READING ROYSTONE'S ROCKS: LANDSCAPE SURVEY AND LITHIC ANALYSIS FROM TEST PITTING AT ROYSTONE GRANGE, BALLIDON, DERBYSHIRE and ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR PREVIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF THE REGION

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INTRODUCTION

This paper outlines results of a detailed topographic survey at Roystone Grange, and the preliminary analysis of lithic material recovered during test-pitting work carried out during the Roystone Grange Project. The survey was undertaken in phases between June 1997 and May 1998 when both authors were postgraduate students at Sheffield University's Department of Archaeology and Prehistory. The remit was originally to tie in the test-pitting grids, to allow Helen Evans to examine the lithic material (Evans 1998). However, the project expanded to include the surveying of much of the western side of Roystone Valley. This work has demonstrated the quality of surviving archaeology, as well as the potential for future work in the area.

The Roystone Grange Project, undertaken by Sheffield University's Department of Archaeology and Prehistory between 1977 to 1990, was presented in the book *Wall to Wall History* (Hodges 1991). The project included the limited results of survey and excavation of stone walls, but only briefly considered the test-pitting programme. Most of the earthwork features in the valley were not recorded, and this survey's results cast doubt on some previous assumptions about the landscape at Roystone.

THE STUDY AREA

Roystone Grange lies in the Carboniferous limestone plateau country of the White Peak (Fig. 1). Roystone Grange Farm is at approximately 280m above Ordnance Datum (O.D.) in a narrow dry valley. In places this valley floor is only some 20–30m wide, the surrounding slopes forming a series of interlocking spurs. It provides a natural line of movement from the main bulk of the White Peak plateau to the north to the villages of Ballidon and Brassington to the south.

The ground rises steeply on either side of this valley and on the surrounding hilltops and valley sides, the Carboniferous limestone has been altered in places to form dolomite, which weathers into distinct, broken crags that stand out dramatically against the skyline. Behind the modern milking shed, Roystone Rocks forms one of the largest of these outcrops, at approximately 328m O.D. To the south however, Jackdaw Rocks is

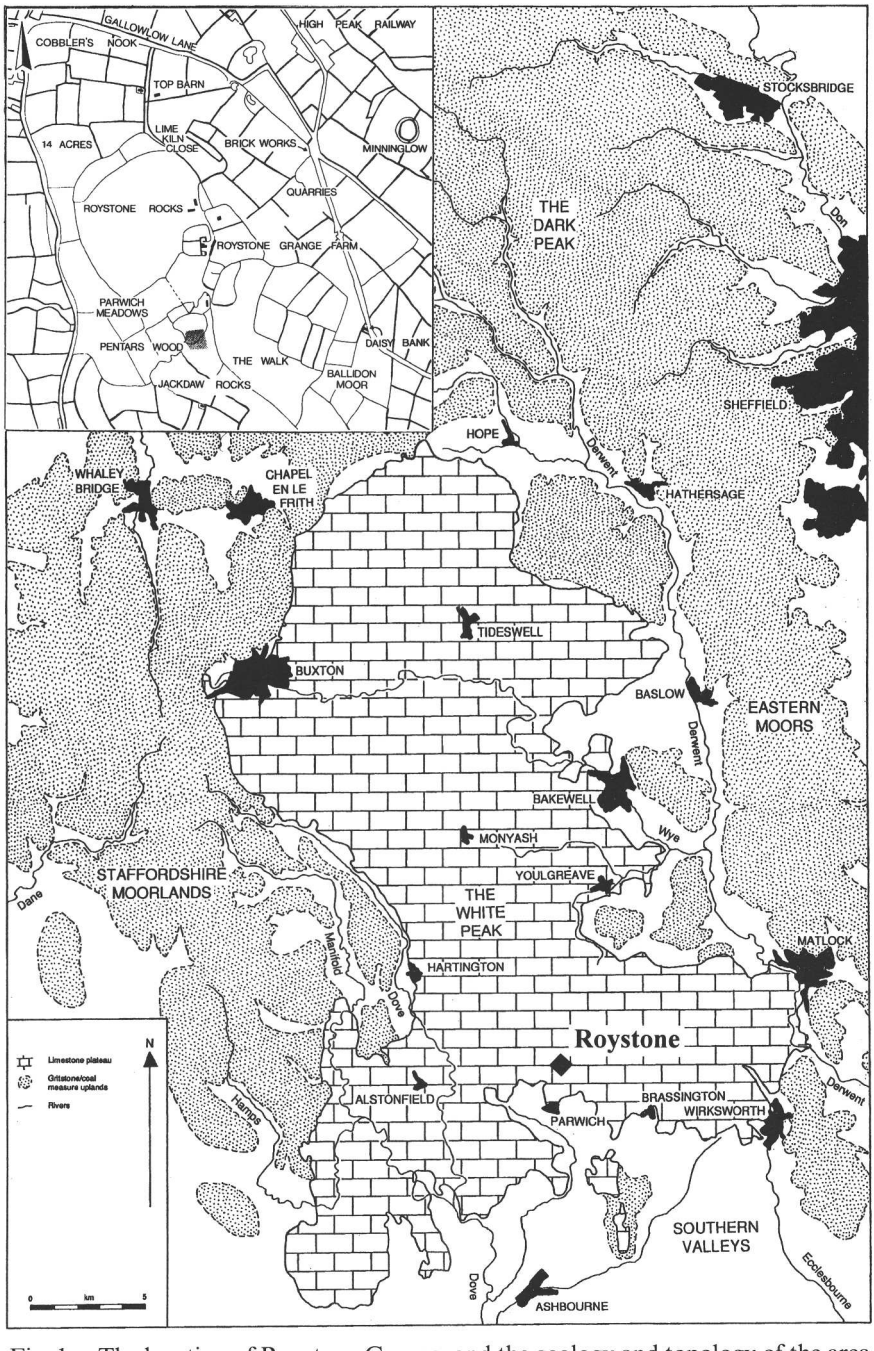

Fig. 1: The location of Roystone Grange, and the geology and topology of the area (from Barnatt and Smith 1997, 13). Inset not to scale (from Hodges 1991, 10).

also prominent at roughly 308m O.D. This dolomitic limestone forms distinctive north-south and east-west running bands, acidic rainwater etching out the natural faults and bedding planes within the stone.

The west and north-facing slopes of Roystone Rocks hill form a series of vertical scarps, and below them the ground falls away in a succession of natural terraces. Though defined by the craggy dolomite, the top of the hill is actually gently rounded, and in places free of earthfast blocks. Between it and Jackdaw Rocks to the south is a broad, concave shoulder or col approximately 100m wide, which runs north-east to south-west. This forms a natural line of movement to the village of Parwich, about 6km away. The ground rises up to the crags of Jackdaw Rocks, but behind falls away gradually to the south. A massive quarry has been extending northwards from Ballidon since the 1950s, and its northern edge now lies immediately south of the fence which formed the southernmost limit of the survey area.

The only certain water source in the valley is a spring to the west of the modern pump house and remains of the Cistercian grange. A dew pond may have been established here in the Medieval period (Hodges 1991, 104). Another possible water source may have been located on the site of the modern dairy, built in 1947.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT ROYSTONE

At the highest point on the eastern side of the valley is the chambered tomb of Minninglow. Excavated by Thomas Bateman in the nineteenth century, Minninglow was in use from the early to the late Neolithic. Roystone Valley was also the focus of a group of round barrows; situated in a broad arc to the south-west of Minninglow, and representing one of the densest concentrations of Bronze Age barrows in the Peak District (Barnatt and Collis 1996). Some were excavated by Bateman, and have also been investigated more recently (Barnatt 1996a; Hodges, Thomas and Wildgoose 1989; Marsden 1982). These barrows survive in varying states of preservation.

