the new village, and qualifying tenants provided with rented accommodation there.

Under the plan, the 177 old houses would be replaced with an estate of 250 dwellings, making the Arkwright Town community more viable. A new school, shops, community centre, club-house and public house, with extensive recreational facilities would be features of the new estate, and the colliery site would be landscaped and developed for industrial units to assuage the unemployment problem. Profits from the sale of 4 million tons of opencast and re-treated coal would fund the development costs, and work was expected to start "within twelve months". Any inconvenience caused by the surrounding opencast operations over the following ten years were considered by a N. E. Derbyshire District spokesman to be "negligible".

6. DUCKMANTON MOOR IN 1993

It will be useful to review the present position of the Moor with reference to the use of its land at the present time.

The boundaries of British Coal Opencast's current proposal to opencast certain exposed coal seams embraces the whole of Duckmanton Moor, with the exception of farmland to the west of Moor and Moor Top Farms and areas occupied by old Arkwright Town and certain other dwelling houses.

Changes in sizes of farm holdings due to land sales since the break-up of the Sutton Estate in 1919 were discussed in 4.2 above. Several of these changes have been partly a result of an increase in livestock rearing for beef production- somewhat ironical in view of the evidence that this may have been an important function of at least the central part of the Moor in earlier times (See 8. below).

British Coal Opencast now owns 256 acres of Moor farmland. Of the eight farms on the Moor, the lands of only two, Lodge and Blue Lodge, remain intact. The other six have decreased in size or, as is the case of Works, Nursery, Gorse and Brook Farms, no longer exist. Nursery Farm lost its land as a result of the development of Arkwright Colliery.

British Coal also owns the site of old Arkwright Town, inherited at nationalisation of the coal industry from the Staveley Coal & Iron Company. Similarly, it also owns the site of the closed Arkwright Colliery together with those areas of spoil-tipping which lie inside the Moor's boundaries.

Since 1919 several small areas of what was previously farmland have been used to erect private dwellings and there have been minor commercial developments such as those on the north side of the A632, opposite the old village.

The present position of landholding inside the boundaries of the Moor may be summarised as follows:

British Coal Opencast:	256	acres
British Coal:		
Arkwright old village:	15	..
Arkwright old colliery:	58.25	..
Land held by Farms, etc:	427.25	..
TOTAL:	756.50	..

Postscript: 'A Sense of Place'

In 1993 British Coal Opencast is now preparing to move machines on to Duckmanton Moor prior to the start of the opencast operations and the building of the new Arkwright Town. At the time of writing, the land of Duckmanton Moor is about to be 'harried' - to use the expression of the medieval miners- hopefully for the last time. In the process, the evidence for much of its previous settlement and industry will disappear completely, its topography and character will be changed.

The term 'resilient' when applied to people refers to the human capacity for adapting to changing circumstances. It is a word which might be applied, despite our ignorance of the details of their daily activities, to the Moor's earlier inhabitants- the British, the Anglo-Saxons, the medieval crofters and miners- and, in the light of recorded history, quite confidently to the later inhabitants, the farmers and the people of the ironworks and coal-mining communities on the Moor.

The term 'community' is often applied to a body of people who share 'a sense of place'. This feeling of identification with a locality, its industry and people was remarked on when discussing 5.1 THE IRONWORKS COMMUNITY above. It is a sensation which has been shared most strongly by the people of Arkwright Town, past and present. It is one which they deserve to enjoy long after they have moved a short distance to another part of the Moor.

7. THE EVIDENCE FROM FIELD NAMES

Present-day farmers who claim grant aid from the European Agricultural Commission via the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, have to submit large-scale copies of Ordnance Survey maps which show precisely the land they farm together with schedules of field sizes in hectares by crops grown. The tendency since the war has been to increase the sizes of fields (and thus decrease their numbers) by taking out hedgerows. As the main purpose of field names is one of identification referring to 'The Five-Hectare-Arable', for example, has greater utility today than 'Upper Moor Close'.

Fortunately for the historian, older names were often more descriptive. Field names which included words such as 'Pingle', 'Close' and 'Moor' refer back to the time when the land was first enclosed for cropping or grazing. 'Close' appears in 36 Duckmanton Moor field names on Map 2, often prefixed by other descriptive words e.g. 'Far', 'Broad', 'Sim's', 'Cinderhill'.

The last prefix, 'Cinderhill', probably refers to some non-agricultural use which pre-dated or followed enclosure, and may indicate that coal was coked there to make non-sulphurous fuel for smelting iron ore. Seven field names on Map 1 have mining connotations. They include 'Little Algroves' and 'Great Algroves', immediately south of Bower Plantation. Deep ploughing in the Spring of 1993 has disclosed a line of coal seam debris in the clay below normal cultivation depth, and there are iron slags and salt-glazed kiln debris scattered near the field's boundary with the Plantation.

