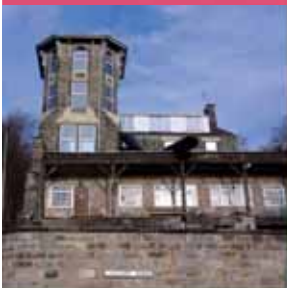


MATLOCK WALKING TRAILS 3 AND 4

Matlock Bank

Hydro Heritage Trails



Trail 3

The Smedley and Rockside
Figure-of-Eight

Page 6



Trail 4

The Bailey's Tump and
JacksonTor Loop

Page 22



**Matlock Civic
Association**



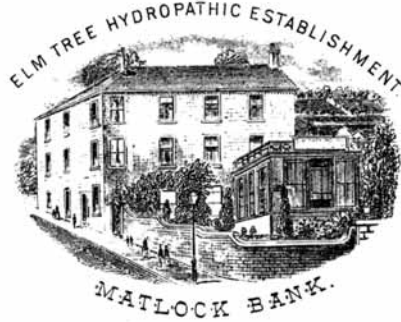
Malvern House c1893 Point 21



Rock Side c1893 Point 25



Bridge Hall c1893 Point 42



Elm Tree c1893 Point 15



Oldham House and Prospect Place Hydro postmarked 1912 Point 29a/29b



Matlock House c1893 Point 14

MATLOCK BANK-

THE SMEDLEY CONNECTION

The Early Days

Matlock Bank is the name given to the hillside north east of Crown Square (Matlock Town Centre); an area more or less bounded by Imperial Road, Woolley Road, Far Green, Cavendish Road, the western end of Asker Lane, Bull Lane, the lower part of Chesterfield Road, the upper part of Steep Turnpike and Lime Grove Walk. The junction of Bank Road/Rutland Street with Smedley Street may be considered its centre. As recently as the late 1840s, the 'Bank' was very rural. Apart from a cluster of cottages in the Cobden Road/Wellington Street area, a few properties along what is now Smedley Street and one or two farms, it was mostly divided into fields.

This was to change rapidly, largely as a consequence of the success of one man, local textile entrepreneur **John Smedley** (1803-1874). In 1818, Smedley's father moved the family hosiery business from Wirksworth to Lea Mills at Lea Bridge (3 miles SE of Matlock). The business ran into difficulties but was rescued by young John who, having taken control possibly as early as 1823, adapted the stocking frame to handle wool. This, together with hard work and good management, enabled Smedley to create a highly successful enterprise.

In 1846 he married Caroline, a vicar's daughter from Wirksworth. On returning from honeymoon in Europe, Smedley was very ill. As conventional medicine had little effect, he was persuaded to go to Ben Rhydding (now part of Ilkley) in Yorkshire for hydropathic treatment. **Hydrotherapy** is the treatment of illness by the external application of water to the body by means of sponges, wet sheets, baths and douches. This treatment not only cured him; it fascinated him.

As a result, he set up a hydropathic hospital at Lea Bridge, where members of his own workforce - and others - could be treated. However, Smedley wasn't the only local person with an interest in the water treatment. In 1851, a **Ralph Davis** (who had hitherto been practicing hydrotherapy in people's homes)

opened a small hydro on Matlock Bank. The two men joined forces but in 1853, the mill owner bought out his partner and **Smedley's Hydro** was born.

The Growth of Matlock Bank

Leaving Lea Mills in the care of a manager, Smedley, assisted by Caroline, concentrated on his newly acquired hydro. The business developed rapidly and became very profitable as wealthy clients from all over England came to **Smedley's** (Point 34, Trail 3) for treatment. As John Smedley did not believe that the 'hydropathic cure' should be available only for the wealthy, he encouraged - indeed assisted - his bathmen to open their own smaller establishments to cater for people who were less well off.

At the same time, Ralph Davis remained firmly in the hydro picture, establishing South View Cottage (situation uncertain) around 1857 and then Chesterfield House (Point F, Trail 4). It is interesting to note that Davis's two brothers, Thomas and George - both former bathmen at Smedley's - also founded hydropathic establishments on Matlock Bank (See Point 29, Trail 3; and Point K, Trail 4); as did a number of business men from out of the local area. Consequently, the number of hydros on the 'Bank' increased at an astonishing rate. In 1860, there were no more than six or seven such establishments; by 1898, there were possibly as many as thirty!

This had a knock-on effect. The hydros needed staff. The staff and their families needed houses. Both the local residents and the hydro clients required churches, shops and services. As a result, the eastern side of Bank Road was now lined with properties, New Street and Wellington Street had become residential areas, and Smedley Street itself had emerged as the Bank's shopping and business centre. Within 50 years, Matlock Bank had thus been transformed from a rural backwater into a notable inland resort, served by train (to Matlock Bridge) and cable tramway (to the top of Rutland Street).



Matlock – The Administrative Centre

Matlock Bank's heyday came to an end with the outbreak of the First World War. The dates of closure of many hydros are not recorded, but the war must have taken its toll. It is clear that by the 1920s and 30s, the popularity of hydrotherapy had declined to such an extent that most hydros in Matlock had gone out of business. There were however, four notable exceptions. **Lilybank** (Point 3, Trail 3) became a hotel in 1950; **Chatsworth** (Point G, Trail 4), **Rockside** (Point 25, Trail 3) and **Oldham House/Prospect Place** (Points 29a & 29b, Trail 3) survived until the Second World War (when Rockside & Oldham House/Prospect Place were commissioned for wartime use); whilst **Smedley's** (Point 34, Trail 3) itself - which was also requisitioned by the Military - reopened after the war, but closed in 1955.

At the time, the offices of **Derbyshire County Council** were located at St Mary's Gate, Derby, in premises which were rather cramped with little room for expansion. Local County Councillor and M.P. Alderman Charles White (1891 -1956) realized that the former hydro would be suitable for the Authority's needs and initiated the relocation of the County Headquarters from Derby to Matlock. The move took place the following year (1956). As a result of this change, Matlock began a new lease of life as the administrative centre for Derbyshire; a role which it still enjoys. Most of Matlock Bank is now designated as a

conservation area, whose properties include a wide variety of late nineteenth century architectural features.



North Block & Connecting Bridge overlooking Smedley Street (Point 17)



John and Caroline Smedley

John Smedley's Legacy

Although **Smedley's Hydro/County Hall** (Point 34, Trail 3) is arguably John Smedley's major legacy, it is far from the only reminder of his impact on the local community. The manufacture of high quality knitwear continues to this day at **Lea Mills**, the business which he so successfully rescued. We must not forget, either, that John Smedley was a man with strong religious convictions.

In his spare time, he not only travelled the local area as an independent non-conformist preacher, but also built a number of **chapels** in various villages around Matlock. And in addition, he designed and supervised the building of his future residence, the flamboyant **Riber Castle** (described in Trail 1; see separate booklet), which perhaps shows another side of his character. This pseudo castle - built between 1862 and 1868 - overlooks Matlock from its lofty position at the top of Riber Hill, and may be seen from various locations on Trails 3 and 4.



THE MATLOCK CABLE TRAMWAY (1893–1927)

The emergence of Matlock Bank as a hydropathic centre during the latter half of the nineteenth century encouraged a desire for continued growth. The **railway station** at Matlock Bridge provided a link with both London (from 1849) and Manchester (1863), and there was every reason to believe that Matlock would develop into a major inland resort. Job Smith, of Malvern House Hydro (Point 21, Trail 3) had seen the trams in San Francisco and suggested as early as 1862 that a **tramway up Bank Road and Rutland Street** - connecting the railway station at Matlock Bridge with Matlock Bank - would be useful for both local residents and visitors to the hydros.



Former Tram Depot (Point 27)

His idea came to fruition in 1885 when the Matlock Cable Tramway Company was formed, following the interest of **George Newnes**. This wealthy publisher, a native of Matlock Bath, had already financed the cliff railway between Lynmouth and Lynton (his adopted home

town). The directors of the new tramway company included both Newnes and Smith (who was ultimately to become manager), together with Dr William Bell Hunter (of Smedley's Hydro; Point 34, Trail 3), Charles Rowland (of Rockside Hydro; Point 25, Trail 3) and the project's civil engineer, G Croydon Marks.

The new facility opened in 1893, complete with engine-house and maintenance depot (Point 27, Trail 3). Five years later, Newnes bought out his co-shareholders and presented the tramway to the people of Matlock. It survived until 1927 when it was superseded by petrol buses, whose route network served a much larger area than that of the trams.

THE HYDRO HERITAGE TRAILS (Matlock Walking Trails 3 and 4*)

Both trails use minor roads and footpaths (sometimes with steps) to include many former hydros, churches, the old tramway depot and various other buildings and sites of interest, together with a number of excellent vantage points from which there are fine views of the surrounding countryside.



Smedley Street Park (Point 8)

Trail 3, The Smedley and Rockside Figure-of-Eight, covers the central and lower parts of Matlock Bank including the area which was once served by the Matlock Cable Tramway. As far as possible, given that Matlock Bank is a steeply sloping hillside, Trail 3 has been designed to avoid exhausting climbs. The first leg of the Trail (which is also its steepest) may be avoided altogether by taking the bus to the first point of interest.

