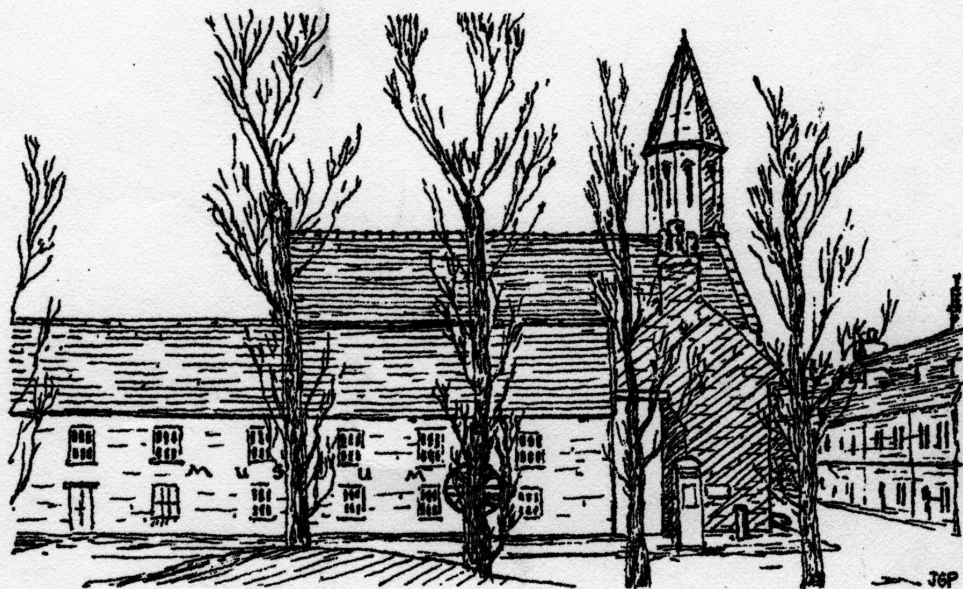


SADDLEWORTH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE MUSEUM - UPPERMILL.

BULLETIN

SUMMER 1976

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RED RATCHER

The Excavation of a Mesolithic Site in the Peak National Park
by Saddleworth Historical Society

The prehistory section of the Saddleworth Historical Society decided in 1970 to undertake the excavation of a mesolithic flint knapping site situated just outside the Parish of Saddleworth high up on the moorlands north of Longdendale.

Mr. John Murray was appointed excavation leader and Mr. John Hallam visited the site and advised on the methods of excavation.

The position of the site, two miles from the nearest road at a height of 1615 feet O.D. created many problems. Each day's work involved those taking part in a round trip of four miles across some of the roughest moorland in England and considerably reduced the amount of time available for excavation. Precautions had to be taken and regulations laid down to make sure that members did not get lost when visiting the site in misty conditions.

The initial stage involved the carrying of a considerable amount of equipment such as wheelbarrows, buckets, spades, etc. to the site, and a National Park Warden expressed his astonishment at seeing a small group of people in a lonely and desolate part of the moors carrying a wheelbarrow.

Nevertheless, the trudge to the site through peat hags, across streams, and over the tufted grass moorlands had its compensations in the fine rock scenery of Holme Clough and the magnificent view from the site itself extending over Longdendale to Bleaklow, with Kinderscout in the distance, and embracing Black Hill nearer at hand, thus including the three highest hills in England south of Pen-y-ghent.

The Excavation

The site is at Grid Reference SE 058036 on the northern edge of Little Clough, a tributary stream of Crowden Great Brook. Erosion of the blanket peat has taken place in patches along the northern edge of this valley, in one of which a number of flints were found indicating the possibility of a site in the area.

The site was excavated in square yards, the peat being removed by spade to within a few inches of the underlying sand and then carefully excavated by trowel down to rock. All the finds were in the sandy layer beneath the peat.

Each square was subdivided into quarter squares and all flints found were allotted to their appropriate quarter. Those which were identified at the time of excavation as being microliths or as having any interesting feature were plotted precisely within the quarter square.

The distribution of the excavated flints is shown in Fig. 1. It can be seen from this that the majority came from four squares - E3, E4, F3 and F4, and that the number of flints falls away rapidly outside these squares. Some of the flints showed the typical mosaic-like appearance due to firecracking. Their distribution is shown in Fig. 2. The great majority came from one square, F4, and it seems likely that there was a hearth in this area although no charcoal or structure was found.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
B	○		○			
C				1		
D	1	1	3	7	1	○
E	○	1	21	35	11	○
F	4	2	25	41	4	○
G	1	1	5	7	○	○
H	○	○	○	1	○	○

Fig 1
Distribution of excavated flints

	1	2	3	4	5	6
B	○		○			
C				○		
D	○	○	2	○	○	○
E	○	○	○	1	○	○
F	○	1	○	17	1	○
G	○	○	○	3	○	○
H	○	○	○	○	○	○

Fig 2
Distribution of fire-cracked flints

The Material

The material consists almost entirely of brown translucent flint. The presence of cortex on a number of pieces suggests that the flint was brought to the site in the shape of beach pebbles, probably from the East Coast.

Flint pebbles of this type can be found on the East Coast at the present time, the result of erosion by the sea of glacial boulder clay of Scandinavian origin.

The only other material recognised with a fair degree of certainty were two pieces of fine black chert, often found on South Pennine sites and probably originating in Derbyshire.

No white flint of the type found on broad blade sites, which appears to originate from the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds, was found.

A number of white pieces were present, but apart from those which appeared to be pieces of soft cortex material, they were all fire-cracked, or at least appeared to have undergone some degree of alteration resulting from heat.

