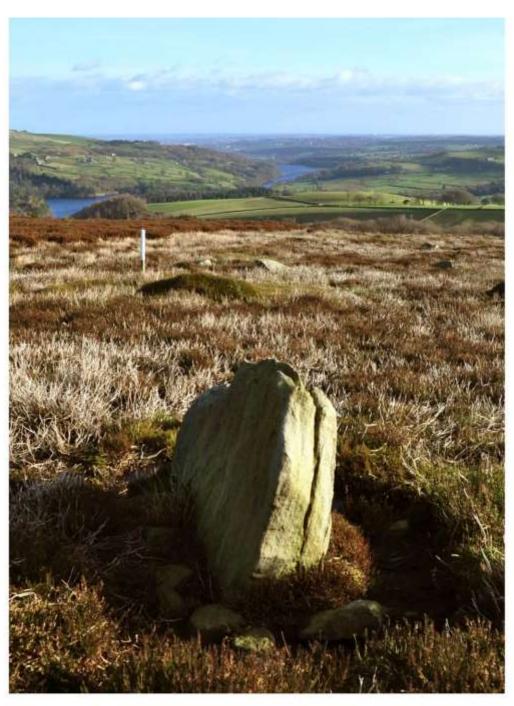
Emlin Hill Archaeological Survey, South Yorkshire, February 2022

Tim Cockrell





Bolsterstone Archaeology and Heritage Group



2022

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1. Summary

The following report presents the results of a general archaeological walkover survey undertaken by Bolsterstone Archaeology and Heritage Group during February 2022.

The survey found evidence for the small scale activities of a modest sized local population that probably dates from the Late Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age (c.3000BC-700BC). This was represented by small groups of cairns that might have been for field clearance, funerary activity or both, alongside numerous small standing stones of possible esoteric function. Various formal stone settings were also recorded. The very ephemeral features that comprise the evidence probably survives due to lack of subsequent intensive use of the locale. Evidence for later interaction with this landscape is not evident before the post medieval use of the moors for grouse shooting, but then includes evidence for that activity, as well as quarrying in places, and evidence supporting the claim that Emlin was utilised during World War two.

2. Location, geology, topography and current use

Emlin Hill (SK 243 933) is situated to the eastern edge of the Namurian Sandstones (Millstone Grit) group of carboniferous sedimentary rocks, approximately 12 kilometres from the centre of Sheffield (figure 1).

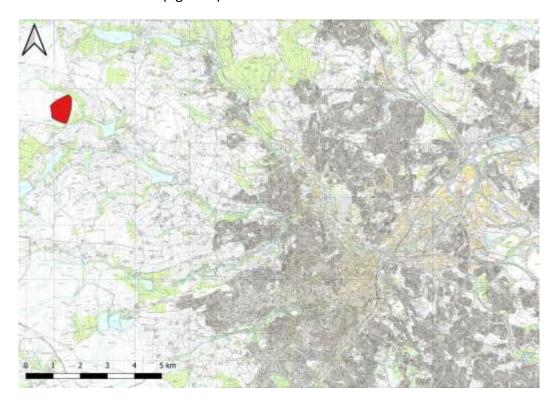


Figure 1: Location of Emlin Hill (red). Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

The hill's very distinct aspect is probably influenced by localised geological variations, with the steep west and northwest facing escarpment of the hill itself, consisting of Hayden Rock Sandstone, separated from the Upper Kinderscout Grit Sandstone of Wetslack Ridge by a thin band of Marsden Formation Mudstones and Siltstones (Figure 2). The Mudstones and Siltstone band continues along the northeastern and eastern edge of Emlin Hill, cut by the course of Agden Dike. The southern edge is defined by the steeply incised course of Emlin Dike, a tributary of Agden Dike.

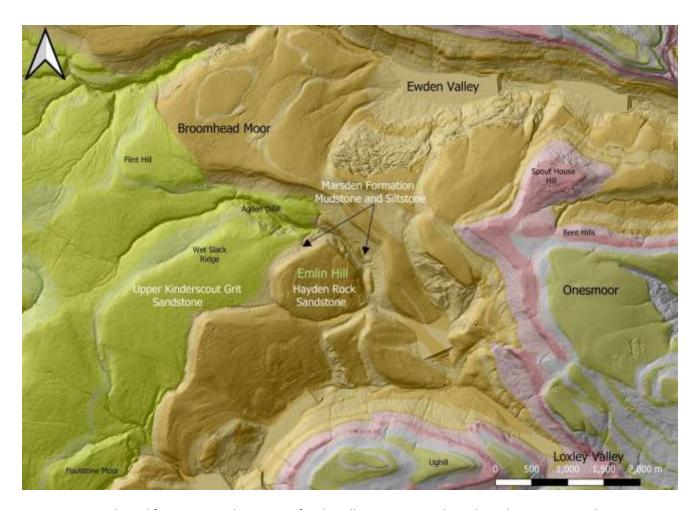


Figure 2: Geological formations in the vicinity of Emlin Hill. Contains British Geological Survey materials copyright NERC 2022.

From the sharply defined northwest facing escarpment there is a narrow, plateau-like ridge at the apex of the hill, from which the southwest facing slope descends towards Agden Dike.

This is broken part way down by a distinct shelf-like geological band which in places is wet and marsh-like in character (figure 3; figure 4).

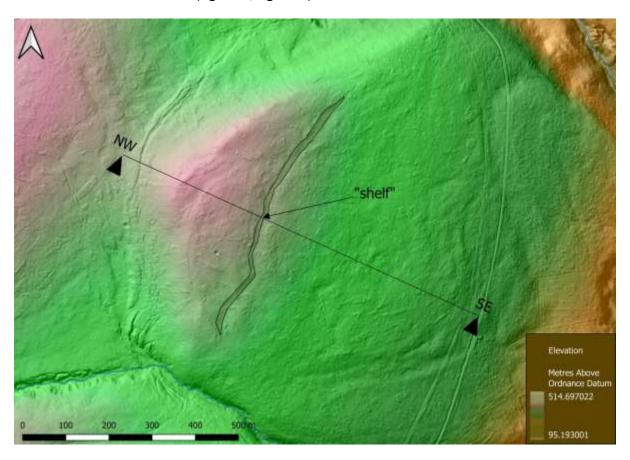


Figure 3: Emlin Hill, showing the "shelf", and location of profile in figure 4. Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

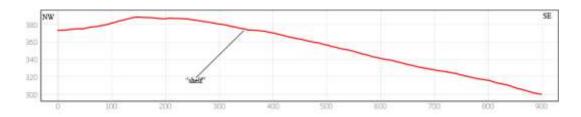


Figure 4: Profile of Emlin Hill. Dimensions are shown in metres, with the x axis indicating heights above ordnance datum. Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

The entirety of the study area is designated by Natural England as a priority habitat of principle importance, primarily consisting of upland heathland (MAGIC 2022). The moors are designated as areas of Special Scientific Interest as well as areas of Special Conservation. It is listed on the Priority Habitat Inventory (MAGIC 2022).

The moors are managed for grouse shooting, with Emlin Hill itself under the ownership of the Fitzwilliam-Wentworth Estate. Though covered in heather, burning is routinely undertaken in carefully measured parcels in order to encourage fresh shoots of the plant for consumption by the birds. A by-product of this is the colonisation of burned off areas by cowberry and bilberry while re-growth of the heather takes place. The presence of these forms of vegetation have been common on the moors since at least the 18th century (Hunter 1819: 459). In the tiny floodplains of the dikes and their incised courses, significant growth of bracken is often present.

3. Historical and archaeological background

Immediately adjacent to Emlin Hill on its east side is Mortimer Road, a former turnpike established by act of parliament in 1771 (Ullathorne 2005: 17). The road must pass through the deeply incised little gorges of Agden Dike (north) and Strines Dike (south) to pass the hill. It is likely that it traversed this particularly difficult route, rather than an easier way, because it followed the line of a former packhorse route (Howard n.d: 71; Goddard 2019: xxiii). This route is likely to have been one of many variants of the various tracks and holloways "fanning out" from the general area of Hathersage in North Derbyshire to Penistone and beyond in Yorkshire in the post-medieval period (Howard n.d: 71-94). Another in the vicinity is Mitchell Gate (figure 34), falling to the west of Emlin Hill and dividing it from Wet Slack Ridge (Howard n.d: 77). A minor holloway connecting Mitchell Gate with the line of Mortimer Road follows the break of slope at the base of the west facing escarpment of Emlin Hill, and the line of Emlin Dike on the south side of the hill. Mitchell Gate, or its line, is clearly marked on Thomas Jeffreys's map of 1771 which describes the approximate line of the route from North Derbyshire to Penistone. Emlin Hill is not named, but is clearly marked with the route skirting its western edge (Hey 2002: 79). The present line of Mortimer Road on the east side of the hill is not marked, and was presumably therefore, prior to its conversion to a turnpike, regarded as a minor variant of Mitchell Gate.

