PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT REMAINS ON THE DERBYSHIRE GRITSTONE MOORS

By Stewart Ainsworth

SUMMARY

This paper presents the results of a project undertaken by the former Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) to identify and record the physical form of settlement remains associated with the extensive prehistoric field systems and cairnfields on the East Moors gritstones in Derbyshire. It is hoped that as a result of this work, future fieldworkers will have typological models which can be used as a basis for identification of prehistoric settlement and its monument morphology across the wider Peak District landscape. Whilst repeated evidence was found for unenclosed settlement, no evidence was found for settlement within an enclosed context.

INTRODUCTION

The existence of unenclosed Bronze Age settlements in association with field systems is well attested in other upland zones in Britain, such as the Cheviots, Bodmin Moor, Dartmoor and the Borders (Jobey 1979; 1981; 1983; 1985; Burgess 1980; Gates 1982; 1983; Gates and Ainsworth 1979; 1981; Halliday 1985; Johnson and Rose 1994; RCAHMS 1967; 1990). This has not been the case for the Peak District of the southern Pennines, despite the widespread survival and ready recognition of well-preserved early field systems on its eastern gritstone moors (Beswick and Merrills 1983; Barnatt 1986; 1987). The prime purpose of a project by the RCHME through the late 1980s and early 1990s was to establish in the archaeological record the physical form of settlement structures (huts or houses), which could be routinely observed in association with those field systems. The examples recorded in this RCHME survey closely parallel those in the Cheviots in particular, both in the morphology of the structures themselves and their context within the field systems. The failure to recognise them previously had left a significant gap in the understanding of prehistoric settlement in the Peak District. The results of that objective are presented in synthesis in Part A of what follows.

It was not the intention of this project to examine aspects of the wider Bronze Age use of the East Moors or even to establish the pattern of settlement in relation to the field systems and ceremonial monuments. This has already been attempted (Barnatt 1986; 1987; Bradley and Hart 1983; Long 1994; Long *et al.* 1998); much of this work was either complete or in progress when the RCHME project commenced. Nevertheless, the settlement features were recorded within surveys of whole tracts of moorland or (more rarely) extensive archaeological complexes. These provide a contemporary landscape context for the settlement remains, which is presented in descriptive summary as Part B below.

Background to the project

In 1984, the RCHME was requested by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA), formerly Peak Park Joint Planning Board (PPJPB), to undertake a detailed analytical survey of Stanton Moor, an outlier of the gritstone moors situated on the west side of the River Derwent, in order to assist the management of this topographically discrete and well-visited area (Everson 1989). Stanton Moor was established in the archaeological record essentially as an extensive Bronze Age burial and ceremonial landscape, principally as a result of the excavations and publication by the Heathcotes, father and son (Heathcote 1930; 1936; 1939; 1945) and research by others (Thomas 1976; Barnatt 1978; Hart 1981; 1985).

The survey methodology adopted by the RCHME to respond to this request was to produce a detailed, metrically accurate survey plan at 1:1000 scale of the whole moorland, and in addition, to compile an analytical record of the archaeology of all periods in order to facilitate an understanding of Stanton Moor as a dynamic landscape. In the event, and in addition to enhancing the quality of record for this individual piece of landscape, significant observations were made for the first time relating to evidence for prehistoric settlement and agricultural practice on this moor. Three platforms, which could be interpreted as the stances for circular timber houses surviving close to or within newly identified field systems, were discovered: these were analogous to excavated examples of Bronze Age houses identified in the Cheviots (*cf.* Jobey 1983; Burgess 1980). This became the catalyst for further reconnaissance and fieldwork to see if similar structures survived within the extensive prehistoric field systems, understood to be of Bronze Age date, previously recorded on the East Moors gritstones (*cf.* L. H. Butcher's surveys in Beswick and Merrills 1983; Hart 1981; Barnatt 1986). Up to this point, the identification and understanding of Bronze Age settlement on the East Moors remained a significant gap in the archaeological record.

As a result of the ensuing reconnaissance it became clear that the tentatively identified settlement remains on Stanton Moor were not the exception or a unique monument form; conversely, analogous features could be perceived within a wide range of field systems visited and yet had not been seen or in some cases had been mis-identified by previous fieldworkers. It was therefore decided to initiate a project aimed at recording these features within their landscape context by selecting for survey a sample of field systems, within which evidence for settlement was visible. The same methodology applied to Stanton Moor was adopted, surveying these features in context onto a 1:1000 survey base, and continuing to record archaeology of all periods; thus, it was not only possible to record the variety in morphology which was apparent, but also to facilitate comparative analysis between sites and considerably enhance the quality of both the local and national record. As a consequence of this multi-period approach to the landscape, the knowledge of monument types and the use of the East Moors has been considerably expanded (RCHME 1986; 1987a; 1987b; 1987c; 1987d; 1990; RCHME and PPJPB 1993; Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998b), with such chronologically diverse monuments as a possible Neolithic enclosure on Gardom's Edge (Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998a) through to a First World War light railway on Stanton Moor (Ainsworth 1990) being discovered or re-appraised. Additionally, the multi-period and detailed survey methodological approach adopted produced a much clearer understanding of genuine

prehistoric surface monument morphology on the East Moors gritstone (Everson 1989), and challenged hitherto traditional approaches of narrowly focused field recording of upland prehistoric monuments in isolation rather than as elements in an evolving landscape.

During the life of the project, the research and recording aims of the RCHME became closely aligned with the archaeological management requirements of the PDNPA. Consequently, the last two surveys in the sample (Gardom's Edge/Birchen Edge North, and Big Moor) were undertaken jointly by the two bodies as collaborative exercises, with staff from both organisations involved in the fieldwork, analysis and archiving processes. During the period in which this paper was being prepared, the RCHME merged with English Heritage.

This paper provides a synthesis of the settlement evidence (Part A), and an outline of its context (Part B); it is based on more detailed description and analysis which is archived in the National Monuments Record.

PART A: SETTLEMENT REMAINS

Previous fieldwork-based research into identification of settlement associated with prehistoric field systems

The geology of the East Moors is predominantly that of west-facing escarpments formed by beds of the Millstone Grit series of sandstones, and intermediate beds of softer shales. The shelves formed by the erosion of these softer shales are the principal areas on which Bronze Age field systems have been established, the conditions apparently being the most favourable for agricultural exploitation and consequent development of field systems (Barnatt 1987, 393). However, at the time this project was initiated (1984) the state of knowledge relating to the physical nature of settlement associated with the extensive upland field systems on the gritstones was remarkably thin. That field systems had been identified at all was largely due to the pioneering fieldwork of Leslie Butcher who, over a period of twenty years during the 1940s and 1960s, recorded many new sites on the East Moors gritstones. It was he who first suggested that the extensive cairnfields and field systems that co-existed with the stone circles and barrows might be of Bronze Age date, a somewhat radical suggestion at the time (Beswick and Merrills 1983) but later to be endorsed in broad terms by the results from excavations (Richardson and Preston 1969, Machin 1971; Machin and Beswick 1975, Radley 1966, Barnatt 1994; 1991; in prep; Barnatt *et al.* 1995; 1996); a summary of radio-carbon dates pertaining to excavation of prehistoric settlements and field systems in the Peak District is given in Barnatt (1995). Several sites were recorded by Butcher as having possible settlement features associated with them: Birchen Edge (SK 282 722); Callow (SK 242 821); Dennis Knoll and Sheepwash Bank (SK 230 840); Gardom's Edge (SK 276 722); Swine Sty (SK 272 750 - wrong grid reference of SK 217 750 assigned in Beswick and Merrills 1983). This last site, located on the southern fringes of Big Moor, became a focus for excavations by the Hunter Archaeological Society in the 1960s and 1970s and until recently was the only excavated example of a Bronze Age settlement structure identified with some confidence on the East Moors. It comprised a stone-founded hut of 3.5m internal diameter which replaced a possible earlier and larger timber structure of 6m in diameter (Richardson and Preston 1969; Machin 1971; Machin and Beswick 1975). A charcoal sample from

open ground in proximity to these features gave a radiocarbon date of 3560+–80BP (HAR 123) which at two sigma calibrates to 2140–1695 cal. BC, although this date has been considered somewhat uncertain (Barnatt 1995, 10). This site subsequently became the model for Bronze Age settlement morphology associated with the field systems despite the lack of comparable monuments elsewhere, and that the site may have had a specialised function (see below).

Only one other excavated site within an upland field system on the East Moors — on Brown Edge at SK 289 791 — demonstrated any evidence of settlement activity (Radley 1966). Here, during the excavation of a ring cairn with an unusually wide bank (Barnatt 1986, 41) and a central cairn, a hearth, two parallel lines, two arcs and an oval of stone were interpreted by the excavator, Jeff Radley, as settlement activity pre-dating the ring cairn. This interpretation is questioned by Barnatt (1986, 41). Unfortunately, the relationship between the ring cairn bank and these putative settlement features was not fully examined, so that it cannot now be understood whether the atypical nature of the bank itself, which as well as being unusually wide for ring cairns was also constructed of burnt turves (Barnatt 1990, 52), may perhaps have had its origins in a domestic house site. The excavations produced radiocarbon dates for two cremations under the central cairn, 1608–840 cal. BC (BM177) and 1878–1090 cal. BC (BM211), and a further cremation pit in the interior of the ring cairn produced a date of 2200–1440 cal. BC (BM212) (Barnatt 1995, 12–13).

Further survey and research on settlements and field systems on the East Moors was undertaken as part of the North Derbyshire Archaeological Survey (Hart 1981). This study, which largely built on the work of Leslie Butcher, suggested the existence of enclosed and unenclosed settlement (1981, 63). Examples of unenclosed settlement in the form of circular huts (analogous to the Swine Sty excavated example) were identified at Dennis Knoll, Outseats and Gardom's Edge, and 'enclosed' settlement was suggested at Swine Sty, Birchen Edge, Gardom's Edge and Stoke Flat.

Throughout the period 1982–85, a more detailed, fieldwork-based study of the Bronze Age remains on the East Moors was undertaken (Barnatt 1986). This survey brought to light several new field systems, on the White Edge dip-slope of Big Moor, Gibbet Moor and significant additions to other areas of Big Moor and Gardom's Edge. Barnatt made an important observation in relation to the Swine Sty excavations in recalling that it was noted by the excavators that the adjacent bank curved to avoid the earlier timber structure and thus this had implications for identifying other likely timber structures elsewhere. Nevertheless, out of the 51 landscapes presented in Barnatt's survey, curves in banks indicating house sites were only noted at the Big Moor Central field system as a general comment, and a single example was recorded at Birchen Edge South. The only other settlement structures identified by Barnatt were a single ring cairn/house on Gardom's Edge South West, and a platform at Smelting Hill of unknown date. Barnatt dismissed the circular houses identified by Hart (1981) as being instead small yards. In a more recent work, it has been suggested that the presence of timber houses in the Bronze Age field systems on the East Moors can be inferred on the basis of the distribution of 'yards' (Barnatt and Smith 1991, 24). However, this distributional approach in itself cannot shed light on the morphological characteristics and identification of occupation structures.

RCHME Sampling Strategy (Fig. 1)

Following the first identification of platforms on Stanton Moor, the sites ultimately selected for reconnaissance by the RCHME were chosen as a result of a desk-top assessment of published and unpublished plans and reports of previous fieldworkers, but principally those of Leslie Butcher (Beswick and Merrills 1983), Hart (1981) and Barnatt (1986); the latter was the most comprehensive review and rapid survey of all prehistoric field systems on the East Moors. Because these datasets were available this allowed the RCHME to target resources at potentially the most rewarding areas. Although few convincing settlement sites within the field systems had been identified, it was felt that the model established by the Swine Sty excavations, with the expectation of stone-founded huts, had clearly influenced the perception of the field monuments. Stances (sites for timber structures denoted by the shape and orientation of features around them), and earthen platforms, usually but not always on sloping ground, were not being recognised as equally valid indicators of settlement in the way that similar evidence from other upland areas suggested. On Gardom's Edge for instance, Hart (1985, 71) comments;

> Here there is an extensive area of settlement comprising round stone houses, some in enclosures and others possibly unenclosed. The visible field evidence is constructed of gritstone, but we should be aware that many structures now invisible to the eye, may have been constructed of timber (*vide* Swine Sty).

To assess the nature of these alleged settlement remains and also to undertake rapid reconnaissance to see if further examples of platform-type features or stances existed in the cairnfields and field systems, a decision was made to visit the sites where settlement features, whatever their nature, had been recorded or might be inferred by analysis of the surveys. The following sites were selected for survey by the RCHME based on the factors identified above: *Stanton Moor; Callow; Dennis Knoll and Sheepwash Bank; Stoke Flat West; Gibbet Moor; Gardom's Edge and Birchen Edge North; Big Moor.* Summary descriptions and analysis of the field systems and settlement features identified are presented below. As a result of the sampling survey it has been possible to establish a basic typology of the remains indicative of house sites; this is described below.

Typology of settlement structures

In other upland areas attempts have been made to categorise types of prehistoric unenclosed settlement structures (houses or huts) from their surviving earthwork forms. In upland Northumberland for example, only four differing types were identified, comprising platforms, ring-grooves, ring-ditches, and ring-banks (Gates 1983), whereas on Bodmin Moor the range of huts is much more complex with 30 types being identified, ranging from simple earthwork platforms to complex stone-walled huts with internal details (Johnson and Rose 1994).

Because the RCHME project was a sampling exercise based on only nine landscapes out of 51 which display evidence of prehistoric field systems on the East Moors (Barnatt 1986), any categorisation of settlement structures is necessarily based on a limited data sample. Nevertheless, 84 possible house or hut sites were identified within the field systems examined. Five basic morphological types have been identified in the sample, *platforms, platforms with partial banks, ring banks, circumstantial, and stone-founded* (Fig. 2). No evidence was found for any ring-groove or ring-ditch structures similar to

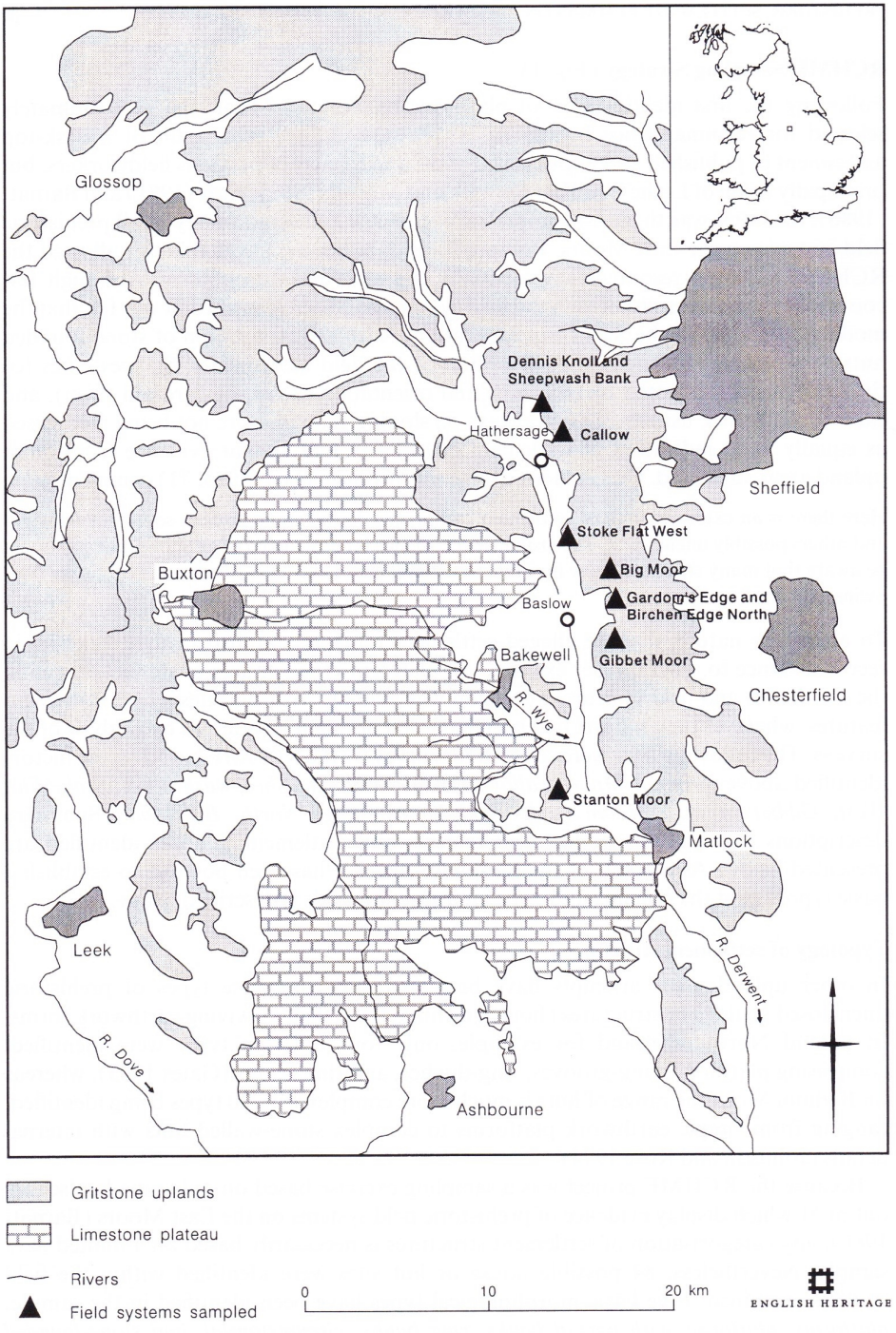

Fig. 1: Location map showing field systems sampled.

