

# DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY



**The Local History Bulletin  
of the  
Derbyshire Archaeological Society**

Volume 14

Spring 1995

Part 1

# DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

Volume XIV: Part 1

Spring 1995

## CONTENTS

*Shirebrook Notes*  
by Charles Crapper

Page  
3

Copyright in each contribution to  
*Derbyshire Miscellany* is reserved  
by the author.

ISSN 0417 0687

# SHIREBROOK NOTES

(by Charles Crapper)

## Background - Administrative History

The part of Derbyshire we know as Shirebrook was probably first named as such some thousand years ago. For much of the period since then the whole of Derbyshire was an archdeaconry of the diocese of Lichfield, with Shirebrook a fractional part of a widespread deanery within it. By the mid 12th century, the manor of Pleasley is known to have been established and a little later it was also created as a parish.

No date can be assigned to the building of St Michael's church, Pleasley, but in 1315 we know that the incumbent was John de Hucknall [Ault Hucknall]. The first patron was Thomas de Shirebrook.

For about seven hundred years the village was a township within the manor and parish of Pleasley with an acreage in excess of Pleasley itself. The customary bounds of the township were ultimately adopted as those of the mid-nineteenth century vicariate and slightly later as the bounds of the civil parish.

For centuries, village affairs, both civil and ecclesiastical, had been run through the parish vestry but by the Local Government Act of 1894 the church was excluded from civil affairs and elected parish councils were set up along with urban and rural district councils. Pleasley became part of Blackwell Rural District Council. Shirebrook eventually became a separate civil parish by Local Government Board Order 46386, 1 March 1904, which divided the parish of Pleasley into the civil parishes of Shirebrook and Pleasley.

By an Order of 20 December 1882 (Local Government Board Order 14664) the area of Langwith had been increased by the addition of two small areas of land from the parish of Pleasley one area consisting of 12a 1r 09p and the other only one rood. Notwithstanding that gain, Langwith was abolished as a civil parish in 1935 and its territory divided between Shirebrook and Scarcliffe. Under the local government reorganisation of 1974 Shirebrook became part of Bolsover District Council.

## The commutation of the Tithes, 1843

Nothing is more illustrative of early nineteenth century Shirebrook and evocative of far remoter times than the tithe map and accompanying apportionment of 1843. For the parish of Pleasley the Tithe Commissioners employed John Bromley, surveyor and valuer, of Derby, to draw up the plan and apportionment. The titheable land in each of the three townships in the parish was summarised as follows:

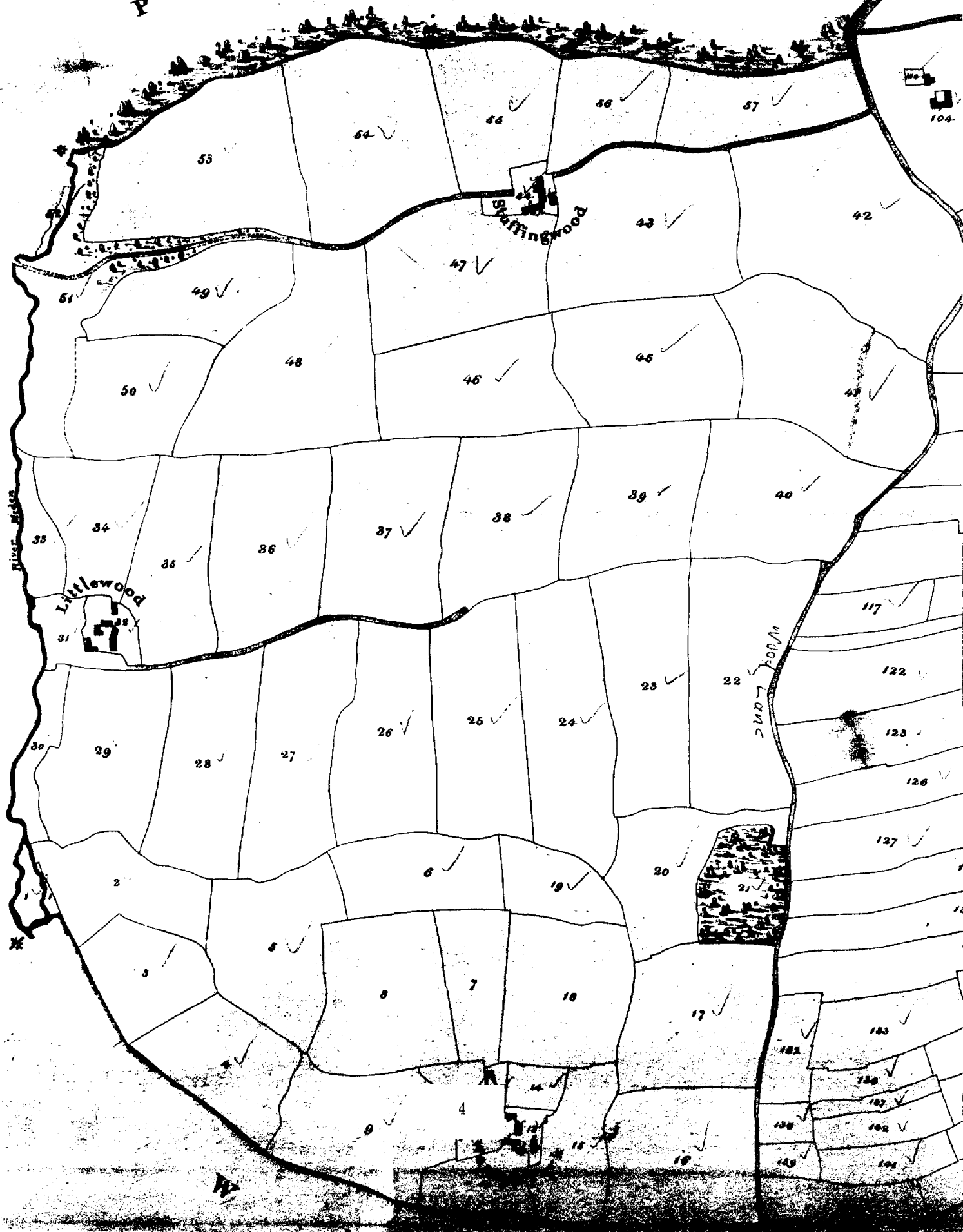
	Acres	Rods	Perches
<b>Shirebrook</b>			
Arable	1187	1	5
Meadow	238	1	18
Roads and sites of houses	15	0	0
<b>Houghton</b>			
Arable	432	2	16
Meadow	91	1	6
Roads and sites of houses	5	0	0
<b>Pleasley</b>			
Arable	748	0	6
Woodland	163	2	20
Meadow	218	0	14
Roads and sites of houses	39	1	16