The aforementioned network of routeways passes across the southern Pennine moorland landscape, which for most of its history since the Iron Age has had remarkably little disturbance other than this. Consequently, its early history is somewhat obscure. This is partly due to the fact that so much of the uplands formed estates given their character by the fashion for hunting deer in the middle ages (Hey 2002: 95). This occasional pastime was also utilised for the grazing of cattle and sheep when not in use for the chase (Hey 2002: 98). In the 16th century that part of the moors between Hallamshire and the Derwent Valley in Derbyshire was used by communities from both sides of the watershed, often in competition and dispute (Bevan 2004: 114). Sheep were the main livestock grazed on the moors (Hunter 1819: 459; Holland 1837: 21). However, by the middle of the 18th century

increasing areas of moorland were being managed for grouse shooting. This was a pastime amongst the landed gentry that became increasing popular, as well as profitable for landowners, with improvements in transport infrastructure and firearms technology (Bevan 2004: 126).

Information regarding archaeological activity in the vicinity of Emlin Hill has been drawn from an area approximately defined by a horizontal band between the watershed on the Derwent moors west, and the River Don east, with the upper reaches of Agden Dike, defining the perimeter of Emlin Hill, between.

Prominent among early antiquarian investigations in the area were the activities of John Wilson of Broomhead Moor during the mid-18th century. Wilson undertook excavations on the north side of Broomhead Moor at Ewden Beck, close to the site of a ring cairn (Barnatt 1990: 42) where he is reputed to have recovered calcined bones, pottery and a stone "celt" (axe head) (Hunter 1819: 269; Holland 1837: 137; Kenworthy 1928: 34). A socketed copper alloy axe head of the late Bronze Age was recovered as a stray find in the grounds of the hall itself in 1820 (Kenworthy 1928: 34). A less well known antiquarian, John Watson (1776), reported the existence of a ring cairn or similar feature in the vicinity of White Lee Moor or Swan Height at about the time that Wilson was active. The only other active local antiquarian was the Rev. Reginald Gatty who, while Rector of Bradfield church towards the end of the 19th century collected many implements of chipped stone from the surrounding moors (Greenwell 1914: 91). Later collecting activity by the early archaeologist Leslie Armstrong also produced stray finds of chipped stone from the area, and notably, piercers and needles of bone claimed to be Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date (Armstrong 1920: 39), recovered from a ploughed field at Rocher Head, on the opposite side of Agden Dike from Emlin Hill (figure 5).



Figure 5: Rocher Rocks (centre left), with Rocher flat east, facing east from Emlin Hill. Source: author.

Perhaps the most notable early archaeological activity in the area was that of Leslie Butcher, who undertook many unpublished topographical surveys in South Yorkshire (Beswick and Merrils 1983). One of these surveys took place at Cowell Flat, during which field boundaries, cairns and earthwork enclosures were recorded (Beswick and Merrils 1983: 22), interpreted as features relating to the Bronze Age. The location is to the immediate east of the undated Bar Dike linear bank and ditch and the Apronful of Stones, a large cairn reputed to have been destroyed during the construction of Mortimer Road in 1776 (Barnatt 1990: 42).

The most prominent professional archaeologist to undertake research in the locale was Jeffrey Radley, active during the 1960s. In the wake of his success at the Early Mesolithic site at Deepcar (Radley and Mellars 1964), Radley sought to find similar sites along the valleys of the district, resulting in the recording of scatters of chipped stone in various places, including at the confluence of Ewden Beck and the River Don (Radley and Hepworth n.d), and the reputed detection of polissoirs in Ewden Valley when the reservoir levels were low (K. Hawley, pers.com.). However, his most important further recording was undertaken near the southern edge of Broomhead Moor, at Rushy Dike (Radley and Marshall 1963; 1965; Radley *et al* 1974). The potential significance of the Broomhead Moor sites, consisting of scatters of almost exclusively later Mesolithic assemblages, has been highlighted by the recent synthesis by Chantal Conneller (2022) and in recent work by the present author (Cockrell, in press).

A long hiatus in field research took place after the untimely death of Radley, apart from the aforementioned visit to Ewden Beck by John Barnatt (1990), and a walkover survey undertaken by Alice Ullathorne of the Broomhead Estate (2005), resulting in the recording of a small scatter of chipped stone in the vicinity of Radley's sites on Broomhead Moor.

A new phase of research in the locale was initiated with doctoral research by the present author (Cockrell 2017). This included a walkover survey along upper Ewden Beck resulting in the recording of the large cairnfield on the northern flank of Broomhead Moor along with standing stones (Cockrell 2017: 165-66; figure 4). This was followed by a walkover survey downstream at Broomhead Reservoir (Cockrell 2020), resulting in the recording of cairns, scatters of chipped stone and a cup-marked stone, along with the recording of Early Modern period structures. Scatters of chipped stone resulting from the collecting activities of Terry Howard, and Andrew Tissington, at Wigtwizzle, and from the vicinity of Radley's sites at Broomhead Moor were also subsequently recorded by the present author (2020b; in press). Further fieldwork has resulted in the recording of a cup-marked stone at Wilkin Wood (Cockrell *et al* 2017(2020)), small concentrations of cup-marked stones at Spout House Hill and Bent Hills (2020/21(2022)), and a cairnfield, standing stones, stone settings and cup-marked stones along Upper Agden Dike and Hurkling Edge on the southern edge of Broomhead Moor (in press). The distribution of the aforementioned is shown in figure 6, in relation to Emlin Hill.

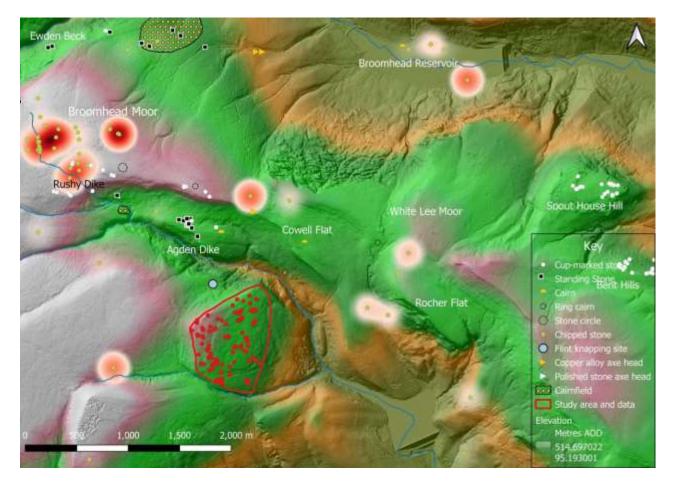


Figure 6: Distribution of recorded prehistoric data in the vicinity of Agden Dike, in relation to the study area.

Roundels indicate greater (darker) or lesser (lighter) densities of chipped stone. Contains ordnance survey data

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4. Aims and Objectives

The general aim of the present survey was to contribute to understanding of the long term inhabitation of the southern Pennine uplands. A more specific aim was to contribute to the understanding of the area's prehistory.

Objectives included to locate and record any archaeological features with a basic level of detail.

5. Methodology

The study area was defined by the natural topography described earlier. The area was walked across in approximately ten metre wide transects by team members in a line. All potential archaeological features were to be recorded regardless of possible date or function. Features were recorded on pro forma recording sheets and assigned a unique number to be entered into the feature register. All features were photographed and their locations recorded using a Garmin etrex 10 hand held gps device, with waypoint averaging.

6. Fieldwork

Fieldwork was undertaken on seven days between the 31st of January and the 25th of February 2022. Conditions were variable, with generally cool but dry weather with fine visibility for much of the time interspersed with some days characterised by sleet and snow flurries and poorer visibility. On two days conditions deteriorated to the point where work had to be abandoned.

