

A SCARP-EDGE ENCLOSURE AT GARDOM'S EDGE, BASLOW, DERBYSHIRE

By STEWART AINSWORTH

(RCHME, Darwin Building, Keele University Science Park, University of Keele,
Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 5SP)

and JOHN BARNATT

(Archaeology Service, Peak District National Park Authority, Aldern House,
Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1AE)

SUMMARY

Detailed field survey has demonstrated that part of a large D-shaped enclosure on Gardom's Edge in the Peak District is overlain by a prehistoric field system. The fields are likely to have been in use in the second millennium BC. Thus, the most probable interpretation of the enclosure is that it is Neolithic in date and functionally it may be broadly comparable with such sites as Carn Brea in Cornwall and the causewayed enclosures of southern England. The Gardom's Edge example is defined on one side by a massive, discontinuous stone bank with simple entrances spaced at intervals along it. The remainder is bounded by the edge of a precipitous gritstone escarpment. Much of the interior is boulder strewn. It is the first Neolithic enclosure in the uplands of northern Britain to be surveyed in detail. Its position in the landscape may reflect the choice of a neutral location between the well-known Neolithic occupation areas of the Peak District and the eastern lowlands, important for resources such as flint from the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds.

INTRODUCTION

In 1990–91 about one square kilometre of unimproved moorland was surveyed at a scale of 1:1000 by the authors for the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) and the Peak National Park Authority (PPJPB). This took place above Gardom's Edge on the eastern gritstone uplands of the region (Fig. 1). It was a joint venture undertaken with research goals, as part of both organisations' extended programmes of recording upland landscapes in the Peak District, with the focus of attention on the prehistoric remains. For the Park Authority a detailed survey was also desirable for conservation management of this area, which forms part of one of its estates.

A complex, multi-period landscape was identified comprising over 1300 archaeological features, the majority of prehistoric date (RCHME and PPJPB 1993; NMR no: SK 27 SE 98). In addition, a similar density of prehistoric features has been found during survey of adjacent areas, both to the north on Big Moor (Barnatt 1989a; RCHME and PPJPB ongoing) and to the south on Gardom's Edge and Gibbet Moor (RCHME