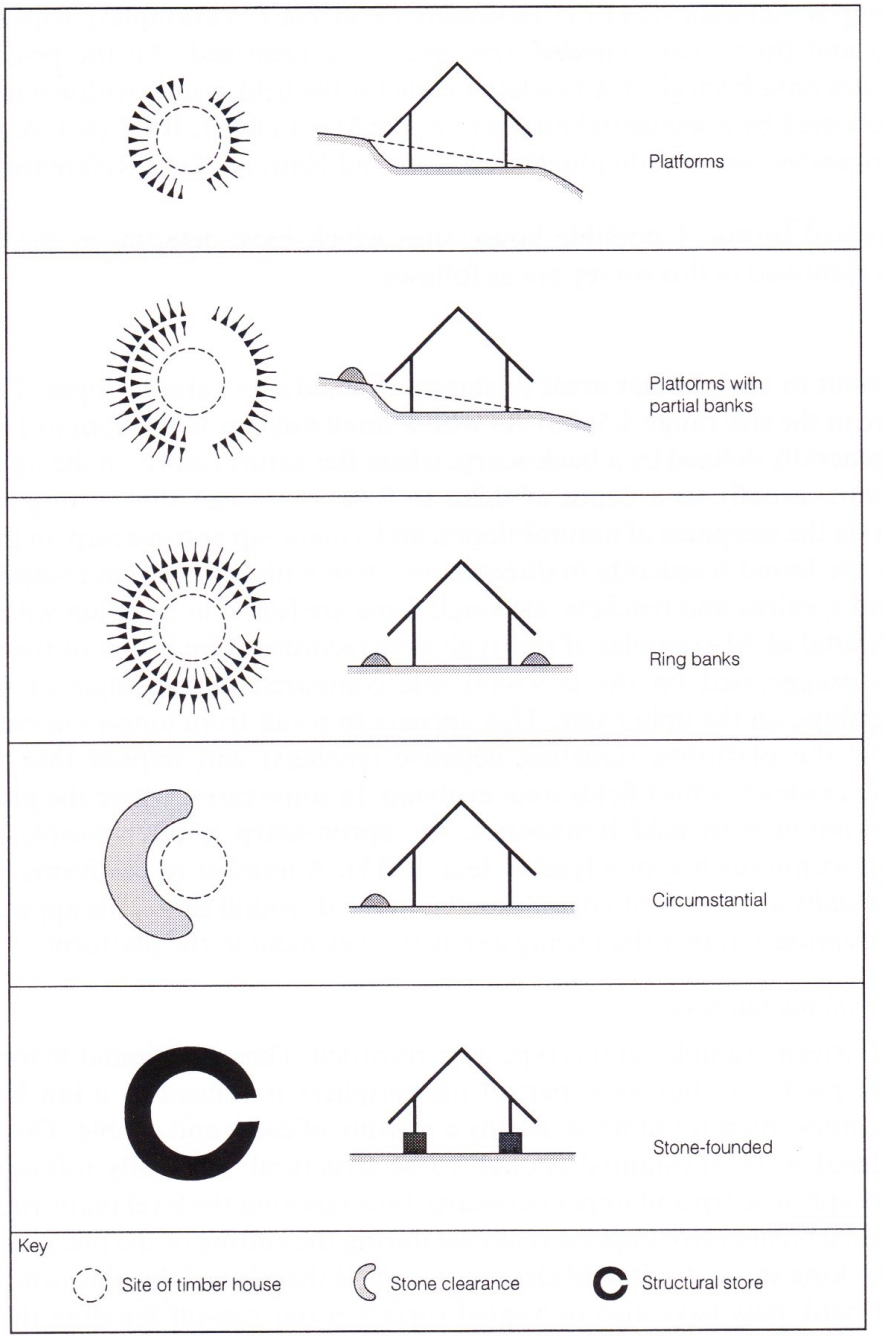

Fig. 2: Schematic typology.

those found elsewhere in upland Britain. The evidence for this typology is presented in Part B, along with a summary of the context within the field systems. Three of these typological categories have now been tested by excavation (see below). All, except the few atypical stone-founded examples, are presumed to be stances for timber structures which no longer survive on the surface. Within the typology determined, 43 possible house sites displayed some element of platforming into the natural slopes — *platforms* (30 examples), and *platforms with partially enclosing banks* (thirteen examples). The next

largest group is that indicated by *circumstantial* evidence (35 examples), whilst only three *ring banks* and three *stone-founded* structures were identified. All the possible house/structure sites have been given a two letter code for the field system within which they are located, followed by a sequential number i.e. Big Moor (BM1, BM2 etc). A gazetteer of field system codes, size of individual house sites and National Grid References is given in Appendix 1.

The physical forms of possible house sites which have determined the typological categories identified in this survey are as follows:

Platforms

Slight, circular or sub-circular areas or stances levelled into natural slopes. The majority of these are in the size range 4.5m to 9m with a small number in the 10m to 11m bracket. They are generally defined by a back-scarp, where the natural scarp on the uphill side has been cut into, usually to a depth of 0.2m to 0.4m (although this cutting is primarily dependent on the steepness of natural slope), and a made-up apron-scarp on the downhill side. They are found frequently in direct association with field system components such as field banks, cairns and lynchets, although some are found in isolation within the field systems. A total of 30 examples of this type were recorded. The height of the platform is sometimes exaggerated on the downhill side compared to the angle of the natural underlying slope on the uphill side. This appears to result from long-term cultivation of areas below the platforms (creating negative lynchets) and implies that the houses remained in existence whilst fields were evolving. In some cases, where the platform is in direct association with field boundaries, the apron-scarp is often visible as a slight bulging out within the line of a lynchet (e.g. BM5). A number of platforms have stones dumped casually around their edges, usually on the downhill side. This appears to result from field clearance, rather than being a structural element to the platform.

Platforms with partial banks

A total of thirteen examples of this type were recorded. These are similar in form and size range to the *platforms*, but some part of the periphery is defined by a low bank which, where the composition is visible, is usually a mixture of earth and rubble. This banking is not considered to be substantial enough to be structural; it usually follows the outer edges of the apron-scarp and upper cut-scarp, thus ignoring the level platform. The bank may have been created from upcast removed during the cutting of the platform, or be the result of stacking stones from field clearance around the edge of the platform. The uphill sections of bank may have also prevented surface water run-off flooding the platform. Platforms with partial banks tend to have a larger diameter size range (9m to 14m) than platforms alone, although an exception at 4m in diameter was noted. Some platforms are raised rather than cut into the slopes; these generally have almost complete encircling banks or dumps of stone around their edges (e.g. GM1, GM2, GM3). The height of the banks is usually no more than 0.3m high.

Ring banks

Low banks, generally continuous, enclosing a circular area. In this category there is no evidence of platforms. The banks are made up of a mixture of earth and rubble and are no more than 0.3m high and 1m in width. Only three examples were recorded, with

diameters of between 8m and 13m. Interpretation of two of these (BE1; GE25) is somewhat equivocal and both may be ring cairns, but the other (BM3) is well defined. Apart from the absence of platforming, its morphology bears a strong resemblance to that of the partial bank surrounding the excavated platform on Gardom's Edge (GE1).

Circumstantial

With this category of site, no actual physical evidence for house sites survive, but their presence is suggested by sympathetic changes in form or alignment of other features, such as a pronounced curve along the line of an otherwise straight bank, scarp or clearance feature (i.e. stone cleared laterally onto field edges rather than into cairns, and sometimes forming substantial banks). In some areas, where the surface stone content is high, sites may be indicated by coherent circular or sub-circular cleared patches within the stony area; occasionally, small dumps of stones may be visible around the edge. In some cases, individual arcs of stones may indicate stacking against former timber structures, and in a similar way, curving lines of small cairns may also define the perimeters of stances. A total of 35 sites were indicated by this type of evidence.

Stone-founded

Circular or sub-circular stone-built structures, and superficially at least analogous to the excavated stone-founded structure at Swine Sty. These tend to be very distinctive, and only two new examples have been identified, both with diameters of 5m.

As a direct consequence of the identification of this basic typology, sites representing three of the categories were chosen for excavation as part of a wider excavation brief for that area of moorland. The excavations, undertaken jointly by the PDNPA and the Department of Archaeology and Prehistory at Sheffield University, were conducted between 1995 and 1998 and formed part of a larger excavation and environmental sampling project to examine the variety of prehistoric features identified on Gardom's Edge North (Barnatt *et al.* 1995; 1996; *pers. comm.*). The sites selected were a platform with a partial bank (GE1), one identified by circumstantial remains (GE10), and a stone built structure (GE2) analogous to the excavated stone-founded hut at Swine Sty.

GE1 was excavated over two seasons (Barnatt *et al.* 1995; 1996). The excavations revealed the setting for a timber building (5.5m in diameter), defined by post-holes and stakeholes, within the area of a platform surrounded by a partial bank; it had a south-east facing entrance. Around 500 pottery sherds of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date were recovered along with a similar number of lithic items. There is evidence that the bank was a deliberate construction after the timber structure had been abandoned, and perhaps associated with a formalised 'closure' of the building, rather than it being a convenient repository for clearance stones as was originally thought. This, coupled with the density of finds immediately outside the structure and lack of finds and hearths on the inside, has led the excavators to propose that the building may not have been occupied on a regular basis or that it may have had an alternative function other than as a dwelling.

The second site selected for excavation (GE10) was indicated by circumstantial evidence. Before excavation, this was a sub-circular, stone-free area approximately 9m in diameter (Barnatt *et al.* 1995; 1996). It was bounded by an amalgam of clearance heaps,

piles of stones, linear clearance and stony dumps. In common with other similarly defined areas, the survey indicated this could be the site of a timber house of up to 8m in diameter. Excavations are currently under way at the time of preparing this article. To date, the excavator has found evidence for a circular timber structure in the stone-free area and artefacts, including Late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery. Although precise details and dates are not yet available they are almost certainly of prehistoric origin. Multiple phases are being identified, which are presumably reflected in the amalgam of surface features around the perimeter (Barnatt *pers. comm.*).

Before excavation, the third site (GE2) was visible as a very obvious stone-built, near circular bank, with a diameter of 5m by 4.5m. The excavation indicated that the sub-circular form was mostly a product of tumble, which covered a rectangular structure measuring 5m by 4m, with two blocked entrances. There was no indication of function or any diagnostic artefacts, but it is almost certainly not a house structure. However, it was situated on a soil layer below peat, which from samples taken elswhere on Gardom's Edge, suggests a probable prehistoric date (Barnatt *pers. comm.*). Its excavated form is clearly very different from the excavated structure at Swine Sty.

The preliminary results of these excavations are clearly of enormous significance in the understanding of the nature of prehistoric settlement forms on the gritstone moors. Of direct relevance to this RCHME survey, the excavations have demonstrated that the physical indicators for settlement structures observed on the surface are *bona fide* and can confidently be used as a base for identification elsewhere on the gritstone moors. Because of the often ephemeral nature of the ground evidence, it is acknowledged that some of the settlement structures identified in this survey have been more confidently interpreted than others, and that indeed, some sites may have been missed altogether. However, the results presented below present clear evidence that similar structures are likely to survive in the many other field systems in the upland Peak District not examined in this survey. It is only when these other areas have been systematically surveyed that a clearer picture and a more detailed understanding of prehistoric settlement will emerge.

PART B: CONTEXT

Field Systems Investigated

Stanton Moor SK 247 630 (Fig. 3)

Stanton Moor is located 6km south-east of Bakewell, on the south-west side of the confluence of the valleys of the Rivers Wye and Derwent. The moor forms a topographically distinct gritstone plateau extending between 280m and 322m above OD, and is an isolated outlier of the east gritstone moors of the Peak District. The western side of the moor has been subjected to extensive stone quarrying. Stanton Moor is well established in the archaeological record principally as a prehistoric burial and ceremonial landscape. This is largely as a result of the excavations of J.C. and J.P. Heathcote (Heathcote 1930; 1936; 1938; 1939; 1954; 1980) and research by others (Marsden 1986; Vine 1982; Thomas 1976; Hart 1981; 1985; Barnatt 1986).

The RCHME survey demonstrated that far from being a predominately prehistoric ritual landscape with some relatively small-scale Medieval and Post-Medieval agricultural activity (Barnatt 1986; Hart 1985), there was also evidence for prehistoric field systems, thus casting doubt on the supposed unique use of this moorland for burial and

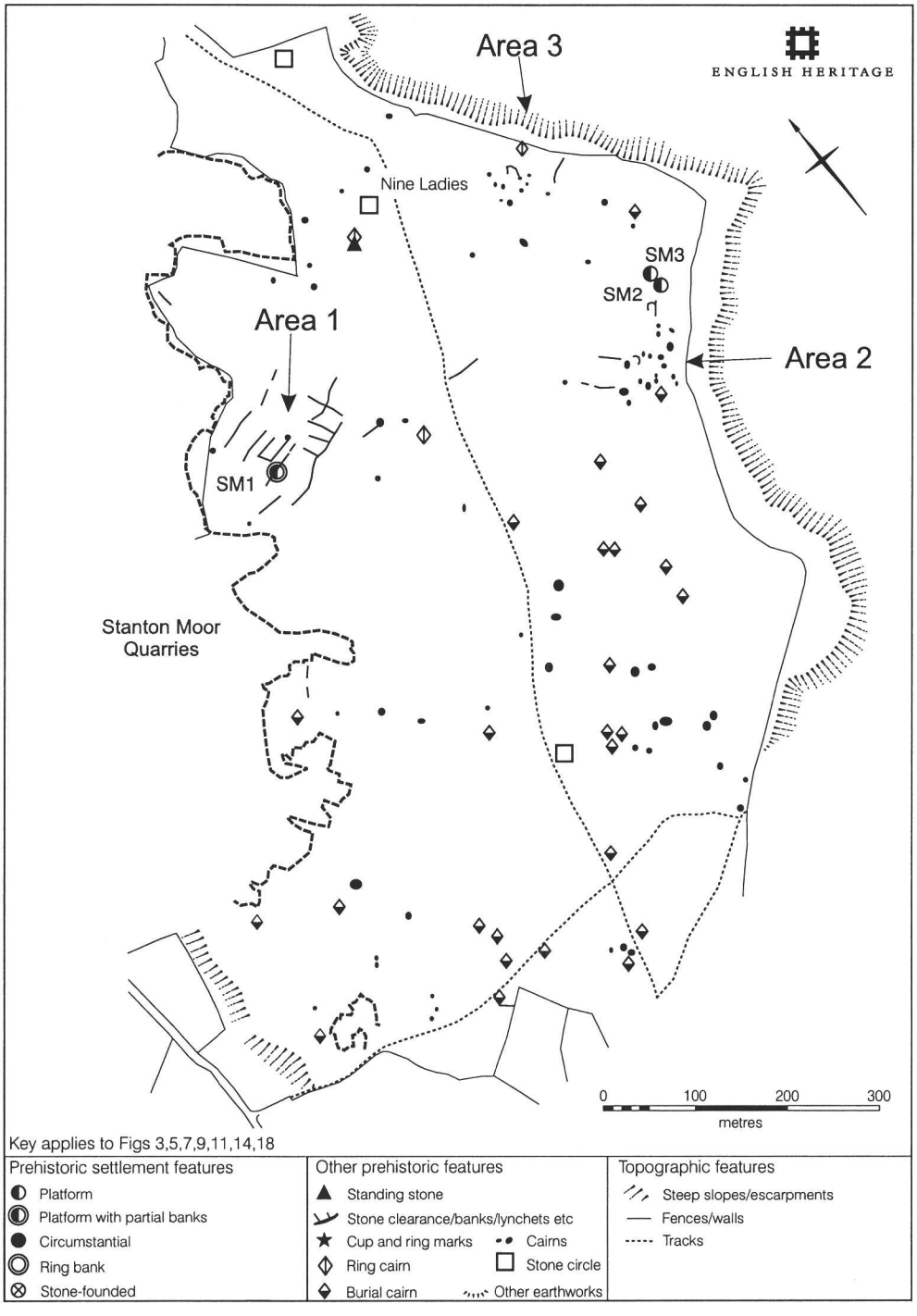

Fig. 3: Stanton Moor — house sites, field systems and other principal monuments.

ritual purposes (RCHME 1986). Three distinct field systems were identified, two of which had settlement features closely associated with them. This survey for the first time revealed the destructive and pervasive nature of Post-Medieval and later land-use, particularly that of surface stone extraction and forestry management (Ainsworth 1990; Everson 1989); these activities had effectively destroyed or severely disturbed extensive areas which included further prehistoric remains. A summary of the results of the wider survey and its implications for the understanding and critical analysis of prehistoric monument forms has already been published (Everson 1989). The recognition of this multi-period landuse, previously not understood, substantially influenced the perception of the nature of the prehistoric landscape and the identification of truncated features; this led to the conclusion that the three field systems identified were almost certainly much more extensive, and also that many of the other cairns and fragmentary banks recorded are remnants of much more widespread agricultural exploitation of the moor. Given that the majority of Bronze Age burials and artefacts from excavations by the Heathcotes came from small cairns all across the moor, it is possible that these cairns served a dual purpose, for clearance and burial. This hypothesis is gathering momentum as a result of excavation and survey elsewhere, and in particular the nearby, recent excavations on the East Moors at Highlow Bank and Eaglestone Flat (Barnatt 1991; 1994). The three areas of field systems surveyed were:

Area 1 SK 2471 6334

The largest area of field system remains are contained within, and on, the north-west and south-east slopes of a naturally sheltered dip at the north-west corner of the moor at 308m above OD. They cover an area of approximately 8 hectares. Field system remains had been previously mapped here by Butcher (Sheffield City Museum Archives), Hart (1985) and Barnatt (1986). Although some elements of this system were composed of derelict drystone walls that were clearly of Post-Medieval construction, Hart and Butcher raised the possibility that some of the underlying banks might be prehistoric, although Barnatt later suggested that these were Medieval in origin. The RCHME survey has demonstrated that this field system has three principal phases, the last of which, with its layout of drystone walls, is clearly late in date and physically overlies the other two phases, and is most likely an attempt at enclosure in the 19th century. The second phase consists of a network of rectilinear fields on a roughly east to west alignment; these fields are defined by narrow rubble banks, 0.5m to 1m in width and no more than 0.3m in height. There is a consistency in the form of the banks, and where not displaced by later disturbance, the construction is of stones deliberately laid at right angles to the principal axis of the bank and frequently appearing to be purposefully packed and revetted in places, although often topped with random small stones; these smaller stones may represent continued clearance from the fields. Some elements of the banks in this layout have been constructed over a series of cruder rubble banks on totally different alignments, which delineate the boundaries of a yet earlier layout of fields on a different axis (first phase). The boundaries of the first phase of fields generally comprise sinuous rubble clearance banks, a regular layout of which emanate from a probable co-axial boundary to the south. These banks are typically 1.5m to 2m in width, composed of a mixture of large and small stones and boulders, and display no architecture of construction. Any large stones laid horizontally, as noted by Hart (1985: feature number 31) are

coincidental and have no structural purpose. A number of these banks incorporate small cairns in their length and often terminate at cairns; one boundary actually appears to consist of a line of discontinuous cairns, and some small cairns are scattered within the fields or have been formed by clearing surface land stone onto the edges of uncultivable or uncleared stony ground. The morphology of these first phase banks, cairns, clearance heaps and clearance edges is typical of many of the prehistoric field systems elsewhere on the East Moors, notably Gardom's Edge North. The survival of similar linear clearance lines and banks to the east indicates that this system was probably much more extensive across the spine of the moor. Similarly, there are indications that this system extended further to the north and west where deep stone quarries have now completely removed the land surface.