For the modest size of the study area, the survey yielded many archaeological features (96). Clusters of these were of relatively recent date and for the most part consisting of quarry pits. By far the majority of features were of probable late prehistoric date. The features are described below in summary by feature class and in approximate chronological sequence. A discussion and conclusion follow. A database is provided in appendix 1.

Standing Stones

Twenty eight orthostats that do not obviously form part of stone settings were recorded across the study area (table 2; figure 8). Their interpretation as "standing stones", a class of prehistoric monument conventionally related to the Neolithic or Bronze Age, or even as archaeological features at all, is not self-evident. Naturally occurring boulders or outcropping bedrock could potentially mimic such features, particularly if of small stature. Small stature, however, is not reliable as proof of natural provenance. The existence of small standing stones, and stone settings utilising small or very small orthostats is well attested across the British Isles (Burl 1993; Gillings 2010; 2015; 2015b; Swarbrick 2012), including in the southern Pennines (Shepherd *et al* 2016). At the Hill of Many Stanes, Caithness, for example, of the minimum of 200 stones present, none are higher than 1m tall and 0.45m thick (Canmore ID 8604).

In the present assemblage, the tallest stone, feature 24 (figure 7), is 1.3m tall and 0.25m thick. The averages for the entire assemblage are 0.79m and 0.29 respectively (Table 1). These figures are consistent with similar concentrations of small standing stones that have been recorded at Whitwell Moor, near Stocksbridge, (Cockrell 2016) and Foulstone and Strines Moor, to the southwest of Emlin Hill (Cockrell 2019b). At Foulstone and Strines Moor for example, the averages for the same dimensions were 0.73m and 0.33m respectively, bearing close comparison with the present assemblage.



Figure 7: The end elevation of feature 24. Source: author.

Outcropping bedrock and loose boulders are also in evidence at Emlin Hill, as they are at Foulstone Moor. However, at Foulstone Moor the locations of standing stones did not correlate with the densest areas of outcropping bedrock (Cockrell 2019b:15). At Spout House Hill and Bent Hills, two locations where rock-art has been recorded recently, outcropping bedrock is exposed at many points and loose boulders are distributed in profusion, but Standing Stones are not in evidence (Cockrell 2020/2021(2022)). It does not follow, therefore, and is not very plausible that the presence of outcropping bedrock is proof that orthostats are exposed outcropping.

	Height	Width (long axis)	Thickness (short axis)
Average	0.79	0.721429	0.286667
Standard deviation	0.207561	0.288813	0.101829

Table 1: Average dimensions of standing stones at Emlin Hill, with standard deviations shown.

The consistency in dimensions shown above relates to the morphology of the features. The morphology of the orthostats is, as at the aforementioned sites, remarkably consistent. The stones tend to have a sub-rectangular or sub-triangular shape along their long axis, as well as in plan (figure 8; figure 9). Again, this is consistent with those recorded elsewhere in the region (Cockrell 2016; 2019b).



Figure 8: The profile of feature 38. Source: author.



Figure 9: Plan view of feature 39. Source: author.

Moreover, of the entire assemblage, 64% had clear evidence for packing stones around the base (cover photo; figure 8; figure 9).

Although the assemblage is dispersed and not in formal settings, an analysis of its distribution shows that it is not random, but for the most part clustered in small concentrations (figure 10). On the foregoing basis, the orthostats are highly unlikely to be natural. The questions of their date and function will be returned to later.

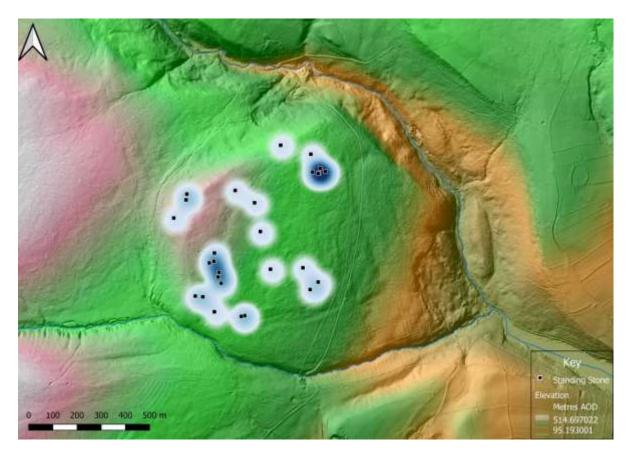


Figure 10: Distribution of standing stones. Roundels indicate density; Light (low), dark (high). Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

Cairns

Thirty five cairns were recorded across the study area (table 2; figure 11). Twenty three of these were ovoid or linear in character and the remainder were circular or sub-circular. The circular or sub-circular variants were between 2-4m in diameter.

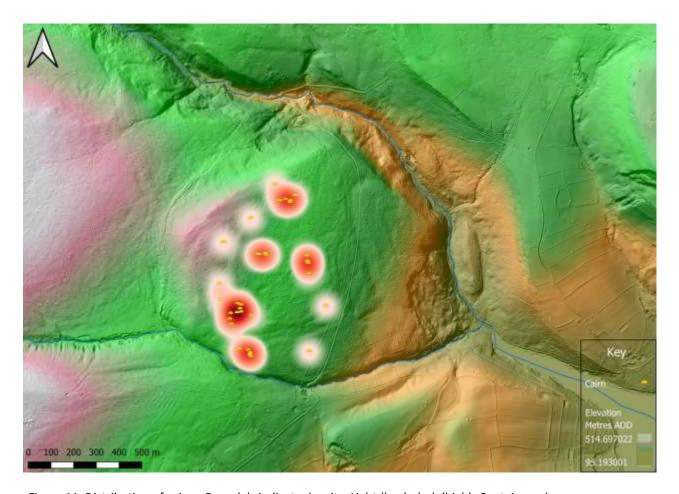


Figure 11: Distribution of cairns. Roundels indicate density; Light (low), dark (high). Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

All of the cairns are of a similarly low elevation, with an average height of 0.413 metres. The standard deviation of 0.141 metres is indicative of how little variability there is between them in height. Apart from their low height, they are characterised by well-worn and rounded cobbles, embedded within an accretion of peat and covered in vegetation (figure 12). In some cases, erosion has exposed more of the stones (figure 13). One of the cairns, feature 33, is surrounded by a circular setting of seven earthfast stones (figure 14).



Figure 12: A low sub-circular cairn (feature 30), partly overlying the perimeter of a sub-rectangular enclosure (feature 29). Source: author.



Figure 13: An eroded sub-circular cairn. Source: author.



Figure 14: An ovoid cairn set within a circle of seven stones. Source: author.

Figure 11 illustrates that the cairns are distributed for the most part in small cairnfields. These bear comparison with the standing stones described earlier, also distributed in small concentrations. However, before the relationship is explored, other features must be described which might also have a relationship with the cairns. These include settings of stones, including orthostats.

Stone settings

In the last section, attention was drawn to a cairn overlying part of the perimeter of an enclosure feature (figure 12). This provides us with a rare glimpse of relative chronology amongst upstanding features on the gritstone uplands. As we shall see, there is other evidence for a potentially complex range of activities in evidence at Emlin hill, perhaps with time-depth attached to it.

Feature 29 consists of linear arrangements of angular and sub-angular gritstone slabs with large gaps between, set almost at right angles to each other to form a sub-rectangular enclosure (figure 15; figure 16). The feature is approximately twenty three metres long and fifteen metres wide. This is overlain along one edge by feature 30 (figure 12). Feature 33 (figure 14) lies upslope to the immediate west, overlooking what appears to be a distinct cluster of features including more cairns as well as the enclosure (figure 15). Feature 30 combines a cairn at its centre with an encircling stone setting.

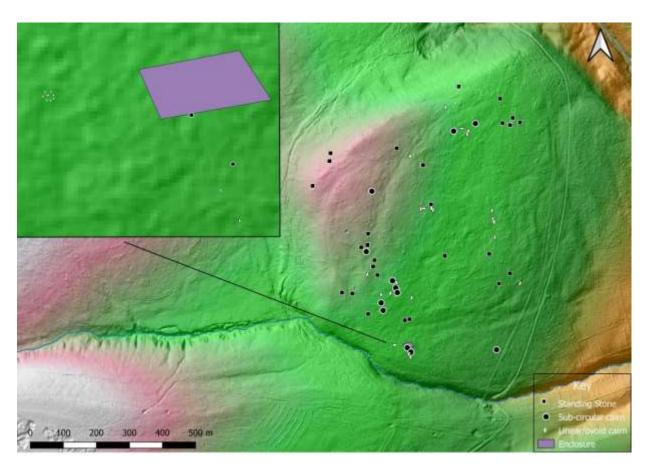


Figure 15: Distribution of standing stones and cairns, with feature 29 and nearby features (inset). Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.