	<u>Excavated</u>	<u>Surface Find</u>	<u>Total</u>
Brown flint	148	32	180
Black chert	1	1	2
White cortex	4	3	7
White/grey heat altered	20	1	21
	<u>173</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>210</u>

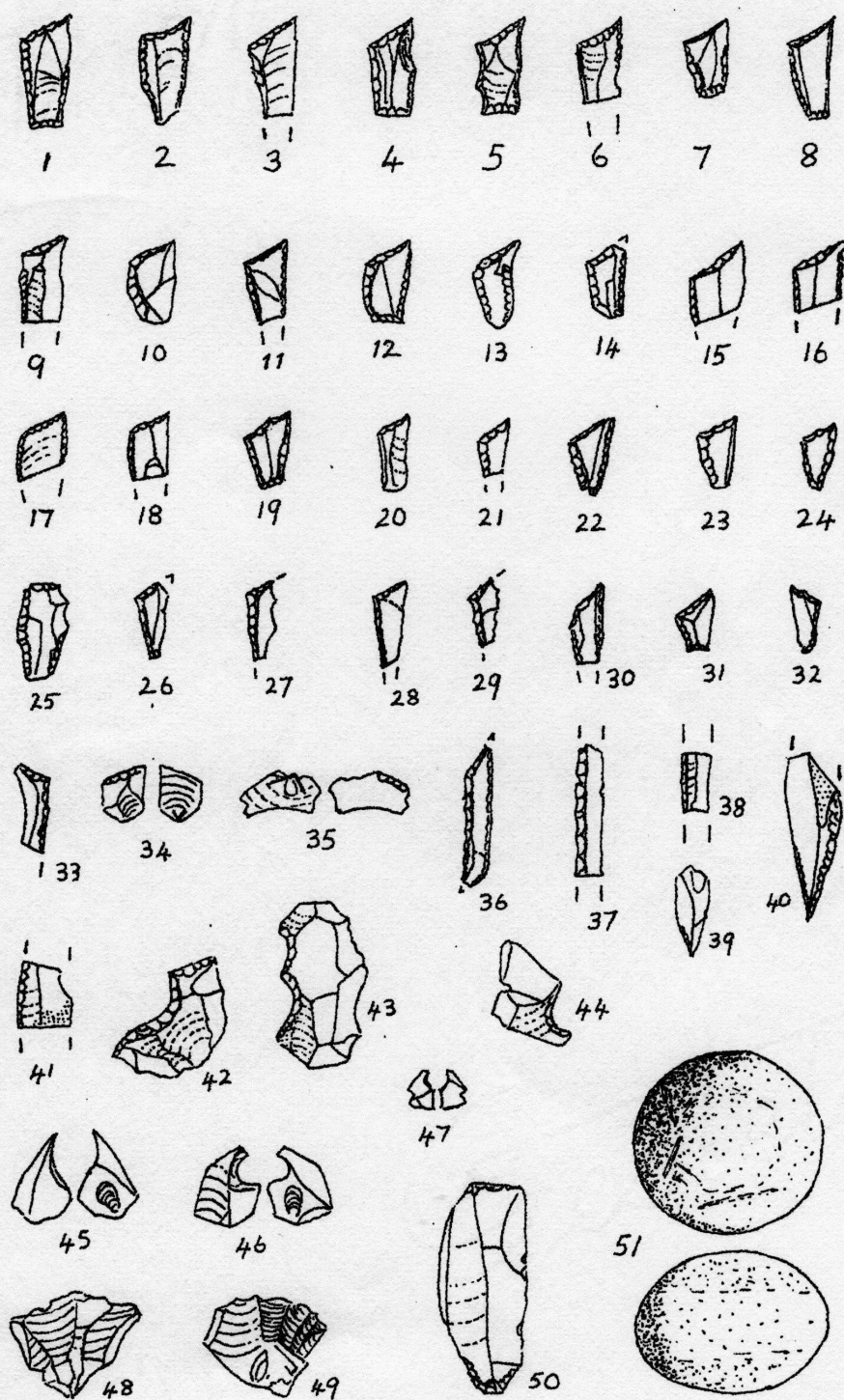


Fig 3

The Industry

The dominant microlith is the "trapezoid" with 4 edges of unequal length and 3 sides steeply blunted. They are well made with good and regular secondary working sometimes with trimming on part or all of the longest side. The length varies from 1.5 cm. to 0.8 cm. with an average of 1.0 cm.

When laid on the bulbar surfaces, with the shortest edge at the bottom of the page, 31 have their longest edge on the right and in 2 cases (Nos. 32 and 33, Fig. 3) it is on the left. 9 of the microliths were made from the tip end of the blade and 17 from the bulbar end - indeed 4 still had their bulbs present and a somewhat sub-triangular appearance. It was impossible to classify the remaining 7 in this way.

2 broken microliths both 0.4 cm. wide and steeply blunted on the left (37 and 38, Fig. 3) might well be identified as broken "rods"

		<u>Excavated</u>	<u>Surface Find</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Tools:</u>	Trapezoid microliths	20	13	33
	Extra long trapezoid	1	0	1
	"Rod like" broken microliths	0	2	2
	Points	2	0	2
	Unclassified microlith fragments	10	0	10
	Notched forms	3	0	3
	Other worked pieces	5	0	5
		<u>41</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>Waste:</u>	Chippings	106	22	128
	Blades and flakes	16	0	16
	Core trimming flakes	3	0	3
	Cores	2	0	2
	Microburins	5	0	5
		<u>132</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>154</u>