Running between Minninglow and Roystone is the remains of the Roman road from Aquae Arnematiae (Buxton) to Little Chester near Derby, known as Cyngstraet in the Anglo-Saxon period, but simply 'The Street' in later Medieval times (Hart 1981; Hodges 1991). The modern villages of Ballidon, Brassington, Bradbourne and Parwich were once part of a large Anglo-Saxon estate, and some Medieval features at Ballidon were excavated in 1986 (Hodges 1991, 114–15). Ballidon and Bradbourne form the focus of the current Sheffield University landscape archaeology project.

Important Post-Medieval remains lie north-east of Roystone, including brick works, quarries, the High Peak railway, and Daisy Bank Farm. Many were recorded and excavated as part of the Roystone Grange Project (Hodges 1991). Within Roystone Valley itself, the Medieval grange and a series of Romano-British buildings have been excavated (Hodges 1991; Hodges, Poulter and Wildgoose 1992; Hodges and Wildgoose 1981, 1991). Excavation also took place within a prehistoric rockshelter and a putative prehistoric enclosure on Roystone Rocks. A Romano-British enclosure site on Jackdaw Rocks field was also investigated. The drystone walls of Roystone were the subject of a detailed recording programme, initially carried out by Martin Wildgoose (Wildgoose 1991). Sections through these walls were also excavated by Sheffield University students,

and this work, along with the test-pitting, represent the bulk of intrusive fieldwork carried out by the Roystone Grange Project.

The test-pitting programme was established by lithic specialist Dr. Robin Torrence, who imported and modified the technique of 'shovel-testing' used in woodland areas of the United States. In total, 715 pieces of worked flint and chert were recovered from 380 of the 1100 test pits excavated between 1982 and 1990. These test pits were almost all spaced at 10m intervals, within grids positioned to sample specific topographic zones across the valley landscape (Figs. 2 and 3). Robin Torrence left Sheffield University before the test-pitting programme was completed, and the artefactual material (both pottery and lithics) was never fully studied. Along with lithic material recovered from excavations of the rockshelter and enclosure on Roystone Rocks, and from beneath the Jackdaw Rocks enclosure (Myers 1992), this worked flint and chert will form the basis of a forthcoming, more detailed study (Edmonds, Evans and Hind in prep.). Only preliminary results will be outlined in this paper.

There was little survey work during the Roystone Grange Project, though some work took place around the Medieval grange (Hodges 1991, 100), the Medieval building platforms to the east, and the putative Romano-British field boundaries on the eastern side of the valley (Hodges and Wildgoose 1981, 45). The Peak Park commissioned a walk-over sketch survey of the whole valley in 1989 (Shackleton-Hill and Hill 1989) which detected many of the features recorded here, but this new survey represents the first systematic, measured survey undertaken at Roystone.

METHODOLOGY

A combination of surveying techniques was used, utilising both survey tapes and Zeiss Electronic Distance Measuring devices or EDMs. Arbitrary heights were converted to values O.D. by transferring heights from the two Ordnance Survey benchmarks located on the east-facing walls of Roystone Grange Farm and the pump house. All survey points were plotted by hand, to produce fine hachure drawings. Unfortunately, only more diagrammatic versions of these drawings can be reproduced in this article due to difficulties of scale, but copies of the original drawings can be consulted at the Peak Park Archaeology Service.

The survey work also enabled the test-pitting grids to be accurately re-located and allowed these grids to be used as overlays for the survey plots (Fig. 2), to compare the distribution of lithic material with archaeological landscape features for the first time. The true orientation of one of these grids was found to differ by nearly 90 degrees from the published information (*cf.* Hodges 1991, 54).

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY AND THE PRELIMINARY LITHIC ANALYSIS

Roystone Rocks field (Fig. 4)

This large field originally stretched a further 40–50m north, and its northern wall is likely to be Post-Medieval or early modern. Most of the other walls are also quite modern in their present form, but stretches of the footings of the western wall may be Medieval or earlier (Wildgoose 1991). The field is domed in profile, with two distinct outcrops of dolomitic limestone running roughly north-south along the top of the western and

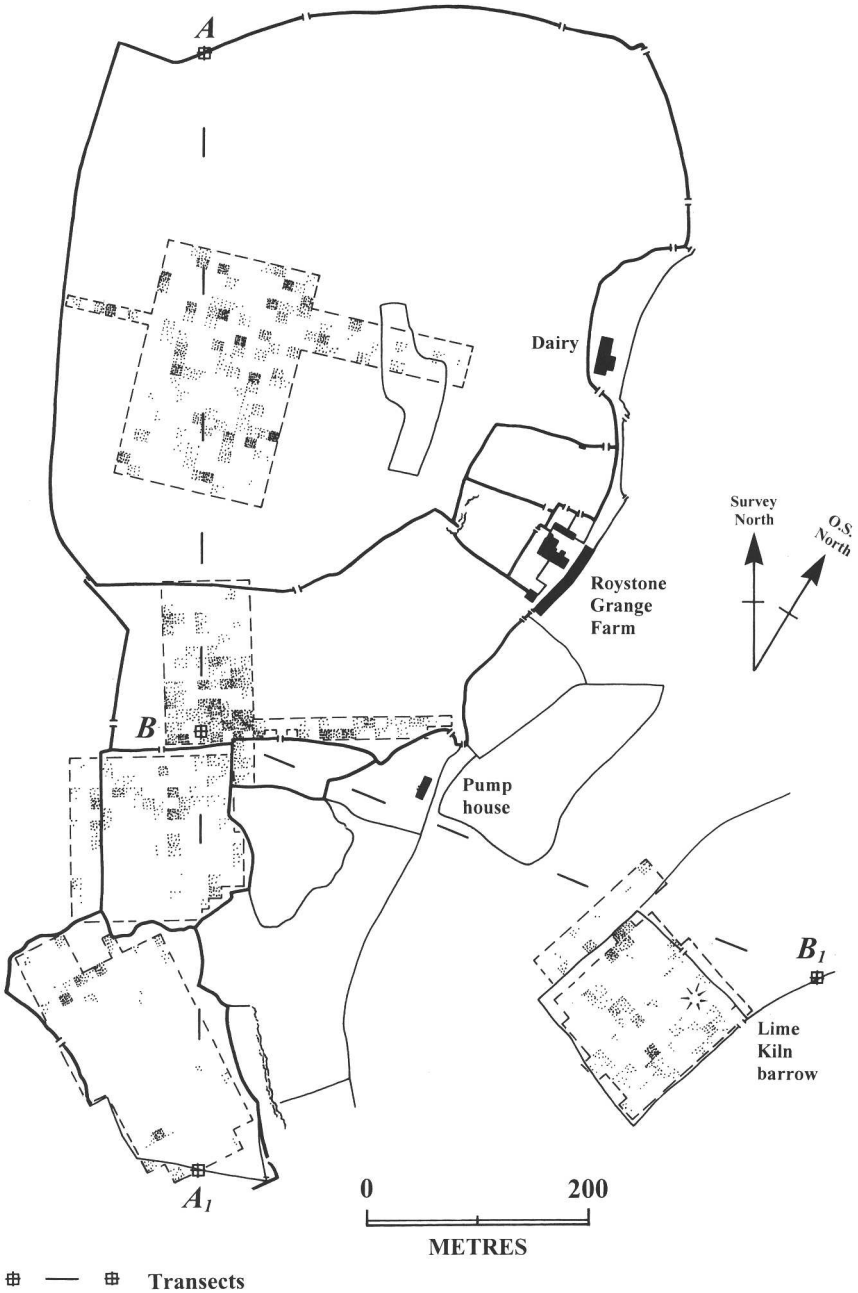

Fig. 2: Part of the Roystone Grange Valley showing modern field wall boundaries. The fields surveyed are outlined in bold, and A-A1 and B-B1 mark the two transects across the survey area. The location of the test-pit grids is also marked, and the dot density plots of the lithics recovered.

