

Alex Cross
Driving School

The Elnup Wood Stone

Millbrook
Primary School

Mill Brook

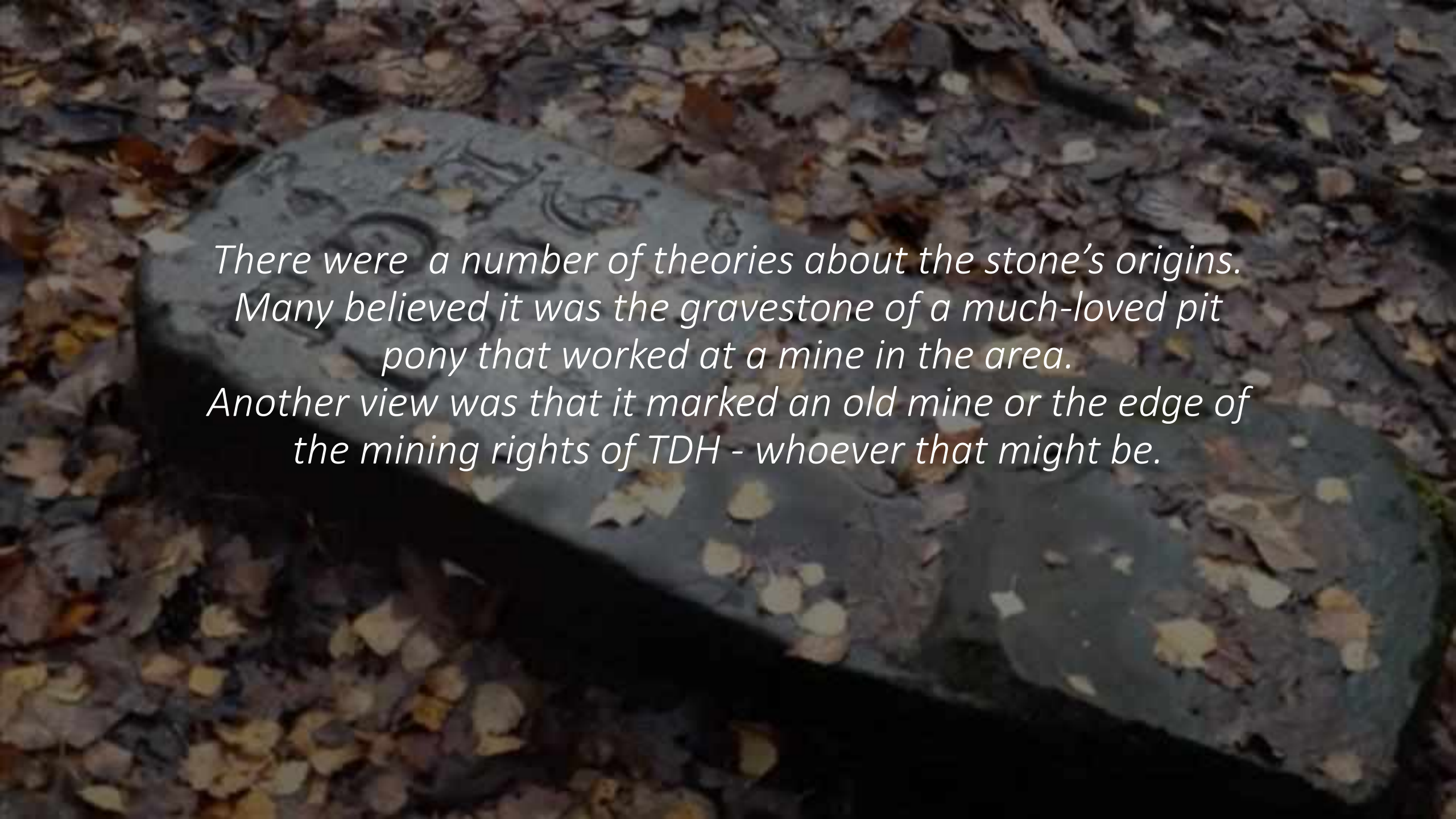


Elnup Wood is between Standish and Shevington. Mill Brook runs through it and has cut a deep valley with steep sides



A large stone lay in Mill Brook. It was lifted from the stream in around 2009 and was left on the bank nearby. It carries the inscription "TDH 1806".