To the north of the main co-axial boundary in this first phase of fields is a possible house platform with a partial bank (SM1), measuring 11m in diameter. This feature is located on a slight north-west facing slope at 310m above OD. The platform is partially defined on the south (upslope) side by an intermittent bank of earth and stones, a maximum of 1.4m wide and 0.4m high. Crossing the platform and clearly post-dating its construction, is a linear rubble bank which forms one of the boundaries of the second phase of field system; thus the most likely context for this platform is in association with the first phase of fields.

Area 2 SK 2504 6315

Occupying a natural, pronounced terrace on east-facing slopes at 294m above OD, is a distinct, stone-free area. It is separated from the stone-littered surfaces to the north-east and south-west by intermittent lengths of crudely formed rubble clearance banks 2m to 2.5m in width, and at the east the area is loosely defined by a concentration of small cairns whose primary purpose was probably for clearance, although they may also have been used for burials. Concentrations of small, loose stones on the fringes of the stone-littered ground also indicate where surface stone has been cleared and casually deposited rather than being formed into cairns. This field system was unrecognised prior to the RCHME survey; it appears to be a relatively informal clearance area with some incipient edges of clearance but no formal boundaries or apparent division and is markedly different from the co-axial field system in Area 1; it covers an area of approximately 1 hectare. One of the cairns of the group at the east was excavated during the period 1931–33 (Heathcote 1939), although then it was not recognised as being one of a larger group bounding the cleared area. The excavations apparently revealed a cairn with two extensions; the cairn covered a crudely made cist containing a cremation, Food Vessel sherds, two flint scrapers and seven flint flakes, and the extensions housed two more cremations with a Collared Urn, pygmy cup and four scrapers.

Approximately 80m north of this cleared area, are two almost conjoined platforms cut into the steep east-facing slopes of a natural knoll at 289m above OD (SM2; SM3). The topographic position affords good shelter from the prevailing winds from the west but is exposed to the east. The southernmost of these (Fig. 4: SM2) is the better formed of the two and is a well-defined platform, being cut into the slope to a depth of 1.2m. The apron scarp on the downslope side is intermittently fringed with random stone. The platform, which is almost level, is *c.* 6m in diameter. The second platform, *c.* 5m in diameter, is marked by a less well-defined crescent-shaped scarp cut into the slope at the west, with a

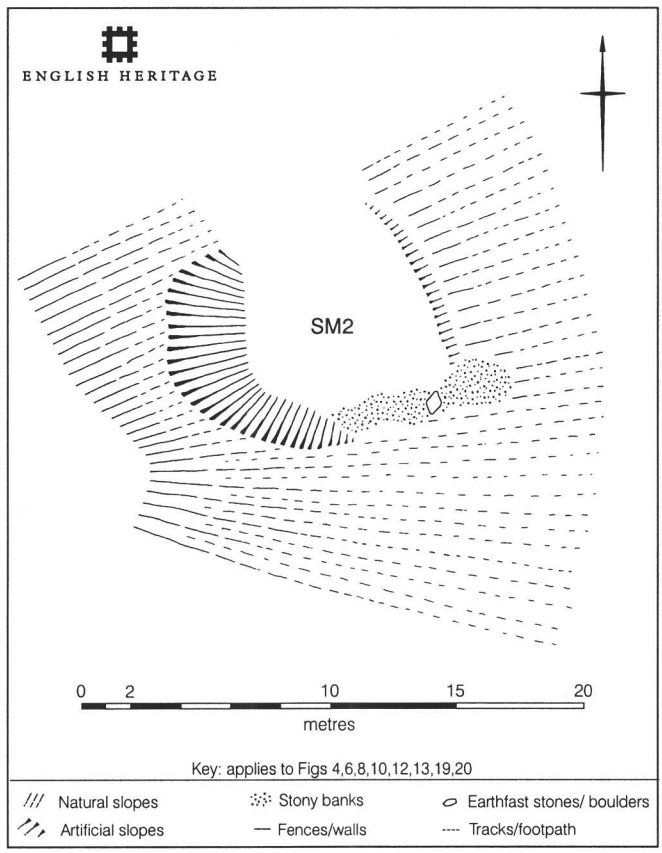

Fig. 4: Stanton Moor — *platform* house site SM2.

slight apron scarp to the east (possibly a continuation of the platform to the south although this is unclear due to surface disturbance caused by shallow stone-grubbing). Given the proximity to the clearance area to the south it is reasonable to suppose that the platforms are associated with it, indeed the slopes occupied by them offer one of the most sheltered sites available close to the probable area of cultivation.

Area 3 SK 2503 6342

In a pronounced natural concavity at the northern end of the moor at between 282m and 292m above OD is a grouping of 10 small cairns and other features. These have not been identified in any previous survey. They range from well-formed heaps to little more than turf covered rises, and include some possible linear clearance features; they extend over an area of *c.* 0.8 hectares. At the north end of this concavity is a very well-defined platform, 18.8m in diameter and cut into the slope to a depth of 1.3m, with a 3m to 3.4m wide bank of earth and stone around the western arc; a single orthostat is visible along its edge. The eastern arc has been heavily disturbed by a modern track and quarrying. Although superficially appearing to be another possible house site in close proximity to clearance, its morphology and size suggest it is more likely to be a denuded, embanked

ring cairn or stone circle, five examples of which exist on this moor (NMR Nos. SK 27 SW 15, 18, 19, 21).

Callow SK 243 821 (Fig. 5)

The small field system at Callow is located on a remote gritstone spur overlooking the Derwent Valley, *c.* 1km north of Hathersage at about 320m above OD. It is concentrated along the south-west side of the spur and consists mainly of about twenty small cairns, lynchets and linear clearance. The site had previously been recorded by Butcher (Beswick and Merrills 1983, 28) and Barnatt (1986, 29). The area has been disturbed by Post-Medieval surface quarrying and improved fields. On a slight shelf are two well-defined house platforms (CA1; CA2) some 90m apart (Fig. 6). The largest (CA1) is 14m in diameter, and has an apron-scarp 0.5m high with a high stone content. A clearance bank is aligned on this scarp, suggesting that the high stone content of the platform scarp may be due to clearance stone having been stacked around the base of the platform. The second platform (CA2) is more complicated. It is circular, 10m in diameter and with an apron-scarp 0.4m high, but unlike any other house site recorded in this survey it clearly cuts into another sub-circular feature. This feature is of a similar size and has a smooth flat top; its purpose was not ascertained although it clearly pre-dates the probable house platform.

Dennis Knoll and Sheepwash Bank SK 229 841 (Fig. 7)

Two groups of prehistoric fields and cairns are situated at the south-east of Bamford Moor on adjacent gritstone spurs known as Dennis Knoll and Sheepwash Bank at between 300m and 340m above OD. They are centred at SK 228 841 and SK 230 842 respectively. Both spurs are on open moorland with some drystone field walls encroaching. Extensive Post-Medieval stone quarrying and random surface stone-grubbing have also significantly impinged upon the site, whilst other features and activities such as hollow ways and tree planting have also removed or obscured prehistoric features. Although topographically distinct, the two groups of fields may well be part of the same field system but the remains have become separated as a result of the impact of later land use; for example, one bank which links both spurs can be traced into and through woodland. It terminates where ridging, relating to the planting and removal of trees commences, thus suggesting that ground features also may have been removed, as is the case on Stanton Moor. The area of the field systems mapped in this survey is *c.* 15 hectares. Further cairns and banks are recorded to the north-west by Butcher (Beswick and Merrills 1983, 29) and Barnatt (1987, 27 — Dennis Knoll South-East). Butcher also recorded circular huts. However, the features which appear to be portrayed as huts are actually robbed cairns, although one example (see below SB1) may be a platform with a partial bank surrounding a former timber house.

The prehistoric remains comprise mainly a field system consisting of extensive lengths of clearance banks with some suggestion of division into fields, 45 small cairns, three probable large burial cairns and two possible house platforms, both of them with partial banks. On Sheepwash Bank, three distinct phases of field definition in the banks can be observed. The first phase consists of a single 40m north to south length of sinuous bank and lynchet terminating at the north at a cairn; this cairn is one of a close group which occupies the central part of Sheepwash Bank. Approximately 100m west, another bank

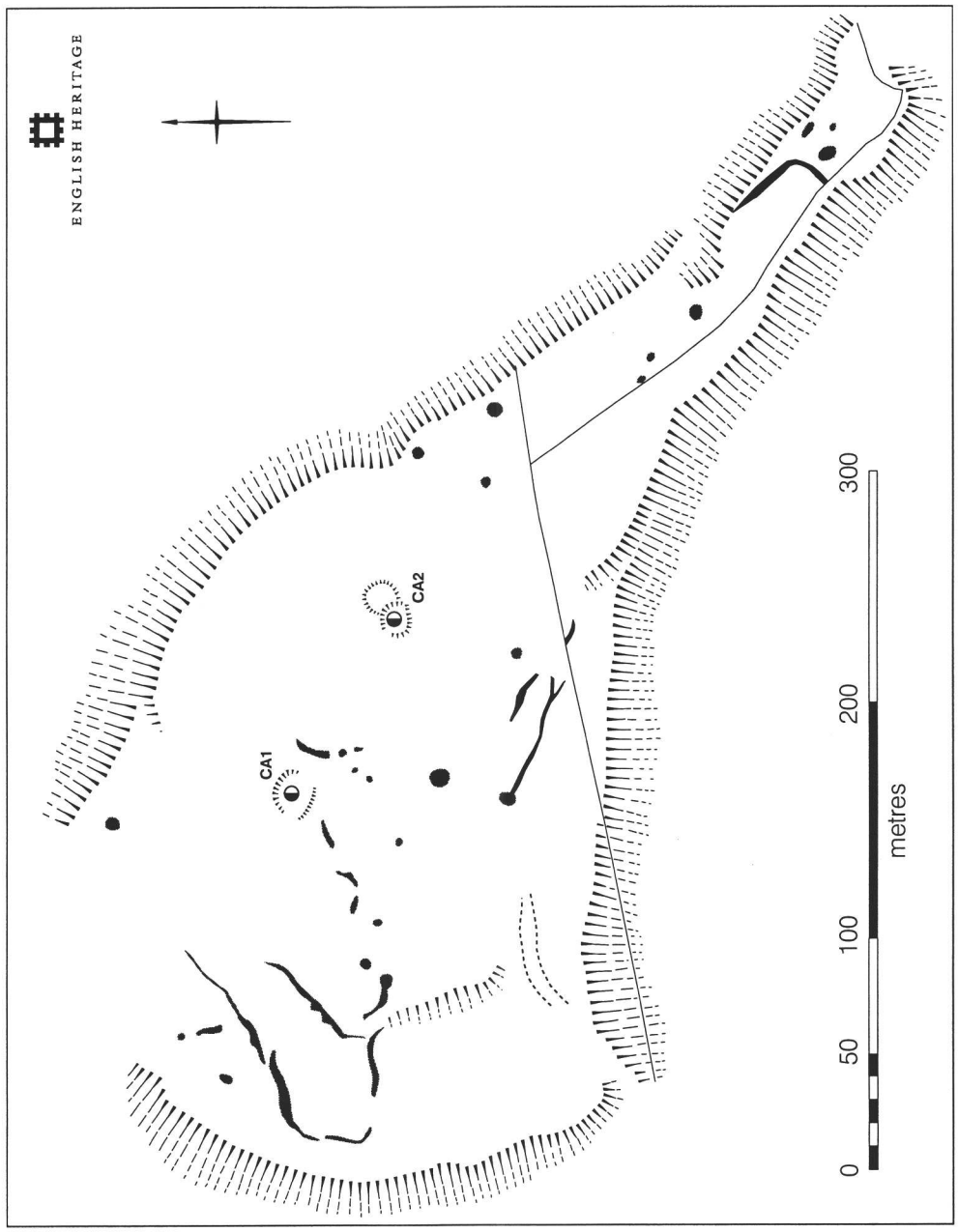

Fig. 5: Callow — house sites and field system.

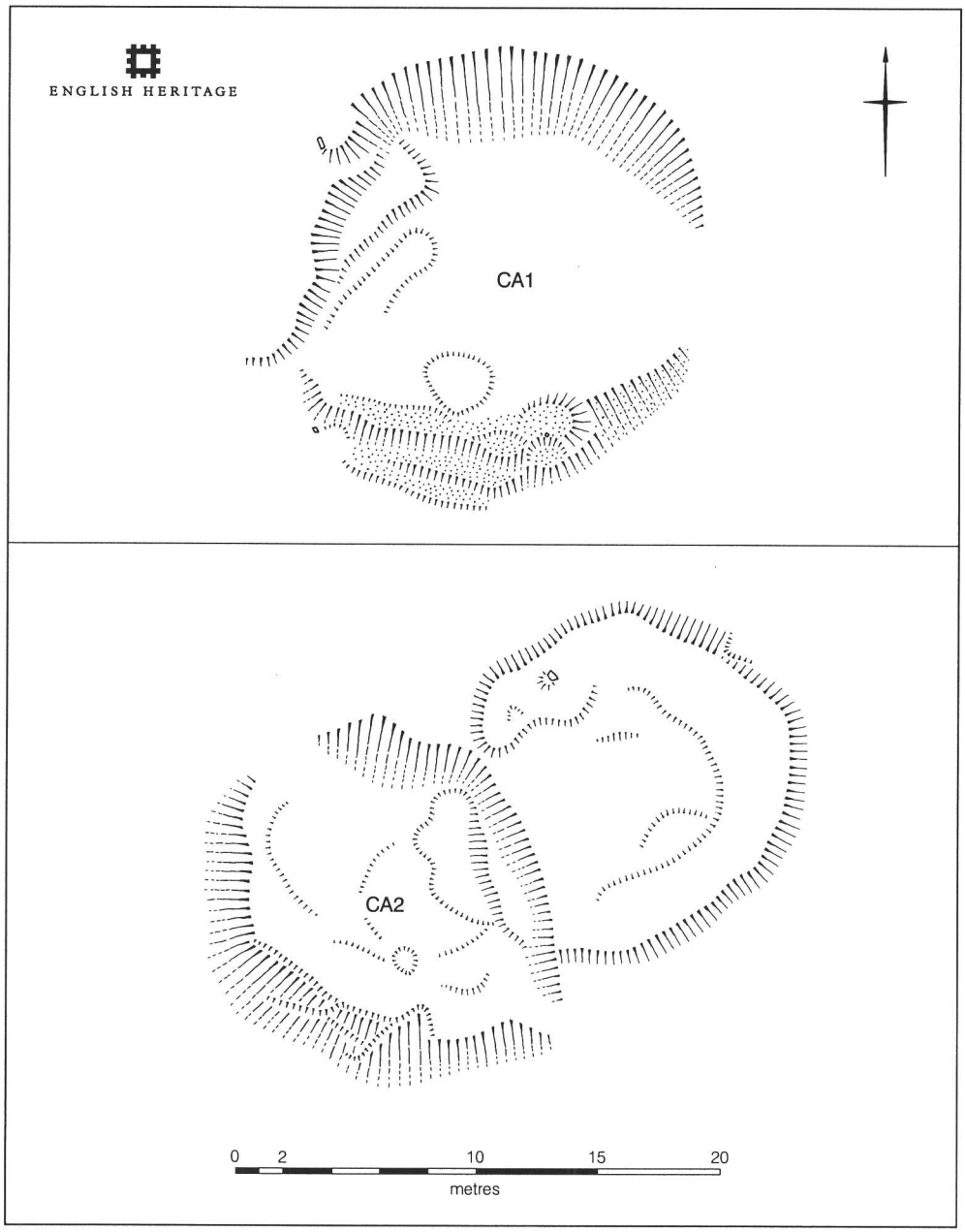

Fig. 6: Callow — *platform* house sites CA1, CA2.

and lynchet close to the edge of the spur, may also be associated. Near to its southern terminal, this second lynchet is clearly overlain by a bank which heads westwards to the spur edge (although a change in form at the corner, where there is a marked lynchet, may

