

BURTON-ON-TRENT BOROUGH BOUNDARY POSTS AND STONES 1878

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Burton first became a borough under Nigel the Abbott¹ at the end of the of the 12th century. The abbey had been established by Wulfric Spot, Earl of Mercia in 1002. Abbott Nigel laid out the basic street plan, establishing burgages along the main street from the 'new' River Trent to the bridge at Horninglow. The surrounding villages remained detached from the settlement, although Abbey property².

At the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, the abbey lands passed to Sir William Paget in 1546³. The rise of the brewing industry gave rise to a sizable population for the town and outlying villages of 9,768 in 1851, of which over a thousand were brewery workers. Parliamentary Acts were passed in 1698, 1779, and 1853 to enable improved administration of the town and a further act of 1878⁴ which relates to the subject of this short account of the newly established boundary. This date also saw the inclusion of Winshill and Stapenhill into the town. Branston and Stretton remained separate parishes.



Figure 1 maker's mark,
post no.9

Boundary posts were erected at the intersection of the boundary with all the roads, tracks and paths exiting the town (fig. 2). Each post stood 3 ft (0.92m) from the ground, 5 x 5 in (12cm) at the base and 6½ x 6½ in (16cm) at the top (fig. 1). Made in cast iron by Philip Halbard of the Britannia Foundry⁵, each one carried the same legend 'BURTON UPON TRENT - BOROUGH BOUNDARY' on two line, with the makers details at the base. Given their location when placed, they would have been seen easily by travellers.

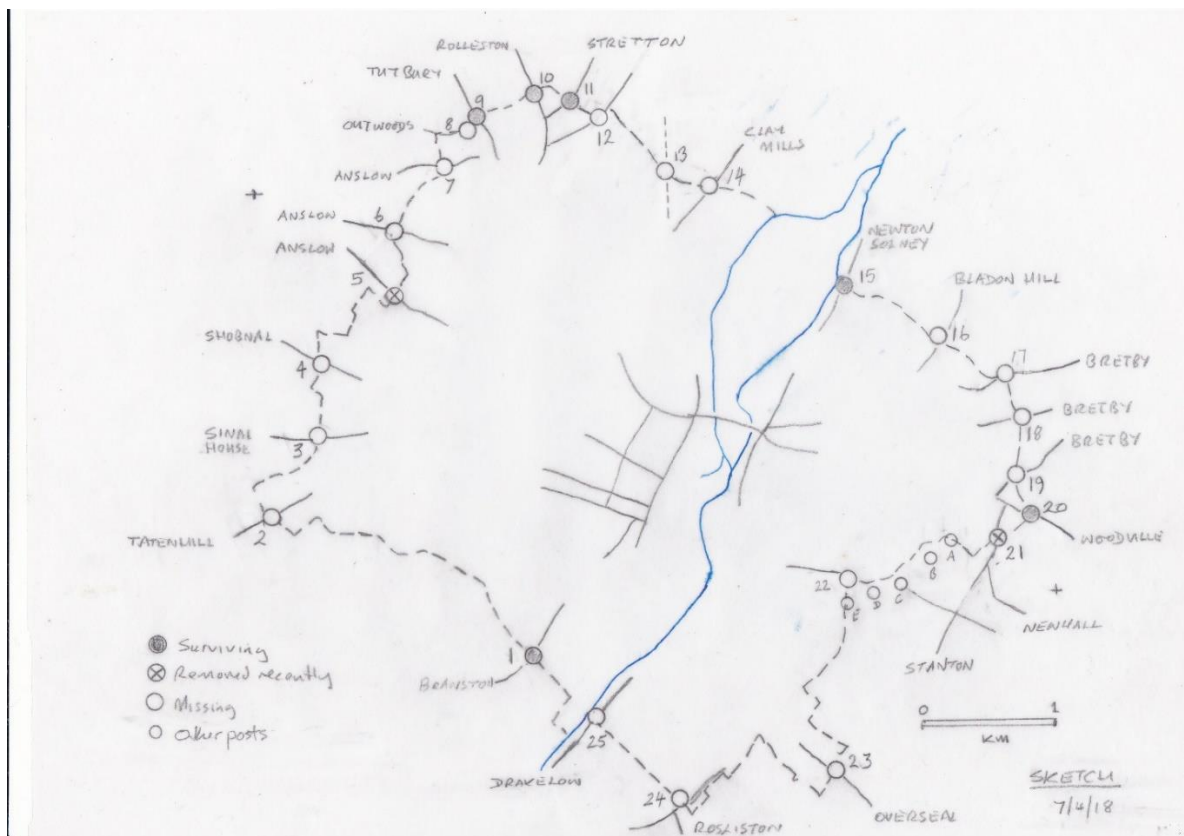


Figure 2 (draft)

The posts today.

I undertook a survey in 2015 to see how many of the posts survived (fig. 1) by consulting large scale Ordnance Survey mapping⁶, and created a table with the results number clockwise from the River Trent south of the town⁷.

The first post (no. 1, fig. 3) is on The B5018, next to 139 Branston Road against the northern edge of Leicester Line railway property. Post nos. 2 and on routes leading to Tatenhill, Sinai House and Shobnall are missing, now being within Branston Locks housing development and properties by Shobnall Brook (alongside the B5017).

Post no. 5 (fig. 4) on the footpath to Anslow is hidden in the bushes by the track to Anslow.

Post no. 6, leading to Upper Outwoods was visible until a few years ago but disappeared during work at the nearby hospital. Nos. 7 and 8 were probably removed as a result of housebuilding. No 8 stood by Horninglow Brook. The most visible of the entire series posts stands in Tutbury Road by the bridge over brook (no. 9, fig. 5). Today painted white, but without the characters highlighted, it can be seen from some distance along the A5111⁸.