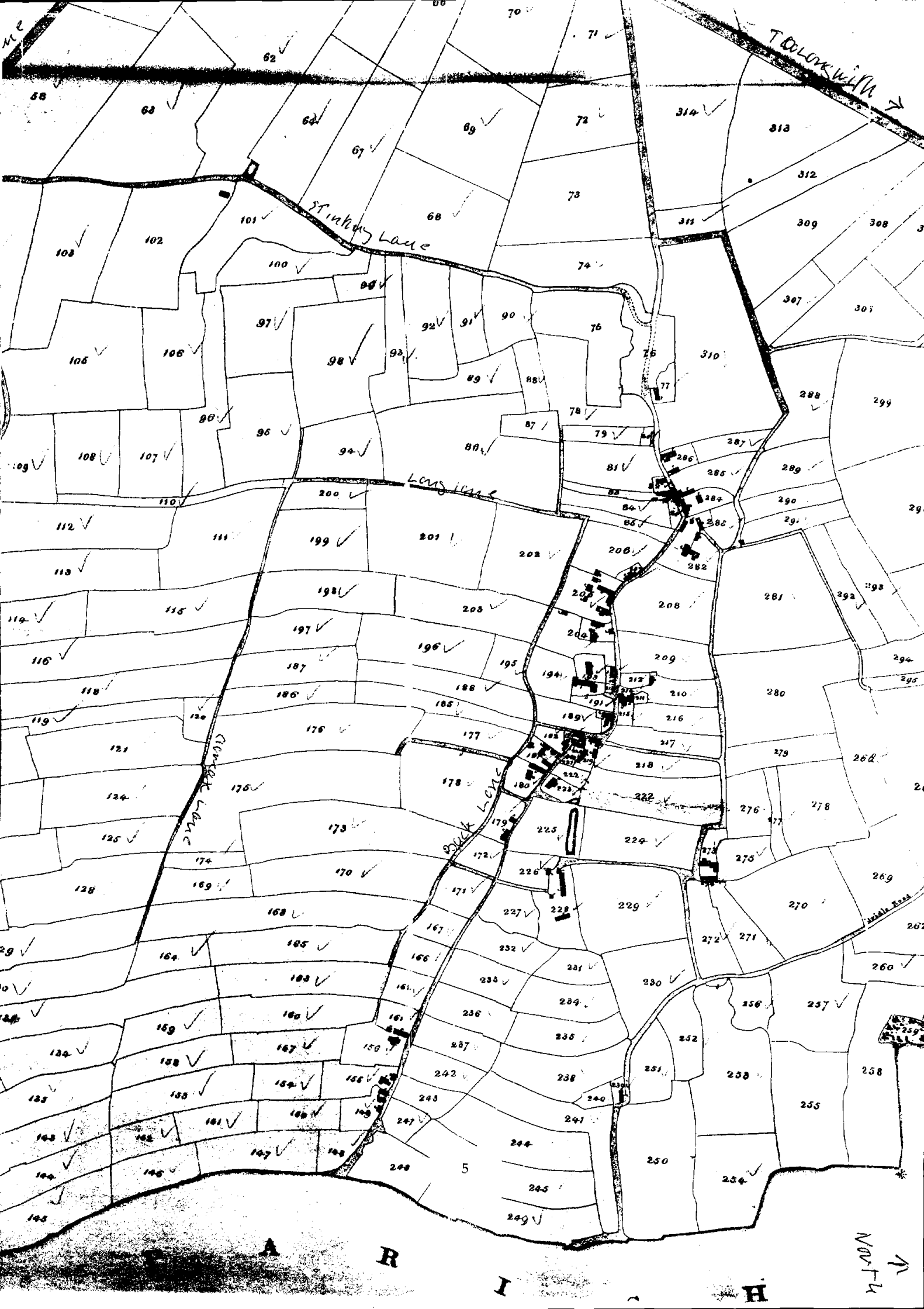
↑ West

FIG. 1 : SHIREBROOK IN 1843

Mansfield Woodhouse

P L E A S L E Y





Corn Tithes	Bushels	Price per bushel
Wheat	617	7s 0¾d
Barley	1045	3s 11½d
Oats	1577	2s 9d

#### Livestock

The tithes payable on livestock were given as follows:

"For every calf 3d., in lieu of tithes of calves, and for every swarm of bees 1d., in lieu of tithes of honey and beeswax.

The value of half a pig was payable by every farmer who possessed a litter of 5 pigs and the value of a whole pig was due if he had six pigs. Less than 5 lambs or pigs, no tithe was paid."

#### The sums dues annually to the Rector of Pleasley

	£	s	d
Pleasley	211	19	11
Shirebrook	309	1	8
Houghton	122	3	0
Total	643	4	7

#### The Glebe

John Nicholson of Shirebrook, with William Sadler, shared the 55 acres of glebe land at a rent of £7 per annum. That land had been augmented in 1748 by 9 acres. Much of the glebe was eventually sold to the Stanton Coal and Iron Company.

#### Transcript of the Shirebrook section of the apportionment (land use and the apportioned tithe rent have been omitted)

Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Name of Plot	A	R	P
George Amcoats	Sarah Bacon ) James Moody )	274	House ) House )	0	0	2
	Philip Cox	272	Wet Piece	2	0	0
		275	Barn yard	1	1	11
		276	Hall Carr	1	3	3
	Philip Cox and others	273	House buildings and garden	0	2	10
		TOTAL		5	2	26
Ashbourne School	John Lucas	126	Wood Lane Close	6	0	0
Christopher Harland		127	Wood Lane Close	5	1	9
Robert Docksey Goodwin		128	Lime Kiln Close	6	3	32
Sir Wm Boothby (Bart) and others		130	Wood Lane Close	3	3	5
		140	Far Hunters Wong	4	0	32
		145	Hunters Wong	2	0	33
		146	Hunters Wong	2	2	28
		147	First Hunters Wong	1	2	29
		164	Acreage	3	3	23
		165	Back Lane Close	1	0	20

Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Name of Plot	A	R	P
Ashbourne School	John Lucas	166	Paddock	2	0	22
Christopher Harland		169	Acreage Close	4	3	0
Robert Docksey Goodwin		170	Back Lane Close	1	1	11
Sir Wm Boothby (Bart)		171	Croft	0	3	19
and others		172	Coblers Croft	6	2	7
		173	Back Lane Close	1	0	19
		226	Dove Cote Yard	1	1	33
		227	Croft	5	0	32
		228	Farm Buildings and croft	5	0	32
		229	Meadow	1	3	32
		233	Meadow	2	0	38
		234	Meadow Top	1	3	25
		252	Bank	4	0	13
		264	Wood Close	6	0	17
		270	Elm Plot	0	2	38
		277	Pingle	6	2	38
		313	Far Common	6	3	16
		314	Near Common	10	3	27
		316	Houghton Lane Common	4	2	12
			TOTAL	108	1	8
John Beardall	Himself	52	Meadow	0	1	8
John Blytherman )	Geo. Charlesworth	192	Houses and gardens	0	0	15
John Jepson )						
John Lucas )						
Wm. Bowmer	John Bowmer	111	Yew Tree Close	5	3	17
		112	Buttery Close	5	3	20
		113	Wood Meadow	6	0	8
		114	Wood Lane Close	4	1	31
		115	White House Closes	4	3	3
		198	Little Acreage	3	3	0
		203	Yards and closes	3	3	18
		204	House barn stables	1	3	10
		209	Dale Close	2	1	20
		321	Common	5	2	20
		322	Common	4	3	32
		323	Common	5	0	28
		324	Common	7	1	8
		325	Common	3	3	6
		326	Common	6	0	19
			TOTAL	71	3	10
Duke of Devonshire	Esther Crooks	132	Wood Lane Close	2	3	3
		133	Homestall	4	3	34
		134	Lime Kiln Close	3	0	24
		135	Acreage Close	3	3	1
		136	Bottom Acreage	2	0	26
		156	House, buildings and croft	1	1	32

Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Name of Plot	A	R	P
Duke of Devonshire	Esther Crooks	157	Back Lane Close	2	1	4
		158	Top Back Lane Close	2	1	16
		159	Top Back Lane Close	3	1	24
		160	Back Lane Close	0	2	30
		161	Orchard	1	3	2
		237	Meadow	3	1	12
		238	Broad Close	4	0	15
		241	Crab Tree Close	1	2	21
		242	Meadow	1	2	21
		250	Great Oxclose	6	2	27
		253	Hillocks Close	5	3	22
		254	Far Oxclose	4	2	0
	John Vickers	317	L Close	10	3	24
		318	Common	11	1	28
		TOTAL		79	1	12
Augustus Drawater	Joseph Poole	71	Far Common	4	0	5
		72	Near Common	4	1	2
		83	House buildings and croft		2	10
		90	First Riding Hill	2	0	12
		91	Middle Riding Hill	1	3	31
		92	Far Riding Hill	3	2	16
		117	Wood Lane Close	3	0	2
		200	Long Lane Close	1	1	22
		TOTAL		20	3	20
Wm. Fletcher	William Davey ) James Pembleton )	233	House and orchard	0	1	27
		116	Acreage Lane Close and Wood Lane Close	4	2	2
	Thomas Fletcher	118	Well Close	9	2	4
		121	Lime Kiln Close	5	3	1
		122	Wood Lane Close	5	1	1
		124	Acreage	7	3	4
		123	Wood Lane Pingle and Peafield Close	4	3	20
		131	"	7	1	6
		162	Paddock	9	3	23
		163	Back Lane Close	0	3	38
		175	Round Close and Great William Dole	3	3	9
		176	Long Close & Acreage	8	2	9
		177	Back Lane Close	6	0	14
		178	Little William Dole	1	3	30
		180	Barn stable and fold yard	4	3	20
		181	Farming buildings	0	2	33
		182	House garden and orchard	0	2	1
		196	Yards Ends Close	0	1	24
		197	Top Yards Ends Close	4	0	19



Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Name of Plot	A	R	P
Wm. Fletcher		222	Well Yard Long Yard	2	3	24
		223	Well Yard Long Yard and orchard	4	0	34
		224	Yew Close	3	1	38
		225	Pond Yard	2	1	2
		243	Meadow	1	0	25
		244	Mill Close	3	3	15
		265	Far Langwith Mere	6	1	19
		266	First Langwith Mere	8	3	0
		268	Far Hall Carr	3	2	28
		279	First Hall Carr	1	3	36
		295	Pingle	0	2	33
		296	Scowlwood Close	6	0	19
		297	First Pond Close	9	1	16
		298	Middle Scowlwood Close	9	2	14
		300	Middle Close Hillside	12	3	11
		302	Far Common	5	2	22
		303	First Common	4	3	37
		309	Near Common	7	1	12
		TOTAL		176	2	2
Wm. Fletcher	Edward Smith	191		0	2	17
		193		0	2	0
		194		1	1	15
		195		1	0	28
		TOTAL		3	2	20
Sarah Fowler	Herself	68	Thistlely Close	7	2	3
		69	Earshell	7	3	20
		70	Sunny Dale	9	0	5
		79	Taggs Close	1	0	22
		88	Taggs Hill	7	1	13
		299	Scowl Wood	5	2	4
		304	Common	3	2	2
		305	Common	4	1	38
		306	Three cornered common	1	7	16
		311	Taggs Common	0	1	3
	Robert Hall ) Peter Tantom )	80	House and garden House and garden	0	0	21
		TOTAL		48	2	27
John Bradshaw Greaves	Himself John Lucas	21	Spring Wood	5	0	4
		1	Ozier Holt	1	0	32
		2	Little Hind Carr and five acres	6	3	33
		3	Great Hind Carr	6	4	0
		4	Lime Kiln Close	7	0	14
		5	Strawberry Bank	9	2	10
		6	Long Sough	6	2	36

Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Name of Plot	A	R	P
John Bradshaw Greaves	John Lucas	7	Pondhead Close	4	1	33
		8	Crabtree Close	10	1	38
		9	Large Dovecote Close	9	3	34
		10	Barn Yard	3	1	9
		11	Dovecote Croft Cottage	0	3	16
		12	Crabtree Yard	1	1	13
		13	House buildings homestead	1	2	1
		14	Orchard	1	2	0
		15	Kitchen Close	5	2	34
		16	Rye Grass Close	11	2	7
		17	Great Spring Close	10	3	0
		18	Great Sough	9	3	20
		19	Pudding Poke	4	0	25
		20	Little Spring	7	2	5
		TOTAL		120	2	4
Francis Hall	William Allcock	22	Nether Wood Lane Close	13	1	7
		23	Yew Tree Close	11	0	0
		24	Lime Kiln Close	12	0	28
		25	Hollin Tree Close	11	0	6
		26	Near Hollin Tree Close	10	2	22
		27	Far Mansfield Hag	11	1	24
		28	Near Mansfield Hag	10	2	33
		29	Little Mansfield Hag	10	0	27
		30	Low Meadow	2	2	5
		31	Dumble	2	1	0
		32	House building homestead etc..	1	1	32
		33	Top Meadow	2	1	18
		34	Hillside Close	6	2	27
		35	Stackyard Close	8	0	39
		36	Near Thistley Close	11	0	21
		37	Far Thistley Close	11	2	22
		38	Lane End Close	10	1	14
		39	Upper Yew Tree Close	10	0	0
		40	Top Wood Lane Close	11	2	26
		TOTAL		168	3	39
John Lucas Jun'r	Himself	67	Clay Close	6	1	14
		129	Parkfield Close	7	1	10
		167	Paddock	1	0	4
		168	Back Lane Close	6	0	31
		231	Meadow	1	1	13
		232	Meadow	2	0	9
		TOTAL		24	1	1
Robert Malkin	Matthew Lucas	41	Little Spring Close and Barn Close	14	0	3
		42	Great Spring	19	1	7

Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Name of Plot	A	R	P	
Robert Malkin	Matthew Lucas	43	Thistley Close	14	1	7	
		44	House building etc	1	1	18	
		45	Watsworth Hag	11	0	25	
		46	Great Clover Close	10	0	11	
		47	Lime Kiln Close	11	1	8	
		48	Great Sawpit Dale	15	0	20	
		49	Pilling Hag	7	2	5	
		50	Calf Close	8	1	11	
		51	Nether outgang + wood	10	0	16	
		53	Cow pasture	14	3	12	
		54	Great Wood Close	14	2	16	
		55	Stackyard Close	8	0	20	
		56	Little Clover Close	5	2	15	
		57	Halifax Place	6	3	35	
		58	Hodhill Hill	12	3	6	
		59	Church Gate Close	6	2	0	
		60	Far Common	7	0	37	
		61	Large Common	10	3	14	
		62	Holy Well Slade	13	1	37	
		63	Near Common	10	2	19	
		104	Hodhill House Buildings etc	10	0	31	
		109		4	0	4	
		110		0	3	0	
TOTAL				249	0	17	
Ann Naylor	Herself	219	House barn stable garden, etc		1	7	
	William Adams )	220	House garden )	0	0	16	
	James Ward )		Smith's shop and garden }				
	James Burton	183	Garden	0	0	6	
	John Chapman )	190	House garden )	0	0	26	
	James Coupe )		House garden )				
	John Mitchell )		House garden )				
	John Nicholson	119	Wood Lane Close	3	0	2	
		120	Acreage - Long Close	0	3	12	
		125	Darling Nook	2	2	31	
		185	Old Field	2	0	11	
		186	Old Field	2	0	8	
		187	Footgate Close	2	2	35	
		188	Back Lane Close	2	3	9	
		189	Watson Croft	1	0	8	
		217	Simpson Meadow	1	2	8	
		218	Croft	1	2	15	
		258	Thickley	5	3	2	
		259	Plantation	0	3	36	
		261	Thickley	1	3	22	
		262	Moor Bank	2	3	8	
	TOTAL				31	3	37
		George Wain	221	House - orchard	0	0	16

Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Name of Plot	A	R	P
Nathaniel Need	John Nicholson	78	Stone Close	3	1	6
		87	Wards Close	0	3	38
		269	Fifteen Lands	3	3	13
		278	Wet Hall Carr	4	1	8
		310	Great Common Close	11	2	8
		TOTAL		23	2	13
James Needham	John Nuttall	213	Garden	0	0	7
	John Nuttall }	214	House )	0	0	2
	Peter Stubbing )		House )			
	Wm. Tideswell )	212	House - garden )	0	1	10
	George Unwin )		House - garden )			
	George Unwin	210	Croft	1	0	20
		211	Orchard	0	0	16
		230	Carter Lane Close	3	2	25
Charles Newbold	Dorothy Fowler )	286	House - garden )	0	1	39
	Wm. Mullins )		House barn garden )			
	Joseph Yates )		House - garden )			
	Wm. Mullins	89	Old Field	2	0	27
		93	Old Field	2	1	25
		287	Croft	0	3	18
		291	Bradley barn and Close	1	1	34
		292	"	2	1	1
		307	Large Common	2	0	13
		308	Large Common	3	2	16
	TOTAL			14	3	14
John Nicholson	Himself	73	Sunny Dale	7	2	36
		74	Town End	5	3	9
		75	Roger Close	4	1	36
		86	Goose Close	9	3	0
		94	Long Lane Close	3	0	14
		199	Yule Close	6	3	19
		201	Broad Close	4	2	31
		202	Lime Kiln Close	1	2	9
		205	House farm buildings etc	2	0	30
		206	Granger Yard	3	3	0
		208	Dale Close	6	0	5
		319	Upper Common	2	3	1
		320	First Common	6	0	31
		TOTAL		65	3	36
	Hannah Booth )	207	House - garden )	0	0	23
	John Timmins )		House - garden )			

Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Name of Plot	A	R	P		
Joseph Nicholson	Himself	64	Nether Slade	6	0	26		
		65	Upper Slade	5	2	28		
		66	Watson Common	5	0	34		
		81	Smithy Croft	2	2	16		
		85	Long Yard	0	3	19		
		102	Barn Close & Barn	7	0	31		
		103	Little Hodhill	7	3	4		
		105	Hodhill Piece	8	2	31		
		260	Thickley	1	3	36		
		267	Long Wood	8	3	0		
		280	Hall Carr	7	0	16		
		281	Scowl Wood Close	7	3	33		
		282	House Farmbuilding fold yard	1	2	33		
		283	Barn yard	0	3	4		
		288	Little Common Close	3	2	12		
		290	Little Scowlwood Close	1	1	36		
		294	Langwith Close	1	3	1		
		312	Bowler Close	3	2	37		
		315	Part of 4 Lane End Close - Common	3	2	36		
		327	Common	4	3	12		
		TOTAL			91	2	5	
			Wm Peacock	82	House and garden	0	0	24
Joseph Nicholson Overseer of Highways	Himself	76	Waste Land	2	2	10		
Richard Prest	Celia Eadson	179	House and Croft	0	2	36		
Jonathan Robinson	Himself	139	Wood Lane Close	1	0	30		
		141	Nether Acreage Close	2	2	12		
		144	Acreage	2	3	32		
		149	House buildings croft, etc		3	22		
		150	Grass Close	1	2	25		
		151	Hill Close	1	2	26		
		152	Little Acreage Close	1	2	0		
		216	Croft	1	1	24		
		245	Top Hill Close	2	1	23		
		246	Mill Close and Post Windmill	1	3	21		
		247	Meadow	0	3	12		
		TOTAL			18	3	27	
		George Dean )	215	House - garden )	0	1	7	
		Joseph Hayes )		House - garden )				
		Void - empty )		House - garden )				

Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Name of Plot	A	R	P
Shirebrook Poor ) The Church Warden ) Jonathan Robinson & ) Overseer Wm. Towle )	Celia Eadson	174	Poor Pingle	0	2	38
<hr/>						
Wm. Towle	Himself	148	Bowskill Yard	0	3	36
		248	Morris Close	2	1	20
		249	Morris Close	4	0	28
		251	Hunger Hill	1	3	34
		255	Well Thickley	5	0	33
		257	First Thickley	4	3	19
		263	Thickley Bank	0	3	32
		271	Wet Piece	1	3	24
		235	Meadow Top	2	2	12
		236	Meadow	2	0	12
		256	Bank	1	1	24
		TOTAL		28	1	34
	John Parr	239	House - garden	0	0	24
		240	Croft	0	1	24
		TOTAL		0	2	8
	<hr/>					
John Vickers	John Ashley )	77	House - garden )	0	1	36
	Wm. Hayes )		House - garden )			
	Richard Meade )		House - garden )			
	Robert Shaw )		House - garden )			
<hr/>						
Trustees of Warsop Poor - Samuel Davey, Henry Davey, Thos. Bowett & others	John Charlsworth	184	House - garden	0	0	10
<hr/>						
John Smith Wright	Sarah Fowler	84	Lang Yard	1	1	36
		95	Moor Close	5	0	26
		96	Robottam Close	3	3	18
		97	Round Close	4	3	11
		98	Round Close	6	1	26
		99	Small Round Close	1	0	0
		100	Gorsey Close	2	3	38
		101	Stinting Lane Close	4	2	11
		106	Broad Close	4	1	15
		107	Trefoil Close	3	2	6
		108	Ewehill Doles	3	1	31
		284	House farm buildings yard, etc	0	2	10
		285	Barn Yard	1	2	0
		289	Dike Close	2	1	32

Owner	Occupier	Plot No	Name of Plot	A	R	P
John Smith Wright	Sarah Fowler	293	Lime Kiln Close	2	3	5
		301	Far Common	5	3	3
		TOTAL		54	2	22
	John Nicholson	137	Pingle	1	0	12
		138	Wood Lane Closes	1	0	26
		142	Nether Acreage	2	2	39
		143	Acreage	3	1	20
		153	Acreage	3	1	22
		154	Hay Close	1	2	26
		155	House - garden croft	1	1	29
		TOTAL		14	3	14

### The Advent of Shirebrook Colliery Company

As the copy of the tithe map (fig 1) shows, the historic form of Shirebrook was that of a linear village straggling along an east to west axis. At this date the foundations of its new chapel - later the parish church of Holy Trinity - were being laid and not far to the south the local coal industry had been boosted by the opening of the Erewash and Cromford Canals and in 1818 by the advent of the Mansfield and Pinxton tramway. This was eventually converted to a railway which had been extended to Shirebrook by 1875 (see fig 2).

The Shirebrook of the mid-19th century was therefore ripe for development by a colliery company and in the spring of 1895 the Shirebrook Colliery Company came into being. How the first directors of the company became known to each other is of no concern but conjecture leads us to suppose that the idea to mine in Shirebrook may have blossomed out of a conversation between two Members of Parliament whilst enjoying an aperitif on the terrace overlooking the River Thames.