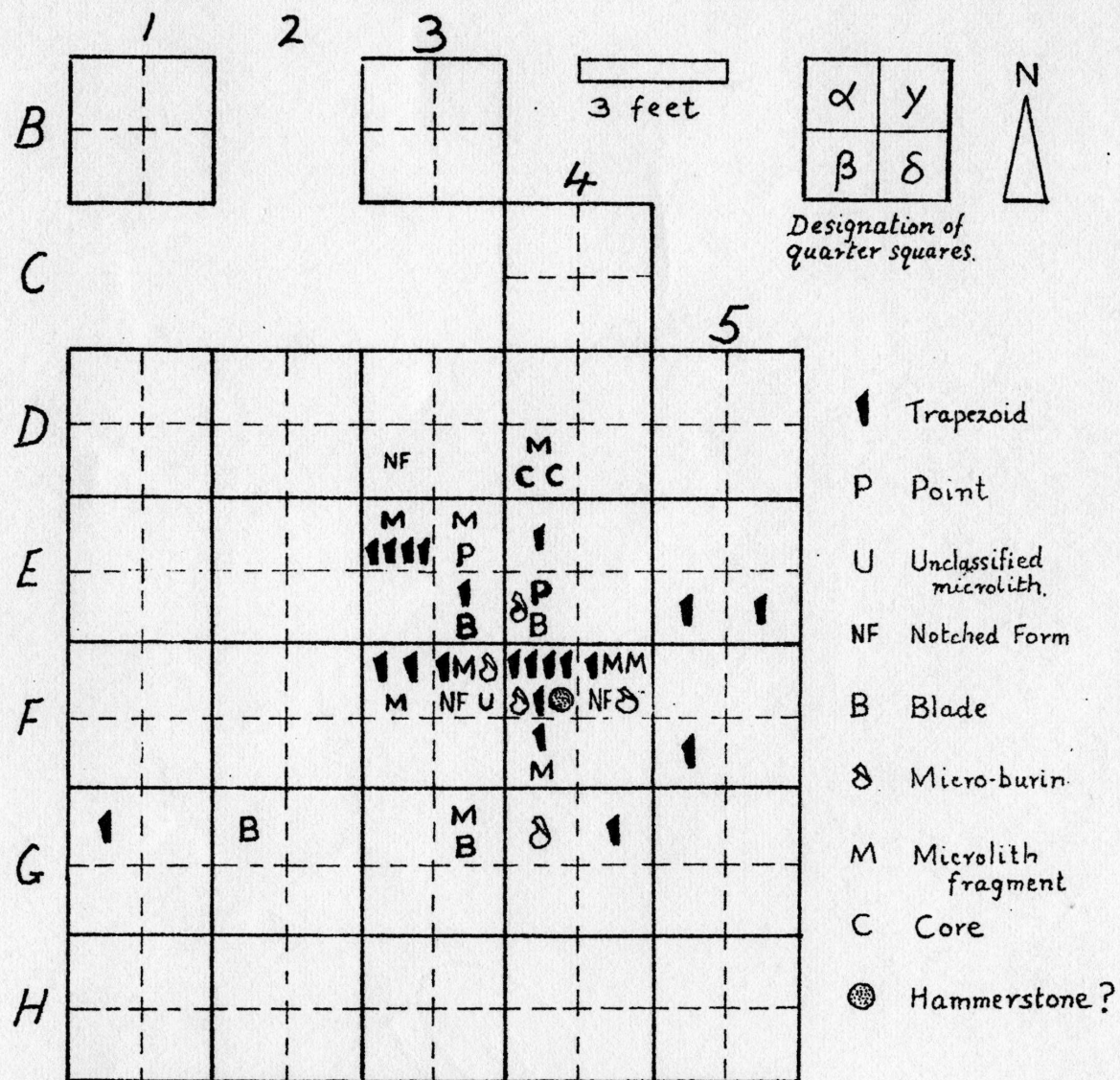
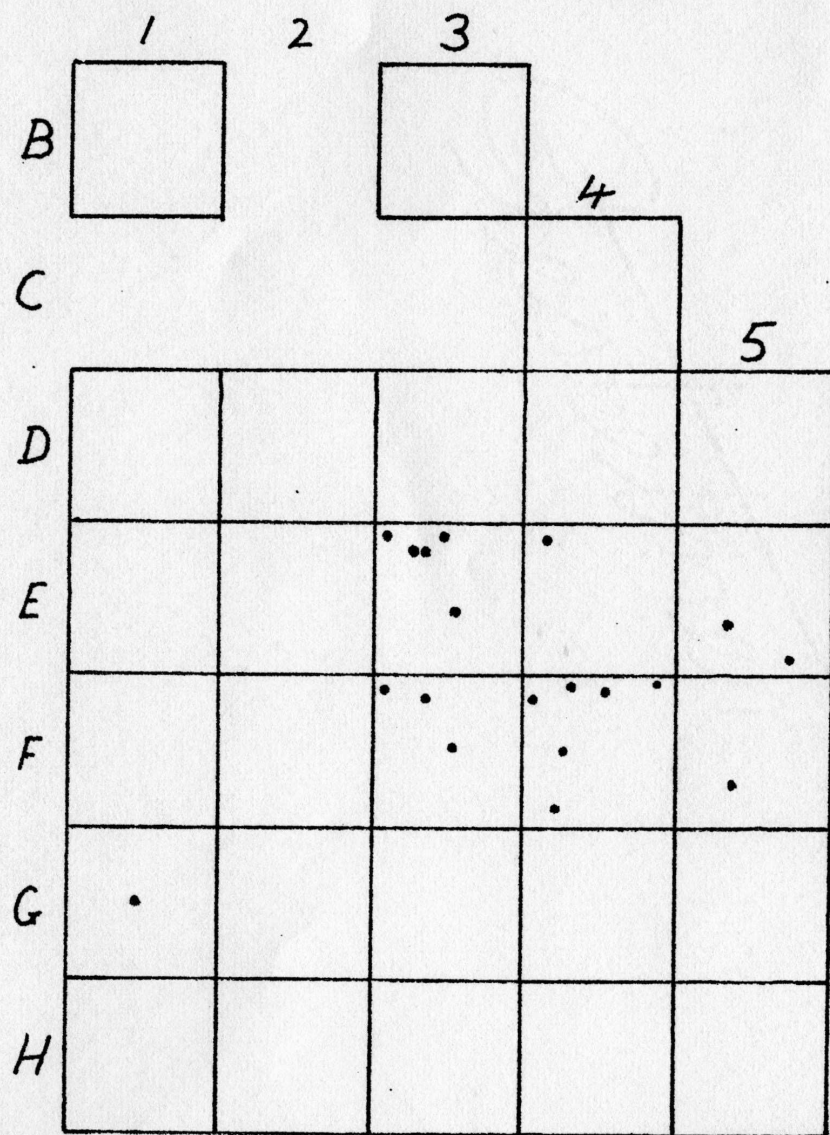
but a third (36, Fig. 3) which is almost complete and 0.4 cm. wide resembles a very elongated trapezoid. It is made of black chert and is 1.9 cm. long. These have been listed separately in the table above.