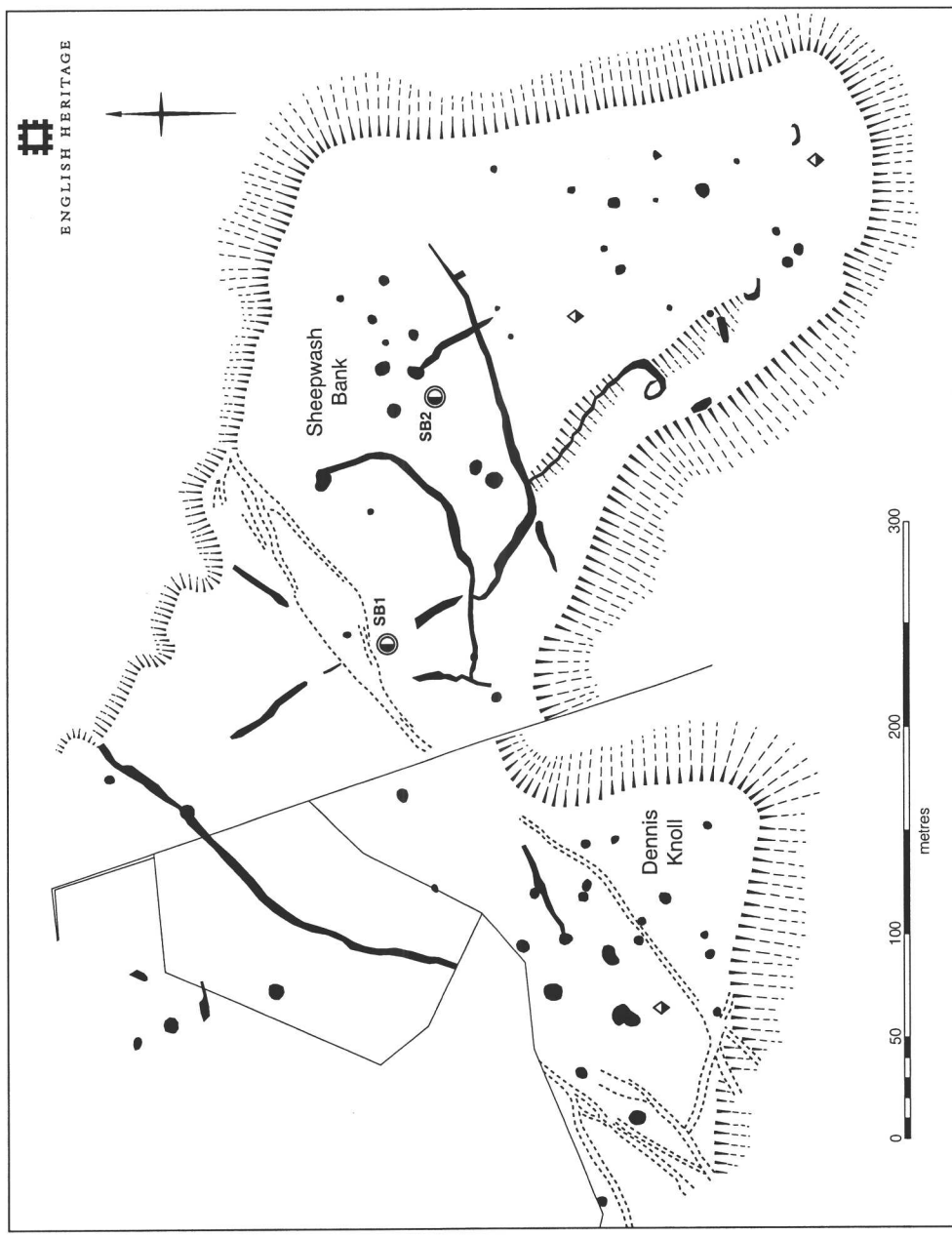

Fig. 7: Dennis Knoll and Sheepwash Bank — house sites, field systems and other principal monuments.

indicate a re-use of an earlier boundary), and then strikes north towards another east-west bank of similar form which eventually leads into the Sheepwash Bank cairnfield. This suggests a second phase of boundary development. In turn, the north-south bank of this second phase appears to be overlain by a curving lynchet and bank which forms a 'T' junction with a further bank at the west (an intermittent and heavily disturbed bank continues the line into the Dennis Knoll cairnfield) and terminates at a possible cairn or clearance dump at the east. This suggests a redundancy for the long linear boundaries of the second phase. This phasing has implications for the settlement features, as house site SB1 (below) overlies the line of the long north-south linear boundary. Thus its most likely context is in association with the curving boundaries of the south, west and east of the third phase of fields.

Two probable house sites have been identified within the area of the field systems, SB1 and SB2. SB1 is a raised platform, 12m to 14m in diameter, with an almost complete encircling bank around its edge, and slightly flattened on the west side (Fig. 8). This platform overlies the line of one of the boundaries of the second phase of land division. Although covered in thick heather, the bank, which is 3m in width and 0.4m high, appears to be a mixture of earth and stone. There is a distinct gap in the bank at the south. The site has previously been interpreted as a ring cairn or robbed cairn (Barnatt 1987, 29 — Cairn 7; 1990, 92). However, the smoothness of its interior and its slight platforming against the natural slope are not typical of large robbed cairns elsewhere, indeed three clear examples of this type of destruction exist within this field system and their erratic and pitted forms are very different from this monument. Given its proximity and likely association with the third phase of fields, and comparison with sites elsewhere (GM1–4), it is more likely to be a domestic rather than a ceremonial or burial site.

The second settlement feature (SB2) is a platform, 10m to 12m in diameter cut into a slight east-facing slope. Around its western arc there is a disturbed stony bank up to 3m in width and of variable height due to the disturbance. Its proximity to, and possible association with the lynchet and cairn group to the east (interpreted as the first phase of agricultural activity), may suggest it is earlier in date than SB1.

Stoke Flat West SK 250 765 (Fig. 9)

There are two known field systems at Stoke Flat. The one included in this survey is located in the area north of a walled enclosure (of probable 19th-century date) and is the westernmost of the two; it is positioned on a natural shelf immediately east of the Froggatt Edge gritstone escarpment at 280m above OD. Boggy ground lies to the east where some of the stony banks of the field system make returns, suggesting that this was the edge of cultivation in prehistory. To the east and beyond this boggy area is the other field system. Both have been mapped before (Butcher date unknown; Hart 1981 — after Butcher; Barnatt 1987). Following Barnatt's nomenclature, the field system surveyed by the RCHME is referred to as Stoke Flat West. The local topography of the Stoke Flat West field system consists of a slight ridge which runs in a north to south direction, parallel to the main escarpment. This ridge forms the spine of what appears to be a series of co-axial fields laid-out on either side, defined mostly by intermittent banks and clearances into the edges of stony ground. To the north is a clustering of small cairns close to a large robbed cairn (overlain by a cross-arm sheepfold), and a stone circle (NMR No. SK 27 NW 38). Later activity on the site, other than stone-grubbing, is

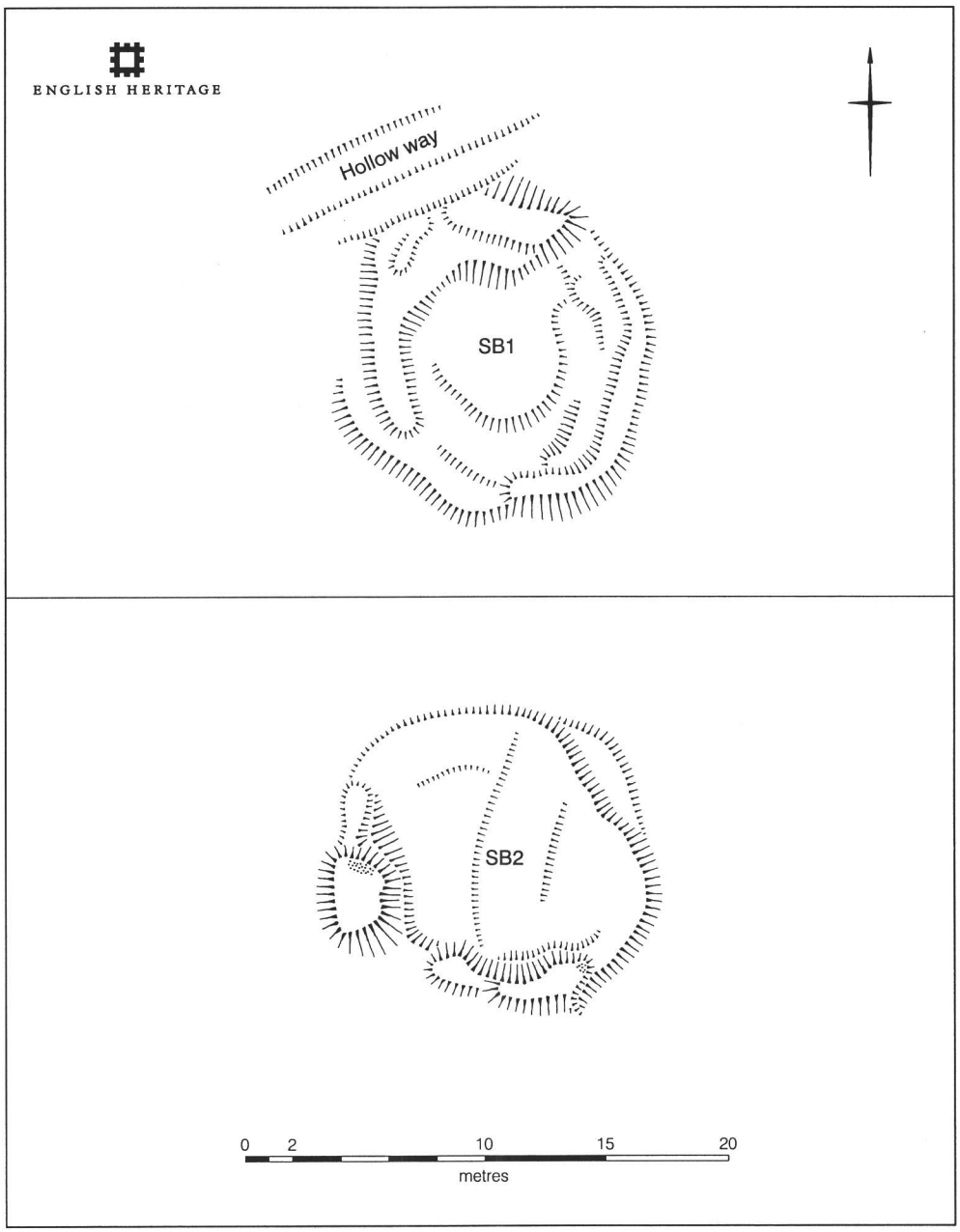

Fig. 8: Dennis Knoll and Sheepwash Bank — *platform with partial bank* house sites SB1, SB2.

represented by the remains of a rectangular building, measuring 7.5m by 3.5m with an attached yard or wall, and the remains of a stone hut built into the north wall of the walled enclosure; both are probably Post-Medieval in date.

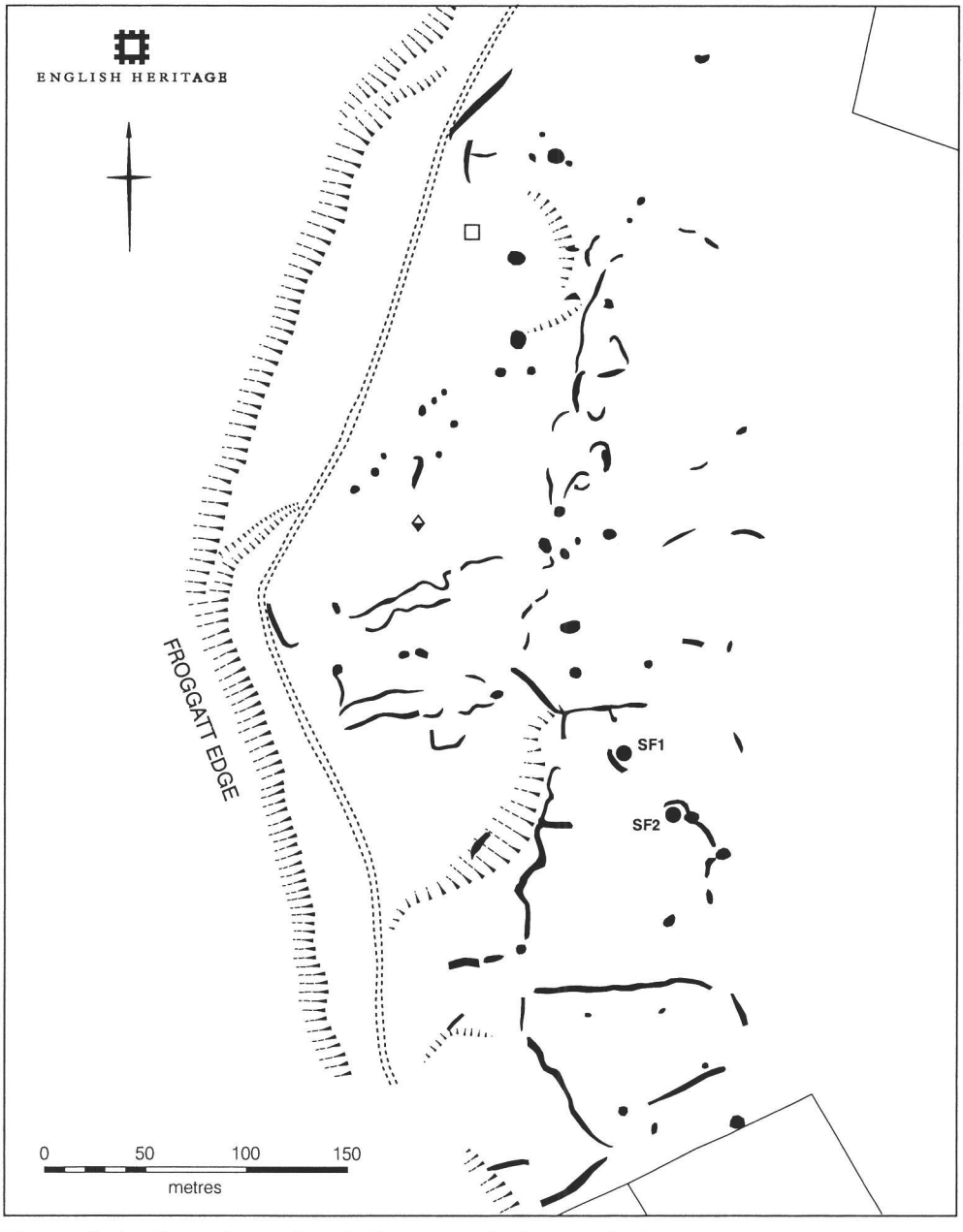

Fig. 9: Stoke Flat — house sites, field system and other principal monuments.

Two possible prehistoric house sites were identified within the field system. Both are on the higher ground east of the spine of the co-axial field boundary, and lie within 40m of each other. One (SF1) is within the area of one of the probable fields, whilst the second (SF2) occurs along one of the boundaries. The site of SF1 (Fig. 10) is defined by a low

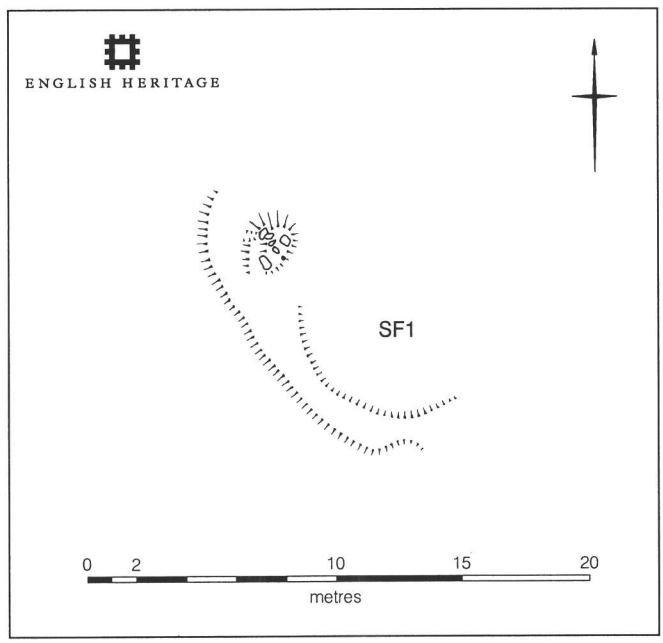

Fig. 10: Stoke Flat — *circumstantial* house site SF1.

curving bank, 13m in length, 2m in width and only 0.15m high. The bank, which is different in form from the other clearance banks recorded in the area, is on the downslope side of the suggested settlement structure. Whilst the outer scarp is somewhat straightened, the inner scarp defines a tight curve perhaps indicating the perimeter of a round timber structure *c.* 6m in diameter, which is now no longer visible. The northern end of the bank is overlain by a small clearance cairn. Given the slight nature of the remains its interpretation should be treated with caution.

The second feature (SF2) is defined by an arc of earth and stone bank, *c.* 2m wide and 0.2m high, which appears to be on the boundary of one of the co-axial fields. It is probable that this bank is deflected around a circular timber structure *c.* 8m-10m in diameter, of which no trace now exists.

Gibbet Moor SK 280 709 (Fig. 11)

Gibbet Moor comprises the majority of the northern end of the dip slope to the east of the higher of the two gritstone escarpments above Chatsworth House, and overlooking the Heathy Lea Brook valley to the north. The ground has a generally north-east facing aspect due to the dip slope, combining with an underlying rise up towards the south and away from the valley of the Heathy Lea Brook.

The extent of the surviving field remains on Gibbet Moor was first recognized in 1983 when the moor was surveyed by Barnatt (1986, 53–55, cairnfields 33 and 34). During this survey Barnatt identified the only 'Four Poster' stone circle in the Peak District (Barnatt 1990, 14). Before this survey the only recorded monuments were a small group of some twenty cairns (NMR No.SK 27 SE 22, authority 1; Marsden 1986, 16), plus three earth circles (NMR No. SK 27 SE 33; Radley 1966, 16), which have been

subsequently interpreted as stone circles (Barnatt 1978, 186), ring cairns (Marsden 1986, 90) and later re-interpreted as robbed burial cairns by Barnatt (1986, 55; 1990, 93). The RCHME survey has suggested that this uncertainty of interpretation might be explained by re-classification as house sites (GM1–3 below). One other feature identified as a possible embanked stone circle (Barnatt 1986, 55 — Circle 18) can also now be confidently re-interpreted as a house site (GM4).

The RCHME survey has shown that the prehistoric field system recorded by Barnatt is both more extensive and more complex than previously recognized. At the north end of the moor, is a system of hitherto unrecorded co-axial, sub-rectilinear fields, which in places can be demonstrated to post-date small cairns which survive where they have been robbed and incorporated into the later banks. These fields have well-defined boundaries marked variously by lynchetting, earthen banks, linear clearance, or clearance edges (i.e. a demonstrable but otherwise unmarked boundary dividing a surface now largely devoid of stone from an uncleared one); these organised fields co-exist alongside other areas of seemingly less well-ordered activity comprising scattered cairns often accompanied by incomplete and irregular boundaries. In certain cases it is plain that the same kind of rectilinear field pattern could never have existed in these areas because of either the close proximity of neighbouring boundaries or the ruggedness of the terrain. But elsewhere, the absence of regularly laid out fields may be more apparent than real, simply because former boundaries have left no surface trace. The identifiable field clearance ends at approximately the 320m above OD contour, above which the only prehistoric activity would appear to be a number of large burial cairns on Beeley Moor, conventionally dated to the earlier Bronze Age (NMR Nos. SK 26 NE 2 and 8). However, it is evident that prehistoric cultivation did formerly extend over a much wider area than now survives. In the west it may even have stretched as far as the escarpment edge, as is shown by the survival of elements of field clearance within the 19th-century intakes and in the narrow band of open moorland at the very northern end of the moor (Barnatt 1986). Slight evidence of clearance is also apparent further east beyond the limits of the present survey.