Field names, like the layers of an onion, can be 'peeled back' for information, each 'layer' exposed being older than the last. Often clues come from the origins of the name-words themselves. Take 'Little Stubbing' and 'Great Stubbing', north of 'Stable Field' on Map 2. The Old English verb 'to stub', comes from the Old Norse verb, 'stubbr', meaning 'to dig up trees by the roots'. The Deeds of Conveyance, between the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway Company and the Trustees of the Sutton Scarsdale Estate, owners of local land through which the railway was laid in the 1890's, defined which hedges were "to be stubbed" along the route. We may infer that the fields named 'Stubbing' referred to land which was wooded before its enclosure. The small field named 'Stubbing' on the Moor's north boundary on Map 1 lay next to Lady's Bower Wood across the boundary in Staveley parish. That small wood is a survivor from the wooded part of old Cucksall Moor, discussed above, (2. Early History).

After the Adelphi Ironworks opened in 1799, the fields on the site it occupied had, by 1837, been renamed 'Saw Pit Field', 'Brickyard Field' and 'Furnace Field'. These names replaced older ones recorded in 1776. (Compare Maps 1 & 2). The ironworks was planted on the old road which runs from Calow to Bottom Duckmanton through fields which in 1776 had Old English names of Norse origin. Most of these field names survived in 1837, and included four with the name 'Ox Pasture', three which included the word 'Slatting' and two called 'Dicken'. The word 'Ox' derives from Old Saxon, the equivalent to 'uxi' and 'oxi' in Old Norse. The field name 'Slatter'

derives from 'slahter', Medieval English meaning 'slaughter', from Old Norse: 'slahtr' (Old Norse: 'slatr' meant 'butcher-meat'). 'Dicken' may be corrupted from 'dicker' = 'to trade by barter', also 'a dicker': a set of ten hides used as a unit of trade.

These field names seem to imply a common activity to do with the use of oxen. The size of the area discussed so far, 64 acres, is surprisingly large and seems unrelated to the raising draft oxen for one manor's needs i.e. Duckmanton. Nearby Brimington had only one field named for oxen, so it is tempting to postulate that two or more adjoining manors shared the resources of one location (the reader is reminded of the evidence of the use in common of this part of Cucksall Moor by tenants of adjoining manors discussed in 2. Early History above), especially since the chief trade of the Vikings was that of stock-farming.

The etymology of the field names suggests the possible influence of Norse descendants after the 8th Century. This likelihood is strengthened by the 'Stubbing' field names mentioned above. The significance of the old road from Bottom Duckmanton to Calow is increased if it served as more than a means of communication between two adjoining manors.

Maps 1 & 2 both show five fields which lay to the south of the old road between Works Farm and the Inkersall Road, and each has the word 'Cliffe' in its name. 'Cliffe' was spelt 'Klif' in Old Norse and could refer to a step or path cut along the side of a hill. Three of the fields are named 'Foot Gate Cliffe', from 'Fatr Gata Klif' in Old Norse, literally 'the stepped foot-way on the hillside'. The field evidence, prior to opencasting, bears this out: the old road, along this stretch, is cut out of sloping ground, leaving a distinct step.

The Old Norse word 'Gata', meaning 'foot-way' recurs in the name 'Ox Gate', at the location where Ebenezer Smith built two ironworkers' cottages beside the old road to the east of Moor Farm.

Map 1 also records a small field which flanks the north side of the old road near its junction with Inkersall Road. The field is named 'Lidget' on that Map, possibly corrupted from Old English 'Hlid', Old Norse 'Hlith', meaning 'a slope' or 'mountain side', and Old English 'Gate', Old Norse 'Gata' meaning 'footway'. Hence 'a footway on a hill slope'. Again, field evidence prior to opencasting provides physical evidence for this. (Incidentally, to any old North Derbyshire coal miner the word 'gate' denotes an access tunnel or 'footway' to a coal face.)

The Ox Pastures, the Stubbing fields, the Cliffe and Lidget fields give a total area of nearly 100 acres. Was there once a Norse settlement here, and a market in oxen, meat and hides? *Was there a third, much earlier, community on Duckmanton Moor?* In the absence of a rigorous search for archaeological evidence such a view remains speculative but interesting. In any case, the location is now inside the boundaries of the proposed opencast site. Perhaps British Coal will turn up some old ox bones?