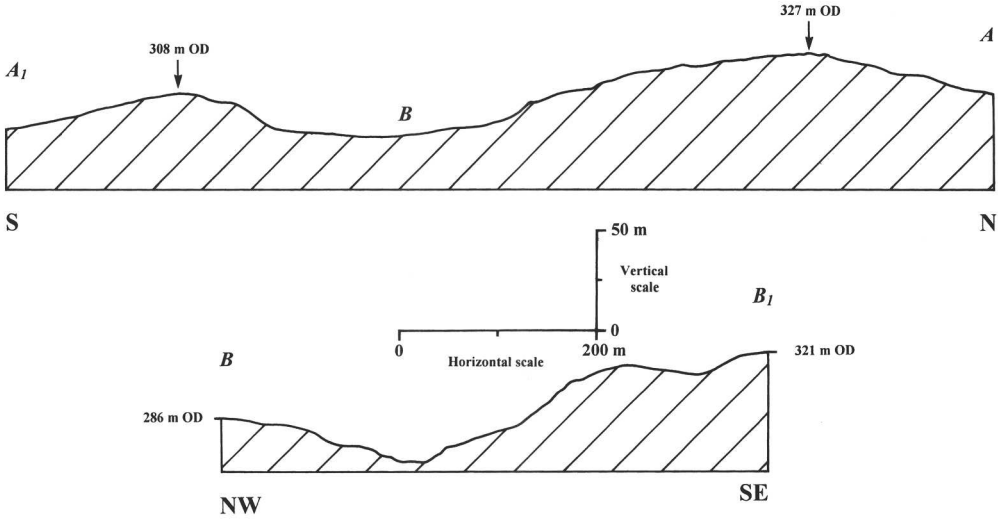

Fig. 3: The transects across the survey area marked on Figure 2. The vertical scale is twice that of the horizontal, to emphasise the relief.

eastern slopes. Smaller outcrops also occur along the northern and southern slopes. The northern slope shows evidence for small-scale quarrying, with trackways, quarry hollows and associated spoil heaps. These workings appear to be early modern or recent in date.

Running upslope from the western wall are the remains of a lead rake at least 160m long, orientated roughly east-west. It consists of a series of lunar-like excavation craters and interdigitated spoil heaps. The western wall of Roystone Rocks field is built over the rake which runs off to the west beyond the wall. To the east it peters out at the top of the slope, but there are several more trial workings scattered to the east. These workings are undated, but may be Post-Medieval. From the eastern end of the rake, a track runs sinuously southwards across the top of the hill, and is associated with further trackways and hollows that may represent loading bays. Further tracks and exploratory workings lie to the east. These hollows and trackways may result from quite extensive cart traffic. It is likely that these features represent intermittent working, when lulls in agricultural work allowed farmers to engage in this activity part-time (Barnatt and Smith 1997; Harris 1971).

A further track runs downslope to the east, towards a platform or hollow in the hillside about 40m long and 20m wide, which may be Post-Medieval, but might be a prehistoric or Romano-British terrace. The track may have been re-used in later periods. Enclosing the conifer stand on the eastern face of Roystone Rocks is a wall, largely ignored by Wildgoose and Hodges, and consisting of crudely dressed blocks set on massive earthfast boulders. It may be Post-Medieval or Medieval in date, and may have been established to keep livestock out of the jagged rock outcrop, or to protect a stand of sapling trees.

Running east-west along the southern boundary wall of the field is another lead rake 130m long which runs into the field to the west. It was re-used as a series of quarry pits to provide stone for the wall built above. A series of small hollows cut into the slope just above were also for quarrying. In the south-west corner of the field are further quarry hollows, lead workings and spoil heaps.

KEY TO FIGURES

Fenceline

Stile (Wildgoose's Types 2 and 4)

Sheep through or Type 5 style (solid black where blocked)

Natural dolomitic outcrop

Quarry hollow/lead working

Spoil heap/cairn

Earthen bank

Stone structure

Furrow/line of ditch

Holloways, building platforms, terraces

Modern trackway

Possible area of clearance

Several workers have identified apparently cleared ground and linear walls, on the lower western and northern slopes of Roystone Rock field (Hodges 1991; Shackleton-Hill and Hill 1989; Wildgoose 1991). During this survey these 'walls' were found to be natural weathered lines of limestone, the bedding planes running approximately north to south and east to west. Three possible irregular areas of clearance were identified on one of the eastern terraces, together with a possible trackway leading upslope and east through a cleft in the dolomitic crags. More convincing areas of clearance were noted on the top of Roystone Rocks, one irregular area having a build up of soil and small rocks around its northern edge, similar to clearance cairns recorded in other parts of the Peak District (Barnatt 1986, 1987, 1994, 1999; Barnatt and Smith 1997). Further to the south-east, two much larger, linked areas comparatively free of stone were identified. These clearances appear on aerial photographs of Roystone Grange held by the Peak Park Archaeology Service. A stretch of low earthen bank lies to the north-west of these revetments, and a subcircular, shallow hollow around 15m across lies immediately to the west. Two smaller hollows lie on the eastern sides of the cleared areas. These three hollows may be building platforms.

The rockshelter lies in the lee of a dolomitic outcrop, and excavations there recovered Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic lithic material (Hodges 1991). Around this rockshelter, an enclosure had been created using tabular orthostat blocks, which survive as single courses of stones. This survey identified shorter, more irregular sections of walling in the rockshelter, and on natural earthfasts on the crags behind. These may be related to prehistoric occupation, or may be remnants of more recent shelters for

