

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



Weaddow Lane on route to Smerrill. The lane continues in the cleft between the moors to Long Dale and Smerrill Moor.

WEADDOW LANE AND THE PEAKWAY

Weaddow Lane runs from Middleton towards Smerrill before a sharp bend takes the road to Gratton and Elton. But Weaddow Lane itself continues along a walled footpath to Gratton Moor, Longdale and Smerrill Moor. Weaddow Lane was once thought to part of The Peakway, though later research suggests otherwise.

AE & EM Dodd (1980), working from a 13c. title deed, identified Weaddow Lane as The Peakway, a road feeding the Portway at Alport. This was subsequently revised by Stephen Penny (2004) in a posthumous edition of the Dodd's book (2004). Penny realigned the Peakway as coming through Friden Dale before following Longdale to Pikehall. Weaddow Lane was downgraded to an agricultural track.

However the first Series OS map shows Weaddow Lane continuing to Longdale and on to Pikehall, and the OS 6" map shows Weadlow Lane unusually benchmarked all the way to Pikehall. Alice Twyford remembered a stone guide post at the Smerrill junction which is shown on the OS 6" map. This was probably an early 1700s guide stoop, another sign of a junction on a once significant route. As AE & EM Dodd noticed, Weaddow Lane with its holloways and diverse varieties of trees, and especially thorns trees, has the look and feel of an ancient road.

In her paper, The Inhabited Medieval Village of Smerrill, Lynn Burnet explains that Weaddow Lane derives its name from wethers (castrated lambs that produced the heaviest fleeces) which would have started their journey to market along Weaddow Lane. However, the name is now misapplied on digital maps (Google and others) to a stretch of road from Gratton to Youlgrave.

Further Reading

1767 A Survey of Derbyshire, Peter Burdett

1837-38 OS 1" (The Old Series)

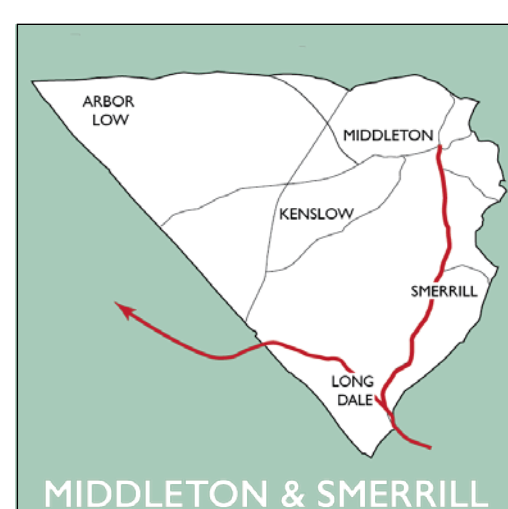
1884 OS 6" to the mile map of England and Wales

1980 Roads and Trackways of the Peak, AE & EM Dodd

2009 Guide Stoops of Derbyshire, Howard Smith

2018 The Inhabited Medieval Village of Smerrill, Lynn Burnet

2004 Roads and Trackways of the Peak, AE & EM Dodd, with S Penny revision.



A PALIMPSEST

MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL
Supporting the community of Middleton and Smerrill