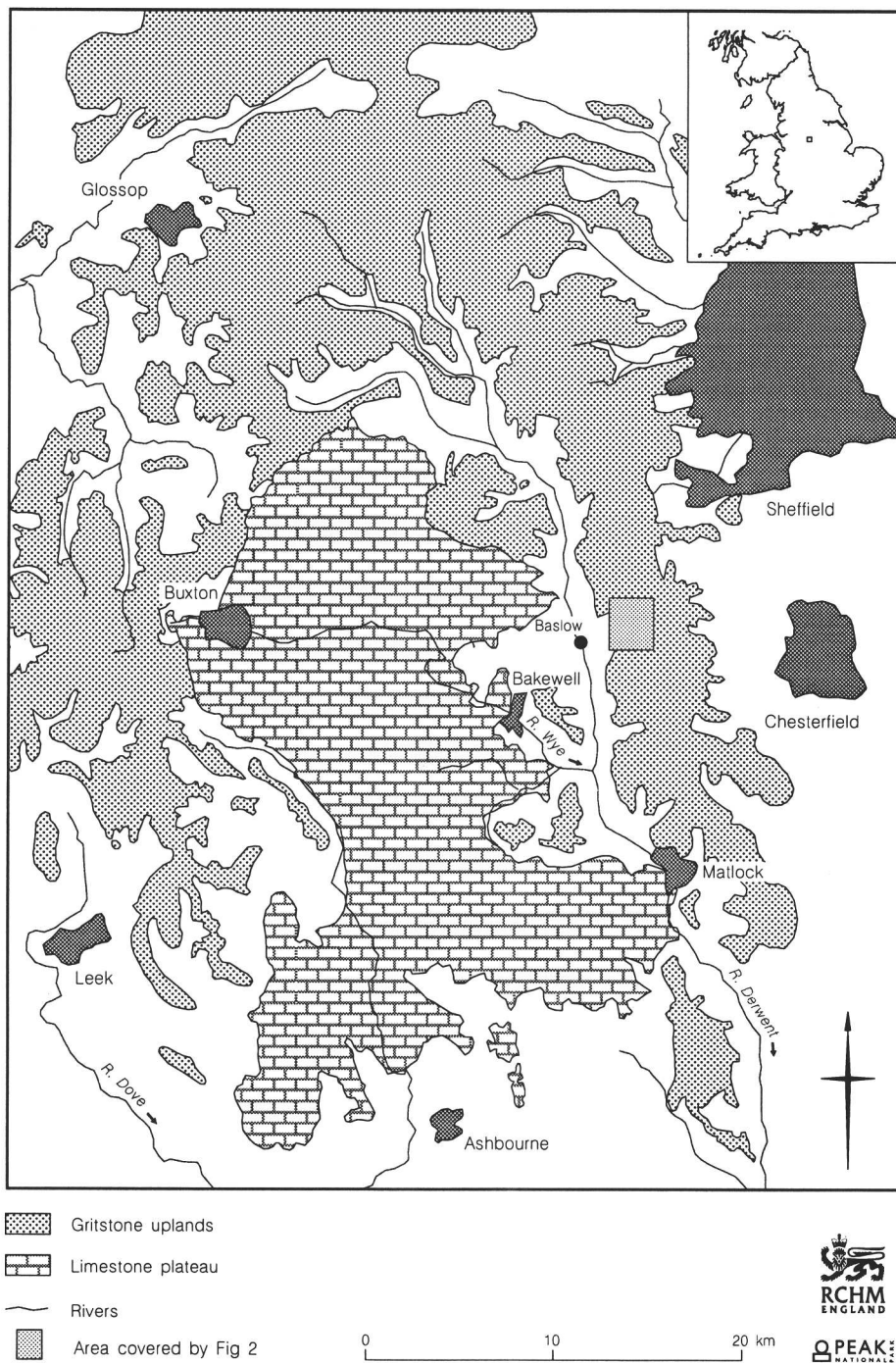


Fig. 1: Gardom's Edge — the site location (RCHME, © Crown Copyright).

1987a; 1990). This paper presents one aspect of the discoveries, a scarp-edge enclosure which is probably of Neolithic date (NMR no: SK 27 SE 37).

Gardom's Edge: An Archaeological Landscape

The enclosure lies on the eastern side of the Peak District, a region which comprises a central Carboniferous Limestone plateau, surrounded by deeply cut valleys with high Millstone Grit uplands beyond on all sides but south. The eastern gritstone uplands are *c.* 30km long by 3–6km wide and their western edge rises *c.* 150–350m above the Derwent valley immediately to the west. To the east of this main scarp is a shelf, normally *c.* 1–2km wide, with an upper scarp behind rising by a further *c.* 25m to 75m. This shelf was the main focus for prehistoric agricultural activity (Barnatt 1986; 1987). The scarp-edge enclosure lies at a locally high point on the main Derwent valley scarp, on the watershed between two streams which are 1.8km apart where they break the scarp (Figs. 2 and 3).

The scarp-edge enclosure, of *c.* 6 hectares extent, is centred at SK 27207290, and is situated on the crest of the imposing gritstone escarpment of Gardom's Edge, between 266m and 278m above OD (Fig. 3). From the enclosure there are extensive views in all directions except the east, where the dip-slope shelf of Gardom's Edge is dominated by the higher scarp of Birchen Edge. The views include much of the Derwent valley around Baslow. Beyond is an extensive vista across the limestone plateau.

The survey area comprised the northern half of the Gardom's Edge shelf and Birchen Edge. Here the prehistoric archaeology remains largely intact, despite later activity including quarrying, trial coal mining and wartime training. This contrasts with the other half of the Gardom's Edge shelf, which, because of its southern aspect, is much more of a palimpsest of multi-period agricultural remains. These include intermittently-surviving prehistoric and Medieval features within Post-Medieval walled enclosures. The moorland area to the north has four extensive prehistoric field systems (designated as Gardom's Edge Central, North-East, North-West and Birchen Edge North). These are defined today by stone clearance heaps, both of circular and linear form, slight lyncheting and occasional low earthen banks. Scattered amongst the cultivation plots across the moor are up to 27 house sites, mostly defined by low platforms, found singly and in small groups. Complementing these, lying within or near the fields, are 1–6 ringcairns, 2–4 burial cairns, 1–2 standing stones and two boulders with rock art. The Gardom's Edge Central field system impinges on the scarp-edge enclosure.

Previous Research

Research into prehistoric structures on the gritstone eastern upland as a whole has been in progress for many years (Hart 1981; Beswick and Merrills 1983; Barnatt 1996a). Preliminary systematic assessment has been undertaken (Barnatt 1986; 1987), and detailed survey of settlements and field systems is now underway (RCHME 1986; 1987a–d; 1990; Everson 1989, Barnatt 1989a; RCHME and PPJPB 1993; ongoing), complemented by surveys of monuments (Barnatt 1989b, 1990; Barnatt and Collis 1996) and rock art (Barnatt and Reeder 1982).

The stone bank which defines the scarp-edge enclosure was first recognised in the early 1940s, after being revealed by a moorland fire (Ward 1942; 1943). It was referred to as 'Meg Walls' and interpreted as a 'British defence wall'. The enclosure was later surveyed