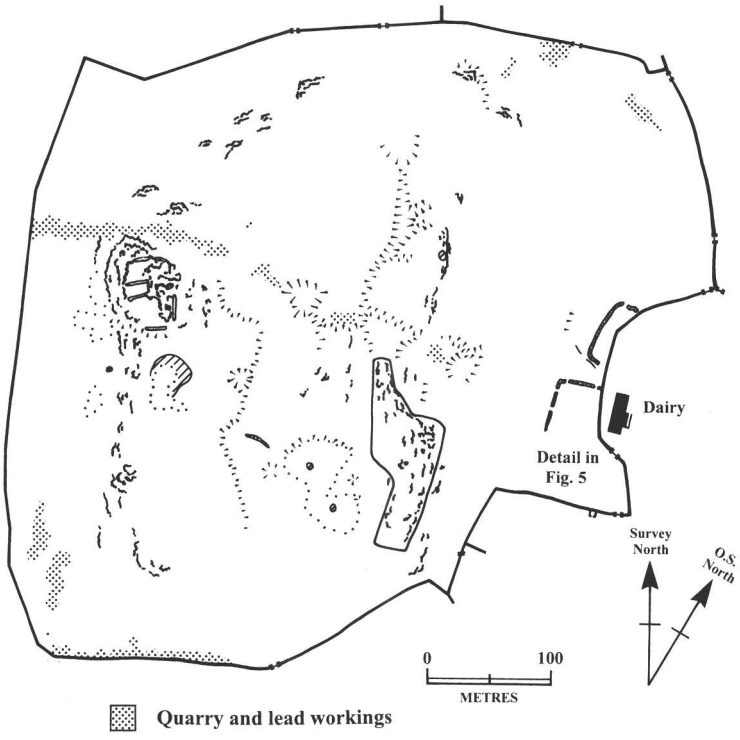

Fig. 4: Recorded archaeological features in Roystone Rocks field.

shepherds or livestock. Investigation of the enclosure recovered pottery, and a lithic assemblage dominated by scrapers and retouched flakes (Evans 1998; Myers 1992; Thomas 1991a), reflecting a Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age presence. This occupation and domestic activity should not be automatically associated with permanent settlement (*q.v.* Edmonds 1995; Thomas 1991b). However, the clearance and the cairn-like material do suggest that later prehistoric people were developing different relationships to land and tenure than had been the case in the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic (Barnatt 1996b, 1999; Barnatt and Smith 1991).

Test-pitting grids were established over these areas of clearance, and extended east to take in an apparently naturally stone free area (Fig. 2). This was to try and establish relationships between the clearance and the enclosure. In addition to a general spread of material, clusters of lithic material and Neolithic pottery were recovered from test-pits over the eastern stone-free area, and the margins of the cleared areas on top of Roystone Rocks. Identifiable tool types were predominantly scrapers, edge-worn scrapers being the most numerous. Blade cores and blades were recovered too. The presence of an edge-glossed flake suggests possible cultivation. Functional analysis of edge-gloss in similar contexts has indicated that the distinctive gloss is created during the cutting of plant materials, and various studies have shown an association with harvesting (Edmonds 1995). The presence of pottery and scrapers, especially edge-worn forms, may reflect prehistoric occupation of a possible 'domestic' nature, and the harvesting of plants. Flake and blade waste suggested the preparation of tools as well as their possible use.

None of these types were diagnostic in terms of date, and may range from the Early Neolithic to the Bronze Age. Clearance and cultivation activity may have extended into later periods — Romano-British pottery was also recovered from some of the test pits.

To the north of the modern dairy are remains of a possible ditch and a clearance bank. This may be Medieval or earlier. Upslope is a further low bank or a lynchet. A modern north-south track here is revetted with stone and earth on its eastern side, but it is not clear if this is simply reinforcement of the track, or the remains of an earlier feature re-used for this purpose. It does not occur on the southern side of the enclosure bank (Fig. 5), and thus may be linked to this feature. This track runs to the south-east corner of Roystone Rocks field, where there is a multitude of earthworks which are described separately below.

The south-east corner of Roystone Rocks field, and the fields to the north and west of Roystone Grange Farm (Fig. 5)

To west and south of the dairy, a series of earthworks represent building platforms, enclosing banks and tracks associated with a Romano-British settlement, and some of the buildings were excavated as part of the Roystone Grange Project. Low stone walling forms an eastern revetment to one of the excavated building platforms (Hodges and Wildgoose 1981, 47; Hodges 1991, 75). Many of these earthworks represent internal divisions and some are overlain by later features, including trackways and lead or quarry workings. The construction and demolition of a modern concrete storage structure has also disturbed archaeological features in this area.

A dew pond is recorded in the north-eastern corner of the northern enclosure, and possibly a spring (Hodges 1991, 76; Hodges and Wildgoose 1981, 48). A Romano-British inhumation was inserted into the silted up dew pond, and another burial lay just to the south, which was disturbed in 1947 when the dairy was constructed. No surface traces of the north-eastern corner or the dew pond can now be seen, as they have been quarried away. Further building platforms or terraces, banks and trackways linked to the Romano-British settlement lie in the next field to the south. Medieval or Post-Medieval tracks and banks survive there too, and it is clear that the modern north-south farm track had an earlier antecedent.

To the north and west of the modern farmhouse are two small fields. An outcrop of dolomitic limestone, abutted by three field boundary walls, forms the south-west corner of the southernmost field. East of this junction are the remains of a crude shelter built up against the face of the outcrop, consisting of a platform of limestone boulders laid end to end, defining an area approximately 5m long and 5m wide. It may be a temporary shelter constructed for stock by shepherds, but there are no means of dating it from the surface. Further west an earth and stone bank continues the line of the southern wall of Roystone Rocks field, at an abrupt turn to the south-east. This bank runs north-east for 15m, before curving eastwards and terminating at the top of the outcrop. Below the outcrop, the bank continues downslope, becoming fainter until it peters out just above the wall behind the farmhouse. Never previously surveyed, it is visible on aerial photographs held by the Peak Park Archaeology Service, and in a photograph published in *Wall to Wall History* (Hodges 1991, 2–3), as a dark line extending upslope behind Roystone Grange Farm.

