

# Origins of Quorn



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There was no settlement of Quorn (or Quorndon) when the Domesday Book was produced in 1086. The area was woodland and pasture, with a medieval deer park used for hunting, coming under the Lord of the Manor of Barrow upon Soar. Later, Quorn was split between the Manor of Barrow and the Manor of Beaumanor. The earliest documented mention of the village refers to there being a hamlet and chapel of 'Quernendon' in 1152.

## Earlier Occupation

There is evidence of stone age and iron age human activity in Quorn, but significantly more evidence of Roman settlement in the south-east, with finds in the Unitt Road/ Selvester Drive area.

## How Quorn got its Name

The village was known as Quorndon until the late 19th century and the most commonly accepted origin of the name Quorndon is that it is derived from the old English 'cweorn' meaning quern stone (mill stone) or hand mill, and 'dun' meaning hill. Quorn is a rich source of granite which

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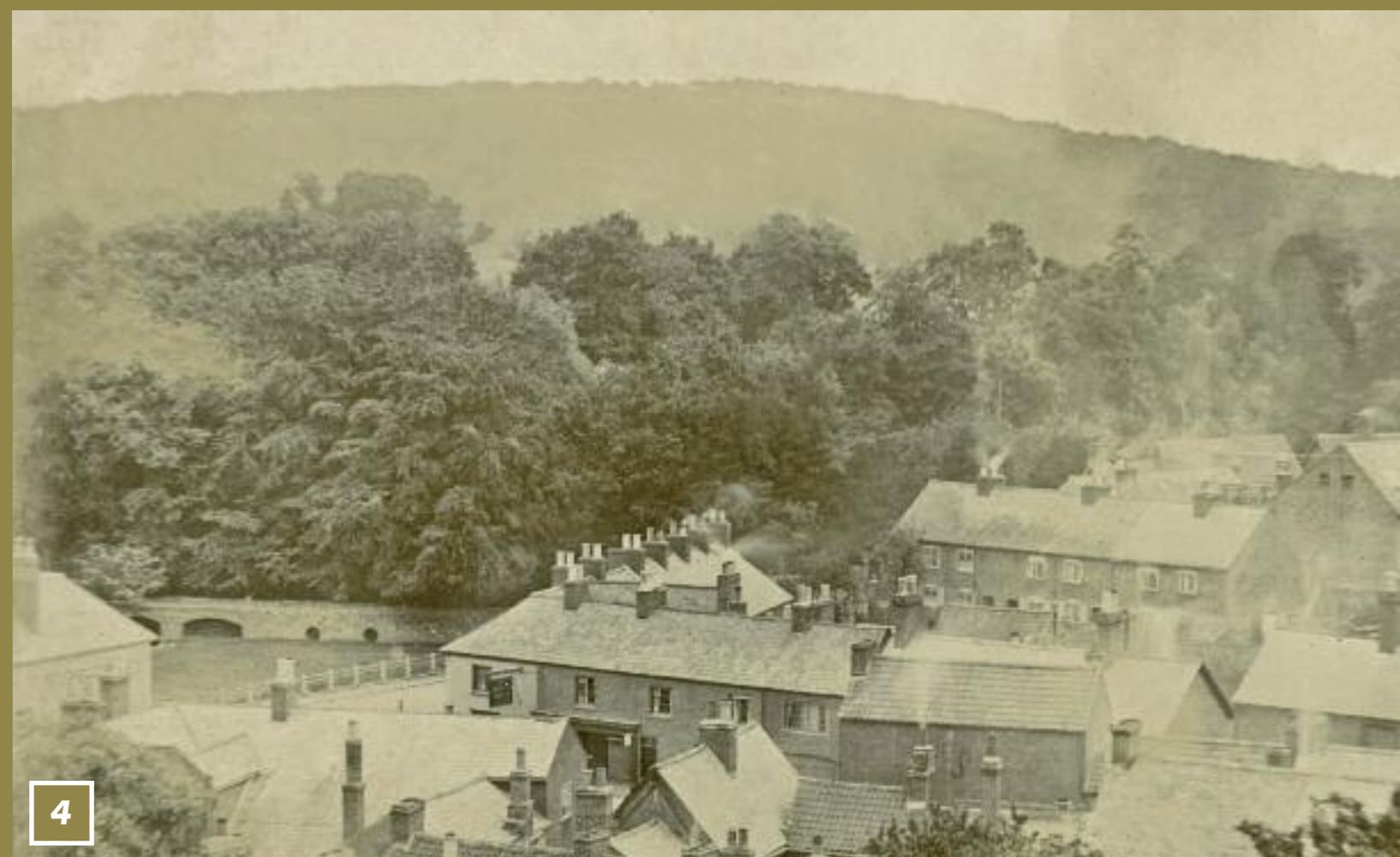
1 Woolly Rhinoceros.

2 Roman votive offerings, a spoon and coins found in Quorn.

3 For many years the village name signs looked like this.

4 View from the Church Tower in 1905, looking over Quorn Cross and Meeting Street. Buddon Wood Hill at the back no longer exists.

5 A quern.



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was used for quern stones and the hill was Buddon Wood Hill, which has now completely disappeared due to quarrying.

## Quorndon to Quorn - The Name Change

Problems occurred in Quorndon when the postal service became more widely used. Confusion with a village in Derbyshire called Quarndon resulted in postal deliveries going astray. In 1889 Quorndon Local Board petitioned the Postmaster General to shorten the name from Quorndon to Quorn. This was accepted, although both versions are still valid and used today.

## Geology

Much of the village is founded on sand and gravel, which has been excavated for building works, and red clay which once supported brickmaking. For centuries granite to the south of the village has been a major source of building material and road stone.

Woolly rhino, mammoth, bison and reindeer roamed in Quorn 40,000 years ago, all leaving their remains and in 1938 a lower jaw, part of a skull and several leg bones of woolly rhino were discovered in gravel pits belonging to William Moss and Sons.



## Geological Map of Quorn

**Granodiorite** - 400 million years old. An igneous rock often (incorrectly) called granite, formed as molten rock rose to the surface.

**Triassic** - 200 million years old. The climate was desert, hot and dry. Debris from flash rainstorms created salt lakes, forming sedimentary rocks such as breccia, mudstone, sandstone and gypsum.

**Boulder Clay** - 150,000 years old. The area was covered by ice. When it melted, the debris (moraine) left a cover of boulder clay. Only a few patches survive.

**Gravel** - 40,000 years old. A cold period with no ice, supporting woolly rhino, mammoth, bison and reindeer. The River Soar deposited sheets of gravel across the valley.

**Alluvium** - 10,000 years old. Earth and sand deposited by present and earlier rivers.