Trail 4, The Bailey's Tump and Jackson Tor Loop, connects various points of interest which are located towards and around the **margins** of the Matlock Bank area. Starting and finishing at the Duke of Wellington public house (less than a mile from the town centre and easily reached by bus), The Loop consists of level sections linked by steep, but relatively short gradients. As the Trail 4 route between the eastern and western parts of the Bank inevitably passes through some of the territory covered by Trail 3, **it is strongly recommended that the latter (i.e. The Smedley and Rockside Figure-of-Eight) is completed before The Loop is undertaken.**

*Matlock Walking Trails 1 and 2 (The Matlock Level Trail and The Old Matlock Loop) are published in a separate booklet.

TRAIL 3 -

MATLOCK BANK HYDRO HERITAGE TRAIL - THE SMEDLEY AND ROCKSIDE FIGURE-OF-EIGHT A MAP CAN BE FOUND ON THE CENTRE PAGES

Approximate distance: 2¼ miles

Time: Allow around 2½ hours

Please note that this trail may be shortened by approximately 45 minutes by omitting points 22 to 33.

Buildings and locations marked with asterisks** are described in Trail 1, The Matlock Level Trail. See separate booklet.

Abbreviations: c – about (the time of);
O.S. - Ordnance Survey (Map)

If you wish to avoid the initial climb to Point 1, use the Stagecoach Route 17 (Chesterfield) bus from Matlock town centre. Alight at Limes Close bus stop (where the walking route via Dene Fields joins from the left; see below) and walk the short distance along Lime Tree Road to Point 1.

*The Smedley and Rockside Figure of Eight starts and finishes in Crown Square**, in front of the entrance to Hall Leys Park** opposite the Tourist Information Centre.*

*On entering the park, walk to the left of the old tram shelter/clock tower** and proceed through the gardens; joining Causeway Lane via the exit ramp adjacent to the toilets. Cross Causeway Lane at the refuge by the mini roundabout and walk along Steep Turnpike, with the former cinema** on your right. 55 metres beyond the junction with New Street, cross Steep Turnpike (with care) to take the narrow footpath on the right, which is tightly squeezed between a wall and a hedge.*

*Having crossed another path, carry on straight ahead up the hillside known as Dene Fields. Turn round at the seat near the top for a good view of the war memorial** (above and to the left of the football ground) and Masson Hill, which*

rises to 325m SW of the town centre. Beyond the seat, our path levels out before joining the busy Lime Tree Road at the Limes Close bus stop. Turn left here and follow the road, which soon curves to the right. Just beyond the curve, Steep Turnpike joins from the left. Pause at the junction and look across Steep Turnpike towards:

1. Belle View (formerly Bell Vue Hydro)

Special features of this large rectangular three-storey building include distinctive 'string' courses at sill level and tall chimneys projecting through the property's hipped roof. Founded by a Mr & Mrs Stevenson, the hydro was run on Smedley's principles. Advertisements for Bell Vue during Matlock's hydropathic 'boom' included the words 'Established 1860'; a date which no doubt referred to an earlier establishment (probably a small homestead situated below Rockside; Point 25) founded by the same proprietors. The property is now divided into apartments.



Former Bell Vue Hydro

Cross the top of Steep Turnpike and proceed up Chesterfield Road. (Lime Tree Road becomes Chesterfield Road at the top of Steep Turnpike.) A few metres beyond the fire station (on the right), a private drive loops round to the left, rejoining Chesterfield Road 80 metres ahead. This leads to a couple of buildings (in addition to the modern nursery unit) which have been joined since 1923.

Please do not walk down the drive (which is not a public right of way) but continue up Chesterfield Road in order to take a look at the lower of the two buildings, which may be seen through a gap between house numbers 21 & 23:

2. The Gables

This property, with its steeply pitched roof and decorative ridge tiles, was the home of Robert Wildgoose, the Methodist preacher and business man who managed Lea Mills for John Smedley. (Wildgoose subsequently became Chairman of the company which took over Smedley's Hydro after the founder's death.) In 1922, The



The Gables

Gables was purchased by the owners of Lilybank Hydro (adjacent), who linked the two buildings with a ballroom (the section with the lantern roof) the following year (See Point 3).

Proceed to the upper entrance/exit of the drive (to the right of number 23), from where there is a direct view of:

3. Lilybank

(formerly Dalefield /Lilybank Hydro)

Dalefield Hydro was opened in 1890 by George & Mrs Barton (previously of Jackson House; Point K, Trail 4) and guests here at that time - unlike those at Smedley's - were not compelled to follow a strict regime. Right from the start it catered for families and visitors, offering a range of facilities befitting any hotel. Attractively designed in the Gothic and Romanesque style with various gables and ornamentation, this handsome building was renamed Lilybank Hydro around 1906/7.

It appears that in 1919 Mr & Mrs John Kay, former managers at Chesterfield House Hydro (Point F, Trail 4), may have used an inheritance to take over the Lilybank, which remained open throughout both world wars. After 1950, Lilybank operated as a hotel for a number of years. In 1962, it was purchased by the Sisters of the Presentation Convent (formerly Chesterfield House; Point F, Trail 4) for use as the Nagle Preparatory School. The school, which was named after Nano Nagle (1718-84) the Irish founder of the Presentation Convent, closed in 1990. Five years later, the former hydro was converted into a care home.



Former Dalefield / Lilybank Hydro

Immediately beyond the top Lilybank entrance (below the junction of Chesterfield Road with Smedley Street) is the:

4. Assembly of God Church

This church occupies the former Sunday School building (1902) of a Congregational Church, which was demolished in 1970.

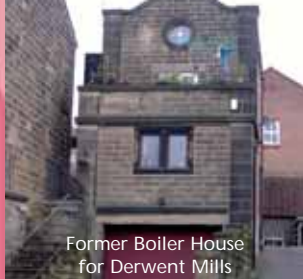
Bear left into Smedley Street. On the left, opposite Springfield Rise, is a large apartment block known as:



Assembly of God Church

5. Cavendish Mill

The OS Map of 1899 indicates that the older block of this property (the one furthest away from the road) has evolved from the premises of Cavendish School, which appears to have



Former Boiler House
for Derwent Mills



Former Spring Villa Hydro



South-West Front
Cavendish Mill

survived until at least 1918. Some time after this date, the building became a small textile mill; hence its present name. The premises were occupied by The Amber Light Engineering Company between 1964 and 2001, after which they were converted into apartments - complete with new wing (facing the road).

Stop at the drive entrance to Cavendish Mill and look across the road (to the right) towards an unusual property, which is set back from the highway and currently named:

6. The Cottage (formerly the Boiler House)

This tall but rather narrow building, with a circular window in its gable end, is thought to date from around 1925. It was originally designed as a boiler house for Derwent Mills (See Point 9) on the site of an outbuilding of Spring Villa (Point 7). The ground floor garage is likely to have been the coal store. Following several years of neglect prior to 1993, it was refurbished (along with Spring Villa) and converted into a residence.

To the left of The Cottage is:

7. Old Mill House (formerly Spring Villa Hydro)

Said to date from around 1890, Spring Villa Hydropathic Establishment was owned by a Mrs Louisa Wheeldon. The property was subsequently purchased by Derwent Mills (See Point 9), possibly around 1912, for use as company offices. However, following the acquisition of Derwent Mills by Paton and Baldwin, it is thought that the former hydro was used as a workshop in which angora rabbit

yarn was repaired by hand. Skylights were installed in the roof in order to 'receive the clear northern light' for this purpose. When Paton & Baldwin closed, the building became derelict, but has since been restored as a private residence following its purchase by a specialist builder in 1993.

Notice the old stone horse trough set into the wall below Old Mill House – a reminder that local springs originally supplied the water for the hydros and other properties on Matlock Bank. Pass through the gateway on the left (opposite Mill House) into:

8. Smedley Street Park

In approximately 1889, Matlock Urban District Council purchased the land here for use as a public amenity.

Walk through the park, keeping parallel with the road before taking the first exit back into Smedley Street. Look out for traffic as you cross the road to the junction with:

9. Victoria Hall Gardens

This 1990s residential development occupies the former sites of the Victoria Hall Complex and Derwent Mills. The Hall itself, which could accommodate 700 people, was opened by Victor Cavendish, M.P. in 1896 and seems to have remained in use until around 1911. The whole site extended over 3.5 acres and included a gymnasium, swimming pool (within the hall), roller-skating rink, tennis courts, a bowling green and gardens. A small part of these gardens still survives, contained within a strip of land overlooking

Smedley Street and accessed a metre or two back from the eastern (right-hand) side of the junction.

On the hall's closure, the complex was



Victoria Hall Gardens



Numbers 57, 59 & 61
Smedley Street

purchased by Frederick Broome*, who founded Derwent Mills (incorporating Victoria Hall) on the site. Soon after the outbreak of the First World War, his factory was producing items such as balaclavas, gloves and uniform cloth for the military. With the war over, Derwent Mills switched its production to fine woollen underwear as well as garments made from *Furida*, a yarn spun from angora rabbit wool. Some time around 1829, Broome sold his business to Paton & Baldwin, who continued production until 1989. It is interesting to note that Victoria Hall actually survived until 1992, when it was demolished (along with the other factory buildings) to make way for the new housing.

*Frederick Broome, a partner at a local mill, had been a former employee at Lea Mills. (See *John Smedley's Legacy* on page four.)

