

MINES AND BOUNDARY STONES AT CARSINGTON PASTURE

R. Slack

Abstract: The possible origin of two engraved stones on Carsington Pasture is suggested by entries in seventeenth century lot and cope accounts.

There are two engraved gritstones on Carsington Pasture whose exact function has not been known, though it has seemed likely that they were boundary stones of some sort. One, collapsed, lies on the south of the Pasture at 2440 5390, the other stands on the Carsington side of the Brassington/Carsington parish boundary wall near Picking Pitts Gate, at SK 24075430. The stones are 13 x 14 inches in section. The parish boundary stone stands 2 feet high, though its true height is probably 2 feet 8 inches, judging by the collapsed stone, which has a 19 inch high base and a stem of 2 feet 8 inches. Both stones have rounded tops. The north face of the parish boundary stone has the well-carved letter G, the east and south faces have W. The western face, against the wall, is blank. The upward-facing side of the collapsed stone, which lies northeast/southwest, with its base at the southwest, has the letters CW, while the left and right faces have CW and W respectively.

A clue as to the origin of the stones has been found in a single page of "Carsington Liberty" lot and cope accounts for May-June 1682. The page is stitched into a book of accounts for the Wirksworth liberty covering the years 1692-98 (Derbyshire Record Office D258/42/21). The mines named in the Carsington accounts are on Carsington Pasture and in Hopton parish and include some which were still being worked in the nineteenth century. There are four entries which mention either the "Hayward stone" or "Hayward Stone grove"

	Grove	Offfall	Lots
Margt. Alsoppe & ptnrs freed ye first taker Northward att John Lanes founder on Carsington Picking Pitts neere to ye Hayward Stone June 1st	6-7	1-5	0-5
Old Hayward stone grove	0-3	0-2	0-0
Widd. Wright grove below Hayward stone 23 [June]	1-6	0-4	0-1
Old Haywardston grove	0-7	0-2	0-0

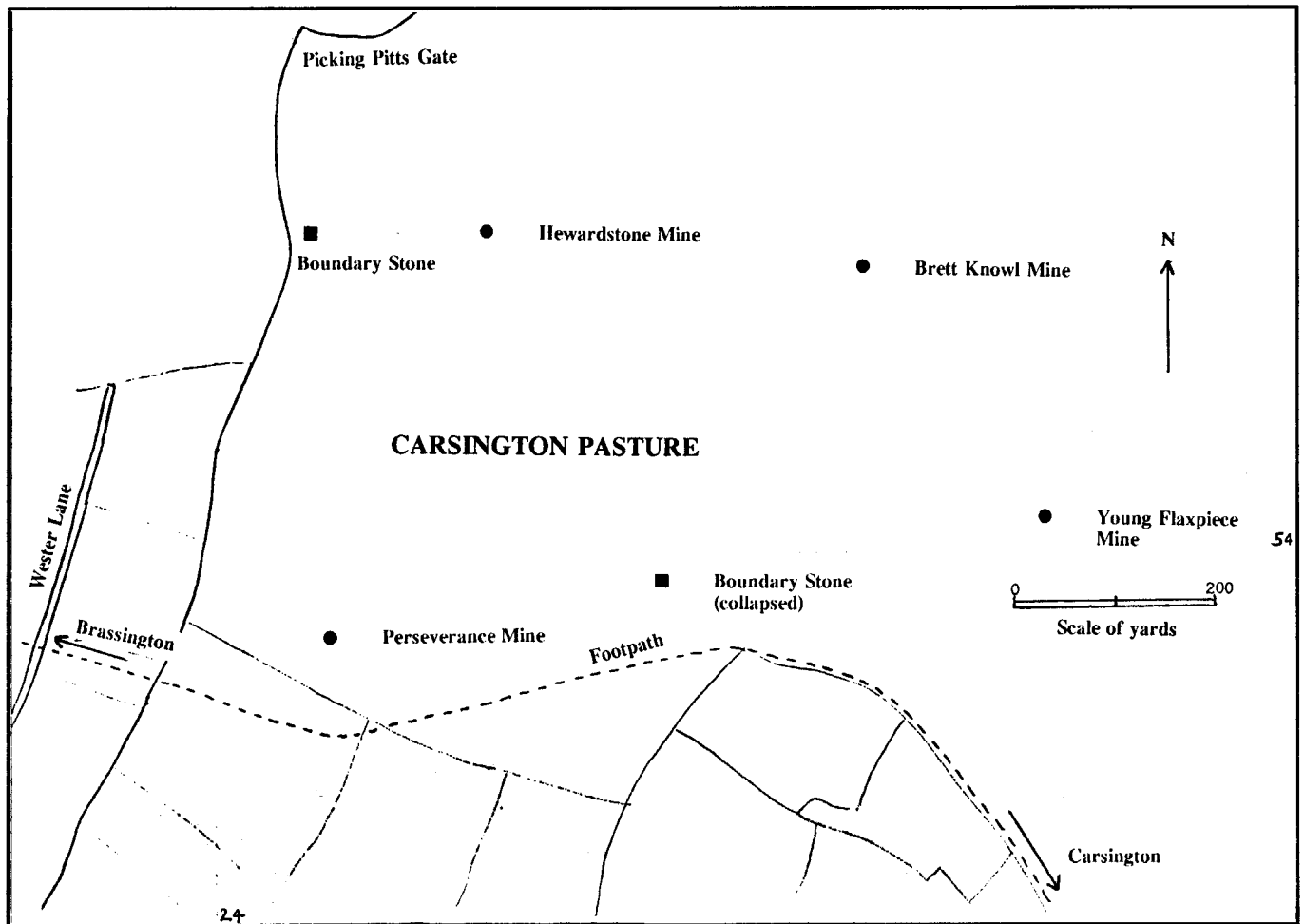
Hayward Stone is likely to have been the original name of the mine called Hewardstone, which is situated at SK 24265430, about two hundred yards from the stone near the parish boundary.

"Hayward" was the title of the manorial official whose job it was to mark and maintain boundaries and to deliver straying animals to his colleague the "pintnar", to be penned in the "pinfold" until their owners retrieved them on payment of a fine. Although the Carsington Pasture stones are both more recent than 1682 it seems probable that they were placed in the same positions as earlier boundary markers erected by Carsington's medieval hayward. The letters carved on them remains a mystery.



(Above) The still-standing Hayward Stone south of Picking Pitts Gate.

(Below) The fallen stone on the south of the Pasture.



An incidental point of interest about this fragment of Carsington accounts is that it was written by the same man who kept the Wirksworth accounts in which it is enclosed. It seems that in 1682 the Wirksworth liberty and the one known earlier, and later, as Brassington liberty, or at least the Carsington Pasture part of it, were the responsibility of the same barmaster

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R. Slack.