The two "points" (39 and 40, Fig. 3) both have their points at the distal end of the flake; one (39) has minimal working on a very small flake, the other (40) which is broken is worked on the right side and gently trimmed on part of the left.

A number of very small fragments had secondary working; one (34, Fig. 3) was complete with the bulb present, 0.7 cm. long and obliquely truncated along the distal end.

5 microburins were found, of which 3 are illustrated (Nos. 45, 46, 47, Fig. 3). One (47) is very small, only 0.6 cm. long. Bulbs were present on three and when placed on their ventral surface the notches were on the right hand side.

A number of notched pieces were found; one (43, Fig. 3) being double notched, another (42) was an unusual piece with a notch and a truncated edge.



2 extremely small cores were found (48 and 49, Fig. 3) almost identical in weight and appearance and both from quarter square D4B. One weighed 2.87 G. and the other 2.90 G.

A small round stone (51, Fig. 3) weighing 15.49 G. was found in the grey sand. This is a sandstone concretion. Such concretions occur naturally in some strata of the local shales. Its appearance at this level, in the grey sand in the vicinity of flint fragments, raises the possibility of it having been used as a lightweight hammerstone, but it is certainly very small.

Fig. 4 shows the positions of these tools, microburins, cores, etc. by quarter squares.

Fig. 5 shows those trapezoids whose position was measured.

Apart from "White Hill North", Red Ratcher is the only trapezoid site in the North of England which has been excavated. White Hill lies north of Dean Clough, 3 miles NNE of Denshaw. The site, which was excavated by Francis Buckley, lies on the northern slopes of White Hill at an altitude of 1500 feet, near a small stream. It was a larger site than Red Ratcher and produced 1200 flints of which at least 50 were trapezoids. Two of these were remarkably elongated and might be compared with No. 36, Fig. 3. The material was a poor white flint.

The presence of microlithic industries in the Pennines was recognised as early as 1878, and by 1883 Dr. H. Colley Marsh of Rochdale had published a paper showing that the flints were to be found in the grey sand at the base of the peat.

A number of enthusiastic local men, among whom George Marsden, Ammon Wrigley and Robert Law were prominent, made collections, and T.W. Woodhead in his preface to "Early Man in the District of Huddersfield" describes how George Marsden "often searched the moors at daybreak, to return to his work at 6 in the morning" (1).

Ammon Wrigley gives interesting descriptions of this period in his book "Saddleworth - its Prehistoric Remains" published in 1911 (2).

Shortly after the First World War Francis Buckley of Greenfield began excavating mesolithic sites on the local moors, and divided the local industries into two groups - a narrow blade industry "abundant and widely distributed", and a broad blade industry "more difficult to find" (3). J.G.D. Clark, in 1932, summarised Buckley's work using the terms "geometric" and "non-geometric" to describe the two industries (4).

Although this distinction is less obvious in some sites in Southern England, it was reaffirmed in the South Pennines by the work of J. Radley and P. Mellars in the 1960's (5). In addition to excavating new sites, they also re-examined Buckley's material and pointed out affinities between Deepcar, a new broad blade site excavated by Radley in 1962, and four of Buckley's sites - Warcock Hill North, Warcock Hill South*, Lominot 2 and 3, and Windy Hill 3; and also the affinity between these Pennine broad blade sites in general and the famous Maglemosian lowland sites such as Broxbourne, Colne Valley (Herts.) and Thatcham.

They suggested that these sites, characterised by white Wold flint and comparatively large and simple microliths such as obliquely blunted points, large isosceles triangles and elongated points blunted down one edge, belonged to an early mesolithic, whilst the narrow blade industry, in brown flint and with smaller "geometric" microliths -

scalene triangles, rods, crescents, trapezoids - belonged to a later mesolithic settlement.

J. Radley (7) pointed out that these narrow blade sites could be sub-divided into:

- (a) industries dominated by rod-like microliths
- (b) industries dominated by triangular microliths
- (c) industries dominated by trapezoidal microliths.

More than 100 radiocarbon dates are now available for the British mesolithic, and V.R. Switsur and R.M. Jacobi have recently presented a series which includes ten sites in the South Pennines, six of which are Buckley sites, the analysis being on charcoal collected by Buckley himself in the 1920's and stored until recently at the Tolson Museum, Huddersfield (6).

The table below lists these sites. The dates are expressed in radio-carbon years calculated using the conventional value of 5568 years for the half-life of radio-carbon.

		<u>Laboratory</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Uncertainty</u>
		<u>number</u>	<u>(B.C.)</u>	<u>(+)</u> <u>(-)</u>
*	Lominot 3	Q.1187	7610	350
*	Warcock Hill South	Q.1185	7260	340
+	Warcock Hill Site 3	Q.789	6660	110
+	Broomhead 5	Q.800	6620	110
+	Rishworth Drain	Q.1166	5600	210
+	March Hill 2	Q.1188	4070	220
+	March Hill 2	Q.788	3900	80
=	Rocher Moss South 2	Q.1190	3880	100
+	Lominot 4	Q.1189	3660	120
=	Dunford Bridge B	Q.799	3430	80
* broad blade site				
+ triangular site				
= rod site				

From this it appears that the broad blade industries definitely precede the narrow blade industries and when the latter are sub-divided into triangle, rod and trapezoid sites, the dates for triangle sites span three millennia. The two rod sites, Rocher Moss South 2 (8) and Dunford Bridge (7), are decidedly "late" and no figures are available for the trapezoid sites.