Cross the end of Victoria Hall Gardens and walk towards another old stone trough on the right - just beyond the junction. Then return to the south (left-hand) side of Smedley Street, continuing for about 42 metres beyond the top of Henry Avenue. Stop by the first former shop front (Number 43) on the left and then proceed slowly along the pavement in order to take a look at a couple of contrasting properties on the far (right-hand) side of the road:

10. Numbers 56 and 58, Smedley Street

Number 56 is one of the older properties on Matlock Bank, having a date stone of 1748. Set back from the highway, this is a typical 18th century cottage - stone built, with stone-coped gables and windows made up of small panes. Its much larger next door neighbour (Number 58) to the left has a front of dressed stone, arched lintels, brick end walls and a hipped roof through which chimneys project. The date stone reads 1894.

Also on the right, a little further along is:

11. Number 60, Smedley Street (formerly Woodbine Hydro)

This relatively large but rather plain three-storey building is now divided into flats. It seems likely that the property was once known as Woodbine *Villa*, dating from at least 1880; and it is almost certainly the former Woodbine Hydro, run by a 'Professor' Thomas Alexander, assisted by his wife. Although baths 'of every kind' were available at Woodbine, a prospectus of 1894 indicates that the 'Professor' was also concerned with 'botanic remedies'; advising potential patients that 'medicines (are) sent to all parts of the world'.



Former Woodbine Hydro

Continue to a point opposite, but just beyond the second entrance into a motor service garage, cross the road and look back from the front of Numbers 64 & 66 in order to obtain an adequate view of:

12. Numbers 57, 59 and 61, Smedley Street

This 'twin' three-storey block is typical of a number of properties which reflect the growing importance of Smedley Street as a late nineteenth-century shopping area for affluent hydro visitors. Notice the former shop fronts which face the pavement, bays at first floor level and ornate second floor windows, over which the inscriptions read 'S & SD' and '1897'. Such properties, built along the steep slope of the hillside, have a lower ground floor at the back.

Return to, and continue along the south (left-hand) side of Smedley Street to the cross roads. On the right, at the junction of Smedley Street with Rutland Street, is a pub known as:



Former Matlock House Hydro

13. The Gate

Built in 1869, The Gate had a livery stable by the 1890s. It was not uncommon for guests at Smedley's Hydro (Point 34), where alcohol was not permitted, to use The Gate – otherwise known as *The Vicarage* – as a welcome retreat. The O. S. Map of 1899 indicates that a tramway passing loop was located at the cross-roads. Passengers for Smedley's would alight here.

Facing The Gate, cross Smedley Street with care and walk a short distance up the right-hand side of Rutland Street. Pause at the entrance to

The Gate's private car park. Having noticed the external stone staircase attached to an outbuilding once associated with the livery yard, look up the hill (Rutland Street). 90 metres ahead, on the right overlooking The Gate, is:



The Gate

14. Rutland Court (formerly Matlock House Hydro)

This large rectangular three-storey building, with its distinctive bracketed eaves, dormer windows, tall chimneys and lavish interior opened in 1863 as Manchester House, having been founded by a Mr Lee, a spirits merchant from that city. However its name was soon changed to Matlock House Hydro which, by 1866, rivalled Smedley's (Point 34) in size with 54 bedrooms. Following financial problems, the hydro appears to have been sold in that year to a Mr Nichols, but was managed by Charles Rowland of Rockside (Point 25). The building was used to accommodate the Matlock Modern School in the 1930s and more recently, the local offices of the Inland Revenue. It has since been converted into apartments.

Look behind and to the left of Rutland Court (on the uphill side) for a glimpse of:

15. Numbers 70-74, Rutland Street (formerly Elm Tree Hydro)

Dating from 1862, this plain and much smaller three-storey establishment was opened by a Mr William Bramald and catered for 25 guests. Although originally detached, a look at the appropriate O.S. Map reveals that it was joined to Rutland Court (Point 14) by 1899. The property is now divided into flats.

Cross Rutland Street and return to Smedley Street noticing en route the small, but elaborately decorated date stone of 1889 over the corner doorway of Central Buildings (opposite The Gate). Also of note - around the corner to the right - are a couple of shop windows (facing Smedley Street) with ornamental stone surrounds.

The huge building which dominates the left-hand side of Smedley Street is the principal block of County Hall (formerly Smedley's Hydro). Various views of the front of County Hall, together with more information, will be found at Point 34. Continue along the right-hand side of Smedley Street for about 50 metres; cross the road and stand by the Smedley Street entrance to County Hall (Main Block). Just inside are:

16. The John Smedley Memorial Window and Staircase, County Hall (formerly Smedley's Hydro)

If you wish to see the window (during normal working hours), please ask at the Reception Desk. The staircase and impressive stained glass window, which rise through three floors, were designed and constructed by Shrigley and Hunt



Former Laundry Smedley's Hydro



West Wing, Former Smedley's Hydro



Central Tower, Former Smedley's Hydro



Former Winter Gardens
Smedley's Hydro

between 1880 and 1882. The window's features include representations of Hygeia, the Goddess of Health; Esculapius, the Greek God of Medicine; Jesus and St John at the Pool of Bethesda; and three female figures representing Pure Air, Pure Water and Exercise. Its staggering cost (at that time) of £380 was raised by public subscription. A plaque commemorating the opening of the County Offices (now County Hall) in 1956 may be seen just inside the main door.

The entrances to the Main and North Blocks of County Hall face each other across Smedley Street. With your back to the entrance to the Main Block, look across the road to:

17. North Block, County Hall (formerly part of Smedley's Hydro)

Situated to the right of the present-day entrance to North Block is the former laundry, constructed in 1877. The O. S. map of 1899 indicates that a bridge (now demolished) linked the laundry block (with the arched windows) to the main building across the road. Extending to the far left of the entrance is the large North Block Annexe (with its delightfully embellished central section - complete with bay windows and plain, but functional wings). Begun in 1901 and extended in 1905 and again in 1910, this Annexe (which included shops as well as 116 bedrooms) was connected to its larger 'sister' by a twin storey bridge (the one nearest the entrance). A second bridge, linking the Annexe with Smedley's West Wing, was installed in 1930. Both are still in use.



North Block, Former Smedley's Hydro

Cross back to the right-hand side of the road and proceed along the north-eastern side of Smedley Street, with North Block on the right. Having passed underneath the first bridge, pause and look upwards, across the road to view the upper part of:

18. The West Wing & Central Tower, County Hall (formerly Smedley's Hydro)

The castellated gritstone West Wing, completed in 1867, stands today as John Smedley's contribution to Matlock's largest building. The central tower, topped by the chateau-style slate-covered pyramid, complete with 'coronet', dates from 1883, nine years after the founder's death. The lower roof, with its pair of distinctive cupolas, was that of the hydro's 500-seater dining hall (now the Council Chamber).

Pass beneath the second bridge and stop just beyond the end of the West Wing (left). Take a look across the road (over the wall) at:

19. The Former Winter Gardens, County Hall (formerly part of Smedley's Hydro complex)

Afternoon tea, accompanied by live piano music, was served to hydro guests in this glass-domed building which dates from 1901. During World War II, the Winter Gardens were used by the armed forces to display German uniforms, badges, signs and photographs for military recognition purposes (See Point 34).



Former Winter Gardens
Smedley's Hydro

The development on the right (at the junction of Wellington Street with Smedley Street) is named:



Former Premises of M. Wright & Sons



Shell Carving, Malvern House

20. Tinker's Place (formerly the premises of M. Wright & Sons)

Michael Wright founded an ironmongery business here in 1870. As well as being a general dealer, Wright was an engineer and tin & coppersmith, who originally manufactured douches and hydropathic baths for the hydros. His hardware shop, known locally as *Tinker Wright's*, survived until 2005 and the old shop front (directly opposite the Winter Gardens) has been preserved within the 2007/8 residential redevelopment. By contrast, at the far end of the 'new' block, is the distinctive corner tower, complete with conical roof.

Continue for a few metres to the point where Wellington Street joins from the right and look straight ahead across the junction. The fairly large building which faces Smedley Street at the far side of Smith Road is:

21. Malvern House (formerly Malvern House Hydro)

A former small hydro founded by Job Smith* (hence: Smith Road) around 1893, Malvern House Hydro consisted of the three-storey gable-fronted block (at the junction of Smith Road with Smedley Street) attached to the older two-storey building beyond. Of particular interest is the concave carving of a shell over the corner doorway.

The property was purchased by Smedley's Hydro at the end of the First World War to provide accommodation for resident staff. For many years after World War II, Malvern House was used as a furniture store, but in 2005 it was refurbished and considerably enlarged



Malvern House

(with the addition of the far wing) for use as high quality apartments.

*It is interesting to note that Job Smith was employed by John Smedley before opening his own hydro. (This, presumably, is the inspiration behind the name of Bathman's Cottage on a door to one of the units facing Smedley Street). Smith was also the man who originally suggested the idea of building a cable tramway to serve Matlock Bank. (See *The Matlock Cable Tramway* on page five.)

Please note that Trail 3 may be shortened (by approximately 45 minutes) by omitting Points 22 to 33. If you have insufficient time to walk the entire trail, return to the junction of Smedley Street with Bank Road, bear right down Bank Road and right again into the car park of County Hall (formerly Smedley's Hydro). Trail 3 may be rejoined here (Point 34).



Wellington Mews



37, Wellington Street

To continue along the full length of Trail 3, cross Wellington Street (with care!) and turn acutely right up the hill. Whilst passing Number 2 (the house on the right which is situated at the corner of Wellington Street with Hopewell Road), notice the date stone of 1889 above a first-floor window and the intricate floral carvings over the front door. A few metres beyond this property, also on the right, is a development known as:

22. Wellington Mews

It appears that the building (now considerably altered - on the upper side of the complex), whose gable end faces the street, once accommodated one of the area's last framework knitting establishments. It was owned by



Former Wildgoose Office Block

Crowder Johnson, who specialized in making underwear for both hydro patients and mail order customers (See Point 23).