A total of sixteen potential house sites (GM1–16), have been identified by the RCHME in association with field clearance remains; four were previously interpreted as ceremonial monuments or burial cairns (GM1–4). In addition, a number of newly recorded ceremonial and burial monuments have been recorded to add to others previously noted by Barnatt. Excavated evidence from other moors in the Peak District (Barnatt 1991; 1994) indicates that, although the vast majority of the small cairns on Gibbet Moor should represent field clearance for agriculture, some may also have been used for burial. It is usually impossible to differentiate between the two forms on surface morphology alone. An isolated, free-standing cist has also been recorded for the first time.

The survey has also produced evidence for the extensive use of the moor during later periods. The evidence includes packhorse tracks, small-scale coal prospecting and stone-working, and water-management associated with the gardens around Chatsworth House, and most recently, military fieldworks dating from World War II.

Of the sixteen house sites identified, six are visible as platforms (GM9, GM10, GM12, GM14, GM15, GM16), five as platforms with partial defining banks (GM1, GM2, GM3, GM4, GM5) and five are indicated by circumstantial evidence (GM6, GM7,

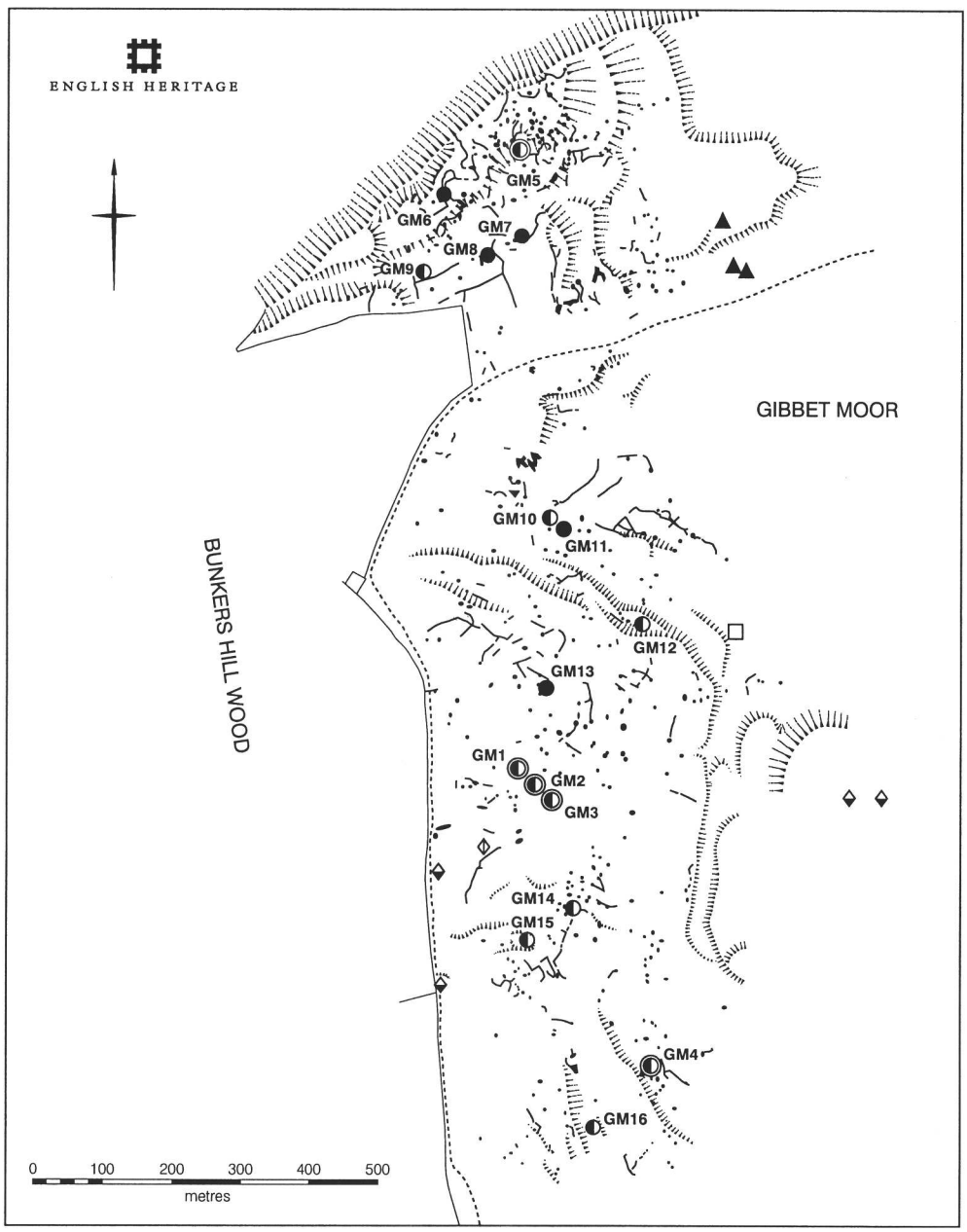

Fig. 11: Gibbet Moor — house sites, field system and other principal monuments.

GM8, GM11, GM13). An unusual linear grouping of three (GM1–3) are those previously interpreted as stone circles (Barnatt 1978, 186;), ring cairns (Marsden 1986, 90), and robbed burial cairns (Barnatt 1986, 55; 1990, 93). The monuments are 14m to 17m apart, along the length of a slight localized knoll which follows approximately the

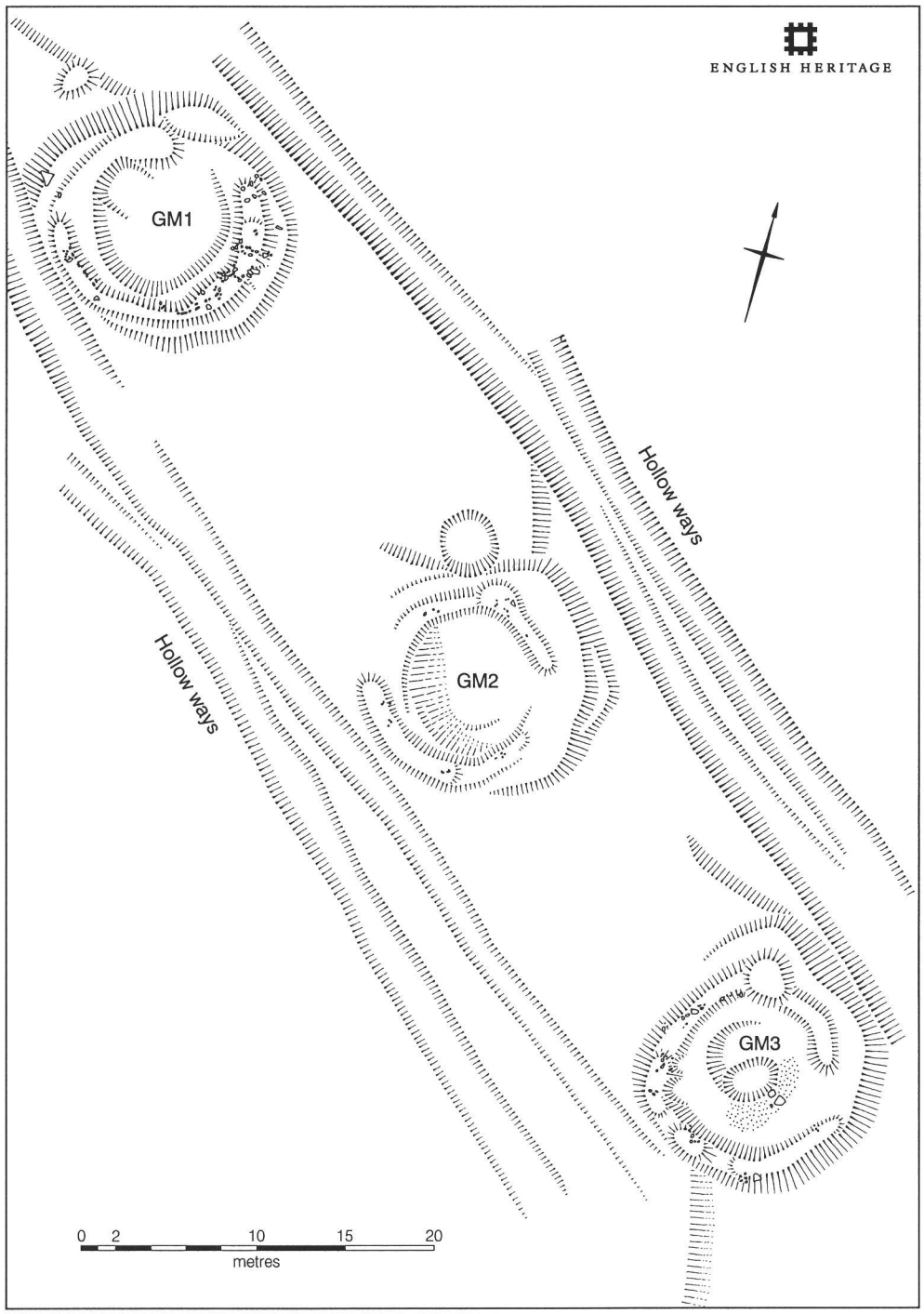

Fig. 12: Gibbet Moor — *platform with partial bank* house sites GM1–3.

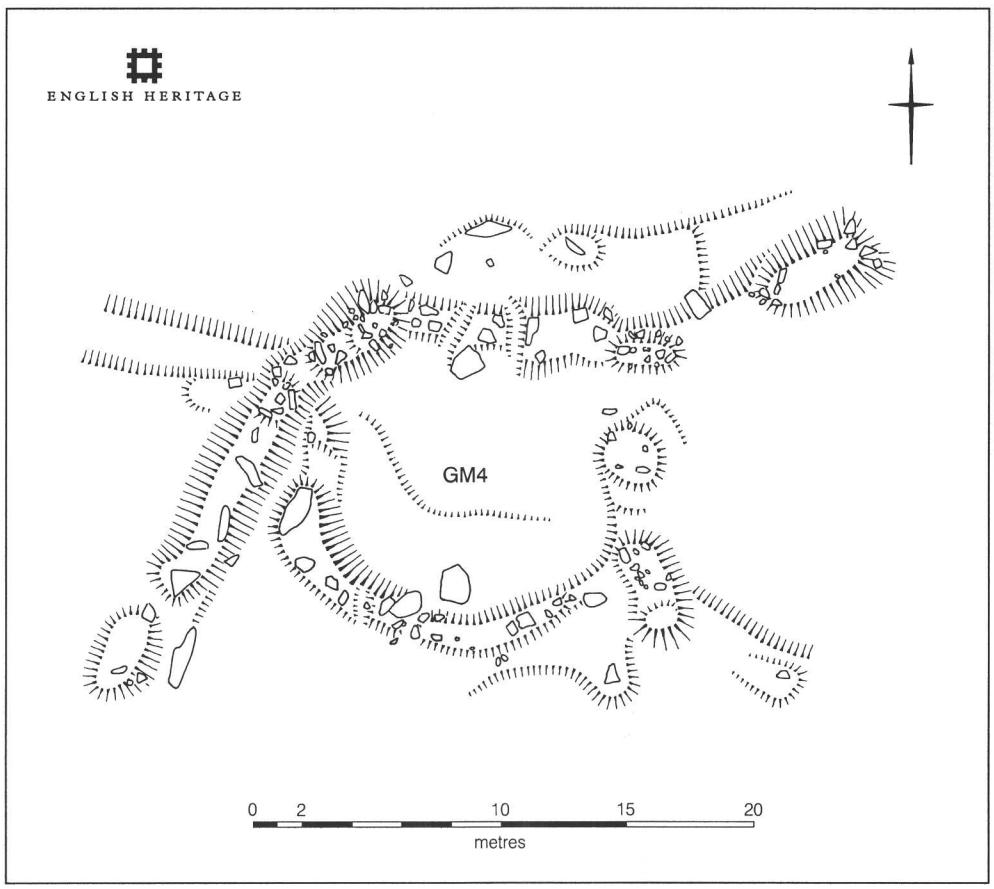

Fig. 13: Gibbet Moor — *platform with partial bank* house site GM4.

294m above OD contour on the gentle north-east facing dip slope of the moor. All three are platforms with partial banks (Fig. 12), ranging from 8m to 12m in diameter and, although at the upper range of platform diameters recorded, the morphology of these three monuments is more consistent with that at other identified house sites than it is for ring cairns or robbed barrows. Other groupings of three to four house sites have been noted on Gardom's Edge (GE16–19) and Big Moor (BM12; BM15; BM18) although it has to be said that the examples on Gibbet Moor are larger and have a more regular alignment. A further site, previously described as an embanked stone circle (GM4) (Barnatt 1986, 55; 1989, 126; 1990, 64), can be confidently re-interpreted as a platform with a partial bank, integrated within a series of field clearance banks and lynchets. It is *c.* 11m in diameter and the bank appears to have been thrown up from the cutting of the platform and therefore has no structural significance (Fig. 13). The other house sites are either integrated into field boundaries or occur in areas of cairns and cleared surface stone, linear clearance etc; not one is found in isolation outside the field system area.

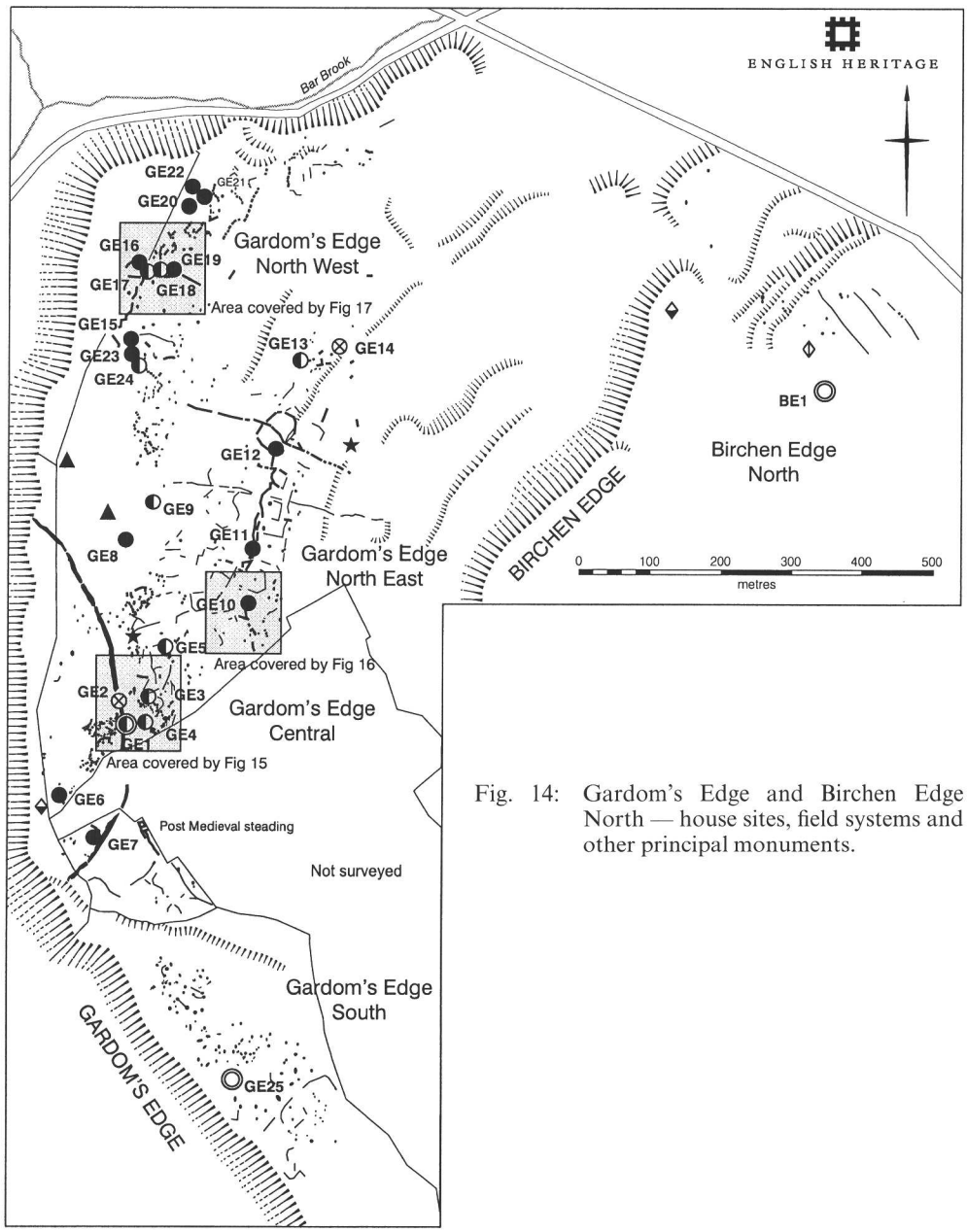

Fig. 14: Gardom's Edge and Birchen Edge North — house sites, field systems and other principal monuments.

Gardom's Edge and Birchen Edge North SK 275 734 (Fig. 14)

This area of unimproved moorland along Gardom's and Birchen Edges, 2 km north-east of the village of Baslow, was surveyed jointly by the RCHME and the PDNPA. Intakes along part of the southern end of Gardom's Edge have largely destroyed further prehistoric field systems (Barnatt 1986, 51) and these areas were excluded from the

survey. Within the surveyed area, the land occupied by prehistoric field systems lies between 252m and 298m above OD, a location topographically defined by a severe gritstone escarpment to the west (Gardom's Edge), the valleys of the Bar Brook and Heathy Lea Brook to the north and south respectively, and the higher escarpment of Birchen Edge to the east.

The area contains one of the most extensive prehistoric landscapes in the Peak District and comprises extensive field systems, standing stones, cup-and-ring carvings, and a large D-shaped scarp-edge enclosure of over 6 hectares in area. The latter was previously interpreted as an Iron Age hillfort or stock enclosure (Hart 1981, 75), or Bronze Age enclosure (Barnatt 1986, 56; Barnatt and Smith 1991, 24), but as a result of the new survey it is suggested that it should be now considered as a trading centre of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998a, 17). Later earthworks recorded included extensive Post-Medieval stone quarrying and coal mining, and remains relating to the military use of the moors in World War II.