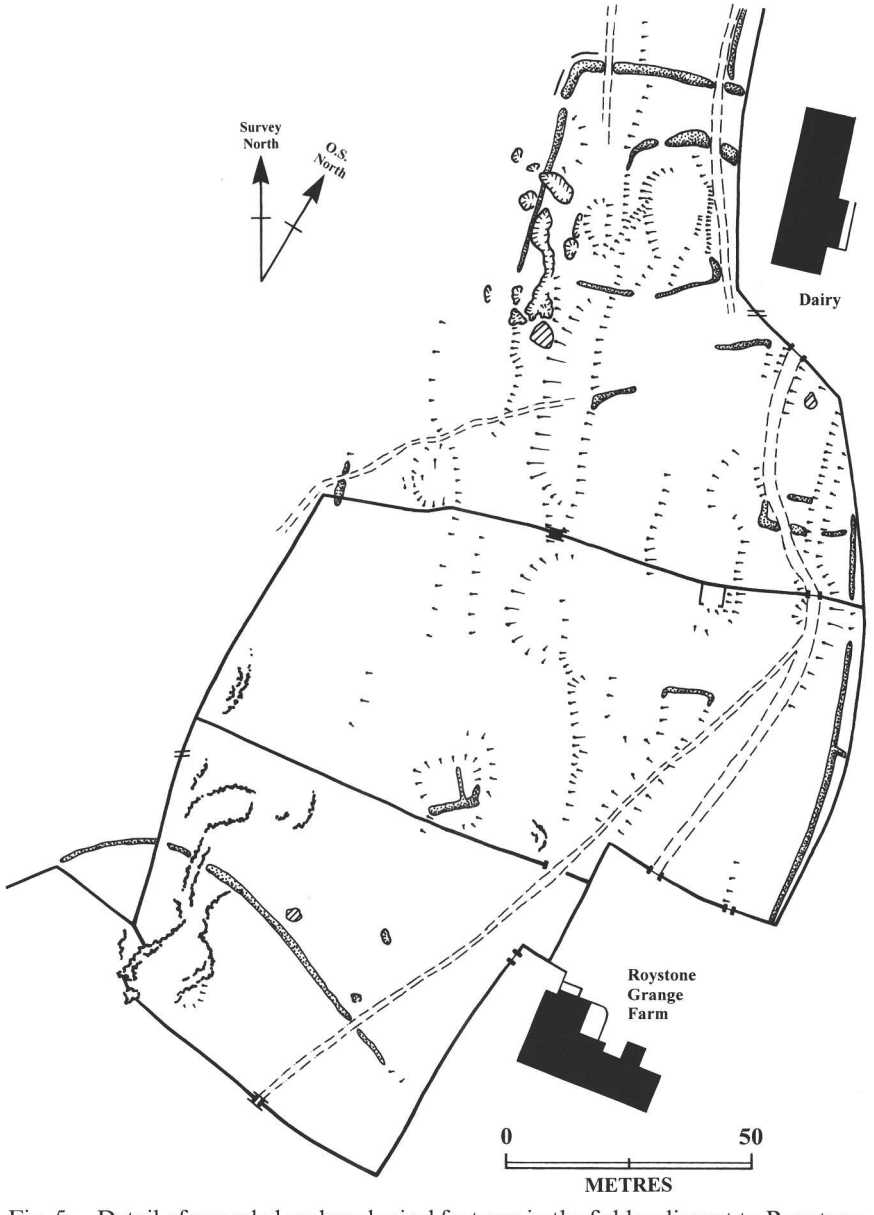

Fig. 5: Detail of recorded archaeological features in the fields adjacent to Roystone Grange Farm and the dairy shed.

The southern Roystone Rocks field wall has been interpreted as Medieval (Wildgoose 1991), with the western boundary wall of the smaller field having Romano-British footings. The line of this western wall cuts across the bank feature, however, and the bank appears to be continuing the line of the southern Roystone Rocks wall, pointing to a problem with the stratigraphic interpretation of the two walls.

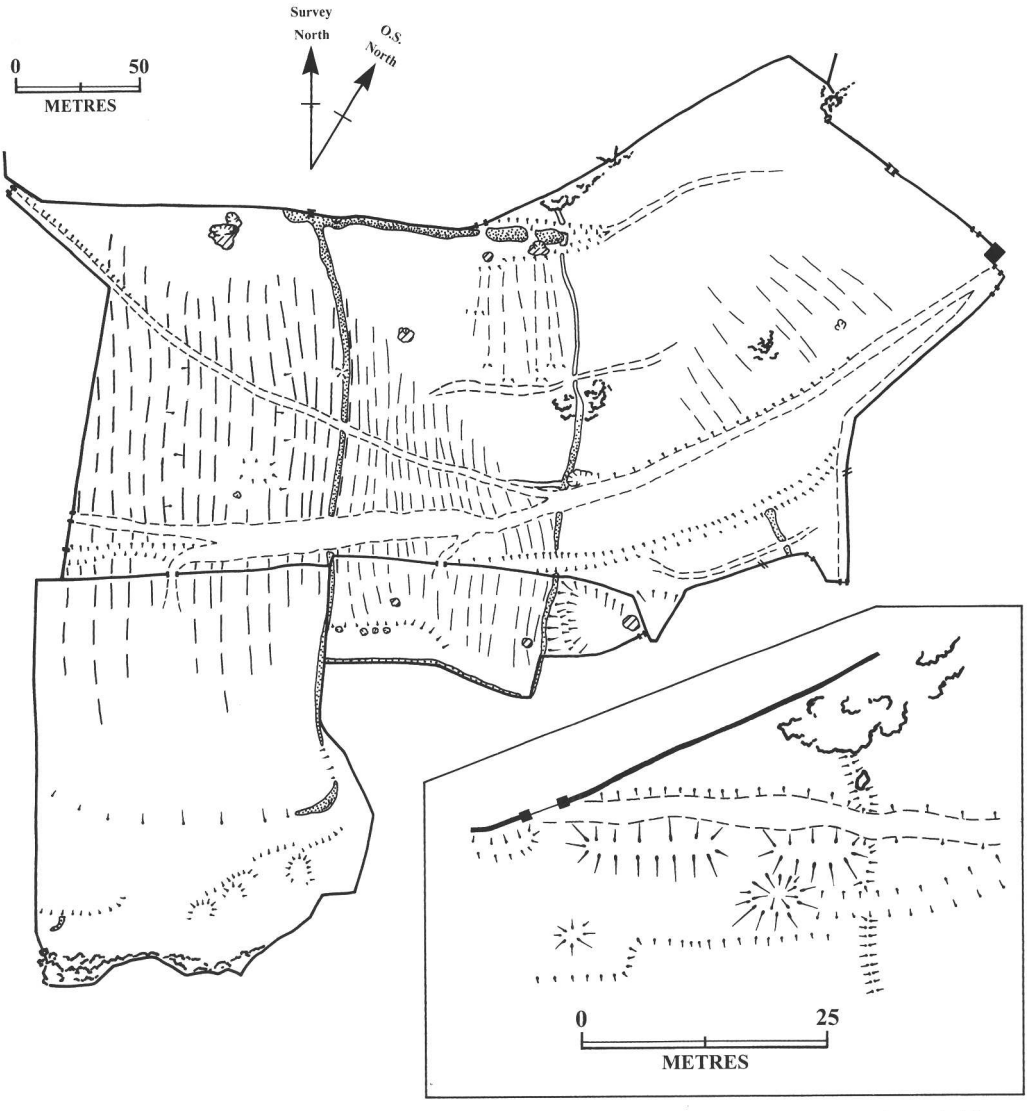

Fig. 6: Recorded archaeological features in Parwich Meadows and Roystone Meadows fields. Inset shows the contentious area.

Parwich Meadows field and Roystone Meadows fields (Fig. 6)

Most of the boundary walls of Parwich Meadows field and the two fields to the south (Roystone Meadows) are Post-Medieval or early modern, though many are rebuilt and some follow lines of much earlier land divisions. Only the eastern stretch of the southern Parwich Meadows field wall has large, undressed footings indicative of a Medieval or earlier origin (Wildgoose 1991).

An early modern track runs across Parwich Meadows field south-west from the farmyard gate, along a path revetted into the slope. This track bifurcates, one stretch

turning to the north-west and the gateway in the field corner. The southern branch turns into a wide, irregular and highly braided trackway running approximately east-west towards the gate in the western field wall, but extensions of it also lead into the two fields adjacent to Pentars Wood to the south. An older trackway used to run westwards towards Parwich, and two sections are visible as a holloway. One surviving stone gatepost in the western boundary wall indicates the position of the older western field entrance.

Further east, a track emerges by the gateway to the field north of Pentars Wood. The holloway here is pronounced, and curves round to the north-east. It cuts into the slope to the north, but is revetted to the south by a stone and earth bank. Another bank contiguous with this trackway runs south-east, and though truncated by a recent sheep track it meets the line of the field wall enclosing the pump house and the Cistercian grange. This trackway and bank are Medieval or early Post-Medieval in date (Hodges 1991, 112).

At the north end of Parwich Meadows field, a pronounced natural break in slope runs east-west, just south of the modern wall line. Along this slope are several Post-Medieval stone or lead workings. Running for 115m along the top of the scarp is an earthen bank with a stone core, up to 5m wide and 1m in height. At the west end a contiguous bank 2–3m in width turns southwards for approximately 120m before being truncated by the braided track. On the other side of this track it runs underneath the north-south field wall for at least 60m and appears in the southern field as a break in slope forming a distinct corner of earthen material. A slight break in slope runs east-west across this field at this point.