Having continued up the hill beyond Wellington Mews, notice the old stone-surfaced alley veering away to the left, overlooked by the date stone of 1896 - high above the door of Number 31. Proceed to the junction with Jackson Road. The corner property on the left at the lower side of the junction is:

23. Number 37, Wellington Street

At one time, this was the home of Crowder Johnson. He started his framework knitting business in a workshop here before moving into larger premises (Point 22) down the street.

On the right-hand side of Wellington Street, opposite the junction with Jackson Road, is:

24. Matlock Bank House

(formerly Old Bank House Hydro)

Jonas Brown, a steward at Smedley's Hydro, opened Old Bank House Hydro in 1888 (although the building itself may have an earlier origin). A care home since the late 1980s, this property is largely hidden from view by a high wall.

Cross both the lower and higher exits of the Jackson Road junction, after which the road levels out. With a high wall on your left, walk along the footpath for about 35 metres. Cross Wellington Street here, and then look back across the road and upwards above the wall for a fine view of:

25. Rockside (formerly Rockside Hydro)

Rockside (at one time known as Rock Side) was opened by Charles Rowland (*1), a former patient at Smedley's, in 1862. Originating as a small concern, the establishment gradually increased in size and had at least one other owner (*2) before being purchased and considerably enlarged by the Goodwin family (of nearby Wolds Farm) around forty years later.

The superb six-storey tower block, complete

with two octagonal corner turrets and red-brick chimney stacks (all part of the 1901/05 Goodwin expansion), was designed by the locally-born architects Sir Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker (*3). The front of the older building, which is to the left of and behind the tower block, may be viewed more closely (but with some difficulty) from Rockside Steps (included in Trail 4, between points L & M).

Rockside was used as a military hospital during both world wars and specifically for RAF air crews suffering from combat fatigue during the Second World War. Isobel Barnett, destined to become a television celebrity in the 1950s and 60s, helped out here at this time. With the war over, Rockside closed and was subsequently sold to Derbyshire County Council for use as a hall of residence attached to Matlock Teachers' Training College (latterly Matlock College of Education), which opened in 1946. Following the closure of the college in 1988, the building - now with Grade II listed status - remained derelict before being enlarged and converted into apartments in 2004/5.

*1) Impressed with the treatment he received at Smedley's, Rowland opened a hydro of his own (near Swadlincote) prior to moving into Matlock. *2) In 1891, the proprietor was William Atkins of Darley Dale Hydro; later St Elphin's School/Park. *3) Parker & Unwin were prominent architects who designed the Rowntree Model Village (near York) and the first Garden City at Letchworth.

Cross back to the left-hand side of Wellington Street and, with the high wall still on your left, walk a few metres to a seat set back beneath an archway in the wall. From the seat, look diagonally across the junction with Rutland Street towards an access road - known as Wellfield - which joins from the



Former Rockside Hydro



left. The 1980s residential development on the lower side of the Wellfield track is known as:

26. Wellfield Court (formerly the Premises of Wildgoose, the Builders)

The original office block (now 1-11, Wellfield Court), just along the track, is easily recognized by the decorative stonework on its gable end; together with the arched window, complete with hood, which overlooks Wellfield. J.W. Wildgoose, the founder of the business, was responsible for much of the local building in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His family attended services at Bank Road Methodist Chapel and was friendly with Sir William Hartley, the jam manufacturer, who visited Smedley's Hydro. The building business, now known as Wildgoose Construction, relocated to Milltown (near Ashover) during the 1980s.

Continue a short distance up Wellington Street to a second recessed seat. Stop here and look diagonally back across the Rutland Street junction towards:

27. The Motor Vehicle Repair Garage (formerly the Depot of Matlock Tramway)

The steep gradient at the top of Rutland Street enables us to appreciate the late nineteenth century need for a tramway up Matlock Bank. In fact, the Matlock Cable Tramway - said to be the steepest of its kind on a public road - climbed over 300 feet in half a mile from the terminus at Matlock Bridge to this depot at the top of Rutland Street.

It was a 3½-foot gauge single-line route, with a passing loop at Smedley Street. Two steam engines (later replaced by gas engines) powered a continuous cable on a run-and-standby basis at the speed of 5½ miles per hour. The trams were attached to this cable by 'grippers' controlled by the drivers, so allowing each car to stop individually as required.

The whole operation was controlled from the

depot, which was built from local stone and opened in 1893. It included a waiting room, repair shop and accommodation for three double deck trams (on the upper level); together with an adjoining boiler room and engine house. The chimney, the base of which still survives, was one hundred feet high.



Former Tram Depot

Another survivor from the past and still attached to the building is the cast iron 'RUTLAND STREET' name sign. (See *The Matlock Cable Tramway* on page five.)

Ten metres beyond the second seat, look up to see these words painted on a gable end:

28. Rock Café Goodwin's Tea Rooms

In the days of the cable tramway, this former café - run by the Goodwins of Rockside - would, no doubt, have been a tempting retreat. The premises were used as a bookshop prior to the closure of Matlock College of Education. Notice the old enamelled 'WELLINGTON STREET' name sign at first floor level.

Walk another few metres up Wellington Street as far as the drive entrance to Rockside. Cross the road here; stop at the top of a flight of steps (adjacent to number 54); and then look back to the right of the Rockside drive. On the higher ground behind, and to the right of a third recessed seat are a couple of interesting properties:



Woodlands

29a. Woodlands and 29b. Ruatha Hold (formerly parts of Prospect Place & Oldham House Hydros; later Woodlands School)

It is far from clear exactly how this combined site developed. An old postcard indicates that the three-storey gabled house to the far right (now known as Woodlands) is the former Prospect Place. This hydro appears to have evolved from a small concern (known as 1, Prospect Terrace), which was opened with only three patients by the former framework knitter and ex-Smedley bathman Thomas Davis (*1) and his wife, Hannah, in 1859. By 1865, the hydro could accommodate about eighty patients, having been enlarged several times; and there is no reason to doubt that further expansion followed. Notice the impressive gate entrance to Woodlands, complete with wrought iron arch and lantern.

Ruatha Hold is the unusual residence (above the recessed seat) with intricate mouldings and a generously glazed room rising through the roof at second floor level. At one time part of Oldham House Hydro, it contained the boiler room on the ground floor, with the dining hall above. Old photographs suggest that the 'Ruatha Hold' and 'Prospect Place' blocks used to be linked by a single-storey unit, part of which still survives as an extension to Woodlands.

The main Oldham House block (now demolished) was situated behind and mainly to the left of where Ruatha Hold currently stands. It was opened in 1890 by Davis's daughter, Mrs Rachel Wildgoose and her husband John, of the local family firm of builders (See Point 26). Following Davis's death in 1891, the Wildgooses ran - and subsequently amalgamated - the two hydros. Both names, however, continued to be used.

The name 'Oldham' was chosen on account of the fact that a number of clients were from that town. It is thought that a relative of the Wildgooses may have promoted the family's hydro business whilst working in the printing

trade there. Throughout the 1920s, the continuing success of Oldham & Prospect Hydro Co. Ltd (now managed by the Wildgooses' son, Lubin John) enabled various improvements to be made. We are advised that the establishment had beds for around one hundred 'guests' - not 'patients'; a clear sign that its role was changing from that of a hydro to that of a hotel. Unfortunately, difficult times lay ahead as the Second World War approached.

In 1939, Oldham House was commandeered by the RAF to house the nurses employed at Rockside (Point 25); whilst Prospect Place became the living quarters of the male staff. After the war, the Wildgoose family sold the complex to the White sisters (*2), Winifred (Mrs Dimmock) and Annie (Mrs Hyde), for use as a school. This was named Woodlands School, after Winifred's home (The Woodlands) on Bakewell Road, Matlock, where she and one or two colleagues were already teaching about forty children.

Following the school's closure in 1965, the former hydro served for a time as a conference centre for an evangelical movement. Although much of the complex was demolished during the late 1970s to make way for new housing, the buildings now known as Ruatha Hold and Woodlands survived; providing accommodation for Matlock College Students' Union (See Point 25) before their conversion into private residences.