On morphological and topographic grounds, the prehistoric field systems can be divided into five main groups: *Gardom's Edge Central*, *Gardom's Edge North-East*, *Gardom's Edge North-West*, *Gardom's Edge South*, and *Birchen Edge North*.

Gardom's Edge Central SK 273 729

This well-preserved field system is situated mostly on the sheltered eastern fringes of an exposed boulder-field on the dip slope of Gardom's Edge at between 274m and 278m above OD. It seems probable that this field system originally extended further south into the area now occupied by the walled fields of Moorside Farm, as is indicated by the intermittent survival of features where stony patches have inhibited subsequent improvement (Barnatt 1986). The extent of the field system within the present survey area is approximately 6 to 7 hectares. It extends across and into the interior of the D-shaped scarp-edge enclosure, which it appears to post-date (Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998a). Previous less intense surveys of this field system have been undertaken (Ordnance Survey 1966; Beswick and Merrills 1983; Hart 1985; Barnatt 1986).

The field system consists of between 238 and 393 small cairns, linear clearance heaps, and other clearance features amongst small plots artificially cleared of stone in, and on the east side of the dense boulder-field. The greatest concentrations of cultivation defined by stone clearance occur on the fringes of the boulder-field, with the boundaries of clearance being at the transition to shale soils on the east, where virtually no surface stone exists, and against the densest portions of the boulder-field to the west. To the north there is a thinning of the remains as naturally stony areas become less prevalent. Further north, light surface stone with interspersed boulders rather than boulder-field occurs. This land could have been cultivated if required, but the lack of clearance features suggest that cultivation did not extend this far.

The high quality of the remains in this field system allows the nature and pattern of clearance and cultivation on the fringes of the boulder-field to be recovered in detail. The most striking aspect is the high density and apparently haphazard distribution of the stone clearance. The survey shows that the apparent irregularity of this distribution masks a well-organized regime of small, irregular plots, whose definition is controlled by local topographical constraints, such as immovable ground-fast boulders and outcrops.

Similar, but less well-defined, patterns have been recorded on the fringes of boulder-fields elsewhere, at Gibbet Moor (RCHME 1990), Gardom's Edge South (RCHME 1987b), Big Moor (Barnatt 1989; Barnatt and Smith 1991; Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998b) and Stanton Moor (RCHME 1986). At Gardom's Edge Central, the varying density of immovable ground-fast boulders imposed a matrix of irregular natural boundaries that became fixed nodal points for cleared stones to be deliberately piled on, around or against, to create cairns, clearance edges, or linear stone banks. At some boulders, stone was simply dumped or thrown in a random fashion. This was particularly marked toward the edges of the dense boulder-field, and very stony areas where there was probably no intention to extend cultivation. In some cases a combination of both cairns and haphazard dumping is apparent where clearance from two or more plots converges on 'dead ground' (i.e. boulder strewn, uncultivable surfaces).

A possible nine house sites within the Gardom's Edge Central field system have been identified with varying degrees of confidence. Five are defined by platforms while the sites of three others are indicated by curves in clearance features and scarps (circumstantial evidence); one example is stone-founded. The platforms (GE3, GE4, GE5, GE9), including one with a partial bank (GE1), range from 5m to 9m in diameter, whilst the circumstantial ones (GE6, GE7, GE8) are between 6m and 10m. The stone-founded example (GE2), measured 5m by 4.5m. As noted above (Typology of settlement structures), two possible house sites from this system were selected for excavation, GE1 (a platform with a partial bank), and GE2 (stone-founded).

Before excavation, GE1 consisted of a platform with a low bank partially surrounding a circular level area, *c.* 8m in diameter (Fig. 15). Its west side had been destroyed by the cutting of a 19th century estate road through the bank of the adjacent D-shaped scarp-edge enclosure. Enough survived to suggest that this platform must have abutted or impinged on the eastern side of the enclosure bank. The stone-founded example (GE2), located some 40m north of GE1, consisted of a near circular rubble bank, which cut into the bank of the D-shaped scarp-edge enclosure. The only other similar example (out of a total of 25 house sites recorded in the Gardom's Edge and Birchen Edge survey area) was found at the northern end of the Gardom's Edge North East field system (GE14). At commencement of the RCHME survey there was only one other parallel for this type of structure known in the Peak District, namely the excavated example at Swine Sty (Richardson and Preston 1969; Machin 1971; Machin and Beswick 1975; Hart 1981; Garton and Beswick in prep), situated 1.5 km north of Gardom's Edge.

Other evidence for settlement exists in the Central field system. Some 15m east of GE1, a slight arc of scarp, with earthfast boulders, defines the upper edge of an indistinct platform that may also indicate the site of a smaller timber building (GE4), but the interpretation of this is less certain. A sub-rectangular platform lies 50m north of this feature, and is also possibly a house site (GE3) set in the north-west corner of a cleared plot. A further possible house site (GE5), 80m to the north, is marked by curving linear clearance and slight platforming; the shape of this may have been disfigured by the route of the 19th-century road. The close proximity of four of these possible house sites, clustering on the lee side of the D-shaped scarp-edge enclosure bank, may suggest this is a discrete settlement group similar to one identified in the Gardom's Edge North West field system (see below), where a more complete picture of the field system limits is available. Finally, there are two possible house sites at the very northern limits of the

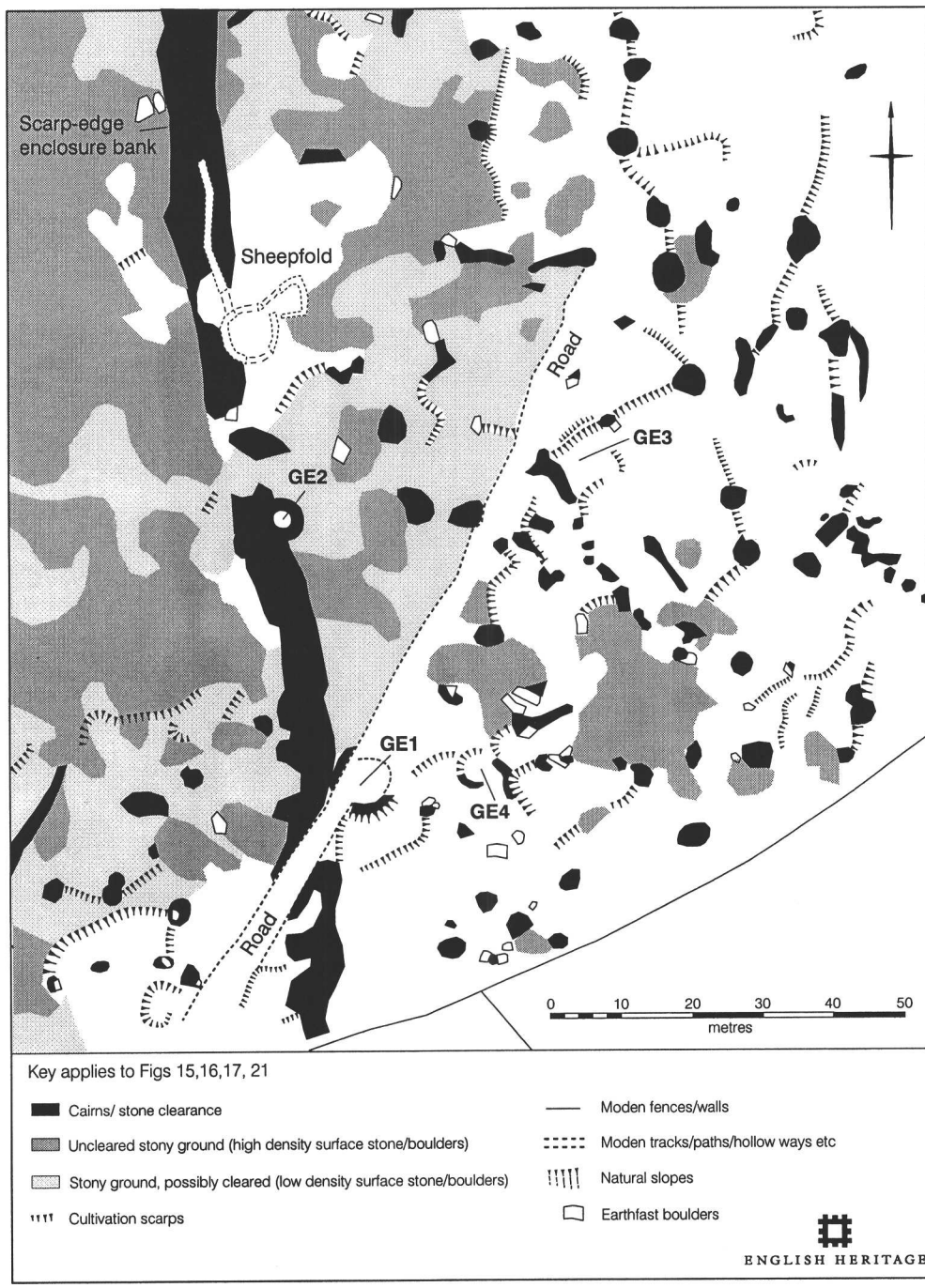

Fig. 15: Gardom's Edge Central field system — house sites — *platform with partial bank* GE1, *stone-founded* GE2, *platforms* GE3, GE4.

Central field system (GE8, GE9), and five further ones within that part of the field system which lies within the D-shaped scarp-edge enclosure. Interpretation of these last sites (GE6, GE7) is highly tentative as they consist of stone-free areas which could be alternatively interpreted as small cleared plots.

Gardom's Edge North-East SK 274 732

This field system lies on a narrow north-south ridge at between 266m and 276m above OD, and straddles a major watershed. The west face of this ridge has exposures of rock, dropping off by no more than 2m in height to the west. Erosion of the ridge has formed a band of dense angular clitter, varying in width from 5m to 15m and following the line of the outcrop; it is sheltered from the westerly winds by the higher Gardom's Edge. At the north, the clitter band turns into a less stony feature with a gentle slope. The majority of the surviving field clearance remains follow this ridge. The evidence for clearance is characterised by several types of monument. There are long, sinuous, linear stone clearance banks within, and on, the edges of the clitter band. These appear to form spinal boundaries for a series of cleared fields, often sub-rectangular in shape, defined by and containing a total of 207 irregular cairns, linear heaps and other clearance features; they are particularly common on the more sheltered eastern side of the ridge. West of the ridge, clearance features are less substantial and the pattern of cultivation is less clearly defined. The majority of the fields throughout the field system are joined as if they have developed in an aggregate fashion and there is no evidence here to suggest radical redefinition of field layout during the life of the system. Towards the northern end of this ridge is a sub-rectilinear field, which is unusual in that it straddles the ridge, and through which runs a probable prehistoric land boundary. The field clearance remains are noticeably different to those of the Gardom's Edge Central field system situated 150m to the west. There is evidence of settlement associated with the Gardom's Edge North-East field system.

There are up to five possible house sites in association with this field system; three are indicated by circumstantial evidence (GE10, GE11, GE12); one is a platform (GE13); another is stone-founded (GE14). The most distinctive of the circumstantial sites (GE10: Fig. 16) was selected for excavation in 1998 (see above — Typology of settlement structures); of the other circumstantial sites GE12 consists of a stone-free area at the curved corner of rubble banks, and GE11 is a circular space of *c.* 4m diameter, between other features. The platform (GE13) is an amorphous feature, approximately 7m in diameter, adjoining the north side of a well-defined linear clearance bank. An alternative interpretation of this platform is that it is simply a combination of a fortuitous natural terrace and modern stone extraction pits. The stone-founded structure (GE14), which is slightly terraced into the north-west facing slope of the ridge, is defined by a rubble bank, 1m wide and 0.2m high around the north-east and south-west arcs; it has an internal diameter of 2.5m with a narrow entrance at the north-west. This feature, although not well formed, is similar to another stone-founded structure recorded in the Gardom's Edge Central field system (GE2).

Gardom's Edge North-West SK 273 736

Most of this field system is situated on the sheltered east-facing dip slope of Gardom's Edge, on the eastern edge of the exposed boulder-field at between 250m and 270m above

Fig. 16: Gardom's Edge North-East field system — *circumstantial* house site GE10.

OD; overall the land falls north towards the deeply incised valley of the Bar Brook. The field system continues in a more fragmentary form into the less stony areas along the crest of the southern edge of the Bar Brook valley, ceasing at the same boggy ground which formed the eastern limits of the Gardom's Edge North-East field system. The western and northern limits are constrained by natural boundaries: namely the edge of the dense boulder-field, and the steep edge of the Bar Brook valley respectively. To the south there is a 100m to 150m gap between this field system and the Central one. Here the edge of the boulder-field appears identical to others in the Central field system, except that there are no clearance features. This implies that the relatively stone-free ground immediately to the east of the boulder-field edge was naturally stone-free. The eastern extent is marked by the cessation of stone clearance features, which coincides fairly closely with a change in vegetation from the heather in the west to grassland on the east. This is also the boundary between the sandier gritstone-derived soils to the west and the

heavier shale-derived soils to the east. That the limit of clearance and the change in geology marks the original eastern boundary of the cultivated areas is further suggested by the termination of a major east to west prehistoric boundary at the same point, and by the absence of clearance features, apart from one small cairn, further east. The likelihood is that, unlike the other field systems recorded during this survey which have either been truncated by land improvement or by artificial boundaries of the survey area, the full extent of the Gardom's Edge North-West field system (approximately 8 hectares) has been identified. This field system was recorded and mapped prior to the RCHME survey (Ordnance Survey 1966; Beswick and Merrills 1983; Hart 1985; Barnatt 1986).

In general, the field system comprises an apparently irregular and haphazard distribution of up to 281 cairns and other stone clearance features, together with small cleared plots on the edges of the boulder-field and stony areas to the north. In the central area, there is a large rectangular 'field' clearly defined on three sides by artificial boundaries. It is clear that the apparently haphazard clearance pattern masks a process of well-organised and intensive cultivation in a similar way to that identified in the Gardom's Edge Central field system. Also, as in the Gardom's Edge Central field system, further cultivation edges are evidenced by lynchets and boulder scarps.

Within this field system there are indications of linear zones of clearance running north-north-east/ to south-south-west. The westernmost of these is between 30m to 40m wide and runs along the edge of the boulder-field, with a further small area to the south of similar character. This zone contains many small cleared plots carved into the edge of the boulder-field and frequent small clearance heaps. All the identified house sites (see below) occupy this zone, suggesting that this may have been marginal for cultivation and that some of the cleared areas may have been used as yards or garden plots. The second zone is between 20m to 40m wide and is characterised by cleared surfaces with cairns, usually large and regularly spaced. The third zone is narrow, being 20m to 30m wide, and free from cairns. The fourth and final zone is 50m wide at the south, tapering to 10m wide at the north and still retains small, naturally stony patches. A number of cairns are visible at their edges and between them. The most obvious explanation for these linear zones is that they reflect the differences in the stone density caused by underlying geology.

Ten potential house sites within this field system have been identified. Seven are represented by circumstantial evidence (GE15, GE16, GE19, GE20, GE21, GE22, GE23) whilst the remainder are visible as low platforms (GE17, GE18, GE24). Of particular significance is the spatial distribution of the sites. They occur in three discrete, equally-spaced clusters, each about 120m from the next, in an approximate south-west to north-east line, on the eastern fringes of the boulder-field. A similar, discrete group of four house sites adjacent to a boulder-field edge was identified in the Central field system (see above).

The southern group of three house sites extend over a distance of 30m, on a roughly north to south line on a slight east-facing natural terrace (GE15, GE23, GE24); they are indicated by curves in boulder scarps along clearance edges and one of them (GE24) is also visible as a platform; predicted diameters of structures range from between 5m to 7m. Two (GE23, GE24), are adjacent and appear to be integrated with sinuous boulder scarps which themselves form part of the irregular clearances to the south. The third (GE15), is located at the east terminal of a section of boundary in the partially enclosed area between curving linear clearance and the end of a boulder scarp. The central group

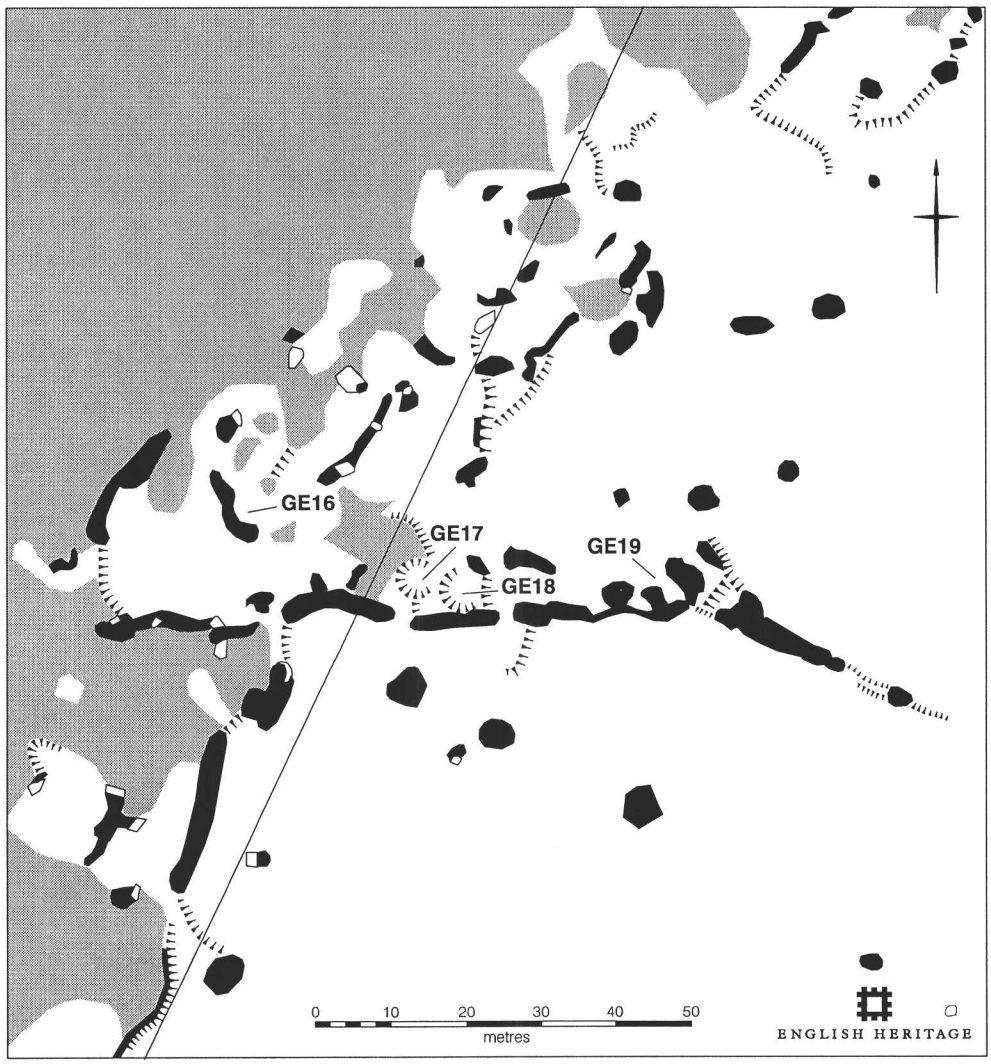

Fig. 17: Gardom's Edge North-West field system — house sites — *circumstantial* GE19, GE16, *platforms* GE17, GE18.