There were a number of theories about the stone's origins. Many believed it was the gravestone of a much-loved pit pony that worked at a mine in the area. Another view was that it marked an old mine or the edge of the mining rights of TDH - whoever that might be.



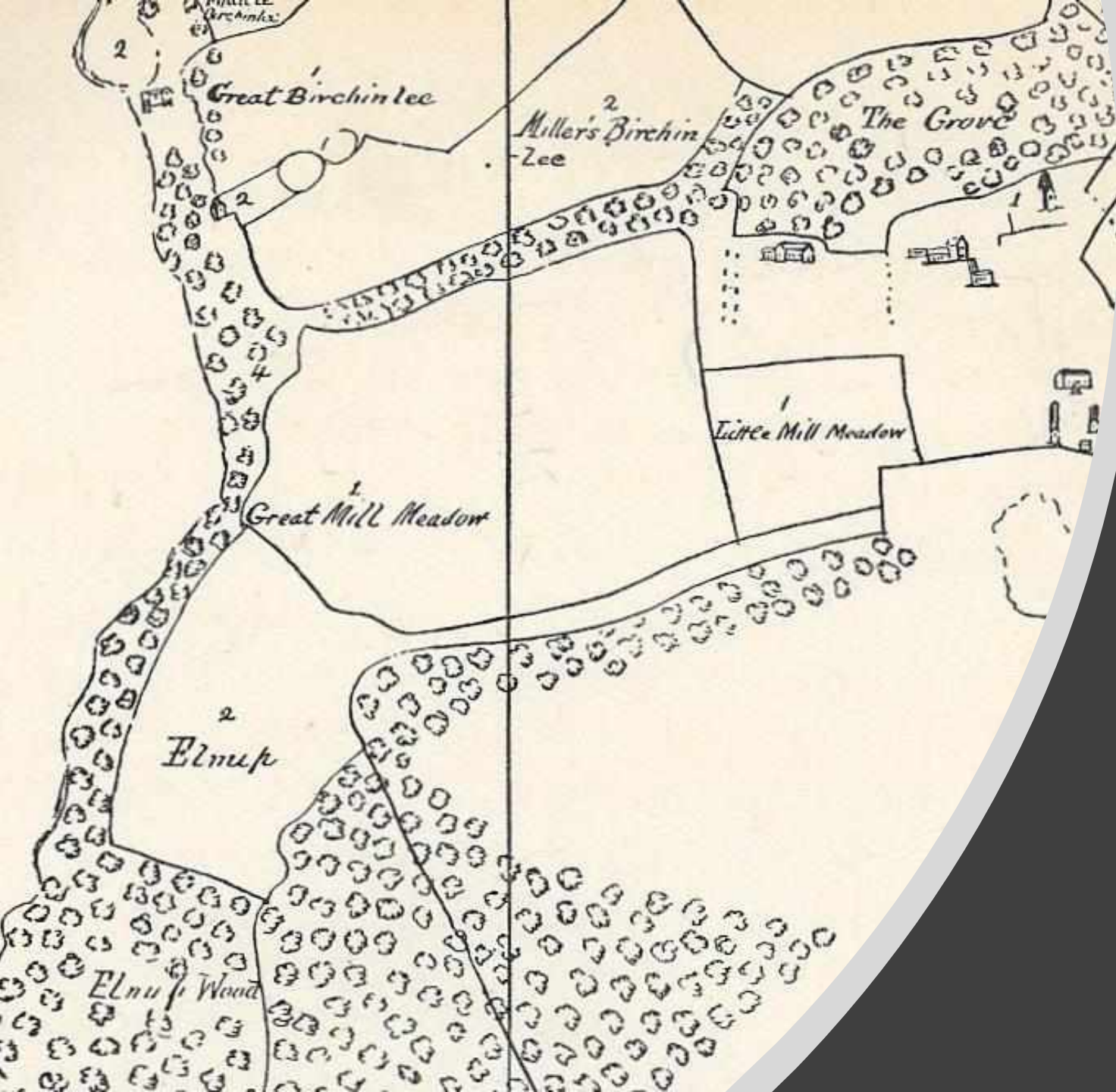
The owner of Mill Wood Cottages worked with Groundwork, who own and care for the woods, to retrieve the stone and place it near the Cottages on Parkbrook Lane



It has been set upright which will have been its original orientation.



We can now see both faces of the stone. The second face carries the inscription “ETS 1806”.



