

Long Ridge Crags and surrounding farms

1. Introduction

As part of the Heritage Lottery Funded Prehistoric Nidderdale project a walk over survey was carried out of Longridge Crags and the surrounding farms of Bangor House Farm and White House Farm in March 2016. The purpose of it was to see if the prehistoric remains found in the farm to the south (namely Mineral Farm) continued into the crag area and over the other side.

Whilst there are some public footpaths through the area most of the features are on private land and can only be viewed with the farmers permission.

2. Geology

All landscapes are shaped by the underlying geology. The exposed rocks in the study area is Carboniferous, dating from 345 to 280 million years ago. This period is divided into lower and upper, the boundary being about 325 million years ago. The study area is in the Upper Carboniferous and in the sub-section known as the Namurian (millstone grit).

It has been extensively quarried in several places, either in large quarries as seen at Long Ridge Crags or in smaller field quarries for local walls.

3. Land Usage

The land use is either rough or improved pasture for stock. All the quarries ceased working some time ago.

4 Survey

Unfortunately, there were no definitive prehistoric features in the study area. The only potential feature was a wall base of large stone going from GPS value 417129 460379 to 417585 460266. It is out of alignment with the later enclosure era fields and, is older.



This feature is 1 field away from the main quarry which is extensive has modern tool marks (as shown in the photo below) and it and the industry around it is likely to have destroyed other older features.



There are other interesting features on the farms of later ages and maybe of interest to other projects. These were not formally noted but a selection of photos is below.



Gate with slot and hole posts



stone surrounded pond, likely industrial use



small reservoir, likely industrial use



historic bridge

Conclusion

The conclusion is that, whilst the area is an interesting historic landscape and worthy of further study and proper investigation including the recording of features, it is not a prehistoric landscape. The date and history of the only potential prehistoric wall base is unlikely to be clarified by excavation. And therefore, no further work is recommended.

Appendix 1
Location of Wall base

Long Ridge Crags



Wall base

Main quarry face