

BROUGHTON HENGE



In the garden at the Toll bar Cottage is the Broughton Henge comprising of three stones and a bench all of which have particular significance to the Cottage.

The pointed stone



This stone was found in the hedge to the south of the entrance to the Cottage. When it was removed it was not buried very deeply and as a result it was agreed it had been moved there from another site.

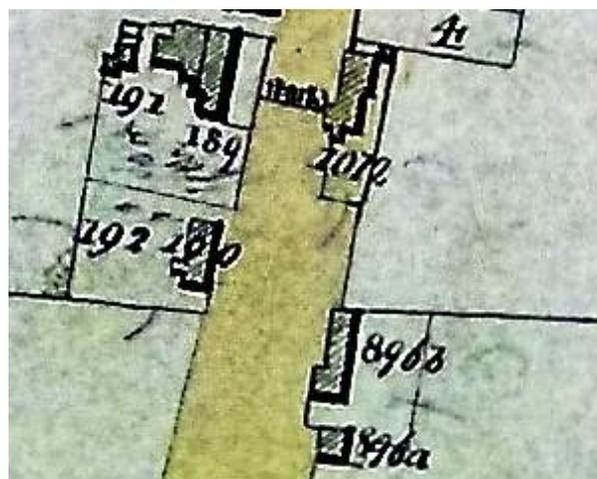
It has chisel marks and a series of holes where it has been used over the years as a gate post...but it also has some marks that are carved. Was it an old milestone or has been speculated a gravestone.

The paddock post



This was originally situated to the west of the cottage and was the gate post to the donkey paddock where the development is taking place. On removal it was buried to about 2 foot so this has probably always been there. The square hole was where before gates were hinged the bar would have been pushed through. It is a worked stone probably dating from the mid-18th Century when the cottage was built.

The toll bar



This is the 1839 Tithe map for Broughton which shows the Cottage as 1072 with the gate clearly marked across the road.

Tenon headed toll bar post



This had been the been one of the gateposts for Park House for the last 50 years, but before that it was the Toll Barr Gate post and before that.....It is known as a "Tenon head post" a type of post only found in central Lancashire. These post are generally accepted as dating to the 15th or 16th century with many theories as to the function. The Tenon may have been used as a hitching point for a rope used to fasten a gate. The height of the Tenon would suggest that it would be easy for a horse rider to reach without dismounting. The Tenon topped gatepost may have been used to indicate land use or ownership. It is possible that an inverted wooden 'T' could have been placed on the Tenon to give the impression of a cross from a distance and quickly removed in times of trouble. these posts used as a method of marking a prescribed route for certain people to follow such as drovers or cattle herder moving livestock around the district. So an example of early recycling.

The actual gate site is shown on the tithe map. It was a "stout barrier", "five bar gate" so "beasts" could not go under or over. The posts were of stone the side with the hinges being "a good foot higher than the "clinch post". Some early gates had no hinges and were lifted across each time they were opened.

Finally **the stone bench** brings us up to date this was purchased locally and was the inspiration for the Henge....

Our thanks to Pillars Development for removing the Tenon & pointed posts and storing them, to Vista developments for moving the post and erecting the Henge, Ribblesdale nurseries for providing the bench & Chris for his expertise on Tenon stones.