Figure 16: The sub-rectangular enclosure, with BAHG members helping to define its perimeter. Source: author.

Feature 72 (figure 18) is an approximately 5m diameter circular arrangement of stones with a low mound at the centre. Two of the stones take the form of small curved othostats, with the curvature of the stones forming part of the circumference of the feature. A scatter of stones beyond the perimeter might be evidence of disturbance. The feature could be interpreted as either a small ring cairn or kerbed cairn. It is situated adjacent to a series of linear embanked features and cairns that might plausibly be related to clearance.

Feature 74 (figure 19; figure 20) is a circular arrangement of stones, including two small orthostats with evidence of packing stone material present, approximately 20m in diameter. One of the orthostats has clearly suffered recent damage (figure 20), probably in connection with the management of heather.

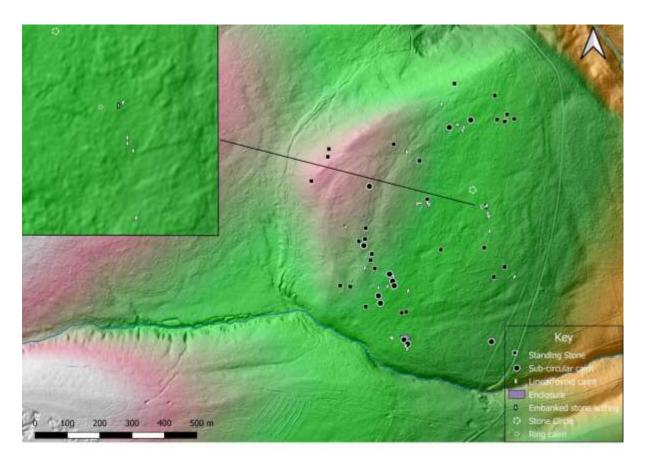


Figure 17: A cluster of features including linear cairns, a linear embankment, a ring cairn or kerbed cairn, and a possible stone circle to the northwest. Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.



Figure 18: A possible kerbed cairn or small ring cairn. Source: author.



Figure 19: A possible stone circle to the northwest of the kerbed cairn or ring cairn. Source: author.



Figure 20: Damaged orthostat from the possible stone circle. The yellow hue of the exposed stone is indicative of recent damage. Source: author.

An embanked semi-circular arrangement of stones is located to the west, at the east edge of the plateau-like apex to Emlin Hill where it overlooks the "shelf" (figure 21; figure 3; figure 4; figure 22). If a circular arrangement is extrapolated from the visible remains, this might have formed a circular embankment of perhaps 8m in diameter. The feature also overlooks a distinct linear alignment of 10 earth fast stones which directly lines the western edge of the "shelf" (figure 24). To the southwest of these features is a sub-circular cairn which also overlooks the west edge of the "shelf" (figure 21; figure 23).

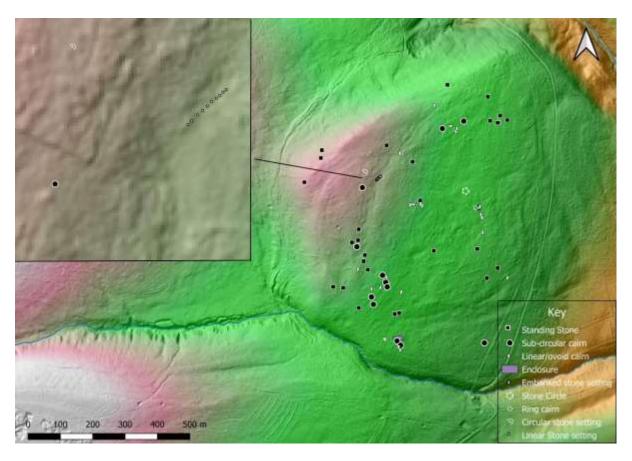


Figure 21: Embanked semi-circular stone setting, linear alignment of stones and sub-circular cairn (inset).

Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

The linear stone setting consists of irregularly sized and shaped gritstone boulders that for the most part are almost flush with the ground surface. One is an orthostat. Gaps separate the stones. The setting of the alignment, along the west lateral edge of the "shelf" is indicative of a possible function as a revetment, or perhaps a field boundary, but the gaps between the stones are perplexing in either interpretation.



Figure 22: The poorly defined embanked semi-circular arrangement of stones. Source: author.



Figure 23: The cairn to the southwest of features 63 and 64. Source: author.



Figure 24: The linear stone alignment. The ranging rod marks where the east end of the alignment is located. Source: author.

Two more linear stone settings with an almost identical orientation are located to the north east (figure 25).

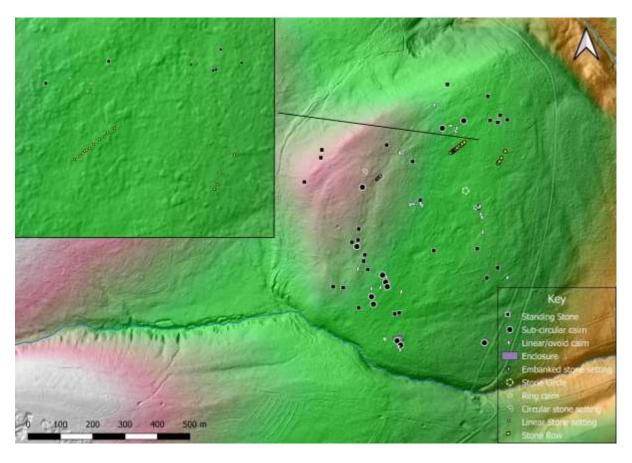


Figure 25: Features 79 and 80 (inset, left to right), with cairn field to the north of feature 79 and concentrations of standing stones to the north of feature 80. Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

Feature 79 consists of a linear alignment of 11 irregular shaped and eroded gritstone boulders (figure 25; figure 26), at least 4 of which are orthostats. Several more appear to be collapsed orthostats. Two present evidence for packing stones around the bases. Gaps exists between the stones and these increase in extent towards the northeast end, indicating the former presence of more stones no longer visible. Feature 80 is similar in character, consisting of four small orthostats, very similar in morphology to the standing stones across the study area that do not appear to be part of formal stone settings (figure 25; figure 27; figure 28). A significant gap separates the third stone and the fourth at the northeast end of the alignment, perhaps indicative of the former presence of other stones in the alignment.



Figure 26: feature 79. Source: author.



Figure 27: Members of BAHG standing to the southeast side of the stones forming feature 80. Source: author.



Figure 28: An orthostat from feature 80. Source: author.

Other probable prehistoric features

Feature 59 is a small box-like arrangement of slender gritstone slabs measuring 0.75m long by 0.53m wide. The feature is located amidst a small concentration of features including four linear cairns and a standing stone (figure 29; figure 30; figure 31; figure 32). Three slabs of the feature are in evidence. The exposed feature is likely to have had a fourth slab defining its perimeter which is either below the surface or has perhaps been removed. The former existence of a cap stone or lid can be postulated also, perhaps lost as the feature became exposed. Feature 59 is most plausibly to be interpreted as a cist.

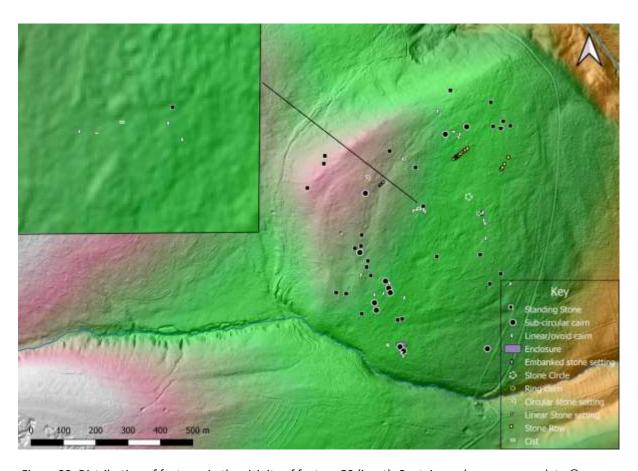


Figure 29: Distribution of features in the vicinity of feature 59 (inset). Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.



Figure 30: Feature 59. Source: author.



