

## THE PINDER'S POUND

This ancient insignia now to be seen built into the present primary school at Knypersley cross-roads, goes back many centuries, this was where all stray animals were taken when caught.

The first mention of these Cattle Pounds comes in ancient Anglo-Saxon and pre-Saxon documentation, the insised cow's head shown, is a typical animal of this period, this at Knypersley, was originally sited some 70 yards away down (west) Newpool Road, it was last used in 1885 for stray cattle; when someone (farmer) had reason to believe his lost animal was in the pound, he went to the pound to claim it, having to pay a fine of a silver shilling (about £7.50p in today's currency) and also do work for a day and night to the lord of the manor, and this area is the only one in North Staffordshire where they still exist, the pound eventually was the site of a market and later on, the site for a colliery. In the early 1830s, only recently 1981, was one of the coal shafts discovered and duly made safe by the N.C.B.

The insised cow's head is surrounded by 5 stone rings, through which is threaded a rope, these signify the five ancient Lords of the Biddulph Valley Manors, at one period young boys used to play the game of hitting the eyes and mouth of the relief with stones, consequently the stone has suffered to a certain extent, and a local legend has it that, to touch the cow's forehead brought one good luck, whether true I know not.

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