In 1806 the Lord of Standish Manor was Edward Towneley Standish, and Thomas Dalrymple Hesketh of Rufford owned large tracts of land in Shevington. The western boundary of Standish Manor was Mill Brook as shown on this 1763 Standish Estate map.



*Sir Thomas Dalrymple Hesketh was
3rd Baronet Hesketh of Rufford
from 1796 to 1842
His portrait is on the left
Above he was painted as a baby
with his parents*

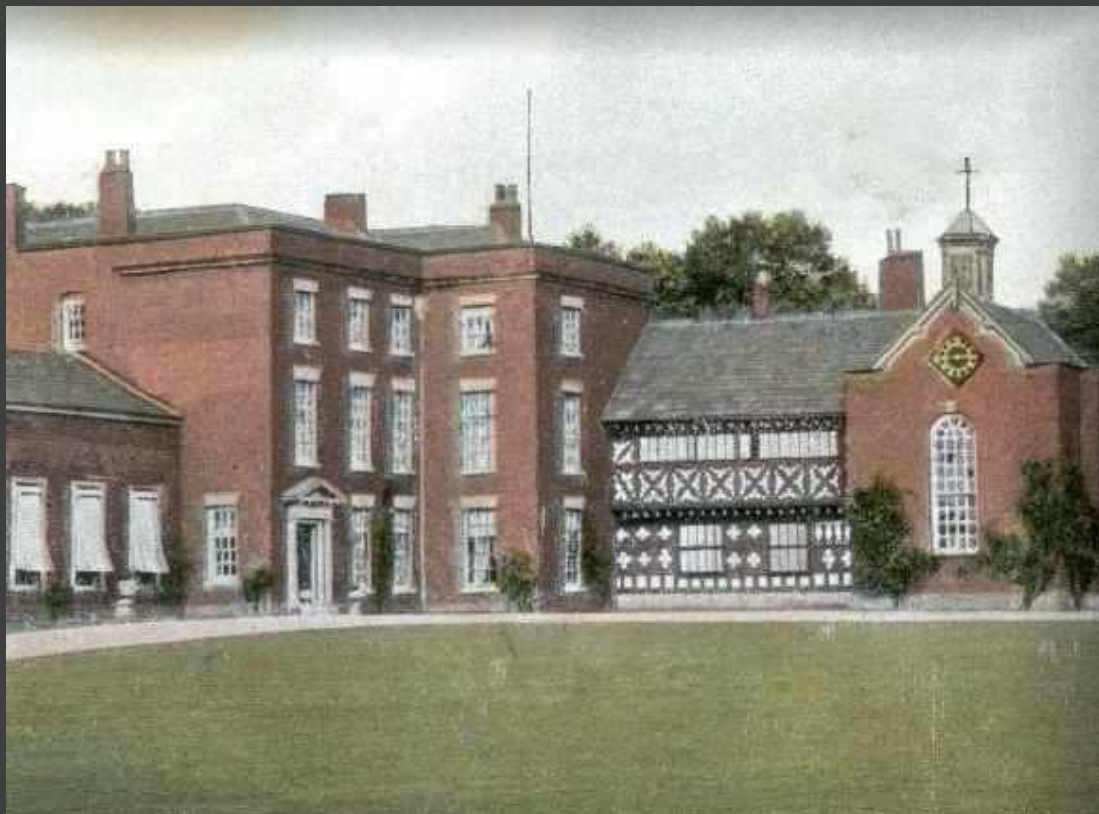


Edward Towneley Standish was Lord of the Manor from 1778 to 1807 . He died shortly after the stone was created. He made many alterations to the landscape around the Hall, filling in the moat and installing the retaining wall known as a ha-ha (in the foreground). This created a flat lawned area with an uninterrupted view across the Douglas Valley. Remains of the ha-ha which stretched around the side of the walled garden and across the front of the grounds are still in place

Thomas Dalrymple Hesketh's family seat was Rufford Old Hall, Edward's was Standish Hall.

The two halls were strikingly similar.

Rufford Old Hall still stands and is in the care of the National Trust. Sadly, Standish Hall has been lost



Some unanswered questions

- How did the stone end up in the brook?*
- What was its original location?*
- The brook was the boundary between the estates and remains the ward boundary between Standish and Shevington. Did the stone originally stand on the lane where it crosses the brook?*
- There was mining activity in the area. Standish Hall drift mine was nearby – was the stone uprooted and discarded when the drift mine was created?*