

Prehistoric Section Update, May 2009

We have continued our efforts to locate and record private flint collections in order to arrive at a better appreciation of the amount and variety of prehistoric activity in this area. Two collections seen and two more to come soon.

Our involvement with the Bingley History Society's exploration of Stanbury Hill (on the flank of Ilkley Moor) has continued - despite a lull for nesting birds and the identification of unexploded ordnance... We have been trained and taken part in geophysics surveying and penmap techniques, and have done battle with the associated software and interpretation methods. Our intention is to borrow the equipment and apply it and our skills to selected sites in the South Pennines.

The quest for practical software for 3D recording of rock art is also continuing and will complement a drafted paper summarising South Pennine rock art. A companion paper dealing with standing stones has been accepted for Halifax Antiquarian Society's journal and should appear in due course.

Another paper will cover the curious grooves we have found on some gritstone surfaces. These are thought to be natural but have attracted prehistoric carvings as well. Two field visits by experts from British Geological Survey were less than conclusive about a precise mechanism of causation. The South Pennines seems to have some unique, previously unrecorded geological features!

The planning discussions about the redevelopment of the windfarm on Ovenden Moor are continuing and West Yorkshire Archaeology Service has accepted and incorporated our submission about the importance of the mesolithic sites we found and which will be jeopardised by the new access road and footings for the larger windmills.

Visited 'The Tomb Builders' Museum of Wales travelling exhibition in Wrexham for comparison purposes.

Seminar on red deer in British prehistory, and symposium on the prehistoric uses of caves and rock shelters - both at University of Bradford.

In Huddersfield we heard Julian Thomas describe the Riverside Project - the latest excavations at Stonehenge and Durrington Walls.

Chesterfield Archaeology Day - the Derbyshire Archaeology Service, Peak National Park and Derbyshire Archaeology Society - again provided a useful comparison with another area.

We have also made contact with the West Yorkshire Geology Trust and with Pennine Prospects, particularly in relation to the cross-border Watershed Landscape Project, and we anticipate providing a prehistoric input in the near future.

We are also in contact with a PhD student who is proposing to examine aspects of South Pennine prehistory.