In May 1895 they were negotiating as a company to buy land from the freeholders but it was not until 16 August 1895 that the Limited Company was formed. Hereunder is an extract from its Memorandum and Articles of Association:

### DIRECTORS

- 79 The Directors shall be not less than two nor more than ten in number, exclusive of the Managing Director. The first Directors shall be:

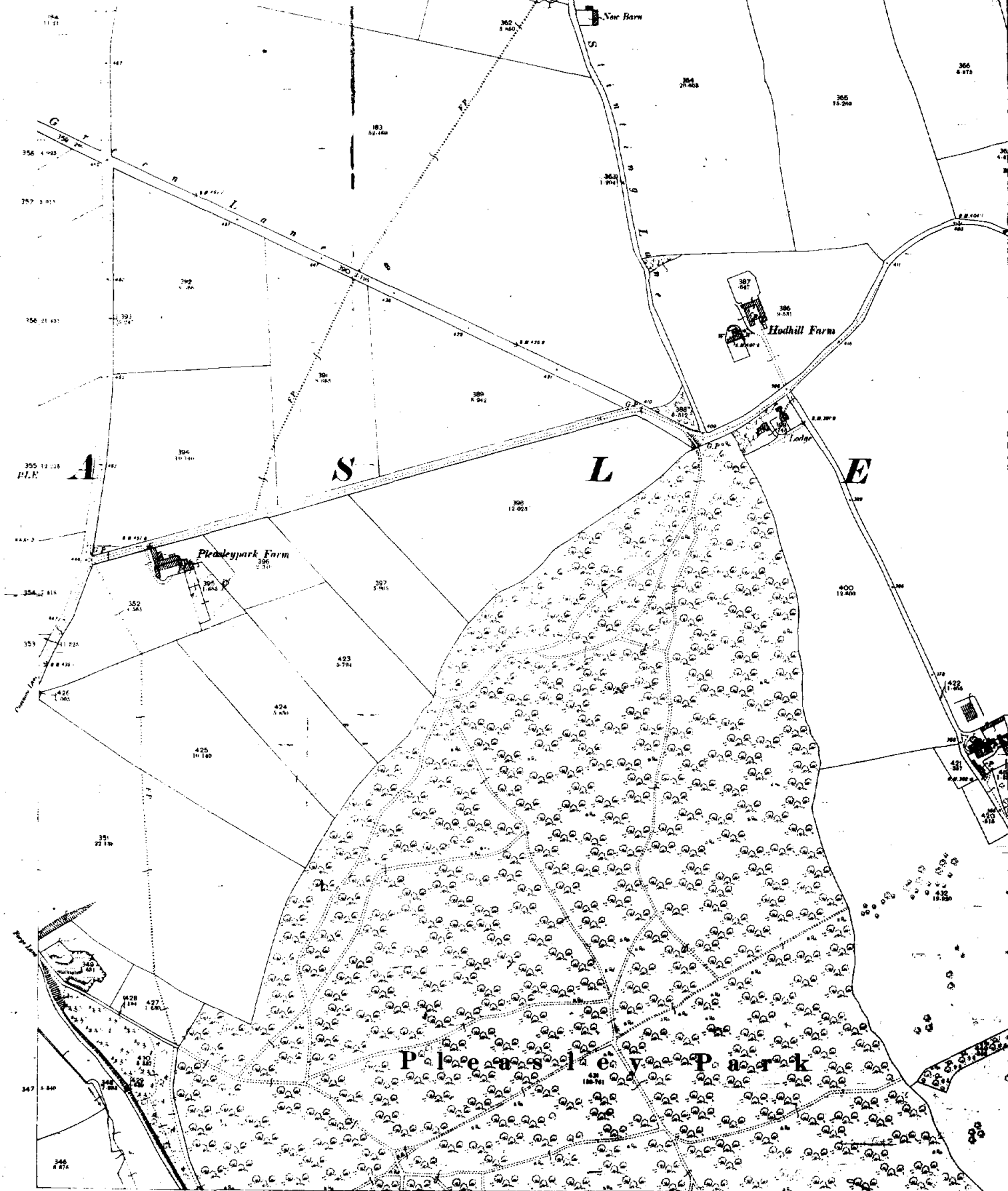
WILLIAM WALLACE BRUCE of 9, Airlie Gardens, Kensington  
gentleman

RUSSELL SWANWICK, Royal Agricultural College Farm, Cirencester  
gentleman

ARNOLD LUPTON, 6, De Grey Road, Leeds, mining engineer

- 80 The qualifications of a Director shall be the holding in his own right alone, and not jointly with any other person, of shares or stock of the nominal value of £1,000, and this qualification shall be required as well of the first Directors as of all future Directors, but the first Directors may, during three months from the incorporation of the Company, act before they have acquired their qualification.

FIG. 2 : PART OF SHIREBROOK IN 1898



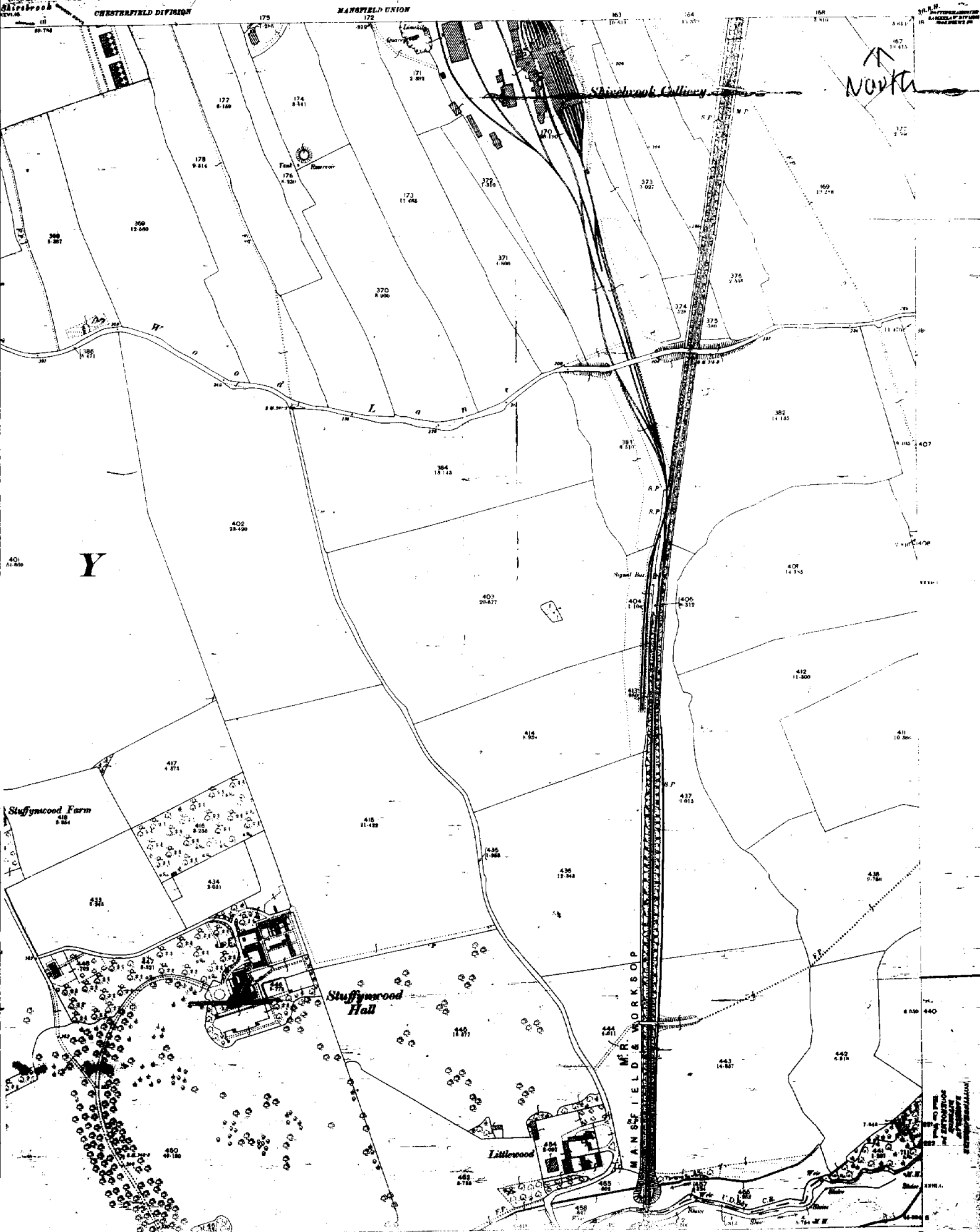
Drapings Surveyed in 1897  
Heddenham Surveyed in 1897  
Revised in 1898  
Revised in 1898