R.M. Jacobi considers that the small scalene triangle industry which he calls the "March Hill industry" is confined to Northern England, to the Pennines, Cleveland, North Lincs. and the coasts of Durham and Cumberland, and may be found in both an upland and lowland setting. "Rod" sites he also regards as Northern, restricted to the uplands of the Pennines and Cleveland. Trapezoid sites are only known in the North at two sites, one of which is Red Ratcher, the other White Hill North (6).

Conclusion

Red Ratcher therefore appears to be a narrow blade site belonging to the later mesolithic. It is dominated by trapezoid microliths, small and well made. The material is brown translucent flint. The proportion of worked pieces to waste (1 : 3) is remarkably high. The area of the site is very small. The number of pieces found is very low.

It seems probable that the site was in use for only a short time, probably by a small hunting party in summer. The climate would of course be very different at that time. The use of these trapezoid microliths can only be conjectured: it has been suggested that they might be barbs in some form of composite tool.

Note: * p.20.

Warcock Hill South differs in some respects from the other broad blade sites mentioned - both in the character of its microliths and its raw materials, which include transparent grey, honey and black flint and in these respects resembles the lowland sites of Star Carr and Flixton (3, 5 and 6).

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- | | | |
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W.P.B. Stonehouse.

OBITUARY

Mrs. D.B.R. Buckley

It was with regret that we learned of the death of Mrs. D.B.R. Buckley who has been an active member of the Society for many years. She has always been ready to help the Society in any way she could. Mrs. Buckley was well known in Saddleshworth having connections with other local organisations. The historical importance of the Buckleys, however, is probably not as well known. They have been at Tunstead for over 300 years. Wing Commander Jagger wrote an interesting account of the family in the Bulletin (Vol. 2, 1972, p.25).

John Murray.

MANOR RECORDS

Part 5: January - June, 1795

15th January, 1795

At a Special Meeting called at the request of Mr. Thomas Bradbury of Furlane and others ... held at Mr. Benjamin Lawton's of Dobcross, Innkeeper, to receive certain proposals which the said Thomas Bradbury has to make respecting the Bill which was agreed to be filed against him in the High Court of Chancery according to a Resolution entered into at the last meeting. Mr. James Buckley in the Chair. (25 other proprietors present).

RESOLVED that Mr. Thomas Bradbury of Furlane shall have the parcel of Common or Waste Land situate at White Brook lately sold or agreed to be sold to his son William ... and also 28 pounds in money as and for a full compensation and satisfaction for his right of Common upon such parts of the Moors and Waste Lands within Saddleworth aforesaid as shall be sold for the purpose of reimbursing the purchase money for the said Manor, which he is intitled unto under and by Virtue of his Antient Deeds and Estate at Furlane aforesaid ...

RESOLVED that the latter part of the 4th Resolution entered into at the last Meeting, respecting the filing of a Bill in the High Court of Chancery against the same Thomas Bradbury shall be rescinded and the same is hereby rescinded accordingly.

RESOLVED that if any person or persons shall neglect or refuse to execute any Deed or Deeds now made or hereafter to be made such Deed or Deeds being agreed to, confirmed and executed by the major part of the 31 Proprietors, then and in any such case a Suit or Suits shall be commenced in the High Court of Chancery by proper parties in order to compel such person or persons to execute the same.

RESOLVED that James Whitehead of Shaws shall have a Lot of Common containing about two Acres at and for the price of £5 per Acre, situate between a Lot set out for John Radcliffe and a Lot set out for William Radcliffe on Condition that the Matter in dispute respecting the two Springs between John Radcliffe and James Whitehead can be settled to their Mutual Satisfaction.

RESOLVED that a grant of One Acre of Common or Waste Land for every Five Acres of inclosed Land situate within Saddleworth be made to such of the Freeholders as can establish a good and legal Claim to a right of Common upon the Moors and Waste Land as are already sold or may hereafter be agreed to be sold to defray the Costs and Expences incurred or to be incurred in this Business, on proving such Claims to the Satisfaction of Mr. Joseph Mellor of Ashton under line Attorney at Law.

RESOLVED that Mr. Samuel Bentley be at liberty to relinquish his purchase of the water running from Boarshurst to Foulrakes.

RESOLVED that every Freeholder proving his right of Common as aforesaid and being also a purchasor of Common or Waste Land within the said Manor shall be at Liberty to have the Common which he shall be intitled to as aforesaid and also that which he shall purchase conveyed to him by one and the same Deed.

26th March, 1795

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth cum Quick in the West Riding of the County of York held by adjournment at the House of Mr. Ralph Whitehead of Shawhall in Saddleworth aforesaid Innkeeper ... Mr. James Buckley, Junr. in the Chair.

RESOLVED that Mr. Mellor do lay the case now produced by Messrs. Robert Buckley and Edmund Buckley of Wallhill (with such Amendments as he may think necessary) before Mr. Lloyd for his opinion.

RESOLVED that Mr. Jonathan Wrigley shall be at liberty to look out a Lot of Common or Waste Land (that is not already sold) upon Harrop Edge in consideration of his Freehold Estate at Hollingreave and shall inform Mr. Mellor of the situation of the same within one Week from this time, and that Mr. Mellor shall cause it to be made public with these Resolutions, and that Mr. Wrigley shall have the same Compensation for his right of the Common or Waste Land already sold or hereafter to be sold for the purpose of reimbursing the Proprietors, if agreeable to the next Meeting.

