

found here. There was a custom in this place, earlier than the Conquest, to blow a horn every night at nine o'clock.

From Ripon to Boroughbridge and Aldborough the general line of the Ure is to the E.S.E., and a little below the 'old borough' the river joins the Swale. The twin towns of Boroughbridge and Aldborough formerly sent two members each to Parliament,—a sufficient proof of their importance in early English history. Both probably were important long before the Anglians crossed the sea; Aldborough undoubtedly was the Roman Isurium, and it was probably placed near a British town of earlier days, to which the yet standing monoliths called the Devil's Arrows bear durable testimony.

If, as is probable, Isurium was an earlier station of the Romans than Eburacum, and this Roman camp was fixed near the British capital of the time, Cartismandua reigned here, and her name, or the name of her city (Caer or Cathair-ys-maen-ddu), seems to typify the great stones, near which, on the removal of the bridge from Aldborough after the Conquest, Newborough, afterwards Boroughbridge, was gradually peopled or re-peopled.

The great monoliths at Boroughbridge have caught the attention of all our topographers, and speculation has not been idle as to their history and uses. The stones, which have doubtless been extracted from the great rocks of Brimham, or Plumpton, have been conjectured to be of artificial composition; the furrows on the sides, which are merely the effects of 2000 years of rain, have been supposed to be the flutings of columns, fitted to imaginary capitals or busts. They have been called marks for four roads—metæ of a chariot race, trophies of victory, and we might add other such fancies if it were proper to delay without necessity our pleasant journey on the banks of the Ure.

Leland, describing his visit to Boroughbridge, says:—

“There I passed over a great Bridge of stone on *We* (Ure). The Toune is but a bare thing; it stondith on *Wateling-Streate*: almost at the very end of this Towne cummith a litle broke a