(GE16, GE17, GE18, GE19), is located along the northern side of the boundary to the large rectangular 'field' noted above (Fig. 17). The westernmost of the group (GE16) sits separately from the boundary and consists of a pronounced curving bank of clearance around a probable, former timber structure of some 6m diameter. Two (GE17, GE18), immediately adjacent to the field boundary, are terraced platforms *c.* 5m in diameter. Although interpreted as possible house sites during the survey, subsequent excavation has revealed that these are natural platforms with edges defined by earthfast boulders (Barnatt *pers. comm.*). The easternmost of the group (GE19) has a peculiar return of linear clearance to the north, producing a funnel-shaped area rather than the roughly circular plan usually encountered; it is possible therefore, that this was a yard rather than

a building. However, the unusual shape could merely be a reflection of the complex chronology which is evident here; a number of features overlap, and the linear clearance which forms the return appears to be last element in the sequence and may have been laid across a redundant, earlier house site, thereby producing the funnel shape. The last house site in this group is marked by a well-defined arc of stone clearance on its south side; the inside of this arc is noticeably steep-sided in comparison to the outside, suggesting that material was stacked around a pre-existing structure, presumably a timber building. The northern group of three potential house sites (GE20, GE21, GE22) are integrated with the irregular clearance of small plots at the edges of the boulder-field. Two (GE21, GE22), are only 3m apart, and consist of roughly circular patches, 4m to 5m in diameter cleared into a stony surface with stone piled around their edges; GE22 is also slightly terraced making its interpretation more certain. The third possible house site (GE20) is marked only by a sharp change in the direction of a boulder scarp and with some gathered stone above a small cleared area.

Birchen Edge North SK 285 735

The nucleus of this field system lies on an exposed, fairly level shelf, at between 288m and 292m above OD, and on two natural, narrow terraces forming the upper part of a larger terrace to the north-west. A small number of probable clearance features are also evident on four lower shelves to the north-west and west, between 270m and 280m above OD.

Some 4 hectares of the remains on the highest shelf fall within the survey area, which on the east is bounded by a road. Further evidence of cultivation has been recorded beyond the road, on the continuation of the shelf to the east (Barnatt 1986, 49), but as this is outside the survey limits it has been excluded from this account. It appears that, as on Gardom's Edge, the limits to the field system were constrained by natural features. The remains on this upper shelf comprise three parallel earthen banks, and 10 to 22 small cairns and other clearance features. Associated monuments include a large ring cairn, a possible burial cairn, and a possible ring cairn or house site (BE1). The identification of the latter is somewhat problematical as it has been partially destroyed by hollow ways and a modern track. It survives as a semi-circular earthen bank, 2.0m to 2.5m in width, and with an internal diameter of 8.5m and an overall one of 13m.

Gardom's Edge South SK 274 725

This field system is located on south-facing slopes on the east side of Gardom's Edge at 274m above OD. This shelf falls gently south-east towards the deeply incised valley of the Heathy Lea Brook, one of several westerly or south-westerly flowing streams draining the escarpment. The field system consists mostly of 93 to 102 cairns, many of which are clustered around large earthfast boulders, and several linear boundaries, but no highly developed system of plot boundaries as noted elsewhere on Gardom's Edge. Indeed, the close proximity of a ruined Medieval or Post-Medieval steading, set amongst banks and cairns, may account for some of the linear boundaries which do exist. Within the centre of the western part of the field system is a platformed ring bank (GE25), 11.5m to 12m between bank centres, terraced into the hillslope, with a single entrance at the south-east. This has previously been claimed as a ring cairn, although Barnatt raises the possibility of its being a stone-founded house (Barnatt 1986, 52; 1990, 59). The bank appears to be constructed of more carefully laid stones than has been observed in other postulated

ring-bank houses. This alone suggests constructional affinities with other ring cairns in the Peak District, such as at Barbrook II stone circle (Barnatt 1990, 55), where drystone walling was used to form the ring bank, and may argue against this being a house site.

Big Moor SK 273 756 (Fig. 18)

Big Moor is a large area of unimproved moorland, between 295m and 365m above OD, on a series of gritstone shelves which are disected by the Bar Brook, whose valley runs north to south. The survey undertaken by the RCHME and the PDNPA between 1991 and 1996 was the first systematic and detailed analysis of the multi-period landscape (Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998b). Previous fieldworkers had drawn attention to prehistoric field systems on this moor (Hart 1981, 57 and 59 (plan); Beswick and Merrills 1983, 33; Riley 1960; Barnatt 1986, 43–47) and numerous excavations have also been undertaken (Henderson 1960; 1979; Lewis 1966; 1970; Barnatt 1990, 55–7; 1996a; Barnatt and Reeder 1982; Riley 1981; Richardson and Preston 1969; Machin 1971; Machin and Beswick 1975; Barnatt in prep). In addition, further detailed analysis using the data derived from the survey and excavation findings is in progress (Barnatt *pers. comm.*).

Six prehistoric field systems and cairnfields were identified within the area surveyed, four of which show evidence of settlement structures: *Big Moor East (Ramsley Moor); Big Moor Central; Big Moor West;* and *Big Moor North-West*. In total, 33 potential house sites have been recognised, the majority of which (sixteen) are indicated by circumstantial evidence, thirteen are visible as terraced platforms, two as platforms with partial banks, one is a ring bank, and another is stone-founded. The field systems demonstrate chronological depth and differences within their organisation and form. A number of ceremonial or funerary monuments have also been recorded. Later monuments include holloways (former packhorse routes), and features such as guide stones, surface quarrying, bell pits (probably for coal), grouse-shooting butts, and a reservoir. A variety of monuments relating to the use of the moors for military training during World War II have also been identified.

There are strong morphological contrasts between each of the field systems and cairnfields in which evidence for settlement structures has been identified. Big Moor East comprises a cairnfield with few field boundaries, although even here there is strong evidence to suggest a context which is primarily agricultural rather than funerary (see below). In contrast, Big Moor Central has both well-defined fields and large numbers of small cairns. The fields are variable in shape and size and only at the northern, eastern and south-western fringes are they poorly defined. Big Moor West falls into three zones. To the north and south, boundary development is poor while cairns are common. In the north the distribution of cairns correlates to the incidence of boundaries. In the central zone there is a well-defined field system with few cairns. Big Moor North-West sits somewhat in isolation and the remains are fragmentary and boundary development is poor.

Big Moor East (Ramsley Moor) SK 278 756

This field system of approximately 16 hectares is located on a gentle west-sloping shelf on the east side of the valley of the Bar Brook at between 290m and 310m above OD. The most distinctive feature of this system is the large number of cairns (up to 130), and

the rarity of linear boundaries compared to the field systems to the west. In the past this has led to it being viewed as a funerary area and providing a contrast with the agricultural nature of the field systems to the west of the valley with their extensive linear components (Hart 1981). This view has been challenged by others (Barnatt 1986; 1987; Barnatt and Smith 1991) and this new survey has found evidence for linear features (banks and clearance), lynchets and small cairns, all indicative of an agricultural purpose (Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998b). Along the western edge of this field system three possible house sites have been identified (BM29, BM30, BM31) on the slopes immediately above the east side of the valley. All are visible as level platforms, with signs of revetment or lynchetting on the downslope side. They are raised no more than 0.4m above the slope, and diameters range from 4.5 to 7m. The regular separation of these platforms along the slope at distances between 100m and 120m may reflect a pattern of dispersed occupation within this field system.

Big Moor Central SK 274 755

This field system is one of the largest and most complex identified in the Peak District, and covers an area of some 32 hectares between 270m and 330m above OD. It occupies most of the south and east shelving of a dip slope and is bordered to the east by the deeply incised Bar Brook valley. Previous surveys have been made (Hart 1981; Beswick and Merrills 1983; Barnatt 1986) and excavations undertaken on the settlement at Swine Sty (Richardson and Preston 1969; Machin 1971; Machin and Beswick 1975), and on some of the field boundaries (Barnatt in prep). The whole system comprises a landscape of cairns (up to 355), stony banks, linear clearance, earthen banks and lynchets. Organised rectilinear fields and plots can be recognised as well as irregular plots delineated by sinuous boundaries and clearance lines, and many features exhibit a long chronological development in the surface stratigraphy. Excavation at the junction of two field banks in 1983 produced radio-carbon dates of 1620–1324 cal. BC (OxA2356), 1510–1129 cal. BC (OxA2292), 1420–1010 cal. BC (OxA2293) and 1253–830 cal. BC (OxA2294), which provide broad indications of the period of use (Barnatt 1995).

The evidence for settlement varies from individual platforms with attendant areas of clearance, to small clusters of sites in amongst the complex of fields and boundaries. Site BM10 is a particularly good example of an isolated platform, 10m in diameter, with a partial surrounding bank, and with a small area of clearance features around it (Fig. 19). The discrete and fragmentary nature of the clearance around this monument may indicate that it was short-lived. A further fine example of a house platform (BM5), 8m in diameter and lying above a field lynchet, is situated in a sheltered position next to a natural gully (Fig. 20). Field boundaries around it are poorly developed, with the principal evidence being contour-following lynchets and scattered small cairns. Toward the southern end of this field system, where chronology is evident in the boundaries, cairns and linear clearance, together with house sites in groups can be identified; this presumably reflects an area of activity which has evolved over a long period of time. In one area, three clusters of houses (BM19, BM3, BM2, BM18, BM15, BM4, BM13, BM23, BM11, BM8) and other isolated examples have been identified amongst the fields. Two (BM19 and BM3) are on the same sinuous boundary, which also has indications of yards or garden plots adjacent to it. A group of three — a platform (BM18) and two circumstantial sites (BM12 and BM15) — 80m to the east, are also associated with a

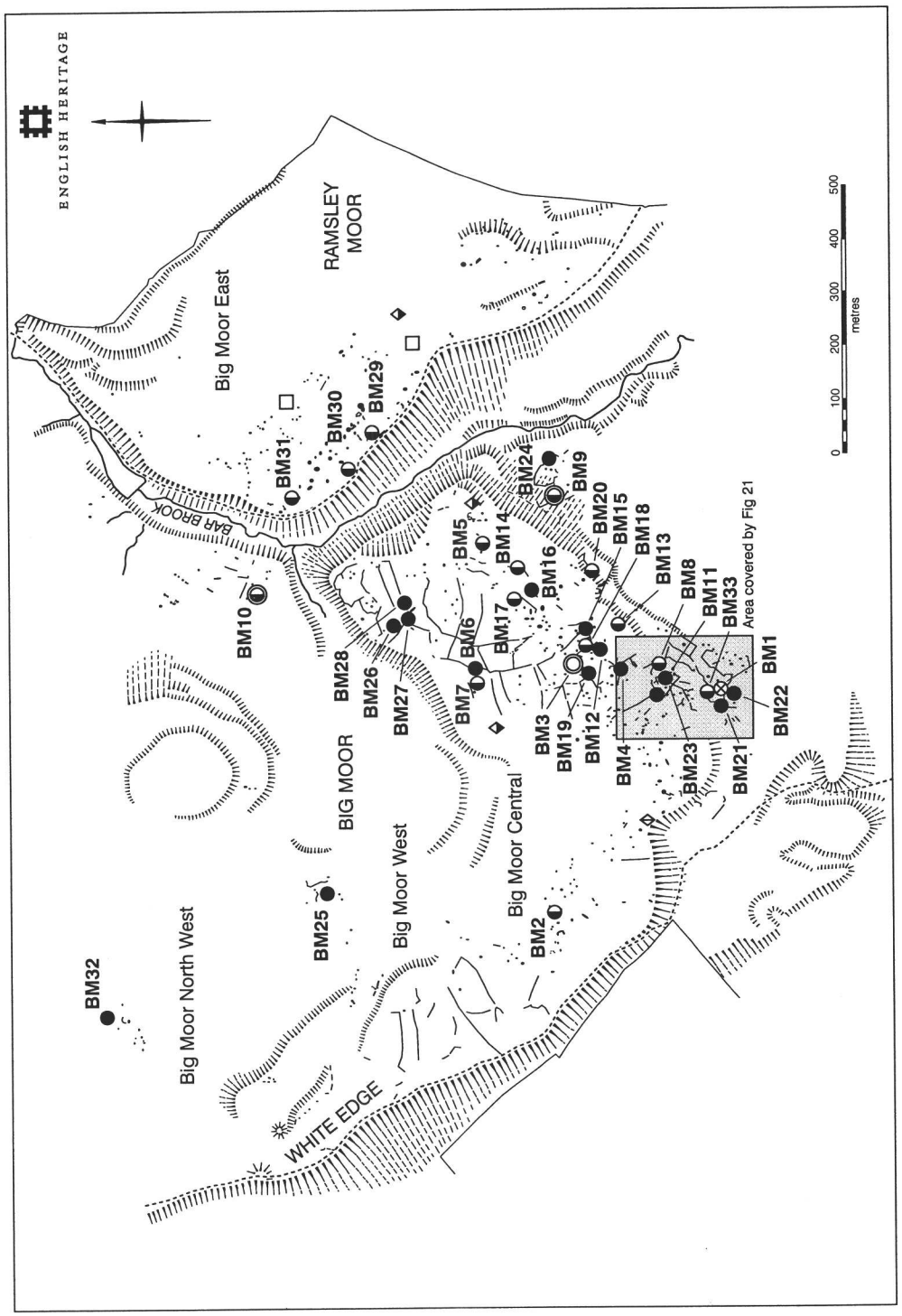

Fig. 18: Big Moor — house sites, field systems and other principal monuments.

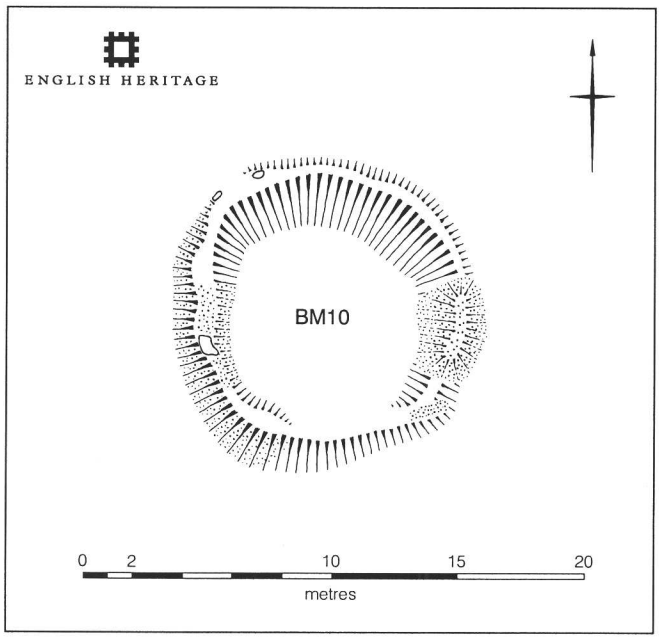

Fig. 19: Big Moor Central field system — *platform with partial bank* house site BM10.

sinuous boundary and have well-defined yards or garden plots to the north. The final cluster consists of one platform (BM8) and two circumstantial sites (BM23 and BM11), in an area of patchily stony ground; this group also has small yards or plots associated with it.

