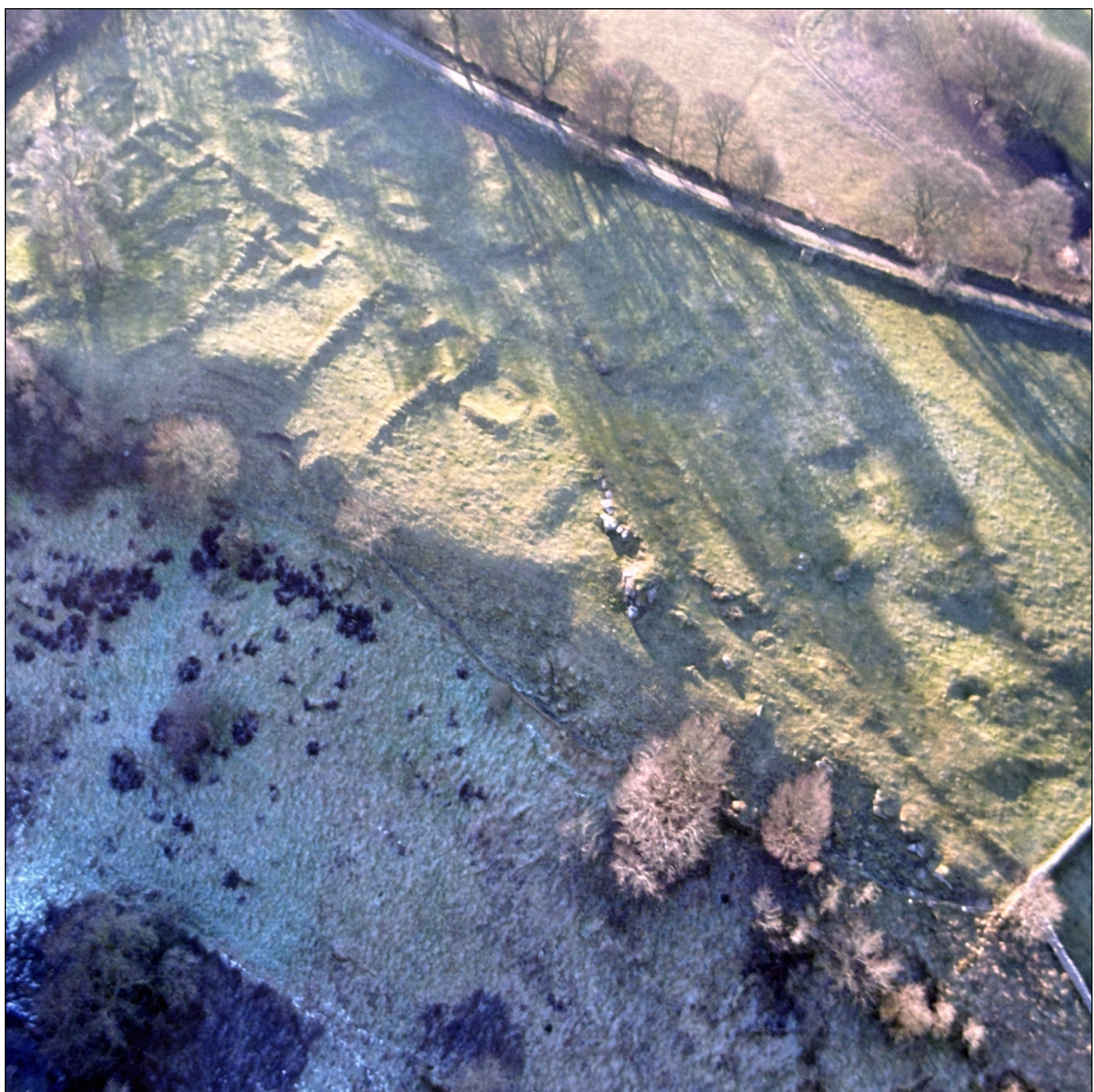


The Old Roads and Trackways of MIDDLETON & SMERRILL



The Medieval Village at Smerrill exposed by a frosty morning and a low sun. The route through the village continues behind the 16c Smerrill Grange farmhouse.

ROUTES TO AND THROUGH SMERRILL MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

The Medieval Village at Smerrill was an outpost of Middleton Manor. Built in the early 1200s it was inhabited for 200 years. The 16c. Smerrill Grange stands near this site next to ruins of another building.

A drone photograph and a LiDAR scan suggest a route leaving Smerrill village passing behind Smerrill Grange. This is consistent with the path of the road on Burdett's 1767 map and confirms the intuitions of the Yates family who currently farm Smerrill Grange. Indeed, a family member, who previously worked for Haddon Estates, recalls seeing a late 17c estate map that placed the road running behind the farmhouse. On this map the road arriving from Weaddow Lane continues straight into the farmyard before turning behind the farmhouse to head across the field to join the lane to Gratton near the medieval village.

There are other old paths too. The Yates family identify a natural pathway along the top of the gorge, dropping steadily to Rowlow Brook. It was likely another path dropped from the village along the parish boundary to the river to collect water.

The current road to Gratton must have been constructed before the barns were added to the farmhouse in the 1820s, cutting off the course of the original road.

Further reading

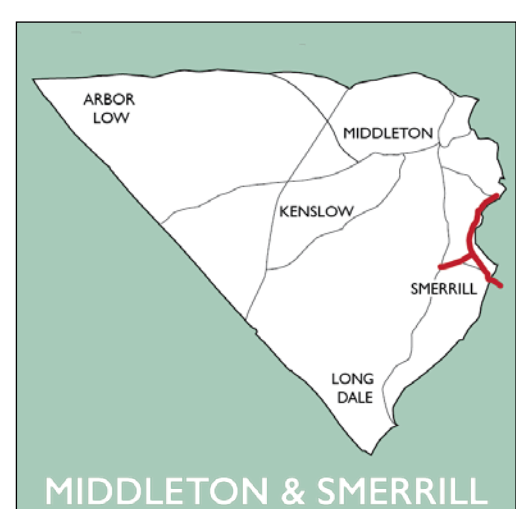
1767 A Survey of Derbyshire, Peter Burdett

1799 Smerrill Tithe Map (Derbyshire Records Office)

1898 OS 25" to the mile map of England and Wales

2018 The Inhabited Medieval Village of Smerrill, Lynn Burnett

2022 LiDAR : Light Detection & Ranging, a 3D model of the earth's surface



A PALIMPSEST

MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL
Supporting the community of Middleton and Smerrill