

The Old Roads and Trackways of **MIDDLETON & SMERRILL**



Lowfield Lane sweeping down to cross Rowlow Brook from where it continues its journey to Gratton through the holloway marked by the line of thorn trees.

LOWFIELD LANE & THE MANCHESTER TO DERBY ROAD

Lowfield Lane was thought to be part of an old Manchester-Derby road which arrived from Monyash and left via Lowfield Lane to Gratton. After crossing Long Rake near Cales Farm, it continued over Middleton Common before passing round the back of Rake Wood to join Lowfield Lane at a crossroads with Weaddow Lane.

The Manchester-Derby road was a drovers and traders route, wide enough for cattle and designed to visit a string of villages and towns - an alternative to the express highway offered by the nearby Roman Road. It is marked on maps as a byway and follows a series of field gates for the movement of animal and carts.

AE & EM Dodd identify Middleton Thorn as a waymarker which they located at Thorntree, now a farm, on the Bakewell-Newhaven road. The OS first series map shows the tree, but at the Monyash Road junction which suggests this might have been another route the road took.

Neville Sharp records a Middleton Cross where the Manchester-Derby road crossed Weaddow Lane. He believes the cross to be in the Mapin Museum in Sheffield after removal by local antiquarian Thomas Bateman.

The Middleton Surveyor's Handbook labels Lowfield Lane 'Gratton Lane' and marks the boundary at Rowlow Brook as 'From Birchover'. In the 19c, Lowfield Lane would have been the regular route from Middleton to Gratton.

AE & EM Dodd identify Derby Road as part of the journey that John Ogibly describes on his 1675 strip map.

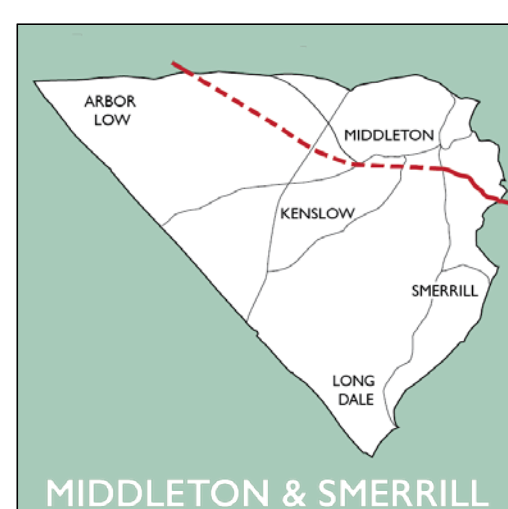
Further Reading

1675 Strip Map 1675 including the Manchester to Derby Road, John Ogibly

1837-38 OS 1" (The Old Series)

2002 Crosses of the Peak, Neville T Sharpe

2004 Peakland Roads and Trackways, AE Dodd & EM Dodd



A PALIMPSEST

MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL
Supporting the community of Middleton and Smerrill