Figure 31: Feature 61, a linear cairn at the west end of the small concentration of features including feature 59. Source: author.

Assuming that all of the aforementioned features relate to the Early Bronze Age (see discussion), the existence of a possible cist in the middle of a small cairnfield of linear cairns is noteworthy. Such cairns have, upon excavation, sometimes been shown to have included within them material that is anthropogenic in character, such as stone tools, pottery and human remains (Wilson and Barnatt 2004). The putative cist at Emlin Hill was probably originally covered by a cairn that has subsequently been dismantled or eroded to destruction. Its existence indicates that the number of cairns originally present might have been more extensive than it now seems.



Figure 32: A partly collapsed standing stone to the northeast of the cist. Source: author.

The last feature to be described in this section is the sole example of rock-art to be recorded during the survey (figure 33; figure 34).



Figure 33: Feature 28. Source: author.

The panel, 1.3m long by 0.67m wide, has at least four small cup-marks present. Two of these (one smaller than the other) are connected by a radial groove, together forming a "dumbbell" motif (figure 33). The panel is located next to an area of linear disturbance running the whole length of the study area parallel to Mortimer Road, which is likely to be connected with the laying of a gas pipeline in the recent past. It is therefore possible that the panel has been disturbed. However, it does also form part of a modest cluster of features including a linear cairn and two standing stones (figure 34).

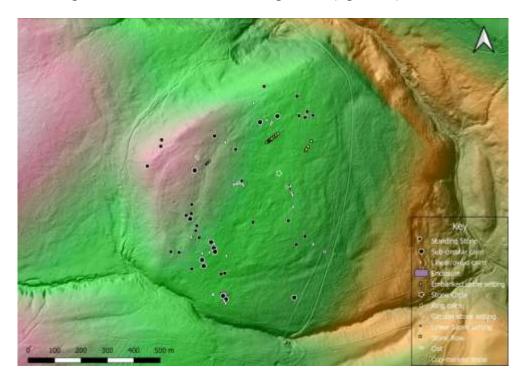


Figure 34: Distribution of probable prehistoric features across the study area. Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

Later features

Features that are almost certainly post-medieval in origin are also distributed across Emlin Hill (figure 35). Twenty three in total were recorded.

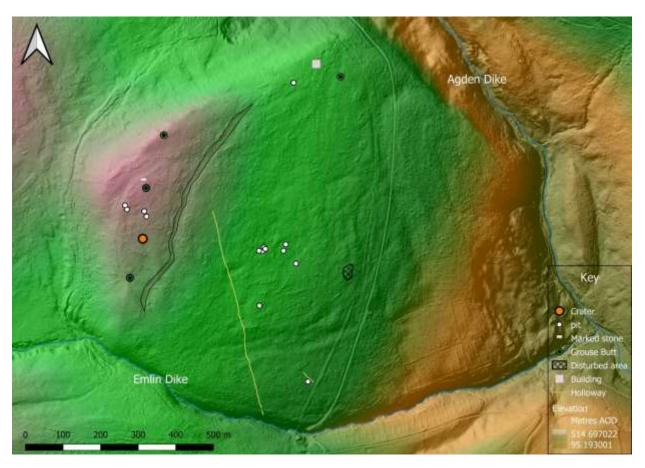


Figure 35: Distribution of later archaeological features, in relation to the "shelf". Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

This includes a short section of a holloway to the southeast, adjacent to a possible quarry pit, that might be post-medieval to judge from its eroded character (figure 36). Another feature initially thought to be a holloway, to the west of the aforementioned, appeared too narrow and well defined, and might well be a drainage ditch (figure 38). Its distinctly sub-rectangular profile and good definition was thought initially to indicate a recent date for the feature. However, the ditch appears on the first edition ordnance survey map for Emlin (figure 37). Its condition is probably indicative of maintenance. The line of the ditch clearly begins in the vicinity of the "shelf" and ends at Emlin Dike and presumably is a conscious effort to keep the "shelf", or the highest part of it, drained.

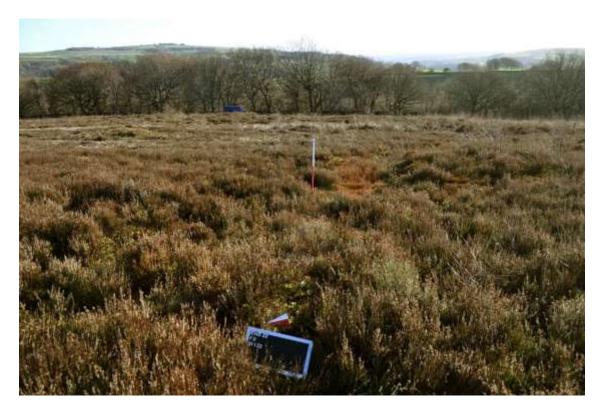


Figure 36: Feature 2, an eroded Holloway barely discernible amidst the heather. Source: author.

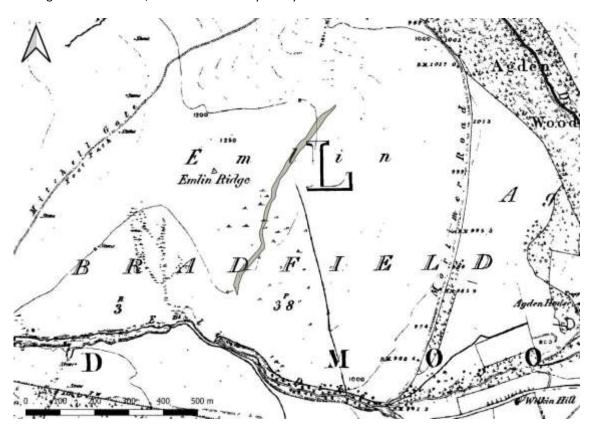


Figure 37: The first edition Ordnance Survey map of Emlin Hill (1855), with the "shelf" added. Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.



Figure 38: The probable drainage ditch at its lower end, with its line defined by BAHG members. Source: author.

The most numerous class of feature is quarry pits, numbering 15. This includes an area of general disturbance on the east edge of the study area deemed unsafe to investigate in detail, due to the depth of heather. One area of quarrying appears to have been specifically for the extraction of sub-rectangular slabs probably to be used as gateposts (features 49 and 50; figure 39; figure 40).



Figure 39: A discarded possible gatepost roughout. Source: Author.



Figure 40: Sub-rectangular holes in the peat where roughouts have probably been removed. Source: author.

Quarrying for the specific extraction of stone to be used as gateposts has also been noted at Strines Moor and Bent Hills (Cockrell 2019b: 44; Cockrell 2021: 29).

Four embanked pits, located on and aligned with the length of the northwest facing escarpment edge have been interpreted as disused early grouse butts (figure 41). Two of these were clearly revetted with courses of narrow dry stones, recalling the construction of contemporary grouse butts. (figure 42).



Figure 41: Feature 78, a disused grouse butt at the apex of Emlin Hill. Source: author.



Figure 42: Detail of feature 78, showing partially visible revetment. Source: author.

The largest pit feature to be recorded was feature 17, at 26m in diameter and 2m deep (figure 35; figure 43). This was quite unlike other pit features, with no signs of embanked edges or spoil in evidence. Its sharply defined edges and general lack of erosion indicate a relatively recent date. It was suggested (A. Tissington, pers. Com) that the feature might be a bomb or shell crater, since military training activities are known to have taken place in the general area during World War two.



Figure 43: A possible shell crater near the apex of Emlin Hill. Source: author.

Support for the interpretation exists in the form of wartime memoirs listing various activities across the uplands connected with the war, including the existence of a "mock-village" established at the plateau-like apex of Emlin Hill along with oil-filled drums (Onsworth n.d.). The putative crater is located in the immediate vicinity.

At the north end of the plateau a flat horizontal gritstone panel, flush with the ground surface, was recorded that had some curious markings on it (figure 44). The most obvious marking is an inscribed arrow, pointing directly in the direction of the nearby Trig point. More enigmatic is a small dome-like protuberance in the middle of a sub-circular cupule, to the immediate southwest of the arrow, that was at first thought to be prehistoric rock-art (figure 45).



Figure 44: Marked panel. Source: author.