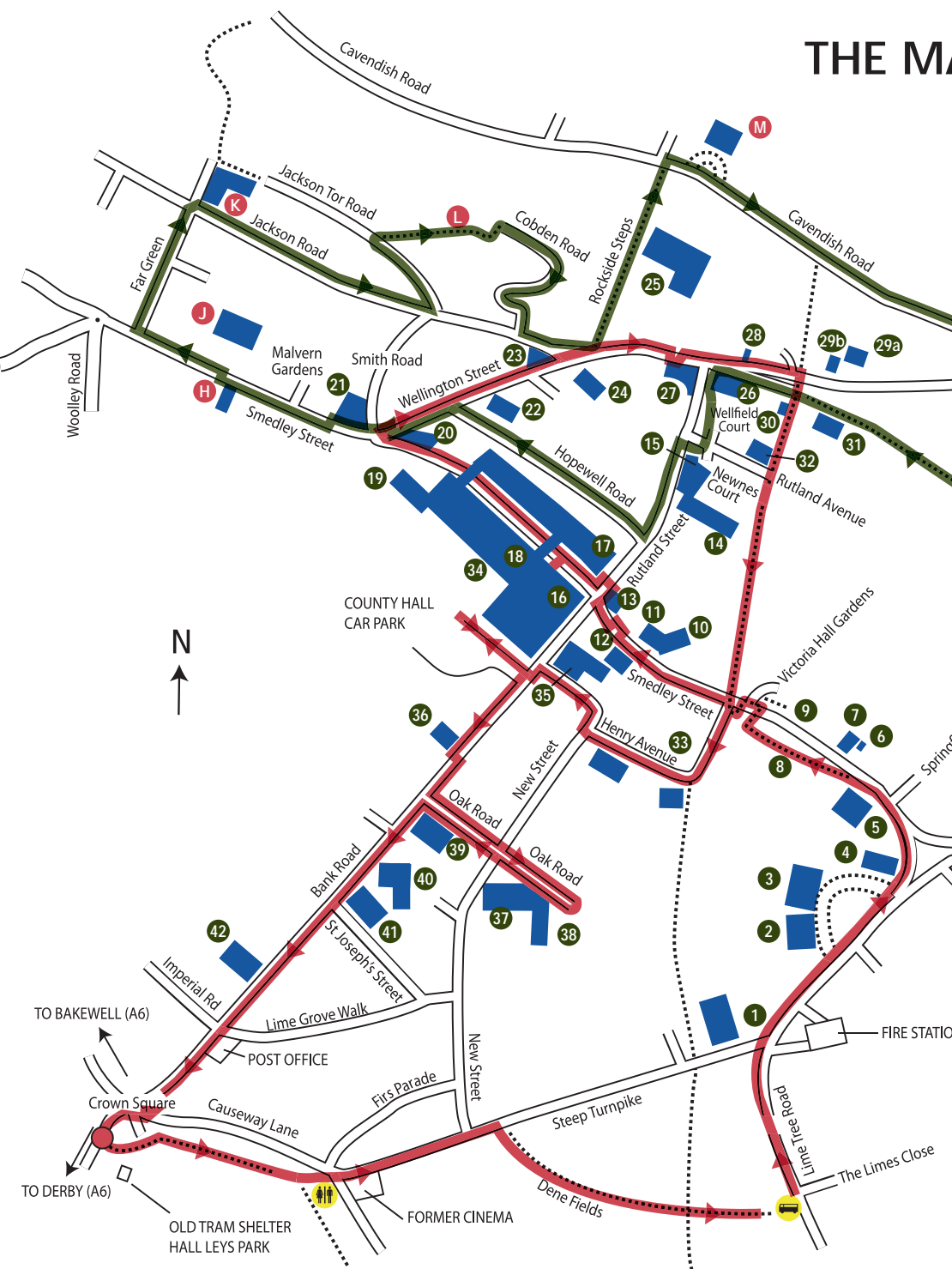
* (1) Davis may also have been a proprietor at one time of Poplar Cottage (Point G, Trail 4).

* (2) Winifred and Annie White were the sisters of Alderman Charles White. (See *Matlock – The Administrative Centre* on page four.)



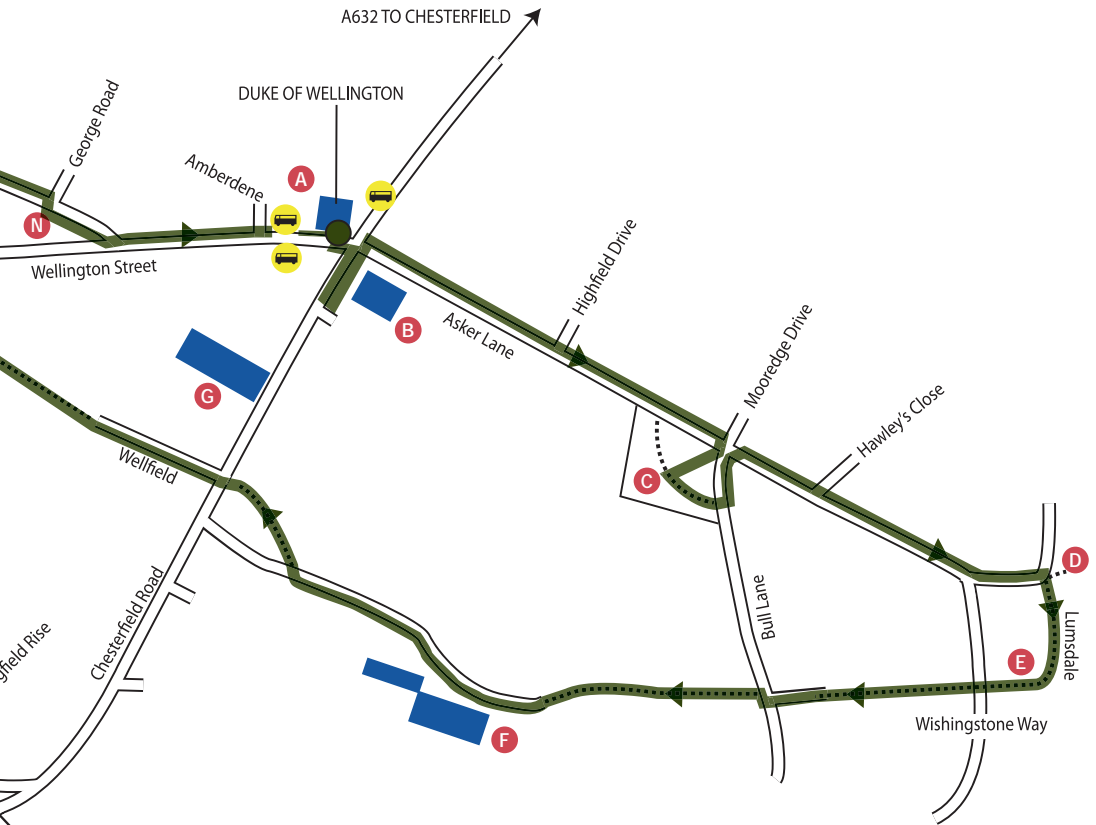
Ruatha Hold

THE M



MATLOCK BANK HYDRO HERITAGE TRAILS

MATLOCK WALKING TRAILS 3 AND 4



Bus Stop:  **Toilets:**  **Footpath.....** 



TRAIL 3 - THE SMEDLEY AND ROCKSIDE FIGURE-OF-EIGHT

Start/Finish 3: 



TRAIL 4 - THE BAILEY'S TUMP AND JACKSON TOR LOOP

Start/Finish 4: 

Approx Linear Scale in Metres



This plan is not drawn to scale. The blocks indicate only the approximate location of buildings



Number 11
Rutland Avenue

*Go down the steep flight of steps (opposite Rockside drive), followed by a path and more steps; cross the Wellfield track and proceed directly ahead through a stile. This narrow walkway is part of a very old public path which links Matlock Bank with the Parish Church of St Giles** in Old Matlock - a very important route prior to the building of All Saints' Church (Point J, Trail 4). A few metres below the stile, look to the right though a gateway for a glimpse of the ancient:*



Wellfield Cottage

30. Wellfield Cottage

The date and initials on the lintel indicate that in 1667, this Grade II listed building was owned by Ralph and Frances Brown. Notice the stone-coped

gables on the property, which is the oldest on Matlock Bank.

Opposite are the grounds of:

31. Wellfield House (formerly Wellfield House Hydro)

Now a private residence to which there is no public access, this former hydro is largely hidden by trees. It was opened in about 1862 by Dr Spencer T. Hall, but taken over a couple of years later by Joseph Crowder, a former bath superintendent at Smedley's.

Continue down the hill. Our path soon crosses the end of a vehicular cul-de-sac known as Rutland Avenue. Look along the avenue. The first property on the right is:

32. Number 11, Rutland Avenue

This house, with its decorative stonework and stained glass porch, was formerly the home of J.W. Wildgoose, the builder (See Point 26).

Below Rutland Avenue, the path widens. Continue the descent, enjoying the views of Riber and Masson Hills. Cross Smedley Street (at the figure-of-eight crossing point) and continue straight ahead into:

33. Henry Avenue

This road, which does not appear on the OS map of 1899, is lined with substantial villas. The first pair of semi-detached residences, which stand on the level section (left) just beyond the 90 degree right-hand bend, date from around 1903 and were the former homes of senior staff at Smedley's Hydro.

The origin of Golding House, the large building on the left, is a mystery, although its wide stone bays, stained glass, and cast-iron balustrade over the main entrance would suggest that it was of some importance. It is currently occupied by two charities: Enable Housing Association Ltd, and Enable Care & Home Support Ltd, both of which provide on site social activities and accommodation for their clients.



Henry Avenue



Golding House, Henry Avenue



South-West Front, Golding House

Walk to the end of Henry Avenue and bear right into New Street (which immediately turns 90 degrees left). Having noticed the date stone of 1888 on numbers 80 and 82 (on the right),



Former Winter Gardens

proceed to the T junction with Bank Road. Cross Bank Road and walk into the County Hall car park, whose entrance is diagonally opposite, on the downward side. The car park and pathways offer a variety of vantage points from which to view:

34. County Hall (formerly Smedley's Hydro)

The former Smedley's Hydro is the principal building of a large complex which has housed the administrative offices of Derbyshire County Council since 1956. It has evolved from Ralph Davis and John Smedley's original hydro, an 11-roomed property which Smedley purchased outright in 1853. As this early building soon proved to be inadequate, Smedley embarked on a massive programme of expansion, enabling him to treat over two hundred patients annually within fourteen years. The completion of the castellated West Wing in 1867 increased the hydro's capacity still further.

