

The Lake

Returning to the era of the Starkholmes route for the Derwent it is apparent from mapping evidence that the depression lies at around the 160 metre line. (An accurate measurement is required to confirm the actual low point of the depression). Knowing this height allows us to examine the Ordnance Survey Maps for other place name clues relative to this contour.

Hillcarr wood, SK2563, is just north of Stanton Lees. A 'Carr' is a wetland but this is on a hill side. Was it once on the waters edge as suggested by its OS contour height? Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure Map 24 also shows in this area Hillcarr Farm, Warrencarr and Warrencarr Farm, SK2562. Across the valley but at a similar OS contour height is Northwood Carr, SK2664.

Near the town of **Youlgrave** is a small hamlet called **Alport**, SK2264, which sits on this contour line. Does the 'port' element in its name hint at a port in the marine sense? Normally in Derbyshire we would expect somewhere with the word 'port' in the name to apply to a location on the 'Portway'.

Bakewell has what appears to be an improbable site for a castle, SK2268. Although it is built on a mound it is dwarfed by the surrounding countryside and is quite a way from the town and on the opposite side of the modern river course so what purpose was it serving? It does not appear to be capable of defending the town of Bakewell. We know from the Anglo-Saxon chronicles that there was a Saxon Castle which automatically dates its constructed prior to Domesday.

“A.D. 924.....Thence he went to Bakewell in Peakland; and ordered a fort to be built as near as possible to it, and manned.”

Why, *“as near as possible to it”*? Is the text suggesting that there was some impediment to building the castle at Bakewell itself or is it alluding to a different purpose?

If the Starkholmes depression was the course of the river in Saxon times then it is possible that a large body of water had formed behind it giving rise to, *“Methlock - the mead on the loch or lock”*, as discussed by Benjamin Bryan in his 1903 work. This would, in turn, lead to a body of water at Bakewell that may have caused the Castle Hill to be an island. Nearby Holme Hall may also hark back to a more watery past.

Congreave

This feature is close to Stanton Hall Lane at SK247653. It appears to be a large bank and is on the 160 metre contour.



The hill in the background is Peak Tor and rises to around 190 metres. It has what seems to be water cut features and its shape may well have been carved by a large body of water.

Oker Hill

Dalton, Fox and Jones claim that, "*Evidence of recent landslips can be found at several localities in the Derwent Valley area most spectacularly at Oker Hill (SK 271613)*. Oker Hill stands 193 metres at it's highest according to the Ordnance Survey map and also may bear evidence of being created by water.

In his 1848 book, **Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire**, Thomas Bateman describes the finding of a bronze age weapon of an early type on Oker Hill suggesting habitation pre Roman. Unfortunately Bateman does not give us a description of the actual location of the find.