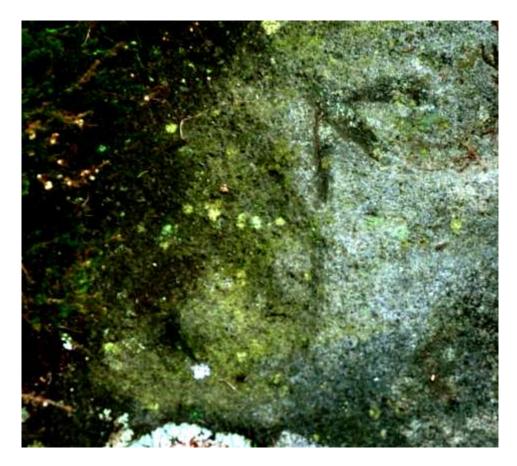


Figure 45: Detail of feature 44. Source: author.

Close examination of this marking showed that the circumference of the cup-mark-like hollow was highly irregular in character and that the profile had no specific morphology, beyond the presence of the dome-like feature at its approximate centre. It is probably better interpreted as the result of natural formation processes.

The last feature to be described here is also somewhat enigmatic. Feature 95 is a square stone structure constructed from roughly dressed gritstone cobbles, measuring 3m by 2.9m (figure 46). It is probably too small to have served as a shooting cabin, and is not marked on any ordnance survey map. It is highly likely to be a disused square form of grouse shooting butt (A. Barber-Lomax, pers.comm.).



Figure 46: Feature 95. Source: Author.

7. Discussion

There is no straightforward way to date most of the postulated prehistoric archaeological features from observation alone. Very few have been excavated in South Yorkshire, and none to modern standards. The most recently excavated feature undertaken to a professional standard was the ring cairn at Totley Moor during the 1960s (Radley and Marshall 1965; 1966), furnishing funerary material including a collared urn and flintwork dated to the Early Bronze Age. A fuller discussion of the kinds of small features recorded at Emlin Hill has already been undertaken in the context of surveying of a very similar landscape at Foulstone and Strines Moors (Cockrell 2019) and does not need to be repeated in detail here. However, to summarise, the range of small earthworks, orthostats, stone settings and single panel of cup-marks described above are consistent with features elsewhere, including the ring cairn at Totley Moor, that have been interpreted as relating to the Early or Middle Bronze Age (Ainsworth 2001; Barnatt *et al* 1994; Wilson and Barnatt 2004; Ashmore *et al* 2010; Barnatt *et al* 2017).

The aggregate of the plethora of small prehistoric features is considerable, both in number and diversity of form across such a small area. The task of drawing meaning from such an array poses a challenge, but also an opportunity. The two most numerous classes of feature, cairns (35) and standing stones (28) are in sufficient quantities to be statistically significant, and an analysis of their respective distribution densities informative (figure 10; figure 11). Although both classes of feature are distributed across the whole study area, there are distinct concentrations at particular places, especially toward the north of the study area, and at the southwest in the vicinity of the southwestern and northeastern ends of the "shelf". Intriguingly, although both classes are densest at the aforementioned locations, they do not occupy precisely the same space (figure 47; figure 48).

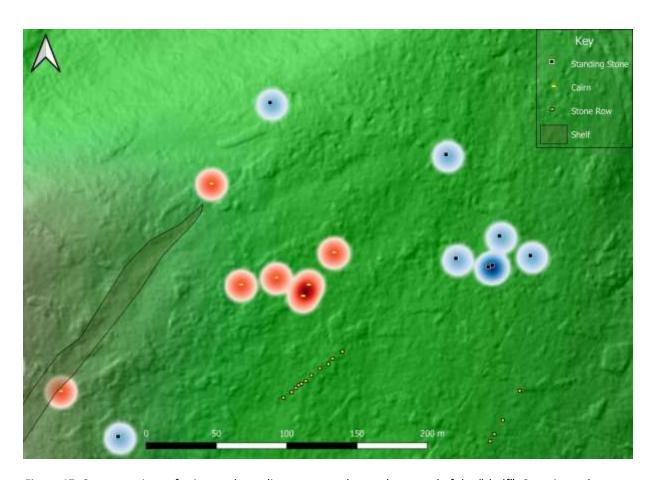


Figure 47: Concentrations of cairns and standing stones at the northeast end of the "shelf". Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

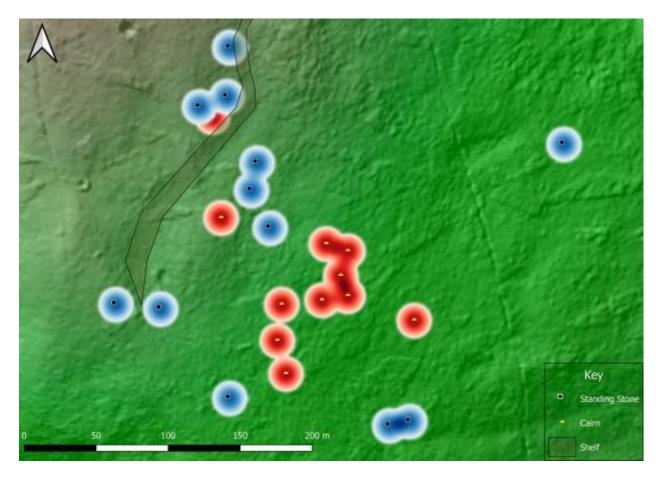


Figure 48: Concentration of cairns and standing stones at the south end of the "shelf". Contains ordnance survey data © crown copyright database 2017.

A more detailed look at the distribution of features as they relate to the "shelf" shows that both cairns and standing stones are also aligned with it at its ends and along its lateral edges (figure 49).

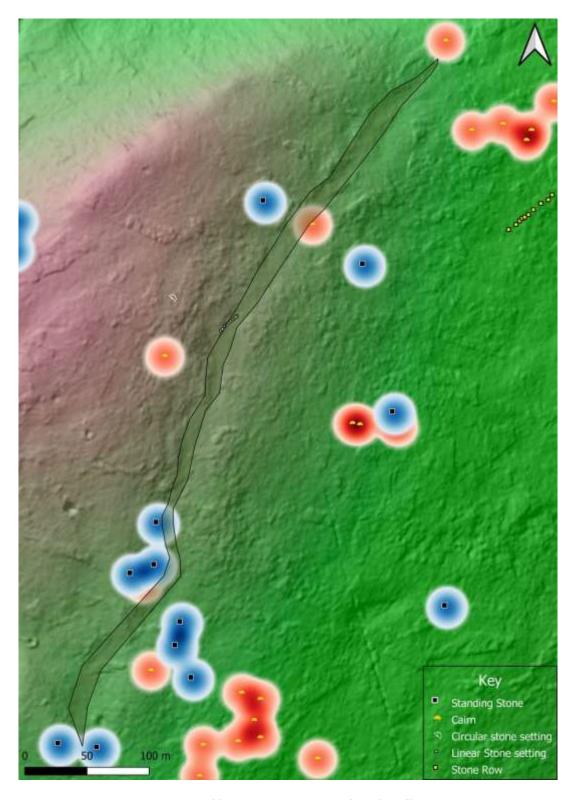


Figure 49: Features and concentrations of features in the vicinity of the "shelf". Contains ordnance survey data

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Again, there is a separation between the cairns and standing stones. The "shelf" also appears to be directly overlooked by a circular stone setting and lined at one point by a

linear stone arrangement (figure 49; figure 50). These relationships are unlikely to be coincidental. They hint that the various features and concentrations of features also relate to each other in some way and are either synchronous or belong to the same broad chronological phase of activity, perhaps by the same community (although not necessarily the same generation). Although the precise significance of the "shelf" is not yet clear, it is a wet place (figure 50). It is well understood that there is a relationship between wet places and ceremonial activity and deposition in later prehistory (Bradley 2000; Fontijn 2002; Mullin 2012), and the coalescence of features around this environmental setting at Emlin Hill is consistent with that. A further concentration of features, including the sub-rectangular enclosure partly overlain by a cairn, lies to the immediate south of the southwestern end of the "shelf", and lies adjacent to the escarpment edge overlooking Emlin Dike (figure 34).



Figure 50: the "shelf", facing northeast towards the plantation on White Lee Moor. Two volunteers (left centre) are recording the linear stone setting. A patch of dead rushes (centre right) shows where water collects in places along the feature. Source: author.

The distribution and setting of the features in the vicinity of the "shelf" is specifically reminiscent of the coalescence of chipped stone scatters of Later Mesolithic date and features of Neolithic to Bronze Age date at the sources of Rushy Dike very nearby on Broomhead Moor (Cockrell *in press*; figure 4).