RESOLVED that Mr. Mellor do write to Mr. Hardman of Manchester (or his agent) informing him that the said Proprietors are ready and willing to refer his right of Common and Common of Pasture upon the Wastes and Moors within ye sd. Manor to one or more indifferent person or persons.

RESOLVED that Mr. -- Shaw of Newbarn (?) shall have a Dole of Common (about 11 Acres) lying on Harrop Edge and adjoining to a Dole lately purchased by Joseph Lawton and Henry Buckley at such price as shall be agreeable to the next Meeting.

14th May, 1795

At a Meeting ... at the House of Mr. James Andrew of Uppermill ... Mr. John Radcliffe in the Chair. (26 other proprietors present).

RESOLVED that Mr. Thomas Shaw of Shepherd's Green, Mr. Thomas Marshall, Mr. Henry Whitehead, Mr. John Broadbent of Marslands, Mr. Jn. Radcliffe of Cross, Mr. Jn. Buckley of Tunstead, Mr. John Platt of Whitelee, Mr. Thomas Bradbury of Furlane and Mr. John Broadbent of Tunstead be and are hereby appointed a Committee to settle and agree with Messrs. Robert and Edmund Buckley of Wallhill about their right to a share of the Common or Waste Lands within the said Manor, such settlement or agreement to be subject to the Approbation or disapprobation of the next Meeting.

RESOLVED that all Conveyances hereafter to be produced to the said Proprietors for Signature shall be examined by Messrs. John Radcliffe and Joseph Mellor, and also compared with the plans of the respective premises intended to be thereby Conveyed and also with the Sale Papers thereof before they are executed.

Whereas the Resolutions of the last Meeting have not been printed owing to Jonathan Wrigley of Hollingreave not applying to have a Lot of Common or Waste Land set out on Harrop Edge as mentioned in the Second Resolution of last Meeting RESOLVED that same be now printed along with these Resolutions.

RESOLVED that Mr. John Radcliffe the Chairman and Treasurer do pay the Expences of this Meeting.

RESOLVED that this Meeting be adjourned to this House on Wednesday the 3rd

day of June next at 9 o'clock in the Morning.

N.B. No Meeting was held on the 3rd day of June agreeable to the last Resolution, on account of the Chairman and Treasurer being from Home, and the same was postponed by order until the 10th.

27th May, 1795

At a Meeting of the Committee appointed at the last Meeting of the Proprietors of the Manor of Saddleworth cum Quick ... for the purpose of settling and agreeing with Messrs. Robert and Edmund Buckley of Wallhill about their right to a share of the Commons or Waste Lands within the said Manor ... held at the New-Inn, at Delph ... Mr. Henry Whitehead in the Chair.

RESOLVED that upon reading and considering Mr. Lloyd's Opinion relative to the above right it does not appear to this Meeting that the said Messrs. Rt. and Edmund Buckley have any right whatsoever to a share of the said Commons or Waste Grounds.

RESOLVED that Notwithstanding the above Resolution this Committee have thought proper to inquire of the said Messrs. Buckley what particular sums would satisfy them for or in respect of their respective Claims. And the said Robert Buckley having proposed £120 in lieu and full satisfaction of all right or claim which he now has or may be intitled unto upon all or any of the Commons or Waste Lands within the said Manor. And the said Edmund Buckley having proposed to accept £63 in lieu and full satisfaction of all right or claim ... This Committee will report the same to the next Meeting of the said Proprietors.

Note: The said Robert Buckley proposes to accept 20 Acres of Common or Waste Land on the North-side of Harrop Edge (which is not yet sold) in lieu of the said sum of £120.

To be continued.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

May I draw your attention to this extract from "Saddleworth Chronological Notes from 1200 to 1900" by Ammon Wrigley:

1897 Runninghill Head Road over the moor to the Isle of Skye Road.
Counsel's opinion, "no public way as it had never been made".
The Saddleworth Council accepted that opinion. No litigation.

Have the Saddleworth Council's minutes prior to 4th July 1897 been examined in order to substantiate Bernard Barnes's assumption in the V. 5, No. 4 edition of the Bulletin that "as yet no documentary evidence has been found" to support the theory that this was a Cotton Famine road?

Yours sincerely,
Stanley Broadbent.

45, Beechfield,
Grasscroft,
Saddleworth.

UPPER MILL

The Manorial Mill and other Corn Mills in Saddleworth

In the manorial system it was obligatory for tenants to have their corn ground at the Lord of the Manor's mill (or mills). The tenants of the Manor of Saddleworth were therefore compelled to take their corn for grinding to the manorial mill and to pay a "soke" or toll on each sack. Deeds frequently testify to this obligation. A lease dated 8th June, 1758 relating to the farm at Frenches (Greenfield), for example, stipulated that Henry Buckley, the tenant, should have all his corn ground at "the Water Corn Mill of James Farrer in Saddleworth called the Upper Mill and not elsewhere".

James Farrer, in common with all manorial lords, carefully reserved his rights so far as corn mills were concerned, and this was always emphasised when he granted permission for the erection of other water mills on the manorial lands. For example, in October 1785 Farrer leased land at Gibbs (near Grasscroft) to James Harrop, John Smith and James Scholefield for the building of a woollen mill (the later Royal George Mills), but included in the lease was the proviso that this mill should be for fulling and scribbling and not for corn grinding.

The manorial mill was very small (see below) and it is questionable whether such a mill in Saddleworth could ever have provided the Lords of the Manor with a lucrative source of income: the climate and soils of the area were hardly conducive to the ripening of grain for human consumption, hay being the main crop. A certain amount of corn must, however, have been grown because, apart from the corn mill, references occur in many deeds to "threshing floors" in the Saddleworth farmhouses and to field names which include the names of cereals, principally rye, but also barley and occasionally wheat and oats.