This bank appears to be a Medieval field boundary. Its relationship to the holloway in the middle of Parwich Meadows field cannot be determined due to the later disturbance. Between the north-south bank and the western field wall are faint traces of ridge and furrow, part of an extensive Medieval field system. Two of the ridges are slightly more pronounced, and may be furlong or strip boundaries. These furrows continue south of the holloway into the field north of Jackdaw Rocks, eventually becoming too faint to record. South of the possible old headland, and before the steep slope leading up to Jackdaw Rocks, three or four revetted platforms of unknown date are visible.

The linear depression immediately east of the north-south bank may be the remains of a ditch rather than a cultivation furrow, perhaps the source of earth for the bank. Further furrows are also visible, becoming increasingly faint to the east, and these are more irregular and narrowly spaced than those to the west. Solifluction or soil-creep downslope may have caused this, but they may be where Post-Medieval cultivation of beet and potatoes in 'lazy bedding' has added to or disturbed existing Medieval furrows. Some of these furrows also extend south of the holloway into the field north of Pentars Wood, where, north of the natural east-west slope, an east-west running break in slope may mark an old headland. In the same field, four subcircular depressions may be old lead explorations. To the east, the ground has been artificially terraced away. There is a natural hollow here, and this is the site of a spring or possible pond. Another possible pond site lies to the east in the small corner at the south of Parwich Meadows field. This latter depression is now filled with small trees.

Two further areas of cultivation can be seen on the south and east facing slopes of Parwich Meadows field. Those on the southern facing slope are associated with a short

stretch of bank, but all are irregular and extremely faint, and were noticed in the 1989 survey because melting snow picked out their subtle contours (Shackleton-Hill and Hill 1989, 1). They do not appear to be part of the Medieval system, and may indicate Post-Medieval or early modern 'lazy-bedding'.

The large northern east-west bank in Parwich Meadows field stops by the modern northern gateway into the field. There is a short gap, then a further 15m stretch of bank before another gap. The bank then continues for another 10m before terminating. These last two sections form the southern boundary of a holloway running from the modern gateway and extending for at least 45m to the east. Here it is cut by another track curving downslope towards the farmhouse and a sheep creep in the wall. Gaps in the bank may be tracks cut by people, or eroded by sheep, although the eastern gap may result from an archaeological trench described below. Immediately south of the bank is a working hollow and associated spoil heap, at the end of the southernmost track.

Some 10m north of the bank terminal is an outcrop of dolomitic limestone, incorporated into the southern boundary wall of Roystone Rocks field. Abutting this outcrop are the remains of a double orthostat stone wall running 5m to the south before being truncated by the northernmost track. It continues again after a 5m gap, and here the terminal of the main east-west bank runs over it. After another short stretch of approximately 5m, this double orthostat wall is cut by the second of the two tracks in this area. It then curves sinuously southwards and downslope for 65m, over the edge of a southern outcrop of dolomitic limestone, and southwards where the modern track, a small quarry hollow, and the holloway cut it. It then continues southwards again for 32m, along the edge of a sharp break in slope, running under a field wall, and disappearing into Pentars Wood.

This feature has been interpreted as a double orthostat Romano-British field wall and a whole series of stratigraphic relationships have been proposed for the northern stretch of this wall, based on the results of a section excavated through the features at the north of Parwich Meadows field (Hodges 1991, 80–81). This trench may have been excavated where the eastern gap through the east-west bank is now visible.

Hodges thought the double orthostat wall overlay the east-west running bank and the spoil from the lead working predated the bank, and as a late Iron Age sherd was recovered from the bank, this was thought to give a very early date for the bank, the holloway and the lead working. Hodges and Wildgoose also suggested that the wall's sinuous course was due to being laid out around trees when the land was originally colonised (Hodges 1991, 79–80; Wildgoose 1991). Upland archaeology is notoriously difficult to excavate, but this survey, as outlined above, suggests a more likely sequence of events.

The double orthostat wall originates north of the bank and is clearly cut by the holloway, whilst bank material overlies the wall. The excavators may have misinterpreted bank core material as double orthostat walling, for the primary line of the wall appears to be north-south. Further to the south, a new east-west section of double orthostat was recorded, running west for approximately 25m before being truncated by the ridge and furrow and the modern track. The east-west bank is likely to be Medieval in date. The north-south field bank running off it across the middle of Parwich Meadows field appears contiguous and thus contemporary. The bank therefore becomes a major boundary delineating the northern extent of the ridge and furrow cultivation — a head dike. The

relationship of the bank to the holloway is difficult to ascertain, but they may be contemporary. In any case, the holloway also post-dates the double orthostat wall.

Immediately south of the bank, the lead working appears to clip the edge of the bank, and some of its upcast may lie over the bank. This relationship is not certain, as spoil from the excavation may have blurred these relationships. Lead workings were often reworked, but there is no clear evidence of this. A track leading east from the lead working, and almost certainly associated with it, cuts the line of the double orthostat wall. The lead working therefore post-dates the wall, and is likely to be Medieval or Post-Medieval. The double orthostat wall may indeed be Romano-British, but is incorporated into a later Medieval field system. The field bank to the west matches its line very closely, and the wall forms the eastern limit of the regular ridge and furrow. In places, it has clearly had earth added to turn it into a bank. The sinuous line of the wall can be more pragmatically explained by the fact that it incorporates earthfast boulders. It is not clear from the published accounts where the late Iron Age sherd was recovered (Hodges and Wildgoose 1981, 50) but it is probably residual.

Two separate but adjacent test-pitting grids were located in the broad col of Parwich Meadows field and Roystone Meadows fields, with an additional line of test pits extending downslope towards the spring (Fig. 2). At the base of this valley was a cluster of Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic tools and waste. Identifiable forms included microliths, truncated blades and scrapers. The waste included a variety of cores and core-based pieces, including a pyramidal core, a microlith core, an opposed platform core, two blade cores and two flake cores. All had been worked until they were 'exhausted'. This patterning was supported by data from the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record, which revealed that in the 1960s when the field was still under plough, microliths, leaf-shaped arrowheads and end scrapers were collected. Largely outside of the area of these tools and working evidence, a small number of Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age forms such as a barbed and tanged arrowhead and a thumbnail scraper were also found.

This area would have been a natural route for people coming east into Roystone Valley itself, but the lithic concentration also lies along the routeway above the spring, a feature likely to have been important throughout prehistory. Deer and people would have come here to drink, and later the spring would have been used to water livestock. Large amounts of mainly residual prehistoric lithic material, found during the excavation of the Medieval grange, reinforce the idea that this spring was a focus of activity.