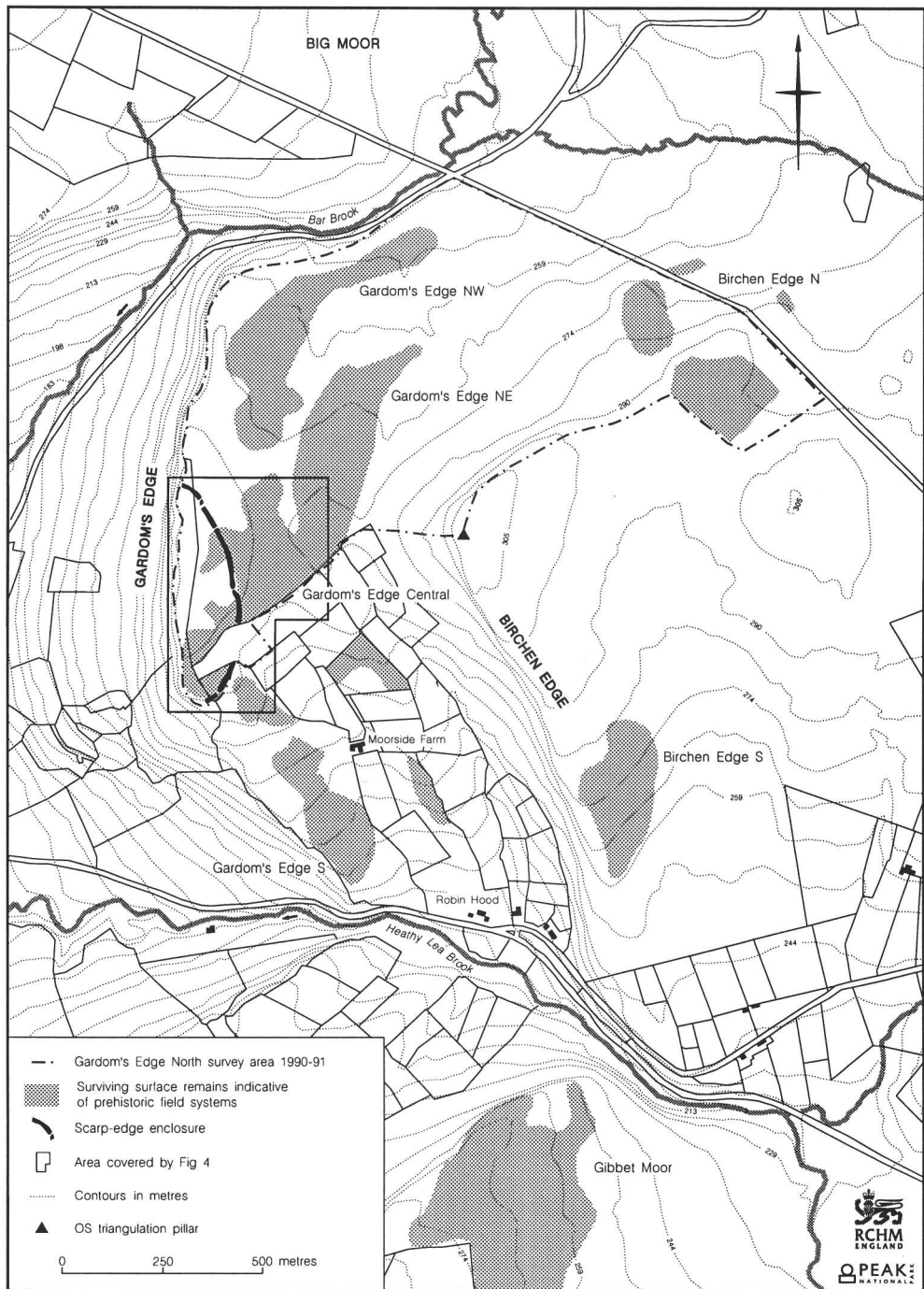


Fig. 2: Gardom's Edge — the topography and prehistoric field systems (after Barnatt 1986, RCHME 1987, 1990, RCHME and PPJPB 1993) (RCHME, © Crown Copyright).

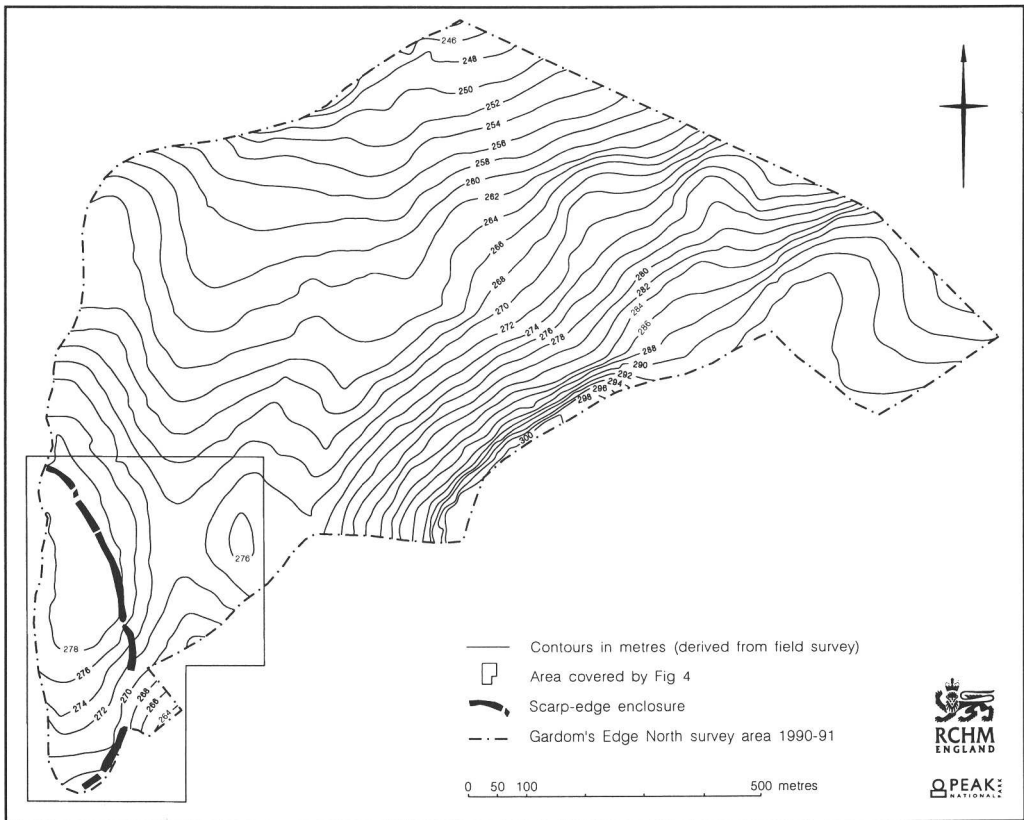


Fig. 3: Gardom's Edge — the 1990–91 survey area with 2m contours (RCHME, © Crown Copyright).