The 1777 Abstract of the title of the Manor of Saddleworth (1) referred to

"all those Corn Mills, with the Kilnfold, and mill pastures, lands and hereditaments thereunto belonging ... situate in Saddleworth ... then in the tenure or occupation of James Farrer or his under-tenants (rent £20)".

But later in the same Abstract is another reference to

"all that mill or tenement with the lands and hereditaments ... called ... Upper Mill containing by estimation 25 acres 2 roods 11 perches ... in the tenure of James Whitehead (rent £15-1-0)".

This has led to some debate amongst Saddleworth historians about the location of the mill (or mills) and the reason for the name "Upper Mill".

It has been suggested that the fulling mill at Frenches, a little further down the River Tame, might have been the "Lower Mill" at a time when only two mills existed in this part of Saddleworth. Frenches Mill was indeed a manorial fulling mill and was built around 1715. Walk Mill (or Dobcross Fulling Mill as it was originally known), another manorial mill was built a few years later. The scanty documentary evidence, however, does not support this idea. The name "Upper Mill" occurred at least as early as 1712 in the Chief Rent Roll, before Frenches Mill was established.

Ammon Wrigley (2) pointed out that the abstract (quoted above) mentioned "corn Mills" and, having discarded the view that the Lower Mill might have been at Frenches, he went on to suggest that this mill stood

near "Lower Fowd" or St. Mary's Gate in Uppermill. He considered this to be the older mill while the upper and later mill stood, he supposed, on the site of the later "Old Factory" which is referred to in old deeds as the Soke Mill. Wrigley went on to point out that in the foundations of an old house being demolished near the Bank a large quantity of chaff was discovered which had "turned almost to stone". "It was probably the site of a tip when the corn mill was in operation", he added.

Hartley Bateson (3) recalled seeing an ancient building, reputed to have been part of the corn mill, somewhere near Smithy Lane. He pointed out that it would have been located next to the ancient highway from the west leading towards Saddleworth Church at a point just east of the ford across the River Tame (which was adjacent to the present-day grounds of St. Chad's).

The earliest recorded miller was Galfridus, whose name occurred in the 1379 poll tax returns. The Ashton-under-Lyne Church Registers refer to Peter Bredbury, millner of Saddleworth, in 1655, while in 1732 Abraham Ogden, miller of Upper Mill, is recorded in the Saddleworth Registers. In 1758 the "mill or tenement called Upper Mill" was in the tenure of James Winterbottom. Another Abraham Rhodes, son of the first, was miller in 1776 (Saddleworth Registers).

At no time, however, is there reference to more than one miller at any one time in the Manorial Records. The 1777 Abstract already mentioned suggests that one of the mills, possibly the "Lower Mill", was by that time a farm in the tenure of James Whitehead, the other mill being retained by the Lord of the Manor. That the latter was on the site of the later "Old Factory", as suggested by Ammon Wrigley, is supported by the present writer and the following is quoted to back this supposition.

In April 1795 James Andrew, innkeeper of Uppermill, mortgaged a piece of land "part of a close called the Road in Uppermill now fenced off and containing 675 sq. yds.". The Deed (to be found in the West Riding Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, reference number DS 126) went on to describe the location of this plot. On the north it "abutted and joined the old Corn Mill, on the east a close called Mill Clough, on the west the Turnpike Road and on the south the rest of the Road Field". James Andrew had built a house on this piece of land just before 1795 and this was almost certainly the present Hare and Hounds public house. Thus from this evidence it would appear that the corn mill stood on the site of the present car park which was created when the Old Factory was demolished some years ago.

The corn mill was not destined to grind corn for much longer after 1777. In May 1785 James Farrer leased to Abraham Rhodes of Brownhill, clothier, the "water corn mill called Upper Mill consisting of one pair of grey stones" together with the kiln, a cottage and half of the Mill Pasture (CT 179). This extract from the indenture does indicate how small the mill was, containing as it did only a pair of grindstones. Soon after this, Abraham Rhodes must have ceased the milling of corn here for a Deed dated 3 November 1802 indicates that he was mortgaging "a scribbling mill, late a water corn mill, called Upper Mill" (EN 123). This was the end of corn milling in Uppermill.

No Saddleworth historian has ever drawn attention to the fact that Friarmere, not forming part of the Manor of Saddleworth - it had been granted to the Abbey of Roche by Robert de Stapleton in 1293 - might therefore have had its own "manorial" corn mill (and possibly a fulling mill as well). That this was the case is indicated by a Deed dated September 1716 (K 671). This referred to a messuage called "The Delf

situate in Quick and Saddleworth" with "appurtenances" which included "milns and kilns". A later Deed (FF 690) sheds more light on these. Dated 22 March 1733 it referred to a "messuage called Delph in the occupation of Robert Whitehead together with a water corn mill". Another interesting detail of this Deed is a reference to a water fulling mill which also existed on this estate. Could this have pre-dated the establishment of Frenches Mill, long considered to have been the first fulling mill in Saddleworth? This is not the place to consider this question, however, and a further discussion of this and the possible site of these Delph mills will be returned to at a later date.

Another corn mill in Saddleworth was the one at Diggle Bridge. Built originally for scribbling and rasping this mill had been converted to corn milling by 1815, probably because of its location by the canal. The mill at that time was owned by the Huddersfield Canal Company and John Rooth, the company's local agent, advertised the letting of the mill in the Manchester Mercury of 28 November 1815. The property consisted of a mill, drying kiln, four cottages and a stable. The mill contained dressing machines for flour and oatmeal, fans and sieves for cleaning wheat and shilling, and four pairs of stones. There was one pair of French stones, one pair for grinding oat meal, one for shilling and one for other purposes. Over the drying kiln was a granary for oats, 30 feet by 20 feet. Henry Hepworth became the tenant here until the mid-1830's. By 1838 the mill had been turned over to paper making, and this was the final demise of corn milling in Saddleworth.