It is even possible that a more direct relationship exists between the broadly contemporaneous later prehistoric features at Emlin Hill and those in the vicinity of Rushy Dike: four of the standing stones at Emlin Hill, rather than being distributed across the east facing dip-slope where the aforementioned concentrations are located, are sited along the northwest facing escarpment edge. One (feature 43) has no orientation but the others

(features 24, 42 and 93) present lateral edges facing Boomhead Moor and Rushy Dike (figure 51; figure 52).

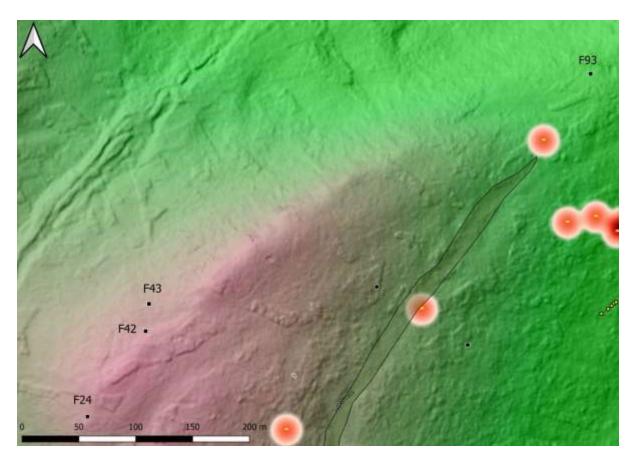


Figure 51: Standing stones along the northwest facing escarpment of Emlin Hill. Contains ordnance survey data

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Figure 52: Feature 93 (left, foreground), facing northwest towards the south facing escarpment of Broomhead Moor. The precipitously narrow gorge of Rushy Dike is left of centre along the escarpment edge. Source: author.

Only one cup-marked stone was recorded at Emlin Hill, reminiscent of the limited evidence for rock-art at Whitwell Moor (Cockrell 2016) and at Foulstone and Strines Moors (Cockrell 2019), also characterised by small clusters of cairns and standing stones. This is in stark contrast to the concentrations of panels recorded at Spout House Hill and Bent Hills (Cockrell 2022). The apparent separation is somewhat less clear at Broomhead Moor and upper Agden Dike (Cockrell *in press*), raising interesting questions about why. This, however, is tempered by the caveat that the evidence from the vicinity of upper Agden Dike is somewhat anecdotal. Moreover, the slopes of Wet Slack Ridge (figure 2) overlooking the southwest side of the Dike are archaeologically unexplored. Initial anecdotal observations indicate that such an exploration might well prove fruitful (Figure 62).

8. Conclusion

At least two, and possibly three phases of activity have been recorded at Emlin Hill. The earliest phase probably relates to the early or middle Bronze Age (c.2200BC-1000BC), although the presence of a Mesolithic knapping floor to the immediate northwest of the escarpment edge of Emlin Hill is indicative of far longer interaction at the place (figure 4; SMR 00607/01). This earlier phase has the potential to be sub-divided, as there is evidence both for general differences between clusters of features, with some apparently relating to the "shelf", perhaps synchronously, while others do not, and direct evidence for stratification at the sub-rectangular enclosure. A very long hiatus separates the Bronze Age from physical evidence of the next phase of activity, which almost certainly relates to the post-medieval and early modern periods. A possible flurry of activity here during World War

two is supported by the evidence of the putative crater. Evidence for its contemporary use is in evidence in the form a line of grouse butts overlooking Emlin Dike, not surveyed as they appear on contemporary mapping, and in damage to a small orthostat (figure 18).

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Appendix 1: Database

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424558 393033 28 panel cup-marked L.Neo sub-rectangular. Dumbell. 1 other cup- mark. 1.3 0.7 0.4 ne-sw 424159 392878 29 enclosure LN/EEBA sub-rectangular 23 15 nw-se 424194 392870 424173 392866 1						 			4.2			
Dumbell. 1 other cupmark. 424159 392878 29 enclosure 424185 392883 424194 392870 424173 392866							-	 			yes	
424159 392878 29 enclosure LN/EEBA sub-rectangular 23 15 nw-se 424194 392870 424173 392866 10 <	424558	393033	28	panei	cup-marked	L.Neo		1.3	0.7	0.4		ne-sw
424159 392878 29 enclosure LN/EEBA sub-rectangular 23 ls nw-se 424185 392883 d24194 392870 d24194 424173 392866 424173 </td <td></td>												
424159 392878 29 enclosure LN/EEBA sub-rectangular 23 15 nw-se 424185 392883 424194 392870 424173 392866 424173												
424185 392883 424194 392870 424173 392866	/2/150	392878	20	enclosure		IN/FFRA		22	15			nw-sa
424194 392870 424173 392866			23	enclosure		LIVILEDA	Jub-rectangular	23	13			1100-36
424173 392866												
4/4105 39/805	424173	392865										

424173	392866	30	cairn		EBA	circular	3	3.5	0.3		
424184	392853	31	cairn		EBA	circular	2	2	0.4		
424172	392943	32	orthostat	recumbent	EBA	sub-rectangular	0.8	0.7	0.5		ne-sw
424135	392871	33	cairn	poss.kerbed	EBA	ovoid	2.4	1.8	0.3		
											nnw-
424100	392979	34	cairn		EBA	sub-circular	3.3	2.3			sse
424061	392962	35	orthostat		EBA	sub-triangular	0.5	0.5		yes	nw-se
424094	393002	36	cairn		EBA	ovoid, disturbed	4	4.3	0.5		ne-sw
424097	393027	37	cairn		EBA	sub-rectangular, disturbed	6	2	0.5		n-s
424013	393024	38	orthostat		EBA	sub-rectangular	0.6	0.5	0.2	yes	nw-se
											nne-
423982	393027	39	orthostat		EBA	sub-rectangular	0.6	0.7	0.2	yes	SSW
423961	393117	40	pit	grouse butt	modern	sub-circular, eroded	9	8.5	1.2		
424004	393356	41	pit	grouse butt	modern	circular, eroded	5.7	5.7			
423944	393425	42	orthostat		EBA	sub-rectangular	0.8	0.7	0.4	yes	nne- ssw
423947	393449	43	orthostat		EBA	sub-triangular	0.6	0.7	0.2	yes	
423997	393375	44	stone	marked	modern	sub-rectangular	1.2	0.9			n-s
424517	393060	45	cairn		EBA	ovoid	4	3	0.5		ne-sw
424490	393085	46	orthostat		EBA	sub-rectangular	0.8	0.5	0.3	yes	n-s
424457	393054	47	orthostat		EBA	sub-rectangular	0.7	0.6	0.3		nne- ssw
424427	393144	48	orthostat		EBA	sub-rectangular	0.9	0.6	0.6	yes	
424375	393206	49	pit	quarry	e.mod.	gatepost roughout present	7.6	4.2	0.5		n-s
424369	393189	50	pit	quarry	e.mod.	roughout holes defined	3.3	2			
424402	393155	51	pit	quarry	e.mod.	sub-rectangular	2.3	0.5			e-w
											SSW-
424313	393188	52	pit	quarry	e.mod.	ovoid	8	6.5	1		nne
424317	393198	53	pit	quarry	e.mod.	sub-circular	3	2	0.9		n-s
424321	393194	54	pit	quarry	e.mod.	circular	3.2	3.2	0.8		
424304	393189	55	pit	quarry	e.mod.		3.7	3	1		
											nne-
424254	393283	56	cairn		EBA	ovoid	2.8	1.7	0.3	-	SSW
424251	393294	57	orthostat		EBA	sub-triangular	1	1	0.3	-	n-s
424249	393289	58	cairn	embankment	EBA	linear	0.0	0.5	0.4		n-s
424232	393289	59	cist		EBA	rectangular. Disturbed.	0.8	0.5	0.2		ne-sw
424223	393285	60	cairn		EBA		3.2	2	0.3		e-w
424217	393286	61	cairn		EBA	ovoid.	3.5	1.8			n-s
424066	393340	62	cairn		EBA	sub-circular	3.2	2.2			n-s
424125	393372	63	stone sett.	linear	EBA	linear. 10 stones.	19				ne-sw
424112	393360	63	stone								