by Butcher sometime between the 1940s and 1960s but published only posthumously (Beswick and Merrills 1983, 28, figs. 12, 13). More recently it has been classified as an Iron Age hillfort or stock enclosure (Hart 1981, 75). This dating was later reinforced by the suggestion that the enclosure post-dated the surrounding Bronze Age cairnfield (Hart 1985, 72). More recently, cautionary notes were sounded and an earlier date suggested for the enclosure, possibly in the Bronze Age (Barnatt 1986, 56; Barnatt and Smith 1991, 24). However, the results of the joint RCHME/PPJPB survey in 1990–91 indicate a probable Neolithic date for this enclosure on the basis both of form and relationships with other features on site.

THE SCARP-EDGE ENCLOSURE

The Enclosure

The western edge of the enclosure is defined by the precipitous gritstone escarpment. The artificial component, the remainder of the enclosing circuit, comprises a massive stone bank that encloses the crest of Gardom's Edge (Fig. 4). Although the stone bank accommodates the highest part of the shelf, its exact siting does not maximise the

defensive potential of the micro-topography. In parts a change of line could have utilised outcrops and slope-tops more effectively, although even if this had been achieved the enclosure's position could not be considered naturally defensive except on the west side.

The enclosed area measures 545m north/south by 150m east/west, enclosing *c.* 6 hectares. The bulk of the site lies on unimproved moorland north of the upslope boundary of the walled fields of Moorside Farm, and is predominantly vegetated by heather and birch scrub. A small area near the southern end lies within the farm's fields and is dominated by short grasses, including one field which is improved pasture.

The Enclosing Bank

The massive, discontinuous stone bank forming the enclosure has a total length of 610m and is interrupted by 6 original gaps. It varies in width between 6m–9m, and in height between 0.3m and 1.5m (Fig. 5). Both terminals appear to be genuine, the south one being at a massive, naturally-placed, block-like boulder on the crest of a lesser cliff edge inset from the main gritstone edge (Fig. 6). The north terminal also terminates at a boulder, but in this case it is much smaller and sited on the crest of the main gritstone scarp (Fig. 7). At the south-east, an 80m length has been destroyed through the improved pasture field, although its line is still in part traceable.

Throughout its course the enclosure bank has been subjected to differential robbing for stone and this may well account for much of the variability in the current bank widths and heights. However, a more general difference in height and width between the northern and central sections of the bank may be an original attribute. The robbing itself has variable form, ranging from total removal in the improved pasture field to the south, to partial stripping of the upper surfaces (Figs. 8, 9), and to individual delves and quarry pits. Much rubble is generally exposed and disturbance may well continue below the present surface in areas, as the upper parts look to have been turned over to identify and remove the best walling stone while leaving large numbers of less suitable rounded boulders. Conversely, the robbing exposes some of the lower layers of the bank, from which it is possible, albeit tentatively, to infer its original makeup. It is rubble-built, the bulk of the exposed stone being surface-collected gritstone boulders that are 0.3–0.5m across. There are also occasional larger slabs, several of which are crudely set to stand vertically towards the outer side of the bank. There are also two instances of possible drystone walling in similar positions, exposed in robber pits, in one case situated above a vertical slab. Although these vertical slabs may be vestiges of an original outer facing to what might be therefore termed a rampart, the impression gained is that it was of simple construction and does not have a consistent retaining architecture. In at least one instance the slabs were leant in place rather than being firmly bedded. Only in one place was anything found that suggested a similar retaining structure on the inner side. Large, naturally earthfast boulders are also included throughout, occasionally the course of the bank deviating to accommodate them.

Despite the robbing and other disturbances, four original entrances, one double with two gaps in the bank, can be identified with some confidence. In addition, there is a tentatively-identified blocked fifth entrance to the south and there is the possibility that further entrances existed to the south-east where the bank has been destroyed. Elsewhere, other examples may have been hidden by tumble or material displaced by disturbance. All the identified entrances appear to be simple narrow gaps averaging 2m in width. Two