CHARACTERISTICS AND SYMBOLS FOR BOUNDARIES

County	Urban District	City	W.D.	Changes of Boundary indicating the position of the boundary line	Survey period is indicated by the date	27
Borough	Urban District	City	P.	Changes of Boundary indicating the position of the boundary line	Survey period is indicated by the date	27
Manor	Urban District	City	P.	Changes of Boundary indicating the position of the boundary line	Survey period is indicated by the date	27
	Urban District	City	P.	Changes of Boundary indicating the position of the boundary line	Survey period is indicated by the date	27

Surveyed and Published at the  
The Altitude is given in feet above the normal Mean Level of the Sea at High Water  
Altitude indicated (1887) 100 feet to Bench Mark on High Water  
1887





Survey Office Southampton, 1898  
at which is 0.669 feet below the general Mean Level of the Sea  
Note: Heights are those marked there (51) to surface level.  
revised.

Scale 1:50,000  
Feet 100

MANFIELD & WORKSOP  
MANFIELD WOODHOUSE S.A.  
MANFIELD WOODHOUSE S.A.

## MANAGING DIRECTOR

- 106 The first Managing Director shall be Arnold Lupton, who shall hold office, and also the post of engineer, from the incorporation of the Company, upon the several terms and at the remuneration set forth in an agreement, a draft of which has been already prepared and for the purposes of identification signed by him and W.W. Bruce on behalf of the Company and the said agreement shall be executed by the Directors under the seal of the Company subject to any modifications which may be agreed on between them and the said Arnold Lupton.

### Development of the village by the Colliery Company

In such a vast undertaking of sinking mine shafts and building everything pertaining to them, besides building a self-contained village adjacent to the mine, nothing could be left to chance. Hundreds of acres of land were needed for its success and to that end agents of the company entered into negotiations with many of the landowners. There does not appear to have been any recalcitrant landowner unwilling to sell and take advantage of a quick financial gain.

Naturally the land of primary interest was where the shafts were to be sunk and the workshops, engine house, boilers, rail-sidings and the first row of houses to be built. All this work went on apace simultaneously and chiefly in the 122 acres lying between Acreage Lane on the north, Wood Lane on the south, Long Lane on the west and the county boundary on the east. It 1843 that area consisted of 35 plots (see fig 1) shared by ten landowners, viz:

	Owner
Plots 111 - 115	William Bowmer
Plot 116	William Fletcher
Plot 117	A. Drawater
Plot 118	William Fletcher
Plots 119 - 120	Ann Naylor
Plots 121 - 124	William Fletcher
Plot 125	Ann Naylor
Plots 126 - 128	Ashbourne School
Plot 129	John Lucas junior
Plot 130	Ashbourne School and occupied by John Lucas senior
Plot 131	William Fletcher
Plots 132 - 136	Duke of Devonshire
Plots 137 - 138	John S. Wright
Plot 139	Jonathan Robinson
Plot 140	Ashbourne School
Plot 141	Jonathan Robinson
Plots 142 - 143	John S. Wright
Plot 144	Jonathan Robinson
Plots 145 - 147	Ashbourne School

The shafts were to be sunk on a site as near as was practically possible to the Midland Railway (see fig 2). In the event, it was John Lucas junior's Plot 129 that became the chosen site lying conveniently west of the railway and connections to the site from the main line cut through Plots 21, 125 and 127-129. The Colliery Company was obliged to put a bridge over these lines for the continuation of Wood Lane (see fig 2). The Ashbourne School plots referred to were first leased by the Company but subsequently purchased - on December 1920 - for £3355 9s 8d.

Some of James Bradshaw Greaves's and Francis Hall's land had earlier gone to the Midland Railway, as had a portion of Jonathan Robinson's. In 1896 the residue of the latter's land was sold to the Colliery Company. The property had been purchased by Robinson or his father - of Dunstan in Lincolnshire - in 1819 at which time it included a post windmill. Jonathan Robinson died in 1888 and was succeeded by his nephew John Lucas

Robinson. An offer to purchase was made to him by Simeon Watson, a mining engineer and colliery manager, of Hucknall under Huthwaite and a price agreed for the 11a 2r 34p. The land was contracted to be sold to Mr J.C. Sampson who might be presumed to have been a director of the Colliery Company and it in fact passed to the Company for £843 6s 0d.

In a directory of 1846 we see a Shirebrook landowner named George Shippam. He was not there in 1843 but, either by inheritance or purchase, his land passed to James Richardson of Ruddington and the 39a 0r 18p of land involved was purchased of him by the Colliery Company in 1896 for £3700. In Shippam's time, George Strutt of Shirebrook had been the tenant of this land. Another landowner in Shirebrook in mid century was Joseph Paget, also of Ruddington, who had a considerable interest in the Hollins' textile mills at Pleasley Vale. He purchased Stuffynwood Hall - built by Robert Malkin in 1858 - from Malkin in 1873.

In 1897, the Misses Houseley, John Houseley, their brother, and Mrs Broadbent conveyed to the Colliery Company plots numbers 116 and 193-197, comprising 16a 1r 35p, held in 1843 by William Fletcher, for the sum of £1398 15s 8d. On 1 May 1897, Joseph Nicholson Robinson, commonly known as Joseph Nicholson junior, sold 67a 2r 24p of land to the Colliery Company for £2166 14s 9d. Both these areas of land were needed for the building of Church Drive, Central Drive, Field Drive and Prospect Drive and the streets commemorating the names of the Colliery Company directors, viz Brunner Avenue and Swanwick Avenue. Astonishingly we do find the name of Arnold Lupton perpetuated in a street name.