			sett.								
424072	393387	64	stone sett.	circular	EBA	incomplete. Embanked					
424293	393138	65	orthostat		EBA	sub-triangular	0.7	0.6	0.3	yes	nw-se
424305	393043	66	pit	quarry	modern	rectangular	3.8	2.9	0.8		ne-sw
424441	393201	67	cairn		EBA	ovoid	3.1	3	0.4		n-s
424435	393252	68	cairn		EBA	sub-circular	5.5	2.9	0.4		n-s
424435	393256	69	cairn		EBA	linear	7.2	2.1	0.3		n-s
424439	393247	70	cairn		EBA	sub-rectangular	6	2.6	0.4		n-s
424429 424430	393278 393252	71	stone sett. stone sett.	embanked embanked	ЕВА	linear	20				n-s
424416	393277	72	ringcairn	CITIBUTINE	EBA	circular	4.8	4.8			
424432	393280	73	cairn		EBA	ovoid	3.6	2	0.6		ne-sw
424385	393329	74	stone circle		EBA	circular	20	20	0.0		1.0 344
424227	393413	75	orthostat		EBA	sub-rectangular	1.2	0.5	0.3	yes	e-w
424185	393446	76	cairn		EBA	linear	5.5	2.2	0.5		n-s
424147	393464	77	orthostat		EBA	sub-rectangular	1	0.6	0.2	yes	n-s
424051	393497	78	grouse butt		modern	circular	3.8	3.8			
424344	393441	79	stone row		EBA	linear	65				ne-sw
424350	393445		stone row								
424353	393448		stone row								
424355	393450		stone row								
424357	393451		stone row								
424360	393453		stone row								
424364	393457		stone row								
424370	393462		stone row								
424376 424379	393465 393469		stone row								
424379	393469		stone row								
424512	393446	80	stone row		EBA	linear					ne-sw
424491	393440	80	stone row		LDA	iiileai					116-34
424494	393415	80	stone row								
424500	393425	80	stone row								
424357	393514	81	cairn		EBA	ovoid	4	2.7	0.5		nw-se
424361	393522	82	cairn		EBA	ovoid	2.5	1.9	0.2		n-s
424313	393522	83	cairn		EBA	sub-circular	3.9	3.9			
424338	393527	84	cairn		EBA	ovoid	2.7	1.8	0.3		e-w
424292	393594	85	cairn		EBA	sub-rectangular	5.5	0.7			n-s
424379	393545	86	cairn		EBA	sub-circular	4	4	0.4		
424493	393535	87	orthostat		EBA	sub-rectangular	0.9	0.6	0.2		nne- ssw
424493	393542	88	orthostat		EBA	triangular	0.9	1	0.2	yes	e-w

424467	393540	89	orthostat	recumbent	EBA	sub-triangular	0.8	0.4	0.1		n-s
											nnw-
424490	393534	90	orthostat		EBA	triangular	0.5	0.5	0.2		sse
424498	393556	91	orthostat		EBA	triangular	0.8	0.4	0.2		n-s
424460	393614	92	orthostat		EBA	sub-rectangular	0.8	0.8	0.3	yes	n-s
											nee-
424335	393651	93	orthostat		EBA	sub-triangular	0.5	0.4	0.3	yes	SWW
424396	393636	94	pit	quarry	modern	circular	8	9	1.5		
424456	393686	95	structure		modern	sub-rectangular. rough dressed slabs in courses	2.9	3			
424521	393652	96	pit	grouse butt	modern	courses of dressed slabs					

Table 2: Catalogue of features.

Appendix 2: Additional Photographs



Figure 53: Feature 1, a cairn close to Mortimer Road. Source: author.



Figure 54: The team on day 1, walking a transect near Mortimer Road. Source: author.



Figure 55: The team recording feature 4, a suspected Holloway that was quickly realised was probably a drainage ditch. Source: author.



Figure 56: Preparing to record Feature 9, a standing stone with an orientation directly aligned with Ughill. Source: L. Jackson.



Figure 57: Feature 12, an eroded ovoid cairn. Source: author.



Figure 58: Feature 15, a linear cairn, with Feature 19, a standing stone in the background, right of centre.

Source: author.

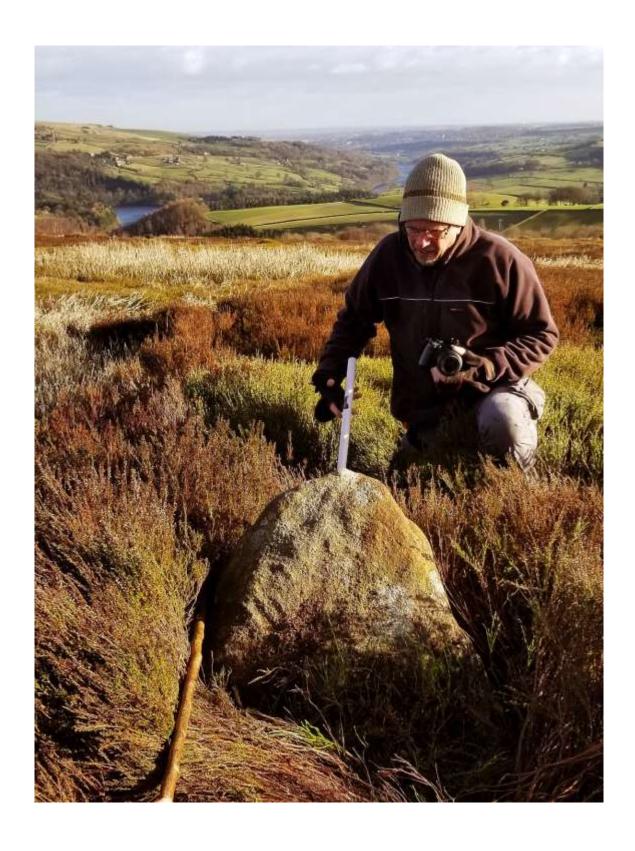


Figure 59: The author, preparing to photograph Feature 14, a partially collapsed standing stone presenting a lateral face towards Bradfield and Loxley Valley, facing southeast. Source: L. Jackson.



Figure 60: Feature 16, a standing stone with packing stones clearly visible around its base. Source: L. Jackson.



Figure 61: Feature 33, a linear cairn encircled by 7 stones, with team. Source: author.



Figure 62: A linear cairn, taken from its north end, showing what appear to be small orthostats on its west side and south end. Source: author.



Figure 63: The north end elevation of Feature 77, a sub-rectangular standing stone, with a packing stone visible. Source: author.



Figure 64: Volunteers recording a standing stone. Source: author.



Figure 65: Volunteers recording Feature 94, an area of quarrying, facing southeast to Loxley Valley. Source: Author.



Figure 66: Possible stone settings on Wet Slack Ridge observed from the northwest facing escarpment of Emlin Hill. Source: author.

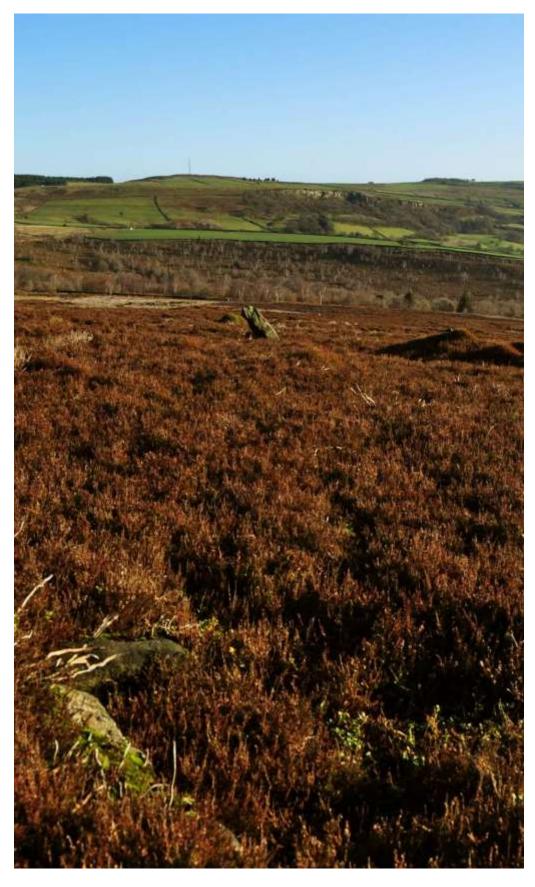


Figure 67: Facing east from the exposed cist (F59) towards a standing stone (F57) and cairn (F58). Source: author.