Following the founder's death in 1874, a company (The Smedley's Hydropathic Company Limited) was formed to run the hydro. The business, initially under the control of Dr William Bell Hunter (who had been appointed by Smedley in 1872) continued to grow. The main entrance (1880), tower (1883), and eastern (right-hand) section, completed in 1886, were designed by Nottingham architect George Statham and replaced much of Smedley's early work. Special features included the gritstone facing and the classical shapes and urns along the roofline.

Improvements and additions were also made to the treatment rooms and baths, which were housed in the lower buildings overlooked by the boiler house chimney (to the right, as viewed from the main car park). Here too was the colonnade – a covered exercise area now occupied by the Local Studies Library. From 1884, the grounds were developed; ultimately including facilities for tennis, croquet and bowls - on land which is currently used for car parking. Smedley's chapel, which used to be situated

beyond the Winter Gardens (to the left of the West Wing), was demolished in 1958. A Victorian greenhouse, however, survives at the far (western) end of the complex.

By the early 1900s, Smedley's Hydro had over 260 bedrooms and catered for over 2,000 patients every year, with facilities to match those of many hotels of the time. Well known personalities who stayed at Smedley's included Sir Thomas Beecham, who founded the London Philharmonic Orchestra;

Sir Harry Lauder, a comedian favoured by King George V; Bramwell Booth, the son of William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army; and Noel Coward, the actor and song writer.

The hydro (which had remained open throughout the First World War) was commissioned for use as an Army Intelligence School during World War II. It is interesting to note that the actor, Dirk Bogarde, trained here at the time. Although Smedley's reopened in 1947, it struggled to attract clients and survived for only eight more years prior to its acquisition by Derbyshire County Council. (See *The Smedley Connection* on pages three & four; Points 16-19; and the photographs on pages 30 & 31).

Return to Bank Road and stand at the entrance to County Hall car park. Diagonally opposite, on the upper side of the junction of New Street with Bank Road, are a couple of old church buildings:



Former Smedley's Hydro

Former Smedley's Hydro



Matlock Bank Methodist Church



35. The Former Primitive Methodist Sunday School and Church

The date stone indicates that the Sunday School, on the corner, was added to the church (adjacent on the uphill side) in 1878. The church itself, which was designed by James

Kerridge of Wisbech and built by the local builder John Wildgoose, dates from 1865. It replaced an earlier structure of 1838. Note the tall lancet windows and high rose window; features of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture. The old Sunday School has now been adapted for residential use.



Former Methodist Sunday School and Church

Walk down the right-hand side of Bank Road, from where there are views of Riber, High Tor and Masson. On the right, where the road begins to widen, is:

36. Yew Tree House, Number 63, Bank Road
This former farm house, said to date from 1705, is easily recognized by its twin stone-coped gables which face the road. The driveway to the right leads to the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, which was built in 2007/8.

Cross the road here and continue the descent of Bank Road. Immediately below the wide section of road, turn left into Oak Road. Walk to the Oak Road/New Street crossroads. At the lower, far corner of the junction is:

37. The Ernest Bailey Community Centre (formerly Bank House/Wyvern House Hydro; later part of Ernest Bailey Grammar School)
Founded by Henry Ward - another former bathman at Smedley's - Bank House Hydro features bracketed eaves, tall chimneys and box bay windows (facing the car park). The hydro, which was at some point renamed Wyvern

House, closed in 1920. Four years later, it became one of the principal blocks of the Ernest Bailey Grammar School, having been presented to the community as a gift from Ernest Bailey (1869 to 1938), whose family owned a corn mill near Matlock.

The school closed in 1982 when the pupils were transferred to the purpose-built Highfields Comprehensive School. Part of the Bailey complex now has a new role as a community centre; whilst part is occupied by the Records Department (previously County Archives) of the Derbyshire County Council.



Former Bank House Hydro

Continue along Oak Road (which is unadopted beyond the crossroads). On the right, behind the former Bank House Hydro, is:

38. The Former Church View Hydro; later part of Ernest Bailey Grammar School
Church View Hydro was opened in 1871 by Mr W Mycock, but may later have amalgamated with Wyvern House Hydro (Point 37). The property, which was subsequently incorporated into the Ernest Bailey Grammar School, is now linked to the former Bank House block and accommodates a substantial part of the County Records Department.

Return along Oak Road and pause at the lower side of its junction with Bank Road. Occupying the corner site is:

39. Matlock Bank Methodist and United Reformed Church
This church, which opened in 1882 as Matlock Wesleyan Chapel and later became known as the Trinity Methodist Church, was patronised by both locals and hydro clients. It was designed in the Neo-Gothic style by C. Ellison of Liverpool,



Bridge Hall Hydro c1893

whose previous projects included the Town Hall at Birkenhead and the Liverpool Eye & Ear Infirmary. A comprehensive refurbishment was completed in 1997.

Keep to the left down Bank Road. In a few metres, on the left, pass:

40. Bank Manor (formerly the Smedley Memorial Hospital; later Matlock Youth Hostel)

The Smedley Memorial Hospital, with its distinctive dormer windows and carved bargeboards, was opened in 1882 by Caroline Smedley as a memorial to her husband. Financed by public subscription, it catered for those who could not afford hydro fees. Across the lawn (to the front of the property) is the Hunter Wing, which was added in 1897 to



Former Smedley Memorial Hospital

commemorate Dr D.B.Hunter, who became the chief medical adviser at Smedley's Hydro (Point 34) following the founder's retirement.

Around 1984, the premises were adapted for use as Matlock Youth Hostel, which closed in September 2007. Work to convert them into apartments was completed the following year.



Hunter Wing

41. St Joseph's R.C.Church

E Fryer, of Derby, was the architect for St Joseph's Church, which opened in 1883. Features include Gothic Revival ornamentation and a number of stained glass windows, one of which is dedicated to the memory of Father George Le Roy, a priest from Belgium who

worked hard to raise funds for the construction of the church. The hall (to the left of the church) was constructed during the 1990s.



St Joseph's R.C. Church

Proceed down Bank Road for 70 metres or so. On the right, across the road, is:

42. Matlock Town Hall (Headquarters of Derbyshire Dales' District Council) (formerly Bridge Hall Hydro)

It seems likely that a property known as Bridge House became Bridge Hall Hydro during the early 1860s. The establishment was run by a Mr Nicholson, a chaplain who had worked with Caroline Smedley. In 1894, Matlock Urban District Council purchased the building for use as the town hall. Since that time, the property has expanded almost beyond recognition; although when viewed from Imperial Road, the old three-storey front, with its gabled bay to the left (as indicated in the picture above), may still be identified. To the right of the original front is an Italian Renaissance-style wing (adjacent to Bank Road immediately below today's main entrance), added by the Urban Council in 1899; whilst to the left is another bay and gable, built to match the original design and completed in 1989 to provide accommodation for the administrative headquarters of West Derbyshire District Council (now Derbyshire Dales' District Council).

Please note that Matlock Town Hall is also included in Trail 1 (The Matlock Level Trail), which is published in a separate booklet.

Continue down Bank Road to complete Trail 3 in Crown Square, passing the Post Office (to the left) en route.**

TRAIL 4 -

MATLOCK BANK HYDRO HERITAGE TRAIL - THE BAILEY'S TUMP AND JACKSON TOR LOOP A MAP CAN BE FOUND ON THE CENTRE PAGES

Approximate distance: 2½ miles

Time: Allow around 2 hours for the Trail, plus travel time to/from the start/finish.

Buildings marked with asterisks** are described in Trail 1, The Matlock Level Trail. See separate booklet.

Abbreviation: c- about (the time of)

Please note that individual points of interest on this Trail are identified with letters.

The Bailey's Tump and Jackson Tor Loop begins and finishes at the Duke of Wellington public house at the junction of Wellington Street with Chesterfield Road (approximately ¾ mile from Matlock town centre via the steep Bank Road and Wellington Street).

There is no public car park nearby, but it may be possible for patrons of the 'Duke' to use the private car park at the rear, which is accessed from Chesterfield Road. Please ask inside. Alternatively, why not use public transport? A number of buses stop here, including the Stagecoach route 17 buses to/from Chesterfield.

On arrival at the starting point of Trail 4, take a close look at the:

A. Duke of Wellington

The building we see today - with its stone mullions and a stone-coped gable at one end - is possibly of late 18th or early 19th century origin, although its present name was unlikely to be used until at least 1815, the year of the Duke of Wellington's victory at the Battle of Waterloo. Former stables at the back have been converted into en-suite accommodation.



Duke of Wellington

On leaving the front entrance of the Duke of Wellington, cross the end of Wellington Street via the refuges at the road junction and continue a few strides downhill into Chesterfield Road. Immediately below the junction, cross to the far (south-eastern) side of Chesterfield Road (using a third refuge); then pause and look down the hill. The large building on the right-hand side of Chesterfield Road is the former Chatsworth Hydro, which is described at Point G further along this trail.



Former Chatsworth Hydro

Walk down Chesterfield Road for another 20 metres or so - as far as the drive entrance on the left, with the words 'WESTLEA' and 'LODGE' carved on the gateposts. About turn here to view the front of the large house which occupies the lower corner site (diagonally opposite the Duke of Wellington) at the junction of Chesterfield Road with Asker Lane:

B. Westlea, 109, Chesterfield Road

This fine residence, formerly known as *Hillside*, became the home of Frederick Broome (the owner/manager of Derwent Mills) and his family in 1919 (See Point 9, Trail 3). Features include the dormer windows, the canopy linking the ground floor windows, the 'rope' carvings around the front entrance and the splendid two-storey semicircular bay.