Further along the brook at Rolleston road, post no. 10 (fig. 6) is set in a low wall, but not in its original position, which was on the west side of the



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

road. The culverted brook then leads to post no. 11 which, due to landscaping and culverted watercourse, now stands alone in the recreation park (fig. 7).

Post no. 12-14 by footpaths to Stretton and by Derby road are all missing. Post no 13 was removed following construction of the Burton - Tutbury railway⁹. Similarly, post no. 14 by Horninglow Brook was removed during culverting work.



Figure 9



Figure 10

The next post is to the east of the Trent in front of a garden wall by the B5008, near Dale Brook¹⁰ (no 15, fig. 9). Post nos. 16 and 17 by the lanes to Bladon Hill and Bretby are missing, removed during house building. Post no. 18, by the lane to Common Farm is missing¹¹ as is Post no. 19, removed during housing work. Meanwhile post no. 20 is located on Ashby road (fig. 10, A5111) by the hedgerow¹².

From there to the end of the series, back at the river Trent, there are no traces of boundary posts. No. 21 in Brizlincote Lane was removed in 2017 and erected at a nearby nursery. There is, however, a photograph in Geograph¹³. Post No. 22 is not depicted on any of the OS maps consulted but may have existed due to location of track to well used Newhall crossing the county boundary at this point. Another on Stanton Road (A444, no. 23) was probably removed during council house building. The final two posts, nos. 24 and 24, were at the edge of Leicester Line railway property.

Discussion

tbc

<i>Table</i>					
A	B	C	D	E	F
No.	Grid Ref (SK)	Location	To	Side	County
	2449 2107	<i>River Trent</i>			
1	2407 2152	Branston Road	Branston	W	Staffs
	2241 2242	<i>Trent and Mersey Canal</i>			
2	2212 2256	track near Lawns Farm	Tatenhill	S	Staffs
3	2249 2312	footpath to Sinai House	Sinai House (Tatenhill)	W	Staffs
4	2247 2373	Shobnall Road	Rough Hay	S	Staffs
5	2305 2422	footpath	Anslow	E	Staffs
6	2303 2466	Lower Outwoods Road	Anslow common	S	Staffs
7	2336 2520	Field Lane	Anslow common	S	Staffs
8	2360 2543	Kitling Greaves Lane	Upper Outwoods	N	Staffs
9	2366 2556	Tutbury Road	Tutbury	E	Staffs
10	2409 2573	Rolleston Road	Rolleston	E	Staffs
11	2436 2567	SW corner, Horninglow Park	Bitham Lane, Stretton	E	Staffs
12	2457 2554	footpath to Stretton	Stretton		Staffs
	2488 2538	<i>Trent and Mersey Canal</i>			

13	2510 2524	Horninglow Branch railway	Derby Road	E	Staffs
14	2542 2503 2588 2484	Derby Road <i>River Trent</i>	Clay Mills	E	Staffs
15	2641 2427	Newton Road	Newton Solney	E	Staffs
16	2712 2389	Wheatley Lane	Bladon Hill	W	Derbs
17	2761 2360	Hawfield Lane	Bretby	S	Derbs
18	2775 2372	lane to Common Farm	Common Farm	S	Derbs
19	2769 2285	Bretby Lane	Bretby	S	Derbs
20	2782 2255	Ashby Road	Woodville	N	Derbs
21	2756 2238	Brizlincote Lane	Stanton	N	Staffs
22	2636 2211	end of Woods Lane	Newhall	S	Staffs
23	2632 2065	Stanton Road	Overseal	S	Derbs
24	2514 2044	Rosliston Road	Rosliston	N	Derbs
25	2455 2103 2449 2107	Waterside Road <i>River Trent</i>	Drakelow	N	Derbs

Key to Columns:

- A Post number on location map.
- B National Grid Reference (all SK). Plotted either on 1:25 000 (Explorer Map), Ordnance Survey online mapping, or handheld GPS locator.
- C General location of post.
- D Destination of road, lane, track or path leading from town.
- E Location of post beside route by cardinal compass point.
- F Historical county.

'Burton-upon-Trent: Local government', in *A History of the County of Stafford: Volume 9, Burton-Upon-Trent*, ed. Nigel J Tringham (London, 2003)

¹ Served from 1094 to 1114. Formerly of Winchester, he began building the west end of the church.

² Colin C Owen, *Burton upon Trent. The Development of Industry*, (1978)

³ Colin C Owen, *Burton upon Trent. The Illustrated History*, (1994).

⁴ For the incorporation of the town as a Municipal Borough, later to become a County Borough (1901 to 1974).

⁵ 'Britannia foundry in Horninglow Street was established by Philip Halbard and Joseph Wright in 1850. The business was failing by 1870, and the foundry had evidently been closed by 1879.' *Burton-upon-Trent: Local government*, in *A History of the County of Stafford: Volume 9, Burton-upon-Trent*, ed. Nigel J Tringham (London, 2003)

⁶ 1: 2,500 scale County Series sheets: Staffordshire XL.8, XL.11, XL.12, XL.15, XLI.9, XLI.13; and Derbyshire LVII.9, LVII.14, LIX.4, LX.1. Also 10,000 National Grid Series, 1:25,000 First Series, and East Staffordshire Website mapping (OS).

⁷ I have not sought any *unpublished* sources, not knowing where any relevant documents might be held.

⁸ <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3987097>

⁹ The North Staffordshire, known locally as the 'Jinny' line.

¹⁰ <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4142107>

¹¹ Probably a stone estate or parish boundary post of medieval or post-medieval date. It is depicted on OS County Series mapping.

¹² <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4142126>

¹³ <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4142112>