### **The Ashbourne Grammar School Estate**

Ashbourne Grammar School, was an Elizabethan foundation of 1585 and as was usual for schools set up at that time it was provided with a land endowment in several places. To this day its financial affairs are managed by the "Trustees and Governors and Assistants" of the school and the Clerk to the Trust is always a lawyer. The Shirebrook estate was acquired twenty years or so after its foundation and it was known for centuries as Ashbourne Farm. A document in the possession of the Trustees reads:

*The farm in Shirebrook which in 1816 consisted of a house and outbuildings and about 103 acres of land was held by George Booth under a Lease bearing date 27th of July 1816 granted by the Governors and Assistants to his father and himself for the term of twenty-one years from the 5th of April then last at a fair rent of £88 per annum, the tenant contracting to keep the buildings in repair.*

The actual acreage was 108a 1r 8p.

The school may have effectively owned the property since 1605 but there were still incumbrances to be removed as the following shows:

*In 1608 a messuage farm or tenement at Shirebrook in the county of Derby was, in consideration of £194, conveyed by John Sherwin to Lawrence Wright, John Milward, George Jackson, Thomas Lees and John Owfield and their heirs.*

*And by indenture of Bargain and Sale bearing date 8 January 1613, the said Lawrence Wright, John Milward, Thomas Lees and John Owfield in consideration of £180 paid to Roger Owfield and Humfrey Street and twenty shillings paid by the Governors and Assistants of this School, bargained and sold the same premises to the said Governors and Assistants and their successors.*

*By Indenture bearing date 16th August 1648, John Stuffyn in consideration of £95 bargained and sold to the Governors and Assistants and their successors a yearly rent of £5 issuing out of the said premises at Shirebrook, which had previously been granted in 6 James I by Frances Clark to Hercules Stuffyn [grandfather of John Stuffyn] and his heirs.*

It was the custom from the beginning for the Ashbourne School Trustees to lease the farm for the period of 21 years or for such periods remaining of it occasioned by the departure of a tenant, either by death or default.

The following notice relates to the letting of the farm in 1837 when the 21 year lease of George Booth and his father mentioned above, came to an end.

[The spelling of Shirebrook on their public notice was about a century out of date.]

"Conditions for letting a messuage and farm at Sherbrook in the County of Derby, containing about 108 acres in possession of Mr. Mark Booth on lease by auction at the Nags Head Inn in Pleasley on Monday, the 23rd January 1837, belonging to the Governors and Assistants of Ashbourne Free Grammar School.

1. As sufficient Sureties will be required by the Lessees for payment of the rent and performance of the covenants to be contained in the Lease, each person bidding shall immediately afterwards name his Sureties.
2. The Lessors (being the Governors and Assistants aforesaid) reserve a right to bid but once by Mr. Thomas Wise their Agent and the highest bidder shall be the Lessee provided his Sureties are approved by the Lessors or the said Thomas Wise and his bidding exceeds the sum bid on behalf of the Lessors, but if the said Thomas Wise waives that right the highest bidder shall be the Lessee provided his Sureties are approved as far as aforesaid but not otherwise.
3. That the letting shall be for fourteen years from the 6th day of April next but determinable nevertheless on the 25th day of March in the last year of the term on the Lessors serving Notice thereof to be given to the Lessees three calendar months previous thereto.
4. That a Lease Counterpart and Bond for performance of Covenants to the Lessees and Sureties shall be prepared and executed by the proper parties forthwith the       day of       at the joint expense of the Lessors and Lessee in which leases there shall be reserved to the lessors a closed part of the said Farm called The Wood containing about six acres for the purpose of planting on the same and also reserved all timber tree wood and land wood growing or being on the Farm and Lands with all usual privileges for felling and cutting down and carrying away the same. And there shall also be contained the following covenants on the part of the Lessee namely, for payment of the Rent (free from all) deductions, half yearly on the eleventh day of October and sixth day of April and the first payment thereof on the eleventh day of October next for payment of Land Tax and all Taxes, Rates and Assessments for keeping the Messuage and Outbuildings and all new and additional erections, Hedges, Ditches. Gates, Stiles, Rails, Fences, in all aspects in good and tenantable order and repair and to leave them so at the end of the term;

Also when three Crops of Corn from tillage land but every third of such crops to be after a Summer or Turnip Fallow and he is afterwards to lay down the lands producing such their crop with Clover and Grass Seed in a husbandry like manner from time to time.

That the Lessee shall be bound to lay out the sum of £150 over and above the sum of money which shall be received or recovered from the Representation of the later tenant within two years next ensuing the commencement of the Tenancy in such buildings or other substantial improvements as the Lessors think proper and to be done under the direction and superintendence of their Surveyor or Agent.

Not to underlet or part with the possession of the said premises or any part thereof or assign transfer or dispose of the intended Lease for all or any part of the term without consent of the Lessors in writing.

To consume all the hay, grass, straw and fodder on the premises and spread all the Manure, Dung, Compost produced therefrom on the premises and leave last year's dung on the premises without any allowance for the same.

Power for the Lessors if they shall think proper or their Agent or Servant to come on the premises to see state of repairs and condition thereof and to give Notice to Lessee of any want of repairs or breach of covenant and to give notice to the Lessee to repair and amend the same within three months in which time the Lessee is to repair and amend the same accordingly.

To manage the Farm in all other respects according to good husbandry with all other usual covenants and reservations.

And with a proviso for re-entry in case of non-payment of Rent within 30 days or non-performance of covenant; or in case Lessee shall underlet or part with possession of the premises or any part thereof or assign transfer or dispose of the Lease for all or any part of the term, or in case he shall become Bankrupt or Insolvent or Leases be sold or offered for sale under any Execution against the Lessee.

And the highest bidder and his Sureties if required shall immediately after the Letting enter in an Agreement with Mr. Wise on behalf of the Vendors at the joint expense aforesaid for the performance of the covenants herein contained.

Memorandum: I am that Mark Booth of Shirebrook aforesaid farmer and hath agreed to take the Farm and Lands within mentioned ..... for the sum of one hundred and forty one pounds.

23 January 1837

Mark Booth  
Thos. Wise

William James Hobson  
Nags Head  
Pleasley

[Mark Booth's Sureties were Charles and Sarah Booth]

All these necessary requirements attended upon all previous and subsequent leases.

We have no evidence to hand of when John Lucas junior first tenanted the Farm but he was certainly in occupation of it in 1843. [At that time Hannah Booth occupied a house (on Plot 207) owned by John Nicholson].

It seems however, that the tenancy changed hands quite frequently. It was renewed by Lucas junior in 1850 with John Lucas the elder (then of Blidworth) and Matthew Lucas as his sureties in the sum of £300. As in 1837 the annual rental was £141. It was again renewed by John Lucas in 1864 and for a year only in 1879. The following year William Marriott succeeded to the tenancy with sureties of James Ward of Shirebrook, innkeeper, and James Nuttall of Mansfield, farmer.

By this date a portion of the land had gone to the Midland Railway whose trains had now become a familiar sight. As a result the holding was now down to around 107 acres and during Marriott's tenancy there was not only the beginning of the end of Ashbourne Farm but also all the drastic changes attendant upon a mine being sunk, a village enlarged, the appearance of a second railway line and the advent of the district council.