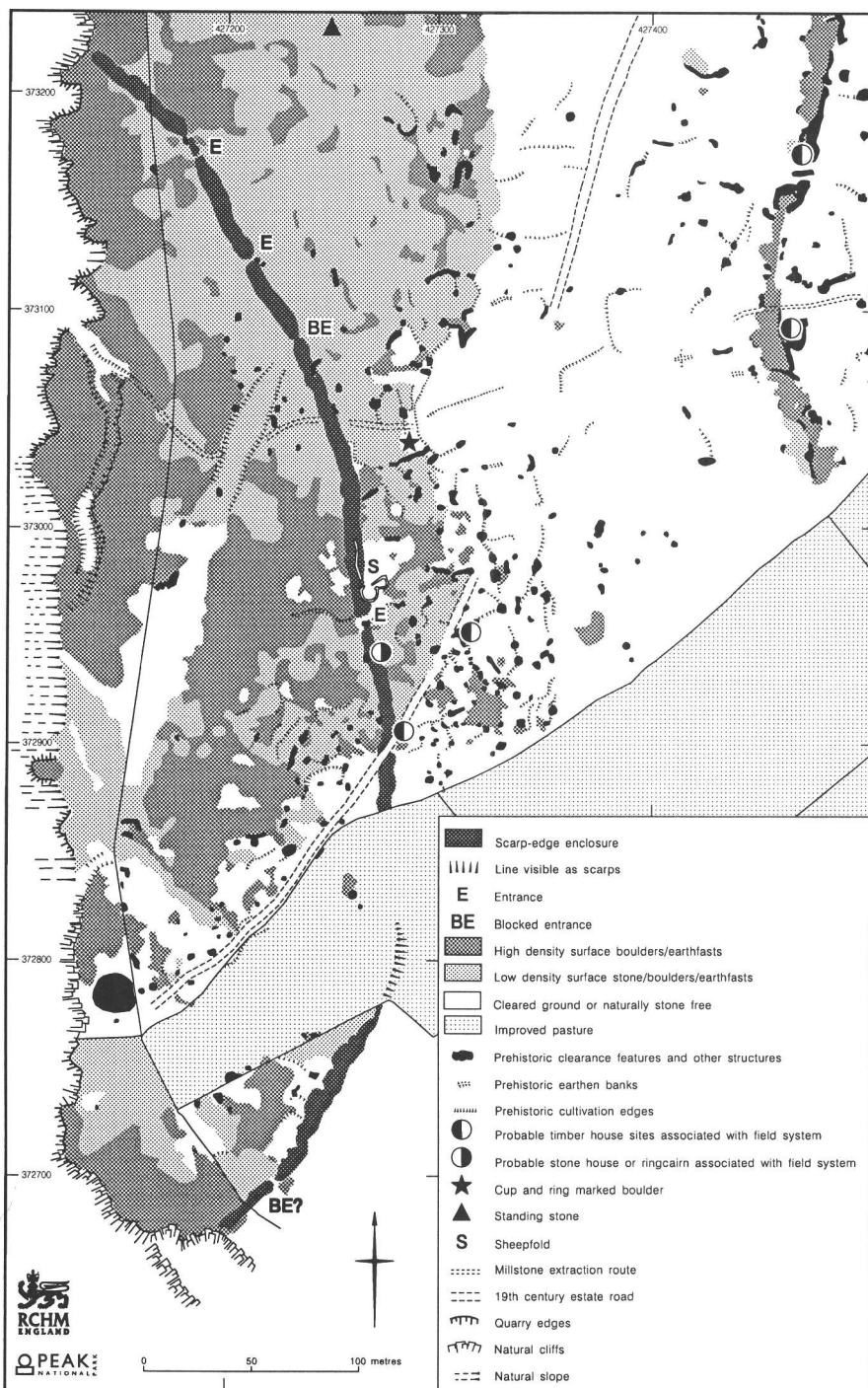


Fig. 4: Gardom's Edge — the scarp-edge enclosure and associated prehistoric features (RCHME, © Crown Copyright).



Fig. 5: Gardom's Edge — the enclosure bank to the east where best preserved (BB91/12520; RCHME, © Crown Copyright).



Fig. 6: Gardom's Edge — the southern terminal of the enclosure bank (BB91/12510; RCHME, © Crown Copyright).



Fig. 7: Gardom's Edge — the northern terminal of the enclosure bank (BB91/12527; RCHME, © Crown Copyright).



Fig. 8: Gardom's Edge — the enclosure bank at the extreme north where it has been robbed to build the adjacent wall (BB91/12526; RCHME, © Crown Copyright).



Fig. 9: Gardom's Edge — the enclosure bank to the south in an area where it has been robbed to build walls (BB91/12507; RCHME, © Crown Copyright).

have been subsequently blocked. Two others are part-blocked by prehistoric clearance features which form components of the later field system. The most northerly entrance has two gaps close together with an atypically narrow stretch of the enclosing stone bank between them that is 8.5m long and 3m–4m wide. To the north-east all three entrances are approximately evenly spaced along the bank, set 40–60m apart. One well-defined entrance at the east is central to the total length of the enclosing stone bank.

Rather than appearing as a cohesive alignment interspersed with entrances, the enclosing stone bank is made up of a series of discontinuous lengths, in part separated by the entrances. This is particularly evident north of the enclosed fields, where in plan the enclosure bank appears to take a somewhat sinuous course because of this discontinuous nature, with changes in direction occurring at the gaps. There is a consistency of lengths of 40–60m both between gaps and between changes in direction, where there are no gaps evident. The discontinuous nature is also apparent in the make-up of the enclosure bank either side of the centrally placed entrance. North of this entrance there is a greater height and bulk to the bank which is not apparent immediately to the south and which is not accounted for by robbing or disturbance. The whole may indicate a bank built in discrete sections, conjecturally having been created by different gangs and added to episodically.