The kiln near the Diggle Bridge Mill gave rise to the local name Kiln Green. Besides this kiln there were numerous others in Saddleworth. The tenants having grown the corn had then to dry it and kilns were established for this purpose (and probably not for malting) at various places, often on the larger estates. Bateson (3) mentioned one at Shelderslow which was in existence in 1623, and Becket Whitehead (4) quoted a Deed dated 1618 referring to "the liberty to dry corn upon the Kilne situate in Castleshaw". The author has come across references to numerous others. In 1768 John Whitehead of Hallclough mortgaged "all that plot of land containing 8 sq. yds. called the Kilnstead (which some years since was a Building called a Kiln) situate in Hallclough near Furlane". A 1736 Deed (II 845) referred to "a Kilne standing in the Lane Side" at Warrock Hill (near Diggle). Local field names suggest that another kiln existed at Quickwood (now part of Mossley), and according to the Saddleworth Church Registers Tamewater Kiln (near Dobcross) was occupied by Henry Wood, a clothier, in the 1750's. The registers also refer to Abraham Ogden, a miller, residing at Tamewater between 1734 and 1745. Whether this implies the existence of a corn mill here is very doubtful. As noted already, he was at Uppermill in 1733 and his son was also a miller at Uppermill in 1776.

References:

- (1) This is contained in the "Abstract of the Title to the Manor of Saddleworth and Quick, and divers Lands and Hereditaments there, late the Estate of James Farrer, Esquire, deceased", 1792.
- (2) Ammon Wrigley (1916) "Wind among the Heather", Huddersfield, pp.52-54.
- (3) Hartley Bateson (1952) Oldham Chronicle, August 23.
- (4) Becket Whitehead (1942) Oldham Chronicle, March 7.

Bernard Barnes.

OLD SADDLEWORTH

This is part of the work being carried out on a Gazetteer of Saddleworth by the Historical Society. As more of this work is completed details will be published in future editions of the Bulletin. The information given below has been extracted from Record Cards which are held by the Society, and which are available for reference.

ABELS (See Vol. 2, pp. 70-71).

On the 1820-21 Map of Saddleworth this property was called CANK.

- 1767 The Manchester Mercury (23 June) referred to Abels as being late the property of James Broadbent, now in the possession of John Smith.
- 1790 John Buckley of Abels, yeoman, made his will. He also owned Shaw Hall Bank where his sons William, John and Henry lived. Another son, Samuel, lived at Shaw Hall.
- 1835 The Church Rate Book listed the occupier as Samuel H. Buckley (together with the dyehouse). The owners were the Administrators of John Platt junior.
- 1846 22 Mar. Joseph Thornton born here. He was the third son of Edwin Thornton, poet and writer of many articles on Saddleworth (see Hewkin Collection). Joseph Thornton was the author of "New Saddleworth Sketches". He died at Croft Farm Cottage 22 Mar. 1924 on his 78th birthday.
- 1852 The Church Rate Book listed the owner as W.K. Schofield of Heathfields. The occupiers were Edwin Thornton and John Schofield.

ACKERS (See Vol 1, No.3, p. 15, and No. 4 p.11)

Sometimes called Rye Top.

- 1777 Occupier James Rhodes, rent £3-3-6. 9 acres 1 rood 35 perches. (Farrer Estate List).
- 1791 Sale of Farrer Estate: occupiers executors of John Rhodes 9 acres 1 rood 35 perches. Fields: Great Acker, Bank, Little Acker, New Field. James Rhodes has built a good house and repaired the old one in the years 1788 or 1789 (Edwards papers, Saddleworth Historical Society).
- 1826 The Registers referred to John Lister, clothier of Ackers.
- 1835 The Church Rate Book listed the owner as William Rhodes, and the occupiers John Lister, James Rhodes and -- Haigh.
- 1843 The Tithe List included "ACRE", occupier John Lister, owner William Rhodes of Delph. 17 acres 0 roods 20 perches.
- 1851 The Census listed the following under Ackers: James Platt, Woollen dyer, plus 4 males and 3 females, of whom 2 were woollen workers; Walter Rhodes, hand-loom weaver plus 3 females, 2 of whom were also handloom weavers and one a hand spinner; John Lister, farmer of nine acres, plus 2 males and 2 females, one of whom was a hand loom weaver, one a hand spinner and one a farm labourer.

FAIRBANKS (See Vol 2, pp. 50-52; Vol. 3, p. 13)

- 1825 The Registers referred to Charles Bradbury of Fairbanks, clothier and his wife Ann (their son John was christened 20 Feb).
- 1827 The Registers referred to Joseph Holden Wood of Fairbanks.
- 1830's "In his early days before there were railways, Thomas Bradbury of Fairbanks walked several times to Falkirk in Scotland. The

- return journey with sheep took three weeks". (Ammon Wrigley, Saddleworth Chronological Notes, p. 55).
- 1834 The Commissioner's Award referred to Thomas and James Bradbury of Fairbanks.
- 1843 Slater's Directory listed Thomas Bradbury of Fairbanks, cheese factor.
- 1846-7 Thomas Bradbury contributed £5 to the building of the tower of Saddleworth Church (plaque in Church).
- 1866 14 Mar. "A day of humiliation (in Saddleworth on account of the cattle plague. Thomas Bradbury of Fairbanks had his shippon emptied and lost all his stock by cattle plagues four times during his life". He died 14 April 1916 aged 97. (Saddleworth Chronological Notes, pp. 64-65).
- 1885 The Poll List included Thomas Bradbury of Fairbanks.
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The Society would welcome any further information on the houses and hamlets mentioned here, and on any other property of possible interest in Saddleworth. The Gazetteer will also encompass turnpike roads, canals, railways, bridges, mills, etc. Information should be sent to the Editor of the Bulletin:

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