The concluding part of a letter, dated 11 January 1896, sent by Mr B. Young to the Trustees on behalf of Messrs Wise and Son and Cooke, suggests that the Marriotts were under some pressure at that time:

*"I went all over the farm with the tenant with a view to estimating its annual value. The Old Turf Field, no 76 near the house, is undoubtedly valuable to the tenant for grazing purposes as the farm contains only a small proportion of permanent grass land. If the portion of this field proposed to be sold to Messrs Moore for building purposes comprising 4a 1r 33p is taken off the farm, I am of the opinion that a deduction of £15 a year should be made from the present rent of £120, leaving it £105 for 103a 0r 22p."*

The development of the colliery housing coincided with the early years of Blackwell Rural District Council. New sewers were required to service the development and the District Council was assailed by claims for damage done to land by the laying of sewers or for laying them without first asking permission. Many of the landowners claimed compensation as the following extracts from the Rural District Council records show:

12 May 1898	The District Council received a letter from Mr J. Harrop White of Mansfield, solicitor, claiming £200 on behalf of his client Mr Taylor Lewis for a sewer having been laid across his land without permission.
12 May 1898	Mr Gibson Martin, acting for the Duke of Devonshire's claim for £126.
7 July 1898	Mrs Marriott, the tenant of Ashbourne Farm, claimed £5.
7 July 1898	Henry Rogers paid £2 10s 0d.
21 July 1898	Mr Crampton is pleased to note that Mrs Marriott has been given £5 in compensation but he, as valuer, would like his fee to be paid.
4 August 1898	The Council decided that Crampton's fee was included in the £5 paid to Mrs Marriott. Mr Blatherwick claimed and received £23 7s 0d on behalf of Mr W. Wilson.
13 October 1898	Joseph Lucas Robinson was paid £12 6s 0d for a sewer crossing his land. The Misses Houseley and Mrs Broadbent made an exorbitant claim of £98, then £126, which eventually went to arbitration.

Mrs Marriott had probably first laid her claim before the Council at the beginning of 1898 because on 15 April of that year the tenancy of Ashbourne Farm passed to Elizabeth Richardson, formerly of Barlborough, widow, and George Henry Richardson of Shirebrook, farmer. By this time the Richardsons were paying a yearly rental of £220. The farm was now reduced to 76a 1r 18p. [It is conceivable that H. Richardson was the brother of James Richardson mentioned earlier.]

During the Richardson tenure, July 1901 in fact, the Trustees of Ashbourne School made a determined effort to dispose of what was left of the farm. The sale was to be by auction on 25 July 1901 at the Swan Hotel, Mansfield, with the auctioneers John Crampton and Son of Mansfield and the solicitors were Wise and Cooke of Ashbourne. The entire farm then comprised 73½ acres.

Mr Crampton, surveyor, auctioneer and valuer, had envisaged on the Trustee's behalf a development of the lower village extending from Portland Road down to Sookholme Lane, with the former on the main road to the railway station. Of that nicely drawn plan only the development envisaged for Portland Road came to fruition but, perversely and alas, seventy years later! Hereunder are the details of that sale.

#### 1881

OS No	Purchaser	A	R	P	£	s	d
172	Henry Reddish	2	0	24	96	7	6
95	James Richardson	10	3	19	550	0	0
91, 16, 18, 19	Henry Tinsley	4	2	12	267	0	0
20, 21	F.H. and J.W. Moore	4	0	33	98	5	6
371	Shirebrook Colliery Ltd	4	3	8	225	12	6
52	Joseph Nicholson	7	0	1	300	0	0

The sales of parts of the farm, prior to and after the 1901 sale, were:

OS No	Year	Purchaser	A	R	P	£	s	d
45	1891	Midland Railway Co	1	3	38	405	0	0
80	1897	George C. Bond	1	3	21	445	5	0
76	1897	F.H. and J.W. Moore	4	1	33	1078	13	0
45	1898	Great Northern Railway	2	1	10	1400	0	0
	1906	F.H. and J.W. Moore	4	2	0	900	0	0

In 1905 Shirebrook Colliery Company leased 25a 2r 2p and in 1909 a further 1a 0r 33p. By 1912 such land as remained (34 acres) was let to Mr Thomas Chadburn at a rent of £60 per annum under a yearly tenancy. The plots were as follows and are identified by their numbers on the second edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch sheet 1898:

OS No	A	R	P
67 and 79	4	0	26
120	0	3	22
121	1	1	16
118	2	3	29
122	3	2	9
125	1	0	26
137 (part)	3	2	35
167	10	1	26
82, 83, 84, 85 and part of 64	5	3	11

This remaining land was sold to Messrs J.H. and J.W. Moore for £1798 9s 6d in July 1921 and earlier in the same year a further 26a 3r 3p of leased land was sold to the Colliery Company for £3355 9s 4d. All the indications suggest that this was the land the Company leased in 1905 and 1909 and that negotiations were entered into in November and December 1920.

Had the farm been sold entirely in 1901, it would have been incumbent on the purchaser to compensate the sitting tenants but such was not the case. In 1902, Messrs Moore acquired a tenancy on a yearly basis at a rent of £45 per annum for a holding of 39a 3r 30p and they sub-let the farm to the Richardsons and latterly to Thomas Chadburn.

Although no longer a landowner after the 1921 sale, Ashbourne School continued to enjoy mining royalties until such payments were abolished in 1938. These resulted from an agreement made on 1 May 1895 between the Trustees and the Colliery Company for the leases of the Top Hard seam of coal for a period of sixty years or such longer term not exceeding eighty years as might be necessary for the exhaustion of the seam. Royalties were charged at the rate of £30 per foot per acre and were subject to a minimum rent as follows:

For the first year -	1895	Nil
	1896	4s 0d per acre per annum
	1897	8s 0d per acre per annum
	1898	12s 0d per acre per annum
	1899	16s 0d per acre per annum
and for the sixth and every subsequent year		20s 0d per acre per annum

The long association of Ashbourne Grammar School with Shirebrook therefore finally ended with the last payment of coal royalties in 1938.

#### Acknowledgements

The Derbyshire Record Office

Mr E.W. Christie, LLB, Clerk to the Trustees of Ashbourne Grammar School

Mrs Kate Henderson

Mr K.G. Ward of British Coal

Mr Stephen Price of Basewell Ltd, Mansfield

Mrs Jill Usher - for being able to read my script

## APPENDIX

### Notes on the Tithe Award

#### Field Names

Pingle	A small, irregularly-shaped close
Carr or car	Boggy ground
Goose Close	Probably a corruption of 'gorse'
Hag	Rough woodland, in this instance rising from marshy ground
Wong	A consolidation of strips in a former open field
Dumble	A valley
Roger	A corruption of 'Rother'
Filling	May be a reference to oats
Yard	Not necessarily a yard as understood at present in that in medieval times it could also be a small field. This may have been the original meaning in Bowskill Yard - plot no 148. Granger Yard - plot 206 - is another interesting possibility. The Abbot of Rufford certainly had a grange in Scarcliffe and land and tenements in Shirebrook and this parcel of land may well have been monastic property.

#### Landowners

Amcoats, George  
Ashbourne School, Trustees of,  
Beardall, John  
Blytherman, John                    )  
Jepson, John                         )   Joint\*  
Lucas, John                         )  
Bowmer, William  
Duke of Devonshire  
Drawater, Augustus  
Fletcher, William  
Fowler, Sarah  
Greaves, John Bradshaw  
Hall, Francis  
Lucas, John, junior  
Malkin, Robert  
Naylor, Ann  
Need, Nathaniel  
Needham, James  
Newbold, Charles  
Nicholson, John  
Nicholson, Joseph  
Prest, Richard,  
Robinson, Jonathan  
Towle, William,  
Vickers, John  
Wright, John Smith

\* This may have been the poor house made redundant by the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act and purchased by John Lucas for £33 in 1839.