Near the central section of the enclosing bank are a number of later prehistoric features which have an observable stratigraphic relationship with it (see below — Dating the Enclosure). These include two or three possible house sites associated with the Central field system which cluster together immediately outside the central section of the enclosure bank.

The enclosure bank is also disturbed by a variety of Medieval and Post-Medieval features. Generally, the worst preserved section of the enclosure bank is at the south, probably reflecting the greater removal of stone for building drystone walls as these increase in frequency in this vicinity. Clearance of the land in the one improved field that crosses the southern part of the scarp-edge enclosure included the removal of its stone bank, the line of which can now be traced only as a 38m length of slight lynchet in the southern half of the field.

A short distance north of the enclosed area, there is a 10m wide break in the enclosure bank created for a now disused early 19th century estate road. Minor disturbance has also been created at two points further north where tracks cross the bank, one at least used to remove millstones from quarries along the scarp edge between the 14th and 17th centuries (Polak 1987). This stone quarrying has cut into the natural cliffs and precipitous slopes. However, enough unquarried edges and slopes survive to suggest that only a very small area along the western edge has been lost through this activity. Near the centre of the scarp-edge enclosure bank and encroaching on its line is a sheep fold, with an associated lea wall built to provide shelter and facilitate gathering. These have been built from bank material.

The Interior

Much of the interior of the scarp-edge enclosure is heavily boulder strewn, while there are less stony areas to the north-east and south-east. In the central part of the scarp-edge enclosure, running in a south-west/north-east direction, is a 20m–30m wide strip of relatively stone-free surface sandwiched between dense boulder fields, which appears to

be a landslip fault line. Approximately 60% of the enclosed area consists of rock outcrops and dense boulder spreads; *c.* 10% has been levelled and cleared for improved pasture; *c.* 15% shows direct evidence of prehistoric field clearance activity, a continuation of the field system to the east; and some 15% is relatively stone-free but shows no evidence of prehistoric field clearance or occupation. Within the interior there has been some small-scale surface stone quarrying, but as this has occurred in the outcrops and dense boulder field it is unlikely either significantly to influence the perception of prehistoric land availability for settlement, or to mask identification of such features in the boulder-strewn areas.

Although large areas of the interior are boulder-strewn, where this is not the case, particularly at the north-east and south of the enclosure, there is unambiguous evidence that ancient cultivation has taken place in the form of clearance cairns, linear clearance heaps and 'boulder scarps' (lynchets incorporating earthfast boulders). Morphologically and spatially the cultivation remains inside the enclosure appear to be a continuation of those outside, indicating that this is one large field system. The notable exception to the coincidence of cultivation remains with relatively stone-free ground within the interior is to the north where there is an area that has only scattered stone but no clearance features. This corresponds with an area outside the enclosure that also has no clearance features and this zone between the Central and North-Western field systems was clearly never within cultivated fields.

No certain examples of any Neolithic structures directly associated with the enclosure have been identified. However, at the inner edge of the enclosing stone bank, 60m east of the southern terminal are four flat, stone-free, sub-rectangular terraces ranging from 7m to 10m across. It is possible these may be the cleared sites for timber houses. However, there is no surface evidence that allows retrieval of any stratigraphic relationship with the heavily robbed enclosure bank at this point. Therefore, if these features are the sites of houses, they may equally be components of the later field system which overlaps this area. Alternatively, they may simply be small cleared plots rather than house sites.

Within the scarp-edge enclosure, close to the gritstone edge, is a large burial cairn which is presumably of Later Neolithic or Earlier Bronze Age date (cf. Barnatt 1996a, 26). This low mound has a diameter of 20.5×17.5m and appears to have only superficial damage; there are no recorded antiquarian excavations. Investigation may have been inhibited by three commemorative cairns on its crest, built in the 18th century and known as the 'Three Men'. This cairn is located on boulder-free ground at the westernmost extent of the prehistoric field system. However, there is no direct stratigraphic relationship observable between the cairn and features in the field system.

Monuments and Carvings adjacent to the Enclosure

There is a 1.8m high standing stone set *c.* 80m outside the enclosure bank to the north-east. This lies between two of the field systems, in an area where there is no evidence of cultivation. It may well be contemporary with the fields as it has an analogous spatial relationship to monuments such as stone circles, which are also commonly found a close distance beyond cultivation areas elsewhere on the eastern moors (cf. Barnatt 1987; 1990). However, the possibility that it is of the same date as the scarp-edge enclosure cannot be discounted. One of the finest examples of rock art in the region, which has cup and ring motifs and including rings surrounding several cups, lies on a large earthfast

boulder 25m east of the enclosure. This boulder lies on a 'boulder-scarp' within the Central field system.

Dating the Enclosure

A number of important relationships which demonstrate the relative chronology between the enclosing stone bank and other prehistoric monuments are apparent in its central section. The enclosure bank is overlain by, and consequently its construction pre-dates a number of prehistoric features forming part of the Gardom's Edge Central field system. This relationship is demonstrated by 4–8 cairns and linear clearance heaps which overlie the bank or block entrances, one probable house site (or possibly a diminutive ringcairn) which is cut into the bank's outer face, and one possible house site which may also impinge on the line of the bank, although the cutting of a 19th century road at this point precludes any precise relationship being determined.