Jackdaw Rocks field (Fig. 7)

This field is bounded to the north and east by nineteenth century or more recent field walls, however, the western boundary wall has more massive, blocky foundation stones, and is likely to be Medieval. A recent wire fence — the northernmost limit of the Ballidon quarry, forms the contemporary southern and south-western boundaries of the field. Before the quarrying, a Post-Medieval enclosure and barn used to stand here, and the Roystone Grange Project recorded them prior to their destruction. The northern boundary wall has a 'dog-leg' in its construction where it butts a possible Post-Medieval wall. In this 'dog-leg' is a small construction of tabular slabs 10m by 7m, set into the ground and revetted into the slope. This is probably a small livestock pen, and a track curves westwards from it. The pen has been described as Medieval (Hodges 1991, 111),

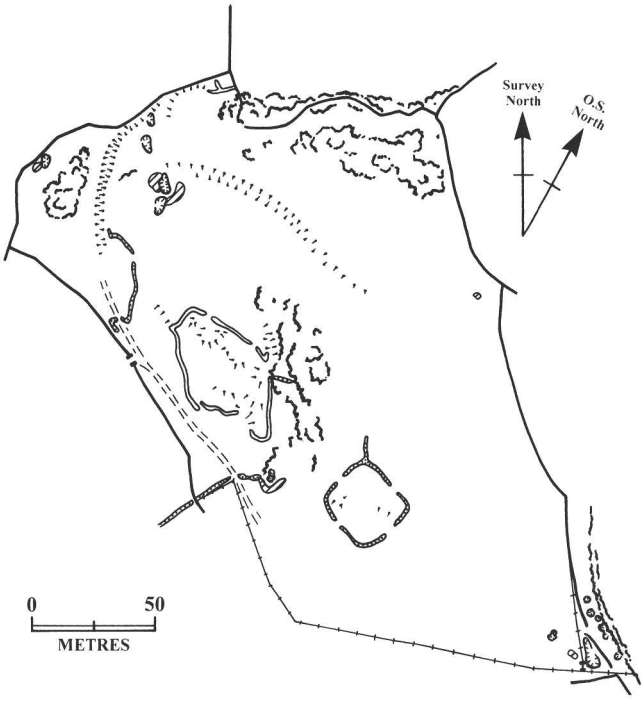

Fig. 7: Recorded archaeological features in Jackdaw Rocks field.

but may be later if the walls are Post-Medieval. Further trackways run to the south-east and the south-west, linked to quarry hollows and spoil heaps in the northern part of the field.

West of the dolomitic outcrop in the centre of the field, earthworks and the remains of double orthostat stone walls mark a trapezoidal enclosure 60m long and up to 35m wide. A modern path cuts it, but there appear to be entrances to the east and south-west. Part of the eastern wall utilises the natural bedding of the limestone, and in other stretches natural earthfast boulders have been built upon. A series of low platforms within the enclosure mark the locations of structures, some of which have ramp-like features in front of the platform, perhaps once paths up to doorways. This enclosure, Roystone Grange 2, produced Romano-British pottery and flagged stone floors when excavated (Hodges 1991, 58–61).

Over a hundred worked flint and chert pieces were recovered from below the stone flagged floors, along with concentrations of pottery interpreted as Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (Thomas 1991a). The flint assemblage was composed mainly of Early Neolithic diagnostic tools and waste, including end scrapers and a leaf-shaped arrowhead and Myers (1992) has suggested that this was a rare single period assemblage. However, some undiagnostic scrapers and flakes could date anywhere between the Early Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (Evans 1998). One unretouched flake had use gloss along one edge, suggestive of cultivation.

Just over 80 test pits were also excavated in this field, although some were spaced at 20m intervals instead of 10m. To the north was a significant density of blade working, and more diffuse scatters of waste to the south and south-west. No readily identifiable

tool types were found, but the assemblage may well be largely Neolithic in date. There is little recognisable clearance in the field. Clearance cairns may of course have been robbed for wall construction, but the extensive outcropping bedrock makes it unlikely that much of the eastern part of the field was ever cultivated. Near the eastern boundary wall, one small pile of earth-covered rocks is the only sign of possible clearance activity. To the west of the dolomitic outcrop however, some areas of ground do appear to be stone free. The relatively large proportion of scrapers in the excavation assemblage, the flake with use gloss and the blades suggest prehistoric cultivation or occupation activity, similar to that on Roystone Rocks. The multi-period nature of human activity on Jackdaw Rocks shows that this was a significant site for long periods.

North-west of the enclosure, further banks and double orthostat walling mark the line of another boundary, perhaps an outer enclosure or a field, and south of the enclosure, a 30m length of earth and stone bank runs roughly north-east to south-west, before abutting more outcropping dolomitic limestone. This bank originates in the field to the west, where it is visible running south-west for at least 30m and runs underneath the western field wall, indicating that it is likely to be Medieval or earlier in date, and possibly associated with the enclosure. A more massive right-angled section of rubble bank overlies its north-eastern end, but this seems to be a separate, later feature. The later bank may be spoil derived from several visible, small, lead workings.

To the south-east of the Roystone Grange 2 enclosure, traces of earthen bank indicate the position of a previously unknown subrectangular enclosure, approximately 30m by 25m wide. One or more of the gaps in its banks may be entrances, and there are indications of a possible platform or structure in the north-western corner. A bank may run off it to the north, though the natural dolomitic bedding hampers interpretation. In the south-eastern corner of the field, hollows and spoil heaps mark quarrying or lead workings. These also occur just over the eastern field wall, in a line running immediately west of the natural scarp edge. These are likely to be Post-Medieval or early modern.

Lime Kiln Barrow field (Fig. 2)

A test-pitting grid was also positioned on the scarp edge on the eastern side of Roystone Valley, around Lime Kiln Barrow. This overlooks almost the whole of the valley, and forms one of the eight known barrows in the broad arc of the Roystone barrow cemetery (Barnatt 1996a; Barnatt and Collis 1996). Close to the barrow itself, microliths and evidence for blade working was recovered. Other later Mesolithic and Early Neolithic material, including an end scraper, core pieces and blade waste, was also found in an arc along the scarp edge. This suggests a significant amount of activity on the hillside long before the construction of the Early Bronze Age barrow and may relate to the facts that the scarp overlooks the spring and two of the routeways into the valley.

There was a lack of diagnostically later tools and waste, implying that after the barrow's construction there was less stoneworking in the immediate vicinity, and might indicate that the area around the barrow was seen as sacred. The barrow may have been positioned to overlook the spring and routeways into and along the valley, and may also have been referencing Minninglow. The presence of the barrow seems either to have led to changing patterns of human movement and activity in the vicinity, or to have reflected them.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Robin Torrence intended that the test-pitting survey should examine the distribution of worked stone over the Roystone landscape as a whole, in order to discern patterns of occupation, movement and deposition in the varying topographic zones of the valley through the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. This was seen as a means of landscape characterisation and an 'off-site' approach. Hodges, however, used the data to identify type-sites such as 'hunting stands' (Hodges 1991, 57), in order to support his narrative of social change within the valley.

The landscape context for the lithic assemblage shows palimpsests of tools and waste indicating that some locales at Roystone were returned to repeatedly, perhaps over generations. Also there are strong links between scarp edges and lithic densities which may be 'hunting stands' as described by Hodges, but this terminology may be too site and function specific. These locations overlook routes through the valley, and from many the Neolithic tombs on Minninglow are visible. Minninglow is likely to have been a landmark from the Neolithic onwards because not only was it an important reference point in the landscape, but it was perhaps also part of the cosmology and spiritual beliefs of people in the area.