For many years during the latter half of the twentieth century, Westlea served as a hall of residence for male students attending the former Matlock College of



Westlea



Bailey's Tump

The View from Bailey's Tump



Education. Following the college's closure in the 1988, the building was sold by Derbyshire County Council and ultimately converted into apartments.

Return to the crossroads and bear right into Asker Lane. Walk past the end of Highfield Drive (on the left) to the junction of Asker Lane with Mooreedge Drive (left) and Bull Lane (right). Cross Asker Lane into Bull Lane and immediately turn right into:

C. Bailey's Tump

This former spoil heap was created from the excavations associated with the laying of an aqueduct from the Derwent Dams to Derby, Nottingham and Leicester in the early 1900s; its name being derived from the fact that the land was owned by local benefactor Ernest H Bailey. The tump was part of a larger site which was

fortified during the 1930s and manned by an anti-aircraft unit between 1939 and 1945 to help in the defence of Sheffield and other northern cities.

As a protected open space of historical importance, Bailey's Tump was restored by Matlock Civic Association and Matlock Town Council in 2006/7 with the aid of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Further information is displayed on the plaque near the access point at the top of Bull Lane. The tump is an excellent vantage point from which to view (from left to right) Riber Castle**, Starkholmes village (in the dip) and Masson



The Presentation Convent from Bailey's Tump



Bailey's Tump



Hill. The large complex of buildings to the right, below Bailey's Tump, is the Presentation Convent (Point F).

Leave Bailey's Tump via one of the stiles into Bull Lane. Turn left and return to Asker Lane, bearing right at the junction. The lane rises towards Hawley's Close (which joins from the left) and Wishingstone Way (right); after which it drops sharply, before turning acutely left. Watch out for traffic as you cross at this blind bend. Pause (Do not go down!) at the top of the footpath which drops steeply into:

D. Lumsdale

This deeply incised and thickly wooded valley of the Bentley Brook is not only very picturesque, but also ranks among the top five water-powered industrial archaeological sites in Great Britain. During the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, it was the scene of various types of industrial activity including bleaching, lead smelting, corn & mineral grinding and bone crushing. The valley today contains the legacy of that period: the ruins of several mills and works, together with the remains of mill ponds, dams and water channels. It is well worth exploring at another time.

Leave Asker Lane here. Ignoring the downhill footpath into Lumsdale, turn right and follow the level surfaced footpath which runs along the edge of the valley. Very shortly, on the right, you will see a large gritstone outcrop known as:

E. The Wishing Stone

According to tradition, those who walk round the stone three times - and leave a coin or two on it - may have their wishes granted. Once known as the Block Stone, it was renamed during Matlock Bank's hydro heyday period.

Having made your wish, continue along the main footpath which curves to the right. Pass between residential gardens and cross Wishingstone Way. The path continues for a short distance before widening into a drive to the right of Wishingstone Cottage. Bear right where the drive joins the bottom of Bull Lane, and then turn left on to a mostly unsurfaced path which runs behind the garage block of Bull Farm Mews. This path soon opens out into a private drive (which is also a public footpath). The complex which comes into view on the left is:

F. The Convent & Presentation Sisters' Care Home (formerly Chesterfield House Hydro)

Please note that this is a private care home to which there is **no public access**. The complex of buildings we see today has evolved from a dairy farm (dating from around 1750), which appears to have been acquired by Ralph Davis (1815-96) some time prior to 1861. It seems likely that this is the same Ralph Davis with whom John Smedley was associated between 1851 and 1853. (See *The Growth of Matlock Bank* on page three.)

Davis's new hydropathic establishment was known as Chesterfield House, and a date stone (barely visible from the private drive/public footpath) on the gable of what is now the East Wing reads: 'RD & AD 1861'. These initials are presumably those of Davis and his wife, Ann, whose development incorporated the original house (thought to be the present kitchen area with rooms above). The business prospered under the management of the Davises and then the Richards (their daughter and son-in-law), as indicated by the addition of the West Wing with its date stone of 1895 (not visible from



Former Chesterfield House Hydro



RD & AD 1861 Date Stone
East Wing, Former
Chesterfield House Hydro



Western Block,
Former Chatsworth Hydro



North Front, Former
Chesterfield House Hydro

outside the grounds). Around 1900, the Richards sold out to a Mrs Hickling, who added a ballroom, front lounge and further bedrooms, as well as the word 'hydro' to its name. Between 1917 and 1921, the building was

used as a convalescent home for military personnel; after which it remained empty until its purchase (in 1927) by the Sisters of the Presentation Convent for use as an all-age school and novitiate. (From 1933, the novices were catered for at South Kirkby, near Wakefield.)

The school proved to be very successful, enabling an extension and chapel to be added in 1958. Four years later, the primary department was moved to the newly opened Nagle Preparatory School at nearby Lilybank (Point 3, Trail 3), thereby creating much needed extra space.

Both the Convent and Nagle Schools closed in 1990. The infant and junior pupils were transferred to the new St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, opened by Derbyshire County Council in September of that year in premises (leased from the Presentation Sisters) adjacent

to the Convent; whilst many older pupils have since travelled to St Mary's in Chesterfield (Matlock's nearest catholic secondary comprehensive school).

It is interesting to note that Nano Nagle is remembered in the name of the nursery

unit next door to St Joseph's. The Presentation Sisters' Care Home, which opened in 1992,

occupies part of the Convent building (formerly Chesterfield House) in addition to the brick-built block on the eastern side of the complex.

Walk along the private road/public footpath, which passes to the right of the Convent buildings. Where the road bends to the right, glance through the gateway to the left for a glimpse of the 1895 extension. After the next bend (to the left), take the footpath which gradually moves away to the right of the private road. The very large building (adjacent to Chesterfield Road) which has come into view about 45 degrees to the right is:

G. Chatsworth Hall (formerly Jeff's Poplar/Chatsworth Hydro)

This rather plain four-storey building was no doubt quite a small concern when it reputedly opened in 1857 as Jeff's Hydro, under the management of Charles Wood. Over the years which followed, it grew rapidly, as indicated by the various blocks which comprise the property we see today. The establishment had accommodation for sixty by 1866 - rising to 200 by the 1920s - and may have been known variously as Poplar, Poplar Cottage and Jeff's Poplar Hydro. A postcard of the latter, allegedly postmarked 1909, shows a covered viewing platform (since removed) crowning the flat roof of the corner 'tower' immediately above the fourth storey bay.

It is apparent from an old photograph that this 'tower', together with much of the eastern front (facing Chesterfield Road) is a later addition. Also of interest - and still intact - is the distinctive Chesterfield Road pedestrian gateway, complete with an iron arch between a pair of gateposts on which the words 'HYDROPATHIC' and 'ESTABLISHMENT' are carved. The name Chatsworth was adopted



Former Chatsworth Hydro



Date Stone,
East Wing, Former
Chesterfield
House Hydro



Period Lamp, Rutland Court



before 1914. With the outbreak of the First World War, the hydro was taken over by the military for use as a service hospital.

Following a change of management in 1931, Chatsworth was refurbished with such extras as electrical treatment appliances, hot & cold

water to the bedrooms and the provision of a smokers' lounge. The role of the hydro was certainly changing! Having closed again during the Second World War, it became (according to Rose) the temporary headquarters of C & A Modes, a national chain store operator. In 1946 the building was acquired by Derbyshire County



Pedestrian Entrance from Chesterfield Road, Former Chatsworth Hydro

Council for use as a hall of residence attached to Matlock Teachers' Training College (latterly Matlock College of Education). When the College closed in 1988, the Council retained the hall to accommodate additional offices.

At the end of the footpath, cross Chesterfield Road (with care!) into an access road/public footpath, with Chatsworth Hall and its front garden still on the right. Using the map on the centre pages as a guide, proceed for approximately 350 metres along this track/footpath into Wellfield. Immediately beyond the former Wildgoose office block (now 10-7 Wellfield Court; Point 26, Trail 3), but just before the junction of Wellfield with Rutland Street, turn left down three flights of steps and proceed through Wellfield Court to join Rutland Avenue. Notice the name 'Newnes Court' directly opposite. (A reference to George Newnes is included in the paragraph about Matlock Cable Tramway, on page five.)

Turn right along Rutland Avenue and then left down the far side of Rutland Street for about 90 metres, passing en route the former Elm Tree Hydro (Point 15, Trail 3) and Rutland Court (Point 14, Trail 3). Notice the period lamp, set within iron scrolls on top of a gatepost at the entrance to Rutland Court.




East End, All Saints' Church

Turn right into Hopewell Road, which runs behind the former Smedley's Hydro. From here, one can appreciate the size of North Block (Point 17, Trail 3). On reaching the end of the road, cross and continue left down Wellington Street.

A short distance down, bear right into, and proceed along Smedley Street. In a few metres, cross the end of the narrow Smith Road and notice the name 'Bathman's Cottage' on a door belonging to part of Malvern House (Point 21, Trail 3), which stands at the junction of Smith Road with Smedley Street.