More generally, it is probable that if the enclosure bank had been constructed later than adjacent clearance features, then at least some of the latter would have been robbed of their stones for its construction. Those closest to the line of the bank are the most likely targets and this would have left a linear zone to either side of the bank with mutilated features. There is no evidence of this. In contrast, the preservation of most of the cairns and stone clearance features is remarkable, especially considering the proximity of more recent walled fields. This is probably due to the slightness of the cairns compared to the obvious stone source in the enclosure bank. The morphology of the remains comprising the field system is entirely consistent with that of numerous other examples on the Eastern Moors. Evidence derived from surveys and excavations at a number of these field systems suggests that they belong to the Bronze Age, sometimes perhaps with earlier origins, and in topographically favoured cases continuing in use into the Iron Age (Barnatt 1986; 1987; 1989a; 1994; 1995; Barnatt and Smith 1991; Everson 1989; RCHME 1986; 1987a–d; 1990; D. Long *pers. comm.*). The demonstrable relationship between the scarp-edge enclosure and the field system, therefore, clearly points to a Neolithic or Earlier Bronze Age date for the former. That the field system extends into the interior of the enclosure, taking up most of the land free from dense boulder cover, suggests that the enclosure was no longer used by the time the field system was developed here.

The scarp-edge enclosure is morphologically unlike any Iron Age hillfort in Britain. In contrast, comparison with other sites (see below) suggests its design is consistent with a Neolithic date for the monument.

DISCUSSION

Neolithic Enclosures in Britain

The scarp-edge enclosure with its segmented bank interrupted by several entrances, allowing for a difference in geology, is closely analogous to the Neolithic causewayed enclosure tradition of southern Britain (Palmer 1976; Mercer 1990; Edmonds 1993) and continental Europe (Burgess *et al.* 1988; Mercer 1989). It also has some morphological similarities with a number of upland enclosures in the south-west of England whose known or suggested date is Neolithic. Best documented of these are the tor enclosures at Carn Brea (Mercer 1981; 1989), Helman Tor (Mercer 1986) and Stowes Pound (Silvester 1979; Fletcher 1989). These similarities include such features as ditchless stone banks of

simple construction incorporating orthostats and drystone walling, several spaced entrances, and an absence of outer ditches. However, the monument at Gardom's Edge is very different from most of the south-western sites in that it only has a single rampart and it is unique in its overall form and its utilisation of a massive gritstone edge.

The south-western enclosures are now widely recognised as being upland equivalents to causewayed enclosures (Mercer 1981; Burgess *et al.* 1988). The latter are found through much of Southern England and into the Midlands, the most northerly examples being at Alrewas and Mavesyn Ridware in the Trent Valley, and possibly at South Kirby in West Yorkshire (Palmer 1976; Mercer 1990). A site with similar characteristics has recently been excavated close to Bryn Celli Ddu on Anglesey (Mark Edmonds and Julian Thomas *pers. comm.*). A large enclosure with relatively continuous ditch underlies one side of the stone circle at Long Meg and her Daughters in Cumbria and thus is likely to be of Neolithic date (Soffe and Clare 1988). A further site of large size but atypical design has been identified at Duggleby Howe on the Yorkshire Wolds (Riley 1980). Thus, the distributional gap between the upland type monuments of south-west England and the Peak District is filled by what may well be functionally similar monuments.

A possible upland site has been investigated in the north, at Blackhouse Burn in Lanarkshire (RCAHMS 1978; Hill 1985). However, this site, which comprised a single circular rampart with large posts at inner and outer edges of the bank, may well be better seen as an atypical henge. Excavations have confirmed a Later Neolithic date for the large posts. A sample from these gave a radiocarbon date of 4035 \pm 55BP (GU-1983), which is later than the radiocarbon dates available for the causewayed enclosures and the south-western tor enclosures. Thus the Gardom's Edge scarp-enclosure is probably the first large Neolithic enclosure to be identified with any confidence in the uplands of northern Britain.

A second, much smaller, undated site in the Peak District, at Carl Wark, might also be proposed as a Neolithic enclosure. It has been speculated that it is of Iron Age or Dark Age date but there are no dated finds (Preston 1954, 9–11). The site, at SK 25908145, lies in the heart of the gritstone upland, 8.5km north of Gardom's Edge. It is built on a gritstone 'tor' with a cliff on one side, a slight rampart at the top of a steep slope on a second side, and a high rampart at the only side not naturally protected. This rampart is earthen and has an outer face retained by a drystone wall of large blocks. There is a single inturned entrance. The enclosure is similar to Gardom's Edge in that it has no ditch and the interior is largely boulder strewn. It is situated close to second millennium cairnfields of the usual Peak District type (Barnatt 1986). All this said, it is far from clear what period Carl Wark should be ascribed to.

The Use of the Monument

Causewayed enclosures and similar sites are now recognised as serving a broad range of functions (Mercer 1990; Thomas 1991; Edmonds 1993). They appear normally to be sited in places peripheral to subsistence locales and it has been argued that they serve supralocal communities, used for activities outside the normal subsistence round that may have been perceived as 'threatening' and potentially disruptive to the normal social order. These activities include the negotiation with 'outsiders' for exchange and thus acquisition and redistribution of artefacts, agricultural surplus and other goods. Evidence for communal feasting and other ritual acts is common and these were probably integral

parts of the 'functional' activities that took place. Feasting may well have been preceded by culling of livestock. Some enclosures were also used as necropoli, where bodies were left exposed to deflesh.