The distribution of Bronze Age barrows demonstrates the continued importance of the scarp edges. The scarp edge at Lime Kiln Barrow saw concentrations of lithic material during the later Mesolithic and Neolithic, but was turned into an even more significant place through the construction of the barrow in the Early Bronze Age. Monuments were clearly structuring human movement and activity in the landscape, and were deliberately chosen to fix certain vantage points in relation to understandings of the world beyond (*q.v.* Barrett 1994; Edmonds 1995; Tilley 1994). Everyday activities such as small-scale cultivation, the control and grazing of livestock and the manufacture of stone tools took place under the gaze of the dead. It may have been considered auspicious to work flint or chert whilst viewing the hilltop tombs. The construction of Minninglow may also have signified people establishing relationships and even claims to the land and over time the notion of a watchful, undifferentiated ancestral presence may have changed to concepts of historical descent and lineage.

Survey, test-pitting and excavation evidence reveal that Roystone Rocks and Jackdaw Rocks were the focus for human activities that, by the later Neolithic, may have included plant harvesting and cultivation. Earlier prehistoric communities also left other traces of habitation at these two locations. These were unlikely to have been permanent settlements, and may represent temporary occupation, perhaps in seasonal or annual rounds (Barnatt 1996b; Smith 1992). By the Bronze Age however, the construction of monuments such as the Roystone barrows may indicate increasing tenure over the land, and perhaps more settled occupation (Barnatt 1999). What is clear is that some places within the Roystone landscape were returned to repeatedly, and were clearly places regarded as significant, and probably had memories and stories associated with them.

There are some problems with the Roystone evidence as presented by Hodges and Wildgoose (Hodges 1991; Hodges and Wildgoose 1981; Wildgoose 1991). Landscape stratigraphic relationships were over-simplified, to construct a model of long-term cultural change. More tightly controlled stratigraphic work is needed to elucidate these problems. It is clear that the present known extent of double orthostat walling cannot be

shown conclusively to be the full extent of the Romano-British field system. In a recent review of the evidence for Romano-British rural settlements in the Peak District, Roystone is the only settlement with such an unusual two field agricultural system (Makepeace 1998, 129), and this proposed layout needs further investigation.

Hodges and Wildgoose regard the absence of late Iron Age evidence from Roystone (one sherd only) as evidence of absence. They have proposed that the limestone plateau was largely abandoned in the Late Iron Age due to climatic deterioration, perhaps visited only by wandering pastoralists of the Coritani to the south and the Brigantes to the north (Hodges 1991, 69; Hodges and Wildgoose 1981, 54–55). It was suggested that this made the area all the more attractive for Roman colonists, who established settlements in the Peak, including Roystone, specifically for the purpose of exploiting lead deposits.

There is an apparent dearth of Iron Age sites in the region (Barnatt and Smith 1997; Hart 1981), but reconsideration of existing evidence and recent fieldwork is beginning to change this situation (Barnatt 1999; Bevan 1999, in press, in prep.). Occupation may have been in valley bottoms, where prehistoric remains would have been masked by alluvium and colluvium, or destroyed by later settlement. Few sites have been excavated in such locations. A cropmark site at Swarkestone Lowes in the Trent Valley has been excavated (Losco-Bradley 1983), but was more typical of Iron Age and Romano-British occupation to the east in South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire (Chadwick 1997).

The lack of ceramic evidence may be the result of several factors. Much Iron Age pottery in northern England was produced in coarse fabrics that do not survive in ploughsoils or acidic upland soils, and as argued for South Yorkshire, another purportedly 'marginal' Iron Age area, it is likely that most people used perishable containers of wood and leather (Cumberpatch 1993). The contexts in which pottery was discarded during the Iron Age may have been very specific, and these may have been missed in past excavations. The type site for Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery in the area remains Mam Tor (Coombs and Thompson 1979), but there are problems associated with the excavation results and C14 sampling (Barnatt 1995). Stratified finds and reliable C14 dates are rare in the Peak District, and basic fabric analyses and the construction of type series remains to be done for much of the later Bronze Age and Iron Age material (P. Beswick *pers. comm.*).

Iron Age finds are recorded from Brassington Common (Radley and Plant 1969), Harborough Rocks (Makepeace and Bishop 1990) and Horsborough (Makepeace 1998, 120–122). Some of the pottery recovered from the Jackdaw Rocks enclosure at Roystone may be Early Iron Age (Thomas 1991a), and two burials recorded by Bateman at Winster in 1856 are Iron Age in character (Beswick and Wright 1991). Later Iron Age pottery and beehive quern fragments were excavated at the Romano-British settlement at Staden near Buxton (Makepeace 1983, 85; Makepeace and Bishop 1989, 22), and a beehive quern base was found near Ladybower Tor (Makepeace 1987). A geophysical survey of Chee Tor has hinted that an earlier enclosure lies underneath the known Roman settlement (Allen 1998). This suggests that many Romano-British settlements were sited at places that were already significant locales.

In Roystone Valley, there are several sites of possible later prehistoric occupation, including possible hut platforms associated with the cleared areas on top of Roystone Rocks. Environmental evidence suggests the region was not abandoned in the Late Iron Age (Barnatt 1999; Long, Chambers and Barnatt 1998), and reconsideration of agrarian

regimes in northern England has demonstrated that populations were not subsisting solely on pastoral animal husbandry (van der Veen 1992).

Some Romano-British settlements in the Peak District were undoubtedly very Roman in style, such as the rectangular and hypocausted buildings at Carsington (Ling and Courtney 1981; Ling *et al.* 1990). Other sites such as Staden, Chee Tor and Rainster Rocks, may be more typical however (Dool 1976; Makepeace 1998; Makepeace and Bishop 1989). It has been suggested that Roystone was too small and specialised to have been a viable agricultural community (Hodges 1991, 89). However, colonial lead prospecting is unlikely to have been the only reason for habitation at Roystone and the detailed character and extent of Romano-British settlement at Roystone and in the Peak District has not yet been established. Work is only just beginning on this (e.g. Bevan in prep.; Makepeace 1998).

POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

It is important that those areas of Roystone not covered by this survey should be recorded in similar detail, especially the eastern side of the valley. Through survey work a better understanding of the relationship between earthworks, walls and excavated sites can be achieved. Keyhole excavations are also still required to understand some of these landscape stratigraphic relationships, and to assess the validity of the patterning revealed by the test-pitting results. New techniques such as soil micromorphology and better C14 dating methods may be able to provide more evidence for husbandry regimes and absolute chronologies, without reliance on potentially residual artefactual material. Projects such as that on Gardom's Edge, Derbyshire (Barnatt, Bevan and Edmonds in prep.), demonstrate the potential offered by these approaches to an area such as Roystone.

The Roystone Project largely ignored the later Medieval fields and banks, yet these were complex systems, where social changes, tensions and negotiations could be expressed through alterations in the landscape (Astill 1988; Johnson 1996). Later Medieval and Post-Medieval lead mining activity also saw social tensions (Kiernan 1989). Landowners tried to challenge Derbyshire mining laws, which allowed men of lowly social rank access to lead deposits. The ruling elite turned to common law, at the expense of the jurisdiction of established local bodies (Wood 1993, 161–75). There is potential here for documentary research, and oral history studies, which were touched upon only briefly in *Wall to Wall History*. A landscape approach to the evidence is the best way to understand these past communities, and there is a need to investigate the local and the specific by developing what Anne Woodward has termed 'agrarian sociologies' (1998). Knowledge of the many different Roystone communities can only be advanced if further, detailed fieldwork is combined with approaches sensitive to understanding how these people inhabited their landscape.

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