At the very southern end of the field system, and in a sheltered location below the shelf scarp, is the excavated area at Swine Sty (Fig. 21). The structures investigated included a stone-founded circular building with an overall diameter of 6m (BM1), and an underlying circular timber structure (BM22) for which there was circumstantial evidence on the surface comprising a curve in the adjacent bank (Richardson and Preston 1969; Machin 1971). Before excavation BM1 was visible as a slight mound with a few exposed stones evident. The excavation showed that it had an external diameter of 6.1m and an internal one of 3.7m to 4m, with an entrance at the west. The building footings were adjudged from the tumble to have stood to a height of 0.6m to 0.9m; on the inner edge of its northern arc were five or six vertically set stones, interpreted as possible cupboards or niches. Within the building were several stones protruding above the prehistoric surface, some of which may have been crude paving. Investigation of the adjacent curving bank revealed three or four possible post-holes suggesting that a circular timber house of *c.* 6m diameter (BM22) pre-dated the stone-founded example. Further excavations on curves in the banks to the west and south east also suggested the existence of circular 'tent' rings (Machin with Beswick 1975), but the possibility remains that these may have been further timber house sites which had been insufficiently investigated (Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998b). Other excavations were conducted within the immediate vicinity. A

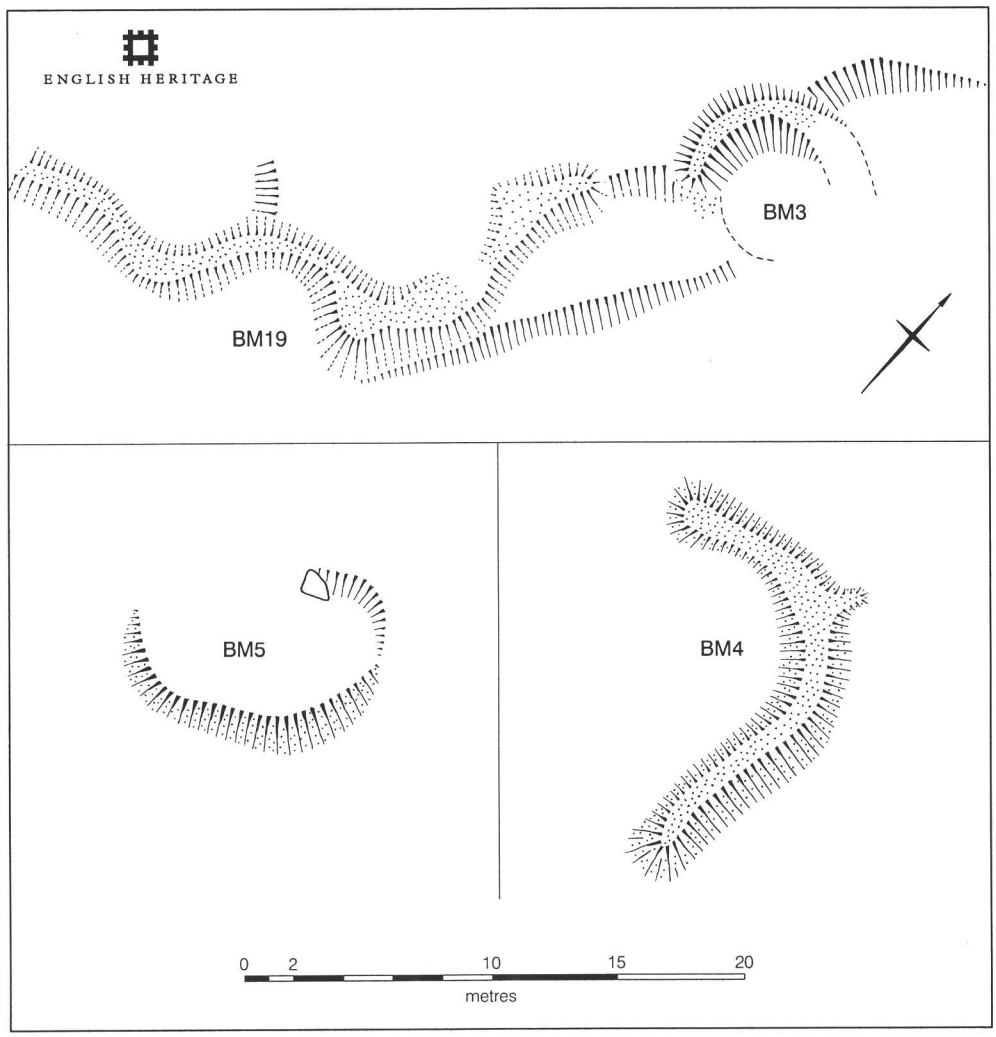

Fig. 20: Big Moor Central field system — house sites — *ringbank* BM3, *circumstantial* BM19, BM4, *platform* BM5.

platform (BM33), cut into the base of the steep shelf scarp some 30m north of the stone-founded house, was also excavated (Richardson and Preston 1969; Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998b, 32). The platform, which measures 8m by 6m, was revetted by a coursed drystone wall and covered with a layer of stones to a width of 4.5m. Although the excavators suggested that this was a quarryman's platform, this interpretation can be questioned. In light of the proximity of other prehistoric settlement and associated structures and its similarity to platforms within field systems elsewhere, this platform may also have a prehistoric origin (Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998b).

Excavations around the general area of Swine Sty produced extensive collections of prehistoric artefacts, including pottery, lithics, and debitage from production of cannel

Fig. 21: Big Moor Central field system — area of Swine Sty.

coal rings (Beswick in Machin and Beswick 1975). The pot-sherds were originally assessed as being of Early Bronze Age date (Machin 1971) but they have subsequently been re-evaluated, with the majority ranging from the Early Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, and there are also a few probably from the Neolithic, Later Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Pauline Beswick *pers. comm.* in Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998b). The lithics belong to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (Daryl Garton *pers. comm.* in Ainsworth and Barnatt 1998b).

Big Moor West SK 266 755

This field system and cairnfield, which lies between 330m and 360m above OD, is located on a gentle east-facing dip slope, bounded on the east by marshy ground; it covers an area of some 13 hectares. The Big Moor Central field system lies to the south and the division between the two is somewhat arbitrary, based on a modern perception of change in topography where there appears to be a break in the cairnfield features. The central area has a network of continuous boundaries comprising mostly earthen banks and lynchets, forming three to five large fields, whilst to the north and south these are less well-defined; there are indications that the layout represents more than one phase. To the south, the density of cairns increases. Only two house sites have been identified — one is a platform (BM2) and the other (BM25) is indicated by circumstantial evidence, in this case curving dumps of stone. The dip slope occupied by the field system is relatively stone-free compared to most other areas and this may explain why so few house sites are visible, since (apart from platforms on sloping ground) it is usually only the pattern of stone clearance which identifies the sites of timber structures, as is demonstrated in the Central field system where there is much more surface stone.

Big Moor North West SK 271 748

This is a small, isolated field system of some 0.5 hectares in extent, at between 345m and 350m above OD on a gentle east-facing dip slope at the extreme edge of the survey area. It is possible however, that it once extended further north into an area now heavily disturbed by hollow ways. It comprises 13 to 14 cairns, 6 to 7 stretches of linear clearance, 3 patches of cleared stones and one possible cultivation edge defined by clearance. No distinct field or plot boundaries could be identified. The site of a possible house (BM32) is indicated by a curving line of clearance stone, possibly dumped around the edge of a former circular timber structure some 5m in diameter.

Discussion

Morphology of house sites

The majority of the features recorded in this survey can be confidently interpreted as house sites, although some are ephemeral and their identification is less certain; some of the structures within a group may have alternatively been used for storage or animals. The regularity with which the morphological types as classified in this survey can be observed, combined with their mutual integrity with field system components, clearly demonstrates that they are genuinely related and in broad terms should be considered to be of the same date. However, there is an increasing body of evidence emerging that the field systems, which conventionally had been attributed to the Bronze Age, had a much longer life than previously thought. Radio-carbon dates, and environmental samples

from the East Moors and more specifically from recent, nearby excavations at Eaglestone Flat and Gardom's Edge, all suggest that cultivation and field system development may extend from the Late Neolithic period into the Early Iron Age (Barnatt 1987; 1994; 1995). Thus, assigning dates to the house sites identified in this RCHME survey to anything more precise than second to first millennium BC is not possible.

It is recognised that platforms (as the primary identifier for the site of a timber house) are only visible where there is an underlying slope into which the platform is constructed, and that many other timber houses may have been located on flat ground and consequently have left no surface traces. The difficulty in distinguishing between natural platforms and artificial ones is highlighted by GE17 and GE18, where excavation undertaken after this paper was largely complete revealed that these were natural features. In this case, their proximity to obvious prehistoric banks and field clearance may have led to the platforms appearing to have been artificially enhanced. This should not, however, detract from the need to observe and record all instances of circular and near circular platforms as potential house sites (particularly those in association with field systems), as this monument form is also clearly indicative of *bona fide* structures. However, this new survey demonstrates that the likely location of timber houses can also be deduced from circumstantial evidence, principally the morphological characteristics of other features in the field systems. Otherwise inexplicable curves in banks, cairns and clearance lines have been noted at Stoke Flat, Gibbet Moor, Gardom's Edge and on Big Moor. In the cases where a measurement can be extrapolated from such curves, predicted diameters of houses range from 3m to 10m although the majority are between 5m and 8m.

The fact that none of the platforms recorded has any surface evidence of having supported stone structures clearly points towards these also being the sites for round timber houses. This is confirmed by the excavations on Gardom's Edge where a slight platform (GE1) with a curving bank around its southern edge identified in this project, contained a 5.5m diameter timber structure (Barnatt *et al.* 1995; 1996). This is one of thirteen platforms identified which have low, partially enclosing banks, usually between 1m and 2m wide. Apart from two examples, all the platforms in this category are over 10m in diameter. As the excavated example (GE1) demonstrates, the bank is not structural and defines an area around the house. The excavator suggests that the bank may represent a formal 'closure' of the site and this interpretation may therefore apply to other sites where banks exist. However, an agricultural context for some of the banks should not be dismissed. Sites sometimes are represented by both circumstantial evidence and also by platforms, as is demonstrated on a number of occasions (e.g. BM6), where a pronounced curve in a bank is mirrored by a slight platforming downslope.

Only three possible ring banks were identified. One (BE1) has been mutilated by tracks and could just as easily be interpreted as a small ring cairn. Of the others, BM3 is mostly defined by a rubble bank, and whilst it can confidently be interpreted as a house site (particularly in view of its location on a plot boundary — see below) it could equally be classified as a stone-founded structure, while GE25 may well be a ring cairn. Given also that the interpretation of the ring bank previously excavated on Brown Edge (Radley 1966) is also somewhat ambiguous, the categorisation of this monument form as in indicator of settlement structures remains tentative. The other minor category (stone-founded) also are somewhat problematical. Firstly, the small numbers recorded suggest

that this type of structure is atypical, and secondly the small internal diameters, which range from 2m to 4m, compare poorly with internal diameters of 5m to 7m recorded in stone hut circles in the Bodmin Moor survey (Johnson and Rose 1994). There are strong indications that the Swine Sty example was of a domestic nature, although the high incidence of debitage from cannel-coal rings may indicate a specialised function. The recent excavations on Gardom's Edge of one of the stone-founded structures (GE2) produced no evidence for it being a domestic structure (Barnatt et al 1995; 1996). Although not dated, the Swine Sty stone structure clearly post-dates the timber structure. This perhaps indicates that stone structures are late in the prehistoric sequence in the gritsone uplands of the Peak District. Their scarcity may indicate that their primary function was not domestic and they may have had specific industrial or agricultural uses. The fact that no ring-groove or ring ditch structures similar to those found on other upland areas (Jobey 1985) have been located in this survey may suggest that this construction technique (i.e. timbers set in trenches cut into the ground surface) was not practised in the field systems examined, or that the local soil and vegetation characteristics are not suitable for their survival as surface features.

Only four house sites have identifiable entrances, three of which have been detected through excavation (BM1, GE1, GE2). All but one were stone-founded structures (BM1, GE2, GE14). Sites BM1 and GE14 have entrances at the west, which directly face into the prevailing wind, whilst GE4, which is a rectangular and a doubtful house site, had two entrances, both blocked, to the east. The only platform excavated (GE1) had supported a timber structure with an entrance at the east. Because the norm for settlement is clearly timber structures, and that none of these survive as surface features, it is perhaps unwise at this stage to make any prediction about orientation of entrances. A number of house sites, particularly where they occur in groups, have associated small yards or garden plots, which are defined by low stony banks or small cleared areas. Good examples of these occur on Big Moor (BM3; BM19; BM18; BM12; BM15) and Gardom's Edge (GE16; GE19).

Settlement pattern

Although this project was aimed at identifying settlement structures and their morphology, rather than spatial patterns of settlement itself, it has been demonstrated that settlement is unenclosed and that houses occur individually or in small, closely spaced groups. On Gibbet Moor, Gardom's Edge North West and Big Moor (field systems with little later destructive land-use to mask the overall picture) small clusters of three or four houses can be seen to form discrete groups interspersed throughout the field systems, suggesting some order to the dispersed settlement pattern and a degree of land organisation practiced. However, it is recognised that because of the slight nature of the evidence the full compliment of buildings will not have been identified and that any exposition of pattern and distribution may be meaningless. Also, the longevity of the field systems themselves, demonstrated by both surface relationships and excavations (also possibly combined with the shifting of occupation sites) will confuse any deduction of localised settlement patterns. However, on Big Moor, Gibbet Moor and Gardom's Edge, if the full extent of the areas defined by stone clearance within the field systems was under cultivation at the same time, the identification of regularly spaced groups of house sites most probably points to a dispersed settlement pattern, presumably of small family

groups. A number of house sites have been identified within and on field boundaries, but none exist within any type of feature which could be interpreted as a settlement enclosure.

Settlement chronology

No direct evidence has been found to suggest a relationship between chronology and the typology identified in the sample. At Dennis knoll and Sheepwash Bank, it seems probable that SB2 is earlier in date than SB1 (both platforms with partial banks) by association with field system stratigraphy, but there is not necessarily any great time interval between the phases exhibited in the fields. In the Gardom's Edge North West field system, continuity of structures on much the same site is possibly indicated by what may be overlapping platforms producing a funnel-shaped structure along a field boundary (GE19), although this is far from clear. The only unequivocal evidence for chronology comes from the excavations at Swine Sty, where it is clear that the atypical stone-founded structure (BM1) post-dated an earlier timber structure. Unfortunately, there is no direct dating for either structure but the finds evidence suggests a concentration in activity between the Early Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. The more recent excavations on the platform on Gardom's Edge (GE1) have indicated only a timber structure on this site, but with ceramics indicating a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron date.

Conclusion

This RCHME project has shown that within the prehistoric field systems on the East Moors in Derbyshire there are earthwork remains of structures which are indicative of settlement and that they are relatively common features which can be identified by careful observation. It is also highly likely that many timber houses have left no surface traces or circumstantial evidence and will only be revealed through archaeological techniques other than surface survey. This point has been well illustrated by excavation undertaken on Gardom's Edge after this paper was produced, where during the course of test-pitting, the site of a timber house was located by pure chance, no surface traces being visible (Barnatt *pers. comm.*). The typology established through this survey should not be assumed to be comprehensive as it is possible that additional identifying characteristics might be identified if more fieldwork is undertaken elsewhere on the East Moors. However, the basic models established in this survey provide a solid foundation for any future work and have already fed into the research excavations on Gardom's Edge. This programme of excavation by the PDNPA and Sheffield University will in turn lead to a clearer understanding of the physical remains of settlement as represented by surface monuments. At the time of writing this report, the interim findings from these excavations are supporting the initial interpretations offered by the RCHME survey, and thus future fieldwork into the prehistoric settlement and exploitation of this upland area will be based on a much more solid foundation than would have otherwise been possible.

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APPENDIX 1: HOUSE SITES BY TYPOLOGICAL CATEGORIES

Site codes:
SM —Stanton Moor
CA —Callow
SB —Dennis Knoll and Sheepwash Bank
SF —Stoke Flat West
GM —Gibbet Moor
GE —Gardom's Edge
BE —Birchen Edge North
BM —Big Moor

Each feature recorded as a possible house site has been given an individual number within that field system e.g. BM1, BM2 etc.

Platforms

Number	NGR	Size(m)	Height above OD(m)
SM2	SK 25104 63230	6	289
SM3	SK 25100 63240	5	289
GM9	SK 27804 71368	7	274
GM10	SK 27998 71019	9	273
GM12	SK 28115 70876	7	282
GM14	SK 28025 70472	6	297
GM15	SK 27960 70426	7	298
GM16	SK 28056 70160	10	300
GE3	SK 27315 72952	9	273
GE4	SK 27298 72909	5	271
GE5	SK 27342 73030	8	272
GE9	SK 27324 73246	5	270
GE11	SK 27467 73171	4	274
GE13	SK 27541 73465	5	268
GE17	SK 27316 73598	5	269
GE18	SK 27322 73595	5.5	269
GE24	SK 27289 73463	5	268
BM2	SK 26787 75333	6.5	338

BM5	SK 27474 75456	8	302
BM7	SK 27228 75471	5.5	315
BM8	SK 27241 75475	6	314
BM13	SK 27328 75203	8	306
BM14	SK 27434 75395	4.5	304
BM17	SK 27382 75401	10	310
BM18	SK 27297 75264	8	311
BM20	SK 27426 75258	8	300
BM29	SK 27689 75661	6	296
BM30	SK 27624 75705	4	294
BM31	SK 27571 75810	4.5	296
BM33	SK 27200 75040	6	302
Platforms with partial banks			
CA1	SK 24430 82120	17 × 14	320
CA2	SK 24350 82170	11	320
GE1	SK 27283 72907	9	272
SM1	SK 24652 63330	11	310
SB1	SK 23000 84180	14	320
SB2	SK 23120 83980	12	320
GM1	SK 27943 70670	14	294
GM2	SK 27967 70648	13 × 8	294
GM3	SK 27986 70629	12	294
GM4	SK 28133 70247	11	310
GM5	SK 27940 71540	10	260
BM9	SK 27569 75317	4	280
BM10	SK 27392 75882	10	301
Ring Banks			
BE1	SK 28464 73408	13	292
BM3	SK 27249 75287	8	314
GE25	SK 27460 72410	12	235
Circumstantial			
SF1	SK 25040 76520	6	290
SF2	SK 25060 76500	10	290
GM6	SK 27835 71485	6	267
GM7	SK 27942 71423	8	260
GM8	SK 27895 71394	8	270
GM11	SK 28006 71011	9	271
GM13	SK 27977 70790	?	290
GE6	SK 27175 72797	6	275
GE7	SK 27225 72723	7	269
GE8	SK 27276 73200	?	272
GE10	SK 27461 73090	10	275
GE12	SK 27507 73326	?	270

GE15	SK 27285 73488	5	267
GE16	SK 27290 73612	6	264
GE19	SK 27351 73596	5	268
GE20	SK 27375 73696	6.5	261
GE21	SK 27376 73718	4	261
GE22	SK 27383 73713	5	261
GE23	SK 27286 73472	7	268
BM4	SK 27246 75205	7.5	314
BM6	SK 27241 75475	6	315
BM11	SK 27228 75128	3	310
BM12	SK 27292 75255	9	310
BM15	SK 27321 75265	7	310
BM16	SK 27392 75369	7	308
BM19	SK 27234 75268	8	314
BM21	SK 27176 75014	5	302
BM22	SK 27195 75012	6	301
BM23	SK 27200 75131	7	312
BM24	SK 27639 75337	9	274
BM25	SK 26829 75767	8	328
BM26	SK 27330 75626	8.5	309
BM27	SK 27345 75607	5	309
BM28	SK 27370 75607	6	309
BM32	SK 26597 76183	5	346
Stone-founded			
GE2	SK 27271 72943	5 × 4.5	273
GE14	SK 27604 73481	5	267
BM1	SK 27194 75016	6.1	301

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