The size of the scarp-edge enclosure on Gardom's Edge would suggest it is a monument of some significance, probably requiring much communal and possibly discontinuous effort in its construction. That the enclosed area did not function primarily as a settlement is indicated by the insignificantly small amount of clear ground suitable for building houses in comparison to the overall enclosed area, the majority of which is covered by a dense boulder field and outcrops. Although four small rectangular terraces have been identified as potential house sites within the southern end of the enclosure, the confidence in these is low. That the area enclosed was made so large, and that the bank is massive, may well imply the site was built to impress. In addition, large herds of cattle could have been corralled at times of conflict. The lack of water supply, and the stony ground which reduced grazing potential, illustrates impounding could only be practical for short periods. The large interior of the site may well have catered for a broad range of other functions that remain conjectural in the absence of excavation. Whatever these were, it is probable that the Gardom's Edge enclosure functioned as a episodic gathering point for Neolithic communities of the region (Barnatt 1996b).

The Monument in the Landscape

The Neolithic presence on the central limestone plateau of the Peak District has long been recognised from monuments and lithic scatters (Hart 1981, 35–47; Garton 1991; Barnatt and Collis 1996, 21–26). More recently, excavations at Lismore Fields, to the west of the limestone plateau on the outskirts of Buxton, have demonstrated that Neolithic settlements existed in the shale valleys surrounding the limestone plateau (Garton 1991; in prep.). To the east, above the western bank of the Derwent near Baslow and only *c.* 3km west of Gardom's Edge, Earlier Neolithic lithic scatters have been identified by fieldwalking (Myers 1991; Barnatt *et al.* in prep.).

Earlier Neolithic activity is also identifiable on the eastern gritstone upland, where again lithic scatters have been found, *c.* 3km east of Gardom's Edge (Myers 1991; Barnatt *et al.* in prep.). Only six polished axes and axe fragments are known from the upland (Moore and Cummins 1974; McK Clough and Cummins 1988, 189–92; Barnatt 1994, 332–33). However, this is an area where they can rarely be collected because the majority of land is moorland. Four out of the six have been found within *c.* 3km of the scarp-edge enclosure. More generally a Neolithic presence is also demonstrable on the eastern gritstone upland from pollen data (Hicks 1972; Barnatt 1994, 340–44; 1995, 8–10), and from scattered examples of rock art, some reused in Bronze Age ritual contexts (Barnatt and Reeder 1982), but now thought to have first been carved in the Neolithic (Bradley 1993, 34–38).

Models discussing Peak District land use in the Neolithic have been presented over recent years. That the limestone plateau was a core settlement area has been stressed (Hawke-Smith 1979; Bradley and Hart 1983). Aspects of this interpretation have been criticised (Garton 1991; Barnatt 1996b). Recently, more emphasis has been placed on the exploitation of various topographical zones of the region because they offered complementary resources (Barnatt 1996b). This model is placed within the current paradigm of relatively mobile populations in Neolithic Britain (Thomas 1991; Barrett

1994). It is argued that in the Peak District the main valleys such as that of the Derwent were important as 'home bases' for overwintering.

The location of the scarp-edge enclosure takes full advantage of the prominent and accessible landscape setting afforded by Gardom's Edge, which lies at a distinctive topographical interface. To the west are the Derwent and Wye valleys and limestone plateau beyond, while to the east are the gritstone uplands with Coal Measure foothills beyond. The chosen site, on the main scarp-crest overlooking the Derwent valley, may suggest siting criteria included a prominent location on convenient 'neutral' ground, which overlooked an important 'home-base' area, the valleys around the confluence of the rivers Derwent and Wye. That it lies between the only two streams on the eastern upland that break the upper scarp may be of significance. These provide obvious routes eastwards to the upper moors and foothills beyond. Possibly they also afford the easiest access on to Gardom's Edge itself. The scarp-edge enclosure is placed to the eastern side of the resource-rich zones of the Neolithic Peak District, suggesting that it may be sited with regard to resources being brought into the region from this direction. One obvious candidate is flint from the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds.

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APPENDIX 1: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey control for the project was based directly on electronic total stations observations from Ordnance Survey (OS) triangulation stations nearby. Three-dimensional OS National Grid centimetric co-ordinates were thus brought onto site and formed the basis of a network of permanently marked traverse stations and nearly 2500 detail survey points positioned across the survey area. Plots of these data formed the starting point for the analytical field survey process, which involved detailed observation and direct field measurement using tapes and short offsets, and planning of archaeological features and their relationships while standing alongside the features being recorded. The emplacement of this survey control, using permanently marked points for the traverse stations, has the added benefit of being re-usable and ensures any future recording or excavation strategies on this moor can be tied into and use the same co-ordinated grid. The full survey archive has been deposited in the National Monuments Record and is available for public consultation during normal office hours at the National Monuments Record Centre, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ; telephone (01793) 414600, fax (01793) 414606. Copies are also lodged with the Peak National Park archaeological archive and the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record.

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