Cross Smedley Street here and proceed along the far (south-western) side of the road. Having passed the junction with Malvern Gardens (on the right), continue for a further 80 metres or so and pause (opposite All Saints' Church) at:



View over Matlock from
Rockside Steps

H. Number 141 (formerly 135), Smedley Street (Wartime Location of Ground Station Zero)

A plaque, erected by Matlock Civic Association in 1999, indicates that these premises housed an auxiliary unit which manned a secret wireless station during the Second World War. At the time, Joe Toplis's tailor's shop also occupied the property. Ground Station Zero was the communications and surveillance part of a covert operation designed to assist the military in the event of an invasion. The Ground Station was a wireless set for communication, whilst the Zero signified the distance between the enemy and the operator.

The other part of the operation consisted of auxiliary units of highly trained armed personnel, which were based at various locations across the country. One such base was at Smedley's Hydro (Points 19 and 34, Trail 3).

Matlock was considered to be of strategic importance as it was situated in a valley on one of the main routes north (A6).

Cross back to the north-eastern side of the road for a look at:

J. All Saints' Church Designed by T.H. & F. Healey, All Saints'

Church was built in 1883-4 to cater for Matlock Bank's growing population. Of interest inside is the east window, designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones and installed in 1905. The Reverend J Higgs donated the land for both the church and vicarage, next door.

Continue to the junction of Smedley Street with Far Green. (The entrance to the vicarage is at the corner). Walk up the left-hand side of Far Green for a closer look at the high building which towers above Jackson Road at the top of the hill:

K. Jackson Tor House (formerly Jackson House Hydro)

Jackson House evolved from a small establishment opened in 1857 by Mr & Mrs G Barton, former employees of John Smedley (and likely to be the same Bartons who were later associated with Dalefield/Lilybank Hydro; Point 3, Trail 3). The hydro was extended to cater for an additional thirty patients in 1862, and further expansion/renovation followed in 1866 and 1893.

Meanwhile, George Davis, also an ex-Smedley bathman, opened a small cottage-hydro - the origin of Tor House - adjacent to Jackson House around 1862. This property was soon 'rebuilt and enlarged', and Davis was apparently still practising the 'Smedley' system until the turn of the century.

Some time after Davis's death in 1901, Tor House was demolished and Jackson House Hydro (which was known as Abbey Hotel by the 1960s) was later renamed Jackson Tor House. Of note is the building's prominent left-hand block, whose overhanging roof is supported by large brackets. The hotel had a number of owners before its closure (in 2003) and subsequent conversion into private residential units.



West Entrance
All Saints' Church



Former Ground Station Zero



Former Jackson House
Hydro



Jackson Tor Road to Cobden Road Footpath

At the top of Far Green, turn right and walk along Jackson Road in front of Jackson Tor House. In approximately 200 metres, notice the former Friends' Meeting House (pre 1876) at the far corner of the junction with Jackson Tor Road. Then take the very acute left-hand turn into this narrow road, which climbs steeply up the hillside.



View from Jackson Tor Road/Cobden Road Footpath

This section of the Trail (which includes Jackson Tor Road, Cobden Road and Rockside Steps) takes us through a jumble of properties in one of the oldest inhabited parts of the area, and enables us to experience the steepness and true character of Matlock Bank at close quarters;

where houses with high, inaccessible windows, awkward approaches and (almost always) stunning views appear to be built on top of one another. It is, of course, a difficult environment for the motorist. Prepare to be astonished at some of the parking places!



Garden Tower, Jackson Tor Road/Cobden Road Footpath

Continue up Jackson Tor Road. As soon as the road levels out (in about 90 metres), turn sharp right (opposite Number 3) to take a narrow path (behind the parking space to the right of Number 14):

L. The Jackson Tor Road to Cobden Road Footpath Link

Rising gently behind the rear gardens of several properties, this spectacular high level walkway overlooks some fine examples of garden terracing. About 70 metres along the path,

a tall narrow building rises from a garden on the right. It contains a staircase which - together with a footbridge - enables the owner to access his plot of land on the higher (left-hand) side of the path. Notice the carved bargeboards which match those on the house. Some 32 metres or so further on is a splendid vantage point from which to obtain a close up aerial view of Matlock and Matlock Bank, as well as an impressive panorama of the surrounding hills.

The roof, tower and upper storeys of County Hall, the former Smedley's Hydro (Point 34, Trail 3) - with the dome of the Winter Gardens (Point 19, Trail 3) to the right - can clearly be seen below; whilst in the distance are (from left to right) Riber Castle**, the Bolehill Television Mast, High Tor (the limestone cliff overlooking Matlock Dale), the Victoria Prospect Tower (which is situated on the Heights of Abraham overlooking Matlock Bath) and Masson Hill. Also easily visible are Starkholmes village (situated in the dip to the left of High Tor) and the supermarket complex (opened October 2007) nestling in the former Cawdor Quarry at the foot of Masson.

Continue to the end of the footpath and climb half a dozen steps. Turn right into the narrow Cobden Road and walk downhill round a steep double bend. Having negotiated the first bend, look out for an old cast iron lamp post (on the right) before bearing left at the junction below to rejoin Jackson Road. Continue to bear left, taking the higher (left-hand) exit from Jackson Road into Wellington Street. Immediately on joining Wellington Street (at the point where the latter levels out), turn sharp left to ascend Rockside Steps.



Cast Iron Street Lamp
Cobden Road

The steps lead to a steep, stone-surfaced path. Proceed up the path, but pause where it meets a tarmacked access lane (by number 15). Notice the front of the original Rockside building (Point 25, Trail 3), which rises to the right, and then look back for another excellent view of Starkholmes village, High Tor and Masson Hill. At the top of the access lane, turn right into Cavendish Road. A few metres down the road, on the left, is the first of two entrances to a looping drive. Pass this, but stop at the second gateway a few metres beyond for a glimpse of:

Leave the garden through a second gateway and cross the end of Cavendish Road into Wellington Street, which has now levelled out. The mid-twentieth century blocks on the right, formerly part of Matlock College of Education's Chatsworth Hall site (Point G), now provide additional office accommodation for Derbyshire County Council. Having crossed the junction with Amberdene, proceed to the finish of the Trail at the Duke of Wellington.*

**If you wish to return to Matlock town centre on foot, turn sharp right on leaving the Wild Thyme Garden and descend Wellington Street for 140 metres in order to join Trail 3 at Point 29b. Alternatively, continue the descent to Crown Square via Rutland Street and Bank Road.*

M. Claremont House
Currently a care home, this property was built around 1860 as a private residence for Charles Rowland of Rockside (Point 25, Trail 3).



Claremont

Notice the date stone of 1878 on the large

stone-built Osborne Villas (adjacent to Claremont) before continuing along Cavendish Road. Immediately opposite the junction with George Road, bear right through a gateway into:

N. The Wild Thyme Garden

In 2002, several enthusiastic local residents calling themselves the Wild Thyme Community Garden Group transformed this small triangular piece of land from a neglected area of asphalt and grass into an attractive garden, complete with paths and seating. Initially supported by a lottery grant, the project is on-going and in 2003 won the Godkin Holdings Award for the best new permanent landscaping – part of the East Midlands in Bloom initiative. The garden is maintained by members of the Wild Thyme Committee.



The Wild Thyme Garden



Treatment or Torture?
Around 200 water
treatments were available

SMEDLEY'S HYDRO

1853-1955

See The Smedley Connection on pages three & four; and Point 34, Trail 4



The Main Dinning Room (1907)

Photography courtesy of Derbyshire County Council - Local Studies Library



A Cable Tram in Crown Square



One of the First Colour Postcards



Inside the Winter Gardens

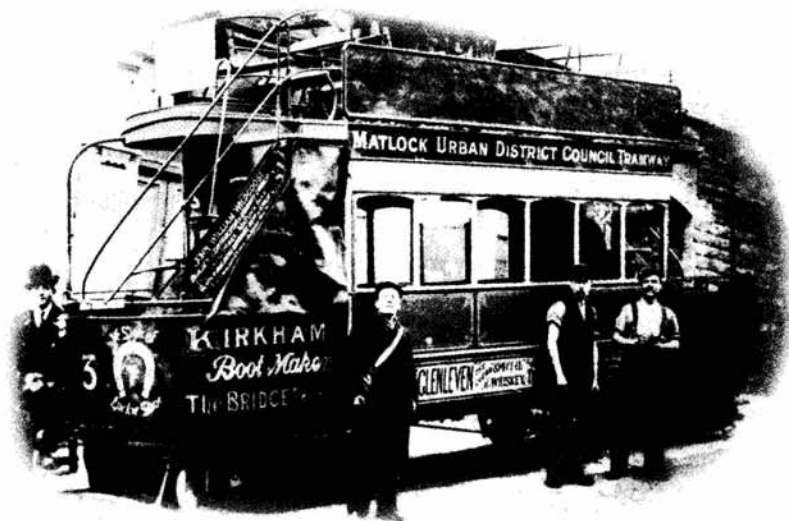


The Main Foyer (1927). The shop, to the right of the main entrance, sold high quality fashions including Smedley's knitwear manufactured at Lea Mills, near Matlock.

Photography courtesy of Derbyshire County Council - Local Studies Library



An Early Lithograph. The original buildings are on the right



Precise information concerning the history of individual buildings and constructions can often be difficult to establish. Whilst care has been taken to ensure (as far as is possible) that the information contained in these trails is correct, total accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Readers or users of these trails who have access to interesting relevant additional details, or evidence to suggest that certain information is incorrect, are asked to contact Matlock Town Council.

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